

The Grapevine



Well 2017 is nearly over – where does the time go!? It's been another busy year for Hankerton and as usual we have a lot to squeeze into this edition of the Grapevine so we'll keep the Editorial short this time but just need to say a few Thank Yous!

Thanks to everyone who has sent in articles this year – it is much appreciated and we hope you will continue to do so - remember, this is YOUR village newsletter and we welcome, encourage and need

contributions.

We also thank 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. We thank A4 Stationers of Malmesbury for taking over the printing, Paul O'Brien for his knowledge of publishing software and to Ben Oakley and Sue Doncaster for going out in all weathers to deliver the Grapevine to your door. And finally, we thank you, the reader for supporting us when we almost gave up and for all the positive feedback we received and continue to receive. (Hopefully that didn't sound too much like an Oscar acceptance speech!)

That just leaves us to wish you a Very Merry Xmas and a Healthy and Peaceful 2018.

Mary, Susan and Mike

CAROL SINGING!

Hankerton Carollers will be calling on you on **WEDNESDAY 20th DECEMBER**. Please listen out and give generously for **ALTHESTON HOUSE RESIDENT'S FUND** and **DOROTHY HOUSE HOSPICE**.

Carollers meet at the end of Follyfield at 6.30pm



Deadline for news for the February newsletter: January 10th 2018

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 opinions expressed are the responsibility of the authors.

We reserve the right to edit material.

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. Advertising space is sold in good faith and does not imply endorsement of the services offered.

Nature Diary – December.

Most of the leaves have probably come off the deciduous trees by now, but there is still green to be seen on the coniferous trees, and the Yew (*Taxus baccata*) is a truly indigenous species having colonised here after the ice-age. It is not a tree that grows to great height but tends to spread outwards, and with decay eventually destroying the central portion, very old trees look more like a ring of smaller trees. “Old” and “Yew” go together so well, because some of the yews in this country are thought to be many thousands of years old.

The foliage is very dense, the narrow, dark green leaves being borne in rows on opposite sides of the twig, and not much gets a chance to grow under the shade of a yew. Yew trees are either male or female (i.e. they are Dioecious), and the female trees bear small bright red fruits which contain the seed. The seeds and foliage of the yew are extremely poisonous, but not the fruits, which are enjoyed by birds like blackbirds and thrushes, and who eventually pass the seeds in their faeces with no ill effects.



Yew

The wood of the yew is very strong, (supposedly lasting longer than iron), and has an elasticity which made it ideal for making English longbows. Unfortunately for the yew, longbows were made from the heartwood and not boughs or branches, so the tree had to be cut down. One of the oldest weapons ever found was a yew spear fashioned 250,000 years ago – I didn't even know there were people around that long ago! Perhaps they were not Homo sapiens.

Most will be aware of the association between churchyards and yews, and there are perhaps more than 500 churchyards in England and Wales containing yews. There are many views regarding this association, but some of the yews are older than the churches themselves and it may be that pre-Christian druids first worshipped at a place where a yew tree was present, and that Christianity



Irish Yew

when it arrived established places of worship in the same locations as the druids.

There are two yews in Hankerton churchyard. The youngest was planted in the south-east corner to mark the millennium, and the larger lies east of the church close to the main path through. This latter yew differs from the first in that its leaves are shorter than the other yew, and arranged in clusters around the stem of the twig. This suggests to me that it is an Irish Yew (*Taxus fastigiata*), all specimens of which are derived from a sport found in county Fermanagh, Ireland in the 1760's. Perhaps the keen botanists in the village could have a look and see if they agree. If so, who planted it and when, and why an Irish Yew?

Hankerton Parish Council

The items below were discussed at the Parish Council meeting on 6 November:

The Parish Council agreed an Emergency Plan in the event of snow, disruption of water or electricity supply, fire and flooding. Catherine Grierson is the first point of contact for village residents: tel. 01666 577309; 07767 725026

Wiltshire Council plans to plant 10,000 trees in the county next November to mark the centenary of the end of World War One. The meeting agreed to propose three trees around the bus shelter: one silver birch tree to complement the one that is already there; two flowering cherry trees

The Parish Council is seeking information about play equipment that could go in the amenity area, at the entrance of Old Farm Close. If this is helpful the Parish Council will consult about converting the amenity area to a play area

A No fly-tipping sign has been put up the Parish Council in Downs Lane

It was agreed not to buy a defibrillator but instead to consider first aid training

Only a handful of parish councils in Wiltshire want to campaign with us to increase Broadband speed in the village, so this proposed joint work will not happen

A vacancy remains for the Parish Council. If interested contact the Parish Clerk; contact details are on the Hankerton website.

Go to the Hankerton website for more information about the Parish Council. All meetings are open to the public. The next meeting is on Monday 8 January, 7.30pm; North Aisle

John



Charlton Recreation Centre Committee Update (Anne Hodgkins)

Ride on Mower: Thanks to an extremely generous donation from the members and patrons of Charlton Cricket Club, the recreation centre committee has purchased a replacement ride on mower.

Quiz Night: Over 50 people spent an enjoyable evening at the Quiz on 21 October which raised £413.58 towards projects at the hall. The committee wishes to thank John Thorne and Philip Carter for setting the questions and also the local people and organisations who donated raffle prizes.

Garden: The rear part of the bed has been planted with a range of evergreen shrubs. A rota is in place to maintain the bed.

Charlton Recreation Centre Annual General Meeting 9 November 2017

The Chairman reported that the recreation centre had a strong committee, and expressed his thanks to members of the committee highlighting the contribution that each made to the management of the hall and playing field.

Craig Duff presented the Treasurer's report for 2016-17 (2015-16 figures in brackets). Total operating income was £16,209.92 (£12,657.50) and total operating expenses £10,322.30 (£15,932.39) giving an operating profit of £5,887.62 (-£3,274.89). After exceptional expenses of £3,473.75 (Nil) the overall net profit was £2,413.87 (-£3,274.89), the vast majority of which is earmarked for use on the play area improvements.

A management committee was appointed. There is one vacancy on the committee and the chairman would be happy to hear from anyone who would like to join the group. The officers of the committee for the coming year were elected: John Jerman (chairman), Anne Hodgkins (secretary) and Jane Tsabet (treasurer).

The chairman said that the top priorities for the coming year were replacing the play area slide; treating the remaining external woodwork and replacing the wooden benches and seats. To provide the funding for these items, the committee intend to build on the success of the Summer Fair and Quiz Night with a view to making them annual events. Additionally Anne Holland is leading efforts to seek grants from local bodies.

MEXICAN NIGHT!

One October night in the sleepy village of Hankerton moves were afoot to transport the residents to fiesta-time in Acapulco and what a fabulous night it was too. Many new faces joined the regulars to enjoy a mouth-watering selection of nachos and dips followed by 'the best chilli I've ever eaten' according to one villager and for those who still had room there was a delicious chocolate cake for desert. The wine flowed, the Mariachi music got us all in the mood for dancing on our hats and the Tequila Slammers were going down a treat. Thanks to Amy and Alex (and families) for all their hard work and to Nicola and Ben for the fantastic chilli. A grand total of £402 was raised for the North Aisle and we thank everyone involved and those who came and spent their money and supported the event. It sold out very quickly so don't be disappointed next time and get in early!

The North Aisle Committee



A big THANK YOU to everyone who sponsored our daughter when she ran the Bournemouth Marathon. She raised £571.00

Her time was 4 hrs 30 mins. We, of course, are very proud of her efforts, particularly as she carried a knee injury which had threatened to put her out of the running three weeks prior to the start!

However, she did lose 6 toenails in the run! Ouch!!

Chris and Tony Jarvis

ADVENT SALE!!!!

Saturday 2nd December in the Church 10.30 - Noon

There is also currently a crate in the porch for any Christmas donations for the Malmesbury and District Food bank eg. Chocolate Biscuits, Mince Pies, Xmas Puddings etc. (please ensure sell-by date is after 25th Dec)

Happy Birthday Jesus!

I recently bought 400 tea lights in the shops for the Christmas period in our churches. As we grew up I am sure all of us had candles on our birthday cakes, they made the cake special. At this time of year churches come alive with the light shining from candles giving a sense of wonder and hope. Maybe because we have the Christmas story each year we can lose the amazement and wonder of what the story is about, how it shows God's love for us. How much God loves each one of us. Jesus is classed as the light of the world, the shepherds who visited the stable when Jesus was born saw the sky alight with the brightness of angels, the wise men from the East followed a star of brightness. God broke into our lives, Jesus brought that brightness to us, making us special. Jesus came to earth to help us come to God; we couldn't make it on our own we needed help and God saw that and provided it. Christianity is the only religion where God has come to earth to help mankind reach Him. All others you have to try and be better on your own. We have a wonderful God who knows our weaknesses and strengths and loves us just the same. We celebrate at Christmas time the greatest gift we can receive. Jesus.

In that famous reading we have at all Carol services from John's gospel chapter one. These words can inspire us; they are something we can hold onto throughout the year.

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

These words tell us that although everything may seem dark and gloomy there is hope, light which is God's love shines through.

As we enter the darker seasons which influence our emotions it is good to know that Jesus is still light for us today, he is still able to bring hope when everything seems black.

May you find that hope this Christmastime.

Rev Sarah Wyman

We all in the ministry team wish you all peace and joy this Christmas.

Christmas Services in Braydon Brook

Group Services

CHARLTON **Sun 3 Dec**, 6pm, Advent Service

HANKERTON **Sun 10 Dec**, 10am, Christingle Communion

MINETY **Sun 31 Dec**, 10am, First Sunday of Christmas Communion

ASHLEY: **Christmas Eve**, 6pm, Carol Service; **Christmas Day**, 9.30am, Holy Communion

CHARLTON: **Sat 16 Dec** 4pm, Christingle, **Sun 17 Dec**, 6pm, Carol Service;

Christmas Day, 9.30am, Holy Communion

CRUDWELL: **Sun 17 Dec**, 4pm, Carol service; **Christmas Eve**, 11.30pm, Midnight Mass;

Christmas Day, 10am, All Age service

HANKERTON: **Sun 17 Dec**, 5pm, Carol service; **Christmas Day**, 9.30am, Holy Communion

MINETY: **Sun 17 Dec**, 4pm, Carol service; **Christmas Eve**, 3pm, All Age service; 9pm, Midnight Mass; **Christmas Day**, 11am, Holy Communion

OAKSEY: **Sat 16 Dec**, 5pm, Carol service; **Christmas Day**, 11am, Holy Communion

Braydon Brook Services December 2017

	3 December Advent	10 December Advent 2	17 December Advent 3	24 December Advent 4 Christmas Eve	25 December Christmas Day	31 December First Sunday of Christmas
Ashley	Holy Communion (BCP) 8.30am	Evening prayer 6pm	Morning Prayer 9.30am	Carol Service 6pm	Holy Communion 9.30am	No Service
Charlton	Family Service 9.30am Advent Service 6pm	No Service	Carol Service 6pm	Midnight Communion 11.30pm	Holy Communion 9.30am	No service
Crudwell	Morning Worship 11.00am	No Service	Carol Service 4pm	Midnight Communion 11.30pm	All Age Service 10am	No Service
Hankerton	Holy Communion 9.30am	Group Christingle Communion 10am	Carol Service 5pm	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 3pm First Communion of Christmas 9 pm	Holy Communion 11am	Group Holy Communion 10am
Oaksey	Matins 11am	Nativity 11am	No Service	No Service	Holy Communion 11am	No Service
CHARLTON	Saturday 17 Dec, 4pm Christingle service					
OAKSEY	Saturday 16 Dec 5pm Carol Service					

RAINBOW

Revealed is Your Glory – As we read through Your story
All we have is Yours, Lord – We thank You for Your
Word.

It teaches us about the Birth of Your Son – All praise is due
from everyone

Nobody comes into our lives the way You do

As Father, Son and Comforter, it's true

Beside us, You are always there – Through trials and
struggles, silences and prayer

Oh Dear Lord, we've much to thank You for

It's right to worship You and praise You more and more

Why Lord where would we be? – If we were not allowed
to come to Thee...

When rain Your parched earth does refresh and sun comes
out against the blue – We see a rainbow hung abreast, an
arc of colours, different hues

To see these colours painted thus – Some muted, some of
brighter blush

Dear Lord, as in a wondrous gaze, we stand – Remind
ourselves of how Your Divine Hand

Does paint the sky, the night, the day – And as the potter
moulds his clay

Thus He made you and me – To You, our Dear Creator; we
give thanks on bended knee

10.02.03

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Hello! December again – where has the year gone? With winter clearly on the horizon, our thoughts turn to colder weather and how to keep warm. Many health problems are triggered or worsened by cold weather: dry skin and cold hands and feet are annoying, aching joints, colds and sore throats are almost expected, but serious, life threatening conditions such as asthma, norovirus and heart attacks are also exacerbated by the cold weather. The advice, of course, is to wrap up warmly and keep the heating going at home, which can be expensive. There is much that can be done to help with the costs of heating – switching supplier for electricity and gas or joining an oil purchasing consortium. Prevention is better than cure, so could your home use better insulation? For those who are really struggling with costs, small grants are available. Applications start mid November and the criteria are:

To be eligible for a grant someone must;

- be considered to live in fuel poverty (***spend more than 10% of their annual household income on fuel to keep their home warm and in a 'satisfactory' condition***)
- be in receipt of eligible means-tested benefits

And fall into one of the categories below;

- be pensionable age and affected by fuel poverty
- be of working age with a disability or a long-term health condition which affects their ability to keep warm
- be in receipt of Better Together childcare funding for their 2 year old

Please get in touch if I can help with any of the above.

As ever, I am around for general help and support on a wide variety of issues including transport, mobility and safety around the home and reducing the feeling of loneliness. Give me a call on 07557 922020 and leave a message. I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Ellen Blacker

Health and Wellbeing Champion

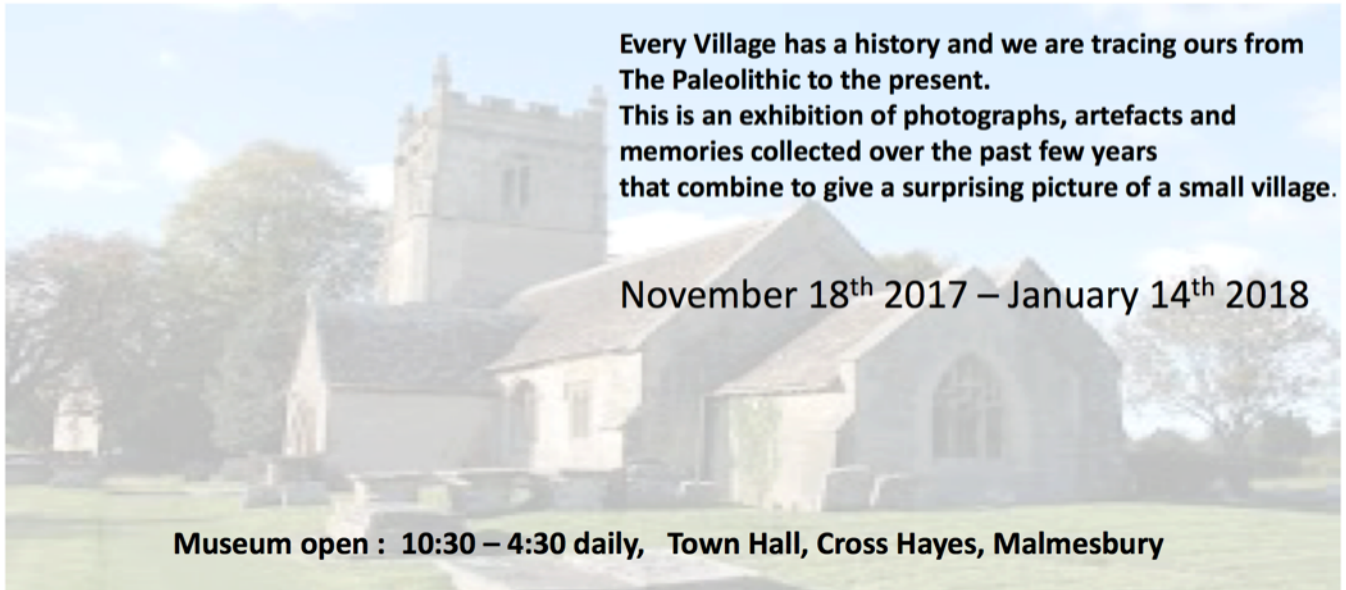
Several people have asked that the following be mentioned in the Grapevine.

Firstly, dog mess. This has been appearing in greater quantities around the village on public footpaths and pavements. This is both unpleasant and unnecessary, please clear up after your dog, responsible owners have been doing so and this is appreciated.

Secondly, overhanging hedges, plants and trees along public footpaths and pavements. This is a good time of year to check that any vegetation over hanging or growing over public rights of way is cut back so that people can walk the full width of pavement or footpath. This will be particularly appreciated by those with walking aids or prams.

These issues affecting people in our village can, with the usual Hankerton community spirit, be rectified for the benefit of all.

A Wiltshire Village called Hankerton



On Friday 17th November the Hankerton History Group had the opening of the exhibition 'Hankerton - Discovering a Wiltshire Village' at the Athelstan Museum. Around 40 villagers and friends came along to the opening and enjoyed looking around the exhibition. In

fact the exhibition area upstairs became so busy people will have to return to see all the finds and read all the displays in detail!

The exhibition is running through to mid January and is worth a visit just to see the information on the Church Bells and see the Tithe map of the village alone.

Mike Goodyer



Sue, Anne and Susan of the Hankerton History Group Committee with Maria (Museum)



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12.00-2pm



Christmas 2017

Starter

Scampi and whitebait medley
Crispy coated, served with tartare sauce and seeded bread and butter

Duck and orange liqueur pate with toast

Creamed parsnip and leek soup with brioche roll

Main

Roast Turkey, rustic apricot stuffing, chipolata and cranberry

Roast matured beef with Yorkshire pudding and creamed horseradish

Fig, sweet potato and nut roast with
Vegetable gravy (v)

Poached fillet of cod with dill and white wine sauce

Main courses served with a selection of seasonal vegetables
and roast potatoes

Dessert

Mincemeat and apple crumble laced with sloe gin
And served with custard

Christmas pudding with brandy sauce

Chocolate brownie with salted caramel sauce
And vanilla ice cream

2 Course: £13.50pp

3 Course: £17.50pp

*

The Christmas menu is available from Friday 1st
December until Sunday 24th December 2017
inclusive

All Christmas menu items must be pre-ordered 7
days prior to your booking.

Payment can be made with cash, credit and debit
cards.
We do not accept cheques or American Express

No deposit required.

Please let us know as soon as possible about
cancellation and change of numbers

Full allergen information is available. We are happy
to cater for special dietary requirements.

Service charge is left to customer discretion

Children portion prices are not available

SEE WEBSITE FOR BOOKING FORM



FREE

Fabric-covered storage box/stool; approx. 20" (50cm) x 20" (50cm) x 8" (20cm); on casters.

Previously used for toy box in child's bedroom

Excellent condition – no damage, stains etc.

Katherine Truman

Telephone: 01666 577264