

The Grapevine



As another year draws to a close it's the perfect time to reflect on the previous 12 months.

2018 has been a particularly poignant year, marking the 100th Anniversary of the end of WW1 and you can read about how we remembered this historic event as a village

here in the Grapevine or on the village website.

It was yet another busy year for Hankerton - as well as the weekly coffee mornings and other regular activities we somehow managed to squeeze in First Aid Training, the Lent Lunch, the Church Supper, an exhibition by the History Group in the Athelstan Museum in Malmesbury, The Hankerton Great British Bake-off to celebrate the Royal Wedding, the Strawberry Tea, the Street Fayre, the Charlton and Hankerton Quiz, the Harvest Lunch and a Prosecco and Puddings evening – not bad going for such a tiny village! As always, we thank everyone who was involved in organising and helping with these events and if you'd like to help in the future just get in touch and we'll pass you on to the right people. Looks like 2019 could be just as busy!

Merry Xmas and a Very Happy New Year,

Eds



BEWARE BEWARE BEWARE

A house in Follyfield was broken into sometime between Wednesday 21st November and Friday 23rd. The thieves gained access by smashing the patio door at the back whilst the house was empty and removed cash and valuables.

Police advise people to be extra vigilant and to report any unusual activity.

Advent Sale – North Aisle



Saturday December 1st 10.30 - Noon

In memory of the late Katherine Truman

Please come for coffee and cake

Saturday 15th December 2018

North Aisle 10.30 – 12noon



Deadline for news for the February newsletter: January 10th 2019. 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 – December 2018.

There are three species of birds called Woodpeckers resident in Great Britain, (curiously there are no woodpeckers in Ireland), and with the trees now devoid of leaves, winter is a good time to actually catch sight of them. The Wryneck is also in the woodpecker family but a rare UK visitor.

The three species are, in diminishing size order, the Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*), the Great Spotted Woodpecker (seen left) (*Dendrocopos major*), and the Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos minor*). [Note that the smallest is called the “lesser” but that its larger cousin is the “great” and not the “greater”]. To

give you some idea of size, the Great is similar in size to a Starling, and the Lesser about House Sparrow size.

Both the Great and the Green are more numerous than they were, perhaps because more dead trees are left standing instead of felling and “tidying them up”, but for reasons not understood at present the Lesser is in decline and you would be very fortunate to see one. The Great and Lesser feed on insects and grubs, usually found on or under the bark of trees, but the bigger Great is also known to raid the nests of small birds and take eggs and chicks. They also both nest in holes in tree trunks, and perhaps there is some competition between the species for resources, and an increase in numbers of Great Spotted may be part of the reason for the decline in Lessers.

The Great and the Lesser are the species that drum on trees to advertise their presence and establish territories, and you will certainly hear the Greats around Hankerton come the New Year. You may also hear regular knocking in the trees, and this will be the woodpecker breaking into the wood looking for its food. If the Great Spotted is aware of your presence he will utter an alarm call, which is described as a loud “*tchik*”. As it flies away you will notice that its flight is undulating.



The Green Woodpecker (seen right) is about the size of a Jackdaw and has a bright green colour with red and black markings around the head. They are nervous, so binoculars would be required to see these markings clearly, and when disturbed will fly away, often uttering their alarm call as they fly. This call is very distinctive, and sounds like a very loud and harsh, repetitive laugh. This call was the reason for its country name of “Yaffle”, a word I think describes its call very well. Unlike the two species already described, the Green feeds mainly on ants (adults and grubs), and you are just as likely to see one hopping around on lawns in the village probing the ground for its prey.

So as you walk around Hankerton, your ears will probably be more important than your eyes for making you aware of the presence of one of our woodpeckers, and let me know if you agree that “yaffle” is a good description of the call of the Green.

Steve Davies.

Services in Hankerton

December

- 1st 10:30-12 Advent Sale in the North Aisle
- 2nd 9:30 Holy Communion
4pm Decorating the Christmas tree, anyone of all ages
Is welcome to come and have fun.
6pm Benefice Advent Service at Oaksey
- 9th 10am Benefice Communion and Christingle service
- 16th 5pm Carol Service followed by mulled wine and mince pies
- 23rd 10am Benefice Communion Service at Crudwell
11am Nativity at Oaksey
- 24th Christmas Eve
3pm All Age service at Minety
9pm First Communion of Christmas at Minety
11:30 Midnight Holy Communion at Crudwell
- 25th **Christmas Day**
9:30 Communion Service

All Christmas Services in the group will be displayed on the notice board

- 30th 10am Benefice Service at Minety

January

- 6th 9:30 Holy Communion
- 13th 10am Benefice Communion at Ashley
- 20th 11am Informal worship

February

- 3rd 9:30 Holy Communion
- 10th 10am Benefice Communion Charlton
- 17th 11am Informal worship

The Church is open every Saturday, 10:30-12, unless specified, for tea, coffee and chat; all are welcome.

From the Registers

Baptisms

On the 15th September we baptised Fletcher Ody
On the 21st October we baptised George Dally

Deaths

19th Sept – The Thanksgiving service for Julia Meers
2nd November – The Thanksgiving service for Katherine Truman

The Tjolle family from Hankerton were confirmed on November 7th at Hulavington Church by Bishop Lee.

Advent Sale 1 Dec in the North Aisle 10:30-12.



Gaz Runs the Atlantic Coast Challenge

Big thanks to all that supported and sponsored me for the 2018 Atlantic Coast Challenge over the weekend of the 5th to the 7th October.

Friday's 27 miles was completed in beautiful Cornish sunshine, but with hot dehydrated running and the added 'bonus' of wading through a river estuary at high tide! Saturday's 26.5 miles delivered its own test in the form of 40mph northerly winds and torrential rain; pretty intense when running along cliff tops and long sandy beaches! Sunday's 29 miles once again brought plenty of sunshine, with Cornwall at its glorious best. This was the hardest day along some of the most wild and remote Cornish landscape, finishing at Land's End for a well-deserved medal and pasty.



All-in-all a fantastic weekend of running, with the best support team ever of Ellen and our four children. Thanks to the support we received, we have raised a fantastic total of **£1,239.25** (including Gift Aid) for **Children with Cancer UK**.

If I haven't managed to thank you personally, I will make sure to do so.

Gareth Lambert-Jones

FOREVER

To have been there to hear You preach – I realise is beyond my
reach

But just to dream – And thus to seem

To see the look within Your eyes – To realise...

That during the passage of time – Reading of You, line by line
Your words passed down each day – As we think when we pray

Of the expression on Your face – To experience Your Grace
Listen through the years and hear You speak – To the multitude,
the blind, the deaf, the weak.

Just to hear the sound of Your Voice – And rejoice...

It's whom You are and what You say – Makes Your Message
descend to the present day

From nigh on two thousand years ago – I'm glad it's You who's
in the know

So even though we couldn't be on the strand – To listen to You,
Lord, at first hand

You can still change our lives for the better – It helps us if we read

Your Love Letter

And through these heavenly words be reconciled – Dear Father.

Lord, we again become Your child...

Restore us to be by Your side – Be as our Comforter, our Guide.

You will reform us to the core – Vanquish our sins, this we

Implore

For as we're reborn, we're Your new creation - We seek You,

Lord, in anticipation

To be seated at Your feet – Would make our lives so complete

Just to hear you, Lord – To be near you, Lord.

Still we revere Your Holy Name – so since you ARE, We are
not the same

We are transformed, as we make a new start – For You have
placed peace within our hearts

Living can still be difficult that is quite true – But Forever can be
ours if we seek it in You...

21.02.97

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Sitting in my office it is really chilly today. Frost season is upon us and on goes the heating. More people than you think struggle with the cost of heating. For those of us in the rural villages, we rely on electricity or oil, both of which are expensive and oil purchases mean careful budgeting to afford the cost of filling the tank! Although cheaper, gas is expensive too. It's wonderful that at this time of year Wiltshire Community Foundation run their Surviving Winter Grants which collects funds from those who would like to donate and ensure that the money is distributed to those in need. Please do contact me for more information.

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 2gether 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



Can I please say a massive thankyou to everyone who helped search for my pony Teddy when he managed to escape from his paddock. He was eventually found in the churchyard with a very full tummy! You all know who you are so thankyou again.

Jane Blizzard

Hankerton Parish Council

At its meeting on 5 November the parish council:

- Dan Lydiate agreed to update the village's emergency plan. See the article, Winter is Coming – Be Prepared!
- Was informed by Alan Jackson of discussions with Wiltshire Council, resulting in works to fill in the worst pot holes in Cloatley Road and Church Lane
- Was updated by Pam Walkinshaw that she has reported two incidents of fly tipping, which have been cleared
- Was updated by Shayne Smith that the Malmesbury GP surgery is now open on Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. Also it is part of a rota of local surgeries that are open seven days a week, 8am to 8pm.
- Discussed where to place a defibrillator, following the decision at the previous meeting to buy one. The defibrillator needs to be connected to an electricity supply. One option is to place it in the phone box by adopting the phone box from BT for £1. However, this would make the phone box unavailable for phone calls. In recent years very few if no phone calls have been made from the phone box. Contact John Thorne if you have a view about this: john.thorne@islington.gov.uk; tel. 575498

All meetings are open to the public. The next meeting is on Monday 14 January, 7.30pm; North Aisle. More information about the Parish Council is on the Hankerton website

Charlton Recreation Centre Committee Update November 2018 (Anne Hodgkins)

Quiz Night: The Village Hall was packed on 13 October, as 67 people assembled to tackle a range of tricky (even cheesy!) questions at the fund-raising Quiz Night. The raffle raised £252, towards Esme, Alex and Lotte's school trip to India, while ticket and bar sales generated £537 for projects at the recreation centre. Many thanks to all those involved in organising and supporting the event.

PROJECT NEWS

External Cladding: The repairs and treatment of the external cladding has been completed.

Heating: The committee has obtained quotes for replacing the heaters. All in the region of £6,000 and the management committee is exploring ways of raising the money needed to carry out this work.

Charlton Recreational Centre Annual General Meeting – 22 November 2018

By the time you read this, the Recreation Centre AGM will have taken place. Details from the meeting will be included in the next issue.



Winter is Coming; Be Prepared!

Would you, your family, a friend or neighbour value a little extra support to feel safe and sound in the colder months? If so, there's help at hand.

Hankerton Parish Council	Support When You Need It	Jill Kearsley 01666 577781 or jill.kearsley@kearsleynet.com	If you're a Hankerton resident and would like extra support such as shopping in adverse weather or to be checked in on during power cuts please contact Jill Kearsley.
Scottish and Southern Electric Networks	Priority Services Register Powercuts	0800 294 3259 or https://www.ssen.co.uk/PriorityServices/ 105 or 0800 072 7282	Once you've registered, support includes a 24hr prior phone number and updates during a power cut Report or get info about power cuts or report damage to power lines and sub-stations

Able to Help Battle the Weather?

Are you a Hankerton resident who feels able to offer help and support to your neighbours or even a 4-wheel drive in times of heavy snow, flooding or other weather events? If so, please contact Dan Lydiate (01666 575478 or danlydiate@gmail.com) who will keep hold of your details and call when you're needed.

Help, Support and Guidance for the Winter Months

Emergency Services (Not Immediate or Life Threatening)			
Medical	NHS	111	Advice on all medical concerns; NHS 111 can connect you to a nurse, GP or request an ambulance if necessary
	Malmesbury Primary Care	01666 825 825	GP appointments
Police	Non-Emergency	101	General Police enquiries when it's not an immediate emergency
Emergency Alerts			
Wiltshire Council	http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/civil-emergencies-alerts		Get the current alerts directly from Wiltshire Council
Weather Warnings			
Met Office	Weather Warnings	https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/warnings	Up to date weather information
	Weather Alerts	https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/about-us/guide-to-emails	Sign up to receive weather alerts via email
Flooding			
Wiltshire Council	Public Highways	0300 456 0105 or Wiltshire Council 'My Wiltshire' mobile app	Report incidents to Wiltshire Council who are responsible for flooding from the public highway or blocked road gullies or gratings
Wessex Water	Burst water main	0800 692 0692 or leakstoppers@wessexwater.co.uk	Report incidents to Wessex Water - responsible for repair and maintenance of the water mains
Snow and Ice			
Hankerton Parish Council	Excess Snow on the Roads		If the roads in Hankerton need to be cleared, the Parish Council will request a local farmer to act on behalf of Wiltshire Council
Self-Help	Icy Roads	Salt boxes are on: - The junction of Cloatley Road and Vicarage Lane (near the signpost) - Murcott Road (near the Hankerton Diamond Jubilee sign)	Salt boxes are available for both residents and the travelling public to use on public roads and footpaths; help yourself

Nail Cutting Service



New and close to you

at Riverside Community Centre

A discounted service for local people has arrived at a venue near you! From 18th NOVEMBER

We have a dedicated team across Wiltshire to help cut your toe nails (usually £15 per visit) and all other aspects of foot care.

If you would like to book an appointment or find out where your local clinic is, please call Jack Carter on 01225 350057 or 07521 232623

Wiltshire Council
Where everybody matters

Oh No! It's the Terrible Xmas Jokes bit...

Why did the turkey cross the road?

Because he wasn't chicken!

What do you get if you cross a snowman and a shark?

Frost-bite!

Who says oh, oh, oh ?

Santa Claus walking backwards

Who hides in the bakery at Christmas?

A mince spy



Chocolate Tia Maria Nuggets

Try our simple but deliciously indulgent Xmas recipe!

Takes 20 mins plus chilling time – makes around 30

Ingredients:

- 142ml carton double cream
- 200g bar dark chocolate, broken into small pieces
- 4 tbsp Tia Maria (other liqueurs could be used instead)
- Icing sugar and cocoa powder to coat

Method:

1. Bring the cream to the boil in a small pan. Remove from the heat and stir in the chocolate until it has melted. Stir in the liqueur and pour into a bowl. Cool, then chill until firm, about 4 hrs, or overnight.

2. Sprinkle a sheet of greaseproof paper with icing sugar and another with cocoa powder. Take a teaspoon and scoop nuggets of truffle mix out of the bowl and onto either the paper with cocoa powder or icing sugar. Use two teaspoons to coat the nuggets then transfer them to paper sweet cases. Pack into paper sweet cases in boxes and chill. Store for up to 2 weeks (as if that's likely to happen!).

Enjoy!

Hankerton History Group

An exhibition commemorating the family members and village men who served in WWI was produced by members of the Hankerton History Group for November 10th and Remembrance Sunday. Many complementary comments were received saying how much it was appreciated, how good the research was, and how poignant the stories were.



The afternoon Remembrance service was very well attended by over 55 people. The short service of readings, music and prayers was followed by 2 minutes silence around the Commonwealth war grave. A memorial tree, donated by the Lewin family, was planted. This event was concluded by tea with delicious cakes. (Many thanks to Rosey and Susan).



Thank you to everyone who worked hard to ensure the success of this event of remembrance.

‘We will remember them.’

Susan Mockler



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Wheatsheaf Inn - Crudwell

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tobygregory@aol.com wheatsheafcrudwell.co.uk

Tripadvisor: [wheatsheaf-Crudwell](#)

Traditional pub food in a relaxing atmosphere

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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

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



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