

MAIDEN BRADLEY

NEWS

JANUARY 2025



OTIS AND LUNA CHAT TO SANTA
AT THE CHRISTMAS FAYRE

- Friday 3rd** Household waste collection
- Saturday 4th** **BIG CHURCHYARD TIDY UP (SEE BELOW)**
- Sunday 5th** 10:00 ST GEORGE'S, BOURTON PARISH COMMUNION
- Thurs 9th** *Holly Osborne Relaxation Class - Hall 7.30*
Blue bin and black box collection
Lane leading to the Old Timber Yard is being re tarmaced
- Sunday 12th** 10:00 MAIDEN BRADLEY - PLOUGH SERVICE
- Weds 15th** Household waste collection
- Thurs 16th** *Holly Osborne Relaxation Class - Hall 7.30*
- Friday 17th** **QUIZ NIGHT AT HALL doors open at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start**
- Sunday 19th** 10:00 UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, MERE - MORNING WORSHIP
- Monday 20th** Garden waste collection
- Monday 20th** **DEADLINE FOR NEWS - editormaidenbradleynews@gmail.com**
- Weds 22nd** Blue bin and black box collection
- Thurs 23rd** *Holly Osborne Relaxation Class - Hall 7.30*
- Sunday 26th** 10:00 MAIDEN BRADLEY - PARISH COMMUNION
- Weds 29th** Household waste collection
- Thurs 30th** *Holly Osborne Relaxation Class - Hall 7.30*
- STOP PRESS....Fri and Sat 31 and 1st - Clearance Sale at the Hall*
Beatrice Von Tresckow Designs...watch the village FB page for details
- Sunday 2nd Feb 10:00 ST GEORGE'S, BOURTON - PARISH COMMUNION**

SATURDAY, 4TH JANUARY - BIG CHURCHYARD TIDY-UP - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Please come if you can spare an hour or so to help clear ground gulleys, cut back ivy, clear leaves and generally tidy up - many hands make light work! Bring your own tools - rakes, secateurs, loppers, trimers and wheelbarrow or bins, if you can. If you're not up for gardening, it would be great to have help with making tea and coffee for the workers. Hoping for a crisp, sunny day but if the weather is against us, we'll rearrange on the day via the village facebook page, or give me a ring on the number below.

Diana - 07775 625448

Please note that the lane up to the Old Timber Yard is going to be re tarmaced on 9th January. Please make sue that you have moved your car if you need to use it that day as access is going to be, at times, restricted.

BUS SERVICES FROM THE BUS STOP BY THE KNAPP
FROME - WEDNESDAYS DEPART 9.53AM RETURN 12.25 NB CORRECTED
WARMINSTER - FRIDAYS DEPART 9.35AM RETURN 12.30

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
TUESDAYS	9.30AM-10.30AM	BRADLEY BABES
TUESDAYS	1.00PM-3.00PM	POST OFFICE SERVICE
WEDNESDAYS	10.00AM-11.15AM	SILVER SNEAKERS
THURSDAYS	9.30AM-10.30AM	PILATES
FRIDAYS	10AM-12NOON	COFFEE MORNING

BOOK LIBRARY AVAILABLE DURING HALL OPENING FRIDAY MORNINGS

SNOW WHITE AND THE 3 DWARFS

The Maiden Bradley Panto Group are very pleased to announce their forthcoming production, which will hit the boards at the Memorial Hall on Thursday 20th February, Friday 21st and two shows on Saturday 22nd February 2025. Come and see well known and much loved local faces as you have never seen them before in this exciting production full of thrills and spills. Tickets will be on sale soon but if you have any questions or wish to volunteer your help in any shape for form, please contact Carol Kenzie on 844745.

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

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
Environmental issues	greenermaidenbradley@gmail.com	
Nadder Oil Buying Club	Email:richard.willan@me.com	www.oilbuyingclub.com

EDITORIAL

As we wave goodbye to 2024 and shake hands with 2025, I, like many of you intend to make some New Years resolutions. The aim being to set some new goals and map out my intentions for the year ahead. So, with this in mind I would love to also make some additions to the magazine, do let me know if you have any suggestions – all would be gratefully received. Personally, I would like to add a gardening section with three or four 'jobs for the month' so that I know when to sow my broad beans, prune my hydrangeas and replant my geraniums. Also, how about a section for children? We have several under 10s in the village, it would be lovely to have something within the magazine that would interest them. Any volunteers to write either section, don't be shy - please speak up.

Thank you to Simon Wager for coming up with and actioning 'Life on the Farm'. Throughout the year he will be detailing the jobs our hard-working farmers carry out and if necessary, explaining why. Being a rural community, the work taking place in the farming calendar is visible as we stride through the fields, but some knowledge of why things are done, we hope, will be interesting.

I am very much enjoying editing the magazine, but I can't do it without you and your ideas.

Thank you all for your support over the year and I hope that you have a very happy and prosperous 2025

Gilly x

PLEASE SUBMIT ALL ARTICLES FOR INCLUSION IN THE NEWS BY THE
20TH OF EACH MONTH BY EMAIL TO:
editormaidenbradleynews@gmail.com

VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

NOVEMBER

1st A. Neish £26.00	2nd Hannah Sturgess £13.00
3rd B. Gunter £7.85	4th P. Ciolli £5.15

DECEMBER

1st Sue Wiltshire £26.00	2nd Jane Hurd £13.00
3rd Sam Higgins(G) £7.85	4th James Gilbert £5.15

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.

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MAGI, TRAVEL, AND GIFTS

One of the Church's "Cinderella" festivals is Epiphany, when we celebrate the visit of Magi (or Wise Men) who assist in revealing who Jesus really is. I describe it as "Cinderella" because falling as it does on 6th January it is so often lost in the great Christmas twelve-day rush; normally getting little more than an inclusion in most nativity plays.

After Jesus was born, Magi (from where we get our word magician) or Wise Men came to look for him, probably from an area that is

now in Iran, Saudi Arabia, or Yemen. Although they are often called the "Three Kings", the Bible does not say how many there were, or that they were kings. One theory is that they might have been Kings of Yemen, as during this time these were probably Jews. Three is only a guess because Saint Matthew refers to three gifts.

They were clearly people of learning — probably today, we would call them scientists. They had seen an unusual new star in the sky, and interpreted this as foretelling the birth of a special king. Stories of a Jewish Saviour were told all over this part of Asia and they would probably have known them. Legends have grown up in Christian circles about the Magi and they have even been given names: Gaspar, the King of Sheba who brings frankincense (pure incense) for Jesus reminding us his divinity. Melchior, the King of Arabia brings gold to remind us that Jesus is King. Finally, Balthazar, the King of Tarse and Egypt, brings myrrh to remind us that Jesus will suffer.

No one really knows what the new star was, but one of the most likely explanations is a conjunction (where two objects appear close together) of the planets Jupiter and Saturn (the "stars" of divinity and kingship). On three occasions during the year 7 B.C. these two planets appeared to be so close together in the sky that they may well have appeared to be one very bright star . . . each time this was within the constellation Pisces (the zodiacal sign always associated with Israel).

The Church continues to celebrate Epiphany because it helps to remind us that Jesus was born for all different kinds of people: Jews and Gentiles, men and women, slaves and free, even for you and me.

The Wise Men had to travel vast distances to find Jesus, but for you and me he is always close at hand.

Graham Southgate (01747 436316)

WILTSHIRE BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION (BKVC)

In February, entries will be invited for the BKVC. Categories are Large, Medium and Small villages. There are 15 prizes of up to £200. It's a great way of getting villagers together to keep our villages looking good and to build on our community spirit. Entry is simple and must be received by CPRE Wiltshire by 17 April.

Can you help our parish council with this?

Details are at <https://www.cprewiltshire.org.uk/category/awards/> or call 01380 722157 and leave a message if necessary.

Thank you and best wishes,

Mike Manson
Project Officer



The countryside charity
Wiltshire



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Maiden Bradley Memorial Hall

December has been busy, with three events, all of which were well supported by our villagers and visitors from surrounding areas. Christmas Bingo held on the Monday the 2nd was a great success with nearly fifty people playing and making it a really enjoyable evening.

On Friday the 6th the Frome Walkers Club lunch took place, they were delighted with the food and service that our brilliant team offered. So much so that they have already booked for next December as well as an additional lunch in the summer.



The Christmas Fayre on the 7th was again a great afternoon. It was lovely to see so many little ones there, enjoying kiddies corner and meeting with Santa.

On Friday the 17th we are holding a Quiz night, teams are usually of up to six people. You can either come with a complete team or you can join one on your arrival. The cost is £3 per head and we are looking forward to a fun night.

None of these events would take place without the dedication and hard work of the hall committee, hall manager and especially those who volunteer from our village.

ON BEHALF OF THE HALL COMMITTEE I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYBODY FOR THEIR CONTINUING SUPPORT AND WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Keith Appleton - Chairman.



HOLLY OSBORNE

HOLLY OSBORNE
is holding
RELAXATION CLASSES
at 7.30pm on
Thursdays in January

Contact Holly on
hollyrosborne@gmail.com
for details

Find her on [facebook](#)

RECYCLING DISCONTINUED AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Unfortunately we are no longer able to accept crisp packets or other similar bags to recycle as our outlet has ceased. Please note that if you wish to continue recycling these items, they will be accepted at Sainsburys or Co-op Stores in Frome.

Memorial Hall Management Committee



*A fantastic
turnout for
Christmas
Bingo!*

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



SOME HOPEFULLY GARDENING NOTES FROM OUR GREENER GARDENERS' QUESTION TIME HELD AT HORNINGSHAM IN OCTOBER.

The 30 or so people present talked about several topics among which were:

COMPOST

Steve Cripps from the Lakeside Garden Centre at Crockerton spoke of the difficulties caused by the changeover to peat free growing media exacerbated by talk of legislation for many years without any following action. There are nurseries who simply carry on using & selling peat-based materials who therefore get great results but continue to cause harm by using valuable carbon sink peat reserves. At Lakeside, this is the last year that they will be buying peat-based compost having already reduced peat-based products greatly. They have found that the best non-peat-based compost is a product called 'Bullrush'. Steve described how peat free soil holds water in a different way from peaty ones, in the bottom third of the pot rather than the top. To find out what is going on it is necessary to test well below the surface and to adopt a different watering & feeding regime; a little and often as the top dries out but not necessarily the bottom. Lifting the vessel to see whether it needs water is a good way to decide but clearly is not always practical. Steve said that a product called 'Dorset Ecomix' created from household food and garden waste is very good.

It was suggested that encouragement should be given to businesses such as Lakeside Garden Centre that make the commitment to doing the right thing by the environment in the form of active local support.

PESTS & CHEMICALS

The range of chemicals available to horticulture is being constantly reduced and replaced by solutions based on more environmentally friendly approaches such as nematode worms and predatory insects. Many plant nurseries operate a circular water system, which if contaminated with a build up of chemicals could become unusable. Steve stated that many European countries do much more chemical spraying in intensive growing systems and therefore, arguably, produce more 'perfect' plants/crops. The need to meet specific dates for eg Mothers' Day often drives the use of chemicals. Many nurseries walk their crops daily or minimum 2 x per week to check for infestations and threats and treat these with less harmful soap-based products. It is still very much worth asking your garden centre or plant nursery if their plants are raised with the use of systemic pesticides to be sure, as they fatally harm many other insects such as bees and butterflies as well as the targeted 'pest'.

GROWING

Should we lift Dahlias? The consensus was NO! We may lose them in very wet or the

occasional very cold winter but worth the risk especially now! Try to give them good drainage so as they don't become waterlogged and rot.

Best cure for slugs? Birds, Hedgehogs, Nematodes.

How do I get my aubergines to set? Don't over water, but it seems to be largely pot luck!

Pelargonium's winter survival? Cut back to 1/3rd and keep outside or in a cool shed/greenhouse with bubble wrap insulation. Take cuttings as 'insurance'.

NATURAL PLANTING

Andy Dean described the definition of indigenous plants as species that have either been in the country since the last ice age or that have arrived here without human help since. Indigenous plants are essential for indigenous insects, as these insects have evolved to be able to digest the otherwise unpalatable plant chemicals. Energy from the sun is processed by photosynthesising plants which are in turn eaten by insects (and other herbivorous and omnivorous creatures) who are eaten by birds and small creatures lower down the food chain, this then continues delivering energy up the food chain to larger animals. The larval stages of the insects are particularly important in this chain and without them the food chain is threatened.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Some plants are more resilient to climate change than others. It is likely that the plants that will survive climate change are indigenous plants, though some may move north as the country warms, and those that have adapted to a similar climate. If we are getting warmer then this may well be plants from regions such as more southerly Europe.

PRUNING

Rules of thumb:

- Early flowering plants should be pruned after flowering
- Late flowering ones should be pruned in the early spring.



Future ideas & events:

A plant sharing day when people open their gardens for others to take cuttings etc. No date was set.

Rural Voices talks and breakfast at Horningsham Village Hall:

18th January - (re-scheduled from December)

Julian Hight - The Ancient Trees of Selwood Forest and Longleat

1st February - Dr Olivia - Chapple. Olivia is the High Sheriff of Wiltshire and founder of Horatio's Garden.

see: www.horningshamvillagehall.com/ruralvoices

Kate Moore



Christmas in the Hall

photos from the Christmas Fayre and Wreath Making



History Corner



Some of you may have noticed the set of souvenir plates on the kitchen wall in the Hall. This set is issue number 2 of 50, purchased for the sum of £99.15 (including hangers!) by Christine Crabbe - and subsequently donated to the Hall.

They were produced in 1999 along with many other souvenir sets, by Decor Art Creations of Canterbury which traded between 1995 and 2016. They were sold as mail order items through magazines and colour supplements.

Does anyone else have a set?

Elaine Lavender



I spotted this article in a magazine for sale on Ebay. Dated 1791 it recounts the drama of a bolting horse in Maiden Bradley and one of life's 'providential escapes'!

Being on a visit to Sir Thomas Champneys, some years ago, at Orchardley-house near Frome, a party was proposed to view Longleat, the seat of the Marquils of Bath, and being a fine summer evening the airing was extended to Maiden Bradley; on entering the village, my horse took fright at some hay-makers who were carouzing and making merry. A child playing in the road, and the mother at a distance perceiving the hazard it was in, flew to its assistance at the moment the animal was galloping full-speed; both were knocked down, the horse with myself falling on them; in this condition did four of us lie for a considerable time fairly stunned, and, wonderful to relate, the woman only received a slight injury; considering my horse was spirited, this may be called one of the providential escapes of life; the child that *was* then, *is* now become a woman; and I have made it a rule not to pass through the place without calling on the family, who never see me without the deepest meditation on the melancholy event which had like to have overtaken us.

Yours, &c. J. ELDERTON.

Time Hastes Away

If you go into the vestry of All Saints and look above the door you will see a curious double headed green man carved on oak. Between the two heads is the motto, "Watch and Pray" It is clearly old but the only clues to its date are the crooked cross bar on the As, the style, and the wood it is carved on. The lettering suggests a date in the 17th or 18th century and the wood could have been an off cut from when our pews were made, possibly around the 1640s, when the pews in Mere were made by William Walter of Bradley who died in 1656.



The mid 17th c. was a terrible time in Maiden Bradley, to economic depression were added the horrors of civil war. In 1643 the village shoe maker, Nicholas Lawrence, went to fight for Parliament with William and Edmund Ludlow who were from a prominent village family. Nicholas was taken prisoner five times, received eight wounds and returned to his wife and six children unable to work and owed so much back pay that I wonder if he had ever been paid while fighting.

Henry Coles, a tradesman of Bradley, lost his life fighting in Salisbury leaving his sick wife, Susan, destitute with four little children.

Three years later plague visited the village and for 10 months no one went in or out. The following year the king was executed; Edmund Ludlow had signed his death warrant. From 1648 to 1660 there was no communion service in All Saints. The times were grim and from our list of 17th c. churchwardens it can be seen that the Puritans were in charge. The Puritans believed that everything happens for a divine reason; there would have been no doubt in the minds of many that these events were a judgement from God.

"Watch and Pray" was said by Jesus on several occasions, he said it when warning his disciples of a terrible time to come and said it again when he found them asleep in the Garden of Gethsemane before his crucifixion, "Watch and pray lest you enter into temptation." Edmund Ludlow called his memoirs 'A Voyce from the Watchtower'. To the Puritans the terrible events of the time were to be observed and learnt from; as Edmund wrote, "being on our Watch Tower, and living by faith, we may see our duty so plainly, that when the Lord's tyme is come we may up and be doing"

"Watch and pray" was in the 17th c. also part of a well known saying sometimes found on sundials, "Watch and pray, time hastes away" No one in Maiden Bradley in the 17th c could have been unaware of the uncertainty of life; hunger, war, plague and death were their constant companions.

Nicholas Lawrence and Susan Coles petitioned Parliament for help. Nicholas was granted a pension of 50 shillings a year for life and Susan Coles £5 and a pension of 50 shillings a quarter until her children were of an age to support her. They both promised in return to pray for their benefactors. Edmund Ludlow wisely chose to live in Switzerland after the restoration of the monarchy.

Celia Blay



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LINK NUMBER 21 - MARTIN BROWN

HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN MAIDEN BRADLEY?

I have lived in Maiden Bradley for 33 years.

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

I worked on a large beef and arable farm on the Pampas in Argentina after I left Harper Adams Agricultural College to get more experience and see some of the world. Ploughing a field 12 miles long, you could see the curvature of the earth from the tractor cab.

TELL US SOMETHING OF YOUR WORK PAST AND/OR PRESENT.

Before I retired from farming, I was a tenant at Manor Farm, Yarnfield for 29 years. I looked after a suckler herd and a sheep flock growing crops and grass using no chemicals and artificial fertilizer.

TELL US ABOUT AN ANIMAL THAT MEANS/MEANT A LOT TO YOU.

My first sheep and cattle dog whose name was Pen. She helped me with the livestock. Pen came with us from a farm I managed in the Golden Valley in Herefordshire. Pen had three litters of puppies. Some of her descendants still live in Maiden Bradley and work on the local farms.



WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE FILM/TV SERIES?

'Saving Private Ryan' is my favourite film. I am a great admirer of Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg. The film pays tribute to the ultimate sacrifice made by so many to ensure the freedom and democracy we enjoy today. John Williams's film score is terrific.

WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF IN YOUR LIFE?

I am very proud of my wife Rosie and my two daughters Elizabeth and Olivia. They both have charming and hard-working husbands and we have four lovely grandchildren.

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

The cowslips in early May on the Long Knoll.

TELL US SOMETHING THAT YOU THINK WILL SURPRISE MOST READERS?

In 1978, I helped to set up a new dairy unit in Saudi Arabia, producing fresh milk for the school children in Riyadh. 96 cows arrived on an aeroplane from California and we started milking!

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE WAY TO ENTERTAIN YOURSELF?

I enjoy cycling around Maiden Bradley, particularly the cycle route to Stourhead, Gasper and through the woods to Alfred's Tower. Recently I have learnt to play bridge at the Frome Bridge Club.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE SEASON?

Spring and the ever-changing colours of the trees in the woodland around Yarnfield.

TELL US ABOUT A HIGHLIGHT IN YOUR LIFE.

Elizabeth and Olivia's graduation days at Cardiff and Exeter universities.

WHAT IS THE BEST BOOK YOU HAVE READ AND WHY DID YOU LIKE IT?

Black Diamonds by Catherine Bailey. The extraordinary story of one of England's wealthiest families and their eventual downfall.

Support needed with computers, broadband or phones ?

CONTACT THE VILLAGE HELPDESK

Computing at Home
Nigel Lavender - 01985 844637

**BIG SWITCH ON AND
CHARITY CAROL SINGING
AT THE BRADLEY PANTRY**

We raised over £600 for Dorothy House in ticket sales for the Big-Big Toblerone, and money collected on the night.

The team at The Bradley Pantry would like to thank everyone who came along, sang, ate mince pies and donated to this wonderful local charity. Special thanks to Sue Preistner for playing piano for us all.

The winner of the Toblerone was Phoebe Cross, collected (& paid for many times over in raffle tickets, by her Father, Matt Cross)

Wendy and Mark



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- FLOUR BAKERY – BUN IN THE OVEN – TAYLORS OF BRUTON – BATH CULTURE HOUSE –
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COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH NEWS
Police Community Volunteers working on behalf of
the Wiltshire Police and Maiden Bradley



As is our usual practice we stand down over the Christmas period. Therefore the week ending the 29th November 2024 was our last week of activity, we recommence activity Monday 6th January 2025.

Good News!

It's with great pleasure that we welcome Christina to the Community Speed Watch Team. Now fully trained will start activity January 2025. Welcome Christina, great to have you on board and look forward to working with you.



Come and join us to find out. You would be very welcome.

This month the average vehicle count remained the same. However the important point is that it continues to have a very positive effect on those travelling in excess of 20 or 30 mph, the number in excess of the speed limit continues to drop, so CSW is having a positive effect.

Simon Wager Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator. Chairman Maiden Bradley Parish Council
Telephone No 01985 844848 Mobile 07721 362828



Please call 01747 860096 to book a driver or to volunteer as a Link 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.

We are happy to confirm that the Link will continue to take people to medical appointments over the holiday period. Please note that our phone will not be "manned" on 1 and 2 January 2025.

John FitzGerald - Link Chair
01747 860867 or 07795606426
Link phone 01747 860096

LIFE ON THE FARM

January 2025

Sunday 12th January Blessing of The Plough Service
All Saints Church Maiden Bradley 2pm

ACTIVITY THIS MONTH?

GENERAL MAINTENANCE

Hedging, tree planting, ditch and drainage clearance

LIVESTOCK

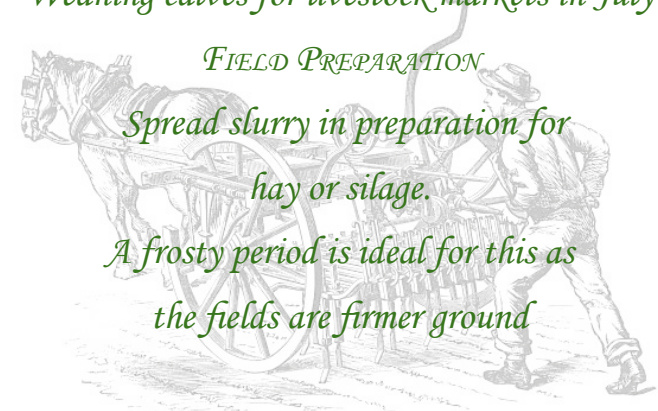
Sheep brought inside for shelter against the winter weather and pregnancy scanning fed sugar beet and sheep nuts and hay

Weaning calves for livestock markets in July

FIELD PREPARATION

*Spread slurry in preparation for
hay or silage.*

*A frosty period is ideal for this as
the fields are firmer ground*



Simon Wager

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