



MAIDEN BRADLEY NEWS

APRIL 2024

BEAVERS ARE ALIVE AND WELL
ON THE
BRADLEY ESTATE

MAIDEN BRADLEY PARISH NEWS - ISSUE 418

DIARY APRIL 2024

- 1 Mon Green recycling
2 Wed Blue bin and black box recycling
5 Fri **Film night – Oppenheimer – 6 for 6.30pm start**
6 SAT **LITTER PICK 10AM TO 4PM**
7 Sun Morning worship at St. George’s Bourton 10am
10 Mon Household waste collection
11 Thur Greener Maiden Bradley hosts a talk with Wiltshire Council
13 Sat Underwoods Fish and Chip van 4.30-6pm
14 Sun Parish communion at St Mary’s Kilmington 10am
Morning worship at All Saint’s M.B. 10am
15 Mon Green recycling
17 Wed Blue bin and black box recycling
20 Sat **Copy deadline for News - pat@visa-office.com**
21 Sun Parish communion at St. Peter’s Stourton 10am
22 Mon Annual Parochial Church Council meeting
24 Wed Household waste collection
27 Sat Underwoods fish and chip van 4.30-6pm
28 Sun Parish communion at St. Martin’s Zeals 10am
Parish communion at All Saint’s Maiden Bradley 10am
29 Mon Green recycling

MAY

- 2 Thur PCC Election day

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Speed Watch Co-ordinator	Simon Wager	simon.m.wager@gmail.com
Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator	Derek Stevens	01985 844428
Community Garden	Sam Ribeck	sam.ribeck@btinternet.com
Book Club	Jessica Johnson	01985 844174
Cookery Demonstrations	Rosie Brown	01985 844236
Luncheon Club	Margaret	01985 844756
Welcome Club Outings	Pearl	01985 219289
Memorial Hall bookings	bookingsmaidenbradleyhall@gmail.com	01985 845303
Dr Andrew Murrison MP	murrisona@parliament.uk	01225 358584
Bill Parks (Wiltshire Cllr)	bill.parks@wiltshire.gov.uk	07712 490075
Mere Link Scheme		01747 860096
Bell Ringing Tuesday 7.30pm in the Church Bell Tower - beginners welcome		01985 845397
Church contact	Diana Bourne	01985 844500
Environmental issues	greenermaidenbradley@gmail.com	
Nadder Oil Buying Club	Email:richard.willan@me.com	www.oilbuyingclub.com

Cover picture - Nev Dean

EDITORIAL

April Fool’s Day is reputed to have come to this country from Germany or France according to Dr. Steve Roud’s book on English Folklore, in the mid 1700’s when it was a source of amusement for adults to try to trick people into doing ridiculous things. For example, sending someone to go and buy pigeon’s milk or a book of the biography of Eve. A memorable and very successful April Fool’s trick which my mother played on my brothers was when she rushed into my brothers bedroom early in the morning shouting “Quick, look out of the window, there is a monkey in the monkey tree”. They rushed to the window to look, heard her laughing and realised what day it was. My brothers never forgave her for their disappointment. Did you know that the second Monday and Tuesday after Easter were termed Hocktide. The custom was for the women of the village to capture any men they met, bind them with ropes, and refuse to let them go until a ransom had been paid. The money gained was often paid into the church for upkeep. Would this be a good idea in Maiden Bradley to help raise funds for our church?

Yes it is that time of year to play catch-up in the garden after the very long period of rain has prevented us from getting out there and doing the work. If you are in the mood to garden, please spare a thought to removing the overhang that your vegetation has on your boundary towards the pavement. Passers by can be struck by branches and briars when walking along, seeing the obstacle too late to avoid contact.

Patricia Kennedy 845397 pat@visa-office.com

COME BELL RINGING!

I found the Maiden Bradley tower team last spring as a returning ringer in the hope that I could sharpen my skills and ring for the coronation! I’ve not looked back. We are a group of enthusiastic ringers of all ages who share one same passion of ringing bells. We meet every Tuesday evening at All Saint’s church for an hour and a half, as I am sure many of you can hear. The tower is captained by Patricia Kennedy, supported by husband James Kennedy as Tower Correspondant, who also looks after the maintenance of the bells as the Steeple Keeper.

We are a tower of six locals but are always looking for anyone who is interested in joining us. Most of us also ring at other towers during the week and join their practice evenings. We also ring for weddings, funerals and Sunday services. It is fun to meet new groups of likeminded enthusiasts to learn and improve all the time. We ring rounds, call changes and simple methods, also doing rope exercises to help us with bell control. In the warmer months there are often Bell Tours organised when ringers come from various towers across the branch and enjoy a day out visiting several churches and ringing different bells.

Sara Keith

MAGAZINE AVAILABLE ONLINE ON THE VILLAGE WEBSITE:
WWW.MAIDENBRADLEYVILLAGE.ORG.UK

**“THE SEA IS HIS, FOR HE MADE IT,
AND THE DRY LAND, WHICH HIS HANDS HAVE FORMED.”**

“How does your garden grow?” If your garden is anything like mine, then probably things have got rather ‘behind’ (although I suspect that I say the same every year!). Soon, however, the Church will be thinking specifically about how this year’s crops and herds are coming along: this is Rogationtide, when we visit fields and gardens to bless the growth we find there.

The idea of Rogation originated in the early Church as three fast days, being the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday before Ascension Day with the preceding Sunday, the sixth in Eastertide becoming known as Rogation Sunday. Mamertus, Bishop of Vienne in what is now France, is said to have instituted processions, with prayers, on those days after earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and plagues had devastated his diocese in about AD 467. The occasion gets its name from the Latin verb rogare meaning 'to intercede' – to ask or beseech. The custom soon spread across the whole of Roman Gaul until it finally reached England in the early eighth century. Later (and perhaps this says a lot about the English psyche) it became a time for perambulations around the parish to bless fields, allotments, gardens and even the sea. The old English name for the Rogation days is Gang Days from the Anglo-Saxon gangen meaning to 'go' or 'walk'.

After the Reformation in the sixteenth century, Elizabethan clergy were allowed to continue to beat the bounds and to preach or offer prayers at certain points along the way. So Rogation also became a chance to emphasise established parish boundaries at a time when maps were scarce and the simplest way of remembering where the limits lay was to walk round them once a year. Rogation and boundary beating became intertwined because as boundary marks such as stones, trees, or ponds were reached the parson paused to give thanks for the fruits of the earth. Some fields that contained these landmarks continue to retain names like Gospel, Amen, and Paternoster. A Gospel Oak was a tree that acted as a boundary marker and under which the priest read from one of the gospels.

This year Rogation Sunday is on 5th May, and two special Rogation services will take place at Maiden Bradley and Stourton.

Regards,

Graham - Graham Southgate (Rector)

Email: rector@uswmb.co.uk

Telephone: 01747 476316

**The Rectory, Portnells Lane, Zeals, WARMINSTER,
Wiltshire. BA12 6PG**

Rector to the Benefice of Upper Stour with Maiden Bradley,



MINOR REVISION OF ALL SAINTS' ELECTORAL ROLL

We will be undertaking a minor revision of the Church's electoral roll. Those already on the list do not need to take any action. However, if there is anyone else who would like to be included, please contact me for an enrolment form or pick one up from the table at the back of the Church and return to me by 7th April. Many thanks.

Victoria de Maré Electoral Roll Officer. victoria.demare@gmail.com 844695

WELCOME CLUB

On Thursday 21st March the Welcome Club held their meeting at Horningsham Hall. We were very pleased as we had a large turnout, members paid their subscriptions to Tom where they received their membership card, listing the outings for 2024. The first outing is on Tuesday April 23rd which is a mystery trip - only the driver will know where we are going. Bus leaves Bath Arms Horningsham at 8.45am and Village Hall Maiden Bradley at 9.00am. We have held the prices the same as last year £18.00 for members and £21.00 for guests.

Anyone is able to come if we have seats available on coach.

Please contact Pearl on 01985 219289 or Lesley on 01985211355.

We look forward to seeing everyone after the winter break.

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Maiden Bradley Memorial Hall

April 2024 events

Friday 5th April

Film Night - **Oppenheimer** -

Doors open at 6pm for a 6.30pm start

Saturday 6th April

Community Litter Pick 10am-4pm

Thursday 11th April
Shire Council

Greener Maiden Bradley Group host a talk with Wilt-

Saturday 13th April

Underwoods Fish & Chip Van 4.30pm-6pm

Monday 22nd April

Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting

Saturday 27th April

Underwoods Fish & Chip Van 4.30pm-6.00pm

Thursday 2nd May

PCC ELECTION DAY



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FLOUR BAKERY - BUN IN THE OVEN - TAYLORS OF BRUTON - BATH CULTURE HOUSE -
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- STEVE GUNTER & TONIA GUNSTONE ART -
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OPENING HOURS

MONDAY TO FRIDAY & SATURDAY 0800-1800
SUNDAYS 1000 - 1600

REGULAR EVENTS

MONDAY	9.30 - 10.30	Pilates
	10.45 - 11.30	Chair Pilates
	17.00 - 18.00	Doctor's Surgery
TUESDAY	9.30 - 10.30	Bradley Babies
	13.00 - 15.00	Post Office Service
WEDNESDAY	10.00AM-11.15AM	Silver Sneakers
	<i>MUSIC AND MOVEMENT WITH DAWN - COFFEE AND TEA AFTER</i>	
	18.15 - 19.15	Yoga Flow
THURSDAY	9.30 - 10.30	Pilates
FRIDAY	10.00 - 12.00	Coffee Morning

ALTERNATE SATURDAYS 16.30 - 17.30 FISH & CHIP VAN
BOOK LIBRARY AVAILABLE DURING HALL OPENING FRIDAY MORNINGS



TWO THINGS FOR APRIL:
THURSDAY 11th APRIL at 7pm.

Charlotte Lawson & Vikki Harris, Wiltshire Waste & Recycling Engagement Officers, are coming to the Village Hall to talk to us and answer our questions about this challenging area of life.



Refreshments will be available.

Some of the questions that we have in mind to ask are:

- What happens to the plastics that we recycle?
- How are they sorted?
- How critical is it that things are clean before we put them in the boxes?
- What about the paper/card?
- Do you have plans for kerbside food recycling?
- What would happen to the food material collected?
- What happens to garden waste collected?
- If compost is produced from it how weed free is it?
- Does Wiltshire produce energy from waste?
- If so what is the carbon calculation for it?
- What is the proportion of recycled to non-recycled in the county?
- Is any of our waste sent abroad?

**Please come along and hear the answers and ask more!
And on that evening, you can collect:**



FREE WILDFLOWER SEEDS

The wildflowers we have in the UK are beautiful, but they need our help. They have been around for hundreds of years and have a lot of folklore attached to them. The cornflower is believed to provide curative qualities in Greek myth; wild marjoram is associated with love/protection from unwanted attention; yarrow was seen as a wound cleaner;



corn poppy represented earth fertility and cowslip was believed to promote inner knowledge. It is well established that wildflowers provide invaluable support for insects and other wildlife. They provide a vital source of food for moths, flies, wasps, butterflies and bees and 70% of the world's flowering plants need these pollinating insects.

The more wildflowers there are means our world is healthier, eco-systems are more diverse, the soil is healthier and let's be fair, the more beautiful our world is. In 90 years we've lost 97% of UK wildflower meadows so our pollinators are struggling.

The **Greener Maiden Bradley** group have assembled some pre-populated wildflower sheets for any villager who wants them. It would be great to place them in pots, window boxes or gardens to seek to increase our wildflowers, see what grows well and update the village with pictures later in the year. Each sheet has about 1,500 seeds including cornflower; achillea yarrow; corncockle; saltflower; lovage; poppy; marigold; borage; caraway; forget me not; honesty; mallow; dragons head; bishop's finger; ipomoea heavenly blue and buckwheat.

If you would like some please pop into the village hall on Thursday 11th April where you can collect them. All we ask is that you let us know if you have taken one so we can update on what has grown well across the village.





LINK NUMBER 13 - VAL SYMONDS

HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN MAIDEN BRADLEY?

Phil and I arrived in Maiden Bradley in 2010, for what was intended to be a temporary stay, but somehow, in 2024, here we still are. This is the longest either of us have lived anywhere since we left school, and many of our homes together have been afloat. I've always been keen to know what's around the next corner, and I once spent a couple of years living on a beautiful tropical island in the far east.

WHAT IS THE FURTHEST YOU HAVE TRAVELLED IN YOUR LIFE AND WHY?

Living in our home on wheels we've been 'at home' in many municipal French campsites as well as numerous overnight stays in their excellently appointed roadside areas. There you are allowed to stay overnight free, and technically you can spend the night at any place where you can park. In the USA, the Bureau of Land Management administers most of the land outside cities for public use and welcomes anyone and everyone to use it. For the use of the many, not just the privileged few - imagine! In California we camped and wandered in the stunning Joshua Tree National Park, and we were once unsuspectingly locked in Big Bend National Park, Texas during a 3 week government shut down over spending cuts. Alone with the wildlife. What a hardship! For a while we were residents in 'Slab City', an off-the-grid alternative community in the Sonoran Desert, where we met some strange and interesting people. A few years later one of my sons was passing that way and stopped to admire 'Leonard's Mountain', painstakingly built and painted, rock by rock, by Leonard. They struck up a conversation and Leonard told him of an English woman he'd met several years ago; apparently, he spoke just like her. She was called Val. It truly is a small world.

Living on board a sailing boat in San Diego Bay, we heard a strange puffing blowing sound, and a whale surfaced beside us! The Pacific aquatic wildlife was utterly thrilling, and over the next year at sea we saw many more whales, as well as countless dolphins, seals, sealions (huge!), pelicans, dancing manta rays, flying fish - the list goes on. The stray dog we had somehow acquired in Texas used to race on deck to look the dolphins in the eye as they leapt up alongside us. En route to Mexico she would swim ashore from anchorages to do her business on the beach of various uninhabited islands - once narrowly missing a puma whose cave she had just been exploring while we watched helplessly through the binoculars. We don't know her origins, she was a Canadian breed, and spent the rest of her life travelling with us, including 3 transatlantic flights. Her final resting place was East London just before we moved here.

TELL US SOMETHING OF YOUR WORK.

Over the years I've done many different jobs, anything that will pay the rent and buy the kids' shoes but won't tie me down for a lifetime. Phil and I met through work, and our shared love of travel, boats, motorbikes and adventure has taken us to many unusual and fascinating places together. We've made our home in numerous camps, marinas and anchorages in the UK, Europe, USA and Mexico.

NAME YOUR FAVOURITE RIVER.

I have so many favourite rivers it is hard to choose, but the Colorado stands out, with memories of waking up beside it to watch wild horses come down to the water and play. Magical. Very different from memories of waking up to find our boat frozen to its pontoon on the Yorkshire Ouse, although that was fun in its own way. Another favourite is the Vilaine, flowing out from southern Brittany into the Bay of Biscay and base for many of our adventures and explorations over the years.

TELL US SOMETHING THAT YOU THINK WILL SURPRISE MOST READERS?

Something that might surprise you? I've just celebrated 46 years of sobriety, and that still surprises (and delights) me. It is responsible for my whole attitude and outlook on life today, and it is a privilege to be able to pass it on to others. The sober motorcycle club we started back in the 90s is still going strong today, although we hung up our own lids a few years ago. Another surprise - the Friday coffee mornings were my idea! Soon after we arrived here I was off the road with an eye condition, and feeling very isolated and alone. I didn't know anyone here, and apart from the pub there was nowhere to just hang around and be with people informally. The lady who ran the village shop back then was a captive audience bless her. Another incomer, half of an ex-military couple, she was also on the Village Hall Committee and presented the idea of informal coffee sessions to them. They agreed, and now we are lucky enough to have both the coffee mornings and the coffee shop as well.

TELL US SOME THINGS THAT YOU LIKE/DISLIKE ABOUT THE VILLAGE.

I still love exploring round the next corner, and this stunning Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is really splendid. It is privately owned, but there are some lovely designated rights of way across it. However, having to drive to reach them sort of defeats the object for me. Much as I love adventure, sharing our lovely narrow, high banked lanes on foot with all the heavy commercial traffic is a step too far, even for me.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE SEASON?

Having lived in the tropics, where the seasons seem to be either hot and wet or hot and even wetter, I really value the seasons in these more temperate climates. So, my favourite season could probably be all of them, and the changing scenery of the seasons in this part of the world always takes my breath away. I love autumn for that hunkering down feeling, getting ready to light fires and snuggle up in the evening. But I'm not a fan of being cold, and I could lie in the hot sun all day like a lizard. And yes, I have the wrinkles to prove it.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE FOOD?

As to the question of my favourite food, I'd have to say anything that somebody else has cooked! Cooking used to be one of Phil's special skills, but ill health precludes that nowadays.





ELEPHANTS IN BOOTS *

Elaine Lavender

I know at least one resident of Maiden Bradley who has a print of Wise Old Elephant on their wall - and I'm sure there are many more of you who know it well - from family homes in the 1960s and 70s - or maybe from the set of Only Fools and Horses. (I also know someone in the village who went to the artist's house accompanied by a famous politician!) But how many of you really know anything about the man who painted this iconic image?

David Shepherd was a world-famous wildlife painter and conservationist who devoted his life to raising money to save the endangered species that he loved. His career was kick-started when Wise Old Elephant became the most popular print of all time - a record it still holds at around 250,000 copies sold. Interestingly, he made little money from this painting (unlike its retailer, Boots the Chemist!) But it taught him a thing or two about how make money from painting - and the rest, as they say, is history.

The David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation goes from strength to strength in this environmentally aware world - it is now in the hands of his granddaughter and other family members and has raised over £10 million since it was founded 40 years ago in 1984.

Now,- how do I come into this story, you may ask. Well - as some of you are aware, I am involved with the East Somerset Railway which was founded in the early 1970s by David Shepherd to house his other 2 great loves - his steam engines, Black Prince and Green Knight. The railway was officially opened to the public in 1974 and has since become a very popular attraction for steam buffs, nostalgia fans, tourists and visitors of all ages. This year it celebrates its 50th anniversary and I am realising a personal ambition of creating an exhibition to celebrate the man and his work.

I had been lucky enough to meet David Shepherd in 1989 at an art gallery I worked at in Nottingham - he was the most inspirational person I have ever met and I somehow knew he had a significance for me. My involvement with the ESR as Commercial Officer came as a happy coincidence 30 years later, shortly after his death in 2017. Black Prince and Green Knight were long gone to other 'homes' (Norfolk and Yorkshire) and the signal box was no longer his art gallery - but David's spirit lived on and his memory was firmly rooted in the minds of the many volunteers and visitors who knew him.

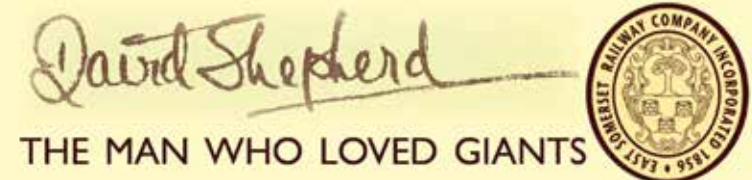
So - when a redundant carriage became available for restoration and repurpose, I persuaded the Board to allow me to create a permanent display of his life and work. I retired from my paid role in 2021 and continued as a volunteer with the intention of bringing this project to fruition. Well - this is the year it happens!

The generosity of the public has resulted in the massing of a huge amount of archive material and framed prints of his two great loves - wildlife and steam engines. The generosity and unwavering support of David's family - particularly 2 of his daughters and his son in law - have added to this collection and have shown such a huge enthusiasm and affection for the project which has been quite overwhelming. We have also been given part of his scratch-built model railway which will also be on public view from March this year.

The Exhibition will open in the early Summer with hopefully an official opening during August- the month of the 50th anniversary of the first official opening. I hope some of you will visit. It's a great day out!



*Elephants in Boots was David's affectionate name for 'Wise Old Elephant'



HISTORY AND MYSTERY - 1619

Imagine the scene. The year is 1619 and the nineteen year old Charles, Prince of Wales, is visiting the small town of Maiden Bradley. Everyone comes to see the prince and his retinue ride by. The local gentry are there to greet their future king and with Sir Henry Ludlow is his two year old son, Edmund, who thirty years later will sign Charles' death warrant. The prince presents to the town his coat of arms, skilfully carved and painted, to hang in the church and orders two new bells to be made with the Prince of Wales feathers and C P for 'Charles Prince' cast on them. It's a story that will be remembered for generations and to make sure that it is not forgotten the date '1619' is much later added to the church inventory alongside the record of the royal armorial.

Alas, the story of the royal visit is fiction, probably dating from the recasting of the bells in 1895. We know this because of the detective work of one man, Hugh Kitching.

There's a new reprint of the church guidebook in the church. When the last print run ran out I looked in vain for the old booklets by Hugh Kitching to fill the gap and give information to visitors. The booklets were more than fifty years old and with their yellowing pages, lack of illustrations and rusty staples they didn't look very attractive so it was no surprise to learn that their content had been recorded and the booklets thrown away. Kitching was a remarkable historian; it's rare for any historian to get everything right but Kitching did his best to go back to original sources and not take for granted what others had written. Tucked away at the back of Kitching's booklet is information on the bells.

"Dated 1619, inscribed, 'Ich Dien C.P. 1619' and 'Foy Pour Devoir' before being recast this bell bore the inscription '1619 R.P.' and bore the Prince of Wales arms and motto. No doubt this was responsible for the recast bell indicating that it had some connection with Charles, Prince of Wales in 1619, i.e. 'C.P.' instead of 'R.P.' In fact it had none, for the foundryman was Roger Purdue whose trademark was the Prince of Wales arms and motto. "

As for the Royal Armorial in the church, it is indeed Stuart as can be seen from the design details. It is not the arms that Charles I used when Prince of Wales nor those of his father, James I, those are rare. Our fine armorial dates from the Restoration after the 'great counsell' in 1660 ordered the Royal Arms to be set up in all churches.

Local history mysteries often have simple solutions. I had wondered why our church has both a rare mid 18th c. double aspect sundial and a clock by a good maker of a similar date. The answer is that the sundial was used to set the clock! The time has come to write a new edition of the church history including new discoveries.



THANK YOU MAIDEN BRADLEY

I recently underwent a complete knee replacement operation in Bath, all quite routine and if anything almost a non-event as they say. Fascinating to watch though, as I did. However my operation is not the subject of this missive, far from it indeed.

The kindness and caring of Maiden Bradley village is however. One could not ask for a more caring society, to which I am deeply humbled. While grounded, I could not ask for so much kindness by all. I could not ask for more. So many people and so many kindnesses. I will not name anyone in particular, that would not be fair at all.

I do feel I must mention the shop. Their kindness and help was fantastic. Anything I required food or otherwise was brought to my door and on occasion a quick call to see I had not fallen out of bed on my head, not a regular habit I might add. What a wonderful asset to our village, our shop is and will be for many years to come.

So again Thank You Maiden Bradley and shop for all you have done for me.

Simon

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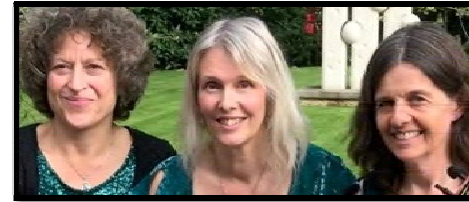
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Anne Freeman

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Who we are... Trio Paradis – Jacquelyn Bevan - piano, Lisa Betteridge - violin and Linda Stocks - cello – formed in 2009 and are based near Bath, Somerset.



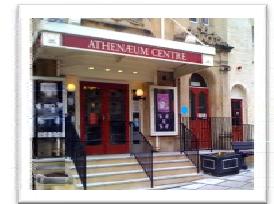
We are a versatile piano trio playing classical pieces alongside jazz, folk, pop and songs from the shows. We specialise in performing works by women composers, believing they should be heard by a wider audience.

Café Concerts... are monthly daytime concerts with a café before or afterwards, where you can meet friends and make new ones. Each month there is a different programme with a variety of musical styles.

Our aim ... is to cultivate *Friendship through Music*, so the atmosphere is informal and welcoming. Entrance is by pay-what-you-feel donation, to keep live music accessible and affordable for all. Audience members like to get involved, eg by baking cakes, running the café, reading a poem, or helping with publicity.

In 2023 Trio Paradis performed c120 Café Concerts in community venues across Somerset and Wiltshire. We are in the process of becoming a charity in 2024.

To receive our monthly email with details of these and other concerts, or to enquire about hiring Trio Paradis for your event, email trio paradis@gmail.com.



The beautiful historic **Warminster Athenaeum** is our newest community venue.

IMPORTANT Our first concert is in the First Floor Function Room which has limited seating, so it is **essential to book** (free) at www.ticketsource.co.uk/trio. Thereafter, see www.trio paradis.com/events or www.theath.org.uk for updates.

Parking: nearby in Central (Civic Centre)/Morrisons car park – charges apply.

Accessibility: contact venue 01985 213891 / www.theath.org.uk.

M I N U T E S

Of the Full Parish Council Meeting Held 19th March 2024

At Maiden Bradley Village Hall 7pm

Present: Chairman Cllr Wager, Cllrs Swan, Halligan, Brigden, Barass, Seymour, Stancombe

Also Present: J Gregory – Clerk, plus 2 members of the public.

Public Participation.

- A resident asked of the plans for the Knapp. She sited problems (not limited to) as resurfacing, fencing, reseeding. Specifics were given of each area, noting the improvement works recently carried out. In response the fence was in hand and options being looked at including researching old photographs. Any work and changes would involve Estate opinion as well as ideas from residents. There was an element of managing cost ie repair or replace. The maintenance Contract was being explored to either address known issues or potentially change contractor. Council also pointed out that parking on the verge was an offence and liable to prosecution, so residents were asked to stop.
- Finger Posts had been refurbished and currently waiting on weather improvements to allow the posts to be painted and fingers reinstalled.

23/24 034 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Chair stated that it was nice to have all Councillors in attendance. Unfortunately Bill Parkes could not attend as he originally attended on the 5th and had other commitments this evening. Appreciation was noted of his ongoing support.

23/24 035 Declarations of interest

No declarations received for tonight's meeting agenda. Cllr Wager stated that he was now a Trustee of the Link Scheme so would remove himself from discussions when needed. Cllr Wager was congratulated on this appointment.

23/24 036 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting 2nd January 204 were received. There were no amendments.

Resolved: Cllr Halligan proposed seconded by Cllr Swan to approve the minutes, as a result Chairman signed minutes in presence of Clerk and meeting.

23/24 037 Planning Matters for Consideration:

"Birchwood" single storey extension - was refused during the intervening month. Council agreed that development of a new development was not needed.

23/24 038 Finances

To present current financial statement and balance on accounts, balance on accounts showing as Balance on accounts showing as at 31.01.24 £ 39805.34. February bank statement not produced in time for the agenda.

To agree schedule of payments as indicated below. Payment was agreed in the intervening week of the postponed Council meeting.

Method	Payee	Amount
BACS	Coeval - SID purchase	£4,071.60
BACS	Cloudy IT - January invoice	£107.28
BACS	DRM Forestry - Work to the Knapp	£1,560.00
BACS	J A Gregory - January Salary	£318.95
BACS	J A Gregory - February Salary	TBA
BACS	Reimburse J A G - IONOS Payment	£18.00
BACS	Neville Dean - Litter Pick Printing	£12.00

Grants for the Village Hall Windows £500, retrospective grant for £500 refused.

Grant for the Community Garden self propelling mower (max £500)

Grant for the Village Newsletter agreed £500 with suggestion of a page advert to allow an appraisee of the meeting / advise next meeting (to be paid in the next financial year).

Resolved: Cllr Wager proposed, seconded by Cllr Brigden to approve the grant request the newsletter advert which the meeting fully agreed

Cllr Wager stated that matters regarding log in with Unity Bank was ongoing.

23/24 039

To update Councillor responsibilities:

The following responsibilities were allocated:

Community and Tourism Cllr Brigden

Cllr Bridgen had attended the VH meeting on Monday and stated that they were looking to form a sub-committee for fundraising for the windows, grant applications would commence following the new financial year. Plant and cake sales along with the regular quiz and bingo provided some income. The pantomime raised a net £2472.

Defibrillator Cllr Brigden

Checks completed. It was agreed to source a new box as the old one was looking quite tatty.

Financial Checks/Parish Steward oversight Cllr Seymour

The Clerk had completed a bank reconciliation for Jan, Cllr Seymour had reviewed and sign off.

Footpaths and signage Cllr Halligan

Some of the styles were in a dilapidated state. Mindful of a long term plan Cllr Halligan felt that some were dangerous. Style kits were available. Cllr Seymour stated that he would address and requested a pin drop and photos to be sent of those requiring urgent attention.

Intermediary for the Estate

Cllr Seymour

Road Drain pumping completed. No attention during March as the allocated workman was on "winter duty". Bill, Denise and Cllr Seymour attended meeting by the Bridge boundary and because of regulations for clearing drains the contents gets put on the bank and subsequent rain washes it back into the drain which is a particular frustration. Cllr Parkes is on top of issues on Kingston Lane where there have been a number of tyre punctures. Cllr Seymour stated that Cllr Parkes was looking to commission "bug hotels" and asked if we would be interested

Resolved: Agreed, location to be firmed up (Jubilee Garden, Knapp) but supportive of the scheme and nice addition to the village.

Litter Pick

Cllr Stancomb

The pick would be "live" from 10am to 4pm with pickers attending at their leisure.

Volunteers for manning HQ was required. This could be done on a shift basis. Cllr Seymour suggested a zoned map of the village so areas don't get missed which members felt was a brilliant idea – Cllr Seymour would source map and zone up.

Cllr Swan indicated there was regular bottles of urine in her area for cleaning and required some advice for protection and disposal.

There had been some "independent wombles" operating in the village and thanks was expressed to them for their hard work and efforts.

Youth Voice

Cllr Swan

Whilst it was recognised that anyone under 18 could not join the Council there was no reason that we could not have a youth voice as part of the public session. A young person was keen to get involved and speak for the youth in the village.

Resolved: A "youth voice" (appropriate title to be decided) proposed by Cllr Swan and seconded by Cllr Seymour. The meeting agreed with Cllr Swan making the necessary arrangements with the young person.

Recreation Ground

Cllr Barrass

Clerk to provide details of any local play equipment contractor. No issues to report. Risk Assessment form for a weekly visual check to be advised to Cllr Barass for future use.

SID/Traffic/Highways

Cllr Wager

Decision with Wiltshire Council regarding the build out and potential proposal. Residents in area to be asked to cut back hedge to help with traffic sight line.

23/24 040 Other Business Referred to the Clerk

The Knapp

Report given above. TB to arrange necessary meeting with the Estate. Residents view to be considered at the Annual Parish Meeting.

23/24 041 Dates of Further Meetings

The next meeting would be the Annual Parish Meeting 6th May at 6.30pm followed consecutively by the Annual Council Meeting. Cllr Stancomb would advise local groups of the invitation to attend. It was suggested by the Clerk that any community groups are restricted to 3 minutes each for any update.

Bed & Breakfast And Self Catering Cottage



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MERE AND DISTRICT LINK SCHEME

www.merelink.org.uk



01747 860096
9am – 5pm Weekdays Only

The Link continues to provide a vital service to those in Mere and the surrounding villages as evidenced by Brian who says “since moving to Mere some five years ago the Link Scheme has been a Godsend. I have had many medical appointments at hospitals and the dentist which would have been very difficult to get to without the Link. The drivers are very friendly and they wait for you until your appointment has finished! Since using the Link Scheme I feel the drivers have become friends.” It’s always nice to hear messages like Brian’s and we are averaging 100 trips/month so far this year so we continue to be busy. Thanks for your support. I am sure many of you will have picked up Ben Benson over the years so it is with great sadness that I have to let you know that he died recently. We were concerned when he missed an appointment and then we saw mail in his letter box when delivering his weekly medicines. We spoke with a neighbour and then called the emergency services but were told not to wait for them. The surgery confirmed later that he had died. May he rest in peace.

I am delighted to announce that one of our drivers and Committee member, Simon Wager, has agreed to become a Trustee of the Link Scheme. This means we now have five Trustees Peter Martin, Peter Mason, Barbara Thomas, Simon and me. If you want to join the Link Committee please let me know before our AGM on Friday 7 June at 7pm in the Grove Building. After the meeting we will have drinks and nibbles socially. I hope you will be able to join us.

John FitzGerald,

Link Chair

Mere and District Link Scheme

01747 860867

07795606426

Link phone 01747 860096

www.merelink.org.uk

**Additional drivers are needed
to join the LINK team**

To find out more call our co-ordinator
on 01747 860096.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH NEWS

Police Community Volunteers working on behalf of
the Wiltshire Police and Maiden Bradley



HIGH STREET

Maiden Bradley

SPEED LIMIT



COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH VOLUNTEERS -

VOLUNTEER TO KEEP OUR VILLAGE SAFE

As you know from the last issue of this magazine we restarted activities week commencing 5th February 2024 on back Lane,

Then on Friday the 9th February we restated on High Street. 39 vehicles counted with 20 in excess of the 20mph speed limit. 52% in excess of the 20mph speed limit regardless of the limit be clearly marked on the roadway and duly signed. Since then, to date, a further 4 sessions have taken place on the High Street resulting in similar statistics, noticeably with the highest speeds recorded during commuter times, when vehicles come off the B3092 onto Kingston Lane turn left onto Back Lane and then left again onto High Street then turning right back onto the B3092 thereby trying to avoid the congestion on Church Street B3092. Or the reverse depending on time of day. This is confirmed as the same registration numbers have been and are recorded several times during CSW activity. This information has been passed to the police and traffic police support requested,

Simon Wager

Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator.

Chairman Maiden Bradley Parish Council

Telephone No 01985 844848



Maiden Bradley

LITTER PICK

6th April 2024

Meet at Village Hall

10.00am - 4.00pm

**Please join in helping to keep
Maiden Bradley beautiful!**