

The Grapevine



At the time of writing (mid-May) I think it's safe to say that the weather this Spring has been what they call 'changeable' – one minute it's blue skies and sunshine, the next the black clouds roll in and we have a downpour. Usually at this time of year we have things to look forward to, to chase away the rainy-day blues – the Strawberry Tea in the Church grounds, the Village Fayre in August for example. Sadly, due to the Pandemic we haven't been able to arrange any of those events this year. However, there is something we can all come together as a village and support - we are entered in the Best Kept Village Competition with judging taking place on any one day between 17 May-13 June. Luckily for one of your Eds, it's not about who has the best garden, it's more a question of how well we all look after the

village space and the overall impression it would give to a visitor. So, pick up any litter you see anywhere within the village boundary, remove spiderwebs etc in the defibrillator kiosk and old leaves blown into the bus shelter and keep the public footpaths clean and clear (and dare we say, pick up your dog poop – if the Judge steps in that it will NOT give a good impression!). Hopefully by 2022 we will have returned to some sort of normality and the village can get back to hosting lots of fun and sociable events for us all to enjoy!



Deadline for news for the **August Grapevine: July 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.



Wheatsheaf Inn Crudwell Re-opening

We are very pleased to announce that we re-opened for indoor and outdoor food and drinks service on Wednesday 19th May 2021, subject to Government Covid restrictions and enhanced hygiene procedures.

We are continuing with our takeaway service and a new takeaway menu can be found on our website:

www.wheatsheafcrudwell.co.uk (and here in The Grapevine)

We very much look forward to welcoming you all back so that you can once again enjoy our hospitality at the Wheatsheaf Inn.

We are now taking advanced booking for dining in.

Toby and Debbie and all the Staff.



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:

12.00pm to 1.30pm and 5.30pm until 7.00pm

Sunday (roasts only): 12.30pm to 1.00pm

Order early to avoid disappointment!

Menu choices:

From £9.00

Marinated sweet chilli chicken skewers with rice or chips

Beef burrito- stir-fry spicy beef and vegetables with
rice, cheese, salsa, wrapped in a tortilla served with fries (£10)

Vegetable burrito with fries (£10)

Crispy breaded scampi with chips or salad

6oz Cheese burger with chips

Chicken and bacon Caesar salad

Warm sausage and onion salad

Beer battered cod and chips

Chicken Madras Curry with rice and naan bread

Beef lasagna or vegetable Lasagna with chips

Desserts (*to be heated at home)

From £4.00

Ginger sponge with custard*

Raspberry Trifle

Fruit Crumble with custard*

Butterscotch ice-cream sundae

Cash or card payments

Deliveries by arrangement

See www.wheatsheafcrudwell.co.uk for updates



Nature Diary – June 2021



We have three species of newt in this country, which are amphibians like frogs and toads. Sometimes they may be mistaken for lizards, but lizards (reptiles) have a body covered in scales whereas newts have a moist skin, and lizards are much faster moving! Like the other amphibians, their life cycle involves a process

called metamorphosis, involving transition from egg to larva to adult. The larval stage in frogs and toads is called a tadpole, but newt larvae are usually called "efts", which is derived from the old Anglo-Saxon name for newts of "efeta".

If you have a garden pond you may well have newts present, and as they are more active at night, shining a torch into the water may help you find them, but don't shine on them too long as the bright light will disturb them. In our area it is most probably going to be a Smooth (or Common) Newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*) which grows to about 10 cms.



A similarly sized and coloured species is the Palmate Newt (*Lissotriton helveticus*), (males have black webbed hindfeet when breeding hence the name), but this is more common in water bodies on acid ground, such as bogs and heathland.

If your pond is on the larger size, you may be lucky enough to have some of the largest species, the Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*) which can grow to 17 cms. This is a much more darkly coloured newt, and in contrast to the smooth skins for the other two species, has a warty skin and bright orange underbelly with black blotches.

All three species spend most of the year on land, returning to water to breed in early Spring. They feed on invertebrates, being wholly carnivorous, and when in water they may even feed on the tadpoles of frogs and toads. Prior to breeding, the male newts perform elaborate displays in front of the female, having already changed his appearance to become more highly coloured and develop a crest along the top of the body. The female may lay up to 250 eggs (depending on species), and each is laid individually wrapped up in a leaf of some pondweed. It takes a long time to complete egg-laying, compared to the mass of spawn of a frog, or the continuous string of a toad.

The larval stage is also carnivorous, feeding on aquatic invertebrates appropriate to their small size. They are legless initially, with feathery external gills, and in contrast to the frog and toad tadpoles, they develop front legs first and then the hind limbs. The former begin to show about a week old, and the hind legs soon after. The feathery gills will disappear just before they complete their development and leave the pond to live on land.

You may not see them that easily once out of the pond, because being amphibians, they need to keep their skin moist and mustn't dry out, so usually keep to well vegetated areas on rest under logs, stones or in compost heaps until dark arrives when they will come out and hunt for food. I have occasionally disturbed a Common Newt when digging up some potatoes from the veg patch, the disturbed newt was then gently moved to a sheltered spot elsewhere.



Come winter, newts will overwinter in log piles, stacks of stones or crevices in stone walls, and in compost heaps. If mild weather occurs they may emerge from these sites to feed; so not truly hibernating. The sorts of places they like to overwinter are another reason for us not to be too tidy in our gardening, and leave some small rough areas with log or stone piles— along with providing a garden pond as well, which benefits many other species of visiting wildlife. It perhaps should be pointed out that newts are all protected species, and as the Great Crested has declined more significantly in numbers and distribution than the other two, it has even stronger legal protection and you shouldn't really touch one, except perhaps to move it from immediate danger.

So with the cooler than normal weather that we have had this year, I don't think June will be too late to check if you have some of these nocturnally active residents in your pond, and see if you can spot some of the youngsters with their feathery gills. If you have Great Crested Newts you may give yourself a pat on the back, and even, considering their appearance whilst breeding and dramatic size and colour, tell the grandchildren that you've got "dragons" in the garden pond!

Steve Davies.



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12 Follyfield, Hankerton

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transfer is preferred)



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@thenailcabincotswolds

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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!



HANKERTON HISTORY – DID YOU KNOW? #5

Although you may all be aware that Hankerton Church is part of the Braydon Brook Parish, did you know that the village was once briefly part of Braydon Forest?

At its height in the 13th century, the forest of Braydon covered around 50 square miles having been established after the Norman Conquest. It was primarily used as a hunting forest for Royalty being a rich source of red and fallow deer. Allegedly Henry VIII dined at Tower House, Malmesbury after hunting in Braydon Forest.

Hankerton was included from 1228 to 1279 as shown on the map.

Special laws governed the Royal Forests and in the mid-13th century Hankerton is recorded as one of the villages summoned to attend the Forest Inquisition to settle disputes.

Although Hankerton parish included much land which was within Braydon forest and its purlieus (borders) it was not well wooded. One exception was Flisteridge Wood, in 1257 it was claimed that Malmesbury Abbey's woods of Flisteridge had been afforested by King John. The open pasture and woods of the purlieus of the forest were used in common by the lords and tenants of manors near the forest. Particular parts were claimed for, and perambulated by, each manor. Often a source of dispute.



You can see from the map that Braydon Brook in the northern part of Hankerton formed an important boundary for the forest. There are records that the boundaries were perambulated by Hankerton villagers to secure that boundary. Part of the boundary is alongside a village footpath, shown in the picture, so you can do your own mini-perambulation. I don't know if the boundaries were ever walked within living memory – perhaps you know?

Braydon Brook remains an important part of village life. Six years ago when the bridge had to be rebuilt the village came out to celebrate the first car across this ancient boundary – and what a car.

Hankerton History Group
Images : British History Online, Mike Goodyer



Greetings from Revd Tonya

As I write this letter I realise it is National Marriage Week. I wonder are you married? Do you have a significant other in your life? How is your marriage fairing?

We have lots of couples wanting to get married this year in our churches in the benefice. Some of which, are postponed weddings from last year of course. What a year it was and still is really, for those who are preparing for marriage.

It is a joy to read banns of marriage in church recently, it tells everyone that there is a wedding to come. HOORAY!

I love presiding at weddings, seeing what everyone wears always intrigues me – some of the ladies shoes are utterly gorgeous! But best of all I have the joy of saying the words 'I therefore proclaim you husband and wife'. Which is always followed by a round of applause and smiles and sometimes tears on faces. Joy, happiness, vitality and love abide, there's so much to hope for and an overwhelming amount of love and good wishes given.

Being married is not easy. Committing to one person, being faithful to them for the rest of your life is countercultural in today's society. For a marriage to be successful it requires many things including effort and devotion.

I invite us all this month to write down all those family members and friends you know who are married and then pray for one couple each day. Asking for perhaps God's blessing on them, giving thanks for the good times and asking for support when the tough times come along. When praying, perhaps take a moment to ask God's blessing on those you know who were once married and, whether through death or divorce, no longer have their partners with them.



For all who are getting married this year in our churches and beyond my prayer to you all is for your marriage to be life long and strength giving.

Blessings

Tonya



GUIDE OUR MINDS

Lord, we're striving to be wise and thus we need
to get to know You better – **"Children, read
through My Bible, My Word or as some call it
My Love Letter.**

**Know that I want you to succeed – Thus I give
you Wisdom, for this will give you what you
need**

**Knowledge has its own rewards – Confidence
and good advice mean harmony restored
I created Wisdom first to My own design -
Before all else was given life, she was birthed
to help you shine**

**You've become someone of character,
developed
your own worth – Let Me smile upon you, as
you walk upon My Earth.**

**I may grant you eyes that see and hearts that
are undismayed – But don't get sidetracked
into sin, stay by My side, unafraid**

**Listen to My counsel, you will know if you are
right or wrong – Believe that I AM guiding you
to keep you faithful, true and strong**

**Keep Wisdom in your hearts from your
beginning to your end – You'll find that I'll be
with you always as your Constant Friend.**

**Now, examine your hearts – Make this your
new start".**

Lord, let Your Holy Spirit guide our minds and
please grant us Wisdom too – We see and trust
You as our Friend, and we are so in awe of You.
(Proverbs 8:22-35)

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Services across the Braydon Brook Benefice

All are welcome to attend any of the services taking place across the Benefice



Date	Services in Church	Services on Zoom 
Sunday 6th June	10am Holy Communion @ Ashley	
	10am Matins @ Oaksey	
Sunday 13th June	10am Holy Communion @ Charlton	6pm Evening Prayer
	10am Friends and Family @ Crudwell	
Sunday 20th June	10am Holy Communion @ Hankerton	4pm Tea Time Songs of Praise
Sunday 27th June	10am Holy Communion @ Minety	

Tuesday	8.30am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
Wednesday	9.30am	Morning Prayer via Zoom

Please visit our website www.braydonbrook.co.uk and **Braydon Brook Churches Facebook Page** to find out more.

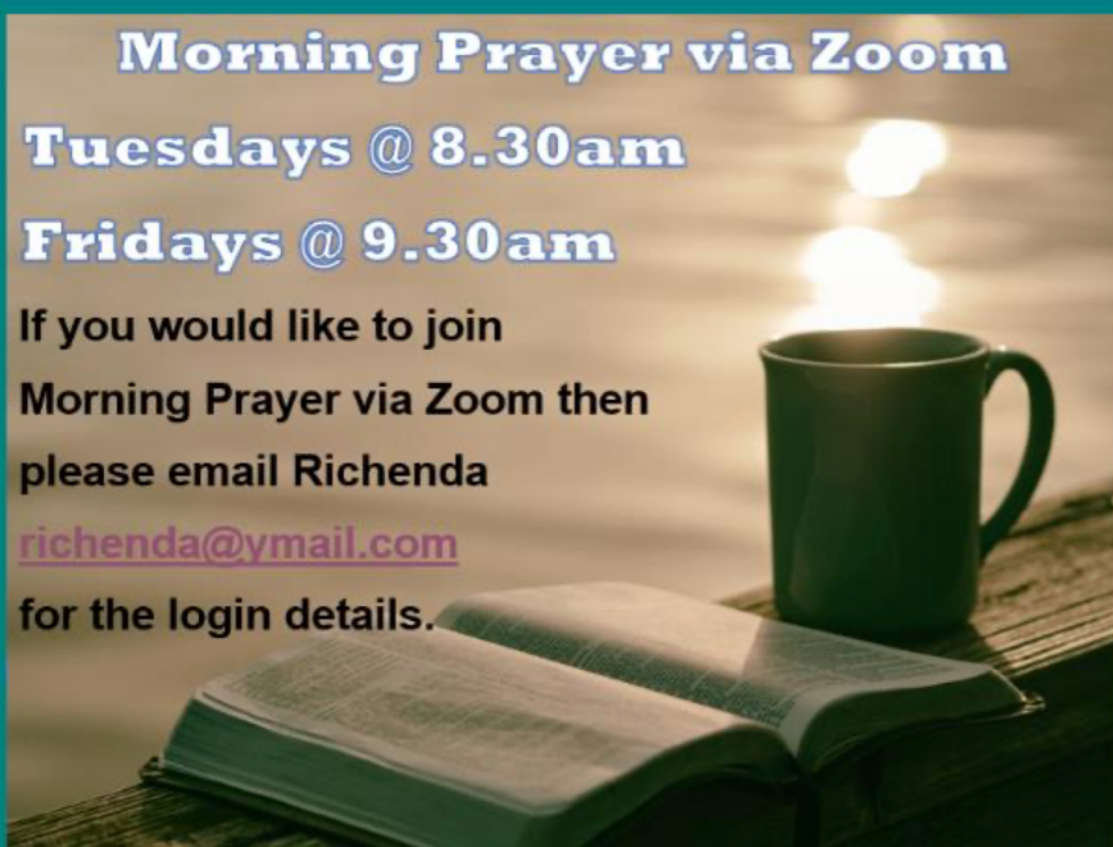
Come and be part of the
Coffee & Quiz
Wednesday 9th & 23rd June
10.30am



Email bbbandgb@gmail.com for the Zoom login details.

Morning Prayer via Zoom
Tuesdays @ 8.30am
Fridays @ 9.30am

If you would like to join
Morning Prayer via Zoom then
please email Richenda
richenda@ymail.com
for the login details.





u3a Malmesbury and District u3a

As Summer approaches and there is some optimism about the end of lockdown, all of us are longing to see our family and friends again. Malmesbury u3a has given us friendship and support over the past long months with zoom talks and coffee mornings and all of us are looking forward to starting up again. We are hoping that all our outdoor activities can start again in June, such as cycling, walking, bird watching and petanque. If you are retired or semi retired and enjoy meeting people while learning something new then Malmesbury and District u3a has around 40 different interest groups to tempt you. See them all on our website www.malmesburyu3a.org.uk. We continue to have the following talks on-line for our 400 members to enjoy. Note the dates in your diary.

June 10th Climate Change and Planet Earth - David Head

June 24th Fields of Battle - Lands of Peace - Mike Shiel

If you are not a member you can still join us. Contact the membership secretary, Elaine Sharpe 01666 823568, become a member and enjoy the general talks. In normal times u3a meets on the 4th Thursday of the month at Malmesbury town hall from 10 - 11.45 for tea/coffee a chat and to listen to a monthly speaker.

Music in Braydon Brook Churches



Are you interested in Church music; traditional, contemplative and contemporary? Would you like to meet likeminded people? Are you young or not so young? In fact, we are looking for anyone who would enjoy the camaraderie of singing together with beautiful music at the heart! Reading music is not essential but enthusiasm and some commitment would be beneficial.

With the return to normal following the pandemic, Rev Tonya would love to see the formation of a small group of singers and instrumentalists who would be willing to lead the music in worship at special services and occasions.

We need you!

If you are interested, we would love to hear from you; so please contact Alison in the Parish Office (01666 825019 or email bbbbandgb@gmail.com) who will put you in touch with the Maestro!



Psalm 95

*'Come, let us sing
for joy to the Lord
.... And Extol
Him with music and
song'.*





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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**

Local Rotary Club helps with Covid Vaccination Roll-Out

Many of us will by now have had either one or both of our Covid-19

vaccinations. Those of you who visited the Malmesbury Primary Care Centre on one of the Pfizer

mass-vaccination days will have, no doubt, noticed the stewards helping out in the car park. Hopefully you found their efforts helpful. These stewards were co-ordinated by the local Rotary Club of the South Cotswolds.



On each of these days somewhere around 800 people were vaccinated – at a site in no way suitable for that number of people (and their cars) in one day! Each vaccination day needed a crew of at least 5 outdoor stewards – in all the Rotary Club organised well over 100 steward shifts. This was made more difficult as the Primary Care Centre generally only had a few days' notice of each batch of vaccine and then had to arrange vaccinators and book in recipients in a hurry – and to contact the Rotary Club to ask for car park stewards!

The stewarding resource required was beyond the capabilities of the South Cotswold Rotary Club alone – so the Club was very pleased to have the support of a number of friends and from the nearby Rotary Club of Royal Wootton Bassett and District. In fact one of the friends who became a stalwart steward noted what we were doing when he came for his own vaccination and asked to join us!

Being outdoor stewards we were, of course, subject to the full range of British Spring weather, including rain, wind, hail, lightning, occasional sunshine and the coldest April for many a year! However, we received many accolades and thanks from those coming for their vaccinations which reinforced the knowledge we were making a significant contribution to the vaccination effort locally.

Rotary Club of the South Cotswolds





Malmesbury Abbey, Wiltshire
JOSEPH MALLORD WILLIAM TURNER, R.A.
1775 London 1851

Now that restrictions have been eased and we can choose to travel further and visit places – how about starting with the Athelstan Museum in the Town Hall, Malmesbury?

From May 20th 2021 the Turner painting of Malmesbury Abbey will be on view in the new mezzanine gallery. (Purchased with grants from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Art Fund.)

Formally in private hands this painting is now on view to all and interest has been shown from around the world. Throughout the coming year there are community based activities relating to the painting – talks, art classes, poetry and story writing.

The specialist Turner volunteer guides will be on hand to answer questions when you visit.

The museum, which is entirely run by volunteers has limited hours of opening over the next few months, so do check the website (athelstanmuseum.org.uk) before you go!

If you would like to volunteer email, info@athelstanmuseum.org.uk – we'd be delighted to hear from you!

Susan Mockler



01666 826456

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Dog Poo

Yes, sorry but it warrants a mention again. It's not only a problem in Hankerton – it seems to be problem everywhere at the moment. The following was taken from the May edition of the Sherston Cliffhanger when discussing the newly formed Sherston Footpath Group:-

One big issue of concern from both farmers and walkers was about the amount of dog poo. Please pick up your dog's poo when walking on or near agricultural land. Parasites in some dog faeces have been shown to result in abortions in cattle and death in sheep. (Dog faeces can also cause a parasitic roundworm infection called toxocariasis in humans caused by handling contaminated soil). With such a large number of dogs now being walked in the locality, it just makes sense to always pick up your dog's mess and keep our fields clean. And, of course, no-one likes dog mess on their shoes! The Countryside Code also requires dogs to be always under control and in sight at all times.

To understand more about the Countryside Code please look here:

www.gov.uk/countryside-code

Our thanks to Tanya Burgess of Sherston Parish Council for the above.

