



The Grapevine

Issue 118

April 2016

Editorial

Now Spring is here and everyone is out tidying up their gardens - let's keep the next "Best Kept Village" competition in mind and look to trimming hedges and trees, especially on paths and footpaths; not forgetting planting colourful summer flowering shrubs and seeds. (The daffodils outside Follyfield are looking good thanks to community minded folk who do that and keep the tubs full too!)

When clearing up your garden please consider neighbours (far and near) when lighting bonfires as these create acrid smoke which spoils washing, disrupts garden activities and gets into people's houses.

Follyfield will be the venue for the next Street Party and we all look forward to celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday in this way - all volunteers and guests are most welcome. See the notice in Grapevine for more details.

Eds

The next Newsletter will be published in June 2016
Please send copy by
16th May 2016 to

Craig McCallum,
19 Follyfield Hankerton,
SN16 9LA or email to

Craigmccallum@btinternet.com

All opinions expressed will be solely those of the correspondent.

Don't forget to visit the Hankerton Village Website at www.hankertonvillage.com for Parish, County Council, back issues of Grapevine and other useful local information

What's on in April and May

National Garden Scheme Open Garden and Macmillan Plant Fair; June 26th. 11.00am - 5.00pm. Independent nurseries who know and care about plants with imaginative stalls offering accessories for your home and garden. Refreshments, free parking. Admission £4.00, under 16's free. Oakwood Farm, Crossing Lane, Upper Minety, Malmesbury, Wilts. SN16 9PY. Event enquiries; Kate 07876316529

COFFEE MORNINGS IN THE NORTH AISLE COMMUNITY AREA OF HOLY CROSS CHURCH.

These popular Saturday mornings enable anyone to drop in and catch up with other people from the village.

The conversations are wide-ranging and lively, conducted whilst enjoying a cup of coffee or tea and a biscuit. The book section continues to be well used and the children's toys provide activities for younger visitors.

These mornings rely on volunteers to open up, make the coffees and clear up afterwards (although lots of people offer to help clear away) and a few more people to help would be great. Please consider helping out at Saturday Coffees – either fill in the list in the church porch or contact Chris on 577123.

WIVES GROUP

The Charlton and Hankerton Wives Group is an informal group that meets once a month, in the evenings, to enjoy each other's company.

Activities, talks, dining out and craft evenings are examples of past activities. We welcome new members.

Contact

Susan 577526 or Claudine 577946 for further information.

Do you have things for sale or goods/services that are wanted?

Please feel free to use Grapevine to place your small ads. They are free for Hankerton residents or good causes and should be sent to Craig using his email address shown above.

Wiltshire GOOD NEIGHBOURS

Following some very uncertain months, the good news is that the service will continue in this area, but at present details are a little sketchy.

The service will have a new name. *When* the changes happen, my phone number will remain the same and there will be a message on the email address giving forwarding details. I am here to help with information to (hopefully) solve problems and make your life a little easier.

Please call me,
Ellen Blacker on **07557 922020** or email me at malmesburygnc@communityfirst.org.uk

Nature Diary – April

This month sees the flowering of the Snakeshead Fritillary (*Fritillaria meleagris*), and in North Wiltshire we are fortunate in having some impressive displays of what has become an uncommon species nationally. It was much more widespread but does not tolerate ploughing and drainage of the damp meadows where it grows, and in his book, *Flora Britannica*, Richard Mabey states that it was once recorded in 27 counties, but now remains in just about the same number of individual meadows! Locally the best locations are North Meadow, Cricklade; Upper Waterhay Meadow, Chelworth; and Bridge Field, Clattinger Farm, Oaksey. Clattinger Farm was owned by Mr Ody prior to the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust purchasing it, and Mr Ody never ploughed nor spread artificial fertiliser during his ownership after the Second World War. His choice of farming is our good fortune in being able to enjoy thousands of these blooms in one meadow.

The flowers are usually dark purple, but occasionally white forms occur, and on close examination a chequered pattern can be seen in the petals. The flowers are normally borne singly on a stem, but sometimes there may be two flowers to a stem, and they hang downwards around 30 cm above the ground. The individual flower is pretty enough, but seen in their multitudes across a grassy meadow in the spring sunshine they are even more inspiring.

One might think that the “Snakeshead” part of its name come from the chequered pattern resembling the scales on a snake, but if you look at the flower before it opens properly, it also has a very similar shape to the head of a grass-snake – broad at its base and narrowing to a blunt point.

They typically flower in mid to late April, but if you wish to visit to view them this year bear in mind how the mild weather is bringing plants on quicker than usual. It might be worth checking with the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust as to when they may be at their best.

Steve Davies



Poo-picking

Quite simply, what every responsible dog owner/walker should do when the dog that they have charge of, deposits its solid waste. It's a simple and not too unpleasant task involving picking it up in a plastic bag, tying the bag to seal, and taking it home to deposit with the household waste, or placing in a bin designated for dog waste.

But why should we do it? Well, there are many good reasons for clearing up after your dog.

Aesthetics. It's not the most pleasant thing to see lying on the pavement, grass verge or footpath. I think most people in our village wouldn't even consider dropping litter, so why would anyone be happy to leave something that not only looks worse than litter, but also has possibly more serious consequences? It certainly wouldn't earn positive recognition from the judges of the Best Kept Village competition.

Cleanliness. Worse than not seeing it, is accidentally stepping in the stuff. No matter how much you wipe your soles in grass, enough always remains to require washing of the soles before entering the house. For children playing in grassland, there is always the chance of getting it on their clothes or bodies, as well as footwear – an even more unpleasant cleaning task.

Animal disease. Dogs carry an organism in their guts called *Neospora caninum*, which doesn't commonly cause them any problems. However, intermediate stages of this parasite are passed in their faeces, and grass contaminated in this way and eaten later by cattle, (after the faeces have long disintegrated), can cause abortion of pregnant cattle. In fact *Neospora* is the most common infective cause of abortion in cattle, and a cause of very large economic losses to the dairy and beef industry.

Some dogs carry species of tapeworm in their gut, the tapeworm eggs are passed in the faeces, and again grass contaminated in this way can cause problems in grazing animals. Once ingested the eggs hatch, larvae migrate and produce cysts in the abdomen, usually the liver, and if they don't cause symptoms in the live animal, will cause condemnation of the offal at slaughterhouse meat inspection, producing another financial loss.

Human disease. On continental Europe there is a dog tapeworm, *Echinococcus multilocularis*, which if ingested accidentally, say from unknown contamination of the skin on our hands, produces cysts in our abdomen which can have very serious effects and symptoms, for which there is no effective treatment and the outlook is poor if contracted.

All dogs are born infected with roundworms, which live in their gut. For this reason vets recommend regular worming of puppies, which declines in frequency as they grow, but even adult dogs should be wormed four times a year. The roundworm they carry, *Toxocara canis*, sheds eggs into the dog's gut, which are passed in the faeces. These eggs are very tough and survive in the environment for many months and possibly years. They are also sticky and can become attached to skin and clothes, with the chance then of being ingested. The eggs hatch and the larvae can migrate through our bodies causing a variety of symptoms and problems, which can include lethargy, headaches, coughs and skin rashes. Perhaps the most publicised problem is that of the larvae migrating to the eye and causing a range of eye and vision problems. Fortunately, these are rare cases.

Summary.

There are many pleasures and benefits to be derived from dog ownership, no matter what our ages, but it comes with responsibilities as well. So please, show consideration for all others using or enjoying the countryside and our more immediate environment, and clean up after your dog. It's really not that difficult or onerous.

Steve Davies

Hankerton Street Party to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday



Follyfield, Sunday 12 June 2016 at 3pm

Come and join us for a traditional afternoon tea.
We will be providing a variety of homemade sandwiches, scones and cake with copious cups of tea, and squash for the children.
Plus a glass of Prosecco for a Loyal Toast

Adult £5

Children (3-16) £2

Under 3 Free

COMPETITION

Make and wear a hat suitable for a Queen's Tea Party.

Even if you don't want to enter the competition please try and wear some red, white and blue.

HELP!

- * We will need more picnic tables and chairs than we have sourced to date so if you are willing to loan yours on the day please let us know. They will all be labelled, collected and returned.
- * Making sandwiches and cakes. We will, of course, reimburse you for ingredients.
- * Moving and setting up tables and chairs on the Sunday morning.
- * Returning tables and chairs after the event.
- * Making and serving the tea during the afternoon.



Please return this slip to Claudine Pynn, 22 Follyfield if you can offer any help or would like to reserve tickets. We would appreciate it if you can do so by Tuesday 17 May. Thank You.

I am willing to loan ☐ table and ☐ chairs.

☐ I am willing to make sandwiches. ☐ I am willing to make a cake.

☐ I am willing to set up in the morning. ☐ I am willing to help clear away.

I/We should like Adult ☐ Child ☐ Under 3 ☐ tickets.

Please write your name, address and telephone number on the reverse and we will contact you asap.

We are all very much looking forward to the launch event for our newest author Polly Williamson's new book 'Where did I go?' and we'd very much like to meet you there.

Join us at 2pm on Saturday 30 April in Cirencester at Waterstones. Anybody who enjoys extraordinary true-life accounts of courage and recovery against all odds will love this book. This is your chance to meet the author in person (and perhaps enjoy a glass of wine while you do it) ...



The powerful new book by former European Champion eventer Polly Williamson on rediscovering her identity, lost after a traumatic brain injury

WHERE DID I GO?

POLLY WILLIAMSON FOREWORD BY HRH THE PRINCESS ROYAL

Can't make the launch? Paperback priced £8.99
Kindle ebook available to download from 10/03/16 in shops across the UK and on Amazon from 30/04/16

Can't make it? Don't worry, Polly will be signing books at the BHS trade stand at Badminton Horse Trials on Friday and Saturday (6 and 7 May).



Babysitter Required!

Elf sitters are recruiting sitters to join our team. We are looking for experienced individuals with their own transport for evening childcare. Applicants should be over 18 years of age, have a current CRB/DBS disclosure (or willing to have one processed), checkable references and weekend availability (we do also have week night bookings).

To apply please contact Emma Fursman-Ward.
01666 860171 | emma@elfsitters.co.uk | www.elfsitters.co.uk



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Grittleton Plant & Food Fair

Date for your Diary Sunday 29 May 2016

Open from 11am – 3pm

Venue Grittleton House, Grittleton, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN14 6AP

Entrance - £3 per person, Children free

All proceeds and donations will be going to support Action Medical Research

Join us for the 4th Grittleton Plant and Food Fair organised by children's charity Action Medical Research. Set in the stunning surrounds of Grittleton House, plant lovers and “foodies” are in for a real treat, with the chance to browse the many stalls selling plants from specialist nurseries, stunning accessories for your “room outside”, and delicious local artisan produce. It is going to be a fantastic day out for friends and family. Refreshments and light lunches will be available and there is also a special guest appearance by the charity’s big fluffy mascot, Paddington Bear who will be there to greet the younger members of the family.

Doors open at 11am until 3pm and entrance is £3 per person, with children visiting free,

If you are interested in having a stall please contact Tracey Edwards T 01225 776691

tedwards@action.org.uk



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Little Saints

Our Local Churches' Baby and Toddler group

We welcome all pre-school children (0-5 years) with their parents or carers.

Every Tuesday during term time at All Saints Church Crudwell

April 12th to 19th July (excluding half term 31st May)

Doors open at 9:30am, finish at 11am

There is free play, a short interactive story, craft activity, singing
squash and biscuits/coffee and cake.

Contact Rev Sarah Wyman 01666 577159 for more details

No booking is required, and there is no charge.

Run by the Braydon Brook Churches (Ashley, Charlton, Crudwell, Hankerton, Minety and Oaksey)

Leaders are DBS checked and activities comply with the Church of England's safeguarding policies.

Prayer Matters

I wonder if you can decipher the following message?

'dad@hvn. ursphl.we want wot u want@urth 2b like hhvn.giv us food&4giv r sins lyk we 4giv uvaz.dont test us!save us!bcos we kno ur boss, ur tuf&ur cool 4 evalok?'

It's an incredibly famous message, and if you have attended a church service you are almost certain to have said it.

That's right: it's the Lord's Prayer, the prayer Jesus taught his followers, 'translated' into the way a modern teenager might 'text' it on his or her mobile phone!

I'm not sure how you will have reacted to this: some of you might have had a wry grin, while others might have been horrified. While you can rest assured that I have no plans to introduce this prayer into a Sunday service (at the moment), prayer is a vital topic for us as we journey through Lent and approach Easter.

Prayer matters. In a world that is ever fuller, noisier and busier, prayer means stopping, looking, listening, and choosing to pay attention to Something beyond ourselves. Prayer can correct our self-absorbed activism, and bring us back to what is truly important. No wonder that Jesus balanced periods of intense activity with periods of intense stillness and solitude. The great Anglican poet (and country vicar) George Herbert described prayer as:

*Exalted Manna, gladness of the best,
Heaven in ordinary, man well drest,
The milky way, the bird of Paradise,
Church-bells beyond the stars heard, the soul's blood,
The land of spices; something understood.*

It's the last line that I love in this poem. Herbert spends an entire poem describing prayer in the most extravagant language of which he is capable. And suddenly, at the end, prayer is simply 'something understood'.

This intimate sense of hearing and being heard is part of the mystery and miracle of prayer. In a world that offers us sound-bites instead of conversations and shrillness instead of stillness, God has offered himself to us, quietly, simply, humbly, in a human life: Jesus, the Christ, God come close to us as something understood. What a gift, what an opportunity, to come close to the God who has come close to us: may you have a peaceful, blessed and prayerful Easter!

Phil

Parish Council update:

Dave Wood has met with Wiltshire Council officers about the condition of Church Lane. It is due to be re-surfaced in 2017/18, but the potholes will be filled sooner. The re-surfacing could be done sooner if a gap occurred in programmed work.

Work by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust has eased the flooding risk in Chapel Lane.

Malmesbury and District University of the Third Age.

U3A is a unique organisation which provides leisure opportunities for retired and semi-retired people to come and learn together, drawing on the knowledge, experience and skills of their own members. There are a wide range of interest groups as well as monthly talks and organised visits.

The group meets on the fourth Thursday of every month at 10am for refreshments followed by a speaker 10.30-11.30 am.

The Second AGM will take place on April 28th at 10am in the Town Hall in Malmesbury and will be followed by a talk by Bernard Purrier entitled 'The Roman Baths at Bath'.

May 26th : coffee at 10am and talk at 10.30 : 'Suzann Valadon: model and artist' presented by Paul Chapman.

Details on the website: www.malmesburyu3a.org.uk



Some of the villagers enjoying the Lent Lunch in the North Aisle on 27th February. The donations totalled £113 which was sent to the Great Western Hospital for the radiotherapy appeal.'

Philip Carter, Churchwarden.

Hankerton Church News

The Church is open every Saturday, 10:30-12, unless specified, for tea, coffee and chat; all are welcome.

Rev Phil Daniels welcomes anyone to join him and others in a short(30minutes) service each week(Monday to Thursday) starting at 8:30am. This will be rotated around the six parishes.

There is a weekly said evening prayer on a Wednesday, 4:30pm at Crudwell.

April

- 3rd 9:30am Holy Communion
morning prayer at Charlton
- 10th 10:00am Group Service Oaksey
morning prayer at Crudwell
- 17th 11:00am Informal Worship and baptism
morning prayer at Hankerton

May

- 1st 9:30am Holy Communion
morning prayer at Oaksey
- 5th 7:30pm Holy Communion Ashley
Ascension day
- 8th 10:00am Group Service Charlton
morning prayer at Ashley
- 15th 11:00am Informal Worship
6:30pm Archdeacon's Visitation
Please come and support our church wardens at Crudwell
- 29th 10:00am Group Service Crudwell
morning prayer at Hankerton

June

- 5th 9:30am Holy Communion
morning prayer at Minety
- 12th 10:00am Group Service Hankerton
morning prayer at Ashley
- 19th 11:00am Informal Worship
morning prayer at Charlton

Other Church News

Deanery Service. Sunday 24 July at 6.30 p.m. Malmesbury Abbey. This Service is to celebrate the formal, legal, creation of the new North Wilts Deanery. All are welcome.

Braydon Brook Group Service. Sunday 31 July at 1100. Oaksey. This Service is to celebrate the new, legal creation of the Braydon Brook Benefice. It will be followed by a Benefice lunch in Oaksey Village Hall.



WALK IN FAITH

Magnificent is Your Creation, Your universe too
Mountains, forests, oceans blue
Lord, we thank You for it all -
From elephant to dove, so small
But Lord, watch us lest we step out of line
Speak with us in our Quiet Time.
Let our worries through You cease -
Each night grant us Your Peace.
By removing our sins with Your gentle touch
We thank You, Lord, for we love You so much '
**"Seek My kingdom first, this you should do
All things from Me are a gift to you
Trust, do not fear, leave things to Me. -
I will care for you and your family
Talk in Faith, not by sight -
As you leave the darkness
and come into My Light".**
26.10.96. Shelagh Dalton

CHARLTON RECREATIONAL CENTRE COMMITTEE (Anne Hodgkins, Secretary)

You will see that the heading of this entry has changed. Our formal name is Charlton Recreational Centre. The new title is to highlight that we are not only responsible for the running of the Village Hall, but also the Playing Field, a fact which perhaps has not been given the focus this wonderful space deserves.

The extraordinary general meeting on 11 February was attended by a number of local residents and was successful in finding people to bring the membership of the committee up to full strength (10). The officers of the committee were elected from this group, with John Jerman becoming Chair, Marion Adkins Treasurer and Anne Hodgkins Secretary and Vice Chair.

During February the lower part of the walls in the hall were repaired and redecorated. We had some unplanned expense when the annual service of the gang mower identified that it needed some expensive new parts.

The new committee met for the first time at the start of March and identified the projects it wishes to explore. These include: repairing and treating the external woodwork on the hall and shed; making a fresh attempt to find someone to repair the playground equipment; working with the Cricket Club to establish a regular maintenance programme for the playing field and tackling the weeds in the front garden.

If we are going to do all of this work we will need to find additional resource, so the committee has begun to consider a variety of fund-raising activities and ways in which volunteers may be able to help..

The new website has received some positive feedback – why not take a look? www.charltonvillagehall.co.uk.

Hankerton History Group

February meeting:

Thank you to Craig McCallum for a well-researched talk on the background to World War 1. His review of the literature was comprehensive and showed that there was a web of treaties and alliances which led to the conflict. He brought up one surprising point: that all the protagonists were grandchildren of Queen Victoria, did this have anything to do with the enmity?

Craig has decided that this is his last talk to the History Group, so thank you, Craig, for all the informative talks you have given to the group over the years.

Dates of meetings:

April 19th 2016: AGM and talk about the Hannah Ludlow trust and display of original documents.

May 24th: outside speaker on old photographs.

June 21st. outside speaker : historical letters from the 17-19 centuries.

All meetings are held in Holy Cross Church, Hankerton and start at 7.30pm.

Details will be displayed on posters around the village nearer the time.

These are open meetings and everyone is welcome.

Further information from: Susan 577526

Golf Technicalities - Golf is possibly a Financially Ruinous Sport.

This article is intended to be the first of a series, (no one yawn please) on the technical issues all Hankerton Golf Club players face, especially as none of us are now spring chickens with 120 mph swing speeds, in fact none of us have one swing but many.

The latest buzz word of golf club manufacturers is MOI their code for Mass on Impact. For Hankerton Golfers MOI stands for Moment of Inertia. That is when one stands over the first tee frozen in trepidation and fear of swinging and missing the ball Entirely, with everyone watching. Now that has happened to us all!

So to the ball. The very best ball and most expensive is the Titleist Pro VI x at around £4.50 each. Titleist balls have a high velocity 1.530 core with soft compression, providing outstanding speed off the club face and drop and stop control around the green when eventually one gets there. Last but not least, it has 392 icosahedral dimples in its face.

By far the most balls used by Hankerton Golf Club members are finders. We do not give a hoot how many dimples a ball has as long as it looks round and is white or yellow. We call the balls we use "water balls". Those are the ones you do not mind losing as they are free. A great deal of our time playing is not only searching for our miss-hits into the ditches, banks, hedges and the rough grass which abounds our normal courses. Talking of finder balls we think John is still using the ball he found in Chile some 10 years ago and to be fair he putts beautifully with it.

Some golfers use golf range balls for shots over water, but that is tacky and certainly no Hankerton Golf Club members do that ! (Craig chokes into his gin while typing this). So the key to the best finders is any Titleist; one can hear the chortling every time a keeper is found. So there we have it, the season is about to start. We wonder who has paid for all the balls we find ? HGM certainly do not !

Peter Jeffris