



# The Grapevine

Issue 106  
April 2014

## Editorial

Spring is in the air at last, and at the time of writing the floods are subsiding and we also seem to have escaped the snow this year. After this winter's relentless rain we can finally look forward (fingers crossed!) to some drier days and enjoy the simple beauty of our little corner of Wiltshire. Nothing lifts the spirit like seeing the first of the spring flowers coming out into the light after a dreary, grey and very wet winter. Let us spare a thought for all those people whose homes and livelihoods have been destroyed by the horrendous floods over the winter.

Hopefully the weather smiled on us for the Sports Relief Mile and that many of you were able to take part this year.....it was a great success last year so let's hope we did Hankerton proud again. As we write, the sun is shining and we can get into the garden at long last. Don't forget to keep up with all the village news on the new Hankerton website (<http://Hankertonvillage.com>). One thing to note this month is that Hankerton Bridge will be shut for the day on 7th April so you might need to allow a little more time for your travels that day.

Steve Davies has offered to provide a regular article (see below) and we would like some feedback from readers. Please send your comments by email to Craig with your own suggestions for regular features.

Have a very Happy Easter and don't overdo the chocolate! (*fat chance says Craig*)

*Craig McCallum, Susan Mockler, Mary O'Brien*

## Nature Diary - APRIL.

It is during April that the clusters of pale pink or mauve flowers of the Cuckoo Flower (Cardamine pratensis) are first seen standing above the still short grass of a damp meadow, and this first emergence of these flowers has been noted as being closely associated with the arrival and calling of Cuckoos. It has other names, such as Milkmaids and Lady's Smock, although the latter did at one stage fall out of favour as "smock" was regarded as a rather derogatory term for a woman.



It is a member of the Crucifer or Cabbage family of plants, and the flowers have four petals, arranged as in a cross. In Hankerton they are quite abundant in the Church Field, the fields at the north end of Cloatley Meadows, and a few plants flower in the conservation area of the churchyard.

One of the spring butterfly species that also appears for the first time in April is the Orange Tip (Anthocharis cardamines), a medium sized butterfly, which is mainly white, but in the male the outer corners of the fore-wings are bright orange.

In the female this area is coloured grey, and in both sexes the underside of the hind wings is moss green, affording very good camouflage when resting.

The male spends much of the day patrolling, trying to find females with which to mate. His orange wings make him very conspicuous to bird predators, but they are distasteful because of mustard oils accumulated in their bodies from the food plants that they ate as caterpillars. Once tasted, birds give them a wide berth!

The females lay single eggs on the underside of flower buds of various species of Crucifers, the caterpillar feeds on the flower buds and the seed pods. On heavy soils, such as the clays of Hankerton, most eggs are laid on Cuckoo Flowers, a close association between the species that is reflected in their Latin names.

*Steve Davies*

Next Newsletter to be published in June 2014 please send copy to Craig McCallum  
19 Follyfield Hankerton SN16 9LA or email to [Craigmccallum@Btinternet.com](mailto:Craigmccallum@Btinternet.com) by 10th May 2014 please.

All opinions expressed will be solely those of the correspondent and don't forget to visit the Hankerton Parish Website at <http://www.hankertonvillage.com> for Parish Council and other useful local information

## Local Adverts

Do you have things for sale or things/services that are wanted? Please use Grapevine to place your small ads. They are free for Hankerton residents and should be sent to Craig using his email address shown above.

## Coffee mornings.

The Saturday Morning Coffee sessions between 10.30 and 12.00 in the North Aisle Community Area are there for everyone to come along and meet informally, get to know neighbours and discuss a wide variety of topics from local issues to the cost of bird seed!

The refreshments are prepared by volunteers who cheerfully cater and dispense a variety of teas and coffees.

Volunteers are always needed - look in the church porch for the list or ring Anne Brown on 577160.

## WILTSHIRE CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING



We are a local organisation committed to supporting disabled and older people to achieve independent living through choice and control

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## Thank you from Sydney and Joan

Unfortunately, Sydney and Joan's house was flooded again in January. They would like to express their sincere thanks for all the help they received, during the flooding and afterwards. They are very thankful they live here, where people are thoughtful and kind as well practical and ready to give their time generously to help sort out the problems.

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to Bunny and Beryl Lees-Smith on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary in March.

How great to be celebrating a long and happy marriage filled with wonderful children and grandchildren, exciting adventures, careers and hobbies - best wishes for many more years from all your friends and neighbours.



Wiltshire Council urgently needs foster carers, who can look after children who can no longer remain with their parents. This could be short or long term. For example, their parents may be ill or having addiction problems, experiencing family breakdown or the children may have suffered neglect or abuse.

If you could provide a secure and caring home for a Wiltshire child, come along and find out more about fostering at one of our information sessions.

Tuesdays 25 March and 13 May 2014 at 7pm  
County Hall, Trowbridge

For more information contact:

0800 169 6321

[fostering@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:fostering@wiltshire.gov.uk)

[www.wiltshire.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/fostering)

Contact Julie Smith, Campaigns and Events Officer  
01225 718089

[Julie.smith@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Julie.smith@wiltshire.gov.uk)

## HELP!

A village event needs help! This year will be the 30th performance of a pantomime by CHAOS. It has become a great fixture in the calendar and has continued through the years due to the great support of a loyal audience and the stamina of the cast!

However, we need new performers, new ideas, a new director and new scripts! It is a great antidote to the working week - a good way to relax and laugh your way through rehearsals (never taken seriously) and an outlet for creativity.

Please contact Susan on 577526 if you think that you need a break from being serious or have any ideas about what to do next year!

The best tag line for this scene from the 2013 Panto could win a prize!!



The Easter Party  
This year, I'm having an Easter Party!



Everyone is coming in costume!



GRACIE



Milo isn't too happy about it though

\*sigh\*



## Hankerton History Group

The West Wiltshire Industrial Archaeological Society invited the Hankerton History group to join them in their activities. Whilst it is quite a long way to go this particular talk by Mr Knee himself it was of course of great general interest there being a branch of the company in Malmesbury. Claudine and David attended the meeting and represented us. We are invited to future meetings and details will be circulated.

### **Talk on H J Knee Ltd by Jonathan Knee to West Wiltshire Industrial Archaeological Society, Trowbridge, 12 Feb 14**

Henry John Knee bought an ironmongery in 1879 and opened his first business a year later in Trowbridge. He quickly established a niche, publishing a catalogue from which all the ironmongery and hard furnishings for a variety of property types could be purchased, whether a humble cottage or a country mansion. During WW1 he carried out house clearances, recycling, restoring or revamping before re-selling. He quickly learnt that under-cutting competitors' prices was the way forward and built 21-23 Fore Street, Trowbridge, referred to as 'Knee's Folly' by locals and envious competitors. However, these premises, along with many other adjacent ones, still bear the name H J Knee Ltd, and the business thrives. Knee wanted, above all else, to establish a family concern, where family meant not just his kith and kin but also his staff, and he also wanted to attract customer loyalty. His great great grandson, Jonathan Knee, still values these principles.

In 1935 H J Knee's son, Hebden, took over the business, which now included a profitable car dealership, Central Garage, and an electrical store, and further expanded it with a farm shop, a building contractor and a removals business. 60% of the buildings in Fore Street were at some stage owned by Knee. Another of H J Knee's sons, Melville, opened a shop in Melksham, but it was soon closed at the outbreak of WW1 as most of the staff were called up for military service: many were not to return. The speaker showed an assortment of photographs of this period, with staff in uniform before proceeding on active service.

An amusing anecdote revolves around Jonathan Knee's great uncle, Noel Knee's purchase of a business in the Southgate area of Bath, the negotiations having been conducted with alcohol as a catalyst. At the conclusion of the deal, Noel was surprised to see a black-clad, top-hatted gentleman walk through the room and disappear through a side door. An enquiry revealed that Noel had unknowingly also purchased the next door undertaker's business! He sold it, probably an unwise decision - undertakers seldom lack trade. Following this episode it became clear that reliance on one man managing such a diverse range of businesses without delegation was resulting in unsupervised staff taking advantage of their situation, and some parts of the Knee business empire failed. Central Garage was requisitioned in WW2 for the manufacture of Spitfire parts. Hebden's son, John Knee, expanded the business with Knee Agricultural Machinery and acquired Ashton Mill, Trowbridge, which is now sub-let by sundry other small businesses.

The current board of Knees includes two fourth generation Knees as well as Jonathan, fifth generation, who is the business and property director, responsible for the firm's future direction. At age 35 he has not been 'shoe-horned' into Knees but has gained experience of other parts of the world of work, from being a lifeguard to roles in finance and insurance. The model for the future he saw as either remaining the same or moving to new premises. The Fore Street premises, a rabbit warren of interconnected buildings, are an inefficient use of space and access is becoming more restricted in the narrow streets with limited parking, so Jonathan and the other board members have taken the decision to establish H J Knee Ltd in the Spitfire Retail Park, albeit with just the 13500 square feet of space available being just a third of that in the Fore Street shops. Knees will continue to own their property there and are actively seeking tenants. Jonathan is convinced that Knee's model of competitive pricing, customer service ('if your fridge fails on a Saturday morning, we'll deliver a replacement to you before we close') and a loyal customer base will continue. I asked about the future of the Malmesbury branch and was told that it, and the branch in Devizes, remain very profitable and will stay.

David Pynn

### **Hankerton History Group Dates**

Wednesday 16th April - David And Susan Wood to talk on 'Tugwell Memorial' followed by the AGM.  
Thursday 1st May - visit to the Mary Rose in Portsmouth - Contact Bunny on 577275 if you would like to go.  
Wednesday 14th May - Craig McCallum to talk on "Events leading up to the WW1 and who was responsible?"  
Wednesday 11th June - Brian Plumb to talk on the WW1 and what he has found.  
Saturday 21/Sunday 22 June - WW1 exhibition of artefacts related to the War.

### **History Group World War I Exhibition**

#### **Can you help?**

This exhibition is planned to commemorate the people who served in the First World War and we are looking for material to exhibit. Do you have any relatives that served in the war or worked to support the war effort? We have researched the men from Hankerton who served but are looking to extend the scope of the exhibition with material and artefacts from our own families.

Please contact Susan on 577526 if you have any material that could be included



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## Clutter, Gardens and Repairs!

There always seem to be jobs to do in and around the house, whether it's tidying the garden, house maintenance or de-cluttering. Are you dreading the arrival of spring and all it entails with tidying up the garden?

Finding a trustworthy and reliable trade's person to help with these tasks isn't always easy. Where do you look? There are hundreds of tradespeople listed in phone directory, but who are they? Are they reliable? Are they trustworthy?

Some answers may be:

1. Use someone who comes recommended by family, friends or a local group.
2. Age UK and Wiltshire Council have trusted traders lists, I can give you details.
3. Ask for references or evidence of previous jobs they have completed.
4. Make sure they provide a business or home address and phone number to contact them, not just a mobile phone number.
5. **Don't respond** to people who casually offer services at your door step – they may not be genuine.

If you're de-cluttering your home or replacing large items of furniture etc, disposal can be a problem. It won't necessarily fit into your recycle bins!

1. 'Freecycle' is a free online service where you can advertise and give away your unwanted items and the items are collected by the recipient.
2. There are a number of independent agencies that can carry out repairs to the home inside and out. They and will remove large items of furniture from your home for a small charge.
3. Wiltshire Council will remove large furniture items from your doorstep for a fee, reduced if you are on means tested benefits.
4. 'Waste Not Want Not' will collect large items of furniture that can be resold in their Chippenham shop. They don't charge for collection.
5. Dorothy House and British Heart Foundation have a free collection service for most furniture and electrical good which they will sell in their high street shops.

If you need further information on any of the above, or information on any other matter, give me a call on 07557 922020 or email [malmesburyngc@communityfirst.org.uk](mailto:malmesburyngc@communityfirst.org.uk)

Ellen Blacker  
Good Neighbour Co-ordinator



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# Hankerton Church News



## Hankerton Church Services

Hankerton Church March - June 2014

March	29th	12:00-1:30	Lent lunch in the North Aisle
April	6th	9:30	Holy Communion
	17th		Maundy Thursday service followed by a meal
		6:30	Crudwell
	18th		Good Friday service of Devotion
		2pm	Charlton
	20th		Easter Sunday
	24th	9:30	Holy Communion
			APCM
		7:15	North Aisle
May	4th	9:30	Holy Communion
	18th	11:00	Informal service
	29th	7:30	Ascension Day Hankerton
June	1st	9:30	Holy Communion
	15th	11:00	Informal Service

## OPTIONS

Love and obey your Lord, or not the choice is yours  
God does not rant, rave or implore  
He leaves decisions up to us - To stay or stray,  
He does not fuss  
But should we choose to walk away - Upset our lives  
as we go astray  
Remember that God would take us back - Just admit  
our faults to get on the right track  
God wants to forgive us; He wants us to know - That  
a new start is promised if only we show  
Regret for our wanderings, sorrow for sins  
Turning back to Our Lord is so pleasing to Him.  
He requires us to follow His laws - Hear His knocking?  
Just open the door  
If this still seems impossible to do - Bear in mind  
that His Son died for you  
Now just stop and think - Step back from the brink  
Turn around, read His Word - Don't forget, thank Our Lord.  
With our hearts and souls - As He makes us whole  
He is here to forgive - That we might **LIVE!**

08.10.98.

(Deuteronomy 30)

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## 10,000 voices - Here I am, send me...

Sitting in a cafe a few days ago with my daughter, Naomi we found ourselves sitting next to a man who was clearly on his own and very likely my sort of age. After a bit of banter about the fact that he supported the Arsenal, I asked him how his life was. His response was to ask me how long I had got! He then went on to tell me that basically his life had always been unhappy. His father died when he was young and his elder brother joined the Merchant Navy as soon as he was able. When he came home on leave, his brother drank heavily and would regularly physically attack him and their mother. At the age of 16 he ran away from home and as far as I could tell had never seen either his mother or his brother ever again.

Our conversation took a turn when he asked me, "Are you religious or something?" I told him that I wasn't religious, but I was a Christian believer. "What's the difference?" He asked. I told him that religion was about ticking boxes and trying hard, but that Christianity was about a God of grace who loves us even when we don't deserve it and who sent His Son into the world to live amongst us, to die upon a Cross in order that we might be reconciled to God and reconciled to one another. "Never really thought about that before" he responded.

The very same day I was chatting to my cab driver. We talked about this and that and he then told me that he lived abroad. I asked him where he lived. I expected him to say France or Spain. "Estonia" he told me, "the women out there are amazing." Fearing what he might go on to tell me, I was vaguely relieved when he told me about his girlfriend.

After one or two comments that I confess made me feel slightly uncomfortable, he told me that his girlfriend was much younger than he was. I asked him if he saw a future in the relationship. "No mate," he told me, "I'll enjoy it while I can." I asked him if he thought that was what relationships were meant to be like? "Dunno mate" he replied, "but I know I can't keep mine going."

It write this in the light of the fact that we, as a Diocese, want you, at the right time and when the opportunity arises, to say something about your faith. Before you tell me that it's easier if you wear a clerical collar, you need to know that on both occasions I wasn't wearing one. Our audacious goal is that by this time next year 10,000 of you might, in someway and in some context have told something of your story.

"You will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth" Acts 1:8

Everybody has a story. Some are tragic, some are less so. What I have written above I have written because I think it makes clear that people want to tell their stories, oftentimes to a stranger. In listening intently to the stories of others we create a platform to say something of our own story and in doing that, we fulfill our calling to be witnesses. So let's give it a go!

Bishop Mike

## Neighbourhood Watch

Police are warning householders after four reported incidents of thieves posing as police officers calling on homes in South Gloucestershire and Wiltshire in recent weeks.

The latest incidents happened on 4 March, in Oldbury-on-Severn and Yate. At about 8pm a man with the word 'police' on his top called on an elderly couple in Oldbury-on-Severn, claiming to be a police officer investigating burglaries in the area. It's not yet confirmed whether anything was stolen in this incident. At about 9.40pm a man called at a house in Yate making the same claim. He was said to have been wearing normal clothes under a fluorescent yellow jacket with a 'police badge' and a black woollen hat.

When the householder asked to see his warrant card, the man walked away.

The two earlier incidents happened on the same day, Saturday 22 February. Two men called on a house in Lower North Wraxall, Wiltshire, at about 7pm, claiming to be police officers investigating burglaries in the area, but were not let into the property.

Within the hour, a similar incident happened in Badminton, South Gloucestershire. A man called at the home of an 87-year-old lady. He claimed there had been burglaries in the area and asked if her cash was safe. The man kept her talking while a second man joined them, and after they had left she found her money was missing.

The men were described as:

1. White, in his late 30s, about 5ft 4ins tall and of stocky build with a round, clean-shaven face. He wore a sleeveless yellow high visibility top with the word 'police' on the front and a woollen hat.
2. White, in his late 30s, about 6ft tall and of slim build with an oval face. He wore a blue hooded top with the hood up and pulled around his face and was said to look 'unkempt'.

Neighbourhood Sergeant Steve Ives said: "The people who turned these men away did exactly the right thing. A genuine police will always show you their identification and give you time to check it carefully.

Door-to-door enquiries are carried out by police officers and PCSOs in full uniform, and we won't ask to see where you keep your valuables.

If you have any unexpected callers, always put the chain on and if you're not sure, don't open the door and call the Police immediately on 999. PS Ives asked anyone with any information which could help police enquiries into these incidents to call 101 to speak to DC Clare Chipping of South Gloucestershire CID, quoting reference number 18516/14.

Alternatively call the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. They never ask your name or trace your call. Anyone who is suspicious of a caller to their home, or that of a vulnerable neighbour, should call police straight away.

My name is Emily Morgrette and I work for the Membership Office at the Royal United Hospital in Bath. We are hoping to become an NHS Foundation Trust this year and I am currently looking at ways to increase our membership base and our communication with the public throughout Bath and North East Somerset and Wiltshire.

As part of the Membership Team my role is to inform members of the public about the Royal United Hospital and to encourage those who may visit the hospital as patients, relatives etc. to become members of the Trust in order to be better informed about the hospital. Membership is a great way for people to support their local hospital and learn more about the services and developments that are taking place.

To find out more about our Foundation Trust and sign up to become a member yourself please visit: [www.ruh.nhs.uk/foundationtrust](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk/foundationtrust)

I look forward to hearing from you.

Emily Morgrette  
Membership & Governance Administrator  
Dir Line: 01225 826288  
Directors / Membership Office (C27)  
Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust  
Combe Park, Bath, BA1 3NG

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Visit our website at: [www.ruh.nhs.uk](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk)

Many villagers will remember John and Lindy Price who spent many happy years living in Hankerton. It is with great sadness that we announce the death of John on 23rd February, peacefully at home with his family.

Eds

**May 9<sup>th</sup> 2013 at 7.30pm**

**Holy Cross Church, Hankerton.**

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