

The Grapevine



We wish all our readers a healthy and peaceful 2018. The usual village activities mean there is a lot to look forward to; volunteers are always welcome and necessary to ensure all of these take place. Even helping organise one event makes a difference, so please consider coming forward to keep things happening!

The community spirit is alive and well as Chris Betts reminds us of what was organised in December: the Advent sale raised £280 for church funds, the appeal for Christmas items for the Malmesbury Food Bank filled 5 large carrier

bags, and carol singing raised £249 split between Athelstan House Residents Fund and Dorothy House Hospice. Thank you to everyone who supported these activities.

Thanks to the Parish Council for voting more funds to the printing of the Grapevine, we can continue to provide a newsletter for the next year. Finding advertisers has become more difficult, so this has taken a load off our shoulders!

Mary, Mike and Susan

The North Aisle Committee Needs YOU!

If you are young and active and enjoy living in Hankerton, please can you support The North Aisle Community Area?

The committee, which works closely with the Church PCC, is in need of members to join them. Work is not onerous and meetings are about four per year, dependant on fund raising activities. A member does, however, need to have a commitment to attend committee meetings and engage in fund-raising activities whilst promoting the use of the North Aisle Community Area within the village.

The Community Area is used every Saturday morning for coffee/chat and is open 10.30-12 noon, managed by volunteers. The Parish Council and the History Group meet regularly within the Area as well as Church activities organised by the PCC such as the annual Church Supper and Harvest Lunch.

The fund raising Mexican evening was very popular and the annual Street Fayre continues to attract many visitors. Funds are always needed for the upkeep, replacement items and costs towards heating of the North Aisle.

Please can you help and **commit to joining the committee** and keeping the North Aisle Community Area viable?

For more details call Chris Betts 577123 or Mary O'Brien 577394

Deadline for news for the February newsletter: March 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 – February.

The days are lengthening and the sun is getting higher in the sky, but February can still be dull and cold. However, there is a small flower beginning to bloom this month that will lift the spirits of anyone coming across it, and that will be most people because it is a widespread plant. It is the Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*), and those who are familiar with Latin Genus names will notice that it is a member of the Buttercup family. It has a bright, glossy yellow flowers like the buttercup, but the petals are narrower and longer, and number 8-12 per flower (compared to 5 in the buttercup). It is a ground-hugging plant, and the leaves are dark green, shiny and heart-shaped. If the sun is not shining the flowers tend to close up a little, and as they age the petals fade to areas of white.



There is a plant called the Greater Celandine (*Chelidonium majus*) which also grows here, but it is not a member of the Buttercup family and looks more like a poppy than a buttercup. Perhaps more about that one in a future Diary.

Below ground there are usually quite a few tubers associated with the fibrous roots, and these tubers easily separate from the roots and allow effective spread of the plants when the ground in which they are growing is disturbed. They are also the reason why this plant is difficult to eliminate from the garden once established, and it may not be among those plants desired by gardening enthusiasts for that reason.

The plant was also known as Pile-wort, because an ointment made from this plant was used to treat haemorrhoids as the tubers were thought to resemble piles! (Other reliable treatments are fortunately now available – so I am told).

Its Latin name derives from the Greek word *Chelidon*, which means a swallow (bird), but its flowering is greatly separated in time from the arrival of the swallows. Some suggest that it may be that the Lesser Celandine is the indicator of the arrival of Spring, in the same way as the swallow is the harbinger of Summer – and that this role as an indicator influenced its naming.

The Lesser Celandine was the favourite flower of Wordsworth, who wrote three poems dedicated to it. After he died it was decided that a Lesser Celandine should be carved on his tomb, but unfortunately the flower present on his tomb is the Greater Celandine, due either to confusion over flower names, or extremely inept sculpting! This Diary definitely needs to come back to the Greater Celandine.

Stephen Davies.

Would you like to help with butterfly and moth conservation?

Barberry Carpet moth Project

North Wiltshire is one of the few places left where this butterfly, one of Britain's rarest moths, lives. By planting the Common Barberry, *Berberis vulgaris*, the population of this moth can be increased.

Project Officer, Fiona Haynes, would be happy to hear from anyone who would like to plant this attractive shrub (it does need some care and should be placed a certain distance from fields with crops).

For more details she can be contacted on 07483 039323 or at

fhaynes@butterfly-conservation.org

Fiona Haynes

The Hannah Ludlow Charity.

Hopefully, as a result of previous Grapevine articles, most parishioners will be aware of this village charity, but with new arrivals in the village this brief notice aims to maintain that awareness. The simple aim of the charity is to help members of our community who are in a position 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 even a little financial gesture reinforces that fellow villagers do care, and it may help to make a difference in outlook for that person in need.



Hankerton Parish Council

The items below were discussed at the Parish Council meeting on 8 January:

A public meeting will be held in the coming weeks about converting the amenity area (at the entrance of Old Farm Close) to a play area

Free first aid training open to everyone will take place on Saturday 31 March, 8.30am; North Aisle

Photographs of flooding near Hankerton bridge have been sent to Wessex Water, the Environment Agency and Wiltshire Council

The meeting agreed increases to the churchyard support payment and to the Grapevine contribution, and a special payment to the PCC (Parochial Church Council) for tree work. To meet the cost of these payments in April the council tax contribution to the Parish Council will increase by £1.99 to £26.38 for band D householders (less or more pro rata for other bands)

Shayne Smith was co-opted onto the Parish Council

At its November meeting the Parish Council agreed an emergency plan in the event of snow, disruption of water or electricity supply, fire and flooding. Useful information in the plan will be put up in the bus shelter.

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 5 March, 7.30pm; North Aisle.

John Thorne

CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS

Services 2018

Services are the first Sunday 9.30am HC and the third Sunday Informal Service 11am.

11 March Mothering Sunday Service 11am. Posies for children to give to their Mothers.

30 March Good Friday Devotion Service 3pm.

1 April Easter Sunday 9.30am.

Friday 30 March 10.30am - children's crafts and Easter stories run by Rev Phil in the North Aisle. Children accompanied by an adult please.

Further details from Sarah Tel: 577159

Church Fund raising events:

Lent Lunch Saturday 17th February 12 noon – 1.30pm. Soup, bread and cheese. Suggested donation £3.

All proceeds to The Children's Society

Church Supper: Saturday 17th March. Tickets £10, bar, raffle.

SPIRIT OF LOVE

The days that lie ahead will reveal more of You.

Help us, Lord, not to lose sight but keep You in view.

We do not want to miss Your Message, we want to do things Your way - It's just the doing bit that's the hardest, to be like You each day

We want to follow You as You ask – But sometimes this seems an impossible task

Take care of us, Lord, this is our call - Let Your Spirit of Love dwell in us all

Let us feel Your Peace as we sit here in prayer - As we close our eyes, let us feel You here

When things overwhelm us and life is a frown

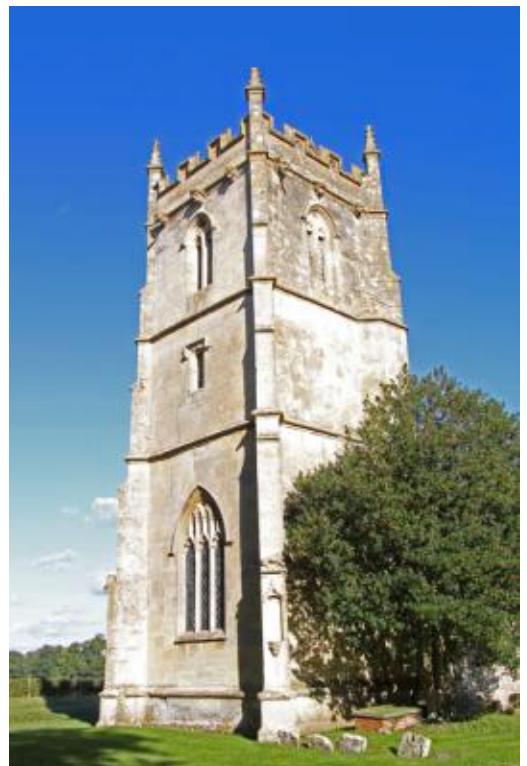
Take our needs, Lord, we know You'll not let us down

Thank You, Lord for Your Presence, and Your Faithfulness in the past – We know You will not leave us lonely, so we will just hold fast

Here are our worries, Lord, and our concerns - We know we need not fear, Lord, for we are not alone Your Love and Truth, Comfort and Hope – In times of darkness, help us cope.

09.09.99.

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Charlton Recreation Centre Committee Update (Anne Hodgkins)

It was with great sadness that the committee learnt of the death of John Jerman, our chairman. John stepped in to the role when the committee was in great need. His time as chair has seen the committee revitalise its fundraising activities, which have resulted in the completion of much-needed repairs and improvements, including the refurbishment of the memorial garden and repairs to the swings and roundabout in the play area.

As reported in the last issue, at the AGM in November, John set out the committee's priorities for the coming year. To achieve this the committee will need a new chair to help us drive through the ambitious programme.

If you are a local person who believes that the village hall, children's play area and playing field are important to the village, we would like to hear from you.

You can support our work in a number of ways:

- ī Join the management committee to help shape the work we do
- ī Become an officer of the committee (chairman, secretary, treasurer) and a trustee of the charity
- ī Volunteer to work with the committee on tasks related to the hall – such as managing a fund-raising activity or joining a work party to smarten up the interior paintwork.

The committee meets about once a month for a couple of hours in the evening. If you would like to know more please get in touch with Anne Hodgkins (825248), Jane Tsabet (311097) or Margaret Medland (823461).

At Oaksey Park Golf Club in December Hankerton Golfers celebrated its first annual Christmas Dinner. What a super friendly affair it was.

By popular demand the following poem was requested for entry in the Grapevine

In my hand I hold a ball
White and dimpled rather small
Oh how bland it does appear
This harmless looking little sphere

By its size I could not guess
The awesome power it does possess
But since I fell beneath its spell
I've wandered through the gates of hell

My life has not been quite the same
Since I chose to play this stupid game
It rules my mind go hours on end
A fortune has it made me spend

To master such a tiny ball
Should not be hard at all
But my desires the ball refuses
And it does exactly as it chooses

It hooks and slices dribbles and dies
And disappears before my eyes
Often it will have a whim
To hit a tree or take a swim

With miles of grass on which to land
It finds a tiny patch of sand
Then it has me offering up my soul
If only it would find the hole

It has made me wimper like a pup
And swear yhat I will give it up
And take to drink to ease my sorrow
But the ball knows I will be back tomorrow

Peter Jefferis

'The Drop In' is a one stop shop for free information and advice. Based in Malmesbury Library it is open from 2-4pm. every first and third Wednesday of the month. Advice from your local Health and Wellbeing Champion, Community Engagement Manager, Health Trainer, Police or Wiltshire Online/Digital Champion..

Contact Ollie Phipps at ollie.phipps@wiltshire.gov.uk or on 01249 709404

I recently attended a short workshop about dementia and dementia friends. It was informative and provided the following information:

There are 5 key messages:

Dementia is not a natural part of ageing

Dementia is caused by diseases of the brain, there are many different sorts

Dementia is not just about losing your memory- it can affect thinking, communicating and doing everyday tasks

It is possible to live well with dementia

There's more to a person than the dementia.

For information, support and advice about dementia:

Visit alzheimers.org.uk

Call the National Dementia Helpline on 0300 2221122

For enquiries about Dementia Friends call 0300 222 5855

Susan Mockler

Support for Esme

In July 2019 Esme Thorne, 15, who lives in Church Lane, is going to India with an organisation called Global Action. The 19-day expedition is with Malmesbury school. Esme will be working in a Tibetan children's village, visiting a school, meeting local organisations to learn about improving health and education in slums, and will see some sites.

Esme needs to raise £3390. You may have bought a scented candle over Xmas towards this. The organisation Easyfundraising is a way to raise money by shopping online at popular websites such as Amazon, John Lewis, supermarkets, price comparison websites and 3200 other retailers. It doesn't cost you any extra and Esme gets a donation from the retailer. Every time you shop online, go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/esmethorne first to find the retailer you want and start shopping. After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to Esme for no extra cost.

Thank you.

PART-TIME RECEPTIONIST NEEDED

LIFESTYLE HEALTH AND BEAUTY

HANKERTON

Hours : Tues 3-8pm

Thurs 3-8pm

Fri 3-7/8pm

No experience needed – Training given

Contact : **01666 577636**



Hankerton History Group

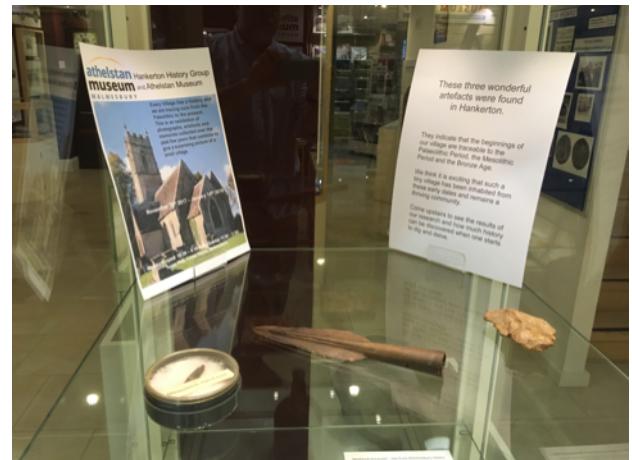
Exhibition in the Athelstan Museum

Thank you to everyone who visited this exhibition. We have had many positive and complimentary comments about the display, the information and the research. It has been a great group effort involving many hours of research and writing, not to mention chocolates while putting the whole display up!

The Athelstan Museum has been very impressed and thanked us for increasing not only the number of people visiting the museum, but also the amount of time they have spent there.

Thanks to Mike Goodyer for taking all the photos.

Susan Mockler

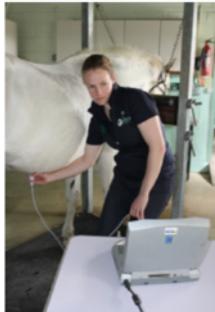




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12.00-2pm

Please Note – We are Closed All Day on Tuesdays



“Friendly staff and lovely food”

“Good food, old fashioned hospitality”

“Best roast potatoes I’ve ever eaten.”
Quotes from Trip Advisor

Carol Singing 2017



What a strange evening for Carol Singing this year.

There we were all dressed for the winter weather with thermals, hats, scarves, warm boots etc and it turned out to be the mildest that we had ever experienced.

We were down in number but we had some new recruits which was a very pleasant surprise especially since they could sing!

We welcomed the glass of port which warmed the vocal chords (I think that goes against general musical opinion but we ignored it) and the variety of chocolates and goodies proffered on route by generous villagers and we finished with hot soup, sausage rolls and mince pies generously provided in a warm comfortable environment by Emily & Terry. Many thanks to all.

We have divided equally the £250 collected between the Athelstan House Residents' Amenity Fund and Dorothy House Hospice.

Thank you all for your support and we will see you again in 2018.

Claudine Pynn