

MAIDEN BRADLEY

NEWS

JULY 2024

A PLACE TO RELAX IN THE
COMMUNITY GARDEN

MAIDEN BRADLEY PARISH NEWS - ISSUE 421

DIARY JULY 2024

- 2 Tue PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – HALL – 7PM
- 3 Wed **Household waste collection**
- 4 Thur **General Election Voting in the Hall 7am – 10pm**
- 7 Sun PARISH COMMUNION AT ST GEORGE'S, BOURTON 10AM
- 8 Mon **Green recycling**
- 10 Wed Black box and blue bin recycling
- 13 Sat **LIVE MUSIC WITH JON KENZIE 7.30 FOR 8PM**
- 14 Sun PARISH COMMUNION AT ST MARY'S, KILMINGTON AND MORNING
WORSHIP AT ALL SAINT'S MAIDEN BRADLEY BOTH AT 10AM
- 17 Wed **Household waste collection**
- 20 Sat Underwoods Fish and Chip van 4.30 to 6pm
- COPY DATE FOR THE NEWS TO pat@visa-office.com**
- 21 Sun MORNING WORSHIP AT ST PETER'S STOURTON
- 22 Mon **Green recycling**
- 24 Wed **Black box and blue bin recycling**
- A TALK IN THE HALL BY ANDY DEAN ARRANGED BY THE GREENER MAIDEN BRADLEY GROUP 7PM**
- 27 Sat **RACE NIGHT IN THE HALL 7.30 FOR 8PM START**
- 28 Sun PARISH COMMUNION AT ST MARTINS IN ZEALS 10AM
PARISH COMMUNION AT ALL SAINT'S MB 10AM
- 31 Wed **Household waste collection**



A TALK IN THE HALL BY ANDY DEAN ARRANGED BY THE GREENER MAIDEN BRADLEY GROUP 7PM

**BUS SERVICES FROM THE BUS STOP BY THE KNAPP
FROME - WEDNESDAYS DEPART 9.53AM RETURN 13.50
WARMINSTER - FRIDAYS DEPART 9.35AM RETURN 12.30**

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

EDITORIAL

This is General Election month and whatever your political interests are, don't forget to vote because it matters!

School term will be ending soon and long holidays are ahead and one place of interest for those bored children could be the art exhibition being held at Stourhead. I will be taking the grandchildren there along with our usual haunt of Longleat and other venues. Where are your go-to places for the children or grandchildren? Let us know and we can print the information in the August News.

Patricia Kennedy 845397 pat@visa-office.com

VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

May			
1 st	Sarah Muir	£26.10	2 nd Ian Sturgess £13.00
3 rd	Pearl Hudson	£7.80	4 th Sue Wiltshire £5.15
June			
1 st	Elaine Snook	£26.10	2 nd Pat Kennedy £13.00
3 rd	John Grimstead	£7.80	4 th Sheila Aston £5.15

Thank you to all those contributors to the Hall Lottery, a very big thank you for helping maintain this vital social hub. Over this year alone £600+ has gone to you in prizes and £600+ to the maintenance of the Hall.

If you would like to help support your Village Hall, please get in contact with John Priestner on 844244 who has some spare numbers. Only 50p per number per month, you can have more than one number. Half the draw's income goes to the Village Hall and half goes in prizes.

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	07775 625448
Derek Stevens environmental issues	greenermaidenbradley@gmail.com	
Nadder Oil Buying Club	Email: richard.willan@me.com	www.oilbuyingclub.com

RECREATION AND RE-CREATION



How much holiday do you get each year? Looking at one of those 'useful' tables in the back of my diary, I notice that in England we are entitled to nine public holidays this year. My diary's list also provides information for another thirty-three nations/countries ranging from Argentina to Venezuela. Guess what? England comes fairly low in the league: India comes at the bottom with just three days and the People's Republic of China comes top with twenty-three.

If we had lived in mediaeval times, do you know that we would have had more holidays than we do

now? People then didn't have a fortnight away and go to the seaside in summer. Instead, the Church celebrated more saints' days as festivals, which meant that everyone – even the humblest peasant – had a half-day or a whole day off to go to church and then spend the rest of the time celebrating in other ways. These Holy Days give us our modern word holiday.

Such celebrations still happen in many places in continental Europe, and whole communities go out onto the streets. In years past, I've spent a number of holidays in Malta and could have attended a celebration every evening, if there hadn't been other things to do. There were processions, specially made sweets, dancing, spectacular fireworks (home made, of course!), lovingly decorated churches, and FUN – beginning and ending with services in the parish church. We're not much given to this sort of rejoicing in England (despite there usually being at least two opportunities every month), and for many years the Church was seen to frown upon such activity (the Puritans even attempted to abolish Christmas!). A pity really, since such celebration is as good for the soul as the daily round of worship and prayer on the ordinary days in between.

Whether you are planning a trip away or not, I hope that you manage to get some rest and re-creation during the next few months.

Graham Southgate (Rector)



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- ROUNDHILL COFFEE - EXTRACT TEA - GREAT CAKE CO - ANN'S CORNISH PASTIES - LITTLE JACK HORNERS SAUSAGE ROLLS - LANDRACE BAKERY - MILLY MOOS MILK - HETTIE HENS SCOTCH EGGS - WESTCOMBE CHEDDAR & BRICKELLS ICE CREAM - WILD FLOUR BAKERY - BUN IN THE OVEN - TAYLORS OF BRUTON - BATH CULTURE HOUSE - WHITE HORSE HONEY - BINI FINE FOODS - CAVENDISH COOKS - STILL SISTERS - & MANY MORE LOCAL & WEST COUNTRY DELIGHTS

INSIDE AND OUTSIDE SEATING - WELL BEHAVED DOGS WELCOME



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

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 Tel: 01985 845116



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invites you to:

Horningsham and Maiden Bradley Connections at

**Maiden Bradley Village Hall
Wednesday 24th July at 7pm**

Join us for an chance to discuss how our two wonderful villages can be better connected. We will think about what we have achieved so far as well as brainstorming about the future

Andy Dean of The Natural Garden (thenaturalgarden.co) who lives in Horningsham will join us and present some thoughts and images



For more info contact:
greenermaidenbradley.com

A message from Andy Dean :

I write this article unashamedly in praise of wasps, the more I find out about them, the more I appreciate them. I was doing a bit of research the other day on pollinators, bees being far from our only pollinating insect, moths and butterflies, beetles, flies and wasps also doing a fine job of it too, and found out that we in Britain have 9000 species of wasp! Comparable to 270 species of bee, all of which pollinate plants, in fact, some of the world's orchids are only pollinated by wasps.

Only very few species look like the archetypal yellowjacket *Vespula vulgaris* that all of us picture when we think of a wasp. They come in all sizes, most of them are black and would be mistaken for flies. In fact, the smallest insect in the world is the fairyfly wasp with the amazing latin name, *Tinkerbella nana*, which is nearly 400 times smaller than a typical ant.

Wasps are actually in the same order of insects as bees (Hymenoptera) but seem to have

missed the memo from the PR department. Perhaps, I'd say almost certainly, their lack of public approval is due to their intensely annoying behaviour when the sun does finally come out and we head into the garden with sugar-laden treats. This actually only really happens with any vigour later in the season and this is why..

Wasps predate on invertebrates but rather than eating them they chop them into pieces and feed them to their young, as opposed to bees that feed their larvae royal jelly or pollen. On eating the invertebrates, the wasp larva secrete a sugary liquid that they feed to the adult. In August when the nests stop raising larvae the worker wasps run out of food and go in search of picnics and glasses of wine.

Another reason for writing this article on wasps today is so that I can talk about the invasive Asian hornet. A fellow [Horningsham] villager asked me to write on this subject and I gladly accepted.

I had a European hornet in the house the other day, its buzzing by the window was so loud that I honestly thought someone was using a lawn mower outside. The Asian hornet is similar in size to the reddish tinged with yellow abdomen European hornet but is black with fewer yellow stripes on the abdomen. It predate on honey bees and can eat up to 50 a day, much like many invasive species, it doesn't have the usual checks and balances that are to be found in its home environment. It first entered Europe sometime around 2004 when it was spotted in France and is thought, like many invasive species, to have been carried along with cargo transported from afar, in this case Asia of course.

The first UK sighting was in 2016 and for many years it has been largely contained, but it seems that the genie may be escaping the bottle, as last year nests were destroyed in 57 different locations, mainly in Kent, which is more than double the previous seven years combined. 16 sightings were made in 2023, again mainly in Kent, but also in Dorset and as far north as Newcastle upon Tyne. As opposed to 2 sightings in both 2022 and 2021.

It is imperative that sightings be reported if we are in any way to control this species, either through the free Asian Hornet Watch App or by reporting directly to the Great British Non Native Species Secretariat (NNSS).

Many thanks to Andy for this article.
Come and hear more from him on Wednesday 24th July at 7pm at Maiden Bradley Memorial Hall.



JON KENZIE

JULY 13TH
MAIDEN BRADLEY
MEMORIAL HALL

Tickets £10

Available online from
Eventbrite

or Carol Kenzie
01985 844745
07745 222705



MAIDEN BRADLEY GARDEN COMPETITION 2024

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN FOLKS!

At last the weather has relented and we have had some decent warmth and sunshine. The garden judging this year will be undertaken by Steve Cripps, the manager of Lakeside Garden Centre in Crockerton. I will meet Steve in the village hall car park at 10am on Thursday 18th July 2024 and we will walk around the village to all of the gardens entered into the competition.

As I said previously, we had seven gardens last year and it would be great to match that number again this year.

Please email me if you would like Steve to visit your garden as part of the competition and please leave any access gates open.

The winning garden will be announced in August.

Good Luck to all.

To enter your garden please email - jawylie@sky.com
or phone Adrian on 01985 844664 please leave a message

Adrian Wylie

NOTE FROM THE VILLAGE HALL.

Many of you may have wondered about the Produce Show which, for this year, has been postponed.

For many years Sue and John Priestner have been the mainstay of organising this event, however last year was to be their final show. They are still around but will be sorely missed.

Going forward, we are going to rest for a year and allow the village to consider what sort of event they would like next year.

The committee are looking for someone from the village who would be interested in working with support from the committee, to continue with the tradition of the Produce Show. We would welcome new ideas and interests that reflect all that Maiden Bradley has to offer as we move forward, welcoming new individuals and families of all ages to our wonderful village.

If you feel that you would like to be involved please give me a call on 01985 844722

KEITH APPLETON - MEMORIAL HALL CHAIRPERSON.



HEYWOOD HOUSE
WESTBURY

Romeo and Juliet

An Outdoor Theatre Production by
internationally acclaimed theatre group, Illyria



Sunday 1st September 2024 | 4:00PM
Heywood House, Heywood, Westbury, BA13 4NA

Tickets: £16 Adults | £12 Children (9-15)
Homemade Cream Teas £5 pp
Gates open at 2pm, pre bookable cream teas served from 2.30pm

Tickets available from:
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01373 463866 | Mon-Sat 9-5 | allsopcarpets.co.uk

WELCOME CLUB

On Tuesday June 25th the Welcome Club held their monthly outing which this month was to Dorchester and Weymouth. We set off on a beautiful June summers day travelling via Yeovil and on through the beautiful Dorset countryside. We spent two hours in Dorchester because everyone enjoys the town and we wandered around after having coffee and cake. We arrived in Weymouth after a very smooth journey, at 12.45pm and Lionel our driver said we could be there till 4.45pm. Everyone one went off to do their own thing, this included lunch where most people had fish and chips because being at the seaside evokes the childhood memories of such a tradition. During the stay some people paddled their feet in the sea, but I do not think anyone swam. People also went shopping and of course sat on the promenade people watching and chatting. We did a comfort stop at Cartgate



where Tom and Lesley did the raffle also Tom thanked Lionel for a lovely day out. We got home at 7pm everyone tired but happy after another lovely day out.

Our next outing is to the Otter Garden Centre and Exmouth on Tuesday 23rd July anyone interested please contact Pearl 01985 219289 or Lesley 01985211355.

AGRICULTURAL SPRAYS, HERBICIDES AND PESTICIDES

There has been comments in Social Media recently by some residents about the use of sprays in the parish. All sprays used in agriculture are tested and approved to be safe and are used under guidance from a qualified agronomist. All sprayer operators have to hold a certificate to use them and all sprayers have to pass a yearly MOT.

All spraying records are checked and have to state what field they were used on, weather conditions and date, and have to tally with invoice from suppliers. Whereas the general public can go to garden centres etc. and buy all sorts of chemicals to use on their gardens with no restrictions which is far more risky.

Derek Stevens



**I HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM WALKING PART OF THE
CAMINO DE SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELLA
AND OBSERVED THE FOLLOWING ONE MORNING:**

**Bats fluttering between trees
Trails of snails and ants on the march
Birds in song and butterflies on the wing
The old lady serenaded us pilgrims weary
We listened to the guitarist playing
Bohemian Rhapsody
We trudged on and Miles was full of smiles
Despite his question of the future road to take
The camera took the memories for later
I will forget the pain of blisters that prevented
Me walking further that day.**

Pat Kennedy



Working in partnership with
Wiltshire Council

Wiltshire Council Funded Septic Tank Upgrade Scheme

Wiltshire Council and Wessex Rivers Trust are collaborating to improve water quality in the Hampshire Avon catchment

Fully funded grants are available for homeowners in specific areas of the Upper Avon catchment to upgrade your septic tank to a cleaner package treatment plant tailored to YOUR property.

The health of our rivers is at risk. Pollution from wastewater, including septic tanks, is harming our local wildlife. Some of our most iconic species, including salmon, are suffering due to the effects of pollution in the Upper Avon catchment.

Revamp Your Tank! Following a new law, old septic tanks discharging to surface waters (e.g. rivers, streams, and ditches) must upgrade. Wiltshire Council is here to help!

Check Your Eligibility & Find Out More on the Wiltshire Council website to see if you qualify for this fantastic opportunity:

www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning-bio-development



RACE NIGHT FUNDRAISER

MAIDEN BRADLEY MEMORIAL HALL

Saturday July 27th
7.30pm - first race 8pm

Licensed Bar

free entry- bets £1 each

FUNDRAISING FOR THE HALL WINDOWS

Come along and join the fun



VISIT US AT WWW.ATTHERACES.ORG.UK
CALL US ON 01475 675706

Maiden Bradley Memorial Hall

Tuesday 2nd July
Thursday 4th July
Sunday 7th July
Saturday 13th July
Saturday 20th July
Wednesday 24th July

Parish Council Meeting 7pm
General Election Polling Station
Bath Beast Cycling Event
Live music with Jon Kenzie 7.30pm
Underwoods Fish & Chip Van 4.30pm-6pm
Talk by Andy Dean arranged by the Greener
Maiden Bradley Group

Saturday 27th July

RACE NIGHT

Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start

*Thank you to everyone who supported the recent
plant and cake sale.*

We raised just over £400 in the 2 hours!

REGULAR EVENTS IN THE HALL

MONDAYS	9.30AM-10.30AM	PILATES
MONDAYS	10.45AM-11.30AM	CHAIR PILATES
MONDAYS	5.00PM-6.00PM	DR'S SURGERY
TUESDAY	9.30AM-10.30AM	BRADLEY BABIES
TUESDAY	1.00PM-3.00PM	POST OFFICE SERVICE
WEDNESDAYS	10.00AM-11.15AM	SILVER SNEAKERS
WEDNESDAYS	6.15PM-7.15PM	YOGA FLOW
THURSDAYS	9.30AM-10.30AM	PILATES
FRIDAYS	10AM-12NOON	COFFEE MORNING

BOOK LIBRARY AVAILABLE DURING HALL OPENING
FRIDAY MORNINGS

01985 845303 *leave message*
www.maidenbradleyhall.co.uk
maidenbradleyhall@gmail.com

MEMORIES OF A RAILWAY MAN

AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY BY MIKE HERRIN AND HIS LIFE ON THE RAILWAY.

YEOVIL JUNCTION PART 1

Our Local Station, go up there on a winter's evening about 9.00pm or 21:00 hrs as they call time today. The place is deserted, no railway staff around.

Let us turn back the clock to the late 1950's just before 9.00pm. There would be a nice coal fire burning in both up and down side waiting rooms. The shift Foreman and two of the porters would be over on Platform 3 (Now used by the Steam Centre) waiting for the arrival of the 6.00 pm Waterloo to Plymouth (Via Okehampton) The third porter would be on the footbridge announcing the trains on the tannoy and collecting tickets.

The Yeovil Town Branch connection is waiting in Platform 1. An S15 Freight locomotive by the turntable for a very late goods working to Exmouth Junction, probably another S15 in the Up Goods yards, (Now the Car Park) shunting or ready to depart for Salisbury. In the down sidings is a Bullied Pacific with the 5.00pm ex Waterloo waiting to follow the 6.00pm down the line as a stopping service to Exeter.

The up through signals are off for the passage of the "Bideford" an express freight that runs daily with meat from North Devon to London that will run through the station at about 60 MPH.

On the night I am writing about, I am one of the porters waiting for the arrival of the down train from Waterloo, she is running a bit late, about 15 minutes, she was right time off Sherborne.

The train arrives, the big Bullied Pacific stops by the water column to top up the tender. My mate and myself are busy unloading mail and parcels, could be anything from cakes for Lyons to a live calf wrapped in sacking. Railways carried everything in the Guards Van then, no Guards Van now at all.

There is a bit of a conference between the Guard, the Foreman and a well distressed local gentleman.

The gentleman had spent a bit too long it would seem in the bar on the train, maybe one of the Tavern Cars that were up and down here at that time, with the interior done out like an old English pub.

He was a bit worse for wear and should have got off at Sherborne. As the train left Sherborne he pulled the Communication Cord, (Penalty £5.00) stopping the train by the Marglass Bridge and demanded to be let off to walk back to Sherborne station. The Guard refused, reset the brake and the train came into Yeovil Junction now 15 minutes late

The gentleman has recovered somewhat by now and did not want his antics reported in the local paper, so is offering the Foreman, the late Fred Milton, £25.00 to hush the job up. Fred has a word with the guard, then goes to see the driver, an Exmouth Junction Top Link Man, maybe one of the Lodge brothers or Les Billings, I cannot remember, to enquire about the chances of a right time arrival at Exeter, he agrees to give it a go.

It will mean a wet shirt for the fireman, because he will have to "hit her a bit hard"

Anyway a £5.00 note for the locomotive crew, one for the guard, £10.00 in the gang's weasel money tin and off the train goes. We hear no more about the incident. The driver was as near right time Exeter as made no odds, everyone happy.

Back then £25.00 was over two and a half weeks pay, the fireman to earn his, he would have to shovel about four and a half to five tons of coal between Saluisbury and Exeter on a bouncing swaying footplate in immense heat. We got our easier "weasel money" for helping passengers with their luggage.

I was nearly 18 years old at the time of the above incident. Soon afterwards something similar occurred involving a gentleman with a sword stick, table clothes in the dining car and another good hit for the weasel pot. Happy Different Days.

Mike Herrin

LUNCHEON CLUB NEWS

Our oldest member of Luncheon Club celebrated his 96th birthday in June. Lionel Marsh was born and brought up in Horningsham. He and his two brothers attended Horningsham School and enjoyed growing up in the Village. Later in life Lionel moved to Corsley. He has been a member of the club for many years and birthday wishes were sung at the Thursday lunch.

The luncheon club annual outing will take place on 1st August. All members, cooks and helpers are invited on the trip, which this year is to Littlehampton and Arundel.

The club closes for the month of August and we reopen on Thursday 5th September.



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LINK NUMBER 16 - IAN FERGUSON

HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN MAIDEN BRADLEY?

I have lived here since July 2017. We moved in on the 17th and the temperature was 30°C, we felt so sorry for the removal men, but they did it!

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

For many years I was a buyer for C&A, a large retailer so I have been lucky to travel the world. We used to go to the USA to spot fashion trends, as we used to say, "the wind blows from the West". And then we would buy garments from the Far East, Hong Kong, Thailand, South Korea and India.

After leaving C&A I took my wife, Maureen, to all the countries I had visited.

TELL US SOMETHING OF YOUR WORK IN THE PAST

After C&A closed in the U.K. I became the CEO of a charity for the visually impaired called The Beacon Centre for the Blind, based in Dudley, which I found very fulfilling. I was very aware of how people depended on the charity to lead a normal life and that drove me for 11 years. I am now 11 years retired!

TELL US SOMETHING OF YOUR LEISURE ACTIVITIES

I am an avid gardener, having a fair-sized garden, and I enjoy being a member of the Community Garden as it has a great social aspect.

I also volunteer for a charity based in Newton St Loe, near Bath. It is called Grow for Life (growforlife.org.uk) and we use gardening as a therapy for people with mental illness, grief, depression, brain injury etc. After a year there I am still amazed as to how gardening helps people with problems. I am also sports mad - having played soccer, hockey and tennis all up to county level. The first football result I look for on Saturday is Shrewsbury Town, where I come from.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE FILM?

My favourite film is Pulp Fiction. I must have watched it 20 times!

WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF IN YOUR LIFE?

After all the family things of children and grandchildren, my proudest time was re-developing the Beacon Centre for the Blind. When I took the job, it was in debt, and in danger of closing. I initiated a total rebuild at a cost of £14m, and we procured the money via Government grants, a sale of some land and a massive capital appeal. At the time all facilities for the visually impaired were "institutionalized", so we decided to do something new which was to provide people with a facility that was suited to their needs but didn't look as though it was. We also provided 70 apartments with care if needed. I am very pleased that it is flourishing 11 years on.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE RIVER?

Being a Shropshire Lad it has to be the Severn. I started fishing there when I was 7 with my pals and I still hold many happy memories of those times.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE WAY TO ENTERTAIN YOURSELF?

This is very varied. Watching sport, live or on TV. Gardening. Eating out with friends and family who are all "foodies", theatre trips and concerts. Interesting holidays, not on a beach!

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE THINGS YOU LIKE ABOUT OUR VILLAGE?

To my mind the village in the last few years has developed an improved community spirit, where there is always somebody to help with whatever particular skill they may have. It is important to me to be able to offer my help whenever called upon. I really appreciate the Bradley Hare on a Friday night, and the Bradley Pantry! Being able to walk out my front door and to choose a wonderful walk. Brimsdown Hill is my favourite, to be up there with wonderful views, often without seeing another person, alone with the skylarks. Bliss.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE SEASON?

Spring. Cutting the grass for the first time. Seeing the vivid greens of new leaves. Daffodils. wild garlic. Birds singing, and much much more..

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE FOOD?

This is probably something autumnal as the season changes in October. I always look forward to comforting food, a casserole with a glass of red and the first log fire.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK?

As an avid reader I don't have a favourite book as there have been so many great ones! But, I have just reread all of George Orwell, and I particularly enjoyed 1984 and Animal Farm. Orwell was so prescient that they are still valid nearly 80 years after they were written.





PCC VISITS ORGANISATION SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE AFTER AWARDING GRANT

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) is helping to fund community groups that support victims of domestic abuse, suicide, homicide and coercive controlling behaviour – directly delivering priority two of the Police and Crime Plan.

This week, Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Wilkinson visited Swindon Sister’s Alliance after the group recently received a grant via the PCC’s Community Action Fund.

The organisation was formed by Emma King after she lost her sister Julie in 2005 to domestic violence.

With the help of a small team and board members, the group supports the people of Swindon and surrounding areas who have been impacted by domestic abuse, suicide, murder and other trauma by signposting and creating awareness to support parents, children and extended family members.

They offer volunteering and learning skills within their shops to create friendships and the opportunity to be around others with lived experiences, as well as arranging day trips and holidays to Julie’s Haven, a six-birth Holiday home in Brean, Somerset to enable individuals and families time away from their home to rebuild bonds and create positive memories.

The extra funding will be put towards continuing to offer signposting, food bank referrals, walk in support, hardship funds, practical support and a safe space to hold meetings to assist with ongoing needs around domestic violence.

Mr. Wilkinson said: “Charities like Swindon Sister’s Alliance do incredible work within communities to provide much needed support, guidance and a first-hand understanding to victims of domestic abuse and coercive and controlling behaviour, and can provide a safe space in which they can help them take the necessary steps to get back to safety.

“Emma is very passionate and committed to this cause, and that’s apparent in the great work that she does for victims, despite being a very small team with limited funding. I hope the grant she received via my Community Action Fund will go some way towards enabling her to continue helping vulnerable people when they most need it.

“My office will continue to invest in these, and other similar organisations to show our commitment to tackling domestic abuse and violence against women and girls, as well as improving the experience of victims by providing a better service.”

Emma King, Founder and Managing Director of Swindon Sister’s Alliance said: “As CEO of SSA it a privilege and honour to be awarded £5000 from our PCC Community Action Fund. The fund has allowed us to continue supporting our Swindon community in multiple ways, including delivering services at grassroots level ensuring we do all we can alongside already established organisations delivering support targeting VAWG and help victims and their families on their own path to recovery.

“My role is rewarding and is a privilege to be able to fund our services free to all and help in therapeutic ways such as Julie’s haven holidays and trips. It’s important to bring families together to enjoy happier times with their own supportive network in times of hardship and their own unique and individual journeys.

“We exist because of the kindness of our community who all help us in many ways. We hope SSA continues way into the future and without our community support we wouldn’t be able to deliver our projects and help victims.”

Find out more about the community groups funded by the PCC’s Community Action Fund, the eligibility criteria and how to apply for future funding here.

Contact Information:

Amy Pantall
Campaigns and
Communications Manager
OPCC

amy.pantall@wiltshire.police.uk



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SATURDAY 6TH July 6pm FREE
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SUNDAY 7th July 11.30am & 2.30pm £7
THE STORY EXPLORERS



SUNDAY 7th July 7.30 £16
LAURA JURD + IAIN BALLAMY/ELLIOT GAVIN



MONDAY 8th July 7.30 £12
JAZZ MORLEY + ROSANNA SCHURA



TUESDAY 9th July 7.30pm £16
POP-UP COMEDY with JARED CHRISTMAS



WEDNESDAY 10th July 7.30pm £14
CROSSING THE ROCKIES + CAMPFIRE AFTER-PARTY



THURSDAY 11th JULY 7.30pm £16
SHEELANAGIG + CAMPFIRE AFTER-PARTY



FRIDAY 12th July 7.30pm £16
HARARE + MOTHER OF MANKIND



SATURDAY 13th July 8-2am £19.50
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SUNDAY 14th July 7.30pm £16
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www.merelink.org.uk



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The trips keep rolling in this year with May being the busiest month so far with 115. We are now averaging 104 trips per month this year. As ever, Salisbury District Hospital was the busiest destination with 33 trips.

A big thank you to everyone who came to our AGM on 7 June. There were around 30 volunteers and supporters present and we were able to thank everyone who volunteered for the Link and to report that we are in a good position financially. The drinks and nibbles after the meeting were very enjoyable!

You may have seen the infographic with last month's report showing the work of all of Wiltshire's Link Scheme in 2023. Elaine Noble has produced the infographic below showing Mere and District Link Scheme work in 2023.

Do you want to volunteer as a Link driver? We are a local charity and we take clients to medical appointments, including Covid vaccinations, and even shopping when resources allow. New drivers are always welcome. You choose when you want to drive, use your own car and we pay 45p/mile to cover your costs. If you are interested in volunteering as a driver please call our co-ordinator on 01747 860096.

If you want to use the Link, once you have an appointment please call 01747 860096 to book a driver. As a charity we do not charge for trips but ask for a donation. Please remember that our coordinators work in their own homes - we do not have an office - so please keep calls to 9-5 Monday to Friday and only use the 01747 860096 number. Also, it is a great help if you can give us a minimum of 48 hours notice (not including Saturdays and Sundays). Our coordinator has to ring round to find a driver who is available to take you to your appointment and we cannot guarantee our co-ordinator will be at home to arrange last minute requests.

Mere and District Link Scheme

01747 860867

07795606426

Link phone 01747 860096

www.merelink.org.uk

John FitzGerald,

Link Chair

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH NEWS

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



We have a Second SID now in place on Church Street positioned on the original post close to the entrance to the old estate yard. To date it is having a very positive effect on the traffic on this section of the B3092 and almost overnight reduced the average speed to around 27 mph; it was 35mph prior to installation. Another step forward in reducing traffic speed through our village if not volume.



"HIGH STREET"
THE SPEEDING HOTSPOT IN THE VILLAGE



The average vehicle count during a 45 minute CSW session is 45/60 vehicles of which those travelling in excess of 30 mph, is now reducing with 16% over the statutory speed limit for this section of highway CSW is definitely having the required positive effect. Remember in a 20mph zone you will be prosecuted.

We have a new PCSO working with us in the village,
Lukasz Kolasinski 70901
lukasz.kolasinski@wiltshire.police.uk
Tel. No. 07471 029004

Simon Wager

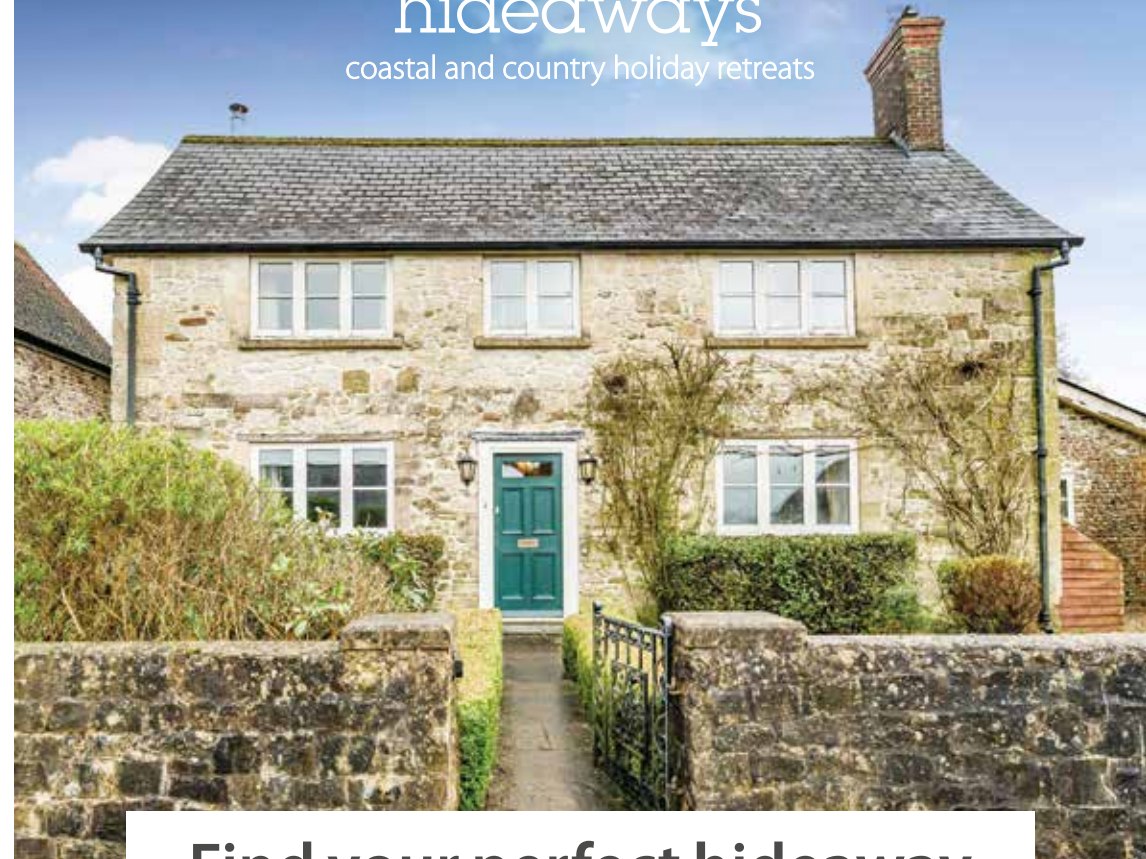
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On Wednesdays, enjoy 20% off your food bill!
From 12.30pm until 2.30pm
Booking or walk in!

THURSDAY 2 COURSE / 3 COURSE OFFER

Lunch or dinner indulge yourself in
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(BOOKING PREFERRED)
(SIDE DISHES AND SNACKS AT REGULAR PRICE)

COCKTAILS 2 FOR £12

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