



MAIDEN BRADLEY  
NEWS

PANTO SPECIAL

MAIDEN BRADLEY PARISH NEWS - ISSUE 429  
COMMUNITY INFORMATION MARCH 2025

**REFUSE COLLECTION**

Monday 3rd	Garden waste collection
Wednesday 5th	Blue bin and black box collection
Wednesday 12th	Household waste collection
Monday 17th	Garden waste collection
Wednesday 19th	Blue bin and black box collection
Wednesday 26th	Household waste collection
Monday 30th	Garden waste collection

**SATURDAY 8TH MARCH - VILLAGE LITTER PICK**

**CHURCH SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE OF  
UPPER STOUR WITH MAIDEN BRADLEY**

**MARCH**

Sunday 2nd	SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT 10.00 Morning Worship at Saint George's Bourton
Wednesday 5th	ASH WEDNESDAY 19.00 Parish Communion with Ashing at Saint Mary's Kilmington
Sunday 9th	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 10.00 Parish Communion at All Saints Maiden Bradley
Sunday 16th	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT 10.00 Parish Communion at Saint Peter's Stourton
Sunday 23rd	THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT 10.00 Benefice Communion at Saint George's Bourton 16.00 Messy Church at Saint Martin's Zeals.
Sunday 30th	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT ~ MOTHERING SUNDAY 10.00 All Age Communion at Saint Martin's Zeals 10.00 All Age Service at All Saints Maiden Bradley

**APRIL**

Sunday 6th	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 10.00 Parish Communion at Saint Mary's Kilmington
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**WEEKDAY SERVICES**

Mondays: 0900 Morning Prayer at Saint George's, Bourton  
Wednesdays: 1600 Midweek Communion at Saint Martin's, Zeals  
Thursdays: 0900 Morning Prayer at Saint Mary's, Kilmington

**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

**PLEASE NOTE - THE HALL IS CLOSED MARCH 17TH FOR 3 WEEKS FOR MAINTENANCE**  
BOOK LIBRARY AVAILABLE DURING HALL OPENING FRIDAY MORNINGS **UNTIL APRIL**

**DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE THE PARISH NEWS  
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**USEFUL CONTACTS**

**Social / Interest Groups:**

Book Club - Jessica Johnson	01985 844174
Luncheon Club - Margaret/Lesley	01985 844756/211355
Welcome Club Outings - Pearl	01985 219289
Bell Ringers - Pat Kennedy	01985 845397
Community Garden - Sam Ribeck	<a href="mailto:sam.ribeck@btinternet.com">sam.ribeck@btinternet.com</a>
Pilates - Dawn Baynham	07936 271806

**Support Organisations:**

Speed Watch Co-ordinator - Simon Wager	<a href="mailto:simon.m.wager@gmail.com">simon.m.wager@gmail.com</a>
Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator - Derek Stevens	01985 844428
Environmental issues - Kate Moore	<a href="mailto:greenermaidenbradley@gmail.com">greenermaidenbradley@gmail.com</a>
Mere Link Scheme	01747 860096

**Community Contacts:**

All Saints Church - Diana Bourne	07775 625448
Memorial Hall Bookings - Jo Gilbert	<a href="mailto:bookingsmaidenbradleyhall@gmail.com">bookingsmaidenbradleyhall@gmail.com</a>
Dr Andrew Murrison MP	<a href="mailto:murrisona@parliament.uk">murrisona@parliament.uk</a> 01225 358584
Bill Parks (Wiltshire Cllr)	<a href="mailto:bill.parks@wiltshire.gov.uk">bill.parks@wiltshire.gov.uk</a> 07712 490075
Newsletter - Gilly Hayden	<a href="mailto:editormaidenbradleynews@gmail.com">editormaidenbradleynews@gmail.com</a>

**MAGAZINE AVAILABLE ONLINE ON THE VILLAGE WEBSITE:  
[WWW.MAIDENBRADLEYVILLAGE.ORG.UK](http://WWW.MAIDENBRADLEYVILLAGE.ORG.UK)**

**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**



## EDITORIAL

Last night I was lucky enough to go to see Show White in Bradleywood. I have never been to a pantomime before and didn't expect to enjoy it as much as I did. Alex Channer did a brilliant job of writing the script, directing, along with being one of the radical dwarves (yes really). The cast were all fabulous, its unbelievable that we have so many talented people in the village; special shout out to the demure Snow White who was played by Georgia Higgins and what can I say about the Brummie Frog Prince, Ed Ransome – you made me cry with laughter. Lastly, the 3 villagers, Derek Stevens, Simon Wager and Martin Brown – I have no words!!

Thank you all for the time you must have spent putting the production together, the audience had the best time – oh no they didn't – oh yes they did!  
More please next year.

**Gilly**



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

## FAMILY NEWS



**IAN WEISS** sadly passed away on the 29 January 2025.

Simon, Daniel, and Katie would like to invite all who knew Ian to a celebration of his life that will take place on the 27 February at the Bradley Hare (Skittle Alley) at 1730. The church bells will be rung at 1700 in his memory.

We have set up a Just Giving page if you would like to donate to Cancer Research in Ian's memory - <https://www.justgiving.com/page/simon-weiss-1>

**SUE LOUDOUN** passed away on the 30th of January and will be much missed by many of us. Sue was an amazing person and very active for almost all of her 97 years. Her fabulous 90th birthday celebration in the Hall (left) was a wonderful occasion enjoyed by friends and family.

Her memorial was held in Haycombe Crematorium, Bath on 17th February . Donations in her memory to Dementia UK.



## THE JOURNEY THROUGH LENT

The Christian season of Lent that began on 5th March recalls the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness before beginning his public work. The wilderness was not just a physical location — empty, barren desert — but also a psychological state, when all the familiar supports and signposts of life seemed to have been withdrawn. This was for Jesus a time of testing, a time of questioning easy certainties and wrestling with new doubts, fears, and temptations.

In that sense the wilderness is an experience we all have to endure at some time. The death of a loved one, the collapse of a precious relationship, the loss of a job, the onset of serious illness can snatch away some of the most important props of our life. Suddenly great holes appear; suddenly there seem to be no pointers to guide us. We seem to be on our own and can feel vulnerable.

It is at times like these that we discover our inner resources. Sometimes we have not been aware of them, but they can truly come to our rescue. Sometimes we find new supports — family, friends and colleagues — or develop new personal strategies to cope with this strange new situation. All these difficult situations can be occasions for personal growth and development, but not before the struggle and uncertainty.

The story of Jesus in the wilderness offers us two important insights into these situations. One is that when the crisis comes we can fall back only on the resources we have already built up inside us. When the race is on, the athlete discovers the real value of all the years of training; only a fool would enter the race without proper preparation. The first thirty years of Jesus' life, of which the gospels tell us very little, were his time for developing his own personal strengths and morality.

The other insight is of Jesus' openness to God, giving him access to strength beyond his own. For Jesus to turn to God in the wilderness was not a panic response to an emergency: it was the continuation of a long-established relationship of prayer, through which a deep friendship helped him to understand what God would have him do.

At the end of his time in the wilderness, Jesus began his ministry and became an influential leader, emboldening his followers to share in his mission in the world — not staying put but demonstrating God at work in the world.

The leadership we exercise needs to be re-equipped from time to time as we ourselves face whatever uncertainties may lie ahead — and this is the theme of the Lent Course I'm leading this year (details of which you'll find in a separate ad.).

**Graham Southgate - Rector**  
Tel. 01747 476316

### *"LEADERSHIP FOR LENT" – Reflecting on the Bible with young leaders.*

*A Lent Course for the parishes of Upper Stour and Maiden Bradley  
to be led by the Rector Graham Southgate (01747 476316)*

*on Monday evenings in Zeals Parish Room at Saint Martin's Church, beginning at 7 p.m.:*

*10<sup>th</sup> March ~ Stephen: Deacon, martyr, storyteller.  
17<sup>th</sup> March ~ Miriam: the child, the musician and the condemned.  
24<sup>th</sup> March ~ Moses: not charismatic, decisive, or assertive.  
31<sup>st</sup> March ~ Naaman's Servant: an exiled, unnamed servant girl.  
7<sup>th</sup> April ~ Esther: both a book and a person*

*Everyone is welcome to attend and participate,  
but it would be good if you booked a place by letting Graham know.*

## ALL SAINTS' ELECTORAL ROLL 2025

The Electoral Roll is your parish church's register of electors. In the same way that being on the civic Electoral Roll allows you to vote in parliamentary, local elections and referenda, joining the Church Electoral Roll means that you can vote on Church matters, attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) raise any question of parochial or general church interest and stand for election to the PCC. The APCM this year is on Wednesday 7th May in All Saints Church, beginning at 6.30 p.m.

Being on the Electoral Roll does NOT make you a "member" of the Church; simply regarding All Saints as your spiritual home does that. Conditions of joining the Roll are that you are a baptised lay person aged 16 or over, and that you are able to declare yourself to be a member of the Church of England or of a Church subscribing to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity (which includes most mainstream Christian churches).

The Roll is completely renewed every six years, at which point all members have to re-apply for membership or else their names will be deleted. By this means, the continuing validity of the Roll is maintained. The Roll is being renewed in 2025 so you need to apply or re-apply to have your name on the Roll.

Joining the Electoral Roll is an important way of confirming your commitment to All Saints' community and to the vision of the church. It may also open up the way for greater involvement in the life and government of the church, although being on the Electoral Roll does not entail signing up to any additional commitments. You can of course be a full and active member of All Saints Church without joining the Roll.

Application forms are being sent to all current members and are also available at the back of the Church, in the Village Memorial Hall, or electronically from me. They should be returned to the Church, Memorial Hall or me before Sunday 12th April 2025.

**Victoria de Maré , Electoral Roll Officer**  
01985 844695 [victoria.demare@gmail.com](mailto:victoria.demare@gmail.com)  
Old Dower House, Maiden Bradley, Warminster, Wiltshire, BA12 7HW





## LINK NUMBER 23 - NEREIDA OLIVES

### HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN MAIDEN BRADLEY?

2.5 years. I live in a Gardener's Cottage in Kingston Lane. I felt greeted by the land and the most beautiful rose bush in my garden.

### WHAT IS THE FURTHEST THAT YOU HAVE TRAVELLED AND WHY?

Oaxaca in Mexico.

After my 1st Vision Quest in Ibiza, I made a promise to myself that I would travel to Mexico. 6 months later, I was invited to go to Mexico City to nanny for Chris Martin (Cold Play)'s PA. I had the most amazing time. Being in Mexico, felt like a prayer answered, so I decided to stay longer. I got to Hierve el Agua in Oaxaca; the most beautiful place I've ever been where there is one of the 2 only calcified water-falls on Earth and turquoise blue thermal waters where you can swim. 10 minutes after I arrived the first rain after 6 dry months blessed the land, and I witnessed one of the most elemental experiences of my life, where the sun, rain, wind and mist danced together, a rainbow blessed the mountains, the eagles flew & sang with lighting & thunder in the distance.

### TELL US SOMETHING OF YOUR WORK, PAST AND PRESENT.

For the past 25 years I have worked with children, families, creative arts and nature. I am currently doing a Forest School Project called The Deer Tribe, in Gare Hill offering an opportunity for children and adults to gather around the fire and connect with nature, the elements and community. I weave my passions for the land, ancestral crafts, song, storytelling & seasonal celebrations. As an ambassador for children's right to play we do art therapy sessions, holistic therapies such as massage, reiki, pregnancy massage. I support families for home births as a doula and nanny.

### TELL US ABOUT AN ANIMAL THAT MEANS A LOT TO YOU?

My cat Lakshmi is one of the most amazing cats that I've ever met (I know I am biased here!) She's a 3 year old Female Turkish Angora, with an amazing curious, caring, talkative, sensitive personality. She makes me laugh, and fills my heart with so much love everyday from the moment that she decides to wake me up!

### WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF YOUR LIFE?

The work that I do with children and families, making a difference by touching and inspiring the hearts, aiming to create spaces where people can be fully themselves, to nurture and restore their trust in human kind.

### NAME YOUR FAVOURITE RIVER, MOUNTAIN...

My favourite hill is Es Pa Gross in Menorca. It's a small hill over the beach called Sa Mesquida in the North East part of Menorca, in the Mediterranean where I come from. I have gone there every summer since I was 15 days old. My family stays in a caravan for the summer with other families; children running wild and free in and out of the water. This beach is where 5 generations in my family have spent every summer. It's my sanctuary.

### WHAT/WHO HAS INSPIRED YOU IN YOUR LIFE?

My father, for always believing in me, giving me wings to fly and follow my dreams with courage to follow my heart and be myself. My mother for her kind, caring and devoted heart keeping the family united.

### TELL US SOMETHING THAT YOU LIKE ABOUT THE VILLAGE/AREA?

I love the old trees, the bluebells in the forest and that this village is surrounded by, they feel very old and as if they've seen a lot! And the sense of community; the busy village hall with wonderful offerings. And going to the Bradley Hare for a yummy meal or to the Bradley Pantry for a delicious coffee and other delicacies with lovely new friends that I have met here.

### TELL US SOMETHING THAT YOU THINK THAT WILL SURPRISE MOST READERS?

Last year I completed my 4th Vision Quest in Ibiza, I spent 14 days on the mountain by myself in a 5 x5 mountains circle, dry fasting without food or water for the first 5 days and very limited amount of water and food for the following 10 days, It was a daring experience, I came back feeling full of life, peaceful and with vibrant energy. However crazy it might sound it was one of the best things that I've ever done! You get to know yourself in a very different way, without feeling the pressures from life. It made me think about the gift of our water & food, and the importance of keeping our water and food supply pure and clean.

### WHAT IS MY FAVOURITE SEASON?

Definetly Summer! I love feeling the heat in my bones, swimming in the sea and the rivers brings out my inner mermaid. I love the long days and sleeping outside under starry nights and how you can be outside with your body feeling relaxed and walk bare foot.

### TELL US A BIT ABOUT HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE FUTURE?

Mhhhh! Well... that's something that I often wonder about.

We live in a constant present moment that leads us to the next.

I feel strongly that as individuals and part of the collective we all need to start to take more responsibility for our daily choices. We may be at a cross point for human kind, where it is important to remember our values and ancestral skills learned over generations and fundamental for basic survival. With the rise of technology this wisdom is threatened. I get excited about offering a space where people can learn old skills to carry them forward for future generations. I believe that when we do what we do with love and care, we send a ripple into the collective and make a difference.



## LOCAL CRUFTS HERO DOG FINALIST



Avid readers of the News may remember the story of Deverills' dog, Louis the English Setter, and his human Nick Johnson, who set off to walk 3000 miles around the English coastline together last year to raise funds for Ovarian Cancer Action in memory of Nick's late wife, Lisa. 4.5 million steps and the equivalent of 8 climbs to the summit of Mount Everest later, Louis and Nick have raised over £60,000 and have just been announced by the prestigious Kennel Club as a finalist for this year's Hero Dog Award. They will appear at the world's biggest celebration of dogs, Crufts, and on Channel 4 on Sunday 9th March when the winner will be announced. Nick says: "People are drawn to Louis. He's a rescue dog but I don't really know who rescued who."

**You can find out more and vote for Louis and Nick to win the Hero Dog Award here: <https://crufts.org.uk/whats-on/the-kennel-club-hero-dog-award/>**

## JOBS IN THE GARDEN FOR MARCH....

Last chance to prune apple trees

Mulch raspberries and around fruit trees

Prepare seed beds

Chit early and main crop potatoes

Plant onions, shallots and garlic sets

Plant dahlias in pots, keep inside away from Jack Frost



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# MAIDEN BRADLEY COMMUNITY GARDEN



Help us to nurture our community garden and create a beautiful, sustainable space for wildlife to thrive and everyone to enjoy.

## COME AND JOIN US

*Become a member and transform your wellbeing and the environment for the better.*

**All ages welcome**

**No skill needed**

**Tools and seeds provided**

**Eat what we grow**

*Grow organic fruit, veg and flowers*

*Enjoy our beautiful, outdoor haven*

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[sam.ribeck@btinternet.com](mailto:sam.ribeck@btinternet.com)



# Maiden Bradley Memorial Hall

After the fantastic efforts of the Committee, wider community fundraising and the grants from the Local and Parish Councils and the UK Government the windows are scheduled to be replaced at the hall from Monday 17th March 2025, subject to weather conditions.

The hall will have to temporarily suspend all regular events for 3 weeks, the only exception will be the Dr's Surgery between 5-6pm on Monday evenings, which will still run as usual.

eyes down for

# BINGO

# Monday

# April 14th

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

## VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY RESULTS:

### JANUARY

1st	Mark Lucas Phillips	£25.00	2nd	Pete Dean	£12.50
3rd	Diana Green	£7.25	4th	Dave Francis	£5.00

### FEBRUARY

1st	Laurie Low	£25.00	2nd	Toby Greenwood	£12.50
3rd	Amy Hobson	£7.25	4th	Mrs P. Dean	£5.00

Thank you to all those contributors to the Hall Lottery, and 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.

Support needed with computers, broadband or phones ?

## CONTACT THE VILLAGE HELPDESK

Computing at Home  
Nigel Lavender - 01985 844637

## THE BRADLEY PANTRY VILLAGE GROCERY STORE & COFFEE SHOP OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

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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 -  
- STEVE GUNTER & TONIA GUNSTONE ART -  
& MANY MORE LOCAL & WEST COUNTRY DELIGHTS

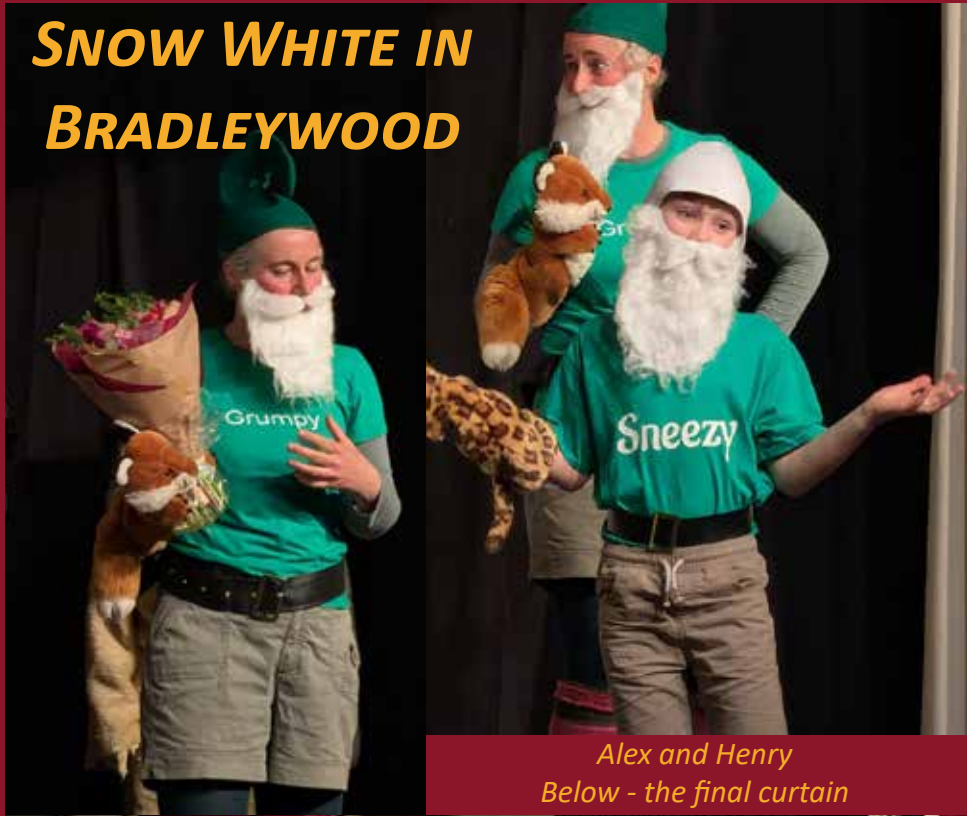
INSIDE AND OUTSIDE SEATING - WELL BEHAVED DOGS WELCOME



OPENING HOURS

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

# SNOW WHITE IN BRADLEYWOOD



Alex and Henry  
Below - the final curtain



Oliver, Charlotte,  
and the two  
Christinas







*Charlie, Ed, Georgia and Carol*



*Derek, Simon and Martyn  
Geoff  
Ed, Georgia and Henry*







*Above - the cast in their "civvies"  
After the final show, there was a presentation to Tom Allday. Tom has finally hung up his frock after being the Panto Dame for 14 shows - Carol is shown holding the list of his Panto achievements.*



### **THREE-VILLAGE WEIGHT LIMIT CAMPAIGN MEETING WITH WILTSHIRE COUNCIL**

On 7th February 2025, the three villages campaign group (Maiden Bradley, Corsley and Chapmanslade) met with representatives of Wiltshire Council to discuss progress in addressing our request to implement weight limits on our roads.

Wiltshire Council presented the results of their data analysis, which examined the potential displacement of freight by the implementation of weight limits, for the three villages of Chapmanslade, Corsley and Maiden Bradley. The data analysis reviewed displacement impacts for each village if weight limits were implemented separately.

The good news is that it was finally determined that area weight limits can be implemented in Chapmanslade and Corsley without the risk of negative impacts caused by freight displacement. Wiltshire Council advised parish councillors to progress their requests through the area LHFIF (Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group). Our campaign group has thus achieved two out of three of our objectives.

The bad news is that the data showed that freight displacement would still significantly affect west-turning HGVs from the A350 to the A303, and this safety risk prevents an immediate decision to implement an area-wide weight limit on the B3092.

Next steps for Maiden Bradley involve:

- a) a report and action plan following an ongoing safety review of the A350/303 junction, by Wiltshire Council officers and National Highways
- b) a decision on whether improvements to the A350/303 junction will be adopted as a priority in the five-year strategic investment plan currently under review by the Western Transport Gateway (a sub-national transport body)
- c) an air pollution survey.

Our campaign group is proud that we have at last achieved some tangible results. But it was a very disappointing day for Maiden Bradley which will continue to bear the burden of the county's freight traffic. We take hope from the fact that the A350/303 junction is at least in the list of planned highway improvements for the Western Transport Gateway, and that our issue is on the agenda of highways officers, and Cllr Tamara Reay, the cabinet member for highways, and our local representative, Cllr Bill Parks.

**Alex Channer**





### WILD HORNINGSHAM - ANDY DEAN



Sitting at my dining table, I'm taken a little by surprise.. Oh my gosh, just look at the hazel tree, those catkins, so majestic! Yep, I've noticed them before, but maybe because of the position of the tree or that it has a holly behind to give the catkins a foil. Or that I'm more of a hippie than I give myself credit for. This time I really SAW it.

But what do those catkins do? I'm glad you asked! It's all about sex baby! Well sort of.. Catkins are flowers and flowers use many methods of reproduction. Often these require the flower to attract insects to it in order to move the male pollen to the female part of the flower, and therefore have characteristics such as more obvious petals, scents and of course nectar.

Hazels (*Corylus avellana*) and for that matter other trees, such as, oak, beech and birch don't require insects for pollination neither do any grasses. All of these plants use the wind for that. This is what gives us hayfever and why we can get it early in the year when the trees like hazel start releasing their pollen.

Hazels are monoecious, meaning that the tree has separate male and female flowers on it. The catkins that you see hanging on the tree are male and start off shorter and brownish but mature into long yellow / gold catkins or to use their scientific name aments. The female flowers are small and inconspicuous but close up are red and quite striking, they sit above the catkin where it attaches to the branch. The catkins release their pollen before the female flowers of the same tree become receptive, this being one of the ways that stops self pollination and leads to greater genetic diversity.

Of course hazel has been used for thousands of years in Britain as a building material, it being one of the first trees to populate Britain after the ice age, following closely behind birch. When the country was mostly covered in wildwood it would have been marginalised to more open areas such as cliffs and river banks, but became more widespread again once the early settlers opened out the woodland for hunting, growing and grazing. The split sticks of hazel (wattle) being used for hurdle fences and wattle and daube amongst many other things.

The sticks or rods of one tree may well be completely different to work with than another, some twisting and bending better or splitting straighter than others and will remain consistent year after year from the same tree. For one that's seasoned at this type of work there is a good chance that they will be able to predict the quality of the hazel rods for their intended purpose just by looking at the colour and texture of the bark.

The nuts were of course a great food resource also for those early settlers and all to follow. Richard Maybe in his *Flora Botanica* tells us of a 17th century quote by John Aubrey, he

speaks of the great hazel woods of Wiltshire: *"Wee have two sorts of them. In the south part, and particularly Cranbourne Chase, the hazells are white and tough; with which there are made the best hurdles of England. The nutts of the chase are of great note, and are sold yearly beyond sea. They sell them at Woodbery Hill Faire &c; and the price of them is the price of a buschell of wheate. The hazell-trees in north Wilts are red, and not so tough, more brittle"* - Aubrey 1685.

Ecologically speaking, hazels support a bunch of insects, including the caterpillars of the brown hairstreak and comma butterflies, and an incredible 85 larger-moths, of which, species such as the nut-tree tussock (*Colocasia coryli*) and buff-tip moth (*Phalera bucephala*) rely heavily on hazel and are in decline; 41 micro-moths, 43 beetles, 42 true-bugs (those that pierce and suck fluids from plants and animals..nice!) 10 sawflies and 6 flies. Hazel is one of the earliest sources of pollen for many bees including honey, bumble and solitary and also hoverflies.

Not to mention all the other creatures such as mammals and birds that use or even rely on hazel for food, shelter and breeding sites, including the hazel doormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List for Britain.

But as if we hadn't already established that hazel's weren't interesting and important enough..

If you haven't seen fairies yet then look no further! Bridget Boland in her book *Gardener's Magic and other Old Wives' Lore* gives us the recipe for a concoction that will do the trick: 'The power to see fairies is difficult to acquire. They are not at the bottom of every garden. Wild thyme must first be picked 'on the side of a hill where fairies use to be'. The word is 'use' note well, not 'used', so make sure the tradition of their presence is a living one. The injunction comes from a recipe of 1660, which recommends that you take 'a pint of sallet oyle and put it into a vial glasse; first wash it with rose water and marygolde; the flowers to be gathered towards the east. Wash it until the oyle becomes white, then put into the glasse, then put thereto the buds of holly hockes, flower of marygolde, the flowers on tops of the wild thyme, the buds of young hazels. Then take the grasse of a fairy throne (ant hill), then all these put into the oyle in the glasse and sett it to dissolve three days in the sunne and then keep it for the use'.

I'll leave it there I think..



Left - Hazel Dormouse  
Below - Buff-tip Moth






**NATURE-FRIENDLY  
FAMILY-RUN  
SMALLHOLDING  
IN HORNINGSHAM  
RAISING RARE  
BREED PIGS,  
SHEEP + CHICKENS**

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## SCOTCH PANCAKES WITH BACON AND MAPLE SYRUP

Serves 4

### INGREDIENTS:

12 rashers of streaky bacon  
200 grams (7 oz) plain flour  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
55 grams (2 oz) caster sugar  
3 large eggs, separated  
200 ml (1/3 pint) milk  
Sunflower oil, for frying  
Maple syrup to serve.

### Tips:

Best made and served  
Not suitable for freezing.



- or with banana

### METHOD:

1. Preheat the grill to a high setting (220C) and line the grill pan with foil.
2. Grill the bacon for 5 – 8 minutes, turning over once, until it is crispy.
3. Drain the bacon on kitchen paper and keep warm.
4. Measure flour, baking powder and sugar into a large mixing bowl.
5. Make a well in the centre, add the egg yolks and a little of the milk.
6. Whisk well to remove any lumps and then whisk in remaining milk to make a smooth batter.
7. Place the egg whites in a large bowl and whisk until thick. Fold into batter mixture.
8. Heat the oil in a large non – stick frying pan.
9. Add 3 - 4 tablespoonsful of the mixture to the pan and cook for 1 – 2 minutes, until bubbles appear on the surface.
10. Flip over and cook on the other side until lightly golden.
11. Keep the cooked pancakes warm on a plate, separated by pieces of greaseproof paper and with a clean tea towel.
12. Repeat with the remaining mixture.
13. Serve the pancakes with the crispy bacon on top and drizzle with lots of maple syrup.

### Alternative topping:

Instead of crispy bacon, slice a banana horizontally (for each serving) fry in a little butter, add some grated orange rind, juice of half an orange and top with some large flame raisins. Serve with the warm pancakes and maple syrup.

Submitted by Rosie Brown

Recipe adapted from Mary Berry's Cook and Share book.



# LIFE ON THE FARM - MARCH 2025

## ACTIVITIES THIS MONTH

*Spring Sowing and drilling*

*Maltings, Barley, Spring Beans, Maise, Oats*

*Spread slurry in preparation for Hay or Silage.*

## LIVESTOCK

*Lambing and Calving now in full swing.*

*Following on from two incidents of Sheep Worrying locally*

*PLEASE keep your dogs on the lead and properly under control at all times.*

## POULTRY FLOCKS- BIRD FLU

*Continue to monitor poultry flocks for signs of Bird Flu*

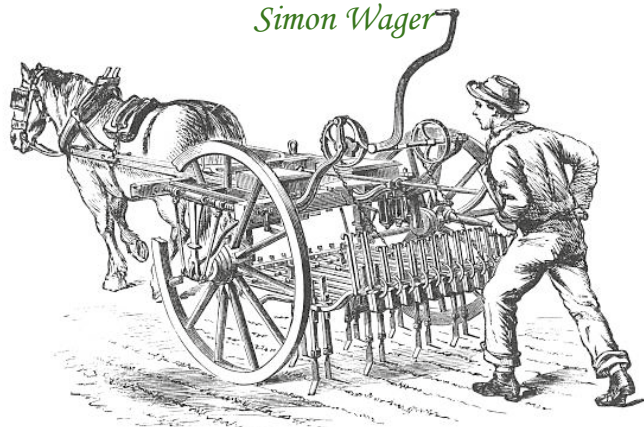
*Blue Tongue is an ongoing serious concern that affects both Cattle and Sheep.  
Made more so as we are just outside the nearest Restricted Zone.*

*Hedge cutting finished Hedge Laying finishes the end of the month*

*Continue to check and inspect all the pastures that stock will be turned out to  
see that they are safe and secure*

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

*Simon Wager*



WHITE HORSE OPERA

LA BELLE HELENE

Jacques Offenbach

WHARF THEATRE DEVIZES  
11th, 12th, 14th March at 7.30pm  
15th March at 2pm

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Malden Bradley

Saturday  
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10-4pm

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The Bradley Pantry

Help keep Malden Bradley beautiful  
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## WHAT'S ON AT THE VILLAGE HALL

EVERY TUESDAY	EVERY TUESDAY	EVERY THURSDAY	EVERY SATURDAY
<b>BODY BALANCE</b> 09.00 TO 10.00	<b>YIN YOGA</b> 18.00 TO 19.00	<b>LUNCHEON CLUB</b> WANT TO JOIN?	<b>SWISS BALL TRAINING</b> 09.00 TO 10.00
Improve mobility, posture and fitness. Bring a mat.. £5 per person	Please bring a mat + blanket £5 per person or £3 for concessions	Please contact lesley_trollope@btinternet.com for more details	Core, aerobic and mobility training. £5 per person Bring a mat
<b>SATURDAY 1ST MARCH</b> 09.00 TO 11.00	<b>SUNDAY 16TH MARCH</b> 10.00 TO NOON	<b>SATURDAY 5TH APRIL</b> 09.00 TO 11.00	<b>SATURDAY 26TH APRIL</b> 18.30 FOR 19.00
<b>RURAL VOICES</b> Come join us for our 'brunch and brain food' with Dr Andrew Pickering - The Witches of Selwood Forest	<b>SUNDAY COFFEE MORNING</b> Come join us for a Sunday catch-up	<b>RURAL VOICES</b> With Merlin Labron-Johnson in conversation with food artist Cherry Truluck - Creating Extraordinary Food "From Farm to Table"	<b>THAI NIGHT</b> Delicious food by Puk Osborne 3 courses for £20 with a bar serving wine, beer and soft drinks. Please book through the Village Hall website

WANT TO HOLD A CLASS AT THE HALL?



GET IN TOUCH FOR MORE INFO...  
[www.horningshamvillagehall.com](http://www.horningshamvillagehall.com)

**HORNINGSHAM  
VILLAGE HALL**

## The Discretionary Gully Service Programme 2025

The Discretionary Gully service programme will start week commencing 24 February 2025. After reviewing the service provided, we have adjusted how we continue this programme going forward. We are adopting a new way of working, for this year and will now be visiting five parishes per week rather than the whole area board. This was due to the workload received and not being able to attend all gullies requested. Any outstanding requests from 2024 will not be completed.

The crew will visit five parishes each week and should be able to complete all the works submitted. The gully crew can clear gullies and jet systems. We ask please that you only submit your top five gullies. Please also note the crew cannot work where any form of traffic management will be required or at locations not classified as public highway. All locations must have a what-3-words location of the gully and either an address or landmark near it so that it can be recognised as the correct place.

Please find attached the schedule for the rolling programme. The relevant dates will be emailed in advance of your visit (three weeks before your scheduled visit), and you will be asked to complete a worksheet. We ask you to then email your completed worksheet to your area engineer at least one week before your scheduled visit. Worksheets submitted after this time will not be considered. The area engineer will collate all the works submitted and may also add additional works. Unfinished works are not carried over. Any repair work or issues found will be reported back to the relevant area engineer for further investigation. Parishes will be notified of completed works within a couple of weeks of the visit.

The gully crew will attend the parish areas and carry out the works on the list. However, occasionally emergency works may be required, which will take the crew away to complete other tasks.

If you have any questions about the scheme, please contact your area engineer.

### Local Highways (North)

Covering the Area Boards: *Calne, Devizes, Malmesbury, Marlborough, Pewsey, Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade*

Tel: 0300 456 0105

Email: [northernhighways@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:northernhighways@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Web: [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk)

## DISCRETIONARY GULLY SERVICE

Please provide the following information for each gully:

- Road name, with adjacent house number, What 3 Words location, together with any further details to help the crew locate (link to website [what3words](#) /// [The simplest way to talk about location](#))
- Please provide your TOP 5 priorities only
- Locations where traffic management is required (e.g. bends, reduced visibility, and high-speed roads) cannot not be undertaken.



Road Gully



Manhole Cover



Roadside Ditch



Roadside Grip

The gully crew can clear gullies and jet systems. Any additional repair work or issues found will be reported back to the relevant engineer for further investigation.

Name of Parish:

1.	Location Information:	Additional Information:
	Gully Crew Feedback:	
2.	Location Information:	Additional Information:
	Gully Crew Feedback:	
3.	Location Information:	Additional Information:
	Gully Crew Feedback:	
4.	Location Information:	Additional Information:
	Gully Crew Feedback:	
5.	Location Information:	Additional Information:
	Gully Crew Feedback:	



## LUNCHEON CLUB NEWS

We are delighted to report that Kim our longest serving cook for Luncheon Club is now home and making a good recovery.

Margaret and I, on behalf of all the club members took a card, flowers and a voucher to thank her for over 20 years as a cook. Kim also cooked our Christmas Dinner for members and guests each year which was greatly enjoyed by everyone. We all hope that Kim will soon be fit and well.

This has made us all think what our cooks mean to the Club. We are lucky to have several cooks who work in pairs for each Thursday. Coming from quite an area we have Margaret and Carole H from Horningsham, Pat, James, Phillipa, Sarah and Carole A from Maiden Bradley, Lesley and Anne from Warminster, Sara from Norton Ferris, Jean L from Frome and Jean S from Upton Noble.

We are very grateful for the time they give up in buying all the ingredients and cooking delicious meals for us each Thursday. We do realise that without the 'LUNCH' there would be no Luncheon Club.

Our thanks to you all.

**Lesley.**

## WELCOME CLUB

On Thursday 20th March the Welcome Club are holding a meeting at 2pm at Horningsham Hall. This is where members pay their membership fees of £5.00 and get their membership card telling them where we are going on the monthly outings in 2025.

The first outing is a Mystery Trip on April 22nd - only the coach driver knows where we are going. These are very popular so book early!

Pick-up times 8.45am at Bath Arms Horningsham and 9.00am Maiden Bradley Village Hall car park. Fares are £18.00 for members and £21.00 for guests Please be at pick-up points early.

Anyone wanting to come and try out the outings please call Pearl on 01985219289 or Lesley on 01985 21355.

We look forward to seeing as many as possible at the meeting - if not, we look forward to seeing you on the outings and maybe meeting some new faces?

**Pearl Hudson**



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**"MERE AND DISTRICT LINK SCHEME"**

***A soggy and wet start to a very busy February 2025***

The Link Scheme is a local charity and our volunteer drivers primarily take clients to medical appointments. New drivers are always welcome. If you want to find out more about volunteering as a driver please call our co-ordinator on 01747 860096.

We had a busy start to the year with 124 trips in January including 42 to Salisbury District Hospital.

Once you have an appointment please call 01747 860096 to book a Link driver. 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, please try to give us a minimum of 48 hours notice (not including Saturdays and Sundays) as we cannot guarantee our co-ordinator will be at home to arrange last minute requests. If you have to leave a message please do so slowly and clearly.

As a charity we do not charge for trips but we do ask for a donation.

**John FitzGerald, Link Chair**

01747 860867 or 07795 606426

**LINK PHONE 01747 860096**

**COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH NEWS**  
Police Community Volunteers working on behalf of  
the Wiltshire Police and Maiden Bradley



*"Volunteers, keeping our village safe"*

Sadly HIGH STREET remains the major speeding area within the village with little or no respect shown for the residence of High Street. With an average of 15/20 vehicles recorded in a 45 minute CSW Session. Against an average overall vehicle count of 40 to 50 vehicles in the given 45 minutes. All cars and a few light vans. Averaging 28/31 MPH. 90% of which appears to be commuter traffic who have scant regard. Having said all that, we are generally slowly but surely reducing these average speeds, so have faith - we will win.



**CHURCH STREET B3092**



I have no doubt that you will have noticed Wiltshire Highways activity in the area of the Church and adjacent traffic calming. The reason being after much argument, pressure and component Highways have realised just how vulnerable they are being exposed to the very very poor condition that section of Highway is in with regards to signage and road safety.

Following a very concise, perhaps blunt meeting with the said Wiltshire Council Highways, perhaps now we are seeing progress, our meeting was on the 11th February and on the 13th surveyors were out surveying the area in great detail.

Anyone who wishes to add a comment about this area of the B3092, Please go onto the My Wiltshire Website and make a comment.

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

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

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TIME: 12PM-3:30PM



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