

Maiden Bradley Parish News

380 February 2021



Community Garden Special

February Diary

- 1 Mon Household waste collection
8 Mon Green recycling
10 Wed Blue and black bin recycling
15 Mon Household waste collection
20 Copy deadline for magazine
pat@visa-office.com
22 Mon Green recycling
24 Wed Blue and black bin recycling

Useful Telephone Numbers

Speed Watch Co-ordinator	Simon Wager	simon.m.wager@gmail.com
Nadder Oil Buying Club	Email: richard.willan@me.com	www.oilbuyingclub.com
Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator	Derek Stevens	01985 844428
Community Garden	Kate Moore	katemore@silkmillstudios.co.uk 01985 844305
Book Club	Jessica Johnson	01985 844174
Pilates		01985 511693
Cookery Demonstrations	Rosie Brown	01985 844236
Luncheon Club		01985 844779
Welcome Club Outings		01985 844779
Scrabble Club		01985 844919
Memorial Hall bookings		01985 845303
Dr Andrew Murrison MP		01225 358584
	murrisona@parliament.uk	
Mere Link Scheme		01747 860096
Rev. Carol Wilson-Barker		01747 861859



The shop is open in the Village Hall on Mon, Wed and Fridays 9-11.30am

The post office is open in the Village Hall on Tuesdays 1-3pm

Bell Ringing Tuesday 7 pm in the Bell Tower at the Church, beginners welcome 844475

Coffee Mornings every Friday in the Hall 10 am till 12 noon

Maiden Bradley Parish News – contributions are preferred in editable text format.

Email pat@visa-office.com

Magazine available online on the village website:

www.maidenbradleyvillage.org.uk

February Editorial

I am pleased to notice that a few of our Maiden Bradley residents have received their first vaccination against Covid 19. Of course, it takes approximately three weeks for the efficacy to be achieved and during this time care still has to be taken. In a small village we are particularly dependent upon each of us keeping to the Government's rules of Stay Home, Protect the NHS and Save lives – hands, face, space. The incidence of Covid infections across Wiltshire has mushroomed since Christmas but at time of writing (21st January) the numbers are just beginning to reduce slightly – the NHS is on the verge of becoming overwhelmed.

No activities in the Memorial Hall to report but good news regarding the village pub where the work continues. The milk station is a real asset to the village selling more than just milk and very easy to use. Planning permission for the old Sydenhams site has been applied for again, but for fewer properties than the first application. Send your opinions to County if you support or object to the proposed development.

Mere Link Scheme is looking for more drivers so if you feel confident to support them their direct telephone number is: 01747 860096.

Pat Kennedy

845397 pat@visa-office.com

Dear Maiden Bradley residents,

I am very excited to announce the re-opening of your village pub, and to introduce myself as your new publican. It will henceforth be known as The Bradley Hare in honour of your beautiful village. Refurbishment has been progressing well and we hope to open our doors to you all in the spring – subject to any further Covid restraints on our work.

We have a fantastic team running 'The Hare' with their primary focus on creating a friendly and welcoming environment.

A strong focus for our kitchen will be on local, seasonal produce aiming to highlight the best Wiltshire and the surrounding counties have to offer. With this in mind we will also have a strong emphasis on our waste management and other green programmes to minimise our establishment's environmental impact. Local beers on tap, extensive wine lists and exceptional food.

We look forward to updating you further as work progresses.

We cannot wait to welcome you all very soon!

Kind regards,

Andrew Kelly

Director – The Bradley Hare



Could you help transport people to get their Covid-19 vaccination?

Your local Link Scheme needs you!

Call 01380 722 241
linkproject@communityfirst.org.uk




HELLO EVERYONE.....

I know it was a time ago now but I just wanted to congratulate you on the turnout for carol singing over the Christmas period. Around 36 people came to sing altogether at the Monday morning stint and then on a chilly Christmas Eve in the dark. On the Monday I also won a bottle of wine at the Village raffle so that was good too. On Plough Sunday (10th January) 9 of us gathered around Derek Steven's lovely old plough and tractor to bless the plough and all farmers as they provide our food. We also sang and prayed for those keeping us safe in this Pandemic.

Safety is a big consideration in the church too and for that reason we have decided to stop gathering together for worship for the time being. We are hoping to hold our Mothering Sunday service in the church on 14th March but will need to check that out closer to the day. Meanwhile we are running services online at www.stmichaelsmere.org.uk. Sometimes they are live through Zoom and if you want to join in the invitation link is on that website too.

God bless and take care of yourself and each other,

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Three large rubbish bags full of beer, lager and cider cans collected from this stretch of Horningsham Lane.

No need for any further words.....



Help for domestic abuse victims in Wiltshire is just a phone call away and available 24/7.

Swindon Domestic Abuse Support Service (SWA) is now providing support to victims of domestic violence across the whole of Wiltshire on behalf of Wiltshire County Council.

Whether you're male, female, young or old, you could need their help.

Our lives are being affected by Covid restrictions and for many it's creating a dangerous and frightening situation. Home should be a place of safety and security and a relationship should be based on love and mutual respect but sadly for 2.3 million people a year this is not the case and victims face physical and psychological abuse, coercive control, rape and for two people a week in the UK, they will lose their lives at the hands of their partner or former partner.

Working alongside Trowbridge based Splitz Support Service who offer support weekdays 9am – 5pm, SWA cover Wiltshire outside these hours, evenings, night times, weekends and bank holidays. SWA support all victims regardless of age and gender and run a free, non-judgmental 24hr helpline that's answered day and night by a trained advisor, not a machine. They offer help and support and work with you and at your pace.

SWA whose patron is Dame Esther Rantzen, have a purpose-built refuge facility in Swindon comprising 22 self-contained flats and they offer extensive community support. Their advisors are trained in all areas of abuse across all age groups. If you are worried about your situation, you can call them in confidence on 01793 610610.

There is
no age limit
to abuse.



One in four domestic murder victims are over 60.

Are you, or do you know someone who is scared, apprehensive or nervous while at home?

Please speak to your doctor or nurse or self-refer to the GP IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor).

Our GP IDVA number 07713 567722.
GP Drop-ins are available at some surgeries.

Facebook.com/SWADomesticAbuse/
@SwindonWA | www.swadomesticabuse.org



Swindon Women's Aid Inc. is a registered charity, Charity No 1175148 PO Box 3816, Swindon, SN5 1BQ
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Community Garden

Since last month's meeting the community garden scheme has progressed well. There are around ten committed members working together to clear the site of thistles and brambles and all extend their grateful thanks to Mr Graham Stevens of Priory Farm who kindly donated his time and energy to top and plough the ground. To date we have sourced a small greenhouse and been kindly loaned a polytunnel by Jules Horn. We are keen to hear from anyone able to assist with some further cultivation of the land so that we can progress things further. If you would like to help with this, well-rotted manure or be involved in any other way, please email franckbaudrain@hotmail.com or mail@maryrichards.co.uk



**From the May 2010
Parish News as the
Community Garden
was being established**



In these challenging times, our gardens have been, for many, a source of solace. So, this month I am going to update the you about our wonderful and very green Maiden Bradley Community Garden for which I have had the privilege of doing the administration since September last year.

The garden is located between the Church and Kingston Lane and was started in 2010 by Franck Baudrain who looked over the wall from his house on the lane and saw not just a wild over-grown mess but a fantastic opportunity to build something that has been of huge value to our village. His Grace the Duke had the generosity and vision to agree to Franck's idea.

By the time Franck moved to Warminster in 2019 the garden was well established with 26 members. The administration moved into the hard working and capable hands of Liz and Carl Warner. Amongst their many achievements they established an excellent new composting system and edged almost all the plots to help keep the grass and the beds separate.

The community is now around 30 strong. Everyone who is involved in the garden is part of it, sharing the work and the joy of the beautiful space. Half the beds in the garden are managed by individuals as their own allotments and the other beds are communally managed.

The team has various responsibilities to manage the space for the Estate, for instance in the winter we trim the amazing lime trees that border the road side of the garden. This year Christian Trevelyan has done the majority of the marathon task and the clippings have been swept into a hedgehog haven.

Individuals or teams take responsibility for a specific crop from which we all benefit when the leader(s) of that crop decides it is ready. We all keep an eye on it, watering and weeding as and when it is needed. We do not have organic status in the garden but we are committed to using largely organic methods and some have adopted the soil preserving no-dig approach to cultivation.

The joy of the garden is that we all relish different jobs, and avoid others so things gets done with little pain. Between us we have a variety of expertise and experience. In a home context gardening can be a solo activity with advice and information coming from books or the media but here we learn from each other (Covid safely of course) and the results are greater than the sum of the parts. We communicate via a WhatsApp group that ensures we can stay safely apart whilst being able to stay up to date.



We are incredibly grateful that we have recently been awarded two grants by the Parish Council with which we have replanted new apple & quince trees in the orchard and pond area near the Church. Next we are going to restore the rather weather-beaten greenhouses. We will now be able to buy a new mower to keep the garden looking lovely and, following our two unsuccessful attempts at establishing a bee colony, we are determined to succeed this year.

When there is a surfeit of produce you may see it for sale in the Old Kitchen Store. We are not allowed to sell from the garden but we can donate produce and in this way we are able to support the vital services offered by the hall and the shop.

We are excited to be interwoven with another aspect of the village; “The Bradley Hare” (former-ly the “Somerset Arms”) is to be the newest member of the Community Garden. The management have zero-waste and no single-use plastic policies and plan to serve locally grown food, some of which they will cultivate in the Community Garden. The pub plans to open this year when the situation permits.

The Community Garden welcomes anyone who is interested. We are just completing this year’s registration process so now would be a good time to join us. The cost per household is a very modest £30 per year which covers the purchase of seeds, potting compost, rent, insurance etc.



Window on the past From the Maiden Bradley Parish News April 2010
but the picture is from much longer ago

A view from (we think) All Saints’ tower – in light of current activities at the new Community Garden (which occupies the site seen here at the bottom left), it’s interesting to note the busy scene of cultivation depicted in the shot taken a little over 100 years ago. Does anyone else in the village have memories of or – indeed – photographs of the garden and its various uses over the years? Interesting, too, that so little has changed!



If you would like to join whether you are a complete novice or a Gardener’s World regular, we would love to hear from you. There are no allotments available at the moment but there is always room for more people in the community side of the garden.

Please contact Kate on
katemoore@silkmillstudios.co.uk
 or 844305

Maiden Bradley Weightwatchers 2020 Annual Report

The following is a summary of the activity of MB Weight-watchers in 2020 and progress achieved.

Lorry count and identification

Identifying the HGV companies routinely driving through the village

- As a result of regular monitoring of HGV traffic, we identified up to 85 companies regularly driving through the village.

Monitoring the number, frequency and timing of HGVs passing through the village

- We monitored HGV traffic in one hour periods at different times of the year in order to understand which companies are responsible for most of the HGV traffic. Monitoring began in early 2020 and continued until October 2020 and restarts soon.
- We identified a priority list of approximately 23 HGV companies responsible for a majority of routine traffic on the B3092, including at unsocial hours.
- We researched these businesses to understand why they might be using the B3092.

Outreach to the lorry companies

Establishing communication with the lorry companies

- We wrote a letter to 23 HGV companies responsible for a majority of the traffic on the B3092, setting out in detail the cumulative, social impacts of HGV traffic on the people of Maiden Bradley. The letter called on the companies to consider their corporate responsibility to respect the rights of communities affected by their business activities. We asked them to use the alternative strategic routes designated for HGV use.

Results of the letter campaign:

- 13 companies (56%) responded, explaining their business reasons for using the B3092.
- Most indicated that they had analysed their HGV operations in order to respond and some committed to monitor all future activity.
- No company rejected or dismissed the negative impacts of HGV traffic on the village
- ASDA was able to commit to stop sending HGVs on the B3092
- Tarmac and Hopkins (now the same company), Hansons, Wainwrights and Batemans committed to avoid non-essential journeys through the village, though noting that their lorries will still use the road when no other reasonable alternative is available.



- The reasons given by companies that indicated they would continue to use the B3092 included delivery to local farms and other customers, safety (A350/303 junction), weight limit on the B3089, fuel costs, and environmental emissions.

Advocacy with Wiltshire Council:

We wrote to Parvis Khansari, Director of Highways, sharing copies of the HGV letters. Mr. Khansari explained that Wiltshire Council's priority is improving the A350/303 exit and at that point, the weight limit on the B3092 will be revisited.

We asked the Parish Council to write to Philip Whitehead, Leader of Wiltshire Council, to suggest the temporary removal of the weight limit on the B3089 exit between the A303 and the A350. This proposal was rejected, but Mr. Whitehead reconfirmed his support for mitigating the impacts of HGV traffic in the village and beyond.

Industry solution:

Given the heavy use of the B3092 by the quarry industry, we made a submission to the consultation process for the expansion of Westdown Quarry by Hanson's. We requested that more information be provided about the predicted transport of quarry output on the local road network and expressed our concerns about the potential impact of increased HGV traffic on our village. We asked that the quarry commit to use existing strategic routes rather than the B3092.



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Parish Council 12th January 2021

S137 Grants – The Parish council approved a Grant for £800.00 to the Maiden Bradley Community Garden. This will be awarded in April 2021 within the 2021/2022 Grant Budget

Budget/Precept Preparations – the Parish Council agreed to keeping the precept request at the same figure as last year as this would mean only a half a percent increase on a Band D property, this equated to an 88pence in total for a whole year. Council resolved to approve a final budget which would enable it to complete the Action Plan projects, and so agreed that the precept request for £24,234.36 would be made to Wiltshire Council.

General Reserves - The level of General Reserves is a matter of judgement. The primary means of building general reserves will be through an allocation from the annual budget. This will be in addition to any amounts needed to replenish reserves that have been consumed in the previous year. Setting the level of General Reserves is one of several related decisions in the formulation of the medium-term financial strategy and the annual budget. The Council must build and maintain sufficient working balances to cover the key risks it faces, as expressed in its financial risk assessment.

If in extreme circumstances General Reserves were exhausted due to major unforeseen spending pressures within a particular financial year, the Council would be able to draw down from its earmarked reserves to provide short term resources. Even at times when extreme pressure is put on the Council's finances the Council must keep a minimum balance sufficient to pay one month's salaries to staff in General Reserves at all times.

The Current level of financial reserves, the level of financial reserves held by the council is agreed by the Parish Council during the discussions held regarding the setting of the budget for the next financial year. The current level of general reserves to be held by the Council is three twelfths of the annual precepted figure, i.e., to fully cover three months' expenditure. The figure of three twelfths of the precept is to be held rather than three months' expenditure costs is suggested. This figure has been agreed as £7000.00 The Council agreed to the following levels of reserves below:

3-12 months' revenue costs a minimum of £7,000.00, Equipment replacement £3,000.00, Defibrillator £2,000.00 and Election Expenses £2,100.00.

Section 137" (Section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972) – the Parish Council has set its Community Grant awarding budget at £2,404.48 for Community Granting until the updated figure is received. Any over budgeting could then be placed in the grant section for Youth projects.

Weight Limit Wiltshire Council - the Parish Council noted the below reply received from Councillor Philip Whitehead Leader of Wiltshire Council.

Re. Maiden Bradley Parish Council – Weight Limit Request Thank you for your letter dated 16th November – please accept my apology for not replying to you sooner.

By way of context, I see your reference to recommendations made by Atkins in relation to safety issues around the A350/A303 junction.

As I think you are probably aware, that report was due to be presented to a meeting of the then Wiltshire County Council's Regulatory Committee in February 2003.

The report was drafted summarising work done by Atkins on behalf of the Highways Agency (now Highways England).

Some 17 years hence, I think Atkins' analysis and conclusions can no longer form the basis of current decision making. Volumes, speeds, standards, and the evaluation of road safety have all changed significantly during that time, and since this data underpin Atkins' 2003 recommendations, I think their report and its recommendation holds little value.

It is true that revoking the weight limit on the B3089 remains a legitimate option for consideration but would, in my view, exchange one safety concern for another. It would also have the potential to dilute the case for a more permanent solution at the A350/A303 junction.

That being the case, whilst I still support the argument for mitigating the impacts of HGV traffic through Maiden Bradley and beyond, I'm afraid I cannot support your request for the weight limit along the B3089 to be revoked.

Yours sincerely Philip Whitehead Leader of Wiltshire Council

Pre-Application Consultation - Installation of Telecommunications Equipment at BT Pole SSMAl-10-00, Grass Verge off High Street, Outside Maiden Bradley Village Hall, Maiden Bradley- Councillor Sebastian Seymour updated Council on the communications the estate has had regarding the area. The Estate are working with BT to mitigate any issue that may stop the installation, it looks like it might happen, but has a long way to go.

Litter Pick Dates – Council has set the date of the next Annual Litter Pick as the 29th of May 2021, so it runs alongside the National Campaign being advertised, Councillor Alexandra Channer to oversee the event. More details to follow in April 2021.

Items for the next Agenda: Historical Boards, review the Brown shop signage coming into the village, Policy updating, Register of Interests update and Quarterly Vat Reclaim.

Date of the next meeting. The Council agreed that the **9th of February 2021** would be the date of the next Parish Council meeting. As always, the Parish Council meeting will be open at the start with an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions or make comments on any matter. The website www.maidenbradley.org can be accessed to read a copy of the Agenda and Minutes electronically or copies are displayed on the Millennium Notice Board at the Bus Stop. The Zoom link to join the virtual meetings is displayed on the Agendas.

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



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VanVenture

2020

(final installment)

Mark Lucas-Phillips



Todd seemed to have many of Martin's walking qualities and ascended steady but measured and looked very much at home on the Mountain. Again, I felt such a feeling of pride and joy to see both of my children climb the Ben. The views as always are just spectacular and it is both an experience to enjoy silently and alone, as well as to share with others. Climbing or walking in such a spectacular and humbling environment is always mindful, reverent and inherently a personal experience. Quickly the scale of the lump of granite we were ascending became very apparent as the valley below gets smaller and smaller, the trees in the Glen below taking a miniature, almost toy like perspective.

We made good and steady progress and Poppy was very taken with the awe inspiring view as you look across Loch Linnhe and out towards the Isle of Mull, this for me is one of the best views of the whole climb and really comes into view as you pass the halfway Lochan. She was however, starting to struggling a little and making slow progress by this point. I stayed with her and tried to steer her mind back to the view and less about just how many times your feet are lifted up and up and up repeatedly and without relief. The path so far had been very well formed large slabs of granite like a giants staircase, but we were moving onto a loose gravel and bolder path that sharpens the mind, but is mentally and physically tiring. The risk of a twisted ankle only made

worse as fatigue sets in, the time for Kendal Mint cake, strategically fed to Poppy despite protest was the proven solution. We paused not far from what is usually snow field marked by Cairns that denote that the summit was close and Poppy broke, tears and doubt were followed with hugs, encouragement and the insistent force feeding of mint cake ensued. After this short emotional pause, spurred

on by praise, positivity and the promise of an end to the incessant climb we pushed on to the summit. It is amazing how a glimpse of the goal puts a spring in everyone's step and I swear we walked twice as quickly once the masses of people on the summit, the shelter than seems almost Himalayan, and the summit Cairn were in sight. There was, I am sure, a subliminal inspiration as well, as we feed off the expressions from those descending, deep inside we recognised that look of accomplishment and satisfaction.

We hit the summit, all 4,413 feet of molten granite, and we hugged, grinned huge grins with sparkling eyes and with 4 fingers aloft we posed for our summit photo to mark the 4 peaks we had climbed in 8 days.



The summit was a stark contrast to the rest of the climb, being very windy and quite cold. We layered back up and sat on the North face to take lunch. The sense of achievement burned deep within all of us and our sandwiches filled our hunger and grounded us somewhat from the heady euphoria of both the achievement as well as the lunchtime view from the summit edge. We watched climbers with helmets and rope take on a far more challenging ascent over what looked like a razor-edged ridge, crossing a gap that made me pause my sandwich, willing them to safety.

We descended whilst taking in the views and chatted lots, conversation becoming much more frequent than the personal journey of the climb, now was the time to share and celebrate, to praise and bask in the accomplishment, we felt like a real team. 4 peaks felt good and we had been blessed not only by the fantastic weather but also to be here in the wilderness and beauty of the British Isles, immersed for 2 weeks in the great outdoors and amongst some our Islands most serene and beautiful highlights. All of this despite a pandemic, despite the fear we had all felt at times, especially at the beginning of the lockdown, here we

felt free, free from the uncertainty, free from any restriction and most importantly alive, very alive and very aware of it too. We were together and it felt fantastic.

We spent the next 2 days on the shores of Loch Linnhe at a Lochside campsite in Corpach, with early morning Lochside walks looking across the water at the Ben, watching huge Lions Mane jelly fish swim in the crystal clear water. We cycled



around Fort William, spending a day on the towpath from Fort Bill to Gairloch and the second smallest Lighthouse in the UK we were proudly informed. The weather held for us and even with a dramatic storm cloud filled sky we had sunshine and warmth. There was no longer any urge to go abroad for our summer holidays, we had everything we could ever want here, we were completely content and having the very best adventure to remember forever.

We broke our journey home up with visits to friends, in Balloch at the foot of Loch Lomond we dined, responsibly, with lovely friends we had made whilst walking the West Highland way and stayed overnight in the carpark opposite the pub, the campsite being full. We briefly wandered Glasgow and whistle-stop toured the University area in the absence of an open day for Todd who hopes to study music and English here. We stopped at Gretna Green, where we were married 20 years ago and kissed over the sign at the Blacksmiths, and then with heavy heart we crossed the border leaving our beloved Scotland behind.

We spent a final and very blustery night on a farm in Eyam, Derbyshire and took breakfast there with my closest and oldest friend before heading home in Jonny, our adventure hotel on wheels. It felt good to be heading home but we all agreed it felt like we could continue, we wanted it to last forever and if it were not for work commitments we would have stayed on the road I am sure. We had covered over 2000 miles on this trip and further North is for another adventure, the NC500 beckons for next spring, there are so many Scottish Islands to explore, more walking in the Lake District. We had discovered a deep love of Wales and fallen in love with vanlife and there is a whole array of beautiful places in this wonderful collection of British Islands that await the tread of our walking boots and place to park up to watch the sun set and stars appear.

Until our next adventure...



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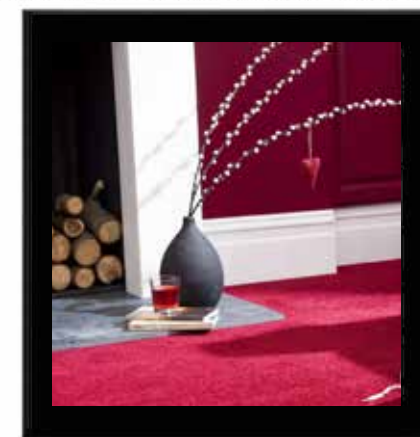
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COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH NEWS

Police Community Volunteers working on behalf of
the Wiltshire Police and Maiden Bradley



Welcome to Community Speed Watch News, compiled and produced by the Maiden Bradley Community Speed Watch Volunteers to keep the village aware of our activities.

Having planned to operate in December with the relaxation of imposed lockdown regulations. Weather permitting 3 sessions were planned up to the 25th December. Through the weather we were only able to complete one session on Frome Road.

Results

126 vehicles recorded.
28 in excess of 34mph

As said last month it is very noticeable that since we have not been able to carry out CSW activities the general speed of traffic through the village has increased considerably.

Further there have been two incidents of aggression shown to pedestrians and other road users in the last two weeks. With the driver of the offending vehicle getting out of his vehicle and threatening violence. These two incidents have been reported however without registration numbers no further action could be taken.

If a registration number had been taken a home visit could have been carried out and words of advice given to the individual. Should any other members of the Maiden Bradley community report similar please use either call 999 if the driver is still on scene, or if the incident has passed then call 101. Do not engage with said driver, ensure they take the registration.

The police are quite busy with Covid calls, however they will endeavour to try and sit up in Maiden Bradley to encourage more suitable speeds.

Thank you for all your support in the CSW activities and for your support in the future.

Simon Wager

Simon Wager.
Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator.
Vice Chairman Maiden Bradley Parish Council

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Maiden Bradley

No: 251 May 2010

Parish News

May 2010



Preparation for a first season at the Community Garden continues – thanks to all at Newmead Farm for this tractor work!