

# Maiden Bradley

No. 279 September 2012

Parish News



Village Show Stars

## Diary September 2012

1 <sup>st</sup> Sat	Walk Ten – Stourhead	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun	Holy Communion – Church	9.30 am
3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon	Black Box & Blue Bins Collection	7.00 am
	Bingo – Village Hall	7.30 for 8.00 pm
8 <sup>th</sup> Sat	Sponsored Ride & Stride for Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust	10.00 am-6.00 pm
9 <sup>th</sup> Sun	Matins – Church	9.30 am
	Bird Club - meet Village Hall Car Park	10.00 am
10 <sup>th</sup> Mon	Household & Garden Waste Collection	7.00 am
	Garden Club Meeting – 37 Church Street	7.00 pm
11 <sup>th</sup> Tue	Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall	7.30 pm
12 <sup>th</sup> Wed	Mobile Library – Somerset Arms	9.35-9.45 am
13 <sup>th</sup> Thu	Licensing Service for Revd Carol Wilson-Barker our new Priest -in-Charge – St Michael's, Mere Village Hall Management Committee	7.00 pm
16 <sup>th</sup> Sun	Benefice Communion at St Michaels's, Mere Songs of Praise at All Saints' Both services led by Revd Wilson-Barker	10.30 am 6.00 pm
17 <sup>th</sup> Mon	Black Box & Blue Bins Collection	7.00 am
20 <sup>th</sup> Thu	Welcome Club Meeting – Horningsham Hall	2.30 pm
<b>21<sup>st</sup> Fri</b>	<b>Deadline for Contributions to October MBPN</b>	
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> Sat</b>	Jumble Sale/Autumn Fayre – Village Hall	
23 <sup>rd</sup> Sun	Holy Communion – Church	9.30 am
24 <sup>th</sup> Mon	Household & Garden Waste Collection	7.00 am
25 <sup>th</sup> Tues	Welcome Club outing to Bournemouth	
26 <sup>th</sup> Wed	Mobile Library – Somerset Arms	9.35-9.45 am
28 <sup>th</sup> Fri	Macmillan Coffee Morning – Village Shop	10.00am -12.00
30 <sup>th</sup> Sun	Benefice Service – St Michael's, Mere	10.30 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 – Mrs Lisa Cripps 844956; 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: Pat Kennedy: 845397; Meg Oliver: 844317;  
Treasurer Les Mayne; 845235: email; lesmayne@hotmail.co.uk.

## Editorial

We hope that you all found some sunshine during this summer period and that the farmers managed to ripen and harvest their crops between the heavy downfalls of rain. The unseasonal conditions meant that in our garden, everything was very slow to progress with no fruit on the trees and very few runner beans growing. It will soon be time to cut everything down and plan for next year and as our garden begins to take shape after years of neglect we are planting more fruit trees and growing the runner beans in containers next year.

This month we say goodbye to two hard working individuals who have their own messages printed in this month's magazine. Steve Meek is handing over the reins of the Community Shop to Liz Nixon and Anne Sercombe has retired as Chairman of the Village Hall Committee. Anne is my 'unsung heroine' who has worked tirelessly for the committee and many other causes in the village. On behalf of the whole village we send our grateful thanks to her for everything she has done and continues to do.

I suspect that, like me, you will be relieved to know that the following message appeared on the Treat Festival Facebook:

"With deep regret we are sorry to tell you that TREAT has been cancelled. Hitches along the way with licencing, land and ticketing has forced us to pull the festival for the time being. Tickets have been refunded in full and apologies for those who have invested time in the project. Hopefully in the near future we will be able to make this fantastic idea happen. In some form or another we will be back!"

*Pat Kennedy 845397, pat.kennedy6093@gmail.com or editor@maidenbradley.net*

## News From All Saints'



### Welcome to our new vicar, Reverend Carol Wilson-Barker

The Reverend Carol Wilson-Barker will become in September the new vicar for the Benefice of Mere, Maiden Bradley and West Knoyle.

Her Licensing Service is on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> September at St. Michael's Church in Mere which will be followed by refreshments in The Grove Buildings at Mere. On Sunday 16 September at 10.30 am Carol will be taking the family communion service at Mere for the whole Benefice. All Saints' Church in Maiden Bradley will be holding a Songs of Praise on the same day at 6 pm which will be our welcome to Carol.

Everyone is invited to all 3 services and we hope many of you will attend to show support for our new vicar.

### The Aldhelm Certificate

A new one year course exploring our faith: Relevant, Flexible, Informed.

**Term one: Faith in Christ.** We explore the historical Jesus and the Christ of faith. The key concern is to engender confidence that Christians can speak about Jesus and Christ with assurance. Sample topics:

*What can we know of the historical Jesus?  
Christ in our world.*

*Why do we call Jesus 'Christ'?  
What does it mean to follow Christ today?*

For more details, please pick up a leaflet from the Church or the Village Shop and see the posters on the notice board at both the Church and the Village shop or ring Jane Hurd 01747 860218.

## **Family News**

At the end of June there was a very special wedding in the village which regretfully we failed to report last month. On 30<sup>th</sup> June at All Saint's Church the marriage took place between Russell Higgins and Samantha Haynes and the reception afterwards was held at Church Farm. Our belated congratulations to them, and all good wishes for their future happiness here in Maiden Bradley!

Congratulations as well to two people who celebrated their 90<sup>th</sup> birthdays in August. It was Jean Barnett in the Square who got there first and then the next day, just round the corner in Chestnut Close, Don Barber got there too! Our very best wishes to them both for many happy returns.

We are delighted to report another birth this month – and she's Kim Baker's granddaughter. Isabella was born to Richard and Francesca on 13<sup>th</sup> August and everyone was delighted to meet her at the Village Show, which must have been her first public appearance! Best wishes and congratulations to all the family.

It is always a pleasure to greet newcomers to the village and this month we would like to welcome Kathy and Johnny Williams who have recently moved into No. 1 The Square. They have come to Maiden Bradley from North Bradley and we hope that they will think the move is a good one and be very happy here!

Finally, congratulations on a big win at the Mid-Somerset Show on 19<sup>th</sup> August for Len and Sylvia Cooper. They won the Best Commercial Vehicle in the Show with dear old Leather's Coach. It is always a splendid sight when it comes out of retirement for special occasions and well deserves its award.

*Meg Oliver*

## **Welcome Club**

Our trip to Swanage – again, sun-filled, was a good one! We went to our favourite coffee stop at Compton Abbas Airfield as it is always exciting to watch the aircraft taking off and landing. Some members chose to lunch at Corfe as they were travelling to Swanage by train. The good weather was made for sitting out in the sun or for the more energetic, walking was enjoyed. Cream teas were high on the list towards the end of our stay and then it was back on the coach for home with a stop en route for the raffle when our driver won two prizes.

We went to Sidmouth for our August outing, visiting a re-vamped Newcott Café for coffee. This venue is now designed in the style of an American Diner and renamed Route 303. We arrived at Sidmouth at about 11.30am so we had plenty of time to do whatever we chose. A few spots of rain did not spoil our enjoyment and we boarded the coach at 2.45pm and drove to the Donkey Sanctuary – it was good to see the donkeys again. They have a beautiful home and are very well looked after. Some of our number helped round up a loose animal which had somehow managed to get through a gate. We returned to the coach for the raffle and unbelievably I won the booby prize again making this three out of four times in recent raffles. The rain began as we drove off but, yet again, we had enjoyed plenty of warm sunshine.

On September 20<sup>th</sup> Sidney Blackmore will be introducing us to some Wiltshire Characters at 2.30pm in Horningsham Hall and our last trip of the season will be to Bournemouth on 25<sup>th</sup> September, usual departure times.

*Chris Short 01985 847373*

## Maiden Bradley Village Hall

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2012, after much debate a new committee was elected to oversee the running of the hall. As the new Chairman, my first duty is to say a big thank you to the outgoing committee especially Anne Sercombe and Sue Priestner for all the work, time and effort they have put in to keep the Village Hall going for the benefit of our community.

Besides myself the following were elected to serve on the committee:

Vice Chairman	Pat Kennedy
Treasurer	Kay Mayne
Bookings	Sam Higgins
Maintenance	Tom Blay

We are still in need of a secretary so please phone me for an informal chat about the role if you may be able to offer your administration skills to this new committee. 01985 845111

Along with the Representative Members, the new committee will endeavour to work on behalf of the community to make the village hall a success and an asset that we can all be proud of. We shall also be working very closely with the Parish Council during the consultation period regarding the future of the hall and its use. If you think you have any ideas that would benefit the hall or can help in anyway please contact any of the committee members or the Parish Clerk.

Remember the adage:

**“Use It or You Might Lose It”**

PLEASE NOTE: The next Village Hall Committee Meeting has been rearranged for Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

*Mel Thomas, Chairman, Maiden Bradley Village Hall Committee*



### Village Hall Departure

On my retirement after more than ten years as Chairman of Maiden Bradley Village Hall, I felt I had to put pen to paper to express my deep gratitude and thanks to everyone who has served on the Committee during this time.

For all the work and improvements that have been achieved at the hall during this period I would like to thank the Village for its support.

I wish the new Chairman, Mel Thomas and the Committee, every success on their continued journey to preserve our Village Gem.

*Anne Sercombe*

The picture shows Anne with celebrity and prize winner at a Show in the days when the sun sometimes shone (2010)!

## **A Year in the Chair**

Having just stepped down as Chairman of the Village Shop Management Committee, I have been asked to pen a few words about my experience - dull it was not!

I was initially co-opted onto the committee at the invitation of the chairman, Alan Inwood, 18 months ago, when the pressing issue was the serious financial position: a loss of £6000 the previous year had been incurred, and corrective measures were under discussion. I was baffled as to what I could offer, as someone new to the village with absolutely no experience of retail or even the business sector! Despite these handicaps, I had both the arrogance of the medical profession and the common sense of the man in the street to fall back on, for, like car parking, running a shop is something on which many people think they are an expert.

Anyway, the committee cut costs across the board, and set about reversing the 8% decline in sales seen over the previous 2 years. Initially, the trading figures remained poor but we held our nerve. We believed in our plans - and believed in the shop! When Alan retired as chairman in September 2011, the yearly loss had been halved to £3000. The baton passed to me, probably because everyone else on the committee had been chairman at some point. We continued to modernise the shop and cut costs further, and as I knew nothing about shops, I arranged for visits from experts from the Plunkett Foundation and even the area training manager for the Co-operative.

I have just spent a week on a dutch sailing barge and was alarmed at first with how slow to respond they are - you pull the tiller over sharply to avoid a crash yet the massive hulk seems to just carry straight on regardless. That is how it seemed with the shop - despite serious efforts at cutting costs and increasing sales, we continued to head straight for the rocks. Things became so bad in the autumn last year that it is no exaggeration to say that we avoided closure by a whisker. Our debt total peaked at £9000. It was only thanks to the patience of staff accepting delays to their wages and one well known volunteer paying suppliers from her own bank account, that we stayed in business. Once the community responded to our bond issue and with a couple of interest free loans, we were able to restock the shop and press on with our programme of change, and then to our relief, sales figures leapt by 7% and continued to climb. As cashflow improved, we were able to try out new lines and promotions, and the recovery in sales has continued with some months' sales up by 11% compared with a year earlier. Anne, Kay, Sam and the army of volunteers have embraced change and ensured the shop looks good, feels good, and we are sure the recovery is sustainable. The longer opening hours and Kay's unpaid work as bookkeeper have made a huge difference. As we approach the end of our financial year, we are very excited to report that we are expecting to have made a small profit, and the shop's debts have been hugely reduced. For the actual figures, you will have to wait for the AGM!

There are always challenges for community shops of course, and despite the increasingly healthy financial state, we will be looking for grants to replace our chillers, for more volunteers, and to expand our customer base. Liz Nixon is taking over as Chairman and will, no doubt, have plans to further consolidate the shop's position. This has been a remarkable turnaround, and it has been a privilege to be involved in the team bringing this about. I was fortunate to have taken over as chairman when the plans laid under Alan's stewardship were finally bearing fruit, and to have had such a strong and enthusiastic band of people as committee, staff and volunteers.

In case you are wondering what my specific role in bringing about the changes was, bearing in mind I had no retail knowledge to contribute, I learnt that tonight. It was that I 'chucked a hand grenade in the middle of it' !

*Steve Meek*

# THE SHOP

**NEW!**

**Gluten-free items  
Small selection now  
in stock – will  
expand if requested!**

**Moores from Dorset.  
They have delicious  
biscuits and their  
own original ginger  
drink!**

**Improved range of  
cleaning and  
household materials**



**THE WORLD'S BIGGEST  
COFFEE MORNING  
for Cancer Macmillan**

**Friday, 28 September 10 – 12 in the shop  
Please support it!**

*Do you have some good ideas for the shop?*

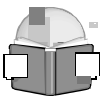
§ *Items you would like us to stock?*

§ *A service which would be useful?*

*Come and write them on our new board  
inside the shop! We want to hear what our  
customers would like.*

**BACK TO SCHOOL!**

**Pencils, notebooks, crayons and  
lots of things which get lost,  
broken or forgotten!**



**TAKE A LOOK IN THE FREEZER**

**Fresh trout, fresh meat  
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***STOP PRESS: WE HAVE AN AMAZING  
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*We want to keep the spirit of the Olympics alive in our  
community shop! It can only function with the help of  
our merry band of volunteers. Why not come and join  
the team? All sorts of jobs – something for everyone!*

*Come and talk to us and let us know what you would like to offer.*

**SUPER SATURDAY**

**- 1 September - shop closing at 4pm**

**Tel: 01985 844206**

**E-mail: maidenbradleyshop@gmail.com**

**Website: maidenbradleyvillageshop.posterous.com**

**Maiden Bradley Community Village Shop – run by you, run for you**

## **BTEC Presentations for Music**

Corporals Isabella Macey and George Wager of Normandy Company (The Rifles) were presented with their BTEC Diplomas for Music at the Reception held in Wells Town Hall 27<sup>th</sup> July by Mrs Sylvana Chandler Her Majesty's High Sheriff for Somerset and Colonel Paul Richardson Commandant The Somerset Cadet Battalion. Both of them achieved distinctions in all seven elements of the BTEC course and are very proud of what they have achieved.

The picture shows Corporals Isabella Macey and George Wager proudly wearing their Cosford and Nijmegen medals attending the reception to receive their Diplomas.

*Simon Wager and Sandra Macey*



## **Village Hall Fund Raiser**

### **Curry Night - Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October**

**3 course Meal £12.50 pp**

**Including Vegetarian Options - Bring your own Drinks**

### **Specimen Menu**

**3 Starter Platter**

**Mel's - Spicy Meat Balls, Veggie Samosa's, Prawns Gambas  
With various dips**

-

**Beef/Lamb Curry**

**Chicken Korma**

**Mel's Bombay Style Vegetables**

**Pea & Lentil Curry**

-

**Ice cream & Fruit Salad**

-

Tickets must be pre-booked no later than Fri Sept 28<sup>th</sup>. Tickets will be on sale in the Village Shop, or contact Pam Colbert 01985 844897 or Mel Thomas 01985 845111



## The Garden Club

In July, members visited the fabulous garden of David and Pru Moon who live on the edge of Frome. They took part in the 'National Open Gardens' scheme and it was easy to see why they take part.

The garden is long and narrow with fabulous views, and although the weather had been so wet, their garden looked perfect. Borders curved down the garden, lawns were manicured to perfection with the flowers beautifully grouped.

One of the features was a pond and water feature. There were many artefacts dotted cleverly around the gardens, including strategically placed pots, sculptures and an old



post box set in a wall. This garden showed what could be achieved with inspiration, time and hard work; in all, a very enjoyable outing.

The next meeting will be at 37 Church Street, to discuss the next few months programme; new members and ideas are welcome.

*Kim P - 844524*



Sponsored cycle, walk, jog, horse-ride around Wiltshire's Churches and Chapels in aid of your own parish church and the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust.

**Saturday 8th September 2012** - between 10.00 am and 6.00 pm

Prizes - The **Brooke Cup** and **£500** goes to the best all-round parish with runner-up prizes of £100 and £50, and a new **Junior Cup**, plus **£100**, to the parish whose **under 18s** raise the most money (£50 to the runner-up). Also cash prizes for the cyclists aged under 15, over 15 and over 65 for most money raised and most churches visited, and for the walker raising most money.

Details and sponsorship forms available from: Victoria de Maré - 844695



# Village Show 2012





## Charity of the month -



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### **Recycling charity appeals for your unwanted domestic white goods**

Since the white goods recycling charity Refurbiz was established in 2003, more than 8000 low income families in Wiltshire have benefited from around 12,000 quality, reconditioned, white goods at prices they can afford. However, in the current economic environment we are struggling to source enough feedstock to service our demand.

With people hanging on to their old models & machines for longer we are increasingly in need of unwanted free standing electric cookers, washing machines, dryers and refrigeration. We simply can't meet the demand we now have for them and if the economy continues to be slow and more people find themselves in difficulties, the demand is only going to go higher.

So please, if you are replacing any white goods, particularly electric cookers and working fridges, then phone us and we will come out and remove them free of charge (although, as a charity, donations to cover our fuel costs, etc., are always welcome!)

We screen the goods, restore those that can be repaired and then pass them onto those in need. Typically, the cost of a washing machine or cooker comes to about £85 with a three month warranty – vastly lower than buying new goods from the stores.

Any appliances that are beyond repair are stripped down to reusable components and finally any bits left over are sent to the Hills Waste Materials Recovery Facility, near Calne, for onward, licenced recycling, avoiding any waste electrical items going into landfill.

**So, if you have any white goods you no longer want and wish to donate, you can help a family in need by contacting Refurbiz on 01380 720200.**

**If you know any person or family in need of a low cost washing machine, dryer, cooker or fridge, please tell them about us. Many of our items are displayed on our Facebook page.**

Refurbiz operates out of the Hopton Park Industrial Estate in Devizes, and supplies refurbished white goods across Wiltshire and Swindon. The charity was set up by the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust nine years ago to encourage electrical waste to be reused for the benefit of those in need. It is an independent not-for-profit charity supported by self-generated income and charitable grants.

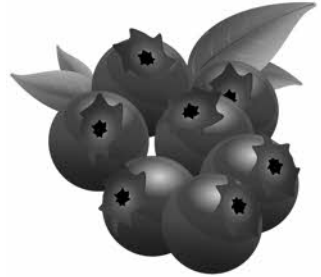
Mark Lucas-Phillips is doing a parachute jump in September in aid of Dorothy House Hospice in memory of his father, and the sponsor form will be in the Village Shop. He hopes to raise over £500. Please support him.

## Recipe of the Month - Hot Summer Fruits

It is supposed to be summer, unless it has escaped your notice, and it is a time when we should be enjoying summer type foods!! In these dank, dull, rainy days we need to cheer ourselves up. But instead of reaching for the comfort foods we should have something to bring a little sunshine into our lives. Try this variation on fruit salad to cheer you up and think of warm, exotic places. It's also good for you!

### Ingredients:

- 1 peach, thinly sliced.
- 1 small mango, skinned and chopped
- 1 kiwi fruit, peeled and sliced
- 2 slices fresh pineapple(or canned pineapple in juice, drained)
- 2 tbsp fresh or frozen(defrosted) blueberries
- 2 tbsp red grape juice



### Method:

Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/gas mark 4

Place the fruits in an oven-proof dish, pour the grape juice over the fruit and cover with a well-fitting lid. Cook in the oven for about 15-20 minutes then serve immediately. If you really want to cheer yourself up serve with a dollop of your favourite ice cream and some grated dark chocolate on the side. Serves 4 (or 2 if you are really down!)



## GUEST SPEAKERS AVAILABLE

Marie Curie Cancer Care in Wiltshire has speakers available who are eager to come and talk about the work of the charity and local Marie Curie Nurses.

If you are a member of a club, group or society please mention at your next meeting that we would be delighted to come and visit.

We understand that spaces at meetings for speakers are booked up quickly but do please contact us if you have a cancellation or for the following year's agenda.

Please contact Lucy Stockall on 01179 247 275 or [lucy.stockall@mariecurie.org.uk](mailto:lucy.stockall@mariecurie.org.uk) for further details or to book a speaker. Thank you.



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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](http://www.leapingfrogs.org) for more information.

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## *Baby & Toddler Group*

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**Tuesdays 10 – 12**

**Maiden Bradley Village Hall**

Friendly and informal atmosphere for  
children to play and parents to relax!

£1.50 for 1st child 50p for each  
additional child

Tea/coffee for the adults  
and drink/snack for children

**A**ny queries please call  
Sharen on 01747 840779  
or Clare on 01747 840307

# James McCulloch

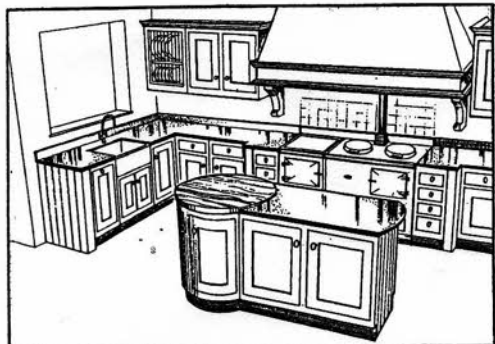
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**Ring Jan on 01985 844775**

***The Sewing Lady***



**THE BATH ARMS**  
*at Longleat*

Quirky Luxury



**NEW CHEF - NEW BAR MENU - NEW LOOK**

*Same Great Atmosphere!*

Every **Wednesday** 7pm - 9pm **pot luck supper club** - enjoy a glass of vino or a pint of Horningsham's best with a pot luck meal for £8.50  
The Bath Arms "Quiz Night" - 1st Thursday of each month. £5 per team. Winning team takes all. 8pm start.

**The Bath Arms at Longleat**

Horningsham, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 7LY

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## Notes from Afghanistan

I am pleased to report that I arrived safely in Afghanistan at the end of July and immediately started a five-day training package carrying a rifle and wearing body armour and helmet (approx. 29 kilos in total) in 42 degrees, which was quite a shock to the system. I met a friendly search dog called Marsie, which was a welcome 'dog fix' having handed over my own dog to family the previous week.

The accommodation is great as my room has a comfortable bed and air conditioning, which is a real luxury. I'm sharing with another female, but we seem to pass like ships in the night. The dining facility is fantastic and there is a real risk that I will put on weight enjoying all they have on offer. I have decided to follow my colleague's advice and only have desserts at weekends! I am also steering clear of the hot plate for breakfast, instead opting for cereal and fruit. Fortunately, there is a large gym and fitness classes available, so if I am tempted to over indulge I will be able to work off the calories.



I have now ventured outside the wire (the Army expression for leaving camp to visit a location). The trip involved two helicopter rides (on an American CH 53 and a British Chinook) and a vehicle convoy in Lashkar Gah travelling in a large armoured vehicle, called a Mastiff. The vehicle commander, a young 2Lt, looked about 12 years old, but his multiple (group of soldiers) clearly knew what they were doing and I felt very safe throughout.

Back at camp I am reading into my job and getting to know the other staff officers. Most staff officers in the headquarters man their desks between 0800 and 2200 hours each day, with breaks for food and exercise, although my routine is likely to be more varied due to trips away from camp.

I am starting to acclimatise and getting used to the

presence of sand and dust on everything. At least sand is good for the skin. Here's a piccie of me sporting the latest fashion in headdress!

More news next month....

*Lt Col Amanda Brown AGC (ALS)*

As some of you may well be aware Lt Colonel Amanda Brown of Army Legal Services is usually in our midst with her dog Otto. However, for the next 6 months she will be in the somewhat less tranquil environment of Afghanistan. Amanda has kindly agreed to send us a few words each month to give us a flavour of what life is like in a combat zone. Here is her first instalment.

