

# The Grapevine



By the time you read this you will hopefully have received your special 'Jubilee' edition of The Grapevine and we really hope you enjoyed looking back over the last 70 years of Hankerton History.

Since we've produced two Grapevines this month, this June edition will be a more compact one than usual but still full of useful and interesting articles.

Summer is now well and truly here and lots of old favourite Hankerton Events are returning after the horrendous last couple of years. We have the Strawberry Tea to look forward to in July and of course the Jubilee Street Party in June! As you'll have been reminded by the Jubilee edition, we are a very sociable village and love to get together for any special occasion as seen below when the village enjoyed lemon drizzle and coffee cake at the Easter Saturday Coffee morning.

We hope everyone has a wonderful Summer and fingers crossed for some glorious weather!



(Picture courtesy of Juliet Evans)

Deadline for news for the **August** Grapevine: **July 10<sup>th</sup> 2022**

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](mailto: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.

## Nature Diary – June 2022.

This month I thought that I'd discuss a species of butterfly that has declined in numbers over a very long period of time but is the focus of an initiative to improve its fortunes here in North Wiltshire. The butterfly is the Marsh Fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia*), a very attractive medium sized butterfly, whose wings are divided up into numerous panels of colour, consisting of warm browns, oranges and creams. On a sunny day, it is a beautiful creature to have a close look at.



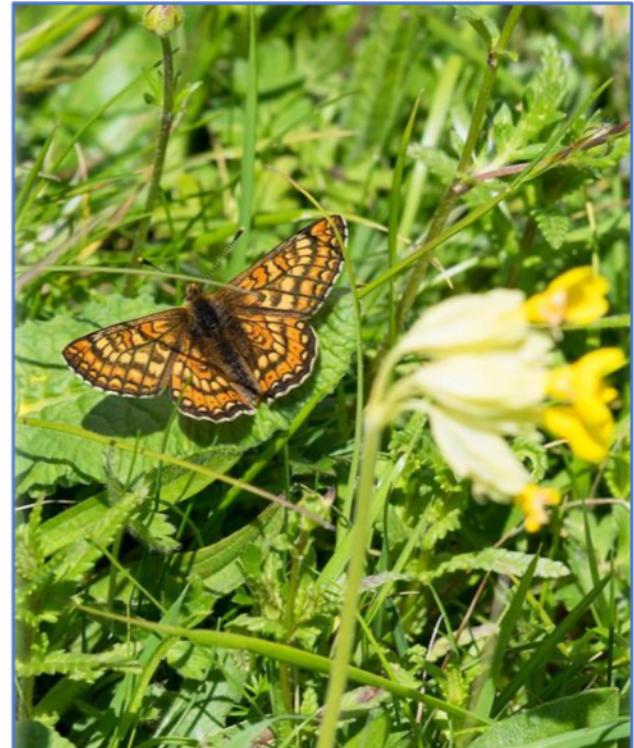
One reference claims that this species is one of the most rapidly declining butterflies in Europe, and in the UK, surviving colonies are found mainly on the western side of the mainland and through much of Ireland. Historically, there are reports of the caterpillars being present in such numbers that when they moved around in search of food, country dwellers had to sweep up the caterpillars or block off the gap under the house door to stop them crawling inside in their thousands (Reports from Co. Fermanagh and Co. Clare in Ireland).

Wiltshire is fortunate to still have quite a few colonies, and it can be seen if you visit the remaining colony sites from May to July when the adults are flying. From its name you will deduce that it is a species of damp areas, which is mostly true, but in Wiltshire many of the butterflies survive on areas such as the Marlborough Downs and Barbury Castle – areas of chalk that are fairly free-draining. The food plant for the caterpillar stage of the life cycle is the Devilsbit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*) which tends to grow on damper ground, but up on the chalk downland the caterpillars seem to have taken to eating the more commonly found Small Scabious (*Scabiosa columbaria*).

So what has happened, as after all, Devilsbit Scabious is a commonly seen flowering plant in our countryside and the caterpillars should have plenty to eat. The problem is mainly down to our management of the land. Firstly, we have drained huge areas of the countryside for agricultural production, reducing the area in which the food plant grows. The Devilsbit Scabious does still grow in many flower meadows, of which we have many in North Wiltshire, but most of these would be cut for hay in late summer (a management regime that suits many flower and insect species), and this is perhaps the major problem. The species overwinters in the caterpillar stage, with the small caterpillars weaving silk "tents" deep in the grassy tussocks, which afford them some protection from the worst of the winter weather. However, grassy tussocks do not exist on hay meadows after they have been cut, and any caterpillars present would not get through the winter. They may have thrived on the food plant but they would not make it through to become adult butterflies

Cloatley Meadows have traditional hay meadows, mainly to the north of the reserve, but there are two large fields adjacent to the Cloatley Road which are not cut for hay, are fairly wet, are lightly grazed by cattle so that the vegetation is longer and of a tussocky nature **and** has very numerous patches of Devilsbit Scabious. These fields would be ideal in terms of make-up and management for the species, and it is hoped that there will be some expansion of populations in the Minety area to find their way down to Hankerton.

There is one slight problem and that is, that the female butterfly when laden with eggs is not able to fly very far, whereas the males range much further, but it is the females with their fertilised eggs that are key to the spread of the species. After she has laid the bulk of the eggs, flight is easier and the remaining eggs may be deposited further from where she initially laid. The Wiltshire Wildlife Trust is actively increasing the areas of suitable land, and planting the required Devilsbit Scabious, to try and bridge the gaps between suitable parcels of land and allow expansion of the species. Volunteers carry out surveys for the signs of the caterpillars and their silk tents during the Autumn and Spring, so perhaps in the not-too-distant future, we shall be able to report the arrival of this extremely attractive butterfly species to Cloatley Meadows.



Steve Davies.

(Photos courtesy of members of the Ravensroost group of volunteers)

## UNSUNG HEROES!

# UNSUNG HEROES



There are a lot of unsung heroes in Hankerton and it wouldn't be fair to single out anyone in particular but we would like to thank everyone who goes the extra mile to keep our little village looking it's best, especially with the judging of the Best Kept Village taking place in May (at the time of writing the results have not been announced).

We'd like to say a BIG THANKYOU to those of you who pick up litter, keep the communal flower beds, pots and grass verges looking beautiful, clean the Phone Box (now defibrillator) and keep the woodwork at the Bus Stop painted and fresh – no need to mention names – you know who you are but we wanted you to know that what you do does not go unnoticed and Hankerton thanks you for your efforts!

### THE HANKERTON STRAWBERRY TEA RETURNS!



**SAVE THE DATE – SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> JULY!**



## **GRATEFUL HEARTS**

Dear Lord, we sit before You; our heads are bowed in prayer - We need Your consolation, to know that You are there

We ask forgiveness, Lord, for the times that we forget - To place our sins before You; again, we are in Your debt

You cleanse our grateful hearts of badness and fill them up with gladness through the Name of Your Dear Son. - We're overwhelmed, Lord, that You still love us, are thinking of us, when we consider all the bad things, we have done

We thank You, Lord, from the bottom of our hearts, now we know that it is never too late to learn - As we repent of our old ways, replace them with new days, we are glad that to You, we have returned.

**“Take My Hand and right now let Me give you a new start - The fact that You are willing to repent of your sins reserves you a place in My Heart.**

**When you pray, know that I will answer you - Though not necessarily in the way that you want Me to**

**I will offer you encouragement as I listen to your pleas - You will know that I have heard as you gain the strength that you need**

**Remember that I love you, remember that I care - Trust in Me, My Son and Spirit; know that I AM always there**

**If you are shy with strangers or find it hard to talk with friends - Just speak of Me to others, this way you can make amends**

**I will not overwhelm you as My Spirit will help you thrive - Look to Me for all things and in My Name, you will come alive**

**Receive My Love; come let Me see you shine - My Presence within you is proof that you are really Mine.”**

(1 John 4:11 –19)

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# Wheatsheaf Inn Crudwell

## Take away service

Please ring 01666 577739 or  
Email [tobygregory@aol.com](mailto:tobygregory@aol.com)

### Available:

Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays:  
12.00pm to 1.30pm and 5.30pm until 7.00pm  
Sunday (roasts only) £11.00: 12.30pm to 1.00pm  
Order early to avoid disappointment!

### Menu choices:

From £9.00

Teriyaki chicken with rice or chips

Moroccan vegetable Tagine with rice

Crispy breaded scampi with chips or salad

6oz Cheeseburger and bacon with chips (£10)

Cajun Chicken Caesar salad

Pan fried lambs liver on mash with onion gravy (£11)

Beer battered cod and chips (£10)

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\*

Fruit Crumble with custard\*

Butterscotch ice-cream sundae



New for Fridays – Eat in or Takeaway:

Pepperoni sourdough pizza – Pepperoni, pancetta and mascarpone

Margherita sourdough pizza – Tomato, mozzarella and Sicilian oregano

£10 each or 2 for £15



Cash or card payments

Local Deliveries by arrangement

See [www.wheatsheafcrudwell.co.uk](http://www.wheatsheafcrudwell.co.uk) for updates

# Stratocaster Guitar for sale

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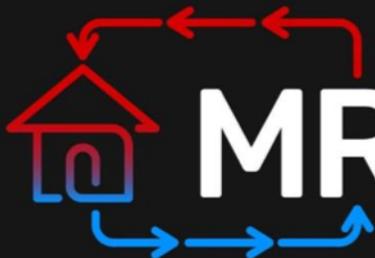
[Craigmccallum@btinternet.com](mailto:Craigmccallum@btinternet.com)



### **Hankerton defibrillator checkers**

Checkers are wanted. The defibrillator in the phone box needs to be checked weekly. It's straightforward and does not take much time. There are already seven checkers. The more checkers we have then the less often each person needs to check it. You would be given information about how to carry out a check. Current checkers can also tell you what to do.

Interested? Contact John Thorne, [john.thorne@islington.gov.uk](mailto:john.thorne@islington.gov.uk)



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Matt Beesley

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1 Hillwell, Hankerton

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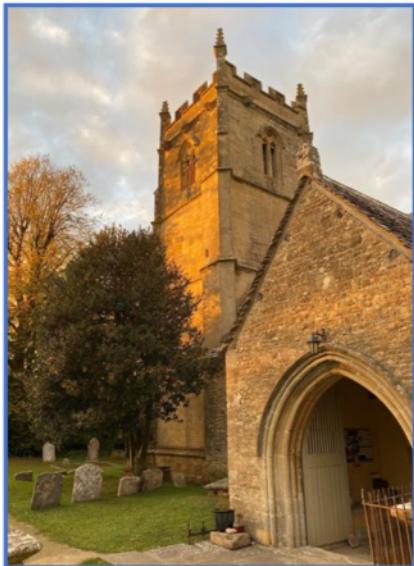
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As we come to June it signals that the long days of summer are nearly here.

We start in a celebratory mood with Pentecost marking the birthday of the church. When the first followers of Jesus received the Holy Spirit; equipping them to go out to meet and talk to all people about their belief in Jesus.

This same day we celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Our Queen is respected by many for her dedication in serving the people in her care.

We may not be royalty but we can learn from her majesty's way of life, her faith with the support of the Holy Spirit enables her to echo many of the characteristics that we see in Jesus' life. A call to servant leadership with the humility, love and steadfastness that it involves; her ability to put anyone at ease, her love for others.

There are many who find this time of year hard; exams exist for some which dictates their future. Causing an anxious time, waiting for results.

In the world today there are many countries facing problems; problems with war, greed, lack of food, climate change and fear. We need to hold all these in our prayers and thoughts; as what happens to others does impact on our way of life.

As we journey through June and through the year hold in your heart like the Queen a feeling of thankfulness for what we have and spread love in the actions you do to those around. Help others where you can making the world a better place.

*God of Creation, designer of sameness and diversity, we give you thanks and praise.*

*We pray for Queen Elizabeth; grant her your gifts of love, joy and peace.*

*Illuminate her path that she may walk in your way, now and all the days of her life.*

*God of Love, you bring together your children from many different areas treating each the same, shining your light into our lives.*

*Help us Lord to see others through your eyes and please give us words of encouragement, words that bring life and hope to others.*

*Guide us Lord along the paths that we should take, encourage and strengthen us with your Holy Spirit.*

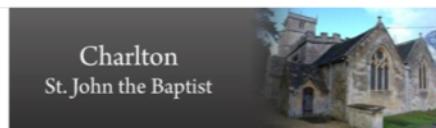
*We lift to you, all those who are struggling or ill; and pray that you will be alongside them, bringing your light and love so they will have hope.*

*Thank you. Amen.*

Revd Sarah Wyman – Associate Priest

# 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
5 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	9.30am Friends and Family @ Crudwell 9.30am, Jubilee Service @ Hankerton 10am, Jubilee Service @ Charlton 10am, Service of celebration @ Minety 11am, Holy Communion @ Oaksey 6pm, Evening Prayer @ Ashley	11am Morning Praise
12 <sup>th</sup> June	10am, Benefice Holy Communion @ Crudwell	
19 <sup>th</sup> June	9.30am, Holy Communion @ Charlton 11am, Holy Communion @ Minety 11am, Matins @ Oaksey 3pm, Tea Time Service (Songs of Praise) @ Hankerton	6pm Evening Prayer
26 <sup>th</sup> June	9.30am, Holy Communion @ Ashley 9.30am, Morning Praise @ Charlton 11am Morning Praise @ Minety 11am, Holy Communion @ Crudwell	

## Mid-Week Services and Events

Monday	Every other week	10am	Bible Study via Zoom
Tuesday	Weekly	9am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
Wednesday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday (8 <sup>th</sup> June)	10.30am	Coffee & Chat @ Crudwell
Thursday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday (9 <sup>th</sup> June)	9.45am	BCP Communion Service @ Minety
Friday	Weekly	9am	Morning Prayer via Zoom

Please visit our website [www.braydonbrook.co.uk](http://www.braydonbrook.co.uk) and Braydon Brook Churches Facebook Page to find out more.





# minety community shop

Minety Village Hall Minety SN16 9QH  
Tel: 01666 860013 [www.minetyshop.co.uk](http://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 ●

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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](mailto:minetyshop@gmail.com)

## Pimm's Slushie!

A simple but refreshing drink to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee.

Take four large wine glasses and pour 50ml Pimm's into each one, then add 2 small strawberries and thin slices of cucumber. Put two scoops of lemon sorbet into each glass and top up with soda

water. Garnish with mint and add colourful straws. Enjoy!



Malmesbury Garden Centre is a locally run business supplying all your garden requirements. We are still open and have some gorgeous flowers and vegetable plants in, lots of seeds and gardening tools. The staff are very friendly and willing to help you with all your needs. The Cafe food is scrumptious too!

We are open:  
Monday to Saturday: 9:00am – 5:00pm  
Sunday: 10.00am – 4.00pm



## Brian Dalton



It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Brian Dalton in April 2022.

After 44 years living in Hankerton, Brian was well known throughout the village for all of his activities and his continuous support for the village.

He was not only an editor of the Grapevine but also the compiler and printer who spent many hours a week, every other month, ensuring that all the copies were printed the correct way up (well almost always!). After 13 years helping with the Grapevine and the 100<sup>th</sup> edition was produced, in April 2013 he passed on this job to others.

Brian was a valued member of the Parish Council, not afraid to take on responsibility. He worked as the Flood Prevention Officer for Hankerton; surveying the waterways and ditches around the village, speaking to landowners, local authorities, the Environment Agency and water boards with the aim of ensuring that rainwater left the Hankerton flood plain as quickly as possible to reduce the flooding risk for residents. Dealing with all of the above was never going to be simple and he put in many hours and a lot of hard work to achieve the improvements that benefit the village today.

He matched actions to words helping to improve footpaths around the village by installing kissing gates and a raised walkway on a particularly wet footpath.

He was an active Governor at Malmesbury School – again matching actions to words on Outward Bound weeks when his sense of fun was always appreciated by the pupils!

Brian was a great performer – whether it was doing the Punch and Judy Show (he also built the booth and special effects) or being on stage performing in the CHAOS pantomimes. His performances were enthusiastic and sometimes so good that he would terrify the younger children while some of his ‘flash-bangs’ terrified the cast and crew! Involved in scenery painting brought out another talent as he designed the revolving scenery – thanks from the crew were expressed at every subsequent performance!

He was also a founder member of the Hankerton Golf Club, taking the sport seriously enough to have built a practise putting green!

Brian was always ready to help others and raise money for good causes – whether it was for children’s education through the Education for the Children Foundation, or local causes. The Rotary Club of The South Cotswolds benefitted from his membership and enthusiasm for fixing things and pulling Father Christmas on his sleigh around Malmesbury and surrounding villages (he used his car...!).

Brian will be remembered by so many in the village for his generosity, sense of humour and honour and he leaves a big gap in many peoples’ lives as well as many treasured memories. Our condolences are sent to Frances, his two children Rachael and Oliver (who grew up in Hankerton) and Brian’s family.

# Hankerton History Group

## Exhibition May 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> 2022

The Hankerton History Group decided to start again after Covid with an exhibition of maps from 1841 to 1947, aerial photographs from 1947 and 2005, finds of a Mesolithic shard, medieval parts of jugs, Minety ware and Ashton Keynes pottery all found on Follyfield, photographs and other information about the village in files.



Comments from visitors included, 'a wonderful display of past village treasures', 'splendid!', 'excellent, most interesting' and 'very informative'. Thank you to everyone who visited and to the Hankerton History Group, Anne, Bunny, Carolyn, Liz, Peter, Philip, Sue, and Terry for helping to set it all up.

We will be having meetings later in the year – look out for posters and announcements on the Hankerton website.

Information on the group from Susan Mockler 01666 577526 .

We look forward to seeing everyone again,

Susan



# Parish Council Meeting



Parish Council

The Parish Council met again in the middle of May and chose to re-elect Robin Tjolle as the Chairman for the coming year. As always there was much on the agenda but here follows a number of the key points - for full minutes and actions please visit <https://hankertonpc.wordpress.com/> .

The PC has decided to review how it handles new planning applications. From now on all new applications will be circulated to Cllrs by email with plans and papers viewed on-line (as before). Any straightforward and uncontentious applications would continue to be decided by email agreement between Cllrs. However any application that was deemed contentious, or potentially contentious, or more significant to the parish, would be "called in" for consideration at the next PC meeting.

It was also decided that additional steps were needed to inform residents about future applications (following the Wiltshire Council decision not to post green notices). All applications' basic details and later PC decisions on the applications were to be recorded on the PC website. But in addition a notice of new applications will be posted to the village website news page - which will then be automatically emailed to those who have subscribed to this page.

In order to mark the Queens Platinum Jubilee the PC have decided to buy a bench (with a plaque commemorating the Platinum Jubilee) to be placed in the churchyard. In addition the PC are continuing to investigate planting a tree and nominating a Jubilee Walk, and will also investigate acquiring a village flagpole, all to commemorate the Jubilee and Her Majesty's 70 years of service on the throne.

Finally the Minety Solar Farm has been permitted by Wilts Council. Construction is currently expected to start in Q2/2024. Good news - the applicants have also made available £60,000 to Hankerton Parish Council to spend on projects that will benefit the local community. More details on this will be published shortly.

We are currently looking for residents to join the PC – there is a vacancy now – and if you are interested or just wish to attend our meetings you will be more than welcome.



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**Malmesbury**  
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