

# The Grapevine

Issue 116

December 2015

## Editorial

Where did 2015 go? Here we are at another year's end and Christmas, all seemingly, in a blink of an eye. However, when we do stop and think, so much has happened - Street Fayre, (thank you to all for their hard work and everyone who joined in) new vicar, (welcome to Phil and Rhoda), Sarah moving onto new pastures, exams passed and young adults leaving home for jobs and university, children starting school, new neighbours, (you are very welcome), people moving (you will be missed), babies born to young people who grew up in the village (congratulations - especially to new grandparents), Harvest Supper, charity events, Strawberry Tea and a Special Afternoon tea, History Group events, Official Bridge Opening, (a first for the contractors who gamely smiled through it all!), winning the best kept small village in North Wiltshire and finally the CHAOS sale of costumes - a sad event as there will be no more CHAOS pantomimes to start the festive season... BUT... there will be carol singing, the Advent Sale and the village, undoubtedly, will sparkle with Christmas lights again - so there are things to look forward to!

Thank you to everyone who has sent in articles this year - we welcome the input and encourage anyone who has something of interest to contribute - this is a village newsletter and it needs news and views! Thank you too, to the advertisers who help with the costs as well as the Parish Council who use some of your parish rates to keep the newsletter going. Finally, a Happy Christmas to everyone!

Eds

## Nature Diary - December.

During the short days of mid-winter the chances of seeing wildlife are somewhat reduced, but the cold, still nights are great for hearing our most common owl, the Tawny. Its call is as familiar to us as is the call of the Cuckoo, and is usually represented as "Tu-whit, Tu-whoo". Depending on which texts you read, this call is either described as the call of exclusively the male, or both male and females. I like to believe the view of Chris Sperring (of the Hawk and Owl Conservancy, and a man of great knowledge and experience) that it is the call of the male owl.

The reason the owl is calling is to advertise his presence in that territory, and to let the local female owls know he is there. The female will respond with her own call, which is a much harsher "Kee-wick". If you stand and listen, you may hear her answering the call of a male, or even hear competing male calls coming from different directions.

The whole point of these "conversations" is to establish a pair bond and territory and breed in the early spring. They nest most commonly in hollows/holes in trees, and they have a reputation for aggressive defence of their nest site. In fact Eric Hosking, a famous early wildlife photographer, lost an eye to a Tawny attack.

The young owls leave their nest before they are able to fly, still covered in a fluffy grey down, and explore their neighbourhood - a behaviour called "branching". Occasionally they end up on the ground but with strong claws are usually able to climb back into the tree. If you find one such owl, unless it is obviously sick or injured, just lift it back into a tree out of the way of predators. These young owls will grow adult plumage and fly perhaps up to 3 weeks after leaving the nest.

Tawny Owls are most common in woodland areas in the countryside, but can be found in towns and cities if there are plenty of trees. In rural areas their main food are small mammals (mice, voles and shrews) but in urban areas they prey heavily on birds, such as sparrows and starlings. In one survey in Holland Park, London birds made up 93% of their diet!

So wrap up warm and go out and have a listen to "whoo" is talking to "whoo".

**Steve Davis**



The next Newsletter will be published in February 2016

Please send copy by 16th January 2016 to Craig McCallum, 19 Follyfield Hankerton, SN16 9LA or email to

[Craigmcallum@Btinternet.com](mailto:Craigmcallum@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

## 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.

## THE MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING raised £224

Thank you to everyone who supported this event.

Chris Betts

## 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 weekends and weekday evenings.



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and the very best of health in 2016*



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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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## December Parish Magazine Letter

We've all heard of advent calendars, but I wonder if you've come across 'Badvent' calendars?

Badvent calendars made the news last year when an internet site invited readers to send in examples of the advent calendars that were the furthest removed from the spirit of Christmas. Examples came flooding in, and the website ran a vote to find the worst one - Barbie advent calendars, nail varnish advent calendars, whiskey advent calendars...

I voted for the 'Star Wars Lego advent calendar' which featured a Lego Darth Vader in Santa costume, R2D2 dressed as a Christmas tree, and an imperial storm trooper in a Santa hat. Just typing that sentence made me feel peculiar, but this was by no means the worst example. In fact, the winner of the poll was so inappropriate that I can't describe it in a parish magazine (it was from a shop that sounds a bit like 'Jan Strummers'...)

Badvent calendars have reminded me that I run the risk of taking the season of Advent for granted. With all our focus on 'shopping days till Christmas' we can rush through Advent and before we know it Christmas is over and we're left wondering what all the fuss was about.

This year our churches are trying to make Advent a little more special. We will be marking Advent Sunday with a special 'Service of Light' at Minety Church, with special music, prayer, lots of candlelight - and 'real' advent calendars! We will also be providing some special Advent 'prayer spaces' in our churches where anyone is welcome to drop in and spend a few moments reflecting on the meaning of the season and looking ahead to the hope of Christmas.

As I look ahead to Christmas and beyond, there is much to be thankful for and much to give me hope in the life of our churches. It has been wonderful to see a new pattern of morning prayer become established and to find it so well supported. I've felt very blessed by the gifts and commitment of our ministry team and wardens and it has been really encouraging to see the ways in which our churches are working well together and supporting each other. I have also been struck by the ways in which our churches make space for the community to share times of thanksgiving and sorrow - at Harvest celebrations, the All Souls service, and our Remembrance Sunday services. And every week, people are meeting together to pray, to study the bible, to care for the vulnerable, to teach and support our children and young people, and to look after the special sacred places and spaces which have been entrusted to us. We have much to be thankful for.

We also have much to look forward to. Next year we will be exploring new ways in which our churches can reach out and connect with our villages. We will be looking at how we can offer pastoral care to those who need it. We will build on our excellent links with our local schools and hope to offer something new to pre-school children and their parents. We are also looking at ways in which we can welcome, prepare and nurture children and their families in baptism. There will be many more things to come as well: I do not know what they are, but I'm really looking forward to discovering the future together in 2016!

With best wishes for an exciting Advent, a joyful Christmas, and a very happy New Year!

Phil

### ADVENT SALE

Saturday 5 December 2015  
10.30 - 12noon  
Bring and Buy  
Raffle  
Coffee Teas Mince pies  
For Church funds

### CAROL SERVICE

Holy Cross Church Hankerton  
Sunday 20 December 2015  
5pm  
Mince pies & Mulled wine

## The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations

The Mall will host a street party for 10,000 guests as the culmination of a weekend of national events next summer to mark the Queen's official 90th birthday. This will be on the weekend of 11/12 June 2016.

It is hoped that communities around the country will be inspired to stage similar events in their own areas and raise money for local projects. You will not be disappointed to discover that we are planning to hold a Street Party in Follyfield, as on previous Royal and National occasions, on

**SUNDAY 12 JUNE 2016 AT 3.00pm**

Just a reminder to write the date and time in your 2016 diary. We have had our first Committee meeting and have an outline plan. We just need to fill in the details and then we will be calling on you for some help but please feel free to volunteer in the meantime. Watch this space in the next edition of the Grapevine for more information.

We will let you know in future Grapevines of our progress and inevitably there will be pleas for help in various forms but we know that you will all rise to the occasion and support us. If you have any suggestions for a worthy local project to support or offers of help, **please contact Claudine Pynn on 577627**.

## Carol Singing



## Thursday 17 December 2015

If you would like to join us we meet at the entrance to Follyfield at 6:30 pm. Please wear suitable warm/waterproof clothing and bring a torch or lantern. It takes at least a couple of hours to get round the village so the emphasis is on warm feet, head, neck and fingers.

The Charity we are supporting this year is BRIGHTER FUTURES which has recently launched an appeal to bring cancer care closer to those living in Swindon and Wiltshire. The money raised will equip a new Radiotherapy Centre at the Great Western Hospital, including two linear accelerators, enabling cancer patients from Swindon and Wiltshire to receive radiotherapy locally. Around 700 people had to undertake a 60-mile round trip to Oxford for treatment in 2013/14 - some doing it several times a week.

If you aren't able to join us we do need people to be at home, listening out for the door knocker/bell and putting money in our collecting boxes, if only to get us to move on!

If you require any further information please contact  
Christine Betts (577123) or Claudine Pynn (577627)

## Halloween

Halloween or Hallowe'en a contraction of All Hallows' Eve or evening, also known as All saints Eve, is observed in a number of countries on October 31st. the eve of the Christian feast of All Hallows' Day. This is a time dedicated to remembering the faithful departed including saints ( hallows) and martyrs. Halloween traditions adopted by western cultures has people dressing up in strange or scary costumes, playing games such as apple bobbing and visiting houses for trick or treat.

Hankerton was visited by two lively groups this year in wonderful costumes. It was a nice to see them all and hand out treats to children, Mums and Dads alike.



## CHAOS

The CHAOS sale of props and costumes went well - other am-dram groups found plenty to buy and were even treated to some CHAOS cast members modelling items and regaling them with tales of their varied histories. A final clear-up and Charlton village hall was returned to the usual post-CHAOS pristine state.

Thank you to everyone for their support over the last 32 years - we have had a lot of fun, laughs and missed prompts - but it is now time to move on to pastures new.

The funds remaining are being donated to a local cancer charity. More details later.

Susan

## Hankerton History Group

We have decided to return to our original idea of bi-monthly meetings with a speaker (local or invited with a particular topic) for the next few months. There will also be meetings of a more particular nature relating to Hankerton and these will be advertised around the village.

### Programme:

September 29th 2015 - Tony McAleavy: Malmesbury Castle

November 24th 2015 - Mr. and Mrs. Rouse: The Railway Navy, his working life.

April (date to be announced) - Matt Curtis: restoring old photographs.

June 21st 2016 - Chris Viveash: A Jumble of Letters.

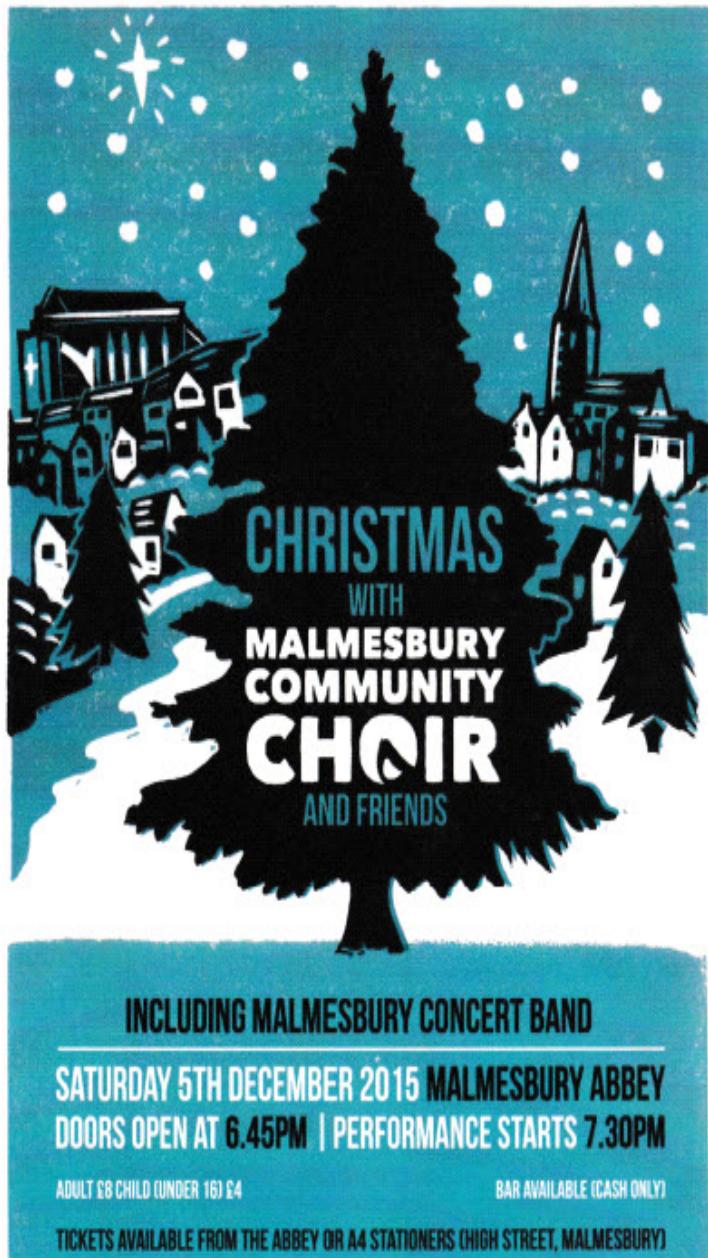
February 16th 2016 - Craig McCallum is giving a talk on WWI - "Who was to blame for starting this catastrophic event?"

**Susan**

### HANKERTON HARVEST SUPPER

Once again, the annual supper in the North Aisle on 4th October was a success. There were 30 villagers tucking in to some home cooked ham and various salads, followed by a selection of splendid puddings and cheese and biscuits. Supplemented by a raffle, church funds had a useful contribution, £303, towards the maintenance of the building and what is needed to send Bristol diocese each month for clergy expenses. Thank you to all who supported this community event.

Philip Carter, Churchwarden



## Christmas and New Year waste and recycling collection changes

There will be no collections on 25 December, 26 December and 1 January.

Garden waste collections will be suspended from Friday 25 December and restart on Saturday 9 January.

You can check your revised waste and recycling collection dates and print off your waste calendar at: [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/waste](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/waste)

If you have paid to have your garden waste collected at home you can leave your real Christmas tree alongside your garden waste bin for collection between 9 and 31 January only. Alternatively they can be recycled at any of Wiltshire's 11 household recycling centres.

Christmas and New Year waste and recycling collection dates		
Normal collection day	Household waste, black box and plastic bottles and cardboard collection revised collection day	Garden waste revised collection day
Thursday 24 December	Collections as normal	Collections as normal
Friday 25 December	Monday 28 December	No collections
Monday 28 December	Tuesday 29 December	No collections
Tuesday 29 December	Wednesday 30 December	No collections
Wednesday 30 December	Thursday 31 December	No collections
Thursday 31 December	Saturday 2 January	No collections
Friday 1 January	Monday 4 January	No collections
Monday 4 January	Tuesday 5 January	No collections
Tuesday 5 January	Wednesday 6 January	No collections
Wednesday 6 January	Thursday 7 January	No collections
Thursday 7 January	Friday 8 January	No collections
Friday 8 January	Saturday 9 January	Saturday 9 January
Monday 11 January	Collections as normal	Collections as normal

## Household recycling centre opening hours

All household recycling centres will be closed from 1pm on 24 December, and also all day on 25 December, 26 December and 1 January. At all other times the centres are open during their revised normal opening hours, 10am – 4pm, five days per week.

Please check when your local household recycling centre is open before travelling. You can check the opening times at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/waste](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/waste) or on 0300 456 0102.

### 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.

### 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 have a chat to whoever is "on duty" when you visit on a Saturday.

**The North Aisle Committee**

## Hankerton Golf Club

The University Boat Race, The Grand National and now the Hankerton Golf Club Spring time weekend. All can now be classed as Blue Riband sporting events and signal the start of the 2016 Sporting Season.

The HGC weekend has been meticulously arranged by Mike and Heather. Increasingly and dramatically in popularity there are now 22 attendees of which 16 are serious golfers, whilst the remaining ladies have planned some exciting trips around the lovely Warwickshire country side.

There are now 4 Hankerton members that have joined prestigious golf clubs for mid week games, this to have the opportunity to obtain golf handicaps. Thus far Mike Goodwin has obtained a handicap of 27 (left eye brow raised) while Dave has registered a handicap of 19.6. This leaves both of them with the chance of a County Card. Well done to both. Their achieving this status will give the rest of the Hankerton Club members more opportunities to play at different venues in 2016. Christmas Gift time for golfers is just around the corner so all sorts of golfing goodies could be popping down the chimney.

Peter Jefferis

# Hankerton Church News

Rev Phil Daniels welcomes anyone to join him and others in a short (30minutes) service each weekday. This will be rotated around the six parishes.



## December

6th	9:30am	Holy Communion
	4pm	Christmas session
Decorating the Christmas tree, anyone of all ages is welcome to come and have fun.		
	Daily morning prayer	8:30am this week at Crudwell
13th	10:00am	Group Holy Communion Hankerton
	Daily morning prayer	8:30am this week at Minety
20th	5pm	Carol Service followed by mince pies and mulled wine

## Christmas Services

Christmas Eve 24 <sup>th</sup>	11:30pm	Midnight Communion Crudwell and Minety
Christmas Day 25 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	Holy Communion
	10:00am	Childrens Service Crudwell
	11:00am	Holy Communion Oaksey and Minety
27 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Group Holy Communion Minety

## January

3 <sup>rd</sup>	9:30am	Holy Communion
10 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am	Group Holy Communion Oaksey
17 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Informal Worship
31 <sup>st</sup>	10:00am	Group Holy Communion Ashley

## February

7 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	Holy Communion
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## From the registers

### Baptism

On the 27<sup>th</sup> September we welcomed and baptised Anna Emilia Mockler.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> October we welcomed and baptised Jake Robert McAlpine.

### Confirmation

On November 4<sup>th</sup> Emma-Jane Burnell was confirmed in the Abbey, she is Vida Gleed's granddaughter who will be married later this year, her details are written in Hankerton's confirmation book.

## COME CLOSER

"You didn't choose Me, I chose you, have I not made Myself clear - I have put you in the place that you are because I want you here You can approach Me anytime that you feel the need - Put your hands together, close your eyes, speak to Me and I'll heed To all that you have to tell Me as you prepare your hearts in prayer - My Son has opened the Way for you, don't give in to fear and despair".

Dear Lord, we place our trust in You and we do believe - We thank You for Your forgiveness of sins, the removal of guilt, we've received

We accept that our errors have gone, they no longer exist in Your eyes - Overlook our foolishness, it's taken us time to realise That from the date of His Birth - When You placed Your Son on this earth Who breathed New Life into all - Who accepted His call

There is one thing, we cannot forget - That we are willingly, Lord, in Your debt.

Shelagh Dalton

28.10.05

The Editors would like to extend a warm welcome to Robin and Alex Tjolle and their children Sophia and James who have recently moved into Hankerton.

Sophia and James are attending Crudwell school and we hope you're all settling in OK and look forward to seeing you around the village or at some of the up-and-coming village events.

Eds

## CHARLTON VILLAGE HALL

The work to install hot water and hand driers in the toilets is now complete. At the same time, a third hand drier was installed in the Kitchen. The committee has decided that redecoration of the toilets and lobbies should be its next priority. Work to develop a new website is underway with the aim of launching it before the end of the year. One new feature will be the inclusion of a diary within the site which will show the range of activities that take place in the Hall and Playing Field. Following recent reports of dog mess on the playing field, the committee decided to purchase additional signs (reminding owners to clean up after their dog) and bins which will be positioned at the entrances to the playing field.

## Oliver Dalton Honoured

The man who spearheaded the revival of Cirencester's air cadet squadron has been honoured by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucester shire, Dame Janet Trotter DBE. 33-year-old IT consultant Ollie Dalton fanned the flames of Cirencester Air Training Corps which had laid dormant for half a century. Ollie, known to his cadets as Flight Lieutenant Dalton, took over the squadron in 2012 just a few months after it had started back up. At the time it could boast only 15 members but, three years on, it is now thriving with 40+ cadets on its books and more eager to join on a waiting list. Flight Lieutenant Dalton, who lives in Malmesbury, was presented The Certificate for Meritorious Service by Dame Trotter during a ceremony at the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps headquarters, Imjin Barracks, Gloucester. The certificate recognises service of an exceptionally high order by people connected with the Reserve Forces or uniformed cadet organisations.

"One of my first moves was to reorganise the programme to include as many varied activities as possible to raise enthusiasm and the cadets responded really well," he said. As well as giving a lot of his time to ATC activities Ollie is also a Paramedic for First Response.

### **Brian Dalton**

*We are proud to say that Oliver is Hankerton born and bred. So, very many congratulations from us all Oliver and especially from those of us you grew up with!*

*Eds*



### **Wessex Male Choir Christmas 2015**

If you're looking to get into the Christmas spirit this year then the award-winning Wessex Male Choir's 10th annual Christmas concert is certain to bring some yuletide cheer with some well-loved carols and songs for this magical time of year!

This concert is the culmination of the choir's 2015 Christmas season and comes hot on the heels of the high-profile charity fundraising concerts in London and Oxford the preceding week.

The concert is taking place on Friday 18th December at 7.30pm at Holy Rood Church, Groundwell Road in Swindon.

Tickets are now on sale and cost £15. For children under 16s it's free!

Tickets can be bought from

The Information Office, Swindon Central Library, Regent Circus Swindon Tel 01793 466454

From the Choir on Tel 01285 869955 or by email at [tickets@wessexmalechoir.co.uk](mailto:tickets@wessexmalechoir.co.uk)

Musical director Katrine Reimers said "We will be singing some favourite Christmas classics including It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year, the Sussex Carol and Mary's Boy Child - guaranteed to get you in the mood for Christmas!"

The choir's special guests are the Aldbourne Brass Band which will add its own Christmas sparkle to the evening. Come and join in the Yuletide fun!



### **Staying connected...**

Do you have a computer or tablet but don't feel confident to use it? Or perhaps you would like to do more on the Internet. Although computers aren't for everyone, there are many benefits to using them, especially if you find it difficult to get out and about. You can stay in touch with family and friends and share photos with them. You can use the Internet to research your interests and develop new ones. Computers can make life easier by shopping or paying bills online - it is estimated you can save up to £560 per year this way.

There are local services available to help you develop confidence in using computers. There are several clubs where you can go and get together with others while getting help from a tutor. There are also a number of schemes where someone can help you at home on a one-to-one basis - some of them free of charge.

As your local Good Neighbour Co-ordinator, I can help put you in touch with these services. For this or any other query about issues affecting older people, please contact me, Ellen Blacker, on 07557 922020.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and all that you would wish yourselves in the New Year.