

The Grapevine



Isn't it amazing how a few days of sunshine makes everything seem better and brighter- may we get many more sunny days this summer. There are many local fetes and events throughout June and July so we will never be short of something to do: the nearest being Charlton fete which raises money for the playing fields and village hall which has special rates for Hankerton residents. We have welcomed more families to Hankerton this past year or so

and it has been great to have them enter into village life and be active in ensuring Hankerton continues as a lively and living village and not a dormitory one. Hankerton has long been recognised as a caring and neighbourly village and it is heartening to see this being carried forward. There are always lots of ways to join in village activities come along and volunteer, everyone is welcome.

Wishing everyone a sunny summer,
Eds.

Parish Council Update

The annual village meeting took place on 14 May. Over 20 people heard updates about the parish council, the amenity area, the website, the church, the North Aisle Committee, the history group, the golf club and the

Hannah Ludlow Charity.

At the annual parish council meeting on 16 May, the positions below were agreed:

Chair of Parish Council, winter emergency plan – Jill Kearsley

Deputy Chair, Information Co-ordination, Grants – John Thorne

Amenity area – Robin Tjolle

Malmesbury Area Board, Footpaths – Pam Walkinshaw

Patients Group – Shayne Smith

Flood Prevention – vacant (David Pynn as adviser)

Highways – vacant

The Independent Living Centre in Wiltshire gives advice to older and disabled people, and their carers: www.ilc.org.uk; 01380 871007.

The parish council is discussing whether to buy a defibrillator. Three to six people would be needed to check it regularly: ideally once a week, and at least once a month. If interested contact John Thorne: john.thorne@islington.gov.uk; tel. 575498.

There are two vacancies on the parish council. If interested contact the Parish Clerk; contact details are on the [Hankerton website](http://hankertonvillage.com).

All meetings are open to the public. The next meeting is on Monday 2 July, 7.30pm; North Aisle.

POLITE NOTICE

Our lovely church is an ancient place of remembrance, also a modern burial place.

Please respect this sacred place by not riding cycles and scooters within this area AND by always keeping dogs on leads please. Thank you.

Deadline for news for the August newsletter: July 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.

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Nature Diary – June.

Summer sunshine, flower-filled meadows and clouds of fluttering butterflies – here's hoping!

However, June is the month in which adult butterflies of two of our species start to fly. One is our commonest species in the UK and although the other is less likely to be seen, it's a real treat when it flies by.

The former is the Meadow Brown (*Maniola jurtina*), a member of the wider “brown family”, and to be seen in grassy fields and meadows. The males are distinguishable from females by having virtually no orange colouration on the upperside of the forewings, but both sexes have the small eyespots on the upper and under surfaces of the forewing. The males tend to fly more, looking for receptive females, and the females are more usually found secreted away in the grass. After mating, the female drops or haphazardly affixes the eggs amongst the grass. The caterpillar emerges and feeds on three main types of grass (Meadow Grass, Bent and Rye-grass). It is small enough to be difficult to see, and will feed during the day, but after a winter's hibernation, it will emerge in the Spring, re-commences feeding and by March is large enough to be noticed by predators and switches to feeding at night.



Meadow Browns have small black dots on the underside of the hindwings, and they number between 0 and 5 on each wing. It is thought that these dots have a significant effect on the survival of individuals. Quite simply, the dots draw the attention of a predatory bird, which target their peck at the dot, away from the more important body. The flying males tend to have more dots and the resting females, which require camouflage in the grass, have fewer dots.

Meadow Browns will be flying from mid-June to mid-September, but individual adult butterflies only live for 5-12 days.

The second species is the Marbled White (*Melanargia galathea*), a beautiful black and white coloured butterfly, which despite this colouration is also a member of the “Brown family”. It is also to be found in grass meadows (late June to mid-August), but restricted to mainly the south west of the country, with a strangely isolated population in the North Yorkshire wolds. The females drop their eggs amongst the grass, the caterpillar hatches three weeks later, eats its eggshell, and then crawls into some dead vegetation to hibernate. (That egg shell must be very nutritious!) It emerges in Spring to feed on Sheep's Fescue, Cock's Foot and Timothy – another three varieties of grass. As it grows, like the Meadow Brown, it becomes a nocturnal feeder.

Cloatley Meadows is a good place to see both of these butterflies, and the fact that the caterpillars of each species eat three different species of grass shows why variety is so important in the flora of our meadows, and why Cloatley Meadows is such a remarkable wildlife reserve.

Stephen Davies.

Here I am, holed up in my little office and the phone rings.....yes, you guessed it, another call from some lovely lady asking if I would like a new boiler/windows/insulation or whatever. Of course its yet another cold call. Apart from the disturbance, loss of train of thought on what I was doing etc, no real harm done. But when a friend was called by someone who wanted to talk about a recent car accident, my friend became very worried as she wondered if it was a family member who was involved. The caller would give very little information to my friend because, of course, they were fishing for business and had no idea whether or not there had been an accident. Much more concerning than mine, but again, no long term harm.

Then there are the callers who tell you that your computer is under threat and to please log in and follow their instructions so that they can help fix it for you. Well, how helpful is that? Except there is nothing wrong with your computer and the callers aim is to gain access to your computer files with your personal info and passwords etc. Recently I took a call purporting to be from my bank, lovely cheery chap who asked me to confirm my identity. Excuse me, but he called me so I asked her for his identity and phone number so that I could call him back! Strangely enough, he wasn't keen to disclose that information!

Sadly these things do happen and people in our community have been scammed out of thousands of pounds. I think its our nature to be "polite" to others and the con artists rely on this. My advice to you? If it's an unexpected call, no matter how genuine they sound, beware. Never give out passwords, never let them gain access to your computers or tablets etc. If they are genuine, they can always write to you by post. Of course if they ask for your address, chances are they really don't know you and if you give them your address you will be receiving a forest worth of junk mail!

Remember: "There is no such thing as a free lunch" (well there are a couple of exceptions on that, but its rare)

Meanwhile, if I can help in any way, call 07557 922020 or email ellen.blacker@wiltshire.gov.uk. I look forward to hearing from you!

Ellen

PS, although I love my job, I do only work part time so please leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

The Parish Council has received complaints concerning dog-fouling along the Hillwell Footpath. This is a popular path which enables people to reach the church and the meadows beyond without walking along the main road. Polite notices reminding dog-walkers to clean up after their dogs, have been posted at each junction of the route and the dog-bin is positioned conveniently by the bus stop. Please help to maintain high standards of hygiene within the village by remembering to clean up after your dog.



MINETY CRAFT AND PRODUCE MARKET



**SATURDAY 23 JUNE
2.00 – 4.30PM
MINETY VILLAGE HALL**



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Saving the Barberry Carpet Moth (*Pareulype berberata*)



Back in January there was a request on the village website from a Back from the Brink project to help save the Barberry Carpet Moth.

It is believed to be reduced to only 11 populations in Britain and its stronghold is North Wiltshire. The Barberry Carpet used to be a far more common and widespread species in Britain. As the name suggests, the Barberry Carpet feeds on Common Barberry, *Berberis vulgaris*, and this is actually the only food-plant that this moth will use. Other *Berberis* cultivars that are readily available in garden centres and gardens throughout Britain just won't do for this very particular moth!

With support from Heritage Lottery Funding, this moth is now receiving an extra helping hand from the charity Butterfly Conservation through one of many Back from the Brink Projects that have been launched to help some of the rarest species in Britain.

I volunteered to help and the Project Officer, Fiona Haynes, delivered six dormant plants.

These were planted, as suggested, in two groups of three – one group along my beech hedge in the back garden and the other in the front garden. The plants have all taken and sprouted leaves. I have given Fiona 10 figure grid references from a GPS device.

Once the plants are well established, after a couple of years, the Butterfly Conservation folks will send a licensed surveyor around once or twice per summer to survey the foliage for caterpillars. Watch this space!



Mike Goodyer, May 2018



KEEP THE DATE. STRAWBERRY TEA IN THE CHURCHYARD 15 JULY AT 3.00

FIRST STEPS

We are listening to You, Lord, and we know we need Your aid – To change our life-long attitudes, to let all the bad ways fade
Our thoughts need to be renewed, our actions, they do too – If in our transformation, we seek to be like You.

We cannot do this by ourselves, we need You there to teach – The ways You want us to behave seem always out of reach

We trust You, Lord, to wait on You, for though this change is slow – It's better than our old, bad ways; we need You to help us grow.

"Have I said that I would leave you, I do not believe that's true – Read through My Word and you will know all that I ask of you I gave You My Holy Spirit to stay always by your sides – If you are ever in deep water, He'll be beside you, He's your Guide."

Dear Lord, we thank You so much for the change that you are bringing – To our lives as You grant us these first steps to our new beginning.

10.11.97.

(Ephesians 4: 23-24)

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HOLY CROSS CHURCH HANKERTON
CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT FOR 2017

The Church is an important part of the village. Services on the first and third Sundays are supported by a small but steady number, whilst the congregation at services for Easter, Carols and Christmas were high. There are also regular group communion services shared with the other five churches in the Braydon Brook Group. There was one baptism and one wedding. A short Morning Prayer service is held twice a week at one of the group churches. The numbers are small but it is a peaceful and contemplative start to the day.

The rector, Phil Daniels, was absent from July to January through illness. He has sadly now tendered his resignation and the Bristol Diocese will shortly be advertising for someone to replace him. We must thank him for his enthusiastic approach and for giving us fresh ideas. We wish him a speedy return to good health. We must also thank the other clergy, particularly Sarah Wyman, for taking on a huge range of additional tasks during this time. She has been supported by Richenda Milton Daws and other visiting and retired clergy. We also thank Heather Goodwin and Christopher Daws as our regular organists.

The number of villagers making regular bank payments is 24, for which the church is extremely grateful. Income tax is recovered on this, as it is on any sums put in the gift aid envelopes in each pew. The usual fund raising events were held throughout the year, including the Spring Supper, Strawberry Tea in the churchyard and a Harvest Ploughman's Lunch. As usual, there was an Advent Sale. All these events were well supported by the villagers and visiting family. The proceeds from the Lent Lunch were passed on to The Great Western Hospital for their radiotherapy appeal and the collection from the Christingle service was donated to The Children's Society.

Various fabric repairs to stone, roof and wood were carried out, following the Quinquennial Survey. In the churchyard, we removed a second dying and dangerous chestnut tree, which had some hollow branches. The churchyard is not as tidy as usual, due to badgers, moles and rabbits, whilst the church has swallows in the porch as well as bats and mice inside. God's creatures are welcome but they don't clear up after themselves! The "Living Churchyard" project on the north side, under Steve Davies' direction, continues with a splendid mix of wild flowers. The churchyard grass has been regularly cut, including extra trims ahead of special events such as the Street Fayre.

There has been continued use of the North Aisle by the History Group and the Parish Council. It was used as a polling station for the general election and the local council election. We thank Chris Betts who continues to coordinate the Saturday morning "Coffee and Chat", where all are welcome. The North Aisle fund raising continues, with the main event being the Street Fayre in August, which involves many "community minded" villagers. There was also an excellent Mexican evening in the North Aisle. We also thank those on the flower and cleaning rota for all their hard work in keeping the church looking lovely.

The church and churchyard are well maintained with the help of village volunteers. The North Aisle is an important facility for the community. Like many churches, our congregations are mostly small, so we must continue to try and find ways to draw in people of all ages, for communion in its broader sense. It is not only a peaceful place for worship but also to meet and talk with people of all views.

Philip Carter and Valerie Durnford, April 2018

Church Services in Hankerton

June

3rd 9:30am Holy Communion
10th 10am Benefice Communion at Crudwell
17th 11am All Age Worship

July

1st 9:30am Holy Communion
8th 10am Benefice Communion
15th 11am All Age Worship
29th 10am Benefice Communion at Minety

August

5th 9:30am Holy Communion
10th 10am Benefice Communion at Oaksey
19th 11am All Age Worship

From the Registers

Burial of of Charles Innes on the 22nd March
Burial of Florence Wood Ashes on the 26th March
Baptism of Wilfred Durnford on the 15th April

ADOPT A GRAVE IN THE HANKERTON CHURCHYARD

We have been trying to improve the appearance of the churchyard, despite attempts by badgers, moles and overgrown trees to make it look untidy. Earlier this year, there was a major clearance around the cremated plaques near the badgers' sett on the east side, whilst the main churchyard is regularly cut and strimmed and the mole man has just visited. However, there are some untidy old graves, which need a bit of regular gardening attention. A recently retired couple from Cricklade have started coming once a week for about an hour to do some tidying up, initially on their old family grave. They say they find the churchyard and the gentle exercise very peaceful and rewarding. Some of the more recent family graves are still managed by their families, whilst the older ones are rather unkempt, particularly those behind railings. What we would like are some other volunteers to "adopt a grave" and keep it tidy. If interested, please contact Philip Carter, next to the church, so that he can keep a note of which graves are being adopted. There are plenty of names to choose from!

Philip Carter, Churchwarden, 01666 575465



Charlton Recreation Centre Committee Update (Anne Hodgkins)

At our meeting on 23 April, we welcomed two new members to the committee, Sarah Offord and Helen Sunderland. Helen was unanimously elected as committee chair.

There are still a couple of vacancies on the committee and we would welcome enquiries from anyone in the area who would be interested in helping us to manage the recreation centre. To find out more contact Anne Hodgkins (825248)

PROJECT NEWS

Play Area: The new slide and dolphin springer toy have been installed by Caledonia Play. The committee is grateful to Malmesbury Carnival Committee and Charlton Parish Council for the grants they provided towards the purchase of these items.

Vacuum Cleaner: Thanks are also due the Dog Training Club for their contribution to the cost of the new vacuum cleaner.

External Cladding: We have now raised the funds required for to complete the treatment of the external wooden cladding. Our chosen contractor has been told that we wish to proceed with the work and we are awaiting news of when they will start.

Bench and Picnic Tables: The committee agreed to place orders for a new bench, in memory of John Jerman (our former Chairman), and two replacement picnic tables.



Charlton Summer Fair

SATURDAY 14TH JULY 2018

2pm to 5pm

Charlton Village Hall

Dog Show and Agility Course • Live music from Tamar

Baking Competition • Welly Wanging

Wine or Water Bottle • Ice Cream stall • Raffle

BAR, CAFÉ AND REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

FOOD, DRINKS AND FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

RAFFLE TICKETS ON SALE SOON • FABULOUS PRIZES

DOG SHOW – Enter on day - £2 per entry – Prizes and Rosettes to winners in each class.

Classes:- 1. Best puppy (up to 12 months), 2. Prettiest Bitch, 3. Most Handsome Dog, 4. Best six legs, 5. Best dog or bitch of dubious parentage, 6. Most unusual pair of dogs from the same household.

Agility Course. Enter on the day. £2 per entry.

BAKING CONTEST – Bring your entry to the Fair by 1.30pm on the day. Judging starts at 1.45pm. Free to enter but please donate your bake to the Charlton Summer Fair Café after the judging. Prizes to winners in each class. Classes: 1. Children's bakes 2. Healthy Cakes & Biscuits, 3. Classic bakes, 4. Tarts & Pastries.

CHILDREN'S GARDENING COMPETITION – Please bring your entry to the Fair by 1.45pm on the day. £1 per entry. Prizes to winners in each class.

Classes: 1. Best Posy, 2. Best Miniature Garden, 3. Tallest Sunflower, 4. Celebrity Vegetable Face.

PRODUCE STALL – If you have a surplus of produce from your kitchen or garden, please donate it to the Fair Produce Stall.

DIDDI DANCING WORKSHOPS (funky, full of fun sessions that build confidence, co-ordination and creativity). Suitable for children aged 18 months – 7 years.

Two workshops taking place at 3.15pm and 4pm. No special clothing needed. Donations to fundraising on the day.

All proceeds from the Fair go towards the repair and maintenance of the facilities at Charlton Recreation Centre (registered charity No. 279819)



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12.00-2pm

Please Note – We are Closed All Day on Tuesdays



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