

Maiden Bradley

No. 289 July 2013

Parish News



Dave Stokes of the Rank, received an unexpected guest in the form of a sparrowhawk which flew in through his open front door recently. After briefly posing for photographs, it made its exit safely

Diary July 2013

1 st Mon	Household & Garden Waste Collection	7.00 am
	Bingo – Village Hall	7.30 for 8.00 pm
	P.C.C. Meeting – Church	8.00 pm
3 rd Wed	Mobile Library – Somerset Arms	9.35-9.55 am
7 th Sun	Holy Communion – Church	9.30 pm
8 th Mon	Black Box & Blue Bins Collection	7.00 am
	Book Club Meeting - 71 High Street	8.00 pm
9 th Tue	Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall	7.30 pm
10 th Wed	Kids@MB – Village Hall	6.00-7.30 pm
13 th Sat	Bird Club - meet Village Hall Car Park	10.00 am
14 th Sun	Matins – Church	9.30 am
	Treasure Hunt & Cream Teas	2.00-4.30 pm
15 th Mon	Household & Garden Waste Collection	7.00 am
17 th Wed	Mobile Library – Somerset Arms	9.35-9.55 am
18 th Thu	Welcome Club Meeting – Horningsham Hall	2.30 pm
	Avebury Manor – Mrs Anne King	
20 th Sat	Horningsham Youth Club Fun Day – Horningsham Village Hall	12-5.00 pm
21 st Sun	Parish Communion – Church	10.30 am
22 nd Mon	Black Box & Blue Bins Collection	7.00 am
22nd Mon	Deadline for Contributions to August MBPN	
23 rd Tue	W.I. Meeting – Stourton Village Hall	7.30 pm
	Welcome Club to Minehead- Horningsham	8.45am
	Maiden Bradley	9.00am
24 th Wed	Kids@MB – Village Hall	6.00-7.30 pm
28 th Sun	Holy Communion – Church	9.30 am
29 th Mon	Household & Garden Waste Collection	7.00 am
31 st Wed	Mobile Library – Somerset Arms	9.35-9.45 am

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 – Sam Higgins: 844671; Dr. Andrew Murrison MP: 01225 358584 or 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 or contact Les Mayne; 845235.

Editorial

I spent quite a lot of time thinking what I might lay before you this month and I have to confess inspiration was quite some way off. I am not usually lost for a word or two as many of you will testify, but this time the spark was missing. Then, bingo, out of the blue it came.



Once again our pub was losing the landlords, Roy and Cate. By the time you read this they will have gone and we should be enjoying the arrival of new managers. I do not know what it is about the Somerset Arms, but in the time I have lived here it has had something of a chequered past. Tenants rarely seem to last much more than 2 years and one has to ask why that should be. It seems that new blood comes to the pub with their conception of what the pub should be; gastro pub with fancy food: boutique restaurant with rooms or plain ordinary spit and sawdust with pool table and skittle alley. In truth, a village pub should be all things to all people. If it is to survive it has somehow to cater for all the different requirements demanded by an ever more discerning clientele who also demand value for money. Now that is not an easy equation to balance: the tenant here has to pay the brewer who in turn has to pay the estate. So three different entities are trying to turn a profit from whatever trade passes over the threshold. That is a big ask and sadly those at the bottom of the food chain – the customers – suffer because of the prices they have to pay if they want to enjoy their village pub. So, we have the classic vicious circle. Rents have to be paid, suppliers have to make a profit, prices have to rise as rents rise, customers vote with their feet or more specifically their wallets, prices have to rise to cover the loss of custom and so on it goes. Like the Village Shop, the Church and the Village Hall, the Pub is an essential element of the fabric and structure of the community. Without these elements flourishing concurrently our village will be much the poorer. A way has to be found to ensure the continued viability of the pub otherwise it is the start of a very slippery slope.

Les Mayne



News From All Saints'

Vicar's Letter

There is something about British tenacity which means that whatever the British summer we will try to spend time outside relaxing, eating and drinking with friends and family. The barbecue might end up with everything cooked in the oven, but we will give it a go!

Some of the characters I like most in the Bible are the ones who offer hospitality and a welcome to others. In the Old Testament it was Abram and Sarah at the Oaks of Mamre who offered food and kindness to strangers who turned out to be angels. In the New Testament Jesus' great friends were the family of Mary, Martha and Lazarus and the day we remember them in the church is 29th July.

Jesus had a pretty difficult and lonely life at times and it is good to think of him relaxing, eating, drinking, laughing and having fun with this warm and kindly family. In the prayer we use on that day it says that Jesus "enjoyed the love of his friends.....in learning, argument and hospitality". I hope you enjoy a summertime which includes those things too.

With love in Christ, *Rev Carol*

Family News

Congratulations to Bethany Stevens on gaining a Triple Distinction and Star on her extended Diploma in Agriculture and an award for outstanding academic achievement from Lackham College.

We welcome Renalie and Geoffrey Smith to 76 High Street from Beckington. They are almost local!!!! We hope they will be happy in their new home in our (their) village.

Finally, we just heard that a husband and wife team, Denny and Carol Davies have just arrived to take over the management of the Somerset Arms. We bid them a very warm welcome and wish them every success in this venture. We look forward to having our pub operational again.



Message from Pam Cole

By the time the July news is out I will hopefully be settled in Wales. What a great send-off I have had; thank you all so much. I shall miss you all, but hope some of you make it up to see me. As my mum would have me say - thank you Maiden Bradley for having us. We have had a lovely time.

Pam Cole and the animals

Fish and Chip Van

Customers are asked to note that the Fish and Chip van will not be at the Village Hall car park on Sat 20 Jul. The proprietor's daughter is to be married that day and he will be otherwise engaged!

Walking Treasure Hunt – Sunday 14 July - 2pm

I am organising a walkabout Treasure Hunt within the village starting at 2 pm from the Church. Please come to the Church to collect your quiz sheets. Entry Fee is £1.00 per sheet. Completed sheets should be returned at the Church by 4.30pm. Cream teas will be served in the Church after the hunt for the extraordinary sum of £3.50 per head including the quiz sheet. The first correct answer will win £10.00. Proceeds are for the Church Fabric Fund. Do come along and have an entertaining afternoon and a bit of exercise.

Diana Stevens

Welcome Club

We held our summer Bring and Buy sale on 20 June realising just over £77 plus £30 on the raffle. Adding on tea takings took the total to well over £130, a useful addition to club funds. Thank you to everyone, you all did very well! By the time you read this we shall have been to Stratford-upon-Avon which will make an interesting change from the seaside. A report will appear in the next issue.

Mrs Anne King will speak about Avebury on 18 July and our July trip will be to Minehead on 23 July.

Advance notice - We shall be going to Dawlish on 6 August which has been arranged as a memorial trip for Kath Trollope a former club member who died earlier in the year. Her brother, Eric, came up with the trip idea giving the collection from Kath's funeral to pay for the coach hire. All members will travel free and anyone else will pay £5.00 each. Quite a bargain and a lovely idea to remember Kath who, for many years, gave her garden as a venue for a garden party which we all enjoyed.

Chris Short - 01985 847373

Parish Council 11th June 2013

Emma Curtis from the Good Neighbour Scheme spoke to Council on her work within the area and her need for Council to report to her anyone who might benefit from the Good Neighbour Scheme. She reported that they have helped parishioners in the area and that she will place articles in the Parish News in the near future to offer her assistance to parishioners. The Chairman thanked her for her time; it was most informative.

Parish Steward/Highways - Council gave the Clerk the following list to action -
The drains require attention in Church Street; Council instructed the Clerk to inform Tracy Myers. that the stile near to the recycling area still needs repair. The Clerk reported that this had been reported to Wiltshire Council but she would follow it up again.
Councillor Ben Gunstone agreed to report to the Clerk re the emptying of recycling bins near the recreational area. It was also reported that a piece of fence along the track to the back of Sydenham's was broken. The Clerk was instructed to inform them.

Community Speed Watch - Councillor Patrick Nixon reported to Council that Unitary Councillor John Thomson, Portfolio holder at Wiltshire Council, had been in touch with him re the letter sent last month and that the letter had been sent by email to all the team leaders. He had also discussed training sessions on Speed Watch so he feels something is stirring and that the letter has proved proactive.

Maiden Bradley Chapel – Council noted the Clerks recent communications with the Chapel owners. Council asked the Clerk to report that on the south side of the building entering from Kingston lane, there is a huge crack on the outside wall. The rendering and wall is cracked. The window is boarded up now and the chimney stack appears to be unstable. The integrity of the structure is a concern. The garden requires maintenance as the chances to win the best kept village competition will be hindered by this eye sore.

Forces March - Council decided: that they would rather not accept a donation offered to them by the Forces March. Council approved the use of the recreational area for the next Charity Forces March 2014 on the 24th & 25th May 2014 as long as the paper work was in place.

Defibrillator Project - the Clerk is at present monitoring Melksham Area Board. A grant application has been submitted for a defibrillator by a group and the outcome would be informative if it were to be approved. Councillor Patrick Nixon mentioned that every village in France has a defibrillator.

Foxes Head Memorial - Council noted that the Foxes Head Memorial has wheel scuff marks on it from passing HGVs. The Clerk will speak to the Insurance Company advisor when he visits her on the 20th June 2013. They will check whether there is enough cover in case of further damage to the memorial from traffic as they will be reassessing all the Councils assets at this meeting.

Wiltshire Council Archives – it was reported that there was a gap in the minutes the archivist held. The Clerk was instructed to contact two parishioners to see if they had any ideas on where the 1883 to 1997 minutes might be. If any parishioners have any ideas where these minutes might be please contact the Clerk.

Wiltshire and Swindon Aggregate Minerals - Council noted that the Wiltshire and Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Allocations Local Plan has been formally adopted by Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council

Community Asset Listing – Council noted the Clerks report that the paper work is still being processed by the Wiltshire Council Officer.

Items for the next Agenda: Budget Review, Insurance Company Risk Assessment, Yearly Newsletter and the Parish Plan outcomes. Appraisal

Date of the next meeting- The Council agreed that the 9th July 2013 would be the date of the next Parish Council meeting. The Parish Council Meeting will start at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend.

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 Southwiltts.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: maidenbradleypc@o2.co.uk or phone: 01985 213436
9 Beech Grove, Warminster, BA12 0AB

PCC launches £1 million Innovation Fund

Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon Angus Macpherson has launched a £1 million Innovation Fund. The Commissioner is looking to fund community and voluntary initiatives throughout Wiltshire and Swindon which will help towards achieving his six main priorities as set out in his Police and Crime Plan. Mr Macpherson said: "I am really excited about launching this £1 million Innovation Fund and making this money available to projects on the ground that can make a real difference to communities." The Commissioner's six main priorities for working with communities partners are:

- * Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
- * Protect the most vulnerable in society
- * Put victims and witnesses first
- * Reduce offending and re-offending
- * Drive up standards of customer service
- * Ensure unfailing and timely response to calls for assistance

Mr Macpherson added: "This fund is about supporting innovative new ideas which will make a lasting difference to community safety and I'm particularly interested in projects that help to break cycles of crime and anti-social behaviour, including supporting repeat offenders."

The funding will be awarded in three tranches as follows:

- * £400,000 by 31 July 2013 in respect of applications received by 15 July 2013
- * £300,000 by 30 November 2013 in respect of applications received by 15 November 2013
- * £300,000 by 31 March 2014 in respect of applications received by 15 March 2014

Any organisation with aims and activities that meet the criteria can apply for funding. For more information, including a downloadable leaflet and an application form, visit www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk. If you have any other questions about the fund, please call the Office of the PCC on 01380 734022.

Area Board Grants - deadline 26 July for 5 September meeting

Area Board Grants deadline 26 July for 5 September meeting. Are you looking for funding for a community project? If the answer is yes, then you may be eligible for funding from your local area board. Wiltshire's community area grants scheme provides up to £5,000 to help fund facilities, equipment and other capital projects that are important to the local community. Read more at:

<http://warminster.ourcommunitymatters.org.uk/news/area-board-grants-deadline-26-july-for-5-september-meeting/>



Ramorum disease arrives in Maiden Bradley

What does this mean? Tree disease has been in the press for some time now, as a succession of 'new' infections arrives on our shores ready to ravage our much-cherished forests. One of the more virulent of these is ramorum disease, caused by a fungus *Phytophthora ramorum*, which has been infecting and killing Japanese larch across the western fringes of the UK and Ireland since 2009. It was only really a matter of time before I came to these pages to report our first case of ramorum disease in the Parish's larch.... and that time is now with us.

Phytophthora ramorum is the same pathogen that has caused 'Sudden Oak Death' in North America for the last decade. In fact, it does not seem directly to affect our European oak, but in 2009 one of its variants was found to have jumped from its original hosts in the rhododendron family to begin killing Japanese larch, a key forest species in north-west Europe, particularly the western UK. Since then this highly virulent strain, has gone on to kill large swathes of forest in Wales and western England. On the Maiden Bradley Estate there are 107 hectares (288 acres) of larch – around 1/7th of the total area of the Estate's woods and this is now under significant threat.

The Estate's first infection was confirmed last week in the northern fringes of the Parish on its boundary with Witham Friary – the Wiltshire/Somerset county boundary – in the large, mature stand of larch that sits astride the Gare hill to Maiden Bradley road above Witham Park. Still some distance from the village itself, to an airborne fungus this is just a breath of wind away from the abundant larch in Bradley and Penny's woods. The infection has been on Longleat Estate for the last three years and was found for the first time by Alfred's Tower in 2012, so it has been nearby for a while. However, the scale of our outbreak now makes it seem that the fungal gods are making up for lost time!

What is being done? *Phytophthora ramorum* is a notifiable pathogen and statutory action is being taken across the UK to prevent its introduction and spread. Veterans of any of the Foot and mouth outbreaks in the 60 years will be familiar with the language of ramorum: "positive field test", "lab confirmation", "movement licence" and – most relevant now – "destruction order".

The Plant Health Order should arrive before the end of June and so by the time you read this, we are likely to have started compulsory felling of the larch in Witham Park. In the end our "Treatment area" is 37 hectares (91 acres) and this is the area from which we have to clear all larch. However, the area of this which is pure larch is limited to around 12 hectares (29 acres), mainly either side of the road between Gare Hill and Witham Park Farm.

Please help us. The advice is that there is a low risk of the disease being spread by visitors to the wood and, for this reason, unlike Foot & Mouth, footpaths are not being closed. However we would be very grateful if you could keep to designated footpaths and take care to follow any signage you find, particularly where felling is taking place.

So don't stay in; keep walking – and as you do please look out for any more symptoms in larch that you think are suspicious and, in that event, please don't hesitate to contact me (p.oliver@canopylanduse.co.uk) and I will investigate further. This way we hope to spot outbreaks early and keep the clearfelling of the Parish's woodland to a minimum.

Thank you. We will keep you posted.



Infected larch being felled in the Forest of Dean (Daily Mail)

Peter Oliver, Forestry Consultant to the Duke of Somerset's Estates (Tel: 844891)

Recipe - Hot Swiss Trifle

I know it is summer, allegedly, and we should be having lots of summery puddings with lashings of ice cream, but the reality is something else as we all know to our cost. So with that in mind, here is a slightly different summer pudding.

- 1 swiss roll
- 1 can of apricots, drained (approx 12 ozs)
- 2 tablespoons custard powder
- 2 eggs separated
- 1 tablespoon granulated sugar
- 1 pint milk
- 4 oz caster sugar
- 1 oz blanched almonds.



Slice the Swiss roll and arrange with the apricots in a 1and1/2 pt ovenproof dish. Blend the custard powder, egg yolks and granulated sugar together with a little of the milk. Heat the remainder of the milk and when nearly boiling pour over the custard mix. Return to the pan and bring to the boil, stirring continuously and when thick, pour over the apricots. Whisk the egg whites until stiff and fold in the caster sugar. Pile the meringue on top of the custard and stud with blanched almonds. Bake at mark 4/350F/180C for about 20 minutes. Serves 4.

Village Hall Lottery

May

1 st Sarah Muir	£22.00	2 nd Sue Loudoun	£11.00
3 rd Margret Crossman	£6.65	4 th Mrs A. Trollope	£4.35

June

1 st Mel Thomas	£22.00	2 nd Mrs P. Dean	£11.00
3 rd I. Henry	£6.65	4 th Paul Ashley	£4.35

If you would like to help support your Village Hall, please contact John Priestner on 844244 who has some spare numbers. It costs only 50p per number per month and you can have more than one number. Half the draw's income goes to the Village Hall and half goes in prizes.

Village Show Saturday August 24th

All Show schedules for your entries are available from the village shop. The next show meeting is on July 2nd at 7.30 in the village hall.

Reminder:- The best village garden will be judged in August for the Margaret Smith Rose Bowl.

Mere Bowling Club

The Bowls season is well and truly up and running, so why not come along try bowling and maybe join the club, you too can then make new friends and enjoy the improved social life that membership can bring. For any information regarding the club or the sport of Bowls please contact Alan Inwood on 01985-844215, Jeff Vigars on 01747-860976 & jeffcarolvigars@hotmail.co.uk, or Don Butchers on 01747-860775 & don.butchers@btinternet.com

From Behind The Counter

A few things to highlight for this coming month:

FISH. We are now managing to order fish every week and the quality is truly first class, so if you haven't tried it yet then you are missing a treat. I can give you a list of what is (usually) on offer, although not everything is available every week. Flexibility is the key! We have also conducted price checks against Asda, Sainsbury and The Scallop Shell at Beckington Farm Shop, and our prices mostly beat them, sometimes by a decent margin. The fish comes up from Bridport every Friday so put your order in by midday Thursday and collect it Friday morning. If you miss the boat (pun very much intended) I sometimes put a small quantity of fish in the shop, so ring or come along and see what we have.

ICE CREAM. I know the sun is being a little shy, but come along and treat yourself anyway. The new, much larger, ice cream freezer now holds a much bigger choice, I am sure your favourite will be in there.

FREEZER. Speaking of freezers (do try and keep up), I have put a few new lines into the 2 door freezer in the shop. For those parties, gatherings or evenings on the patio we have a selection of easy to cook pick up items that make great starters or nibbles.

STOCK. Ideas wanted! As a result of reducing the choice of teas and coffees that we carry, I will shortly have a whole empty shelf below where the tea and coffee sits. This is a bit of a "hidden shelf" so I am puzzling as to what to put down there. I could, for example move the biscuits for cheese items onto it and extend the range of baking items that we have or put something else where those items are. Any ideas or bids would be gratefully received. Would you, for example, be in favour of me carrying out a bigger rearranging session in order to create a reasonable sized area where everything costs a pound or less?

COFFEE. A month or 2 ago I introduced the range of locally ground coffee from the 918 Coffee Co based in Gillingham. This coffee has the brand name "Nice" on it, do come and try it. The company have now launched an initiative whereby they produce what they call "Community Coffee" which can come in beans or ready ground. The bags bear the name "Maiden Bradley" on them, so they make great presents as well as being really nice coffee. For each bag sold over a 12 month period the 918 Coffee Co will give 10p to the Somerset and Dorset Air Ambulance. So if you buy the Community Coffee from us you will get a great cup of coffee, benefit us, a local company (918 Coffee Co) and one of the local Air Ambulances organisations. I think that makes it a win, win, win, win purchase. Come and try it.

Super Saturday. This will be on 6th July and will feature the olive oil and associated products supplied by Moira Brown. As you know Moira tragically died recently but her husband Keith is carrying on her business and all the proceeds will go to the Dogs Trust, one of Moira's favoured charities. Keith together with Moira's next door neighbour, Lyn, will be on hand to showcase the products and give you a taste of the lovely oils, vinaigrettes, pate and tapenade. Please do come along and support the event.

Kay



The Wiltshire Air Ambulance made an appearance in Maiden Bradley on the 26 May to attend an incident on the recreation ground believed to be involving a member of the Forces March support team. However, they were not required and the patient was taken to appropriate medical facilities by conventional road means.

Dog Litter

Our beautiful and historic village and environs are hosts to lots of dogs. (Stats say at least 25% of homes in rural communities field a dog). As a dog fan, we usually say hello and let them have a sniff (you know, to check credentials). However, dogs need to be looked after in terms of social responsibility, do they not? Increasingly our local highways, byways and verges are piling up with 'dog litter' (to be polite about it). Dog nappies aside, there are easy, common sense ways to contain (sic) the damage. For example: Choose your walkies moment with care (dogs often evacuate around meal times, as we know, to make room for incoming). Certainly you will be familiar with your own dog's habits in this regard. Having scheduled, as well as busy lives allow; then, if a number two does occur when out and about (highly probable) - simply bag it. Be sure to take your bag home, though! Finally, do bear in mind that there's no such thing as the Dog Poo Fairy, sadly. For more info on this and other village topics, you're welcome to have a dig around my Maiden Bradley site, here. . . <http://tinyurl.com/MaidenBradley>

John Potts

Fishy Tales

Fishrep 09.06.13

Boat/Location: Amaris -Weymouth

Fishing Marks: A group of 5 WW2 wrecks 25 miles SSE of Portland Bill

Weather: Cloudy at first then bright sunshine . Wind F5/6 then 3/4

Sea State: Moderate/Rough (lumpy) at first then Slight



General: 'Fresh' winds for first half of the day meant a very bumpy 2 hour steam out to the marks with many succumbing to mal de mare and left wondering what are we doing out here when we could be sat in a pub garden beside the river Wyle sipping Pimms. The skipper had arranged for us to have live sandeel which is generally regarded as the 'killer bait' and it proved the case for some anglers with a number of decent sized Pollack being caught. I persevered in vain for 3 hours using sandeel but eventually switched to a black and red 'redgill' lure which proved to be a good choice. My first fish was a 6lb Cod followed by a Pollack of similar size – things were looking up. A few drifts later I thought I had snagged some wreckage which usually means the loss of some fishing gear but I felt a bit of movement so lifted my rod – it felt like a very good fish and it was – my best ever Cod of about 15lb.

My son in law managed to hook into a Gannet which dove down and took his bait as he dropped it in the water. Thankfully, the bird felt the hook and spat it out but it got snagged in its wing. Gannets are elegant sea birds that hit the water at high speed and dive down to catch fish in their strong beaks. Some people would choose not to tangle with such a powerful predator and simply cut their line but my wife (Fe) decide to 'rescue' it. The bird was reeled close to the boat and it was lifted by its wing but each attempt to remove the hook was rewarded with an attack from the fearsome beak. Meanwhile I continued to fish but got fed up with watching the bird struggle and by this time my wife was bleeding so I put my rod down and grabbed the bird by the body – big mistake – the bird locked its beak on my hand like a Rottweiler. Eventually the bird was freed and flew away leaving Fe and me to fish on with bloodied hands.

Our next trip is likely to be at the beach where we can sit in comfortable chairs, sipping gin and tonic without the fear of Gannet attacks.

Adi



Whitesheet Primary pupils make Pilgrimage to Salisbury Cathedral

Key Stage 2 pupils of Whitesheet CE VA Primary School in Zeals - the Kestrels and Skylarks Classes - each became Pilgrims for the day on Tuesday 21st May.

The enthusiastic group of children from years 3, 4, 5 and 6 all travelled by bus from the School in Zeals. This took them to Old Sarum to start the Pilgrimage which was just under two miles, with three stopping places. Along the way they were encouraged (like real pilgrims) to think more deeply about their shared values and their own life's journey. "The concept of the Pilgrimage was to help our children understand the importance of travelling together, with a joint objective of helping one another to reach a common goal through mutual support and understanding. They thought and talked about their futures in a positive and encouraging way", said Head Teacher John Kimberly, who accompanied them on their journey.



After a picnic lunch in the Cathedral grounds the children attended worship in the Cathedral and made a special pilgrimage 'souvenir' for themselves. The bus brought them safely back to school from the Cathedral after a truly inspiring and exciting day.

The cost of the day and the bus transport was met by the School and a generous contribution from the local Parish.

A Day in the life of a Tree Surgeon

We recently climbed the Grand Fir that grows in Penny's Wood which is situated on the right as you drive out of Maiden Bradley towards Frome on the Duke of Somerset Estate. The tree can be easily seen standing head and shoulders above any other tree in the wood. I see it every day from my kitchen window and so it became a challenge to climb and measure it to see how tall it was.

I obtained permission from the Estates Forest Manager and put a date in the diary for May 25. The top part of the tree has become sparse of foliage which would make the climb challenging! We set up base camp and installed the first rope which was no easy task and began the initial climb. This took just over an hour and we were able to climb to the top and touch the very tip of the tree. The views from the top are breath-taking and we were blessed with sunny and thankfully windless day! Once at the top we ran a tape down to the bottom to measure it. The tree stands at 166 feet and 9 inches. It was a fantastic experience that leaves me with a big grin on my face



The top is up there!



Right up at the top.

every time I do the washing up! I have climbed many trees in my career but this one has been the tallest so far.... I should note that both I and my team are experienced and qualified tree climbers!

Jon Burgess

Wiltshire Air Ambulance



Wiltshire Air Ambulance Charitable Trust

We've been flying in the skies above where you live and work for over 20 years...

If you look up and see the Wiltshire Air Ambulance, we could be on our way to a traffic accident on our county's roads, a work-related injury, or someone having a heart attack while walking the dog in our beautiful countryside. We fly both day and night across the county and often in to neighbouring areas. 18% of all call outs are at night.

Anyone in Wiltshire could need us at some point in their lives regardless of how old they are, whether they're male or female, or what they do day to day. The speed of our helicopter along with the skill of our crew can be the difference between life and death.

Wiltshire's Air Ambulance was established in April 1990 as a joint venture between the Wiltshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust and the Wiltshire Constabulary. The Air Ambulance side of the project is funded through the Wiltshire Air Ambulance Charitable Trust which is a

registered charity. We rely wholly on public donations from people just like you. Whether it's a one-off or regular donation, everyone who gives is really making a difference and helping to save lives.



There are all sorts of ways to support us, whether by donation or helping in fundraising. If you might be tempted then contact Wiltshire Air Ambulance Charitable Trust, Air Support Unit, London Road, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 2DN.

Wanted

Budding journalists or even old hacks wanted to fill this space!!

Sometimes gathering sufficient, quality, informative articles for the Village Magazine can be really difficult. And this edition is no different from any other. We are a page short of news and so it is being utilised to invite articles on almost any subject which may be of interest to the community at large. It is too late to publish anything for this issue, but not for the future.

There is nothing worse than a blank page in a publication and the News is no exception. I refuse to believe that we all lead dull, boring, unimaginative lives. Everyone has a story to tell, an adventure to relate, an experience to share, a hobby horse to ride, a table to thump or a bandwagon to jump on. We are all inherently nosy and want to know what everyone else has been up to. So, you lot, dust off these inhibitions, sharpen your quills, wind up your keyboards and get writing!! I look forward to being swamped with mind-blowing, fantastically researched, to die for material. Contact Les Mayne for more information and encouragement.



Tired of having no signal in your village?
 We here at Go Mobile have teamed up with
 Vodafone with a solution to guarantee a
 strong signal. Come to Frome Town centre
 (next to Greggs) and pop in store to find the
 answer to all your signal issues.

Go Mobile, 21 Westway, Shopping Centre,
 Frome, BA11 1BS Centre, Frome, BA11 1BS
 TEL:01373465444 MOB:07747383439



Do you need a
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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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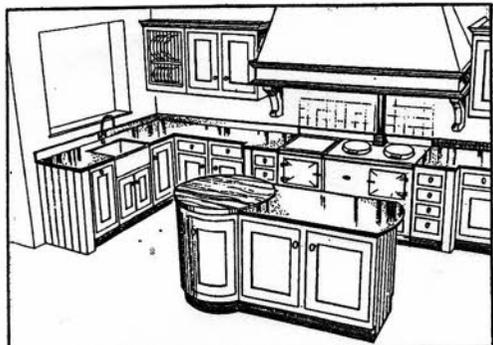
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News From the Hall

Coming soon, Friday 12th July to be exact, a fund raising supper night of Sausages or Faggots, Mash, Onion Gravy & Veg along with a Starter & Sweet, all for £12 pp. You do need to bring your own drinks and pre-book your preference of Sausage or Faggots (booking list in the shop). All money raised will go to the Village Hall Project.

As part of the Hall Project as many of you know we intend to landscape the ground around the hall (see the clearance above). If you would like to have somewhere in the village as a lasting memory of someone how about our New Garden where you could sponsor a bench or other feature that would have your In Memory plaque displayed on it?

Coffee mornings are going from strength to strength and our bring and buy table seems to be a success, but new faces are always made welcome, so come along and show your support to those that are working hard to make the hall and village a sociable place to use and live.

The Village Produce Show will be on Saturday August 24th please give it your support.

We will shortly be having a phone line and internet installed. We will also be replacing the old heating system, to improve what we have on offer. If you are looking for somewhere to hold a family party, celebration, etc why not consider the Hall. Don't forget as members of the community you receive favourable hire rates.