



The Grapevine

Issue 111

February 2015

Editorial

Ah February...it may be the shortest month of the year but for many of us it's also the best month and all because of one special day... a day we look forward to all year, love is in the air and the shops are crammed with everything you need to make the evening special - yes, it's Pancake Day. Whether sweet or savoury, we Brits love our pancakes (but obviously sweet are best...you can't beat a sprinkle of sugar and a squirt of lemon juice...yum!).

Shrove Tuesday (to use its proper name) was once known as a "half-holiday" in Britain, starting at 11:00am with the ringing of a church bell. Sadly that custom has long since died but thanks to a housewife from Olney in Bucks we do still have the traditional pancake race, celebrating the day that she was so busy making pancakes that she forgot about the time and ended up racing from home to church still carrying her frying pan complete with pancake. Let's face it, we've all had days like that. So enjoy your pancake day everybody (and in case you didn't know it's on Feb 17th this year). Perhaps we should have a pancake race in Hankerton next year? Let us know what you think.

Eds

Nature Diary - February.

By February we should be noticing the lengthening days, and even though there is still plenty of time for some harsh winter weather, Spring is approaching. The emergence of snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*) reminds us of all the floral beauty to come during the rest of the year.

The snowdrop is also known as February Fairmaids, Candlemas Bells (Candlemas falling on the 2nd February) and Snow Piercer, the latter recognising its ability to appear during very cold weather. In fact, the tips of the leaves are especially hardened to allow the plant to push up through frost and snow, after which the flowering stalk appears, bearing the well-known white drooping flowers. It is thought that most of the wild snowdrops are descended from garden escapees, its more usual range being continental Europe. The flower was particularly associated with churches and monasteries, and was first recorded growing wild in the 1770's, in Herefordshire and Worcestershire. Spring's approach is also heralded by the behaviour of birds, with many beginning to establish breeding territories.

The Great Tit (*Parus major*) can be heard calling repeatedly, the song often quoted as sounding like "Tea-cher, tea-cher", but sometimes it may not sound quite the same, but is still two syllables and repeated. Both sexes have a black stripe down the front of the



chest, with that of the female terminating on the chest, whereas the male's stripe extends to between the legs. In male birds this stripe is an indicator of good health and dominance - the healthier and more dominant males have wider stripes - a fact noticed by the female birds. It has always been thought that most birds have a poor sense of smell, but recent research has shown that Great Tits can identify apple trees that are infested with Winter Moth caterpillars, by smell. The infested trees produce as yet unknown chemical substances, which the birds can detect, and as a species very dependent on caterpillars for its young, this saves the birds searching amongst un-infested trees.

Steve Davies



The next Newsletter will be published in April 2015.

Please send copy by
14th March 2015 to
Craig McCallum,
19 Follyfield Hankerton,
SN16 9LA or email to

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
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.

Welcome to Sarah Jane, Dave
and their son, Noah, the new
owners of Brookside Cottage.
We hope to see them at the
various village functions over the
coming year.

Also, a warm welcome to Jon
and Carlie who have moved into
Follyfield.

Craig would like to thank the
two Good Samaritans who
came to his aid when he had a
"senior moment" and had a
nasty fall on the road near the
telephone box. Apart from
loss of dignity, he will survive.



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Pig Practice: 01666 823355

Join us on FACEBOOK or at
www.georgevetgroup.co.uk

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. Ring (01666) 575498.



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 | www.elfsitters.co.uk



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CHARLTON VILLAGE HALL

VILLAGE HALL AGM 27 November 2014

Steve Roberts (Chairman) welcomed the parishioners and representatives of users who attended the meeting. Steve highlighted the major projects which had been completed during the year, namely resurfacing of the car park and improvements to the flower bed (which will become apparent in the spring). Adam Margetts (Treasurer) reported that the Village Hall is in a good position financially to cope with the expected level of general repairs and maintenance which will be a focus for the coming year. These include repairs to playground equipment, new signs to deter dog fouling, spray treating the external wood on the hall and shed and installation of a kick plate in the hall.

The AGM discussed two projects being planned by the committee for the coming year. The first is to explore the provision of a web-based booking system. The committee is also keen to promote the hall as a venue for one-off events and is exploring acquiring some better quality crockery which would be available for hire as part of the package.

Steve concluded the meeting by saying that the committee would welcome new members to bring a fresh perspective to our activities. He re-iterated his intention to stand down as Chairman during the forthcoming year and would be happy to discuss the role with anyone who was interested in taking it on.

VILLAGE HALL MEETING 6 January 2015

The main business of the January meeting was to agree how to proceed with a trial of the online booking system. We also reviewed progress of the other in progress items.

Following the success of the Quiz Night last year the committee is planning to hold a similar event in the early Spring. We are currently finalising the details and will advertise the event on village noticeboards and the Hall's website (<http://www.charltonvillagehall.co.uk/>).

The meeting noted that Malmesbury Garden Club would again be holding their annual Flower show in the Village Hall (on 18 July) and invite any green-fingered parishioners to enter their produce and flowers.

Scams - Great and Small



There have been a few nasty scams going around recently. Personally, I have several phone calls every day on both my home phone and my mobile. Some are easy to spot and I get particularly cross with the recorded message ones where they don't even have the courtesy to give me a real person to rant at! Others are more believable and it is so easy to get caught up in their tale. I know of one person who had worked in a factory and so took up the offer of a "free" hearing check which may prove that she was entitled to compensation. She had the check and was advised that she needed hearing aids which would cost over £1,000. She was informed that unfortunately the loss of hearing may not be proved to be the fault of the factory although she could pursue it through their legal folk. She was told that it would be a long process and she should still purchase the hearing aids as they were necessary. It's not really a scam, but it is high pressure selling.

Another gent took a call and was told that his bank account was being hacked into via the internet. He was advised that he needed to act quickly to stop this and, trustingly, our gent gave his bank details over. Sadly the caller took these details and several thousand pounds from the account. It is really easy to be sucked into these conversations and to believe what they say, but they are successful because they are expert liars! If you are not expecting the call, ask the caller to put their request in writing. If you are really not interested in "claiming back your PPI" or whatever, its ok to say NO and to cut the call. Never give bank details over the phone. It is possible to reduce cold callers using call blocking. This can be expensive, but it is an option.

Another recent scam is traders promising to complete work to a certain timescale. The case I heard of was when the salesperson promised the work be completed by mid August and the work was finally done early December. Their trick was to start the work and then delay returning to finish it. Good tradespeople will work to their promises so always try to get references.

As always, I'm here to help so give me a call on 07557 922020 or email me on malmesburygnc@communityfirst.org.uk.

Ellen Blacker
Good Neighbour Co-ordinator
Malmesbury area

Hankerton Golf Club

John Edwards was very keen to play on Boxing day which last year was a Friday (our usual playing day). Edna had given me her full approval, there is no doubt at all that she did. The other members of the club were never ever going to be so brave as to even ask!

Our first game of 2015 was at The Wiltshire where we have a very special deal; a great price and the 8th player goes round free. Unfortunately there were only 7 of us playing that day!

So everyone's kit was inspected for Christmas gifts. A new pull cart; an electric cart with lithium battery (very state of the art); there were some new golf shoes and gloves and one talented (lady) member is being treated to a clutch of golf lessons no less. A clutch being more than 5 (8 in this instance)!

Another member was told. "Of course you can have a new driver darling"

During the first part of the coming year our members will be scattered across the globe, but all will return for the trip in April to St Melion. Then what is also planned are mid week games at Marlborough, Chepstow, Birmingham and Newport for the Ryder cup course plus of course our Charity venues, yet to be decided.

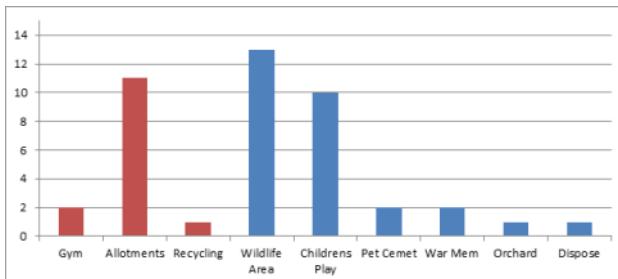
We know our readers like our golf jokes so this was voted the best by the PGA in 2014.

We were playing with an 84 year young gentleman, on a course with which we were unfamiliar. On the third hole we asked him which was the best part of the fairway. He said "On top!"

Peter Jeffries

Hankerton Parish Council

1. At its meeting on 5 January the Parish Council discussed the amenity area (see separate item for more information), flooding and the budget for 2015/16.
2. Wiltshire Council is to strengthen Hankerton Bridge. This means the bridge will be closed to traffic from 2 March for six to eight weeks. A signed diversion route will be placed via the B4040 and A429. There will be a temporary foot bridge for pedestrians and cyclists. Wiltshire Council will send letters to Hankerton addresses in February and advance signs will be placed on the bridge at least two weeks before the works start.
3. Results of the recent survey regarding use of Amenity Area. are shown below.



The results were discussed at the last Parish Council meeting and it was agreed that we need a working party to explore the top suggestions and hopefully implement some of the ideas. Some of you indicated on the form that you would be willing to help. Jill is arranging a meeting for 16th February in the North Aisle. Please could you let her know if you intend coming along.

Telephone Jill on 01666 577781

CAROL SINGING

It seems an age ago when a dozen well voiced individuals donned their woolly hats, scarfs and other winter warmers to perambulate around the streets carolling to the other residents of the village. We chose a pretty good evening this year, not too cold, not windy and dry for the most part so our singing wasn't blown away and we made good time.

Thanks to the generosity of those who answered their doors we raised £234 for Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

It was good to welcome some new singers and we very much appreciated all the refreshments that were provided en route.

Claudine Pynn

A SPRING LECTURE

On Friday 27 March Theo Stening will be giving a talk and slide show about his visit to Norway.

Theo has been to Hankerton before when he gave a talk about Iceland and latterly he gave an illustrated talk about the Stroudwater canal to the History group. If you came to either of these events you will already be aware that he is a very engaging speaker and we hope that you will be able to come and hopefully encourage some of your friends and neighbours too.

Please look out for posters with more information nearer the time.

COFFEE MORNINGS

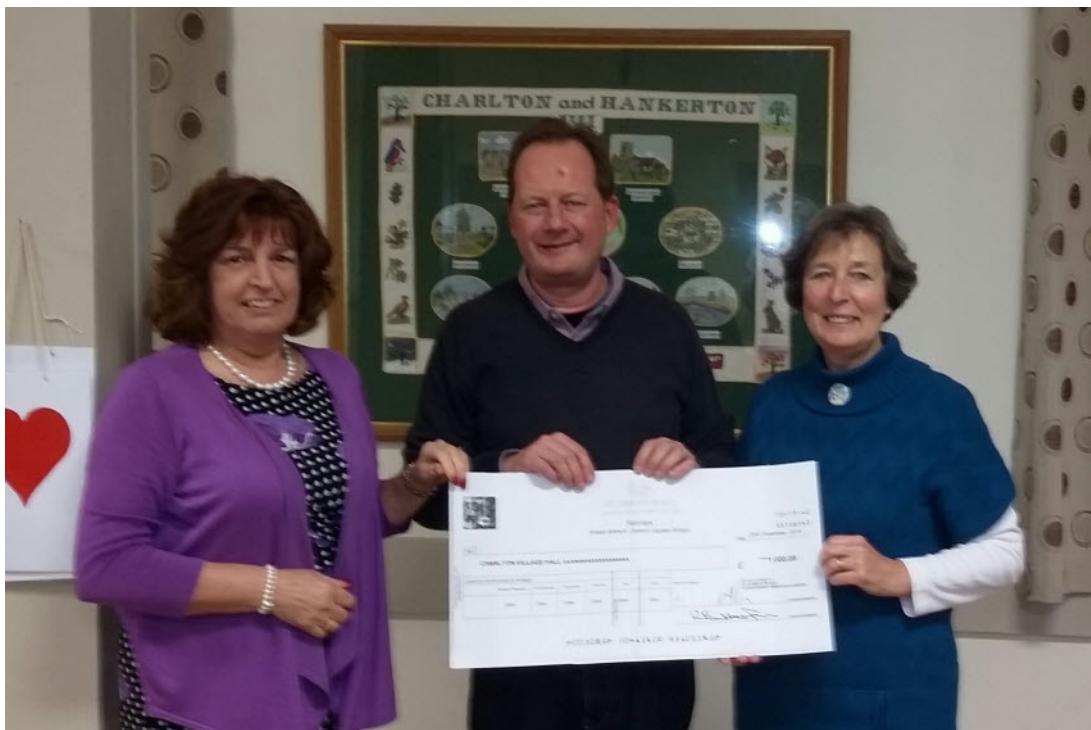
Coffee is available in the North Aisle of the church every Saturday morning between 10:30 am and 12 noon. There is a regular group of attendees but new visitors would be very welcome.

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



For 29 of the last 31 years, members of CHAOS (Charlton & Hankerton Operatic Society!!) have produced and performed a Pantomime held in the Village Hall raising in excess of £35,000 in that time. 2014 would have seen the 30th and last such Pantomime. The cast and crew were in full flow of rehearsals when a decision had to be taken to postpone the pantomime because of illness among the cast. In its place, Brian Dalton offered to pull together some video out-takes from the previous 29 years(!!) and an evening of fun took place on 6 December and raised £328.08 for the village hall. At the time the panto was postponed, Frances Dalton (who has also been with CHAOS for the last 30 years) was made aware of one-off grants for community projects from her employer, whereby St. James's Place would consider applications from organisations where the SJP employee has given time and energy voluntarily. Frances put in an application which was successful and has since had the pleasure of handing over a cheque for £1,000 to the Village Hall Committee. The total of these two amounts, similar to what would have been donated by CHAOS had the pantomime not been cancelled, was presented to The Village Hall treasurer, Adam Margetts by Susan Mockler and Frances Dalton.



VILLAGE HALL QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 28 February 2015

From 7.30 pm

CHARLTON VILLAGE HALL

Prizes

Bar & Nibbles

Raffle

Tickets £5 per head

available from

Terri Chivers 823349

Val Coombes 577669

Thing to do in Oaksey!

Continuing our look at activities taking place in our neighbouring villages - this month we focus on Oaksey.

Of all our neighbours, the village of Oaksey boasts the most facilities, with a thriving primary school, playing fields, church, village hall, shop, The Wheatsheaf pub and excellent restaurant and even a nine hole golf course - you can be sure that there is a lot to do in Oaksey so here is just a selection:-

Oaksey Junior Youth club - Boys and girls aged 7-10. Meet at the Youth Hut, Oaksey School 6-7.30pm Thursdays (term time).

Oaksey Senior Youth Club - Boys and girls aged 11 - 16. For details of either club email youth.club@oaksey.com

Mother and Toddler Group - Wednesday 10am - 12pm. Oaksey Village Hall. Contact Emma Guthrie on 01666 577296.

Oaksey Cricket Club - Meets at 1.30pm on Saturday and Sunday at Oaksey Playing Field from May to September. The club caters for men and boys from 14 years onwards.

Oaksey Football Club - The senior team matches are played every Saturday afternoon from August to May.

Anyone interested in joining this thriving club should contact club secretary Phil Rice on 01666 824007/07979 694981 or email mens.football@oaksey.com.

Oaksey Football Club Youth Team - For girls up to 11 years old and boys up to 13.

Training for all ages is Saturday 9:30-11 with additional training on Wednesday at 6:15-7:15 for U13's.

Matches are Saturday morning for U8 and U11, Sunday morning for U13.

Email: youth.football@oaksey.com

North Wilts Saddle Club - A small, friendly run club, who plan a variety of activities throughout the year for all ages and abilities, even for the non-riding parents!! It's run purely for people to have fun! Activities range from lessons with "professionals", have a go dressage, xc schooling, fun rides, quiz nites, pub rides, skittles and the Annual Show. Email: saddle-club@oaksey.com or call Kathryn Tudor - Membership Secretary on 07790 375732

Oaksey Golf Club - <http://www.oakseygolfclub.co.uk> For more information and to arrange a tour of the facilities, simply call the Oaksey Golf Club on: 01666 577995 or email oakseypark1@gmail.com

In addition to all of this, Oaksey also has the nearest shop to Hankerton. The shop provides a full range of groceries, household goods, stationery, newspapers, magazines and cigarettes. The premises are also licensed to sell wine, beer and spirits. The shop is open 7 days a week although closes early on Sundays.

Hope this was useful to you. ☺

The Hannah Ludlow Charity.

Hopefully, as a result of previous Grapevine articles, most parishioners will be aware of this village charity. The simple aim of the charity is to help members of our community who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress.

Although Trustees of the charity try to be aware of those who may qualify for such support, it could quite easily be the case that some hardship or distress may be unknown to them, and a request for assistance can be made directly by the affected person, or by a friend, neighbour or relative on their behalf. Applications for support can be made to The Chairman, Hannah Ludlow Charity, 1 Cloatley Road, Hankerton, Wiltshire. SN16 9LA, whenever that need arises. All verbal approaches or correspondence are treated in strictest confidence, and only open to the Chairman and Trustees of the charity.

As a small charity the support that can be given is limited, but hopefully still gratefully received, and helps to make a difference. The Trustees would like to extend their sincere gratitude to an anonymous parishioner who made a donation to the charity during 2014. This kindness did allow the Trustees to make a more generous donation to one of our fellow villagers to help with their current needs.

Thank you.

Hankerton Church News

Hankerton Church Services April 2015

Please note the Church is open every Saturday, unless specified, for tea, coffee and chat; all are welcome. Lent lunch will be advertised in the church porch and the notice boards.

January

4th 9:30am Holy Communion
11th 10am Group Holy Communion
Hankerton
18th 11am Informal Service

February

1st 9:30am Holy Communion
8th 10am Group Holy Communion
Minety
15th 11am Informal Service
18th 7:30pm Ash Wednesday
Group Service at Oaksey

Saturday 28th wedding no coffee or tea this morning.

March

1st 9:30am Holy Communion
Saturday 7th 7pm Church supper
in the North aisle and tickets
cost £10 a head.
8th 10am Group Holy Communion
Ashley
15th 11am Informal Service Mothers Day
29th 10am Group Holy Communion
Charlton

April

Maundy Thursday 2nd 6:30pm service and
agape supper Crudwell
Good Friday 3rd 2pm Service of devotion
Hankerton
Easter day 5th 9:30am Holy Communion
12th 10am Group Holy Communion
Minety
19th 11am Informal Service
22nd 7.30pm APCM(7.00 for PCC) Annual
Church meeting all are
welcome to attend

Information from the registers

On 28th December we had the baptism of twins,
Flora and George Brigstocke-Scurr.

Thank you to all the villagers who came to the
carol service on 21st December, after which
mulled wine and mince pies were enjoyed in the
North Aisle, beside a splendidly decorated Christ-
mas tree, generously donated by Nick Durnford.



GOD'S PEACE

Outside, the world is hurrying by - Inside, I draw
a heartfelt sigh
Without, bustle no cessation - Within,
a quietly felt elation
A pool of quietness - A feast of gladness
To sit in prayer - To feel You there
Soft anthems from the choir stall - Reverberate
from wall to wall
A voice is teaching me Your Holy Word. - Whilst
listening, New Life is stirred
Within me as I listen to the preacher - Who
follows on in the footsteps of His Teacher.
He tells of You, I can hear conviction in his voice
And understand from whence that comes -
To hear of You, Rejoice!
A fellowship dwells in this place as I meditate
and pray - That down the centuries is
unchanged from the time of Your Son's Day.
We can meet with You anywhere, Lord; for You
dwell within our hearts - But to come to church
helps us step aside, from busy-ness depart
To leave the world outside for once -
And go inside, Release!
Is what our weary souls require to gather in God's Peace.
05.02.97.

(Psalm 84:1-4)

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HANKERTON CHURCH SUPPER

Saturday 7th March 2015

7pm £10

In the North Aisle Community Area

Bar Raffle

All proceeds to Church Funds

Hankerton History Group report for 2014

1. Report -

The talk by Dr Theo Stenning on Cotswold Canals was very successful and attracted a very good audience of 35 persons.

Much effort has been spent by members preparing for the remembrance of the First World War this year. This has led to an exhibition of many artefacts and documents in the North aisle of the church over a weekend. All members who contributed to this event are to be congratulated and thanked for their efforts. Over 80 people visited the show many staying up to 2 hours.

The coach trip to Brooklands was well attended and reports are that it was a most interesting and enjoyable place to visit. However the planned coach trip to The Royal Society and the War Rooms did not attract enough interest and had to be cancelled.

There have been two group visits to the History Centre for research during the period. It was decided to join the Wiltshire History Forum at a cost of £10 per annum.

Susan will contact the Oaksey History Group through Fred Price with a view to inviting them to join with us on matters of common interest.

2. Meetings and visits programme for 2015.

Tuesday 20th January – A visit for research to the History Centre, Chippenham.

Wednesday 18th February – To be arranged.

Wednesday 18th March – John Thorne to give talk on China in World War Two

Tuesday 21st April – AGM to be followed by a talk on Drove roads and major rights of way in Hankerton by Bunny Lees-Smith.

Wednesday 20th May – A talk 'Joint services' by Susan Mockler about Christopher Yate's father who was in the RAF, with contributions from John Edwards reference his uncle in the Navy, and Jill Ryecroft regarding the Army in the World War One and other experiences.

Later in the year, Craig McCullum and Alfie Plumb to talk on events leading up to the World War One, the first battle and tracing personnel lost during the war. Dates will be published in late spring.

3. Proposed visits during 2015

There will be several visits during the year to the History centre for further research. Members and guests are very welcome to join these visits.

In addition there will be Coach trips – St Fagans near Cardiff (an open air museum of Welsh historic buildings), The Imperial War Museum, in Lambeth, South London. The Black Country Museum, Local visits are planned to – Kelmscott Manor, Great Chatfield Manor, Holt gardens, Snowshill Manor, Old Sarum Castle,

If members or guests would like to join these please contact Bunny Lees-Smith on 01666 577275.

CHAOS Highlights Evening.

The village hall in Charlton reverberated to the laughter of the audience who came to see the highlights of past pantomimes in December. Many could even remember the pantomime - though this number did not include the cast who seem to have selective memories and were as amazed as the audience that they actually did what was seen on the screen! Everyone appreciated Chaos putting on an alternative festive entertainment and especially enjoyed the popcorn and ice-creams served by two usherettes who took their duties very seriously!

Thanks go especially to Brian Dalton for spending much of 2014 reviewing the past pantomimes and transferring them to modern formats before putting together this themed and entertaining DVD.

The profit from the evening has gone to support the village hall.

Susan Mockler

U3A

The University of the 3rd Age is establishing itself in Malmesbury with a wide variety of activities and groups on offer. These range from Italian classes to walking and creative writing. This is a great way to keep your brains active, meet new people and learn new skills or pass on your own <http://malmesburyu3a.org.uk> knowledge. To find out more go to the web-site.

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.