

Diary December 2012

2 nd Sun	Bird Club – A.G.M. at 4 The Old Sawmill Holy Communion - Church	10.00 am 9.30 am
3 rd Mon	Household & Garden Waste Collection Bingo – Village Hall 7.3	7.00 am 30 for 8.00 pm
5 th Wed	Mobile Library – Somerset Arms	9.45-9.55 am
6 th Thu	Village Hall Committee Meeting	7.30 pm
7 th Fri	Christmas Fair – Village Hall	6.00 pm
9 th Sun	Matins – Church Santa Claus' Tour of the Village	9.30 am from 5.15 pm
10 th Mon	Black Box & Blue Bins Collection	7.00 am
11 th Tue	Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall	7.30 pm
12 th Wed	Book Club Meeting – Bramble Cottage	8.00 pm
15 th Sat	Children's Christmas Party - Village Hall	6.00pm
16 th Sun	Carol Service – Church	10.30 am
17 th Mon	Household & Garden Waste Collection	7.00 am
18 th Tue	Carol Singing around the village – Meet at The Somerset Arms	5.45 pm
19 th Wed	Mobile Library – Somerset Arms	9.35-9.45 am
20 th Thu	Welcome Club Meeting – Horningsham F	Hall 2.30 pm
23 rd Sun 24th Mon	Holy Communion – Church Black Box & Blue Bins Collection Crib Service – Church Midnight Communion Service – Church	9.30 am 7.00 am 3.00 pm 11.30 pm
25 th Tue	Christmas Day Service – Church	10.00 am
27 th Thu	Deadline for Contributions to January	MBPN
30 th Sun January -	Morning Worship - Church	9.30 am
2 nd Wed	Household & Garden Waste Collection Mobile Library – Somerset Arms	7.00 am .35-9.45 am

THERE WILL BE NO SURGERY AT 36 CHURCH STREET ON MONDAY DEC 24TH AND MONDAY DEC 31ST. BE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ENOUGH MEDICATION TO COVER THIS PERIOD.

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 – Sam Higgins: 844671; Dr. Andrew Murrison MP: 01225 358584 or murrisona@parliament.uk; Mere Link Scheme 01747 860096.

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

Editorial

Business matters. We have to announce a change to the editorial team. Pat Kennedy has relinquished her position as Editor of the News. We are grateful to Pat for her efforts during her period of office. A fresh mind brings new ideas and she introduced a number of new and interesting initiatives. I think, for example of the Charity item, the poem, and more recently the idea to re-introduce a children's/ young person's reporter previously filled by Beth Stevens; more of that later.

The responsibility of Editor will be assumed for the time being by Les Mayne, assisted by the other existing members of the team. On that note, it would be helpful to have at least one other member on the editorial team. So, if there is anyone out there who is harbouring a deep- seated and as yet unfulfilled desire to be a hot –shot newshound or be willing to assist with proof-reading or help in any other capacity then please contact the Editor or any member of the team. You would be very welcome.

Nothing else has changed and items for inclusion in the News should continue to be sent to the usual e-mail address: editor@maidenbradley.net. It would be helpful also if contributors could include their name and telephone number on the submission. These details will be included routinely in the article unless the contributor specifically requests they be omitted. We shall of course be happy to respect the wishes of the contributor in that regard.

The Village Hall and the Rec. The consultation for the 2012 Parish Plan showed a very clear view that something needs to be done for younger people, and for many the 'something' could most usefully be a serious makeover of the Rec, to include a new multi-purpose building. Ambitious, and not in isolation contentious, you might think. But there were a few suggestions that such a development would make the Village Hall redundant, and even for the Hall's plot to be sold off to help fund the new build, and that certainly upset Hall supporters.

A result of this potential divisiveness is that our focus has moved away from doing something about the Rec, and inwards towards people's views on the pros and cons of Rec new build versus Hall. We are now scheduled to have a Parish Council consultation on the issue. But is it a matter of choosing between one or the other? Is there a case for going ahead on both fronts?

The Village Hall is getting older, and is perhaps not as flexible as a modern build could be: but it has a significant history in our parish, and is cherished by many in the community. It holds wholly successful events in its quite large open space, such as the panto and produce show, as well as a whole range of smaller activities. It has an active and enthusiastic new committee, with ideas for new events, like the curry nights. It had a conspicuously successful previous committee, who tackled such matters as the kitchen update and disabled access. Put another way, it has a long history of a committee who've looked after the Hall's interests, and a record of being able to raise the funds to keep it in working order.

In contrast the Rec has no committee. Various bodies and informal groups get involved from time to time, but there is no group with overall responsibility comparable to the Village Hall Committee. The Rec itself has gone downhill in recent years, especially with the Youth Club now no more than a concrete foundation slab.

If, then, there was a move to set up a Rec Committee, with a view to developing the area, would it be an immediate threat to the Hall? Surely not, for three key reasons. First of all, because of where the large-scale funding might be found, a Rec revamp would need to focus on its sporting possibilities rather than social activities, getting in on the post-Olympic legacy. Secondly, to get such funding and having a new build would need a wider user group than just Maiden Bradley. Already a Frome football team is amongst the biggest users, and a broadly based range of local communities would be needed to make a funding bid attractive. Thirdly, although both Rec and Hall may need big funding, the sources are very different. While the Rec can look to the 2012

sporting legacy, the Hall has been successful with more traditional, more heritage-linked approaches.

So if a group of volunteers wanted to take an initiative over the Rec, or the Parish Council wanted to find out if one of the commercial Sports Centre companies might be interested in getting involved, couldn't all that be done without implying any threat to our Village Hall? The trouble is we have to move quickly. The boom in funding for sports developments isn't going to last much longer.

Les Mayne



Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends. these months running up to Christmas are such fun. People go out of their way to be friendly, spread goodwill and think of others. It can be a tremendously busy time too so that instead of being content with multi-tasking we aim at mega-multi-tasking. Everyone can feel the push with tight deadlines at work, extra orders to fulfil or the worry of how to

pay for Christmas. It is always good to stop and take a time-out. Christians call this time Advent and try to build in space for quiet spiritual preparation. Even though it was so long ago, it is still amazing to think that God risked coming to earth as a tiny baby to live among us.... it takes some pondering on!

I recently visited Mary and Don Barber and they wished to be remembered to everyone in the village, as they can't get out so much, and to thank you all for the kindness and prayers you have given them over these many months.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year....hope to see you over the season?

Rev Carol, Priest-in-Charge

Reverend Richard Yates

For those of us who have welcomed Richard to All Saints' this past year, as he came from Horningsham to take our Communion Service on the first Sunday of nearly every month, the news of his unexpected death came as a sad blow. His kindness in coming to help us during the interregnum was so much appreciated and the way in which he ministered to us through these services was inspiring. Revd Carol had invited him to preach at our Patronal Service at the beginning of November, something we were looking forward to, but it was at that time that he became unwell.

We send our deepest sympathy to Jane and all his family.

Meg Oliver - 844317

Christmas 2012 - Services at All Saints' Church

Sunday	16th December Carol Service	10.30 am
Monday	24th December Crib Service	3.00 pm
-	Midnight Mass	11.30 pm
Tuesday	25th December Christmas Day Communion	10.00 am

Family News

We are delighted to report the arrival of two new grandchildren in Bradley families during the last month. Theodore James was born on 29th October to Alice and Kristof, a brother for Sasha and a first boy for the de Mare household! Earlier in the month, on the 13th Edward David John was born to Vicky and Adam, a brother for Albert and another grandson for David and Pam

Morse. Some of us have known both these young mothers since they were children and so it is an extra pleasure to send them all congratulations and best wishes.

Pam Coulbert is continuing her winning ways with her new basset puppy, Houndstone Queen Bouddica. At only eight and a half months old she won 1st prize at Midlands Counties Championship Show at Stafford County Showground. This was only her second time in the big show ring and it has qualified her for Crufts 2013.

Finally we are pleased to welcome Graham to the village - he has come to live in The Old Manor House. We hope he will enjoy his time in Maiden Bradley.

A Houndstone Basset, courtesy of the Basset Breeders website.

Meg Oliver - 844317



Carol Singing Around The Village

The Maiden Bradley carol singers will be singing around the village from 5.45 pm – 7.15 pm on Tuesday, 18th December. Be prepared for the knock on the door and the sound of heavenly voices! We will be collecting again this year for the Dorothy House Hospice.

If you would like to join the band of carol singers – either as singers (all ages – children welcome) or collectors –

please get in touch with Sue Priestner or Liz Nixon for more details. You just need to enjoy singing carols!

Liz: 844242 and Sue: 844244

Santa's Village Tour 2012

Sunday 9th December

Leaves Rodmead at 5.00pm Kingston & Back Lane 5.15pm High Street 5.20pm The Rank & Barcroft 5.35pm Church Street 5.50pm

All times are approximate.



Donations to support the village Christmas party.

Christmas Party 15th December

The cost of tickets for the Children's Christmas Party are: £2 per child and £2.50 per adult. Tickets need to be purchased in advance from the Village Shop before the closing date of 5th December.

Christmas Fair

Friday December 7th, 6pm in the Village Hall
Mulled wine and mince pies
A wide variety of stalls and children's games and activities
Tombola – Raffle - Cakes – Books – White Elephant – Decorations
In aid of the Church Roof Appeal

Poppy Appeal - 2012

On behalf of The Royal British Legion, may I thank you most sincerely for your continuing support of the Poppy Appeal. The estimated amount raised (including the calculated Gift Aid) is £1,394.97. As ever, my gratitude to those who have given of their time and shoe leather. The Blackmore Vale Trials Club too, unfailing in its support of the Appeal. I thank them for their kindness and generosity.

Pippa Brierley

This is by way of a thank you to the whole village for being, well, a whole (& welcoming) village. We haven't lived here very long, but I'd feel lost now without the MB Parish News. I've always loved a freebie but in particular I consult the Diary frequently - what's on? when will the library be here? which dustbin is it tomorrow...?? Then there are those useful phone numbers and local ads, and what is Super Saturday offering?

The biggest thank you, though, is to all those who rallied round on our behalf this summer. It's horrible when things go wrong in your absence, and we felt powerless and frustrated, but the experience actually turned into a positive one when we discovered the extent of the help and support that was forthcoming.

From a very grateful Phil & Val Symonds at number 39 - THANK YOU.

West Wiltshire Credit Union

Who are the West Wiltshire Credit Union and how could they benefit you? We are a community based savings and loan cooperative run by and for its members, which is a contrast to the increasingly impersonal nature of high street banks. Anyone who lives or works in West Wiltshire can join. Payments are flexible; you can save as little as 50p and after 10 weeks you can apply to borrow up to twice the amount of your savings. Your savings are covered by a government compensation scheme and we have fidelity insurance to protect against fraud. Surplus profits are paid back to members in the form of a dividend which is agreed at the annual general meeting.

If you would like to find out more you can call us on 01249 248 313 between 10am and 12 am or visit our website at www.wiltscommunitybank.co.uk. If you are looking for a secure way to save or borrow money where your interests are valued, the West Wiltshire Credit Union is well worth considering.

Parish Council 13th November 2012

Parish Steward. The Clerk was asked to instruct the Parish Steward to clear the leaves down Church Street and that it also required the gullies and drains by the bridge clearing out before it flooded again. Kingston lane requires checking both the gullies and drains as it was flooded again recently. If parishioners know of any other areas in the Parish that require the attention of the Parish Steward please do contact the Clerk and let her know so that action can be taken.

Maiden Bradley Estate Wood Burner. The Parish Council listened to the concerns of two parishioners at the start of the meeting. Clarification of the planning process regarding the original planning application for the Wood Burner and whether the planning consultation process had been actioned correctly was sought. Council did highlight that the Planning Department had been informed of the issues before Council discussed the applications put to it. It was highlighted that the interior could have possibly needed a change of use application too, along with concerns that the roof might be still asbestos roofing sheet. The parishioners had highlighted that they had made complaints direct to Wiltshire Council but had as yet had no reply. Unitary Councillor Fleur De Rhe Phillipe who was present informed Council that she would look in to this matter and report back to the Clerk. Council thanked her for her help.

Recreational Area Play Safety Report. The Play area safety report had not highlighted any major issues although some minor action needed to be taken. Councillor Ben Gunstone informed Council that he would address the gateway issue and will add gravel to the gate way area to resolve the erosion highlighted. It was confirmed that the Community Pay Back Group would be visiting the site in December to clean the equipment.

Community Pay Back. The Community Pay Back Group will also be coming to the parish in December to clear the Village Hall grounds and were given permission from the Parish Council to dispose of the arisings on the recreational area. A donation towards the groups cost of £50.00 was agreed.

Community Interest Group/Village Shop Community Asset Registering. The Parish Council thought that this was a proactive move for the community. It agreed to support this action and if requested by the shop would make the application on their behalf

Website. The Parish Council had had it highlighted to them by a parishioner that maybe the website should be more interactive and visual. The Clerk had been tasked to obtain quotations from companies who specialised in Parish and Town Council website provision at the National Conference. The Websites had been extremely good but the costs had also been substantially more than the free site the Clerk operated at present. Council decided that under the current economic climate the present website will remain in operation and that in 2 years time the Parish Council will review the website provision.

Village Shop Grant. The Village Shop approached the Parish Council for a grant to purchase a Steam Cleaner. This would help keep the shop cleaner and sterile. They reported that the winter months are always a hard time to keep the shop clean with the mud etc. brought into the shop. The Council agreed that a £120.00 grant towards the purchase under LGA s137 granting powers would be well spent as it would benefit the health and wellbeing of the parishioners.

Budget/Precept Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 reg 4. The clerk reported to Council that the deadline for reporting the Precept figure to Wiltshire Council is the 21st January 2013 and a Precept Calculator is to be supplied by Wiltshire Council with the Banding figures. Council agreed that the Clerk will now produce a draft for discussion at the 11th December meeting for a final discussion and to be resolved at the 8th January 2013 meeting.

Correspondence. Council had received correspondence from two Parishioners asking if the Parish Council would take action to install a Heart Defibrillator within the Parish. Council discussed this and instructed the Clerk to investigate costs, grants available and what is involved before a decision is made. The Clerk was instructed to put this on the next Agenda for discussion.

Items for the next Agenda. Draft Precept and include on the January Agenda discussions re the Village Hall Consultation if approached by parishioners.

Date of the next meeting. The Council agreed that the 11th **December 2012** 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 maidenbradleypc@o2.co.uk, by phone on 01985 213436, or post to Parish Clerk, 9 Beech Grove, Warminster, BA12 0AB.

Amanda's Afghanistan

Since my last article I managed to get home to the UK for some leave, although I spent my first weekend in Leicester taking an MBA Corporate Finance exam and then most of the rest of my leave helping my sister move house in Sussex. I came back to Maiden Bradley for a couple of day's recovery (and fish and chips!) before my return flight to Afghanistan.

I have already visited Lashkar Gah and this time flew on a Merlin helicopter, which is smaller than a Chinook, but also used for



troop moves. It has far better visibility with windows in the back, although as we were flying at night that didn't make a huge amount of difference and I was focused more on the cold as the ramp was kept open throughout the flight.

My photos show a couple of street scenes in Lashkar Gah to give you an idea of how busy the roads can get with motorcycles and tuk tuks.

I am already sensing that there will be a lot going on here on the run up to Christmas and I am really looking forward to spending Christmas with my fellow troops. We have just had a visit from Daniel Craig and a viewing of his new James Bond film. Sadly, I didn't meet the man myself,



however, I understand that he did a question and answer spot before the film and came across very well. A fellow officer brought me back a signed photograph, which is now my prized possession and will be framed as soon as I get home. I saw the film on my last night of freedom at Frome cinema and can thoroughly recommend it.

We also had a visit from the Adjutant General's Corps' rock band, which provided a very welcome distraction one evening. I understand that they are on a tour of Afghanistan throughout the Christmas period to provide musical accompaniment to carol singing and generally a bit of Christmas cheer.

The temperatures here have dipped and there is a noticeable chill in the air in the mornings and evenings. I even have to resort to my winter sleeping bag for trips. I am off to Kabul again soon, which is likely to be a bit of a shock to the system as being mountainous it is usually 10-15 degrees cooler there. I must try to find some fluffy bed socks!

More next month....

Bid for Money for Kids@MB Youth Group

On Thursday the 7 th of November Florence Gunstone , Elliot and Rowan Herridge and Elsie Swan-Stevens of the kids @ M.B. youth group went to Warminster Civic Centre to try and get some money to buy some musical instruments and some badminton equipment. Wiltshire Area Board had over four thousand and one hundred pounds to distribute to Children's Groups.

The room that this took place in was a small dimly lit room completely fit to bursting with people, with a wooden microphone stand and a small smart board and projector on the ceiling and a tea and drinks table at the back.



There were six requests for some money, the first video was by Heytesbury School for their Isobel's garden the second was for a bush camp trip on Dartmoor, third a Girl Guides P.G.L trip to the Isle of Wight , fourth Kids @ Maiden Bradley (us), fifth Warminster fun swim club and then St Johns Outdoor Story Area.

We all went up to the front taking up our posters and stood to the side of the projector and held up our posters so that everybody could see them and Mum read out a speech of why we needed some money and showed our presentation and then we were asked some questions about what we did at youth club and I answered them.

After all the people had shown their presentations it was time to vote. Everyone was given a voting handset it had numbers up to six everyone was told to press the number of the group they wanted to vote for. The third ,fourth, fifth and sixth group all got two thirds of the money that they wanted and the first and second got the full sum of money they wanted. We came third with 18% of the vote, so we got £653.00 which was a really good thing.

Elsie Swan-Stevens

Wild about plants in your Parish?

Wild plant charity Plantlife (www.plantlife.org.uk), are hoping to reach out to many wild plant enthusiasts and nature lovers by inviting them to become wild plant 'pioneers' and subscribe to a free quarterly e-learning bulletin to learn more about our native wild plants via the 'Wild About Plants' project website - www.wildaboutplants.org.uk . The Wild About Plants project aims to help people reconnect with the outdoors and their local greenspaces. Working with schools, families and communities from all walks of life and with fantastic free downloadable resources, the team hope to engage people with the nature on their doorstep. In recent years subscribers have been asked to record the plant life in their local area and recount what they used to see/pick and forage for. Wild About Plants is funded by Natural England through Access to Nature, as part of the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces programme. It is a partnership project involving partner organisations throughout the country.



Annual Report 2012

From the Chairman

Maiden Bradley celebrated the Jubilee with a children's tea party in the village hall and a beacon/ Barbeque on Long Knoll. Both events gave the village a chance to come together to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. To remember the event all the children in the village were presented with a commemorative mug.

The Olympics as we all know was a triumph for a number of reasons but particularly because of the thousands of wonderful volunteers who cheerily helped with the games. It reminded me that we as a village owe so much to all the parishioners who volunteer within the village. Without all your help so many of the aspects of the village that we cherish would not function, so to you, **THANK YOU**

Parish Steward. You will have by now become very familiar with the yellow Land Rover in the Parish sometimes (This is an especially equipped vehicle operated by Ringway on behalf of the Wiltshire Unitary Council through the Wiltshire Highways Partnership) in the Parish. During these regular visits the Parish Steward will be carrying out various tasks such a clearing gullies, grips and drains. In addition, he will trim back verge side vegetation as necessary to ensure clear sight lines for emerging traffic as well as cleaning road signs to generally promote road safety. The Parish Council are working closely with the Wiltshire Highways Partnership to achieve a high standard of Parish tidiness and safety on all our roads and lanes.

ALL LANDOWNERS whose properties adjoin the various roads and lanes within the Parish are required and expected to keep the road side ditches clear of obstructions. This is particularly important to prevent flooding and will enable the storm water to have a free run so that a build of water is not caused and thus does not present hazards and obstructions to traffic and flooding risks to householders alike. If any Parishioner sees or is aware of anything which they feel needs attention they are requested to either contact Clarence on From a Wiltshire landline number, call 0800 232323 From all other numbers, including mobiles, call 01225 777234. Or email clarence@wiltshire.gov.uk this will enable the Parish Council to maintain the Parish to a good standard.

Litter Pick. The Parish Council will arrange another litter pick in early March 2013. This event has been a resounding success each time. If anyone has suggestions to improve it do contact the Clerk.

Planning & Highways. Planning and road matters remain as always on the Parish Council agenda. Council commented on 10 planning applications within the parish both domestic and non-domestic applications. The traffic issues re speeding continue to be of concern and the parish council continue to liaise with the police on this issue.

Community Speed Watch. Maiden Bradley parishioners were trained by Wiltshire Police in August 2011 to carry out Community Speed Watch. Since then volunteers have taken part in more than 80 sessions, reporting those drivers who exceed the 30 mph limit.. These have clearly demonstrated that we have severe problems of excessive traffic on the B3092 and dangerous speeding through the village – up to 57 mph. A number of the original volunteers have dropped out and more are needed to join if we are to continue to demonstrate to Wiltshire Council and Police that our traffic issues need to be addressed.

Financial Report. Below are the concluded figures from the External Auditor. The balance at the end of the financial year 2011/2012 stood at £812.59

Summary of Financial Statement year end 31st March 2012 Income & Expenditure

Jerry Rayner

01985 84710

	£	
Annual Precept	9977.83	
Other receipts	1298.80	
Total Income	11276.63	
Expenditure	12973.73	

Councillor

Tel:

Your Parish Council is here to help you. If you have a problem or concern about something locally, just get in touch with the Parish Clerk on 01985 213436 and she will be able to advise you as to how you should proceed. It may be that it's something that the Parish Councillors can do or it may be that a particular issue needs to be raised with another body. Whatever the way forward, the Parish Clerk will be able to offer you advice. In the meantime, if you have something you'd like to tell the Parish Council about just write to Sarah Jeffries MILCM Parish Clerk 9 Beech Grove Warminster Wiltshire BA12 0AB. The Clerk is available Monday to Thursday 9.00 to 2.00pm. Further information available contact details and on the www.maidenbradleyparishcouncil.org

Who to contact:		Councillor Tel:	Franck Baudrain 01985845130
Parish Clerk Tel: Mobile	Mrs Sarah Jeffries 01985 213436 07540691106	Councillor Tel:	Sarah Fry 01985 844519
Email: Skype	maidenbradleypc@o2.co.uk sarahjeffries.pc	Councillor Tel:	to be appointed
Chairman Tel:	Angus Neish 01985 844689	Unitary Councillor Tel:	Fleur de Rhe' Philipe 01225713111
Vice Chairman Tel:	Patrick Nixon 01985 844242	MP Tel:	Dr Andrew Murrison 01225 358584
Councillor Tel:	Ben Gunstone 01985844704		

The Church Roof Letter

It turns out the firm that did the All Saints' roof was Hodder and Sons, not Hodden, as in the last News. The photos and information have come from back copies of This is Somerset. Hodder and Sons were a multi-purpose firm of funeral directors, building contractors, commercial motor body builders and coach painters, founded 1828. They were situated in Broadway, Frome, west of the Portland Road junction and opposite the Ring o' Bells public house. They had a skittle team that played in the pub's alley.

In the middle of the last century they were involved with the Frome Operatic Society and used to work back stage as the 'Black Hand Gang' (opposite) painting, moving scenery and opening and closing the curtains. They regularly had a float in the Frome Carnival (below), and in 1955 Bob Hodder was a member of the Frome Town Fire Brigade, so the firm regularly picked us business clearing up after fires. Bottom right is their workshop.

The firm seems to have run into difficulties and closed at the end of the 1950s.







From Behind the Counter.....

First of all a big thank you to everyone who used the shop in October; sales of £13,500 made for a great start to the new financial year. I am settling into my new job and enjoying the challenge, not to mention the banter. At the end of October I went up to the NEC in Birmingham to the Independent Retail Show, (I know how to have a good time) and came back brimming with ideas and a couple of free electronic cigarettes to calm my nerves. I signed the shop up to a buying group that will help us to get a little more discount from some of our suppliers and I hope soon to be getting some advice from a news retail consultant who will help us get the best from our newspaper and magazine shelves. On that note if there any magazines you would like to order, do let us know and we can get them in and put by for you.

You will have seen from the white board in the shop that we have a lot of new lines. Do come in and look around. An extra shelf has been put in and some things have been moved around, so do come and have a look and if you have asked for something please come in and buy it!! The gluten free shelf is expanding and I hope soon to be selling enough of some items to buy them in wholesale so that we can bring the prices down.

The most important event looming is of course, Christmas. We are now getting in Christmassy treats as well as mincemeat for those mince pies, marzipan and fruit for the cakes and loads of good, reasonably priced, wines to help take your mind off the January credit card bill. We are now taking orders for goods from our meat, bread, fish, fruit and veg and dairy suppliers so do come on in and pick up the order forms.

Sam and I and all the shop volunteers wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

Kay

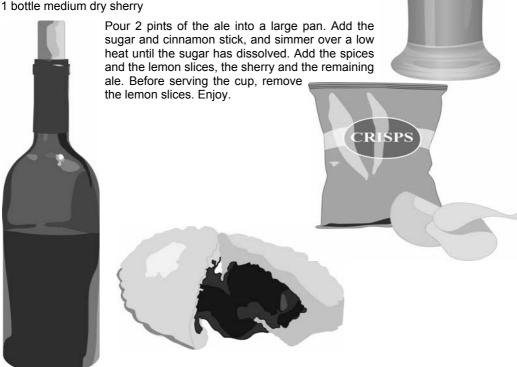
Festive Recipe - Wassail Cup

One of the traditional tastes of Christmas and the festive season is the warming, spiced mulled wine which many of us enjoy. However, there is a traditional refreshment that is often neglected. It is especially good after a cold night carol singing around the streets or after mid-night service in what is probably a draughty church somewhere. You should give it a try, but not too much!

Wassail Cup.

6 pints brown ale

- 1 lb soft brown sugar
- 1 large cinnamon stick
- 1 level teaspoon grated nutmeg
- ½ level teaspoon ground ginger
- 2 lemons thinly sliced





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Local pre-school Leaping Frogs has finalised the plans for its new site in Zeals. Now called Leaping Frogs Day Nursery the successful pre-school will be expanding to provide full daycare facilities from September 2012.

If you are interested in registering your child or baby with Leaping Frogs and would like to chat to someone about joining, please call Victoria or Becky on 01747 861186 or 01985 220483 or visit our website www.leapingfrogs.org for more information.

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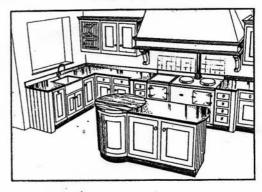
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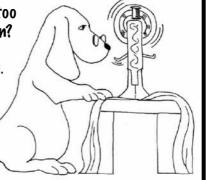
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