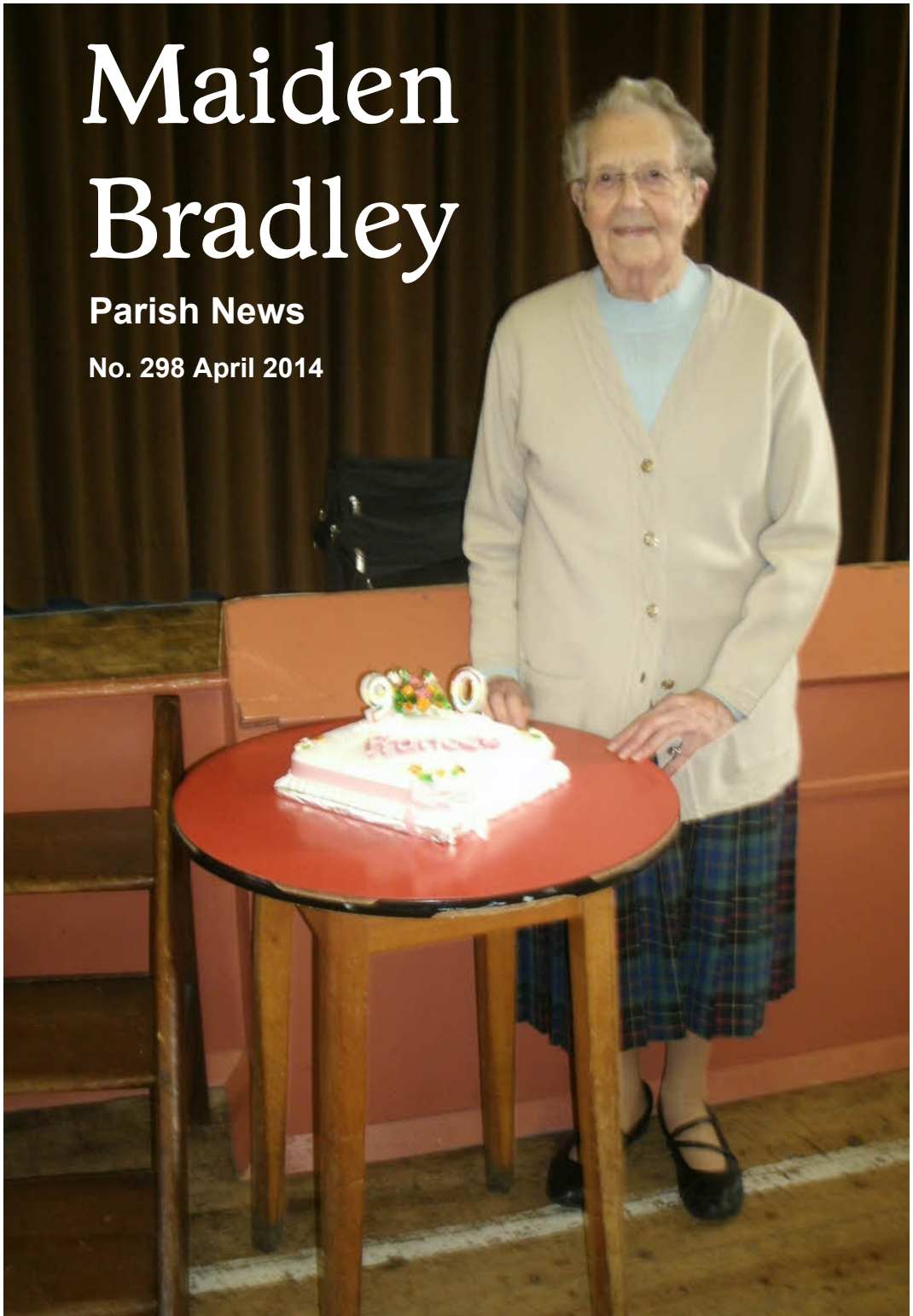


# Maiden Bradley

Parish News

No. 298 April 2014



## Diary April 2014

1 <sup>st</sup> Tue	Lent Lunch – Condlyffe Cottage	12.30 pm
5 <sup>th</sup> Sat	Spring Fayre – Memorial Hall	2.30 pm
6 <sup>th</sup> Sun	Holy Communion – Church	9.30 am
7 <sup>th</sup> Mon	Household & Garden Waste Collection	7.00 am
	Bingo – Memorial Hall	7.30 for 8.00 pm
8 <sup>th</sup> Tue	Lent Lunch – Condlyffe Cottage	12.30 pm
	Parish Council Meeting – Memorial Hall	7.30 pm
9 <sup>th</sup> Wed	Mobile Library – Somerset Arms	9.35-9.55 am
13 <sup>th</sup> Sun	Palm Sunday Praise – Church	10.00 am
14 <sup>th</sup> Mon	Black Box & Blue Bin Collection	7.00 am
15 <sup>th</sup> Tue	Lent Lunch – Condlyffe Cottage	12.30 pm
17 <sup>th</sup> Thu	Welcome Club Meeting – Horningsham Hall	2.30 pm
	“The Day I met The Duchess” -Paul Cook	
	Maundy Thursday Meditation – Condlyffe Cottage	6.30 pm
20 <sup>th</sup> Sun	Easter Day Service – Church	10.30 am
21 <sup>st</sup> Mon	Household & Garden Waste Collection	7.00 am
22 <sup>nd</sup> Tue	W.I.Meeting – Stourton Village Hall	7.30 pm
23 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	Mobile Library – Somerset Arms	9.35-9.55 am
	Kids@MB – Memorial Hall	6.00-7.30 pm
<b>Deadline for MBPN articles</b>		
27 <sup>th</sup> Sun	Holy Communion - Church	9.30 am
28 <sup>th</sup> Mon	Black Box & Blue Bin Collection	7.00am
	Book Club Meeting – Tynning Wood	8.00 pm
29 <sup>th</sup> Tue	Welcome Club Outing – Mystery Trip	
	Horningsham	8.45am
	Maiden Bradley	9.00am

### Mass times in Warminster and Mere:-

St. George's, Warminster – Saturday 6 pm (Vigil); Sunday 8 am, 10 am

St. Mary's, Mere – Friday 10 am; Sunday 5 pm

Dr Harding's Surgery every Monday at 36 Church Street except Bank Holidays 5-6 pm. Due to pressure of work the Surgery at Silton, Bourton, is unable to accept repeat orders for medication by telephone. Please bring your orders to 36, Church Street the week before they are due so that the Doctor can collect them.

Dustbin Day every Monday; for Bank Holiday changes see Wiltshire Council website. Mother & Toddlers every Tuesday 10.00 am to 12 noon.

Useful telephone Nos.: The Village Shop: 844206; The Post Office: 845040; The Pub: 844207; Village Hall bookings – Mel Thomas: 845111; Dr. Andrew Murrison MP: 01225 358584 or [murrisona@parliament.uk](mailto:murrisona@parliament.uk); Mere Link Scheme 01747 860096; Rev Carol: 01747 861859.

Maiden Bradley Parish News: contributions are welcome in any format. E-Mail: [editor@maidenbradley.net](mailto:editor@maidenbradley.net) or contact Les Mayne; 845235.

*Cover photo of Frances Pilbrow cutting her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday cake at the Luncheon Club.*

## Editorial

Well, it has happened again!! By the time you read this our current pub landlord and his wife will have departed the village to take on another pub in the Midlands. It seems that negotiations with the brewery over the lease came to nothing and so they felt they had no option but to move on. It is understood that a temporary manager will be taking over until such times as a new tenant can be found. From the village perspective this ongoing situation is, to say the least, unsatisfactory. A solution must be found that will satisfy the aspirations of any prospective landlord, ensure that a proper service is provided to the village and the interests of the brewery and the Estate carry some sort of safeguard. Certainly commercial factors have to be taken into account and that is clear from the brewery's perspective. But there is more to it than that. There is a word – compromise – that could usefully be applied to the current circumstances. Each party could give a little and it could yield substantial benefits in the long term. After all, a touch of realism needs to be brought into the equation. As we know, pubs are closing at an unprecedented rate and we do not want to be without our pub. Intransigence resolves nothing and it seems that heads at the Brewery should be banged together and not too gently either!!!

On a brisk Saturday morning, 22 Mar, a band of hardy people donned their industrial rubber gloves, their high visibility jackets, shouldered their picking equipment, stuffed black sacks in their pockets and set off to clean up the village and the immediate approach roads. Yes, you have guessed it, the annual litter pick was in full swing! The event was initiated by the Parish Council and a substantial amount of litter was gathered. The general view was that the majority of the debris collected was thrown from passing vehicles or discarded by cyclists - energy drinks containers and the like - and NOT generated by villagers. It was the usual fare; drink bottles, fast food wrapping, cigarette packets and so on. It never ceases to amaze how the general population seems to think it is ok to deposit their rubbish in our village and hedgerows. One would think it would be just as easy to take it home and deal with it appropriately. After all most of the culprits would be unhappy if we were to dump our rubbish in their gardens!!!! It should be mentioned that our village children did their own litter collection and they are to be congratulated. Start social awareness early on and it will pay dividends in the long term.

*Les Mayne*



## Vicar's Letter

The days are drawing out now and it is lovely to take time to see the signs of spring. The snowdrops have gone over and now the daffodils are looking lovely in gardens and on banks. Spring coming also makes us think of getting into those spaces in our house that need some attention and have got clogged up with belongings. Recently we turned our attention to

the garage and to my delight I found 3 flowerpots each with 3 hyacinth bulbs in them. They were last year's and hadn't come to anything but there they were all sprouting and now are in flower spreading their gorgeous fragrance.

It brought to mind the passage from the gospel of Matthew: "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin...and God clothes the grass of the field which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven". Think how much more God loves you than these things and so do not worry about what you will wear, will eat or drink.

It is always easier to say this than actually do it; we think: "yes, but mine is a special circumstance I have this, that and something else to concern me". Sometimes a subject does need our special thought, concern and action which is fine but once it's been prayed through and we have listened for God's answer to our prayers then it's on we go!

*Consider the bulbs in the garage they were left for well over a year with no human care and now are bringing new life and pleasure. Surely also a metaphor for Christ's death and resurrection each Eastertime.*

*With love in Christ, Rev Carol*

## All Saints News

Spring Fair in the Village Hall at 2.30 on 5th. Come along and join in the fun and see what interesting things you can find on the stalls.

Maundy Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30 in Meg's House Condlyffe Cottage, The Rank a meditation to prepare for Easter

Good Friday Churches Together event for everyone. Walk of Witness up Castle Hill in Mere from 11am meeting by Clock Tower.



### A Message from the Somerset Arms

Tim, Dee and Dan would like to thank all those who supported us when we took over the Somerset Arms. We are sorry to go and we shall miss you all.

## Humble Apologies – Village Hall Lottery

Two e-mails were sent to the Parish News in error (senior moment). As you may have realised, March/April hadn't happened then!! You will find that the correct results below. Also the Village Produce Show in August was a linked attachment so last year's dates were also printed by mistake.

*John Priestner*

### January

1 <sup>st</sup>	Christina Day	£23.00	2 <sup>nd</sup>	A. Neish	£11.50
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Tricha Cox	£6.95	4 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs D. Snook	£4.55

### February

1 <sup>st</sup>	Mrs D. Harding	£23.00	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Liam Collins	£11.50
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Lucinda Stokes	£6.95	4 <sup>th</sup>	Sam Higgins	£4.50

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.

## Maiden Bradley Produce Show

This year's Produce Show will be on August 30<sup>th</sup>. Look out for the schedules in the shop by the end of June.

## Plant Stall Request

I am running the plant stall at the Church Spring Fair, and am wondering if all you gardeners could dig me up a spare plant (or two) from your herbaceous borders to help provide the stall with a wider selection. Spring is a better time for sharing plants with each other than the winter. Any spare seedlings would also be welcomed. Please bring anything that you can spare to the V.H. on the morning of April 5<sup>th</sup> from 11am onwards.

*Sue Priestner*

## Parish Council 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014

**Defibrillator Project** - The Parish Council wishes to thank all of those parishioners who have sent in their pledge envelopes this month. The Parish Council discussed two new offers from the Great Western Ambulance Service and agreed to the first option: a fully supported scheme where they loan a defibrillator, unlocked cabinet, give an annual training course and full support for the device including replacement consumables as required (electrodes and battery) for £1600 including VAT (paid at the outset) under a four year Memorandum of Understanding. Council resolved that the precept would be adjusted to include the costs for a further four years over the next four years. The cost spent per parishioner was estimated at £1.20 per year over the four year period. It was agreed that it would be a valuable resource if ever required by a parishioner. The Clerk was instructed to inform the Great Western Ambulance Service Community Responder Officer and the Village Shop Committee to complete the project.

**Councillor Vacancy** - There is a vacancy for a Co-opted Councillor to come on board the Parish Council Team. If you are interested in helping your community or would just like to know more about the position please do get in touch with the Clerk who is happy to answer any questions you might have and send you an application form. See below for contact details. Application forms will also be placed in the Village Shop for ease of access.

**Best Kept Village Competition**- The Parish Council agreed to take part in this year's event. A working party needs to be arranged. The Clerk is to place this item on the next Agenda. If you would like to be on the working party for this important competition please do get in touch with your local Councillor, the Clerk or come along to the start of the next Parish Council meeting.

**Parish Steward/Highways** – The Clerk informed Council that she had had no reply from Area Highways Engineer following the Parish Council's request to the placing of a new pole for the SID in to be funded by the Parish Council but would continue to chase Wiltshire Council for an answer.

**If you know of any areas of the parish that require the attention of the Parish Steward please contact Wiltshire Council on 0800 232 323 or email [Clarence@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Clarence@wiltshire.gov.uk) or contact the Clerk direct.**

**Neighbourhood Watch** – There is still a vacancy for the post of Neighbourhood Watch Representative for the parish. If you would be interested in taking on this post, not only representing the Community, but helping coordinate issues from the rural policing unit to all. The Rural Policing unit have one meeting every 3 months in Bishopstrow Village Hall with the other representatives in the area. It is a very friendly meeting with everyone working together. They have an email warning system re-incidents in the area and it can be a very rewarding position. Do get in touch with your local Councillor, the Clerk or take a look at <http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/> for more details on Neighbourhood Watch.

**Swimming Pool** – The Clerk had passed on details of another parishioner who has contacted her and offered to help re the swimming pool. The Trustees and members of the Parish Council would like to ask the Parishioners in the community if anyone else is interested in taking on the Swimming Pool as a Lead Volunteer of a Group, to get in touch with either one of the Trustees, your local Parish Councillor or the Parish Clerk. Four parishioners have come



forward so far willing to help. It had been agreed that there would be a six month period from December by which time if no one comes forward the future of the pool will be re discussed at the May Parish Council meeting and the possible disposal of the pool will be implemented. There is now only two months left of that time.

**Planning** - 14/01241/FUL New Porch, rear and side single story extensions Location: 7 Frome View, High Street Maiden Bradley BA12 7JG. Council supported the application

**20mph Restrictions Consultation** -Council discussed this consultation at length and did not identify any areas within the parish as it was felt none would fit the criteria required to put in a 20mph restriction.

**Sign de-cluttering and ad hoc sign requests** – Council informed the Clerk that it did not know of any signage that required removing.

**Wiltshire Council Youth Services** – The Parish Council discussed the options given and decided that it supported Option 4 - the community led approach which includes a proposal to increase resources to strengthen local safeguarding arrangements by providing more early help to the most vulnerable young people. This would be highlighted to Wiltshire Council.

**Dates for the Full Council meetings 2014-2015** – Council agreed the dates listed below - Tuesday 8th April 2014 7.30pm, Tuesday 13th May 2014 8.00pm Annual Parish Council meeting (Following on from the Annual Parish meeting) Annual Parish Meeting: Tuesday 13th May 2014 7.30pm (Meeting of Electoral not a Full Council meeting) Tuesday 10th June 2014 7.30pm, Tuesday 8th July 2014 7.30pm, There will be no meeting during the August Summer break, Tuesday 9th September 2014 7.30pm, Tuesday 14th October 2014 7.30pm, Tuesday 11th November 2014 7.30pm (Budget meeting), Tuesday 9th December 2014 7.30pm, Tuesday 13th January 2015 7.30pm, Tuesday 10th February 2015 7.30pm, Tuesday 10th March 2015 7.30pm and Tuesday 14th April 2015 7.30pm

**Parishioner's complaint** - The Clerk had reported a lamp out outside of 53 the Knapp to Wiltshire Council. The lamp had been repaired three times and the parishioner requested the Parish Council became involved as she felt more needed doing to rectify the issue.

**Recreational Area** - Councillor Ben Gunstone informed Council that there had been graffiti on the recreational area equipment. He will try to clean off the graffiti in the first instance but contractors might need to be engaged if it can't be removed.

**Items for the next Agenda:** Nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman for the May meeting. Assessment of how the litter pick went, possible improvements/suggestions for next year, VAT claim, review Knapp fencing condition, Best Kept Village competition, Woodland Trust trees application for free trees highlighted by the Village Hall Chairman. Council instructed the Clerk to liaise with the Chairman and the Duke of Somerset on the latter matter.

**Date of the next meeting-** The Council agreed that Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014 would be the date of the next Parish Council meeting. As always, the Parish Council meeting will be open at the start with an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions or make comments on any matter. The website Southwilts.com (Maiden Bradley) can be accessed to read a copy of the Agenda and Minutes electronically or copies are displayed on the Community Notice Board at the village shop.

Sarah Jeffries can be contacted by email: maidenbradley@virginmedia.com or phone: 01985 213436 Parish Clerk 9 Beech Grove Warminster BA12 0AB

## Frances Pilbrow

On Thursday February 27<sup>th</sup> the Luncheon Club was held as usual at Horningsham Village Hall during which we celebrated Frances Pilbrow's 90th Birthday. She was to be 90 on Sunday March 2nd and Mo Crump had made her a birthday cake. So after she had photos taken with her cake (see front cover), all the members sang Happy Birthday to her. Afterwards Mo cut up the cake and all members were able to take a piece home.

*Pearl Hudson*

## Yet Another Nonogenarian for Maiden Bradley!!

It must be something in the air or the water. Whatever the reason, Maiden Bradley has another 90 year old resident in the fit and healthy personage of Frances Pilbrow. Frances was born in Peppard, Oxfordshire on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1924. She was brought up in Isleworth, the middle one of 3 children. Her older sister died in her early eighties but Frances at 90, and her brother Arthur at 88, are both showing the same longevity of their Mother and Father who died at 98 and 91 respectively. Frances left school at 14 and began work as a post clerk at Pears Soap. During the war she worked as a civil service typist. She met her future husband, Frank, a driver for BOAC, at the Richmond ice rink where she said she had difficulty keeping on her feet long enough for him to sweep her off them! They married in 1952 and their son Ken was born in 1953. Frances now has 3 grandchildren, Nigel, Richard, who lives in Australia, and Millie. She also has 3 great grandchildren, Mia, Keane and Jax.



Frances was keen to return to work after Ken was born and did so when he started school, once again returning to typing duties. She left work in 1968 when she and Frank moved to Kingston Deverill where she had a shop while Frank continued working as a driver until 1972 when he became too ill to continue. They then gave up the shop, bought the house in Maiden Bradley and Frances returned to the civil service, once again as a typist. Sadly Frank died in 1978 and Frances continued to work to support her grandsons Nigel and Richard who, due to unforeseen family circumstances, had come to live with her at the ages of 4 and 2. She finally gave up work in 1984 at the age of 65, long after the then retirement age for women of 60.

Although Frank worked for BOAC he would have nothing to do with aircraft and it was long after his death that Frances flew, first to Italy and later, aged almost 86, to Australia for her grandson Richard's wedding. She loves living in her own home and being mobile around the village. She attributes her long life to "being happy and not worrying about things". Amen to that.

*Kay Mayne*



# TABLE TOP SALE

(in aid of Wiltshire Air Ambulance and World Horse Welfare)

**on Sat 12 April 2014**

in the Maiden Bradley Village Hall

9.30 a.m. – 1.30 p.m.  
(set up at 8.30 a.m.)

£7 per table

Refreshments

Tel: Annie Gilhespy on 01985 844602 to reserve your table

**RAFFLE**  
(prizes gratefully received)

## **Kilmington Ball**

This year's Kilmington Ball will be held on Friday 6th June at Cote Farm Works, Cote Lane Kilmington, starting with a Champagne Reception at 7pm followed by Dinner at 7.45pm. There will be two Bands, an auction, casino and raffle. If you would like to purchase tickets for the Ball (£45 each) please contact Celia Cotton on 844613 or [celiabeale@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:celiabeale@globalnet.co.uk). Tickets for the 2014 Kilmington Ball will be on sale from Monday 10th March and must be applied for by Easter Day 20th April, at the latest. Cheques should be made payable to The Kilmington Ball. We hope to raise funds for Kilmington Church and Cancer Research UK.



## Beating the Bounds – Rogationtide

It came to pass on Sunday (23<sup>rd</sup> Feb) I found a little time to myself and the company of Google and Wikipedia. A question had been nagging me having been invited to attend the Somerset Arms in January; I think it was to take part in a Rogation Service! The nagging doubt was that I believed Rogation Tide and Beating the Bounds occurred around Ascension day. Therefore, the celebration in January and the service in the pub was somewhat out of kilter with the history as perhaps I had come to understand it.

However, having consulted Google I discovered that my history was not quite correct. The Beating of the Bounds of Maiden Bradley has regularly been celebrated; however dates were not evident from the research. I consulted Steve Roud's book titled 'The English Year' and he describes the history of Beating the Bounds and Rogation in some detail and an interesting three pages is devoted to the subject.

For those who do not know, the Beating of the Bounds is that the Clergy with Parishoners would walk the boundaries of the Parish beating the markers as they managed their tour. The festival would last for three days and be the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday before Ascension Day, with clergy leading the assembled throng and blessing the fields and businesses as they passed through. It seems that this was a pagan ritual but perpetuated from 747 AD by the Church and, with the approval of Queen Elizabeth I, was allowed to continue. The Church seeing ways to raise funds encouraged the event. Well it seems to me that this would be a good fund raiser for All Saints. With a bit of organisation the annual event may be reinvigorated and to encourage the Parishoners and any willing walker hiker to partake at a modest fee for perhaps three walks to celebrate this noble custom and festival.

I am up for checking the boundary of Parish in accordance with the Records. Organising the event would be an interesting task and I am sure the Somerset Arms would welcome a few gum boot wearing walkers to a buffet luncheon.

How about it Vicar?

*James Kennedy*

*(Editor's Note: In fact it was Plough Sunday being celebrated at the Pub service, not Rogationtide)*



### Foster Carers

Wiltshire Council urgently needs foster carers who can look after children who can no longer remain with their parents. This could be short or long term. For example, their parents may be ill or having addiction problems, experiencing family breakdown or the children may have suffered neglect or abuse. If you could provide a secure and caring home for a Wiltshire child, come along and find out more about fostering at one of our information sessions. They are on Tuesday 13 May 2014 at 7pm in County Hall, Trowbridge, or Tuesdays 29 April and 20 May 2014 at 7pm in City Hall, Salisbury.

For more information contact: 0800 1696321, [fostering@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:fostering@wiltshire.gov.uk), or [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/fostering).

Please do not hesitate in contacting me if you have any more questions regarding this campaign.

*Julie Smith, Campaigns and Events Officer, 01225 718089, [Julie.smith@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Julie.smith@wiltshire.gov.uk)*

## **Maiden Bradley Show 2014**

We think it is time that we updated everyone regarding plans for the Maiden Bradley Show 2014. It has been a bit of a rollercoaster, so bear with us while we explain some background.

In light of the ambitious refurbishment plans for the Village Hall it was decided that in 2014 we should have a much bigger than normal village show and that it should be earlier – hence the date of 7<sup>th</sup> June. This is obviously much too early for the produce show which will also take place as usual some weeks after. The June show will take place on the Recreation Ground. Initially Kay took on leadership of the show but events have somewhat overtaken her and it became clear that it was likely she would be leaving the village before the date of the show. As a result of that, much of the organisation has fallen to Mel Thomas although Kay has continued to assist with some of the preliminary matters.

The original plans for the show were indeed ambitious with market stalls along Back Lane, events at Bradley House, the Somerset Arms and the Village Hall throughout the day and a music event going into the evening. However, with Kay taking more of a back seat and now the pub changing hands yet again, we are trying to establish just what is realistic to organise. To date we have booked a dog show, vintage tractors, vintage cars, bouncy castle and swings, a miniature train and clay pigeon shoot and also food vans (and even toilets). The Duke has agreed to put the carriage on show. The local Young Farmers' Club has been approached with a view to them organising competitions and stalls and they seemed enthusiastic. In short, we are well on the way to having a really good show. Raffle tickets have gone on sale and sponsors are being sought for various of the activities and prizes.

Mel and Kay have now reached the point where decisions have to be made. For example, do we have refreshments in the Village Hall or the Rec (the beer will be at the rec), do we try to organise a craft fair with associated stalls? We now need feedback and help. We need to raise a fair bit of money to kick off the alterations to the Village Hall so this Show is not just about us all having a good afternoon. It is also about raising as much money as possible for our Hall by putting on enough events to have a good time. But we do want to attract people in from outside the village and keep them there for a decent length of time so that we can part them from their cash!

In terms of help we specifically need the following:

1. Refreshments: Whether we put the refreshments in the Hall or the rec will depend on both feed-back and the amount of help made available to organise it. If you are prepared to help with this aspect please let us know.
2. Stalls. We have arranged to hire a number of marquees. Now we need to fill them with stalls. Do you want to sell things or run a competition? Let us know.
3. General help. Whether big or small we shall need help to get everything set up on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June. Can you help for any part of that day?
4. Sponsorship. Are you willing to sponsor any part of this show? Being able to offset some of the costs will make us a lot more comfortable about being ambitious.

Mel has shouldered most of the burden of organising this show thus far but now he needs some help. The time you need to give is limited given that the Show is in 2 months time so your commitment will not be long term. If you feel you can help with either something specific or in a general way please ring one or other of us for a chat. Many thanks.

*Mel Thomas 845111 and Kay Mayne 845235*

Pictures from past Shows – 2006 and 2007, the former in the Hall, the latter on the Rec.



## News from the Hall

The Hall needs your help. If you have Book Keeping /Accounting skills we are in need of a Treasurer. Unfortunately, Melanie Earl has had to stand down for personal reasons, so if you can give up a few hours a month please contact the Chairman.

We have just had another very good turn out for the £5 Lunch where 26 sat down to Fish & Chips followed by the best Rice pudding I've tasted in years (thanks Mary Stevens). The next lunch will be in May on a date yet to be decided.

The Village Show arrangements are well under way. If you would like to help or have a stall please contact the Chairman. Pam Coulbert is running a Dog Show so if you would like to enter your pooch please contact her.

Show draw tickets are on sale in the shop or from any committee member with a 1<sup>st</sup> prize of £250. They are just 50p each so please support the show by buying your tickets.

The Hall's telephone number is 01985 845303 and email is maidenbradleyhall@gmail.com.

We can now offer presentation facilities, along with Wi-Fi and catering, so to all you businesses out there if you are planning a meeting or would like to hold a workshop why not give the hall a go? Our prices are very competitive

**IT'S YOUR HALL. PLEASE USE AND SUPPORT IT**

*Mel Thomas*

### Recipe - Slipper Aubergine, Tomato and Goat's Cheese.

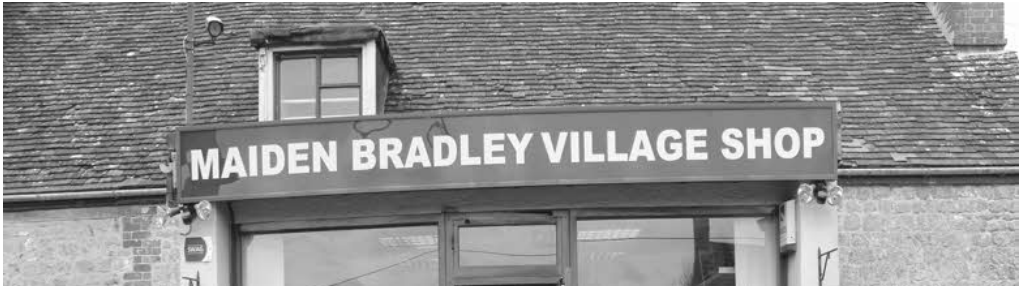
6 medium sized aubergines	olive oil
16 pitted black olives	2 x 400g tins chopped tomatoes
2 tbsp capers	2 x 120g goat's cheese logs
Freshly grated parmesan cheese	

Heat the oven to 220c/gas 7. Halve the aubergines lengthways, cutting through the stalk. Use a small sharp knife to cut a lattice almost to the base but without puncturing the skin. Smear lavishly with olive oil, arrange in a roasting tin and bake for 25 mins until soft and yielding.

Slice the olives into thirds. Drain the tomatoes, then mix with the capers and olives. Spoon the tomatoes over the aubergines and cover with thick slices of goat's cheese. Sprinkle with parmesan.

Return to the oven or pop under a hot grill to burnish the cheese and heat through the tomato and aubergine. Serve immediately.





## Shop Report

At last we, like the weather, are out of the doldrums and set fair again. Customers are re-appearing from hibernation and only some nasty potholes which have appeared on the forecourt are reminders of the washout winter.

Amanda is doing a terrific job at tempting everyone back into the shop with lots of new lines and it is well worth popping in on a regular basis to see what is new in stock. Amanda is carrying on with the tradition of sourcing local producers and new in March were items from La Chasse based in Zeals - styled as Hunter Gatherers for the Kitchen! High quality duck legs and venison faggots are to be found in the freezer for a special treat (upping your culinary game..... as Amanda puts it!) and the most delicious goats cheese ever is in the dairy cabinet. The more exotic Asian foods are catching on - a long standing customer has tried her first stir fry ... and liked it!! And the bagels have been given the thumbs up by a Canadian resident. Amanda, Mary and Mel have lots of ideas for the future so do come and help them with their mission.

I thought I would mention for the benefit of newcomers to the village that the shop offers all sorts of services, not just the post office, but newspapers, dry cleaning, logs, pet food, etc. For obvious economic reasons we cannot hold a large and varied stock of fresh meats, fish etc. but we CAN place an order for anything you need. We stock Andrew Barclay's meat in small quantities but if you have an occasion - or a family weekend - when you would like larger quantities, joints, steaks, etc. then just let us know (telephone or e-mail). Andrew Barclay is a well-known family butcher in Wincanton and queues outside his shop stretch out at weekends - much better to collect your meat from Maiden Bradley shop!

We also have a hot-line to Mere Fish Farm so if you would like some cold smoked trout or its famous trout terrine then we will order it for you. Fresh fish from Bridport can be ordered on Thursday and collected Friday morning.



Breads; gluten-free and dairy free products - all can be ready and waiting for you in the shop if you let us know your requirements - a true community shop with you in mind!

*Happy Easter! Liz Nixon, Shop Committee*

A Customer's view - overheard in the shop

*"I was going to have my hair done but I thought I would come to the shop instead"*

Telephone: 844206: e-mail:

maidenbradleyshop@gmail.com:

www.maidenbradleyshop.co.uk (with link to shop face book page)

## Somerset Arms

There is a warm welcome for everyone dropping in at the Somerset Arms



Monday 5pm – 11pm. Drinks only.  
Tuesday to Friday 12 – 2.30pm and 5pm – 11pm. Food served lunchtime and evening.  
Saturday – 12 to 11pm. Food all day.  
Sunday 12 to 11pm – Sunday Roast.  
Christmas and New Year Specials

# Do you need a Plumber?

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### Post Office

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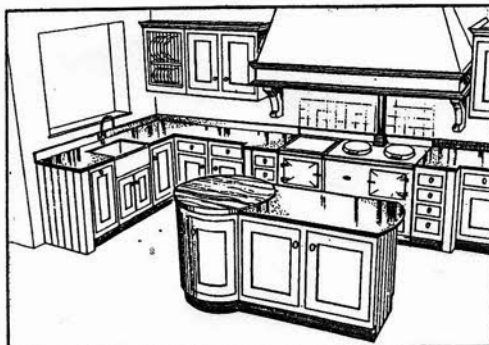
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Children of Whitesheet Primary Academy were honoured to be asked to open a unique concert with the Salisbury Cathedral's Boy Choristers and Lay Vicars on 10<sup>th</sup> March. The Concert of Cathedral Music was held in St Martin's Church, Zeals and was organised by the community of Zeals and the Parish of Upper Stour to celebrate the start of the restoration programme of their William Sweetland 1866 pipe organ in the Church.



## France Comes to Whitesheet Primary – For the Day!

Recently, families from Whitesheet Primary Academy in Zeals and Kilmington joined together for a French style breakfast. France was the theme for the whole day. Thirty six parents, plus toddlers, came to join the children for the special breakfast of croissants, hot chocolate and, of course, coffee. After breakfast the children spent the day carrying out a variety of learning tasks - all in French

In keeping with the French Tricolore the children, parents and staff all wore red, white and blue for the day. Mrs Karen Brooker, Principal, said 'The morning has been a wonderful event and I was so pleased by the number of families who came along for our breakfast. The children are always enthusiastic about their learning but today they really enjoyed all their lessons being taught in French. It was a huge success with so many positive comments from everyone involved'.

Mrs Gunstone, one of our parents and a secondary French teacher came to the school and taught



the classes. The children had a wonderful time. Mrs Gunstone was very impressed with the listening skills of all the children. One pupil, Reece, came to say how much he enjoyed the French songs and food. Another, Robyn, said, 'I loved learning the new songs in French and looking at how the words were written in French'. The children have made a thank-you card – all in French – to send to Mrs Gunstone.