

The Grapevine



Hopefully, it's not too late for us to wish everybody a Happy New Year although that might seem a bit of a pipe-dream during these difficult times. At the time of writing, we are in a third lockdown and Covid rates are sky-high. There is light at the end of the tunnel however - the good news is that we now have 3 different vaccines ready and these are already being rolled-out to people in the area – although it might still seem a long way off we can therefore look forward to getting back to 'normal' one day and resuming all the fun and sociable activities that we enjoy in our village. We all know how lucky we are living here in

Hankerton, we only have to step out of our front door and we are surrounded by glorious countryside, the perfect place to take our daily exercise to help with our physical and mental wellbeing. On that subject, another initiative you may have heard of is the Hope Springs Eternal project which we could all join in with – they are encouraging everyone to decorate their houses to cheer us all up – adding door wreaths of brightly coloured flowers, putting the fairy lights back up (one of your Grapevine editors hasn't taken theirs down yet) or adding bunting around the garden, sticking colourful children's pictures in the windows – anything to brighten up the village and help us through the winter. Who's game? :-)

Hello

Just a quick word to remind you all that 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



Deadline for news for the **April Grapevine: March 10th 2021**

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.

Thank you to the Parish Council for continuing to support the Grapevine.

The wet and gloomy weather did nothing to deter the 66 hardy souls who attended the 'Worship and Carols' Service in the Church grounds on Sunday. The service held by Sarah Wyman, aided and abetted by villagers and local children, included an updated version of the story of the Nativity, this time set in 2020 with the Magi bringing gifts of PPE, pasta and loo paper instead of the more traditional Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh 😊. There were also Christmas carols to sing along to plus prayers and readings. The church grounds looked magnificent with a gloriously lit-up Christmas Tree, fire pits to keep everyone toasty and candles placed along the walls, casting a warm and festive glow.

Well done to Sarah and the team for bringing some Christmas cheer to the village in what has been a truly horrendous year. Fingers crossed that this time next year we will be able to enjoy a more 'normal' Christmas (although the outside Carol service may be a keeper 😊)

Mary O'Brien



Photo courtesy of Antony Ducker

A4 Stationers (Hopefully Re-opening Soon!)

A4 Stationers are conveniently located near the top of the High Street in Malmesbury and stock a comprehensive range of art supplies and stationery.

They also provide the following services:

Photocopying

Printing

Laminating

Document Binding

Bespoke rubber stamp ordering

Cine and VHS to DVD transfers.

We at The Grapevine can highly recommend them for their friendly and helpful service – after all, we used them as our printer for several years!

For more information call Jane on 01666 824433 and support our local shops!



Nature Diary – February 2021 – Steve Davies



This month's subject, the European Brown hare (*Lepus europaeus*), has a very strong association with next month, and most people will have heard of "Mad March Hares" – more of that later.

The Brown Hare may look like a rabbit but they are not closely related. The rabbit is a rodent and the hare is not. Larger than a rabbit, with longer legs, tawny fur and longer, black tipped ears, the hare is an animal built for speed – up to 45 mph. This ability is required as the hare lives above ground, never in a burrow. Instead, it creates

a shallow depression in the ground or vegetation, called a *form*, and lies low, flattening its body against the ground and its ears against its body. It is thought to have been introduced to this country by the Romans, so is not native like the Mountain Hare, which is the one seen in mountainous areas of Scotland and northern England and changes its coat colour to white in winter for camouflage – the Brown Hare doesn't change its coat colour.

They are generally nocturnal in habit so not usually seen during the day, and solitary, except in Spring when the breeding season is at its height, although the breeding season extends from January to August. March is the best time to see groups of hares chasing each other around. It is often accompanied by hares jumping and twisting in the air, and the well-known activity of "boxing". This behaviour led to the commonly used saying, "Mad as a March Hare".

Attentive males are repelled by females if they are not ready to mate, and it is usually the female that "boxes" to repel the male's attentions. Sometimes both will rear up on their hind legs and attack each other with their front paws – hence the "boxing". Females will select which male to mate with by setting off on a run, the males following, and she will mate with the one that has the stamina to keep up with her on the extended run.



Females will give birth to 2 – 4 young in a form and have up to 4 litters a year. The young are precocious when born, so fully furred, eyes open and mobile. They disperse from this form during the day and come together in the evening when their mother returns to suckle them for 5 minutes, after which she leaps away to avoid leaving a scent trail for predators. This is her only contact with the young. They can eat solid food from 2 weeks old and are fully weaned at 4 weeks.



There is a long association of hares with tradition and folklore. Witches were thought able to transform into hares, and hares were long honoured in pagan rituals celebrating springtime, eventually evolving into the Easter Bunny! Alice in Wonderland sat down to tea with the Mad Hatter and the March Hare – was he as mad as the Hatter? Finally, an old English name for a hare was a

"twat", and a field used to be called a ley, so where there was a field to the west of Malmesbury with a lot of hares they named it Twat-ley. The farm there is still called Twatley, but the upmarket hotel didn't think the name was befitting of its image and so changed the name to Whatley!!

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust: Call for Volunteers!

After an inaugural task right before the first lockdown, the Cloatley Meadows monthly volunteer group is now back up and running.

The group has been busy, weeding young barberry plants and starting to restore the coppice rotation in Hankerton Copse. Future tasks may include scrub bashing, scything, ragwort pulling and infrastructure maintenance – basically, anything that needs doing on the reserve!



We would welcome new volunteers to join our small, friendly group, which meets on the **third Tuesday of the month, 10am-3pm**. No experience is necessary, just enthusiasm! We will provide tools, PPE and basic training (and plenty of biscuits when Covid restrictions allow!) and can promise a jolly atmosphere; plenty of fresh air and exercise; and a sense of pride and satisfaction.

If you'd be interested in joining us, please contact Rosie Wilson – rosiew@wiltshirewildlife.org - for further information, or go direct to our website to register: <https://www.wiltshirewildlife.org/forms/volunteer-application-form>

Ellie Jones
Reserves Manager, North Wiltshire
Tel: 07713 201151

The Hannah Ludlow Charity.

Hopefully, as a result of previous Grapevine articles and word of mouth, 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.

Wheatsheaf Inn Crudwell

Take away service

We will be offering a takeaway service until further notice.

Please ring 01666 577739 or

Email tobygregory@aol.com

Available:

Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays: 5.30pm until 7.00pm

Also Thursdays: 12.00pm to 1.30pm

Sunday (roast meats only): 12.00pm to 1.30pm

Order early to avoid disappointment!

With takeaway coffee from 10am to 1.30pm Thursdays

Menu choices:

From £9.00

Winter warming casserole with new potatoes and vegetables (£11)

Homemade pie of the day (£11)

Pan fried smoked haddock and mozzarella fishcakes

Teriyaki stir-fry chicken with rice

6oz Cheese burger with chips

Chicken and bacon Caesar salad

Beer battered cod and chips

Chicken Madras Curry with rice and naan bread

Beef lasagne with chips

Buttermilk breaded chicken burger with BBQ sauce and chips

Vegetable lasagne, vegetarian pie and daily options

Desserts (*to be heated at home)

From £4.00

Ginger sponge with custard*

Chocolate brownie*

Fruit Crumble with custard*

Butterscotch ice-cream sundae

Cash or card payments

Deliveries by arrangement

See www.wheatsheafcrudwell.co.uk for updates



CHURCH MATTERS

We were delighted to welcome 66 villagers to the carol service in the churchyard (see separate report). The backdrop included a splendidly lit Christmas tree, kindly donated again by Nick Durnford, who also lent 2 smaller spiral trees by the porch. Thank you to all those involved in any way.



Whilst 2020 has been a very tough year, the church is still accessible for private prayer or contemplation at any reasonable time, with the usual safeguards in place. Contact Philip, next door, 01666 575465. Due to the Covid, the church is currently closed for services but there are regular zoom services (and a non-religious quiz!) so please look at the noticeboard. We remain optimistic that some sort of normality will resume soon. Hope springs eternal.

Philip Carter Valerie Durnford Churchwardens

PETER ROBINSON

The village has recently lost one of its long-term residents. Peter, who died on 4th January, was a huge asset to the village, volunteering and supporting many activities. Whenever there was a raffle, he would always donate a prize, usually a good bottle of red wine! He was a Chartered Surveyor and was extremely helpful on all aspects of the church building, willingly giving his professional advice and never charging for it. Every five years, there has to be an external report on the listed church building and Peter was, for many years, our internal representative, to advise what action we should take and give the names of suitable contractors to carry out the various building repairs. He was also the resident expert on our four ancient church bells, the earliest of which is dated 1399. He was a long serving member of the Parochial Church Council and was always wise, calm and polite. He liked a bit of golf but said it was mostly for the walk and the company. He would modestly add that good shots were rare but that's exactly what he was, a pleasure to be with, in many different ways.

PAMELA OFIELD

Pamela Ofield passed away peacefully on Saturday 26th December following a short illness. As it transpired, all her close family were with her for the first time since her entry into Avon Court Nursing Home. We thank God that it was so peaceful for her, and such a short illness. Her family would like to thank all of the Hankerton community, including her friends, for the friendship, care and concern that they have shown her over the years. For the friendships formed since Pamela and Richard first arrived, and which continued over the years, through to the help given to her as she aged and the continued friendship still expressed to her whilst in Avon Court. She loved village events with the Saturday coffee morning (Pop-In!!) and the Strawberry Tea being particular favourites. But the community's help in her latter years is greatly appreciated by her family; providing her with lifts, accompanying her whilst she insisted on struggling to walk to the 'Pop-In', checking up on her at home, checking up when she lit one of her ridiculously large bonfires, or searching the village when she went missing!! I'm sure many of you are aware of the variety of 'objects' that she would bring to the pop-in and the amount of attention that she had paid to them. However, it may well be that none of you were aware that she was a botanical illustrator for the Essex branch of the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and



NCCPG Logo



Convolvulus Cneorum

Gardens; she also designed the image used as their logo. This work, on a voluntary basis, she continued for many years whilst in Hankerton, until her stroke events prevented her continuing. We enclose that logo image and a sample of her drawings. We'd also like to thank the community for the consideration and warmth expressed to us since Pamela passed away. Due to Covid restrictions we have decided to have a private funeral. They not only provide support to individuals and families but also on a broader basis to professionals, including NHS staff.

Thank you to all of you,
The Gallachers



minety community shop

Minety Village Hall Minety SN16 9QH
Tel: 01666 860013 www.minetyshop.co.uk
Weekdays: 8am - 6pm Weekends: 9am - 1pm

New Into Your Shop:

Fresh Meat from Hiscocks our local butcher with special orders on request

Fresh Hobbs-House Bakery bread, pastries & cakes orders taken

Freshly made Bean-to-Cup Coffee and other hot drinks

Local Tracklements Condiments ideal for that special occasion

Local Beers & Mates Cider

Plus all of our usual products:

Off Licence ● Convenience Goods ● Confectionery
Fresh Produce & Frozen Produce
including a range of local & Minety Made products
● Newspapers & Magazines to order ●



Support your local shop: Did you know if every household spent just £5.00 per week in the shop the future of the shop would be guaranteed. The Minety Shop is a "not for profit" organisation but needs to cover its running costs.

We are always looking for more volunteers to help in the shop or on the committee.

**For more information call
Steve: 07802 3538325 or
Catherine: 07786522455
or email: minetyshop@gmail.com**

February Services across the Braydon Brook Benefice

Sunday Services are paused at the moment, but our churches are open for private prayer. Please contact the Churchwardens.

Date	Services on Zoom 	Services on YouTube 
Sunday 7 th February	Tea Time Service 4.30pm	Morning Worship 10am
Sunday 14 th February	Morning Prayer 10am Evening Prayer 6pm	
Wednesday 17 th February	Ash Wednesday Reflection 5.30pm	
Sunday 21 st February	Friends & Family 10am	Third Sunday 6.30pm
Sunday 28 th February	Morning Prayer with Agape Fellowship Meal 10am Evening Prayer 6pm	

We have Morning Prayer via Zoom at 8.30am on a Tuesday and 9.30am on a Friday. All are welcome.

Please visit our website www.braydonbrook.co.uk or email admin@deanery.org.uk for more details

Our YouTube link is <https://minetyonline.com/church/>



**Come & join Revd Tonya as she hosts the
Benefice Quiz!**

Venue: Somewhere in your home

When: Wednesday 3rd and 24th February
And 10th and 24th March

Time: 10.30am

(bring your own; coffee, cake, biscuits....and of course pencil
and pad!)

Please email admin@deanery.org.uk if you would like to join the
'Benefice Coffee & Quiz' so that we can send you the login
details.



WALK WITH ME

**“Listen to My words and mindful be - Walk with
Me in trust and then you will see
The way to ease your worry and your strife - So
set your hearts on Heaven and New Life
If My righteousness comes out on top - All you
ask of Me will never stop
Build your faith upon My solid rock - Accept My
Gift to you, little flock
Learn to trust Me day by day - To the Holy Spirit,
pray
Then leave it up to Me and you will find - I’ll take
the weight from off your mind
At first seek Me out in little things - And
soon your Faith will soar on lighter wings”.**
Dear Lord, thank You for teaching us to cope - For
when in You we have our hope
No matter how hard things may be - We know to trust
and wait on Thee.

05.12.96.

Copyright Shelagh Dalton 1996

Hankerton Art Group (HAG)

Thank you for the good feedback on our new web page. It now has a great set of portraits that you might enjoy. You can find them on the HAG page of the village website.

<https://hankertongroups.wordpress.com/hankerton-art-group/>





Neapolitan Pizza

Order anytime up to 7pm Friday.

Deliveries Saturday from 6pm.

Marinara – Tomato, Fresh Garlic, Oregano, Basil & Olive Oil. £6

Margherita - Tomato Sauce, Grana Padano, Fior di Latte cheese, Basil, Olive Oil. £7

Pepperoni – Tomato Sauce, Mozzarella, Grana Padano and loaded with Pepperoni. £8

Horny Goat – Goats cheese, Spinach, Caramelised Onion & Fior di Latte £9

Diavola – Napoli Salami, Roquito Peppers, Tomato Sauce, Mozzarella, Grana Padano and finished with Hot (spicy) Honey. £8

Blistered Peppers – Tomato Sauce, Grana Padano, Mozzarella, Roasted Peppers, Olives & Basil £8

Wood Fired BBQ Pork – BBQ Sauce, Pulled Woodfired pork, Red Onion Rings, Mozzarella. £9

Pimp the Shrimp – Tomato Sauce, Mozzarella, Prawns & Garlic. £9

Old Skool Cool – Smoked Ham, Tomato, Mozzarella with either Mushroom or Pineapple £8

Five Spice Duck – Hoisin base with shredded Duck, Mozzarella and Spring Onions £9

Next dates – Jan 23rd, Feb 6th and 20th and March 6th

Please call Warings Catering on 01666 824379 to order

All our deliveries will be totally non-contact. Payments must be made by bank transfer online. We will leave your delivery outside the door and retreat to a safe distance to make sure it has been taken in.

All our pizzas contain Gluten! Fresh Gluten Free dough requires 24hrs notice Please call to discuss any dietary or allergen requirements

HANKERTON HISTORY – DID YOU KNOW? #3

I am sure you have all walked past the Old School House many times, over the years Hankerton History Group has unearthed lots of information about the school which used to be run from here. It was built between 1850 and 1852 as a National School for boys and girls. Pupil numbers in the 19th century were surprising high, in 1876 we know there were 42 attending school.



Some reports from the Headmistress in the early 20th century still exist and make interesting reading. Attendance was affected by weather both snowfall and wet days but the entry for July 5th, 1907 reads "Due to haymaking, irregular attendance" which gives a good picture of children's activities.

Gardening also seemed to feature as part of lessons. In February 9th, 1906 there was even an exam on the theory of gardening and in September 11th 1908 a Horticultural Instructor inspected the children's gardens.

The two pictures date from the mid 20th century and show activities in the playground. It is easy to match up with the photograph of the Old School House today.



Malmesbury Voices at the Athelstan Museum has a first-hand report of Hankerton School in the 1930s "We had a lovely little school house near the church and on a green. There were about 20 pupils and we had a teacher called Mrs Walters. I was very happy at school. In those days one walked home for lunch, which was, oh, three quarters of a mile from school I would think, and we had lunch and walked back again, and thought nothing of it. Different classes had the same teacher. Not easy, but she did very well and we used to enter all sorts of competitions, like handwriting".

By the 1950s the school was struggling, in 1954 two washbasins were requested based on the expectation of mains water supply to the village becoming available. In 1957 the school closed over winter due to an unsafe roof and in March 19th, 1958 it was reported that "Sanitary arrangements were in a deplorable condition and that now mains water was on the premises, there was no need for the present inadequate unhealthy toilets to remain". There was not much progress, in 1960 there were 11 pupils but the school was on a waiting list for improvements and "would stand a better chance if a sewage system for the village was envisaged". Again interesting insights into village life.

After many campaigns to save the school, it finally closed in March 1966.



Parish Council update 4 January 2021

- As we are back in lockdown residents may need support and assistance for shopping, prescriptions etc. If you need help, then please use the Hankerton WhatsApp group to ask for it or, if you would prefer, contact Robin Tjolle (07801 891429) or Geoff Preston (07785 106035) directly and they will help co-ordinate/facilitate the required support. For those who will (undoubtedly) provide the help and support when needed, thank you in advance
- Due to money received from The Grapevine the estimated end of year balance is £2684, which is greater than previous years
- It was agreed to keep at £4750 the parish council's share of council tax in 2021/22. As there are slightly fewer council taxpayers than a year ago householder payments will increase by 0.6%, which is equivalent to 19p for a Band D property
- Funded by individual donations, two anti-speeding signs for the village are to be bought and put up
- If residents are concerned about low-flying planes from Oaksey Airfield then send an email with the plane's number to oakseyparkairfield@outlook.com
- In partnership with Minety and Charlton parish councils the Parish Council is looking to request from the Minety Solar Farm planning applicants a financial contribution towards the three villages if the planning application is successful

John Thorne



01666 826456

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Malmesbury

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