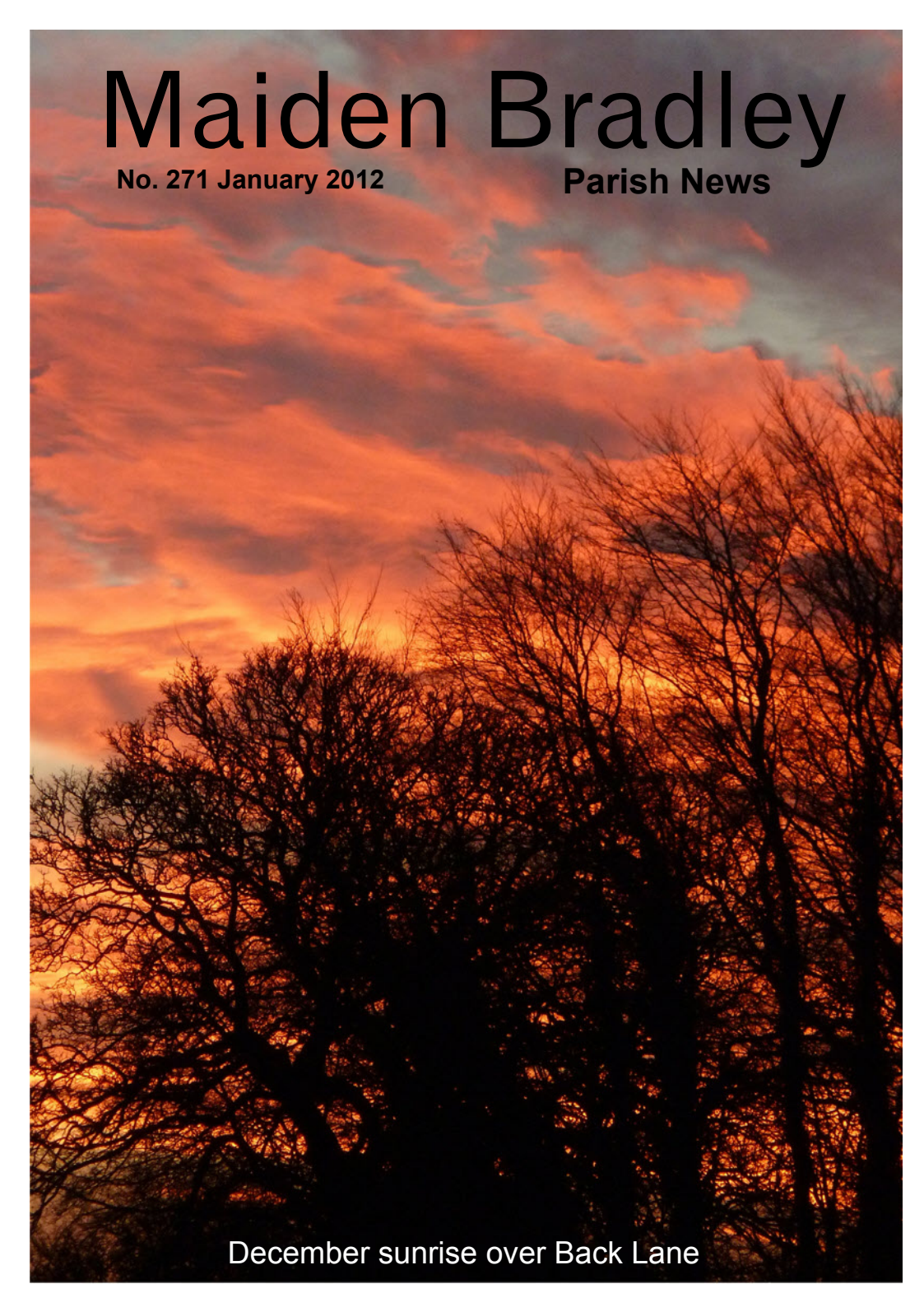


Maiden Bradley

No. 271 January 2012

Parish News



December sunrise over Back Lane

Diary January 2012

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------|---|--------------|
| 3 rd | Tue | Village Hall Meeting | 7.30 pm |
| 4 th | Wed | Mobile Library – Village Hall | 9.35-9.55 am |
| 8 th | Sun | Matins – Church | 9.30 am |
| 9 th | Mon | Book Club Meeting – 69 High Street | 8.00 pm |
| 10 th | Tue | Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall | 7.30 pm |
| 11 th | Wed | Young People’s Group – Village Hall | 5.45-7.30 pm |
| 15 th | Sun | Parish Communion – Church | 10.30 am |
| 16 th | Mon | Black Box & Blue Bin Collection | 7.30 am |
| 18 th | Wed | Mobile Library – Village Hall | 9.35-9.55 am |
| 21 st | Sat | Bird Club Meeting – water birds meet Village Hall Car Park | 10 00 am |
| 22 nd | Sun | Holy Communion – Church | 9.30 am |
| 23rd | Mon | Deadline for Contributions to February MBPN | |
| 24 th | Tue | W.I.Meeting – Stourton Village Hall | 7.30 pm |
| 25 th | Wed | Young People’s Group – Village Hall | 5.45-7.30 pm |
| 29 th | Sun | Morning Praise with Hymns – Church | 9.30 am |
| 30 th | Tue | Black Box & Blue Bins Collection | 7.00 am |

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 paulbarnes@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

The beauty of winter time can be seen in many places and the front cover picture was taken locally by Bryan and serves to remind us all, how lucky we are to live here in Maiden Bradley. The New Year break can give us all the opportunity to think about what can be achieved during the next twelve months and I value this time each year.

I suspect many of you will join me in congratulating Tricia Cox and Rev. Paul Barnes in starting the Young Person's Group in the village. Young people need to meet and have organised activities outside school and home where they can develop new social skills and have fun. Please support them as much as you can – there is further information inside the News.

We are pleased to announce a competition for the design of the cover of the Maiden Bradley News. Full details will be announced in the February edition, so those of you who are feeling artistic please start thinking about how you would portray this village. There will be three age groups, so no excuses!

May you all keep your New Year's resolutions and have a sustaining year ahead. A Happy New Year to you all from the Editorial Team.

Pat Kennedy – 845397 - editor@maidenbradley.net



Christmas Market

As I think back to that evening my memory is of a really happy atmosphere with a wonderful crowd around the very attractive stalls that displayed so many tempting things to buy. And buy you did, helping us to raise £819 to help maintain our much loved All Saints' Church. Thank you all so much!

But that kind of event doesn't happen without a great deal of effort beforehand. My thanks to all those who gave so much in the way of time and energy to set up the stalls, produced the goods for sale and then came to the Hall on the evening to sell them. Special thanks to the Community Gardeners who generously came to sell their preserves and other goodies to support our fundraising effort.



I hope the Christmas season continued happily for you all and that the New Year will be a good one.

Church Opening

For a long time now Jean Ball has been doing a great job closing the Church most weekday evenings and thoroughly deserves a good rest from it! We are really very grateful to her, and to Patrick Nixon who opens it, as it has meant that we can leave it open regularly. This year we are able to continue to keep it open during the winter months as Mel Thomas is very kindly going to go through from Bradley House to lock it.

*Meg Oliver, Churchwarden -
844317*

Points of contact for Community interest - Cranbourne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

For information on their 30th Anniversary celebrations, Guided Walks, Archaeology Seminar and Green Trade Fair, Funding Bids and the Cranbourne Chase Woodfair, their Social Networking sites; please go to: www.cwwdaonb.org.uk or via the link on the Wiltshire Council website.

For news and information and updates relevant to the voluntary and community sector in Wiltshire contact: www.growwiltshire.org.uk

To contact the Wiltshire Intelligencer for Historical and future events, go to: www.history.wiltshire.gov.uk/community.

Family News

We are pleased to welcome Ian and Jean Hamilton who have come to live at 76 High Street and hope that they will enjoy it here in Maiden Bradley.

After many months of treatment following her serious accident in Portugal it is delightful to be able to welcome Mary Barber home to the village. In the weeks since she returned we hear from Don that she continues to make good progress. Our best wishes to them both.

It was more recently that we were sorry to hear of Fi Roche's bad riding accident. She too is now at home and we send her our very best wishes for a complete recovery.

Congratulations to John Wider on passing his Grade 3 piano exam.

Village Hall - Advanced Notice



At the A.G.M for the Village Hall in April the committee will need to appoint several new officers; Anne Sercombe will be retiring as Chair after many, many years. Compared to Anne I am relatively new to the committee but due to my family demands and work commitments I have made the decision to step down as treasurer and bookings officer. The committee are keen to recruit new members so if anyone would like to know more please feel free to give me a call, an e-mail or come along to the next meeting on the 3rd of January –it really is very rewarding to be part of a vital element of our fantastic village.

Lisa Cripps - 01985 844956 - Stackscottage@sky.com

Village Hall Lottery

| November | | | December | | |
|-----------------|--------------|--------|-----------------|----------------|--------|
| 1 st | Chris Downes | £22.00 | 1 st | Grace Sercombe | £22.00 |
| 2 nd | Pam Coulbert | £11.00 | 2 nd | Lucinda Stokes | £11.00 |
| 3 rd | Mrs Oliver | £6.65 | 3 rd | Shirley Moss | £6.65 |
| 4 th | Sarah Neish | £4.35 | 4 th | Nick Morgan | £4.35 |

Parish Council 13th December 2011

The Parish Council would like to inform parishioners that there has been an increase in the area of Heating Oil thefts. The police have asked if any suspicious vehicles or persons could be reported to them no matter how insignificant you think it might seem. The milk delivery man in another parish had reported an incident and the police had managed to obtain two vans connected to the oil thefts. The Police advise that they are an organised group from London. To assist the public with fuel tank security awareness in the district, the Police are leaving booklets in the village shop and are available for further support if required.

Suspicious individuals looking for scrap are around as well as other opportunists. Ensure your house and car doors are locked; the message is that parishioners need to be more security conscious. Cold calling has started again and it is thought that Farm Watch and Horse Watch need to be advertised more, along with the security products available. The police have seen an increase in gangs and groups, sitting in vehicles watching areas. The product 'Smart Water' was mentioned. This is a small bottle of chemical that has its own DNA and individuals can mark equipment and possessions with it. The idea is to register the water, mark the relevant items and if the property is stolen and recovered, it can be identified to its rightful owner.

Parishioners are encouraged to watch the police web site and report vehicles seen, registrations and suspicious actions. This can link to other incidents and help build a picture of theft etc. There are several ways to contact the Police 101 for non-emergency 999 for emergency or report online. It is a good idea to familiarise yourself with the police web site.

Forces March

The Chairman read out a letter from the Veteran's Charity, he reported that the Charity had said that although less people had taken part this year, they are still going to put the event on again next year. They are looking to hold it on the evening of the 26th May 2012 and the 27th May 2012. They requested a band to play whilst Councillors etc, marched at the start of the 2012 event. If anyone knows of a Band please get in touch with the Clerk or Chairman.

Parishioners Question

A parishioner had emailed the Council regarding the Rank Signage. The Clerk informed Council that she needed to investigate it more and would report back to Council at the next meeting.

Councillor Vacancy

If you feel passionate about your parish and would like to join the team of Councillors looking after your parish, please write/email or phone the Clerk on the contact details below.

Sarah Jeffries MILCM Parish Clerk 9 Beech Grove Warminster Wiltshire BA12 0AB or email maidenbradleypc@o2.co.,uk Phone 01985213436

Youth Provision

The Warminster and Villages Community Partnership has obtained funding of £4000.00 from the Warminster Area Board to help with the provision of transport to enable the youth of the villages to attend the Warminster Youth Club, once a week. The Parish Council will advertise in the Parish News the contact details for this service and the dates it will start.

Comic Relief

The Parish Council have been approached by Comic Relief to advertise the information on the next page:

My name's Fabienne, the Local Events Coordinator for Comic Relief. I'm working in the South West and looking for organisations that might be interested in getting involved our exciting Sport Relief 2012 campaign. I just wanted to ask if anyone in the parish would think about hosting a Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile for your community.

To give you a bit of background, in 2010 Sport Relief raised an incredible £44 million with hundreds of thousands of people taking part in the Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile events. With 2012 set to be full-to-bursting with lots of amazing sport, it looks like Sport Relief 2012 is shaping up to be pretty special. You can look forward to a great night of entertainment on the BBC, some unbelievable celebrity challenges (including Walliams vs The Thames), and of course at its heart, the local Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile events.

Now the Mile events, which are essentially fun-runs, will take place nationwide on Sunday 25th March 2012 when hundreds of thousands of people will come together to walk, jog or run 1, 3 or 6 miles. We hope to have an event accessible for every nook and cranny of the UK and at a really local place near you.

Hosting a Mile event is pretty easy, and should actually be a bit of fun too. All it takes is an accessible venue, a route which allows people to run 1, 3 or 6 miles (which can be a one mile lap), some handy volunteers, and some grassroots promotion. We will provide you with all of the bits and pieces you would need: both offline and online promotional materials, a personalised Mile page on our website, medals and water for all Milers, a 'Box of Tricks' full of event materials and I would be your dedicated member of the Comic Relief team.

Mile events are a really lovely way to bring your community together, to have fun, to get active and raise money for a great cause.

We are currently inviting people to register their interest online here. This only takes a couple of minutes to do but will effectively reserve that area for you and your Mile if any nearby Mile entries do come in. But, it may be that there is already a Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile in the pipeline in your neck of the woods, so do get in touch as soon as possible if it is something you might be interested in.

But, what I'm really looking for now is just for someone to champion a Mile event within your local parish. If you could put the Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile event on the next parish meeting's agenda, that would be lovely, just to get your feelers out for any potential organisers. In the meantime, have a quick look at sportrelief.com and please feel free to get in touch if it's something you think Maiden Bradley would like to get involved with or if you have any questions at all; all my contact details are below, including my direct line. It would be lovely to hear from you.

Fabienne Katy Camm Local Events Coordinator f.camm@comicrelief.com 020 7820 2552
www.sportrelief.com

Community Noticeboard

The Parish Council would like to thank the mystery parishioner for actioning the repairs to the village shop noticeboard it is much appreciated.

Planning

Application Number: S / 2011 / 1402

Location: Long View Maiden Bradley, Warminster.

Proposal: Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of new 4 bedroom dwelling

Council noted that the above application had been given full planning approval.

Items for the next Agenda: Jubilee Mugs, Precept and Parish Plan / Handbook:

Date of the next meeting. The Council agreed that the 10th January 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 web site 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 maidenbradleyipc@o2.co.uk, by phone on 01985 213436, or post to Parish Clerk, 9 Beech Grove, Warminster, BA12 0AB

Recipe of the month - Turkey Croquettes

Makes approx. 8

12oz/350g cooked turkey meat, finely chopped

4oz/100g mushrooms, finely chopped

1/4pt/150ml thick white sauce (made with 1oz/25g butter, 2 x tblspn/15ml spoons plain flour, 1/4pt/150ml milk and a pinch of grated nutmeg)

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

1tblspn/15ml spoon freshly chopped parsley

1/2tspn/1x2.5ml spoon cayenne pepper

Flour for coating

1 egg, beaten

6oz/175g dried breadcrumbs

Oil for deep fat frying

To Garnish: parsley sprigs and lemon wedges

Method - Put the turkey, mushrooms and sauce into a large mixing bowl and mix together with salt and pepper to taste, parsley and cayenne. Shape into balls or flat cakes with floured hands and coat in flour. Dip in the beaten egg, ensuring they are evenly coated, then coat in the dried breadcrumbs. Chill in the fridge for at least one hour before frying.



Heat oil gently in deep fat fryer until it is hot enough to turn stale bread cube golden within 30 seconds. Fry the croquettes a few at a time, for 10 minutes or until golden brown and crisp. Drain on absorbent kitchen paper and keep warm until all croquettes are fried. Arrange on a hot serving platter, garnish with the parsley and lemon and serve with a mixed salad and cranberry sauce.

Young Person's Group Meeting

First of all, thank you to all those who turned up for our first Young Person's Group Meeting, it was great to see so much interest. Our group is aimed at Primary aged children, 5-11 and is backed by the Church and the PCC. We would love a session for older children but need adults who would be prepared to run it.

We met in the Skittle Alley of the Somerset Arms, thanks to Roy and Kate, and had a lovely evening. Due to the numbers who turned up we decided to continue the group in the Village Hall and we agreed to run on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, from 5.45pm to 7.30pm, starting in January.

There will be a cost of £1 for the first child and 50p for siblings. We will have a small tuck shop serving healthy snacks and squash only. We will be grateful to receive any donations of games or toys suitable for this age group; e.g. Lego or board games and if any other parents would be happy to help please contact Tricia on 845043 or Rev. Paul Barnes on 01747 863313.

Tricia Cox

Charity of the Month - Surviving Winter

Are you an older person living in fuel poverty and need additional support to heat your home and eat properly in the cold weather? A Surviving Winter grant may help. You must live in Wiltshire or Swindon Borough to apply.

A grant of £125 could assist you with - Paying your fuel bill - · Purchasing oil - · Purchasing an oil heater - · Purchase of coal - · Topping up your electricity - · Purchasing a pair of warm slippers and a blanket

Depending on your circumstances you may be able to apply for additional support and we may also consider applications from other individuals in need who are disabled or suffering extreme hardship. If you would like to make an application please contact any of these:

CAB Wiltshire 01225 717907

Age UK Wiltshire 01380 735527

Age UK Salisbury & District 01722 335425

Wiltshire Good Neighbours 01380 722475

Make a contribution - If you receive the Winter Fuel Payment from the government and don't need it perhaps you would consider donating it to the appeal, so we can distribute it to those who do. Donations do not have to be from the Winter Fuel Payment, support from young and old alike is welcome.

Approximately 400 vulnerable people die in Wiltshire & Swindon each winter from causes directly attributable to cold weather, rural isolation exacerbates the situation even further. Increases in energy prices mean more people than ever face considerable hardship this winter and it is estimated that 34,000 households in Wiltshire and Swindon are living in fuel poverty. It is shocking, in the 21st century, that so many people struggle to stay warm and healthy during the winter. Many suffer in silence, often hidden from view, withdrawn from the world around.

Sir David Jason says "Staying warm and healthy in our cold winters is something most of us take for granted. However, when the idea of those more fortunate "handing on" their winter

fuel payments to local, vulnerable people was presented, I wanted to pledge my payment to the "Surviving Winter Appeal". It would be great to think that all those people who are in a position to forego part or all of their own winter fuel payment could join this great scheme and spread a little warmth".

To contribute contact the appeal on 01380 729284 email info@wscf.org.uk

Welcome Club

There was a good attendance at the Bingo Night on 28th November. Tom was not able to fulfill his usual role as caller following the loss of William. We extend our sympathy to Tom. Mike stood in at the last minute and coped ably. Thank you, Mike. After the bingo came the raffle, with lots of prizes. Many thanks to Pam Coulbert and her crew for running the entire event. The total raised was £220. The last Monday in November 2012 will hopefully see us meeting up again, so make a note in your new diaries!

We couldn't let the year go by without a Christmas get-together, and so on 1st December we gathered for a Christmassy tea, a couple of games and the usual club gifts were handed out, then after the raffle out into the evening without having to contend with any hazards as previously when leaving later – the main reason for moving the usual tea party to April – which proved very successful this year – the 2012 date will be announced later.

We shall all meet again on 16th February 2012 for a general meeting and hopefully distribution of 2012 programmes. Look forward to seeing you then.

Chris Short - 847373

Wiltshire Council waste and recycling news

Following the introduction of plastic bottles and cardboard collections in north, west and east Wiltshire, **there will be a change to fortnightly collections of household waste during February and March 2012 in the north and south of the county.** This will bring collections in line with these in the east and west of the county where fortnightly collections are already in place. It is hoped that this, along with the extension of the recycling and composting services, will enable the council to reach 50% recycling.

If you would like someone from the council's waste team to come to your parish council meeting or community event to discuss the new waste and recycling collection service please contact Vicki White 01225 718523 or Laura Snoulton 01225 776655 or email wasteandrecycling@wiltshire.gov.uk

Christmas tree recycling. Residents who currently have a garden waste bin can put their real Christmas tree out by the side of their bin for collection on their normal scheduled garden waste collection day during January. Alternatively trees can be taken to a household recycling centre for recycling.

Garden waste. Residents who have signed up for the garden waste collection service will receive their new bins during February and March 2012. Residents who already have a garden waste bin will continue to receive fortnightly garden waste collections. For more information about how the new service will be rolled out please see our frequently asked questions about garden waste collection <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbishrecycling.htm>.

Bad weather. During inclement weather waste and recycling collection services may be affected. If this happens on the day residents' collections are due, they should keep their bins out at the usual collection points and they will be collected as soon as possible. Residents are also advised, where possible, to check the council's website for more information at www.wiltshire.gov.uk.

Whitesheet Welly Walk

Forty hardy souls set off from Whitesheet Primary in Kilmington for a lovely Saturday morning country walk together earlier this month. The Welly Walk gave new parents to the school a chance to mix with teachers, governors and other parents – and a chance for their children to mix and get to know one another in the relaxed and informal atmosphere of a leisurely stroll through the country side.

The walk - through the delightful autumnal country side surrounding the school - was the brainchild of Head Teacher Ben Howden. "Many parents are in a real quandary at this time of the year as to which school they should commit for their littlies when they start school," said Ben. "It's a really important decision."



New parents from Mere and Maiden Bradley joined in the walk together with parents from Kilmington and Zeals. As one new parent said "We were thinking of coming to the school but now we are definitely coming". It was also a social occasion for other parents as well. Another comment was "It is things like this that remind us why our children are at Whitesheet School".

The parents and children spotted lots of things on the walk and picked up lots of leaves and interesting items to use when back at the school. "Questions of all sorts came through thick and fast," said a delighted Ben Howden. "Some of them were even from the children!" he joked afterwards.

Back at the school tasty snacks and cakes made by Helen Burton the School's Cook were ready. "They went down a treat with the tired and hungry walkers," she said. Helen and the Teachers and Governors then helped to serve tea, hot chocolate and squash to all.

"It was a really lovely walk," said a tired Head Teacher. "**We definitely plan to repeat it again on Saturday January 28th** – who knows we may even be walking in the snow next time!" he said.

Hospital Musing

Earlier this month I had cause to spend a couple of nights in Salisbury District Hospital. Being largely bed-bound for 48 hours it gave me time to think as I watched staff and patients going about the business of life in an NHS hospital. I couldn't help but compare what I saw with what I would have seen had I undergone the same experience during our stay in Tanzania.

Iringa region has a population of around 1.5 million. Iringa had one government regional hospital, probably the closest thing to our NHS, and a couple of much smaller semi-private or church based facilities. Each district in the region would have a small hospital and many villages have a dispensary.

Iringa Regional Hospital was by far the largest facility with 365 beds. These hospitals are supposed to be for the "ordinary" Tanzanian who could not afford to pay the fees for the private hospitals. That is not to say that government health care is free. Everyone over the age of 6 pays for all consultations, operations, medication and most tests.

Les took me to hospital in our car. For Tanzanians the trip both to and from hospital is more likely to be on foot, by bicycle (often on the back of a family member's bike), on a makeshift stretcher or sometimes, if there is one, by bus or lorry.

It is essential that the patient takes a friend or family member to support them, unless they know someone who lives in the town who can provide that support. The supporter would be required to get the patient to hospital, act as runner to obtain the supply of drugs, dressings, IV fluids, gloves, needles, syringes etc. Most of these are available to buy from the hospital pharmacy but if supplies are short then items must be obtained from the privately owned pharmacy in town. They may also have to change dressings and provide general nursing care. In addition the supporter will need to boil water in the small hospital cookhouse as no clean water is available in the hospital. Most importantly they will need to cook all meals for the patient as none is provided by the hospital. To do this the patient must bring their own utensils and cooking pot. In addition the patient has to supply their own sheets and blankets as there is only a limited supply available, and a bowl for washing both themselves and their clothes and bedding.

We generally regard the curtains around the bed as a bit of a joke as a means of providing privacy. In Tanzania if the patient has their own bed it is a bonus. In busy wards it is not uncommon for two adults to share a bed or three children. On the, invariably busy, labour wards, 3 women to one bed is almost the norm. In spite of all these hardships, Tanzanian patients are indeed patient. They do not complain at the lack of facilities, they are simply grateful that they can get any treatment at all.

As I pondered over my selections for my meals (very multiple choice), I also considered whether a Tanzanian woman would have been able to have my operation at all. My consultant said I would be better off without my uterus and its benign growths, and the quality of the remainder of my life would be much improved. My life expectancy suggests I have another 30 years. In Tanzania I doubt this op would ever happen. A Tanzanian girl who makes it past age 5 (the biggest hurdle) has a life expectancy of around 50.

Kay Mayne

January Poem

Sandra

In ones heart, boxes there are many
Some very old some very new
Some very happy some very blue
In my heart, one never opened by any

So this box has lain dusty no key
Pushed into a corner with all the others
Next to the one marked sadly Band of Brothers
What is in this box? Who shall see?

So this box has stayed, no key somehow
Some have tried the lock but not succeeded
So the box thrown aside, not needed
Or so it was thought to be until now

The years have passed, yes the box still there
Sitting quietly, patiently waiting
Until one day a voice set the box shaking
Can it be the key has found me, do I dare?

We looked at each other, this key and me
Each wondering what was happening to the other
Not sure what to do or run for cover
Would the key open the box we just need to see?

With eyes soft blue a smile to, so tender
Hands so beautiful, slender, slipped the locks
Opening wide the lid to see what lay in this box
The untouched heart of this man lay in splendour

Gentle hands lift this mans heart from whence it lay
Never to be returned, for it cannot be
It is the keys now for all to see
For it will love and cherish her come what may

This man's heart placed so close to hers
Beating together as if one
Bonded together to be separated by none
The rhythm of their love so softly purrs

Perhaps many happy years from now when time is near
When their bodies no longer feel the sun
When their span of life is finally done
It will be said that, no stronger love could hold them so dear.

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Sharen on 01747 840779
or Clare on 01747 840307

James McCulloch

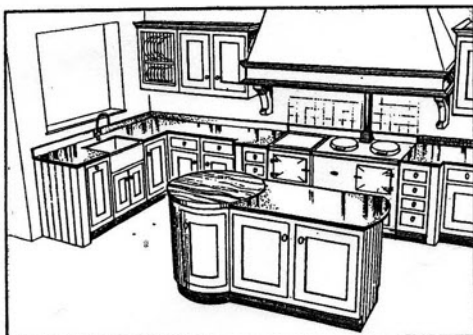
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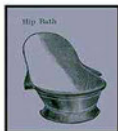


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Christmas Village Party

The village hall committee would like to thank everyone who contributed to make this year's Village Party a success. There are so many people who play crucial parts to making the party an enjoyable social event for the village. Thanks to the team who provide the village with the traditional Santa float which collected over £200 this year, to help with the cost of the party. Thanks to the catering crew who provided a splendid banquet and served refreshments throughout the evening and thanks to everyone who transformed the hall with decorations and to those who made donations. Not forgetting Santa, the man on the mic and the lady with the napkins!

If anyone has any feed back on the party or ideas to improve the event for next year's gathering, please feel free to do so, it's your party so tell us what you would enjoy!

Lisa Cripps



Carol Singing

The rain sodden carol singers raised the magnificent amount of £175.50. All the money has been donated to the Dorothy House Hospice and we would like to thank everyone in the village who donated so generously. A thank you also to our kind hosts around the village who warmed our vocal chords along the route with mulled wine, mince pies and chocolates – much appreciated as we got wetter and wetter... but our singing got better and better! The carol sheets finally became papier mache and after 6 years of good service we will have to start with new ones next year! Because of the rain we were not able to visit as many houses as before but, fear not, we will be back next year!

Liz Nixon