

# The Grapevine

Issue 108

August 2014

## Editorial

This lovely summer has been a great boon to all gardeners and the gardens in Hankerton are looking particularly attractive and colourful. Thank you to everyone for their hard work in producing something to be enjoyed. Congratulations to Hankerton which came third in the Best Kept Village competition: so much had been done by residents to get the village looking neat and tidy and thanks to everyone who went the 'extra mile' and cleared out kerb-sides, planted pots, put a new seat in the bus shelter and worked hard getting the amenity area in shape. We are sure all the residents appreciate these efforts. This community spirit is what makes Hankerton special and everyone can help at, or support, the next great fund raiser for the North Aisle Community Area by coming along and enjoying the Street Fayre on Monday, August 25th.

Our apologies to those folk who turned out to clear the Amenity Area in May, but the copy just missed our end of May deadline for the June edition. It's hard to remember the awful weather earlier this year but that's part of the joy of living here and do enjoy the barbies in this glorious summer weather.

Long may this be a village of volunteers and good neighbours!

*Susan, Craig and Mary*

The next Newsletter will be published in October 2014. Please send copy to

Craig McCallum  
19 Follyfield Hankerton  
SN16 9LA or email to

[Craigmccallum@Btinternet.com](mailto:Craigmccallum@Btinternet.com)  
by 10th September 2014 please.

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

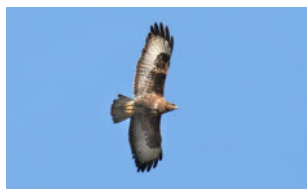
## Nature Diary - August

By now, weather permitting, the harvest should be well underway, and the cutting down of the crops exposes many of the small mammals that have been living there during the summer. Inevitably the passage of the machinery also injures or kills some of them, and the chance to feed on some of the carcasses or catch a live small mammal will not go unnoticed by some bird of prey

species. This gives us a good chance to have an extended look at them and their behaviour. The kestrel will be known to many by its habit of hovering in the air whilst locating its prey, behaviour which led to its alternative name, the windhover.

If you get the chance to watch them, you will notice that while its body and wings move to adjust to the wind, its head will remain perfectly still, allowing it to watch accurately for its prey. Voles and mice make up most of its diet, and a whole family of kestrels may be seen feeding together in a recently harvested field.

The larger buzzard feeds on a wide range of items, including carrion. It will sometimes perch on a telegraph pole to watch, before flying down on to the ground to secure its meal.



They have learnt that farm machinery means the chance of a meal and in the winter will follow the plough to feed on earthworms, which are a major part of their winter diet. If the wind is strong enough they too can hold position in the air, like a kestrel, but not with the same precision.

The red kite is larger than the buzzard, not as stoutly built, more angular wings and a forked tail.

Once exceedingly rare in the UK, we are now occasionally seeing them in Hankerton. They are fantastically acrobatic flyers and usually pick up food from the ground without even landing!

So if you're leaning on a gate watching the harvest being gathered in, have a look skywards as well – you never know what will also be watching.

Steve Davies



## 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.

## FREE TO A GOOD HOME

Craig needs to dispose of his mountain bike and anybody who can use it - no charge - please contact him at 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 wild bird seed!

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

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

# STREET FAYRE

Monday 25 August 2 - 5 pm

Do keep the day free for another enjoyable afternoon in the late summer sunshine. There will be the usual mixture of stalls and activities to appeal to all ages.

Teas with home-made cake

Ice-creams

Tombola

Hit the Rat

Raffle

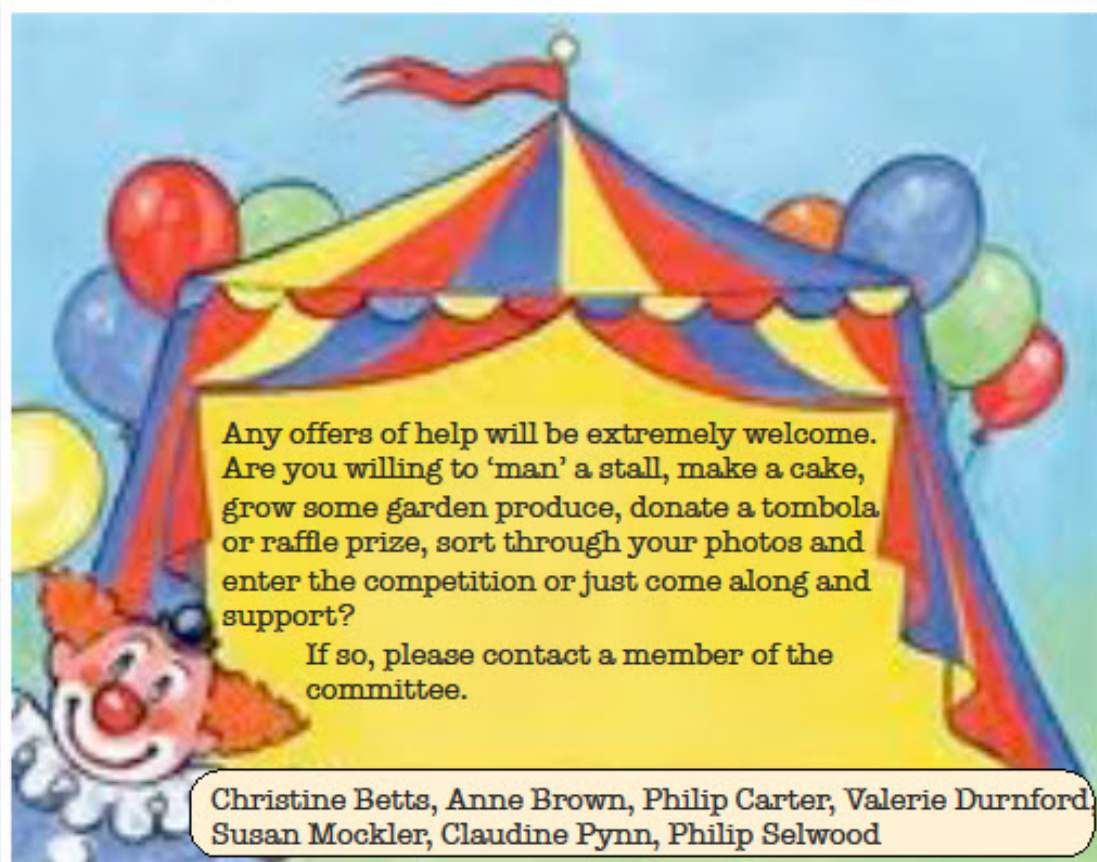
Children's Activities

Coconut Shy

Photography Competition

Plus .....

Plants & Produce



## Hankerton History Group

A Talk on Cotswold Canals will be given by Dr. Theo Stenning, an experienced and knowledgeable speaker

Thursday, September 18th at 7.30pm

At the North Aisle Community Area in Holy Cross Church, Hankerton.

All welcome. £4.00 admission to include refreshments.

### Great War Exhibition

The exhibition to remember the sacrifice of the young men of Hankerton who served and died in the Great War will now be held over Remembrance Day weekend, November 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

We would also like to include members of other families who fought in, or helped in the Great War. If you have any material for display, or would like to have a relative included, please contact Susan Mockler 577526.

The history group visit in June to the Brooklands Museum (organised by Bunny and shared with two other groups) was a great success. Brooklands was the birthplace of British motorsport and aviation and the site of many engineering and technological achievements throughout eight decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The racing circuit was constructed by local landowner Hugh F. Locke King in 1907 and was the first purpose-built racing circuit in the world. Many records were set there and the displays provide interesting facts about the cars and their drivers. Many aviation firsts are also associated with Brooklands, which soon became one of Britain's first aerodromes. It attracted many aviation pioneers prior to World War I, and was also a leading aircraft design and manufacturing centre in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, producing a remarkable total of some 18,600 new aircraft of nearly 260 types between 1908 and 1987.

The London Bus Museum is also based there and provided many with happy memories of travel in their youth.

The excellent displays and knowledgeable guides made this a thoroughly interesting and engaging day. Thanks to Bunny for another excellent idea and organisation.

The Hankerton History Group visited the National Physical Laboratory in May 2014. Six members of the group took the opportunity to join with the Cirencester Science and Technology Society to visit the NPL biannual 'Open Day' at its Teddington laboratories. The primary aim of the NPL is to develop more and more accurate means of measuring physical attributes. They take care of the British copy of the International standards upon which all our measuring is based. This is the standards for length such as the metre, for weight such as the kilogramme, for time the Caesium clock, for radio and other frequencies, for gases of all kinds and so we go on in to materials, acoustics, computers, mathematics, green house gases, pollution, and even the universe. Some 25 laboratories were open to us visit and talk with scientists, most of which covered aspects of research at the cutting edge of science. Some of the subjects were of quite extraordinary range such as isolating a single electron and then close to it observing the earth and then applications for medical ultrasound.



*Ice cream mixture having had liquid nitrogen poured over it forms a frozen foam block. This was at a demonstration of cryogenics.*



*David and Claudine Pynn with the frozen ice cream!!*





## Neighbourhood Watch News

There were three burglaries and a theft of a caravan in Minety and Eastcourt last month. The police arrested one male but still need people to be vigilant. Items taken were mostly tools / garden machinery - hedge trimmers and strimmers as well as a quantity of tractor batteries and tractor radiators.

For the one in Eastcourt two men were encountered prior to the burglary stating they were from the electricity board and were line walking checking the lines.

One was wearing a high visibility jacket with 'Electric' on the back and carrying a clipboard but that was it. Both were white males in mid thirties. A check with the electricity board reveals no known workers in that area on that day.

If people could be made aware and I would be interested if anyone else has encountered these males around that time. No vehicle seen.

Neighbourhood Watch

## Hankerton Parish Council News

The Parish Council meeting on 7 July discussed the following items:

- £60 has been raised from the sale of old Hankerton village signs
- The public amenity area at the junction of Old Farm Close and Cloatley Road has been tidied up
- Verge cutting has been done
- A new bus shelter seat has been put in
- The village came third in the best kept village competition for small villages in north Wiltshire

For the full agenda and minutes of past meetings go to the Hankerton website.

### Footpaths and dog fouling

It is becoming increasingly unpleasant to walk around certain areas in the village due to a proliferation of dog mess. Particular areas of concern are along Church Lane, the churchyard and some footpaths alongside fields. **PLEASE** clean up after your dog - they are your responsibility and to leave a mess in a place where adults and children walk creates a nuisance for other members of the village.

## AMENITY AREA TIDY UP

In May, on the wettest Saturday morning for many weeks a team of stalwart (is that the correct word?) villagers turned out to spruce up the Village Amenity Area and its surrounds at the end of Old Farm Close. There was much chopping back of the growth to open up the paths around the pond - and to allow the grass to be mown. Many thanks to Ted Grierson for the loan of his big trailer to take away the clippings. By the finish the team were soaking wet (see photo below), so many thanks to Frances Dalton for the provision of hot coffee - even if it was in CHAOS plastic cups!

Peter Wyman



*Well done me hearties!!*

## SPONSORED RIDE AND STRIDE 2014

**SATURDAY 13th SEPTEMBER**

Once again it's that time of year when we hope there are some people who will get their bikes or walking boots out and find sponsors to back them to visit as many churches as possible during that day. As usual half the money raised will come back to Hankerton Church; the remainder goes to Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust which gives grants to help maintain and restore churches throughout the County. There are cash prizes to be won in 8 different classes.

**Sponsor forms are available from**

**John Edwards 01666 577559**

## Thing to do in Minety!

Hankerton is a great place to live but we thought that some of you might be interested in knowing what clubs etc. are available in the surrounding villages...this month we are focusing on Minety.

Minety Football Club - [www.stanleyscott.freeserve.co.uk/minetyfc](http://www.stanleyscott.freeserve.co.uk/minetyfc)  
Minety Rugby Club - [www.minetyrfc.com](http://www.minetyrfc.com)  
Minety Cricket Club - Malcom Poole 07850 456 828  
Minety Tennis Club - [www.minetytennis.net](http://www.minetytennis.net)  
Minety Movie Club - Village Hall - Arthur McAuley 01666 860244  
Minety Art Club - Tues 10am-12pm - Deanna West - 01666 860346  
Minety Toddler and baby group (under 3's) - Village Hall - Thurs 9.30am-11.30am  
1st Minety Brownies - Thurs 6-7.30pm - Bernie Carr - 01666 861155  
Minety Guides (girls 10-14) - Thurs in Village Hall - Helen Price - 01666 503187  
Minety Book Club - Helen Armstrong (no contact details found)  
Mothers Union - monthly meetings - Margaret Godfrey (no contact details found)  
Tae Kwan-do - Primary school - Wed evenings - 0845 812 1100  
Fitness Club - Wed evenings 8pm - Rob Hilliar - 01666 860466  
Minety Camera Club - Bob Nesbit (no contact details found)  
Minety Sewing and craft Club - monthly meetings - Anne Payne (no contact details found)

As you can see, there's a lot going on in our neighbouring village! We hope this was useful to you. If we have not included other activities or clubs, our apologies and please let Craig know by email.

*Eds*

## CHARLTON VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

The settled weather has allowed a range of maintenance work to be carried out on the Village Hall site. Resurfacing of the Car Park with Newbury Flint is now complete, this included making improvements to the edges where the flint abuts the tarmac and resetting the drain cover on the entranceway. Tidying of the front Garden is progressing, ahead of more extensive replanting later in the year. Other projects also being progressed, include some internal redecoration and installation of a kick-plate round the lower wall of the hall; fixing the guttering by the front door, treatment of the wood on the hall, shed and cricket pavilion and repairs to some of the playground equipment.

The next fund raising event will be the joint Village Hall and Cricket Club Real Ale, Cider & Sausage Fest on Saturday 23rd August 2014. For more details, look out for posters or visit the village hall website at <http://www.charltonvillagehall.co.uk/>. The Autumn Evening of Fun and Festivities taking place on Saturday 13th September 2014 will also kindly be donating part of its proceeds to the Village Hall.

*Anne Hodgkins*

## Malmesbury Luncheon Club

Malmesbury Luncheon Club for the over 60's meets every Wednesday in Malmesbury Town Hall for a chat over a hot, 2 course lunch followed by tea or coffee.

Cost: £3.50

If you are interested please phone:

Helen Churchill 01666 840080

Everyone welcome.

## STRAWBERRY TEA

The Strawberry Tea was enjoyed by over 50 people on a lovely sunny afternoon, and we would like to thank those who made cakes, helped setting up, clearing away afterwards, providing raffle prizes etc.

Raffle prize winners were: Nancy Nurden, Meryl Gray, Valerie Durnford, John Lewin, Sydney Roxan, Peter Blizzard and Hope Carpenter from Crudwell.

£343 was raised for Church funds.

PCC.

## DOG ATTACKS

There have been a number of local dog attacks in recent months, one resulting in serious injury to a pet.

On another occasion two dogs running free attacked a dog and were finally called off by an "unseen owner". If you are unsure about your dog's behaviour **PLEASE** keep it on a lead or muzzled in public areas and on footpaths for everyone's peace of mind and safety. Always remember that there could be legal implications which could involve the Police, under the amended Dangerous Dogs Act (May 13th 2014). Section 3 of the Act applies to every single dog owner in England and Wales. Under this section, it is a **criminal** offence for the person in charge of the dog to allow it to be 'dangerously out of control' in a public place. *A dog doesn't have to bite to be deemed dangerous in the eyes of the law.*

Generally if a dog bites a person, it will be presumed to have been 'dangerously out of control', however even if the dog does not bite, but gives the person grounds to feel that the dog may injure them, the law still applies.

In addition:

- It will now be an offence for your dog to attack an assistance dog (Guide Dog, Hearing Dog etc).
- Prison sentences will be increased for those convicted of some offences
- Police or an appointed local authority now have powers to seize a dangerously out of control dog in a private place.

*Eds*

## **The Community Foundation for Wiltshire & Swindon**

### **'Money and support where Wiltshire people need it most'**

#### **How can we help?**

Are you a local organisation working with people of any age in Wiltshire, helping to address local needs and improve the lives of those who are disadvantaged? We could help fund the costs of running your organisation, new projects, staffing costs or equipment.

Last year we helped to fund 157 groups in Wiltshire & Swindon supporting 37,500 people including grants to groups like SPLASH, Wiltshire Mind, Home-Start Kennet, Devizes Play Party, Westbury Art Craft & Natter Group and Devizes Food Bank.

As well as our main Foundation Grants of up to £5,000 which are awarded in May and November each year we also help to awards grants from The Police & Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire, Comic Relief, Wiltshire Health & Wellbeing Fund and our own Small Grants of up to £750.

#### **How to apply**

Apply online for funding for your community project by visiting [www.wscf.org.uk/grants](http://www.wscf.org.uk/grants) or call us on 01380 729284 to find out more about how we can help.

You will need to fill in an initial 'Expression of Interest' questionnaire with details about your activities and project so that we can find the most appropriate fund for your group and we will then send you a full application form to complete.

#### **What happens next?**

If you meet the criteria for a grant, the project application is assessed and goes forward to an independent panel of people from Wiltshire who decide which groups to fund and how to allocate the available funding in each round.

#### **Who to contact at The Community Foundation**

Grants Programme Director - Heidi Yorke

Grants Officer - Kirsty Haasjes

Grants Administrator - Maggie Russell

Call us on 01380 729284 or email [info@wscf.org.uk](mailto:info@wscf.org.uk)

## **Hankerton Golf Club**

Hankerton Golf Club's 8th Annual Barbeque was held in brilliant weather at Val and George's lovely home with its immaculate and weed free beds and borders and it remained that way after we left! Regretfully Val said that George is not for hire even though there would be many takers for his gardening skills.



As usual much beer and wine was consumed, while Brian at the barbeque was a superb chef, the chicken, beefburgers and Tony and Sue's sausages were all cooked to perfection. We all enjoyed a game of boules, the winners celebrating with drinks all round.

Various awards were presented - John for the most improved golfer over the last year, Frances for the most consistent lady golfer, Mike was given helpful advice on how to improve his short game, while David yet again received the coveted trophy for the best Hankerton Golfer!

It was also reported that the Club had been involved with two Charity Golf Days. One, in aid of St. James's Place Foundation and raised £1,600, was held at Oaksey Park where Hankerton teams came 2nd and 3rd against strong teams from London. A third Hankerton Team played in Nottingham and helped raise an incredible £6,000 - yes £6,000 - for Education for the Children Foundation.

We agreed to gather again in 2015 probably at Yew Tree Farm or possibly at Mike and Carol's.

Well done Hankerton Golf Club.

*Peter Jefferis*



# Hankerton Church News



## Hankerton Church Services Hankerton Church September 2014

### August

6th	9:30	Holy Communion
10th	10:00	Oaksey Group Service Holy Communion

During this service we will remember World War I

20th	11:00	Informal Service
31st	10:00	Ashley Group Service Holy Communion

### September

7th	9:30	Holy Communion
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Saturday 13th

Archbishop Justin will be baptising people in the river at Malmesbury in the afternoon, all are welcome to come. Posters will be placed in the church with more details nearer the time.

18th	7:30pm	Lee Barnes will be licensed in Bristol, details nearer the time shown in church porch.
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21st	11:00	Harvest Service
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27th	10:30	Macmillan coffee morning
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### October

5th	9:30	Holy Communion
	6:00pm	Harvest Supper

From the registers

On 17th June we had a thanksgiving service and burial for Penny Mitchell our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

## Macmillan Coffee Morning

Come along and support the fund-raising coffee morning in Holy Cross Church, Hankerton, on Saturday, September 27th between 10.30 and 12.00.

This year there will be a Bring and Buy sale and a raffle.

Look out for posters and come along and support this worthy cause.

## ANSWER TO PRAYER

**"I believe in you hour on hour - You don't have to comprehend, just know I have this power"**

So let us pray for deeper understanding in our belief  
As we surrender ourselves to Him, think what we can achieve

Maybe our lives are ordinary in the passing of each day  
Though we feel weak and humble, we would gain strength if we would only pray

Though He is our Sovereign, Lord, He also is our Friend.  
We must hold this knowledge tight to us from now until our end

He does not ask that we alone should take on the unbelieving world

He shows us how to cope through His gifts, as His blessings to us are unfurled

It might be through the power of speech or through the written word -

It matters not how it's done, what matters is God is heard!

So don't give Him excuses: *"I can't take on this load"*

Don't let pessimism flower, let God show you down His road  
You'll be aware, of the answer to prayer, when you feel your spirit lift

For through His Hands, He'll have passed to you,  
His very special gift.

20.12.98.

(Exodus 3:1-12)

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## The Living Churchyard Project. (Holy Cross Church, Hankerton.)

### Working Parties for 2014.

Each year we need to carry out some routine maintenance work on the project area in order for it to remain in good condition from a flower, and therefore insect, perspective. The work includes -

- Trimming the hedge and picking up the trimmings
- Cutting out any tree seedlings and invading black thorn shoots from the grass areas
- Cutting the grass and picking up and removing

The following are proposed times and dates for this year's work, (subject to weather conditions)

- Saturday 20th September at 2.00 p.m.
- Wednesday 24th September at 10.00 a.m.
- Wednesday 1st October at 10.00 a.m.
- Saturday 4th October at 2.00 p.m.

We usually spend about 2 hours at each session. There's time to chat, and it's not excessively physical work.

If you fancy coming along to give a hand, for whatever amount of time and whatever days, it would be greatly appreciated. It's a good idea to bring along some gardening gloves to protect against any thorns, and secateurs, loppers, spring-tine rakes are useful if you have them.

If you're interested, or want to discuss further, please give Steve Davies a ring on 01666 577456.





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