

Maiden Bradley

No. 270 December 2011

Parish News



Diary December 2011

3 rd	Sat	Bird Club A.G.M. – 4 The Old Sawmills, Kilmington	10.00 am
4 th	Sun	Holy Communion – Church	9.30 am
5 th	Mon	Book Club Meeting – Bramble Cottage	8.00 pm
7 th	Wed	Mobile Library – Village Hall	9.35-9.55 am
8 th	Thurs	Village Studio - 43 Church St	
11 th	Sun	Matins – Church	9.30 am
12 th	Mon	Black Box & Blue Bin Collection	7.30 am
		Garden Club – Somerset Arms	7.30 pm
13 th	Tue	Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall	7.30 pm
		W.I. Meeting – Stourhead House	7.30 pm
15 th	Thu	Welcome Club Meeting – Horningsham Hall	2.30 pm
18 th	Sun	Service of Lessons & Carols – Church	10.30 am
20 th	Tue	Carol Singing around the Village – Starting Somerset Arms	6.00 pm
21 st	Wed	Mobile Library – Village Hall	9.35-9.55 am
22nd	Thu	Deadline for Contributions to January MBPN	
24 th	Sat	Christingle Service – Church	3.00 pm
		Midnight Mass – Church	11.30 pm
25 th	Sun	Christmas Day Service of Carols & Readings – Church	10.00 am
27 th	Tue	Black Box & Blue Bins Collection	7.00 am
1 st	Sun	Benifice Holy Communion – St Michael's, Mere	10.30 am

Important message from the Surgery in Maiden Bradley – it will be closed on Mondays, December 26th and January 2nd. Please give in your prescriptions by Monday December 12th.

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 – Mrs Lisa Cripps 844956; Dr. Andrew Murrison MP: 01225 358584 or murrisona@parliament.uk; Revd. Paul Barnes 01747 863313 or paulnbarnes@hotmail.com: Mere Link Scheme 01747 860096

Maiden Bradley Parish News: contributions are welcome in any format.
E-Mail: editor@maidenbradley.net or contact: Pat Kennedy: 845397; Meg Oliver: 844317; Treasurer Les Mayne; 845235: email; lesmayne@hotmail.co.uk

Editorial

Walking dogs has always been a good way of meeting people and many of you will know Sarah Thomas and her Corgies, Phantom and Banny. Sarah sends a message to everyone in this month's News as she once again, moves out of the village.

Moving home is always a hectic time and what can lessen the shock of arrival in a new place is information about where you have moved to. So I am pleased to say that the Maiden Bradley Handbook is to be updated this Spring, along with the Parish Plan.

Christmas time is here again and perhaps like many people, I enjoy the preparation of the Christmas food, visiting local Christmas fairs and being with my family on Christmas Day. The magic of Christmas comes alive with children and we need to thank all those involved for creating Santa's visit to the village, organising the Carol singing, the Christmas Market and the Village Christmas Party. All these events may well have been ongoing for a number of years, so thank you everyone for enhancing our lives with your efforts.

Bryan, Meg, Les, Kay, Russell and myself, along with our intrepid News distributors, Anne, Richard, Marilyn, Chris, Colin, John, Diana, Tom and Pete, would like to wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year!

Pat Kennedy - 845397

New email address ~ editor@maidenbradley.net

Please note that because of holidays and dates when our printer is closed the next issue of the News will reach you a few days later than usual

Vicar's Letter



News From All Saints'

Last year Bing Crosby's dream of a white Christmas finally came true for us, but for many people the snow that fell ruined their Christmas plans and in fact rather than a dream, the white Christmas soon became a bit of a nightmare!

A postal backlog meant that presents didn't arrive in time, the cost of heating oil hit an all time high, airports were closed, flights cancelled, and dangerously icy roads prevented people from travelling to those eagerly anticipated family get-togethers.

One of the things that I will always remember about Christmas 2010 was seeing a poster for the 'Living Nativity' procession that many people in Mere were looking forward to, with the word 'Cancelled' written in large letters across it.

At the time I was fully in support of the decision to call off the event, the roads and pavements were dangerously slippery and the 'stars' of the procession – the donkey and the camel – were not going to be able to attend. But for me cancelling the nativity felt like the last straw. I felt like saying, "hang-on a minute, isn't the nativity story all about overcoming obstacles, putting at risk personal health and safety and living with uncertainty and discomfort?"

After all, Christmas could have been cancelled forever if Mary had said "no" rather than "yes" to Gabriel's unbelievable message that she was going to be the mother of the Saviour of the world. Then of course there was the huge obstacle of convincing her fiancé Joseph that the child within her had been conceived by the Holy Spirit and that she hadn't been playing away. And as if that wasn't enough, just before the baby was due they were forced to undertake a

hazardous journey away from the support of family to a town where they knew nobody, where they were treated like illegal immigrants – doors slammed shut in their faces - and where Mary was finally forced to give birth in an outhouse behind a pub!

But God and his human agents did not allow any of those obstacles to prevent the nativity of his son taking place. Obstacles overcome, or at least sidestepped, God's special delivery arrived just at the right time.

Looking back on the events of last year I can't help but wonder whether the snow and ice might have helped us to rediscover the true meaning of this holy time?

When Christmas is stripped of the expensive adornments that we attach to it, and the other things that we think are an essential part of Christmas, there might just be a chance that we discover the source of true meaning and eternal happiness – Jesus, the reason for the season – the gift whose arrival doesn't depend on the weather. The gift that is not just for Christmas

I am pleased to say that the snow wasn't allowed to cause the cancellation of any of the Christmas services at All Saints last year, so whatever the weather, this year's services will take place and whatever the weather you will receive a warm welcome at all of the following services:

Sunday 18th December at 10.30am – Lessons and Carols
Christmas Eve at 3.00pm – Crib and Christingle (collection for the Children's Society)
Christmas Eve at 11.30pm – Midnight Mass
Christmas Day at 10.00am – Family Service with Carols

Paul Barnes - 01747863313

All Saints' Church

All Saints Church is a historic and beautiful Grade 1 listed building. It was first recorded in 1102, although there was probably a Saxon church on the site before the Norman Conquest. The church has been through good times and bad times over the last 900 years.

Most of the church we see today was built in the early 14th century in the English Decorated Gothic style. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries by Henry VIII (whose third wife was Jane Seymour, sister of the 1st Duke of Somerset), many English parish churches were neglected. But in the 17th century our church was fitted out with its Jacobean wooden pews, probably carved by "William Walter of Maiden Bradley" who also carved the pews for the church of St Michael the Archangel in Mere. The Victorians renovated the church and installed the lovely organ that is played regularly today. Within the past twenty years the bells have been rehung and ring out for special occasions like weddings, and the church roof has been replaced following a massive and successful fund raising effort.

If you are interested in the history of the church, there is a brand new illustrated leaflet for sale at the back of the church for £2.

Like many village organisations, we struggle to make ends meet and have many fund raising events. One of this year's highlights was the wonderful Flower Festival in Bradley House in August and by the time the News is published we will just have held the Christmas Market in the Village Hall.

There are services in the church every Sunday, with a mixture of Common Worship, Prayer Book Holy Communion and Matins. There are some services specially designed for children and there is a children's corner at the back of the church. We have close links with Whitesheet Church of England Primary School at Kilmington and Zeals.

The average Sunday congregation is fewer than 20 people, but the church is often full for the major festivals, including Christmas, Easter, Harvest Festival, Feast of All Saints (1st November) and Remembrance Sunday. We are lucky to have the Reverend Paul Barnes (who many villagers will know through his work in our shop) as Priest-in-Charge of the Benefice of Mere with Maiden Bradley and West Knoyle. He takes at least two services a month at All Saints and other services are taken by retired priest Judith Thompson and Licensed Lay Reader Jane Hurd. Service times are published in the Parish Newsletter and all are warmly welcome to attend.



The activities in the church are supported by regular church-goers and also by other villagers who value the church as an important community (rather than religious) focal point. We have volunteers who mow the churchyard, clean the church, arrange the flowers, ring the bells, etc. etc. If you would like to get involved in any of these activities, or if you have other talents that you would like to use, please contact one of the church wardens, Meg Oliver (844317) and Kim Baker (844684), who would be delighted to hear from you.



Family News

Sarah Thomas writes -Thank you all, my kind Maiden Bradley friends, for welcoming me back for the past three months and now I am off! When I am settled in my "long let" bungalow with my two Corgies in Zeals, all are welcome to come and visit!

William Potter. It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of William Potter on November 19th. He was in hospital following a cerebral haemorrhage.

The Potter family were evacuated from London to Maiden Bradley at the beginning of WWII and lived in the newly built Frome View. As a young man William returned to London to work in theatres in the West End. He later returned with Tom to the family home and worked for some years as projectionist at the cinema in Frome. Our sympathy goes to Tom and to William's family.

A service of thanksgiving will be held at All Saints' Church on Friday December 2nd at 4 pm.

Parish Council 8th November 2011

Public Question time. Emma Curtis, the Good Neighbour Co-ordinator for Maiden Bradley, addressed Council on her work within the Parish. The service is an innovative response to a recognised need that many people living in rural communities are unable to connect with the key services that help maintain well-being and support their quality of life. WGN (Wiltshire Good Neighbours) is primarily aimed at older people living in rural communities who may be vulnerable or at risk of becoming vulnerable. The service seeks to establish a trusted and effective bridge between vulnerable individuals and the statutory services and local voluntary organisations that are able to offer help and support. Councillors thought that the service would be a valuable asset to the Community. Councillors would spread the word to parishioners as Emma was unable to cold call parishioners.

Resignation. The Chairman informed Council that Councillor Karen Richardson had sent her resignation due to work commitments. The Clerk told Council that she would contact Wiltshire Council's Electoral Department and start the process of either re-election or co-option. If 10 electors wish for an Election they have to contact Wiltshire Council. Details are on the posters about the resignation at the village shop and the bus stop noticeboards. If no Election is called Council will be seeking candidates for co-option onto the Council.

Dog Fouling. Council have been made aware of several reports of dog fouling in Church Street and in the Village Hall car park. They expressed concern with this issue and have instructed the Clerk to put up some temporary No Dog Fouling signs on the noticeboards in the Parish. The Dog Warden has been informed.

The Square (indicator signage). Council heard Councillor Pamela Thomlinson report on an issue with road signage to the Square that had been brought to her attention. An ambulance had been unable to find it; luckily a passing parishioner had assisted the Ambulance men with directions. Sadly the Parish Council are unable to arrange for a road sign for the square as it is private property. So Council have instructed the Clerk to pass on this information to the landlord (Duke of Somerset Estates) for consideration, as several elderly parishioners live within this area.

Swimming Pool. Council heard a letter received from the Duke of Somerset's Land Agents, regarding the future of the Swimming Pool. This followed by a report from the Clerk about her meeting with a parishioner representing a new Swimming Pool Committee. The Committee are in talks with the Trustees who are keen for the pool to be taken on by the group. The new group have plans to refurbish the Swimming Pool and open it again, with the possibility of evening swims and aqua aerobics taking place. The group have indicated that they will be approaching the Parish Council for financial support along with the Area Board and Awards for All to help fund the project. They will be actioning a consultation in the hope of highlighting the issue within the Parish Plan. Council hoped that one of the members of the group might be interested in coming to meetings periodically to update Council.

Mutual Post Office Consultation. Council heard a report back from Councillor Pamela Thomlinson proposing that Council take part in this consultation. It was agreed, and members of the public are able to take part as well.

Warminster & Community Plan. Council heard a report from the Clerk on the recent meeting she attended about the proposed update of the Warminster and Villages Community Plan. She has passed details to Bryan Glastonbury, who has agreed to draft material for Council's

consideration. Council asked the Clerk to thank Bryan Glastonbury for his efforts and inform him that Council is looking forward to hearing from him.

Items for the next Agenda: Precept; Website Quotations; Jubilee Mugs; Parish Plan / Handbook: Recreational Area Gate and Bench Seats.

Date of the next meeting. The Council agreed that the 13th December 2011 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.

Mrs Sarah Jeffries can be contacted by email on maidenbradley@o2.co.uk, by phone on 01985 213436, or post to Parish Clerk, 9 Beech Grove, Warminster, BA12 0AB



VILLAGE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday 17th December at 6pm in the Village Hall

Special entertainment for adults and children with
Dave Hickory

Father Christmas hopes to drop in!

Admission on the day for adults is £3.50 or £3 in advance from the shop and this includes 'Santa's Seasonal Buffet'

Cash Bar and Raffle

Parent / Guardian As last year, book your child's Christmas Present from the Shop, for 12 years and under. Closing date 3rd December. Cost £1.50

Cheese Straws - Ideal for Parties

100g / 4oz plain flour
Pinch of salt
Pinch of cayenne pepper
50g / 2oz butter
50g / 2oz Cheddar cheese, fine grated
1 egg yolk, beaten

Sift the flour and seasonings together in a mixing bowl. Add the butter in pieces and rub together with fingertips until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Stir in the grated cheese and the egg yolk. Draw together to form a smooth dough, using a little cold water if the mixture is too dry. Chill in the fridge for at least 30 minutes.

Roll out the dough thinly on a floured board and cut into strips about 12.5cm / 5in long and 0.5cm / quarter inch wide. Place on baking sheets and bake in a fairly hot oven (200c / 400f or gas mark 6) for 10 to 15 minutes or until golden. Remove from oven, allow to cool slightly, then transfer to wire rack to cool completely. Store in airtight tin.



Santa is coming to Maiden Bradley!

Don't miss out on Santa's tour of the village on

Wednesday 14th December

Leaving Rodmead at 6.00pm
High Street via Kingston Lane 6.20pm
The Rank and Barcroft 6.35 pm
Church Street 6.50 pm

(Times are approximate and all donations go towards the Village Christmas Party)

Carol Singing

Carol singing around the village will take place on Tuesday 20th December. We will meet at 6 pm outside the pub and finish up there at 8 pm. Anyone of any age who would like to join in is most welcome. It is great fun – even when it snows and icicles form on your hat! All you need to bring is a torch and warm clothing. All money raised goes to The Dorothy House Hospice charity.

If you are interested in coming along could you please let me or Sue Priestner know.

Liz Nixon 844242

Box

A Soldiers Poem

In my heart I have a box marked Band of Brothers
It holds the memory of lives well spent
Honourable men, honest and decent
It sits pride of place among the others

Proud men who served without hesitation or reserve
Who fought for a cause both true just and right
They did not flinch or run when things got tight
Who gave all and did not get the accolades they deserve

They gave and now lay in places so far away
Asleep under Africa's hot bright burning sun
The ultimate sacrifice readily given, yet recognition none
Hardly thought of in the land they fought for, today

What right have I to be fit and well, strong?
When my brothers have just a pile of stones, no label
How I wish to hear their voices if only I were able
Why left to walk this lonely path so long

One day there will be a box no more
For with my brothers I shall surely be
For then like the rest I will have paid my fee
We will all be brothers once again, I am sure.

Written in memory of the men who fell in the Namibia / Southern Angola Campaign 32. Batt. SADF.

The 32 Batt SADF was founded in 1975 (and disbanded in 1993) by a Colonel of the South Africa Special Forces Brigade. Some soldiers, because of the politicians, have no marked grave, others have been brought home to rest in their country that they loved, fought and died for.

Simon

Poppy Appeal

On behalf of The Royal British Legion, my very sincere thanks for your continuing support of the Poppy Appeal. The estimated amount raised through your generosity is £1354.55 (including the calculated Gift Aid). As ever my gratitude to those who have so kindly given of their time during the Appeal. The Blackmore Vale Trials Club once again invited the Appeal to their rally. Despite the rainfall of the previous night, there was a huge turnout! My thanks to one and all for involving and supporting the Appeal.

Pippa Brierley

Garden Club

Once again the Garden Club had a very enjoyable evening at Lakeside Garden Centre. A big 'Thank You' to Steve, Nick and the lady who provided the complimentary coffee, tea and homemade mince pies, as well as making us feel very welcome. As usual we had a lovely choice of gifts for Christmas and of course, treats for ourselves.

Marilyn - 844042

The Shop and Alan's thank you letter in last month's News

As one of the original few, I feel I have to add some names to the list that Alan would not have known: Adam Hunt, Alan Dean, Bet Smart (Mere), Malcolm Shepard, Pascal Brown, Kevin and Karen Chilcott and last but not least Rob and Pam Coulbert who raised much needed funds from Bingos to knocking on doors. Until work took Rob away more than he was here, he was our very first Chairman.

If I in my turn have forgotten anybody, I do apologise.

Brenda Smart

Community First

Community First is Wiltshire's Rural Community Council, a charity that works at the forefront of community development to help improve the quality of life and economic well-being of people and local communities throughout Wiltshire.

Issues such as 'The Good Neighbour Scheme', 'Community Transport', 'Youth Action' and 'Community Development' (which includes Village shops) are all schemes promoted by them.

Should you wish to receive their 'enews' or call them for further information, their contact details are: reception@communityfirst.org.uk – 01380722475 www.communityfirst.org.uk.

Calling all Clubs and Societies

Might your club or society be interested in one of the police team visiting to talk on crime prevention, scams and what security devices are available to secure sheds, etc., and details of how the Bobby Van can / could assist vulnerable persons within the district? If so contact Ann Perry, Volunteer NPT Warminster, at Ann.Perry@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Village Studio

Village Studio - we will be meeting for art and coffee on Thurs 8th Dec at 43 Church St. Please let me know if you will be coming so I can get the biscuits in!!

Jules - 845063

Welcome Club

Thanks to everyone who made our Coffee Morning so successful. The Hall was a veritable hive of activity as over fifty people buzzed around the various stalls and enjoyed steaming cups of coffee in between. £339.05 was taken over the two hours, which was an excellent result for club benefit. A big thank you again to everyone.

On Thursday 18th November we were visited by Michael Gamble and what a visit! We were transported around the country and to parts of the world with the aid of the most magnificent photographs, all accompanied by an excellent choice of music. We were totally spellbound and spent a most enjoyable time.

Another yummy tea and the usual raffle completed the afternoon.

Apart from the Christmas tea on 1st December we shall next meet on Thursday 16th February 2012 to begin another year. See you then.

Happy Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Chris Short - 847373



Wiltshire Good Neighbours (WGN) is a new scheme designed to connect older and vulnerable residents of rural communities with services that can promote independent living and well-being.

Good Neighbour Co-ordinators, who live locally, provide information and act as a bridge between those who need assistance and the support services provided by statutory bodies and voluntary groups.

These services include:

- Transportation for shopping and health related visits
- Where to get financial advice about benefits
- Local social clubs and meetings
- Home security and safety
- Befriending services
- Keeping warm in winter months

There is now a Good Neighbour Co-ordinator for the parishes of Horningsham, Maiden Bradley with Yarnfield, Kilmington, Stourton with Gasper and Zeals; so, if you would like to talk about issues of concern, or need information about the support that may be available to older residents, please contact **Emma Curtis on 07557 922026** or e-mail: **gncarea15@communityfirst.org.uk**

Wiltshire Good Neighbours is a free and confidential service run by Community First in partnership with Age UK Wiltshire and Age UK Salisbury. Wiltshire Good Neighbours is funded by Wiltshire Council.

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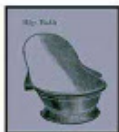


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The Bath Arms "Quiz Night" - 1st Thursday of each month. £5 per team. Winning team takes all. 8pm start.

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The Somerset Arms

Christmas Party Menu

Cream of Curried Butternut Squash soup

Garlic & Montgomery Cheddar Croute

Smoked Haddock & Salmon Fishcake

Creamed Peppered Cabbage

Chicken Liver Parfait

Damson Jam, Toasted Brioche

~0~

Ballotine of Bronze Turkey

Prosciutto Wrapped Turkey, Stuffed with Minced Leg, Pancetta, Savoy Cabbage served with Chipolata's, Bread Sauce & Cranberry compote

Baked Fillet of Cod with Tarragon Rarebit

Grain Mustard Mash, Citrus Beurre Blanc

Bath Blue & Baby Leek Tart

Warm Beetroot, Tomato & Walnut Salad

Served with honey glazed roots, garlic & rosemary roasted new potatoes

~0~

Christmas Pudding

Pedro Ximenez Cream

Lime Posset

Dark Chocolate & Mango Cookies

Winter Berry & Mulled Wine Jelly

Cinnamon Mascarpone

~0~

Coffee & Mince Pies

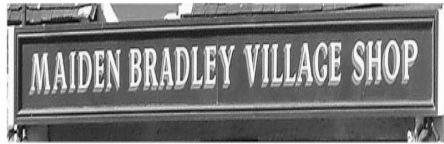
£19.95

Christmas party T&C's

We would require a pre-order a week prior to your booking with a list of each person attending and their menu choice along with a £5 deposit per person redeemable on the night . Contact Cate on 844207 or email info@somersetarms.org.

We have a special Hogmanay menu too!

Give us a call for details.



A huge thank you to everyone who has bought bonds and shares in Maiden Bradley Village Shop. You may have noticed many changes recently - we could not have done this without you! If you haven't got round to buying a bond yet, there are forms in the shop or just ask us. A special thank you also to **Jules** for her skill in writing the new signboards so beautifully.

Have you seen our **fantastic new wine range**, hand labelled with Karen's tasting notes? Prices start at £5.50, with a delicious Cava only £6.99 and Concha Y Toro Chardonnay £6.99.

Also Award winning **Tanglefoot Ale** from Blandford £1.35. Guinness now only £1.10!

Price Drop on Carlsberg and Guinness cans only £1.10

Need a quick and easy supper? **Frozen curries and pizzas only £2!**

New – every Saturday - Delicious freshly baked croissants and pain au chocolat. They sell fast so best get there early or pre-order yours!

Christmas Last orders: For Andrew Barclay Meat ~ December 23rd, for Jon Thorner's Meat ~ December 12th, Taylor's Bread ~ December 22nd. Please discuss your order with any member of staff.

Shop Opening Hours over the Christmas Season

Saturday 24 th December	8am to 1pm
Sunday/ Monday 25th & 26th December ~ Closed	
Tuesday 27 th December	Bank Hol 9am to 11am
Wednesday 28 th December	8am to 12 Noon
Thursday 29 th December	8am to 6pm
Saturday 31 st December	8am to 1pm
Sunday 1st January 2012 ~ New Years Day ~ Closed	
Monday 2 nd January 2012	9am to 11am

Maiden Bradley Village Shop - Your Community Store 01985 844206. Website: maidenbradleyvillageshop.posterous.com; Email: maidenbradleyshop@gmail.com



Many of you will know Sara Westaway from her time in Maiden Bradley. Recently she had her first solo exhibition of drawings and paintings at the Arts Centre in Shaftesbury. This hare was one of the exhibits.