

# The Grapevine

February 2017

Edition 123

## Editorial

Happy new year to all our readers. A time to make resolutions and look for new challenges! Time to get out the diaries and put in village activities, attend them and even volunteer to help!

Thank you to everyone who made Hankerton a bright and cheerful place with all the Christmas lights, some tasteful, some done with humour, some very high-tech and others just very high! We wonder what lights will appear in December 2017!

We look forward to the appearance of the daffodils along the roadside and other planted containers placed around the village and kept in good order by community-minded folk. This year it would be nice to see more wild flowers and butterfly friendly shrubs and flowers growing, everyone could do a bit to help. Look out for plants to add to your garden, helping out in the churchyard or community area and get Hankerton on the map for the butterflies and birds.

We are very sorry to say that this will be the last time the Grapevine is published by Abbey Printing. David and Cathy have been great producers of numerous local village newsletters for many years and helped with the Grapevine in times of need (not to mention panic!). They will be greatly missed and we wish them well in their new endeavours.

So, we are now looking for a new company to print the newsletter as well as a producing editor, let's hope we find both in time to produce a Grapevine for April. If anyone can help please contact us on the Grapevine email.

Susan and Mary

P.S. Any ideas for a new heading? We would love someone to design a new one!

Deadline for news for the April newsletter: **March 10th 2017**

The size and content of The Grapevine depends on the amount of copy we receive from individuals and groups. So, please keep the news and events coming in.

All articles, adverts to be sent to : **grapevinesn16@aol.com**

Or to: 21 Follyfield, Hankerton. SN16 9LA

The Grapevine is also published on-line - check out the Hankerton web-site: **hankertonvillage.com**

Thank you to all our advertisers for advertising with us - it helps the village to continue to have a newsletter. Thank you also to the Parish Council for continuing to support the Grapevine.

Please mention to advertisers that you saw their advert here first.

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I wonder how you're feeling as February begins? It's often a transitional month. The excitement of the New Year is over and we've got used to it being 2017. The initial impetus behind our New Year's resolutions has worn off and we're having to grit our teeth to carry on. Spring might be on its way but it hasn't really arrived yet. February is a funny month.

February is a time of transition in the Church year too. The festival of Candlemas falls at the start of the month. As the name implies, Candlemas is a service all about candles. Traditionally, it involved large candle-lit processions, and during the service the stocks of candles that would be used in the coming year would be blessed by the priest.

More significantly, Candlemas is also the service at which we remember Mary and Joseph bringing the infant Jesus to the Temple, and his recognition by Simeon and Anna as the one who was to bring salvation. At Candlemas we turn from remembering the birth of Jesus, and begin to look ahead to Lent and see the cross in the distance. There's a bitter-sweet quality about this time of year. In traditional Candlemas services, black vestments were worn for the procession and white for the communion: darkness and light co-existing.

As we consider our own lives and as we look at our world in 2017, we see countless examples of darkness and light walking side by side. Christian faith does not deny the dark reality of suffering, but neither does it seek to give a neat explanation for it. Instead, Christian faith offers a story of hope that takes us through suffering and evil and out the other side into the light of God's love. It's the story of a real person, Jesus Christ. Like millions of other people before me, I've found this story to be one that offers me hope and a future. In fact, I've found this story to be trustworthy and true: to be gospel.

Lent will be with us next month. Perhaps this year it might be the time to investigate the hopeful and positive claims of the Christian faith for ourselves. More details will be available in the coming weeks for opportunities to do just that this Lent. Why not see for yourself?

-Rev'd Phil

## CHURCH MATTERS

Once again, it was lovely to see so many attending the Carol Service on 18th December and the Christmas Day Service one week later. The numbers were up on previous years, 87 and 76 respectively, including lots of children and visiting families. Mince pies and mulled wine were enjoyed after the Carol service. We thank Nick Durnford for providing again a splendid tall Christmas tree (bigger than the one in Malmesbury Abbey), beautifully decorated by Hankerton villagers of all ages.

The Lent Lunch in the North Aisle will be on 25th March from 12 noon to 1.30. Last year, the funds raised were given to the scanner appeal at the Great Western Hospital.

The annual Supper Party in the North Aisle, will be on 11th March. There will be a raffle and bar. Tickets from Philip Carter (575465) or Chris Betts (577123) or in the North Aisle during the "Coffee and Chat" on a Saturday morning, price kept at £10, despite creeping inflation.

Philip Carter and Valerie Durnford, Churchwardens

## Braydon Brook Services February 2017

	<i>5 February 4 before Lent</i>	<i>12 February 3 before Lent</i>	<i>19 February 2 before Lent</i>	<i>26 February Next before Lent</i>
Ashley	Holy Communion (BCP) 8.30am	Evening Prayer 6pm	Morning Prayer 9.30am	Holy Communion 9.30am
Charlton	Family Service 9.30am	No Service	Evensong 6pm	Holy Communion and Baptism 9.30am
Hankerton	Holy Communion 9.30am	No Service	Informal Worship 11am	No Service
Minety	Holy Communion 11am	Group Communion 10am	Holy Communion 8.30 Service of the Word 10am	Service of the Word 10am
Oaksey	11am	No Service	Family Service 11am	Holy Communion 11am
Crudwell	Morning Worship 11am	No Service	Holy Communion 9.30am	All Age Worship 11am

### **Little Saints Our Local Churches' Baby and Toddler group**

We welcome all pre-school children (0-5 years) with their parents or carers.  
Every Tuesday during term time we are NOW AT 'Holy Cross' Hankerton  
January 10th to April 4th (excluding 14th February half Term )

Doors open at 9:30am, finish at 11am  
There is free play, a short interactive story, craft activity, singing  
squash and fruit/coffee and biscuits.

Contact Rev Sarah Wyman 01666 577159 for more details  
No booking is required, and there is no charge.

## Nature Diary – February 2017.

February, and most of the winter weather, if not the worst, is behind us, and I start to yearn for those warmer days to come, especially early summer and wandering in flower filled meadows, humming with the sound of a myriad of insects.

Although not a natural ecosystem, (after all, most of the UK would be under forest if it hadn't been altered or managed by man), a traditionally managed hay meadow has become a very important and increasingly rare environment, which benefits a large number of plants and animals. The usual management involves allowing the vegetation to grow during the first half of the year, and then a hay crop is taken in late June or July, after which cattle or sheep are grazed on the re-growth that takes place. Their grazing stops the grassland becoming too dense, which allows plants other than the grass to flourish, and their faeces returns some of the fertility to the ground for the following year's growth.

So what is so special about a flower meadow? Apart from the sheer beauty and variety of flowers seen in one, these flowers are important sources of food for butterflies, moths, bees, hoverflies and others, by providing both nectar and pollen. Some of the plants, as opposed to their flowers, are food sources for the larvae of some moths and butterflies, and others support aphids which are fed on by ladybirds and their larvae. A flower meadow is the start of the food chain that leads all the way up to small mammals eating insects and their larvae, the insect eating birds such as the Spotted Flycatcher and the Swallow, and whatever eats them in turn.

The character and colour of a meadow changes with the advance of the growing season, with species of plants flowering at different times, the insect species visible alter with their varying dependence on certain plant species, and the overall colour may be yellow in Spring but moves to purple/pink in late Summer. So multiple visits during the Spring and Summer bring differing sights and interest.

By delaying the taking of the hay crop until June/July, or even later, the flowers have not only fed the vast numbers of insects but also had time to set seed for future generations of flowering plants. This is the management undertaken on the small conservation area on the north side of Hankerton churchyard, and on the much larger land area of Cloatley Meadows, a Wiltshire Wildlife Trust reserve. We are indeed fortunate in north Wiltshire to still have some very flower-rich meadows to enjoy, and perhaps the most impressive of all is Clattinger Farm, Oaksey, another WWT reserve. This meadow is the only lowland grassland farm in England never to have received any artificial fertilisers or chemicals – and it shows!

I am happy to lead small visiting groups of interested villagers to Clattinger Farm in late May/early June to experience the beauty of these very special places. Dates and arrangements to follow in the April Nature Diary.

Ooh, bring on the Spring!

Steve Davies.

FREE TO A GOOD HOME, small double sized IKEA bed settee. dark blue in colour, in good clean condition. Would suit child's bedroom for sleepovers etc.

If interested please call Steve or Linda on 01666 577456

### **Carol Singing**

Well done to the tuneful carol singers who sang their way around the village. They brought the spirit of Christmas to everyone and raised £250 for the Great Western Critical Care Air Ambulance. Thank you to everyone for their donations and to the people who provided the mince pies, mulled wine and a lovely supper!

### **Parish Council**

#### **Village Litter Pick**

Everyone is welcome to the annual clean-up and litter pick on Saturday, March 4th at 10am. The bags etc. can be collected from Pear Tree cottage on that morning, along with where your team will go. Thanks are also due to the few individuals who litter pick all year - it seems that there is a lot more thrown out of van and car windows these days!

#### **Advance notice.**

The Annual Village Meeting will take place on May 8th in the church. Everyone is welcome to come along, enjoy the refreshments and here about village groups, projects and have a say in what they would like for the future.

### **History Group**

We have some activities and talks planned for this year. All our activities are posted around the village nearer the time, so look out for them and come along if a topic interests you. Everyone is welcome. There is usually a small entrance fee which includes refreshments.

February meetings:

February 7th : research visit to The Swindon and Wiltshire History Centre, Chippenham.

February 14th: A sorting and cataloguing afternoon in the church. 1.30-4.00.

March 28th: AGM. A presentation By Anthony Mims about the metal detecting finds in Hankerton, the highs and lows of detecting and how he found a Roman coin hoard in a local field.

April 25th: A presentation and inter-active meeting about Know Your Place and the on-line Parish Clerk material.

May 23rd

### **Hankerton Golf Club - Congratulations!**

2016 marked the 10th anniversary of the foundation of the Hankerton Golf Club. In the 10 years we have played well in excess of 600 times, yet still have only one player to have scored a hole in one and that was Brian.

The club has always been very successful in raising money for local charities. Last September a team of Hankerton hackers namely Brian, Frances, David and Peter played in a shotgun start competition at Oaksey Park. The Hackers finished only 4 shots behind the winners but taking handicaps into consideration finished 8th out of 18 teams; a really great performance. The total raised for Paternoster was a very useful sum in excess of £2500. Starting out with 4 members we now have 16 members, amongst our new players Graham plays a mean game while one of the older gentlemen, John, has developed this year a truly outstanding putting stroke - it is so incredible the way in which his ball finds the cup., we think Edna must have very worn carpets. Most of our players now have electric trolleys, some are holding back on the purchase until they reach their 8th decade. So the club strides on to 2017 and as a wise man once said, Golf is 20 percent mechanics and techniques. The other 80 percent is philosophy, humour, tragedy, romance, melodrama, companionship, camaraderie, cussedness and conversation  
Peter Jefferis

### Malmesbury & District University of the Third Age

U3A is a unique organisation which provides educational, creative and leisure opportunities for retired and semi-retired people to come and learn together, drawing upon the knowledge, experience and skills of their own members to organise and provide interest groups in a very wide range of subjects. (Now with over 400 members in the Malmesbury group.) Meet on 4th Thursday of month at 10am for refreshments 10.30-11.30 monthly speaker. Close by 11.45. Charge 50p.

There will be a 'bring & share' lunch on Thurs Jan 26 12-2pm. Future speakers: Thurs 23 Feb - Caroline Sheldrick – 'History of Herbal Medicine'. Meet at Assembly Rooms in Town Hall. For further details call Membership Secretary Ann Roberts-Phare on 01666 823971 or visit [www.malmesburyu3a.org.uk](http://www.malmesburyu3a.org.uk)

### Charlton Recreation Centre

**Terms and Conditions of Hire:** The committee used part of their January meeting to review bookings during the previous year to assess whether to make any amendments to the terms and conditions of hire. The meeting re-affirmed that submission of a booking form and deposit were required in order to secure an event booking. As no deposit is required for a 2-hour children's party, the committee also decided that for these events the booking form should be accompanied by full payment. Additionally, it was decided that the special children's party rate would only be available for children up to and including 12 years of age. Other possible changes were identified which will be discussed at the next meeting.

Further information on the website [www.charltonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.charltonvillagehall.co.uk).

**Fund-Raising and Grants.** The recreation centre was successful in its application to the December Waitrose green token scheme, which has raised £290 towards repairs.

The committee would still like to hold a quiz night in the spring but have yet to find someone to take on Val Coombes's mantle as question setter. If you are interested or know someone who could help, please contact Anne Hodgkins (825248) or Margaret Medland (823461).

### EXCITING NEWS FROM OAKSEY YOUTH CLUB

Have you heard that Oaksey Senior Youth Club is now running with an experienced and very enthusiastic leader and support volunteers? We meet in Oaksey Village Hall on Tuesday evenings in term time from 7.30 – 9pm. It is a friendly small group for all young people age 12- 18 from Oaksey and surrounding villages. Cost is just £2 per session.

The members decide on a wide range of activities and occasional trips based on what they themselves want to do

We are exploring the possibility of providing transport from local villages so that as many young people as possible can benefit from this exciting new club.

We are still looking for a leader for the Junior club, (we pay £8.50 per hour or £9.50 if qualified) so please let us know if anyone might be interested.

For more information, drop us an email on [oakseyyouthclub@outlook.com](mailto:oakseyyouthclub@outlook.com)

#### Fibre in Hankerton

As a member of the Hankerton Parish Council I have been in contact with Broadband Wiltshire over the past year and have been asking for updates on Fibre to Hankerton and then report back to council.

We have all noticed the Green Cabinet that has been erected at the entrance to Follyfield. This cabinet is the FTTC unit (Fibre To The Cabinet) and connecting to this will provide a faster BB speed to a larger portion of the village than previously experienced.

The latest update from WC reads thus:-

" We are planning on having the cabinet ready for service by the end of this year 2016/early next year 2017. I would suggest contacting me again in the New Year as I should be able to confirm if the cabinet has gone live.

Signed

Marie at Wiltshire Broadband "

Dave Wood, Parish Councilor.

#### Do You Need a Babysitter?

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

Please phone 01666 575498

## **Hankerton Street Fayre**

WHY DID THE SCARECROW WIN AN AWARD?  
BECAUSE HE WAS THE BEST IN HIS FIELD!

Put the date in your diary now!

**THE 2017 HANKERTON STREET FAYRE**

**BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 28TH AUGUST**

ALSO:

Village planning meeting Tuesday 11th July

Last year we raised over £1000 for the North Aisle , Hankerton's community area and we are appealing for more volunteers!

It's a lovely family affair but we need more help to continue this great village event.

Come along to the planning meeting, enjoy a glass of wine and VOLUNTEER!

(Details in the next Grapevine)



## Wheatsheaf Inn - Crudwell

Tel: 01666 577739  
tobygregory@aol.com wheatsheafcrudwell.co.uk  
Tripadvisor: wheatsheaf-Crudwell

*Traditional pub food in a relaxing atmosphere*

### Special Offers:-

Monday night freshly battered cod and chips £7.50  
5.30-7pm

Monday – Friday two course steak supper £12  
5.30-8pm

Roast Sunday lunch with free dessert £12  
12.00-2pm



Sample Menu – there's so much more we can't fit it all on the page!

#### Starters:

Pan fried haddock and spring onion fishcake  
Sauté garlic mushrooms with bacon on toasted bread  
Duck spring rolls with sweet chilli sauce  
Homemade soup of the day with bread roll and butter

#### Main Courses:

Hunters Chicken with bacon and hickory BBQ sauce  
Traditional beef lasagne with chips and crispy salad  
Grilled sirloin steak with onion rings  
Grilled supreme of salmon with herb and potato crust

#### Vegetarian Choices:

Vegetable burger with salsa  
White wine and mushroom stroganoff on rice  
Panfried mushrooms with sundried tomatoes on toast  
Homemade Vegetable lasagne

#### Light bites:

Selection of filled baguettes

#### Pastas:

(served with or without homemade soup)

Ham and cheese melt

Tuna melt

Brie and cranberry

Jacket potatoes

(served with a full crisp salad)

Barns and stilton Cheese

Prawn and mayonnaise

Grills:

Cumberland sausage

Scottish beef burger with stilton cheese.

Daily homemade specials available every day except Sunday lunch.  
We have a fabulous selection of homemade delicious desserts made by Debbie.

#### Kids Menu:

Beef burger served in a bag with fries  
Heinz Baked Beans on toast  
Cheese and tomato pizza with garlic bread and salad  
Homemade beef lasagne with chips and salad  
Crispy coated fish and chips with peas  
Golden chicken nugget with chips and tomato sauce  
Ham, egg and chips  
Children's Roast Sunday lunch

#### Children's Desserts:

Ice cream sundae  
Chocolate ice cream sundae  
Apple pie and custard  
Mixed fruit crumble and ice cream

"Friendly staff and lovely food"

"Good food, old fashioned hospitality"

"Best roast potatoes I've ever eaten."  
Quotes from Trip Advisor



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