



Well 2016 is drawing to a close already and I haven't even started the diet I was planning on doing last January. Oh well, next year it is then. The year seems to have flown by but such a lot has actually happened during that time - our tiny village has said goodbye to old friends and welcomed new ones - we've had a Lent Lunch and Church Supper, the Strawberry Tea, the Queen's 90th Street party with endless scrummy cakes and sarnies, the Summer Fayre, the Harvest Meal and the Curry Night - have you noticed how most of our village activities

centre around food?! (No wonder I didn't get round to that diet). Thank goodness we also hosted the very successful Sports Relief Mile too although maybe exercising once every 2 years is not really quite enough!

Recently The Grapevine editorial team has changed and we thank you for your patience as Mary and Susan try and learn the ropes and produce something up to Craig's standard. We are keen to get more contributions from you though - this is a Village newsletter and needs your input. We've included a new Recipe and Kids Jokes section but if you have any other contributions you'd like us to include then just send them our way.

That just leaves us to wish you a Very Merry Xmas and a Healthy and Peaceful 2017.

Editorial

Welcome to our second attempt at producing the Grapevine. Thank you to David for the tutorial and to Paul for the final lay-out. Constructive comments are welcome – and help even more so!

We particularly need a helpful person to do the lay-out ready for sending to the printers.

Until then it would help us enormously if you could send in your articles and news as follows:

- Send the body of the text in the email
- Send photographs , art work and tables as attachments
- Send in your news by the 10th of each month – we publish bi-monthly, so the next copy date is January 10th. 2017
- Send everything to : grapevinesn16@aol.com

Thank you for your contributions and co-operation.

A Competition and a prize!

Can you design a new banner for the Grapevine? We would like a new design for the heading of the newsletter – so please put your design abilities to the test and send in your ideas! There will be a prize for the one chosen!

Hankerton Curry Night!

If you were walking past the church on one particular October evening and thought you could sense the tantalising smell of Indian food wafting from the North Aisle direction then you weren't going mad but you were missing out on the Hankerton Curry Night! Villagers young and old joined together to enjoy a delectable range of Indian cuisine prepared by and on behalf of the North Aisle

Committee. Thank you to everyone who came along and everyone who helped with the cooking - much appreciated! The feedback we have had has been very positive - in fact we've been asked to do another one, maybe

with an Italian or Mexican theme next time so watch this space!

We raised a fantastic £229 and were completely sold out so a big THANKS again on behalf of the North Aisle Committee!



Thank you!

This is a thank you to the North Aisle committee, especially the cooks, who organised the Curry Night – the food was delicious, the organisation impeccable and the decorations added to the atmosphere. Everyone enjoyed the evening, chatting with friends and are looking forward to the next 'pop-up' adventure!

CAROL SINGING!!!

The Hankerton Carollers will be calling on you,

Monday 19th December 2016.

Please listen out and give generously for,

Great Western Air Ambulance

This is used for critical care in our area.



Christmas cards

Yes, it is time to start thinking about cards! Especially the popular Christmas cards showing the lovely Holy Cross Church, Hankerton. These cards are all finished by hand by Chris and make excellent cards for friends and family far and near. Please get your orders in early, list of prices In the church porch or contact Chris on 577123.

Nature Diary – December.

The days are at their shortest this month, with perhaps some cold or rainy weather thrown in for good measure. Some species are hibernating through the winter and others have migrated to warmer climes, so maybe it's not an ideal month for nature watching. However, some species choose to come here for our relatively "better" winter weather, and two birds are easily and regularly seen.

They are both members of the Thrush family, the Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*) and the Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*). They breed in Russia, northern Europe and Scandinavia, and the numbers coming here for the winter vary depending on the weather on the continent and how good the berry crop is that autumn.



The Fieldfare is a large bird, about Blackbird sized, with a grey head, brown back and grey rump, and spotted pale belly. They can be nervous as they breed in remote countryside with few people, and when disturbed they produce their call in flight which is easily recognised by being a harsh "Chack-chack-chack". The flock also tends to be more spread out in flight than Starlings for instance. Their name means "traveller of the fields" and after arriving here they seek farmland where they feed on worms and other invertebrates, and if the weather is cold and makes this food difficult to find then they turn to berries such as haws, hips and ivy, in decreasing preference. They will only come into gardens in very severe weather conditions to feed on fruit such as windfall apples.

The Redwing comes from the same areas as the Fieldfare, and spends the winter here with the Fieldfares, so if you see one of the species it is likely that the other is also in the flock. On grassland they will be in well spread out flocks, perhaps many metres between each bird, searching for their prey. The Redwing is a bit smaller than a Blackbird with a prominent pale stripe above the eye, a pale speckled breast and an area of red under and in front of the wing, which is more obvious in flight. They prefer to migrate in the dark and their soft calls, "tseep, tseep", can sometimes be heard overhead.

About 680,000 Fieldfares come here each winter, slightly less Redwings, and their preferred area is central southern England, so it would be a surprise if you didn't manage to see them this winter.

Steve Davies

MY HORSE,SNIPE, IS LOOKING FOR A COMPANION AT DOLMANS FARM, HANKERTON.

I CAN OFFER DIY LIVERY FOR ONE HORSE/PONY TO INCLUDE STABLE, FIELD,STORE/TACK ROOM AND PARKING FOR TRAILER IN RETURN FOR COMPANIONSHIP AND OCCASIONAL HELP IN CARING FOR SNIPE. (NOT RIDING).THERE IS A NEARBY SCHOOL WHICH CAN BE HIRED.

PLEASE CONTACT JACQUI ON 01666 577329 OR 07825 580523 IF THIS INTERESTS YOU OR ANYONE YOU KNOW.

Christmas and New Year waste and recycling collection changes

There will be no waste or recycling collections on Monday 26 December 2016.

All collections during this week will be one day later than normal, with a collection on Saturday 31 December.

Collection days will return to normal from Monday 2 January 2017.

Garden waste collections will be suspended from Monday 26 December and restart on Monday 9 January.

If you have paid for a garden waste collection you can leave your real Christmas tree alongside your garden waste bin on your first garden waste collection day in January and we will ensure it is composted.

To check your collection days at anytime visit: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-collection-days

Normal collection day	Revised household waste, black box, plastic bottles and cardboard collection day	Revised garden waste collection day
Mon 26 December	Tues 27 December	No collections
Tues 27 December	Wed 28 December	No collections
Wed 28 December	Thurs 29 December	No collections
Thurs 29 December	Fri 30 December	No collections
Fri 30 December	Sat 31 December	No collections
Mon 2 January	Collections as normal	No collections
Tues 3 January	Collections as normal	No collections
Wed 4 January	Collections as normal	No collections
Thurs 5 January	Collections as normal	No collections
Fri 6 January	Collections as normal	No collections
Mon 9 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 all day on 25 December, 26 December and 1 January. At all other times normal opening hours will apply, 10am – 4pm, five days per week. Visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/household-recycling-centres to check which days your local centre is open.

Wiltshire Council
Where everybody matters

PATIENTS' PARTICIPATION GROUP

A few notes:

I have been receiving a few comments about poor service at Boots pharmacy at the surgery, as have other members of the Group. The lead pharmacist was asked to attend our latest meeting to discuss the situation and said that he too is frustrated by the lack of space, which means they cannot carry much stock. He emphasised that four days to fill a repeat prescription must be allowed, not two as is often thought. Deliveries come at different times of day so items are not always ready at the same time. He is in discussion with the head office, who also decide which retail products they must carry, and we have written to them to reinforce his comments, so watch this space!

The surgery has 14 doctors and 2 trainees. Two candidates are being interviewed for the GP vacancy. An additional Elderly Care nurse has been employed to work with the elderly in their own homes. A blood centrifugal machine is on loan from RUH and is proving to be extremely useful.

It is appreciated that booking appointments can be very difficult. If at all possible, it is best to book ahead online. Of course, if it is an emergency they will always find a slot, equally it is not always possible to ask for a specific doctor.

Georgina Carter
01666 575465

Cookery Corner!

Do you have a favourite recipe that you'd like to share? Send it to us at The Grapevine and we'll share it for you - grapevinesn16@aol.com

Here's a quick and easy one that's a favourite in the O'Brien household :-

Szechuan Tex-Mex Chicken and Broccoli (feeds 4)

3-4 chicken breasts (depending on size of appetite), cubed
2 cloves garlic, crushed

1/4 Pint of salsa (mild/hot -its up to you!) 1 tablespoon freshly grated ginger
or 1/2 teaspoon of ground ginger

2 tablespoons soy sauce Broccoli florets

1 tablespoon water Red and green pepper, cubed

1 tablespoon cornflour

1/2 teaspoon sugar

Oil (Whatever amount you usually use)

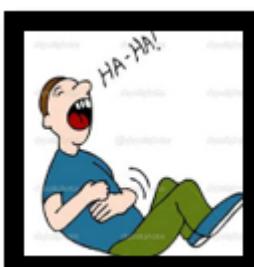
1 medium onion, sliced

Cooking/preparation time 25 mins



Method:-

Mix salsa, soy sauce, water, cornflour and sugar in bowl. Heat oil in wok or large pan and add chicken. Stir fry for 4 minutes or until nearly cooked. Add onion, garlic and ginger to pan and stir-fry for a minute, then add broccoli and peppers and stir-fry for a further 3 minutes until the vegetables are tender. Add the mixed sauces and stir-fry for another minute. Serve with rice, noodles or flour tortillas.



Kids Joke-time!

Got a good joke kids? Why not share it with everyone? Send it to the Grapevine and we may print it - a small prize for each winning joke!!!

Here's a pretty awful (but seasonal!) one to start the ball rolling - surely you can do better?

Q. What is a dinosaur's least favorite reindeer?

A. Comet!

Charlton Recreation Centre (Anne Hodgkins)

Quiz Night - 15 October 2016

Over 50 people attended the Quiz Night held at Charlton Village Hall on Saturday 15 October. 11 teams tackled the fiendishly difficult questions set by Val Coombes. The competition was close with Minety Clowns+2 ending the evening as winners.



The quiz, bar and raffle raised a total of £425 with all proceeds will go towards restoration of the memorial garden in front of the Hall. Thanks to all those who supported the event.

The evening was a sad farewell for quiz night regulars as it was the last time that Val (ably assisted by husband George) will present one of her inimitable quizzes, as they will soon be leaving the area. For many years we have had a full hall, heated debate on some of the answers and plenty of friendly rivalry between teams. We wish them all the best

Fund-Raising Ideas

The committee is looking for ways to raise further funds to pay for the remaining repairs to the play area and, longer term, the replacement of the tractor and gang mower used to mow the field. As mentioned earlier, we would welcome a volunteer to take on Val's mantle as Quiz Night question setter. We would also like to know what other events local people would be interested in supporting or even helping to organise.



Among those the committee are considering are: a Summer Fete, Film Club and Horse Race Night. Please contact one of the committee and let us know your thoughts on these or any other ideas.

The committee members are: John Jerman, Anne Hodgkins, Craig Duff, Bob Blanden, Paul and Terri Chivers, Anne Holland, Margaret and Neil Medland and Jenny Walker.

You don't have to struggle this winter

Having to choose between things like heating your home and putting food on the table is something many people take for granted, but sadly this is something that the Warm and Safe Wiltshire Advice Service come across regularly. We want to help residents across Wiltshire to be warmer, safer and healthier in their homes this winter. If you're at all worried, get in touch with Warm and Safe Wiltshire to see how we can help.



Rachel Kent, Public Health Specialist explains "far too often, I come across residents who are struggling to make ends meet and will often save some money by not switching on the heating or letting other bills

build up. The Warm and Safe Wiltshire advice service is determined to give people the help and support they need to ensure food is on the table and they're not worried about having the heating on when it's cold. There are some really great services available at the moment which could really help with keeping on top of bills and ensuring your home is warm, safe and comfortable this winter."

Find out about:

The Warm Home Discount is £140 rebate on your electricity or gas bill and is offered to people with low incomes, in receipt of benefits, elderly or disabled or young children. The eligibility criteria varies between supplier so check your eligibility with Warm and Safe Wiltshire and don't delay as the discount is provided on a first come first served basis.

Would you be at risk if there was a power cut? Perhaps you use electricity for medical equipment or you're not a steady on your feet as you once were. If this is the case, Scottish and Southern Energy Network (SSEN) offer a free Priority Services Register that will ensure that your home is prioritised in the event of a power cut. SSEN will also let you know about planned interruptions, advice on how to be prepared for a power cut, what to do if one happens and, if necessary, provide a cold weather crisis pack. You can sign up to the PSR on our website: www.warmandsafewiltshire.org.uk/psr

Living in a cold home can be bad for your health. Consistently low temperatures in your home may exacerbate existing health issues and make it harder for you to recover from illnesses. Insulation and heating improvements are one of the best ways of making your home warmer as well as lowering your energy bills. In some cases, there is funding available to help you pay for the work.

Warm and Safe Wiltshire also can help with understanding your heating system and energy bills, switching energy suppliers and a comprehensive home fire safety check where eligible. The service can also advise on possible benefit entitlement and available grants. Energy advice can be given through home visits as well as over the phone.

If you're worried about keeping your home warm and paying your bills this winter, contact Warm and Safe Wiltshire on 0300 003 4575 or email warmandsafe@wiltshire.gov.uk.

'Away in a manger' - powerful stuff

The other day we welcomed two classes of children from Crudwell School into All Saints Church to spend some time with us thinking about the Lord's Prayer. The children were lovely: well-behaved, thoughtful, engaged and questioning. We did different activities to reflect about each line of the prayer, and at the end of the session we considered the closing words: 'For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever, Amen'.

Power is a very real issue for us in the wake of both the US presidential election and the ongoing controversies about Brexit. Who has power in our world? How is power used? What different sorts of power are there? What might a just and fair distribution of power involve?

There are no easy answers, but as we travel through the season of Advent this month, the closing words of the Lord's Prayer give us a different way of looking at them. The Lord's Prayer makes it quite clear that in the end, 'the kingdom, the power and the glory' reside with God. As soon as we think about this, however, we might ask ourselves why, if God has so much power, is the world in such a mess?



The two things I'd say in response both have to do with power. Firstly, God has given us incredible power - to think, to make decisions, to choose. Secondly, we often misuse our power with tragic consequences, so this is where God's power comes in. In this season of Advent we look ahead to Christmas, where we remember the coming of Christ. The gospel accounts testify that Jesus was a uniquely powerful person. But Jesus did not exercise his power in a violent or oppressive way. Instead, Jesus used his power to heal, to liberate and to restore. Above all, Jesus showed his power by submitting to a shameful death on a cross.

Yet it was this unjust execution of a powerless man that unleashed God's most powerful action: the breaking of the ultimate power of sin and death. And ever since the first Easter, ordinary men and women and children have found that they have had the power to live lives of healing and forgiveness.

God's power is very real, and it is seen in changed lives. God's kingdom is real, and it is found among us as we continue to act in the ways that Jesus did. God's glory is real, and it is seen in every act of mercy and every word of hope. So as we approach Christmas, may we resolve to seek the power of God; and the other name for that power, of course, is love.

May you have a peaceful and joyful Christmas.

Rev'd Phil

Braydon Brook Services December 2016

	4 December Advent 2	11 December Advent 3	18 December Advent 4	24 December Christmas Eve	25 December Christmas Day	1 January Second Sunday of Christmas
Ashley	Holy Communion (BCP) 8.30am	Christingle Communion 10am	Morning Prayer 9.30am	Carol Service 8pm	Holy Communion 9.30am	No Service
Charlton	Family Service 9.30am	No Service	Carol Service 8pm	Midnight Communion 11.30pm	Holy Communion 9.30am	Group Communion 10am
Crudwell	Morning Worship 11.00am	No Service	Carol Service 4pm	Crudwell Village Nativity 4pm Midnight Communion 11.30pm	Children's Service 10am	No Service
Hankerton	Holy Communion 9.30am	No Service	Carol Service 8am	No Service	Holy Communion 9.30am	No Service
Minety	Holy Communion 11.00am	Service of the Word 10am	Holy Communion 8.30am (BCP) Carol Service 4pm	All Age Service 9am First Communion of Christmas 9pm	Holy Communion 11am	No Service
Oaksey	Mother 11am	Nativity 11am	No Service	No Service	Holy Communion 11am	No Service
CHARLTON	Saturday 17 Dec, 4pm Christingle service					
OAKSEY	Saturday 17 Dec, 5pm Carol service					

Braydon Brook Services January 2017

	1 January Christmas 2	8 January Epiphany	15 January Epiphany 2	22 January Epiphany 3	29 January Candlemas
Ashley	No Service	Evening Prayer 8pm	Morning Prayer 9.30am	Holy Communion 9.30am	No Service
Charlton	Group Communion 10am	No Service	Evensong 6pm	Holy Communion 9.30am	No Service
Crudwell	No Service	Group Communion 10am	Holy Communion 9.30am	All Age Worship 11am	No Service
Hankerton	No Service	No Service	Informal Worship 11am	No Service	Group Communion 10am
Minety	No Service	Service of the Word 10am	Holy Communion (BCP) 8.30am Service of the Word 10am	Service of the Word 10am	No Service
Oaksey	No Service	No Service	Family Service 11am	Holy Communion 11am	No Service

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Monday - Friday two course steak supper £11.50
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12.00-2pm



Christmas Menu 2016

£11.50 for 2 courses

£13.95 for 3 courses

Starters:

- Game Terrine
(Venison, pheasant, pigeon) with toast and tomato chutney
- Parsnip and Celeriac Soup with warm roll and butter
- Cod, Salmon and Chilli Fishcake with tartare sauce

Main:

- Roast Turkey, Chipolata sausage and rustic stuffing
 - 28 day Matured Roast Topside of Beef With Yorkshire pudding
 - Grilled Cajun Salmon A supreme of salmon delicately spiced
- Sweet potato, spinach and butternut squash filo pastry pie

All main courses are served with seasonal vegetables and roast potatoes

Dessert:

- Christmas Pudding with brandy sauce
 - Sticky Toffee Pudding Sundae
 - Raspberry Eton Mess
-

Christmas menu available from 25th November until 24th December 2016.

Reservations are required for all Christmas menu bookings.

ENTREATY

I seek compassion and forgiveness, Lord, for others that are caught -
With their sins entangled round them, forgetful of what You taught

I do not want to be a judge, Lord, I will leave that up to You -

For You have authority over us, You hold a wider view

If others are caught in sinful ways, who am I to cast a stone?

I only have to look through my life to see they're not alone

For I have a sinful nature too and first need to seek forgiveness from You.

Want to knock my self-righteousness upon the head -

Come to You in penitence, be comforted

As You see us when we try to make amends,

I feel You listen first, You do not just condemn

As we seek forgiveness, Lord, You hear our appeal -

Please take our sins and let us stay by You,
not go astray; be healed.

22.02.97.

{John81:11)

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News flash!



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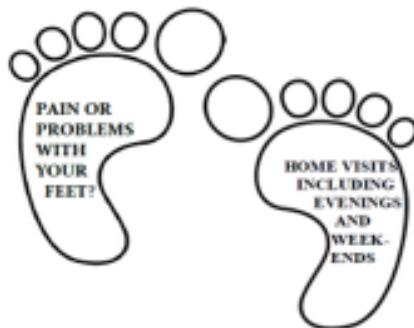
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Flo, a responsible 17 year old who lives in Church Lane, can babysit at weekends and weekday evenings.



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