

# The Grapevine

Issue 114

August 2015

## Editorial

By now Summer should be in full swing with all the pleasures that the warmer, lighter days and evenings bring...time to enjoy a lazy stroll to one of our excellent local pubs or a weekend cycle through the countryside followed by a well-deserved BBQ in the garden. Thank you to everyone who braved the potentially inclement weather and came along to the Strawberry tea in June - after a wet and dismal morning and initially setting up inside the Church, the sun decided to make a timely appearance, tables were hastily moved outside and we enjoyed a lovely afternoon of convivial company, delicious cakes and sumptuous strawberries. Again, a lot of hard work goes into arranging these type of events so thank you to everyone who made it possible. And on that theme, don't forget to pop along to the Hankerton Street Fayre on August 31st - come rain (it's Britain...it happens!) or shine, there is something for everyone and it's always a lot of fun.

Finally, we'd like to wish Good Luck to all the young (or maybe not so young) people in the village who are expecting exam results this month. We well remember being in your shoes (albeit quite a while ago :) so have just one thing to say...rather you than us! All the best!!

*Eds*

## STREET FAYRE

Monday 31 August 2-5 pm

Do keep the day free for another enjoyable afternoon in the late summer sunshine (it can't possibly be like last year)!!

There will be the usual mixture of stalls and activities to appeal to all ages.

Any offers of help will be extremely welcome.

Are you willing to 'man' a stall, make a cake, grow some garden produce, make jam, marmalade or chutney, donate a tombola or raffle prize or just come along and support?

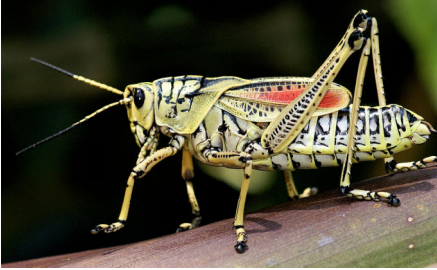
If so, please contact a member of the committee.

**Christine Betts, Philip Carter, Valerie Durnford**

## Nature Diary - August

Sit in some long grass, on a warm sunny day, and close your eyes and listen. A few singing birds maybe, the drone of some hoverflies, the buzzing of bees, and perhaps the song of the grasshopper.

The male grasshopper produces its song (the female does chirp, but is not as obviously to our ears) by rubbing short pegs on the inside of its thigh against its wing, a process called Stridulation. The songs of different species are unique. It is designed to attract females, which hear the song through a mechanism on the first segment of their abdomen.



Eggs are laid in the ground in a pod of earth mixed with a glandular secretion from the grasshopper, and these eggs overwinter and carry the population through to the next year, with all the adults dying off with the winter weather. The eggs hatch in late spring and a small nymph emerges, which is a tiny replica of the adult. As it feeds and grows it sheds its skin to emerge as a larger individual, until after a series of these moults it becomes an adult. The number of moults required varies between the species. There is no pupal stage in the life cycle (in contrast to butterflies) and the process is known as Incomplete Metamorphosis for that reason.

The legs are not only used for singing but provide the grasshopper with an impressive ability to jump, and escape from danger. They can fly but tend not to bother. The Latin name for the grasshopper and cricket Order is Orthoptera, which means straight-winged, and relates to the leathery wing held flat against the side of the body. Grasshoppers have short antennae, whereas their cousins, the crickets, have antennae that are longer than their body, allowing you to distinguish between the two types of insect.

**Steve Davies**

### **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 on page 1.

### **Do you need a babysitter?**

Do you live in Hankerton and need a babysitter? Flo, a responsible 15-year-old who lives in Church Lane, can babysit at weekend evenings and daytime and weekday evenings.

Please phone (01666) 575498.

### **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 577627 for further information.

Katherine and Norman Truman unfortunately missed the last issue of Grapevine with this message and wish to announce that Norman is now home after a successful operation.

We also wish to thank everyone for all their good wishes and kind offers of help.

They were very much appreciated.

The next Newsletter will be published in October 2015.

Please send copy by  
16th September 2015 to

Craig McCallum,

19 Follyfield Hankerton, SN16 9LA or email to [Craigmccallum@Btinternet.com](mailto: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](http://www.hankertonvillage.com)  
for Parish, County Council, back issues of Grapevine and other useful local information



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### 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](mailto:emma@elfsitters.co.uk) | [www.elfsitters.co.uk](http://www.elfsitters.co.uk)



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SUSAN CRAWFORD MCFHP MAFHP

## Hankerton Golf Club

June has been a fantastic and happy month for Hankerton Golf Club. John Edwards after a little local difficulty is back playing with us on Fridays, a full month before his target date very well done John.! Craig has decided not to sell his clubs yet and has been appointed Brian's Buggy Buddy and scorer. We all await Craig's next move, but with both of the above when they arrive on Fridays it is like the sunrise on a beautiful English summer day.

Hankerton Golfers have been involved on two Charity events.

Firstly Brian, Frances, Philip and Mike took part in a golf day in aid of The Children's Foundation, this is a Nottingham based charity founded in 2003 and has built a school in Guatemala for children unable to pay for their own education. The day raised an astonishing sum well in excess of £12,000 pounds!

Very well done to our village golfers.

Also in June the two Mikes, our super heroes, stepped up for the The Macmillan Cancer Support longest day challenge. The previous night was so short for them both, that their socks were still warm from the previous day.

Their epic started with a tee time of 6.30 am and they finally finished their target of 72 holes at 8.00pm. It was an amazing physical effort, but it is well known that Hankerton golfers are a very tough breed. The two Mikes raised so far, in excess of £610.

Congratulations to both teams for their Charity efforts.

The Hankerton Golf Club Annual Barbeque will be held on Aug 29th and kindly hosted by Frances and Brian at Applecroft. The BBQ will commence at 2.00pm

Peter Jefferis



## COFFEE MORNINGS

Coffee is available in the North Aisle of the church every Saturday morning between 10:30 am and 12 noon. There is a regular group of attendees but new visitors would be very welcome.

If you would like to volunteer to organise one Saturday it is very straightforward. Please contact Anne Brown or have a chat to whoever is "on duty" when you visit on a Saturday.

**The North Aisle Committee**

## Hankerton Art Group

If anybody wishes to join the HAG, please contact Craig McCallum by email for information on future meeting dates and venues. We are a group of mixed abilities and would welcome new members. We meet fortnightly at members' homes (with tea, biscuits and cakes provided of course).

*Craig*



### What is a safe place?

Imagine the scenario – you are out shopping and your keys and purse have been misplaced; you are visiting a friend in one of our lovely villages and you have missed the last bus or the car has broken down. PANIC! Where do you go for help? There is a national scheme called Safe Places which is gradually spreading and is now being set up in Wiltshire. You may have noticed this logo in shops, restaurants or other business windows? Wherever you see this sign, you can be assured of sensible, practical assistance in time of need. The establishments displaying this sign have volunteered to take part in this scheme and have agreed to be true "good neighbours". They will offer a safe place for you to wait and support you to sort out the problem. If you have any questions about this, or if I can help in any other way through the Good Neighbour role, give me a call on: **07557 922020**.

Ellen Blacker



## **Bishop Mike's Letter - in which he asks whether as Christians we should try emulate and be part of the society around us, or should we take pride in our distinctiveness?**

"If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95 percent of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament church, 95 percent of what they did would stop, and everybody would know the difference." So said AW Tozer. We might quibble over the numbers, but the point is well made.

I don't know about you but I find his comment challenging. Tozer's point is this: the temptation for the Church in any age is the temptation to worldliness; to rely on our own effort and to relegate God to the substitutes' bench. This is a claim that is worthy of scrutiny in the Church today.

I believe that if you were to ask most Christians whether secularism should define the Church or whether the Church should seek to engage secularism, most Christians would choose the latter.

I have often said that one of the big problems for the Church is that we fear being different. The slightly uninspiring outcome is that many 21st century Christians look and behave pretty much like everyone else. In terms of aspiration, lifestyle and the deployment of real faith in God, we are too indistinct. The determined effort of the secularists to obliterate all distinction has had its impact upon the Church.

Of course, the diagnosis of the Church's ills is oft pronounced. It's discipleship - we need more of it! For the 40 plus years I have been a Christian it's been identified as such and yet, despite being in full possession of the diagnosis, the change is minimal. Books, courses, teaching DVDs - they all fail to make the difference that those who write such things imagine they might.

Why is this? Well, the truth is that I have little idea, and I hesitate to offer any observations, but here's the way my mind has been working.

If we don't understand the price that God paid for our redemption, we will struggle to see discipleship in any terms of personal cost. Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote his memorable book, "The Cost of Discipleship" in the 1940s. It's still worth a read today. Christian ethics in the final analysis are the ethics of response: response to what God in Christ has done for us in the events of Calvary almost 2,000 years ago. Unless we get this, we shall never achieve distinctiveness.

It's interesting how many Christians today and in the past have lost their lives for the sake of their faith. The problem in the Western Church is that such costly discipleship is "all out there somewhere"; the stuff of books about heroic Christian martyrs. It all seems a long way away from much of the "easy believism" of the 21st century Western Church. I think we need to wake up.

Sometimes, when I hear people talk about discipleship, it seems a bit "packaged". As if it was something you could capture and put into a bottle and then sell to others. I suspect this is a long way away from what is in the minds of those who seek to "bottle" discipleship in courses and books, but these things can only really be, at best, part of the answer. The danger is that we tick the box of a course completed and move on. Discipleship is for life, not just for...

There is something around the idea, exemplified in the way that Jesus ministered, that is to do with teachers who are alongside their pupils and who model the discipleship they teach. It works like this. Jesus taught his disciples and then sent them out to put into practice what they had been taught. He then called them back in for a "feedback" report. Spending time with a fellow disciple who models what they teach is important. Can our lifestyles and the set-up of many churches actually deliver this? That is a very searching question, I believe, for the Church today.

I think discipleship works like this. "What you sow, you will reap." If nothing gets intentionally planted you will only get weeds (ie "faux" growth that strangles and doesn't liberate).

Whilst we model this low octane commitment to growth in our discipleship, we shall struggle to have any impact in the face of the tide of secular thinking that threatens to swamp our churches.

It's time to wake up...

**+Mike**  
June 2015

## CHARLTON VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

The work to install hot water and hand driers in the toilets is underway. The committee will also place a hand drier in the kitchen. We are still waiting for the man who is going to repair the playground equipment to tell us when he will come to do the work. The committee is continuing to explore options for refreshing our website. Two further projects have been identified:

- To tidy the Shed so that some items currently stored in the Hall can be moved there.
- To refresh the interior décor and make good damage to the plasterwork.

We are working to complete a number maintenance activities, including: repair to the guttering on the hall and shed; providing additional noticeboards in the hall and purchasing additional chairs to make up for ones which have been broken or mislaid.

We would welcome new faces from Charlton, Hankerton or Garsdon to the committee which maintains and develops the Village Hall. If you are interested please contact either Steve Roberts (822112) or Anne Hodgkins (825248).

## Hankerton Parish Council

The Annual parish council meeting took place on 18 May. Jill Kearsley was re-elected as Chair, and areas of responsibility were agreed as below:

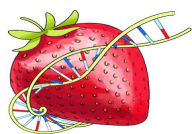
- Footpaths – Catherine Grierson
- Area 1 Committee – Terry Mockler
- Patients Group – Georgina Carter
- Flood Prevention – Brian Dalton
- Amenity Area – Brian Dalton
- CEV – Catherine Grierson
- Streetscene/Highways – Dave Wood
- Grants – John Thorne
- Information Co-ordination – John Thorne
- The accounts have a balance of £1673.

The Parish Council meeting held on the 7th July 2016 discussed the following:

- The council is to look into whether broadband reception can be improved in the village.
- The amenity area, which is on the corner of Cloatley Road and Old Farm Close, has a condition that it must remain open to public use. However, the area is little used. Recent consultation to decide future use was inconclusive. The Parish Council is to request that Wiltshire Council removes the condition so it can then be sold.
- Better marketing of the Annual parish meeting was discussed. The aim is for more people to attend the next meeting, which is in May 2016.
- The Parish Council is looking to replace some stiles with kissing gates so it is easier to use the village's footpaths.

For minutes of meetings and more information about the Parish Council go to the Hankerton website, [www.hankertonvillage.com](http://www.hankertonvillage.com)  
John Thorne

### DNA Competition: Hankerton Street Fayre 31<sup>st</sup> August



There will also be two £10 prizes for the best DNA molecule models in the age ranges: under and over 12.

So if you get bored during the holidays, get ☀️ and make a model of this amazing molecule! Bring it to the stall for display labelled with your name and age.

For more information contact Sue Jones on 575086.

## STOP PRESS !!

The First Round Results of the Best Kept Small Village (Wiltshire) have just been received and Hankerton is in 1st Place!

Well done to the village!

### Small Village Category

1 <sup>st</sup>	Hankerton	85
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Seagry	78
3 <sup>rd</sup> =	Charlton	77
3 <sup>rd</sup> =	Marston Meysey	77



Catherine and Ted Grierson would like to thank all the people who supported our two days raising money for the Prospect Hospice which does such wonderful work.

Special thanks go to the "HAGs" and the co-opted ladies of Hankerton who served and made the teas on both afternoons. Thank you to all who made scones, donated jam, strawberries, biscuits, lent trays and also helped with the transportation of tables, chairs and food.

Without the visitors who came, donated and paid for teas, we wouldn't have made the £700 for such a good cause. So thanks to them as well.

*Catherine and Ted*

*PS*

*And an extra special thank you to Catherine and Ted for allowing their beautiful garden to be opened for viewing and organising such a lovely day out, enjoyed by all who attended, in spite of the rain on Day 2.*

Eds

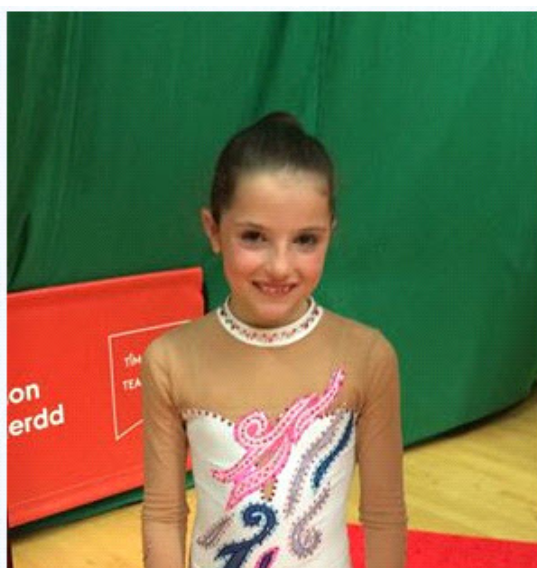


### **Names to watch out for in the future!**

It seems we have some future sporting stars living in our village. Eight year olds Spencer Gill of Hillwell and Eirlys Jones of Follyfield, who both attend Minety Primary School, have been excelling in their chosen sports.

Spencer is a talented footballer, and was scouted by Swindon Town Football Club at the age of 5 while playing for Purton Football Club. He has been part of the Academy set up ever since and was offered a pre-contract at the Academy for the 2015/16 season earlier this year. Hopefully one day we will see Spencer running out at Wembley! Eirlys, meanwhile has been selected for the Welsh Rhythmic Gymnastics Squad, having only taken up the sport in October 2014. She now trains up to 19 hours a week in Swindon, with a monthly trip to Cardiff to join up with her teammates under the watchful eye of Commonwealth Games medallists Laura Halford and Frankie Jones.

Well done Spencer and Eirlys. We are all very proud of you and we all look forward to watching you progress in your sporting careers.



# Hankerton Church News



## Hankerton Church Services August-September 2015

Please note the Church is open every Saturday, unless specified, for tea, coffee and chat; all are welcome.

### August

2 <sup>nd</sup>	9:30am	Holy Communion
9 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Group Holy Communion Minety
16 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Informal Service
30 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Group Holy Communion Oaksey

### September

6 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	Holy Communion
13 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Group Holy Communion Ashley
20 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Informal Service

### October

4 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	Harvest Holy Communion Service
11 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Group Holy Communion Charlton
18 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Informal Service

## SPIRIT OF LOVE

The days that lie ahead will reveal more of You.  
Help us, Lord, not to lose sight but keep You in view.  
We do not want to miss Your Message, we want to do  
things Your way - It's just the doing bit that's the hardest,  
to be like You each day  
We want to follow You as You ask - But sometimes this  
seems an impossible task  
Take care of us, Lord, this is our call - Let Your Spirit of  
Love dwell in us all  
Let us feel Your Peace as we sit here in prayer - As we  
close our eyes, let us feel You here When things overwhelm  
us and life is a frown  
Take our needs, Lord, we know You'll not let us down  
Thank You, Lord for Your Presence, and Your Faithfulness  
in the past - We know You will not leave us lonely,  
so we will just hold fast  
Here are our worries, Lord, and our concerns - We  
know we need not fear, Lord, for we are not alone  
Your Love and Truth, Comfort and Hope - In times of  
darkness, help us cope.

Shelagh Dalton 1999

The PCC would like to thank all those who came to the annual Strawberry Tea in the Churchyard on 28th June. The weather was mixed for the 50 who came along and enjoyed scones, strawberries and cream and various excellent cakes. There was also a raffle and Church funds were boosted by £369, which will help to pay for the new audio and loop system.  
Philip Carter

## For your diary

The Harvest Service will be held on 4th October at 9.30am.

The Harvest Supper will be held on Sunday 4th October at 6.00pm in the Church.

Rev Phil Daniels was licensed on July 29th 7:30pm in Crudwell and has become our new priest in charge of all the six parishes. Ashley, Charlton, Crudwell, Hankerton, Minety and Oaksey known as Braydon Brook.



After university I took two years out doing youth work in Birmingham and Gateshead, which gave me my first grey hairs, and then became a history teacher, which gave me many more! Rhoda and I had started going out at university, and we got married, got jobs and moved to Bath all in the same summer of 1996.

Teaching in Chippenham and Bath was followed by a career with English Heritage and a move to Box, where we became very involved in the village church. I trained as a lay reader, and then quite quickly explored a sense of 'call' to ordained ministry. Three years of training at Oxford have been followed by three years as a curate in the Gauzebrook Group of churches, just a few miles down the road.

My wonderful wife Rhoda was a GP Partner in Swindon for many years and a sea kayaking coach and guide before retiring due to M.E. in 2010. Together, we love village life and the countryside, walking our dog Pip and holidays in Devon. Although she is still restricted in the amount she can do each day Rhoda is now a woodworker and furniture-maker just for fun, while I keep my head down, generally in a book. I enjoy sport and intermittent visits to the gym and I support Cambridge United, more in hope than expectation.

I am passionate about Jesus Christ, because of what he has done for me. I'm energised by spending time talking about God both inside and outside church buildings. My hope and dream is for our churches to be communities of deep prayer, joyful worship, welcoming hospitality, and generous service.

It should go without saying that I am delighted to be taking up the role of priest in charge of the Braydon Brook Group, but I want to say it anyway! I'm also excited, honoured and, quite frankly, daunted at the responsibility that I am being entrusted with.