

# The Grapevine



This has been a year to remember for many reasons, world-wide, nationally, locally and personally. The international and world-wide events have meant that we are all hearing more about the effects on far-flung communities: climate change is affecting more of the world's surface and people's homes and lifestyles, and sadly, war has

become a fact in Eastern Europe. Ukraine remains stoic and here people are supporting families who have come to Britain.

The national picture changed rapidly and has left some people wondering what is going to happen next and if there is any way any one individual can lead the country through these turbulent times. The Jubilee and death of Queen Elizabeth II were events that will long be remembered.

Locally, families from the Ukraine have been welcomed in Hankerton and Malmesbury, village events have returned, Hankertonians generosity in raising money is undiminished, and we have said goodbye to some long-term residents and welcomed new people and families.

Personally - we have enjoyed another year of living in Hankerton, catching up on holidays postponed by Covid, attending a son's wedding and watching three granddaughters grow up - and getting taller!

Despite the turbulence of the past year our fortunate community is thriving thanks to people's concern for others, the ability to get involved and the determination to 'Keep calm and carry on'!

In this spirit we wish everyone a Peaceful and Happy Christmas and look forward to some lights around the village!

Susan and Mary. Eds.

Deadline for news for the **February** Grapevine: **January 10<sup>th</sup> 2023**

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 – December 2022.

You are watching all the small birds hopping and flying around your back garden when this huge, grey blur of a bird swoops in to join in the feeding. In Hankerton, it probably visits most days, but I still feel that the Woodpigeon (*Columba palumbus*) looks almost turkey-like in comparison when you see it next to a sparrow or finch. It's probably true that people are a bit dismissive of the woodpigeon, but a closer look reveals a bird of subtle colouration and markings that border on the attractive – even if its head is too small for its body!



Traditionally a bird of woods and farmland, it is now a very common visitor to gardens. In 1999 it displaced the Starling from the “Top Ten” list of garden birds (British Trust for Ornithology) and currently stands at number 4 – (was that a bit too much like Tony Blackburn?). It has always been viewed as a problem bird by those growing arable crops as it does consume large quantities of fresh greens, and large flocks can do significant damage to a field of over-wintering oilseed rape. At this time of the year big flights of them can certainly be seen moving around the countryside. Through much of the year their diet is primarily seed and green plant material, only occasionally eating small invertebrates or worms. In the autumn they are particularly fond of beech mast and acorns.

An interesting feature of the woodpigeon is that, like other pigeon species, they drink by sucking up water through their bill and swallowing without raising their heads. The small birds sharing the drinking water by comparison, dip their bills into the water, and then lift their heads to swallow, then repeating the process until sated. That is not the only unusual behaviour in this species – they feed their young on milk. In pigeons, the part of the oesophagus known as the crop produces a secretion rich in protein which is fed to



the young pigeons, known as squabs, in the nest. So the woodpigeons are not reliant on insects and invertebrates in their diet to provide their young with the protein necessary for growth, unlike other bird species. Nor do they have to synchronise their breeding to the emergence of a particular food source, as long as the parent is able to find its usual food, it can raise young. This means that woodpigeons can breed at any time, but it is mainly spring and summer.

The parents construct a nest of twigs in a tree, usually a coniferous species, and balanced 3 to 4 metres off the ground where a branch meets the trunk. I read that



"they are not the greatest of nest builders", which is a polite understatement! It is not unusual for the nest, eggs or young to get blown out of the tree. It has to be said that the squab is not the prettiest of newly hatched birds, perhaps a face that only its mother could love. They are fed on the parent's crop milk and are able to manage independent flight at around 35 days old. When you see a newly fledged woodpigeon it lacks the white patches of the parents on either side of the neck, and the facial feathers are not fully developed

so that the beak seems especially prominent, but at least its looks are starting to improve from its nestling days.

Later on in the winter when the ivy berries have ripened, you can often see woodpigeons clambering around the ivy bush feeding on the berries. For a large bird they seem quite agile – well, most of the time. In continental Europe woodpigeons are known to migrate south for the winter, but it is uncertain if that is true for birds in the UK. For a fairly common, but perhaps unglamorous species, they haven't attracted the same amount of scientific attention as many other species, and that side of the UK population's behaviour has not yet been researched fully.

The scientific world may be ignoring the woodpigeon at the moment, but with its attractive plumage, fascinating biology and population growth, (despite idiosyncratic nesting skills), it is well worth paying it a little more attention, and as the winter gets colder they will no doubt visit our gardens very frequently.

Steve Davies.

# Job Vacancy: Café Assistant Wanted

We are looking for a Café Assistant for the Garden Centre Café.

The applicant must be able to cover all duties in the kitchen including cooking , serving , cleaning and washing up .

This will be a part time role that includes weekends and Salary is to be discussed at interview .

Please enquire within or send an up-to-date C.V to our Facebook page or to [nurden\\_garden@btconnect.com](mailto:nurden_garden@btconnect.com) .

We are looking for someone to start asap .



## Christmas Lunch at Malmesbury Garden Centre Café



NEW! 2022

### CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT MALMESBURY GARDEN CENTRE

DON'T MISS OUT  
BOOKINGS ONLY!!

AVAILABLE ON  
7<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

Parties Welcome  
Subject to change

#### FREE PARKING!

MALMESBURY GARDEN CENTRE  
CRUDWELL ROAD, MALMESBURY  
01666 822809

[nurden\\_garden@btconnect.com](mailto:nurden_garden@btconnect.com)

#### STARTERS

Spiced Pumpkin Soup  
Pate & Toast  
Prawn cocktail

#### MAINS

Roast Turkey served with Stuffing & Pigs in Blankets  
Roast Beef with Yorkshire pudding  
Mushroom, Brie & Cranberry Wellington  
All Served with fresh Seasonal Vegetables &  
Roast Potatoes

#### DESSERTS

Homemade Christmas pudding with Brandy Sauce  
Homemade Lemon Cheesecake  
Mango Sorbet  
Coffee & Mince Pie to follow

£23.50 for Two Courses  
£27.50 for Three Courses

A NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT WILL BE  
REQUIRED WHEN BOOKING OF  
£10.00 PER HEAD



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



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# **Patients Participation Group**

## **Surgery News - Staffing**

3 new Clinical practitioners have been appointed by the Primary Care Network across the group (Malmesbury, Purton, Sherston, New Court, Cricklade) making 9 in total.

2 will be full time at Malmesbury Primary Care Centre (MPCC) providing care for minor illnesses. Fatima Birkett is growing the Well Being Team which provides support for patients needing care at home or short-term transition into a care home and is also the link between MPCC and the community.

Jess Bolton is the Mental Health Care nurse.

Jo Harris is the Living Team member dealing with mental health, loneliness and Alzheimer's issues.

## **Surgery Refurbishment**

MPCC don't own the building they use and with an increase in staff numbers they are looking at the practicalities of utilising the space more efficiently and differently.

## **Telephones**

The current system is outdated with limited functionality. A company has been appointed to install a new system by Jan 2023. The new system will have unlimited lines, an option for a call back when you're number 1 in the queue and a function to check appointment times. Currently there are 16 receptionists who just answer the phone.

## **Vaccine & Covid**

Flu vaccination clinics started on a Saturday in September and are expected to run until mid-December.

MPCC are only contracted to provide Covid vaccines for patients:

- Age 75 and over
- Over 18's who have severely compromised immune system
- Care home residents

All other patients are advised to contact

<https://www.nhs.uk/get-vaccination>

If you can't book online, phone 119 free of charge, 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday or 8am to 4pm Saturday and Sunday. Alternatively, you can find a walk-in vaccination site near you at <https://www.nhs.uk/vaccine-walk-in>. You don't need to book an appointment.

The next meeting is on 5th December 2022. If anyone has any questions or points to raise then please let me know and I will be happy to take them forward. My telephone number is 07856202115.

**Shayne Smith**



# 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)

# Christmas at The Wheatsheaf

## 2022 Menu

Available from Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December to Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December

### Starters:

**Crispy crumb scampi with dill mayonnaise** CRU EGG MUS

**Traditional Haggis with white onion sauce** MIL, GLU

**Cheese scone Rarebit (v)** GLU, MIL

### Mains:

**Roast turkey with chipolata, stuffing, and cranberry** GLU, SUL

Served with roast potatoes and vegetables

**Sweet potato, spinach, brie, and cranberry parcel** (v) MIL

Served with roast potatoes and vegetables

**Grilled rump steak with lemon pepper butter** MIL

Served with roast potatoes and vegetables

**Pan fried salmon with red pepper and chorizo sauce** FIS MIL

Served with new potatoes and vegetables

### Desserts:

**Christmas pudding with brandy sauce** GLU MIL

**Raspberry and lemon curd trifle** MIL GLU, EGG

**Sticky toffee ice cream sundae** MIL, GLU

**2 Courses £20.00**

**3 Courses £25.00**

Tel: 01666 577739  
[wheatsheafcrudwell@gmail.com](mailto:wheatsheafcrudwell@gmail.com)

## Christmas Coffee Morning

Hankerton Church

Saturday 3<sup>RD</sup> December - 10.30am-12.30pm

Come and Join us for a morning of festive activites.

Raffle

Guess the weight of the cake

Bring and Buy sale

Children's Corner and Mini lucky dip

Mince pies and Mulled wine.

We look forward to seeing you all.

Any donations would be gratefully received,

Please leave with Philip Carter @ Old School House, Church Lane

Or

Kate Nurden @ 1 Hillwell, Hankerton.



# MRB HEATING

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M B Plumbing And Heating

Matt Beesley

07921 266211

1 Hillwell, Hankerton

Email: [mbplumbing983@gmail.com](mailto:mbplumbing983@gmail.com)



### **‘WILL YOU COME?’**

**‘You say that I AM your Lord and that Me you will obey  
And yet when I quietly call to you, there’s always a delay  
When I ask for your attention, your mind often goes awry  
You find it tough to concentrate and then you ask Me, why?’**

**But ‘Lord’, you say, ‘It’s Christmas and I cannot spare this time for You – Can I slot You in at four maybe or I could manage half past two?’**

**‘I AM patiently awaiting you and yet the hours have passed – And still  
there is no response to all that I have asked ‘.**

‘This really is a busy day, Lord and I really am aware - That when You ask me  
**‘Will you come?’, I should find the time for prayer**

But sometimes the hours flash by and though I think on You, it’s hard To keep  
You foremost in my mind, though I should be on my guard

‘Cos this is the time when Satan can do me so much harm – For when I’m being  
rattled, I miss Your Peace, Your Calm.

And this brings understanding of all that I might lose - And pulls me up, to  
make the time to come to You, to choose

The right way, not the wrong, to accept that You’re, my Lord - To put You  
first in all things and to thank You for Your Word. ‘

## A Letter from Revd. Sarah Wyman

December is a time when we look towards Christmas.

Most people celebrate Christmas. The nativity seems normal, we celebrate a birth; this has occurred since the beginning of time. There doesn't seem to be anything different to normal; yes it occurred in a cave/stable where animals are kept in cold weather, but so might other births. This cave in Bethlehem still exists, it was made into a chapel in the fourth century by Emperor Constantine and now a Basilica stands above it.

Within the story are symbols giving us a glimpse of God.

The Donkey and Oxen in the cave stand for all creatures great and small; as Jesus' birth is for all creation.

The shepherds summoned by angels are the first on the scene, these ordinary folk permitted to hear a choir of angels singing God's praise.

The wise men, Gentiles, non-Jews these Magi travelled a great distance on a pilgrimage following the activity of stars in heaven to come to pay homage to a King. A King for all people, in all ages.

The birth in the cave was because there was no room at the inn, He who welcomes all is himself unwelcome. Later he was taken to Egypt and becomes a refugee to escape King Herod.

This baby is not the Messiah the Jews expected and often we find He is not the God we expect.

The main symbol and message is that God's gift to us; is a baby who comes in poverty and vulnerability, Jesus grows and gives His life for us. This is love as Jesus came from Heaven to Earth to help each and everyone of us follow him to Heaven.

*What shall we offer you, O Christ, who for our sake has appeared on earth as man? Every creature made by you offers you thanks. The angels offer you a hymn, the heavens a star; the Magi, gifts, the shepherds, their wonder; the earth, it's cave; the wilderness, the manger; and we offer you a virgin mother.*

From a prayer for the Orthodox Christmas Vespers Service.

May this Christmas bring you joy and may you feel God's love surrounding you.  
God Bless You.

Come and join us throughout December with a variety of different services throughout the Benefice.

Revd. Sarah Wyman



## Advent Stillness & Peace

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> December,  
6pm to 6.30pm

Ashley Church



30 minutes of quiet, in a candle lit church.  
No service, no hymns, no sermon, just peace.

A time to be . . .

## Come and join us at our Christingle Party



Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 3.20 – 4.30pm

Crudwell Church

All primary school aged children are invited to join us. Children need to be accompanied by an adult. Come for the whole session or as much as you can. We look forward to seeing you.

## Malmesbury FoodBank

Once again Chris Betts has organised the Christmas collection for the Malmesbury Food Bank, thank you, Chris.

Hankerton has again been generous in order that Christmas can be enjoyed in less fortunate households than ourselves. Speaking to Dick Gray, who has volunteered at the Foodbank for many years, I learnt about the needs of some families in Malmesbury who rely on this service to feed their families. Despite the rise in donations ( and thank you to everyone for their donations) the Foodbank ran out of food this week as the need has more than doubled in the past year.

Please consider adding a little extra to your weekly shop - it will be greatly appreciated .  
Susan Mockler



## The Hannah Ludlow Charity

Newer arrivals to our village may not be aware of the existence of this small charity.

We recognise that rising energy and food costs could cause distress and hardship to some households.

Due to the size of the charity financial assistance is limited but any requests for support can be made to The Chairman, Hannah Ludlow Charity, 1 Cloatley Road, Hankerton, SN16 9LQ or by email to [njurnford@btinternet.com](mailto:njurnford@btinternet.com)

All communication is held in strictest confidence and only open to The Chairman and Trustees.

# Come and join us for the Nativity Service



**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December, 11am, Oaksey Church**

**Why not come dressed in a nativity costume!**

# Carol Service

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

**5pm, Hankerton Church**

**Come and be part of the  
Friends & Family  
Dressing the  
Christmas Tree Service**



**Crudwell Church  
Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Dec,  
9.30am**

**Refreshments served  
from 9.20am**

**Join us on Christmas Eve for  
Midnight Communion**

**11.30pm,  
Crudwell  
Church**



Join us on **Christmas Day**.



**for a short Family Service**

**11am, Crudwell Church**

Vecteezy.com

**Join us on Christmas Day**  
**for a short service of Communion**



**9.30am, Ashley**

**9.30am, Charlton**

**9.30am, Hankerton**

**11am, Minety**

**11am, Oaksey**

# The Children's Christmas Show!

Chapline  
Mini Pantos

"It was  
Fantastic!"

"BRILLIANT  
SHOW"

## Goldilocks and the THREE BEARS



Appearing

Charlton Village Hall

Sat 3rd December @ 3:30pm

Adults £12, Children £6, Children under 3 - Free

For tickets and more information email [janetsabet@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janetsabet@yahoo.co.uk) or call on 01666 311097 (mobile 07501022334).





Wiltshire & Dorset Children's Hospices

### **Helping hands needed in Julia's House team**

Are you looking to make some new friends, support your local community or build your skills? Volunteers are being called on to join the Julia's House team and help out at the children's hospice charity's shops across Wiltshire. Anneka Grayson, Julia's House Volunteer Co-ordinator said, "There are lots of volunteering roles and new ones coming up all the time, so we'd love to hear from anyone who has a few hours to spare. And you don't have to have experience to be a volunteer at Julia's House, as we provide all the training you'll require."

If you are interested or would like more information, contact the Julia's House Volunteer Team on 01202 644220 / 07748 684043 or [volunteer@juliashouse.org](mailto:volunteer@juliashouse.org)

### **Your local Julia's House Shops across Wiltshire:**

#### **CHIPPENHAM**

22 High Street, Chippenham, Wiltshire SN15 3EU

01249 448818

Monday to Saturday 9am-5pm, Sunday 10am-4pm

#### **DEVIZES**

11 Maryport Street, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 1AH

01380 726553

Monday to Saturday 9am - 5pm

#### **SALISBURY**

Unit 2, The Bridge, 3 Fisherton Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 7SU

01722 329554

Monday to Saturday 9am - 5pm, Sunday 10am-4pm

#### **SHAFTESBURY**

High Street, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 8JE

01747 855971

Monday to Saturday 9am - 5pm

#### **WARMINSTER – COMING SOON**

38A Market Place, Warminster, BA12 9AN

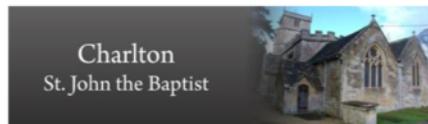
#### **About Julia's House**

Julia's House is a local charity dedicated to supporting the families of children with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions in the heart of the community in Wiltshire and Dorset. Many of these children require round-the-clock care, which has a huge impact on family life.

For more information visit [www.juliashouse.org](http://www.juliashouse.org)

# Services across the Braydon Brook Benefice

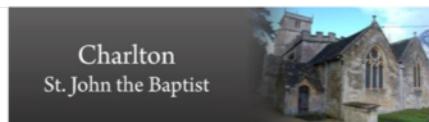
All are welcome to attend any of the services taking place across the Benefice



Date	Services in Church
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December</b>	9.30am, <b>Friends &amp; Family Dressing the Christmas Tree Service</b> @ Crudwell
	9.30am, <b>Holy Communion and Baptism</b> @ Hankerton
	11am, <b>Holy Communion</b> @ Oaksey
	6pm, <b>Evening Prayer</b> @ Ashley
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b>	10am, <b>Dressing the Christmas Tree Service</b> @ Charlton
	10am, <b>Benefice Holy Communion</b> @ Crudwell
	11am, <b>Nativity</b> @ Oaksey
	5pm, <b>Carol Service</b> @ Minety
<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December</b>	3.20pm, <b>Christingle Party</b> @ Crudwell <i>(designed for primary aged children, children need to be accompanied by an adult)</i>
<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>	5pm, <b>Carol Service</b> @ Oaksey
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>	11am <b>Holy Communion</b> @ Minety
	3pm <b>Carol Service with Nativity</b> @ Crudwell
	5pm, <b>Carol Service</b> @ Hankerton
	6pm, <b>Carol Service</b> @ Charlton
<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b>	3pm, <b>Family Christmas Service</b> @ Minety
	6pm, <b>Carol Service</b> @ Ashley
	11.30pm, <b>Midnight Communion</b> @ Crudwell
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>Christmas Day</b>	9.30am, <b>Christmas Day Communion</b> @ Ashley
	9.30am, <b>Christmas Day Communion</b> @ Charlton
	9.30am, <b>Christmas Day Communion</b> @ Hankerton
	11am, <b>Christmas Celebration</b> @ Crudwell
	11am, <b>Christmas Day Communion</b> @ Minety
	11am, <b>Christmas Day Communion</b> @ Oaksey
<b>Monday</b>	<b>10am (alternate weeks)</b>
<b>Tuesday &amp; Friday</b>	<b>9am</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>9.45am, 8<sup>th</sup> December @ Minety</b>
<b>Please visit our website <a href="http://www.braydonbrook.co.uk">www.braydonbrook.co.uk</a> and Braydon Brook Churches Facebook Page to find out more.</b>	

# 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
1 <sup>st</sup> January New Year's Day	11am, Benefice Holy Communion @ Minety	
8 <sup>th</sup> January	11am, Benefice Holy Communion @ Oaksey	
15 <sup>th</sup> January	9.30am, Holy Communion @ Charlton 11am, Holy Communion @ Minety 11am, Matins @ Oaksey 3pm, Tea Time Service (Songs of Praise) @ Hankerton	6pm Evening Prayer
22 <sup>nd</sup> January	9.30am, Holy Communion @ Ashley 9.30am, Morning Praise @ Charlton 11am Morning Praise @ Minety 11am, Holy Communion & Baptism @ Crudwell	
29 <sup>th</sup> January	North Wilts Mission Area Re-commissioning Service, details TBC	

## Mid-Week Services and Events

Monday	Every other week	10am	Bible Study via Zoom
Tuesday	Weekly	9am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
Wednesday	11 <sup>th</sup> January	10.30am	Coffee & Chat @ Crudwell
Thursday	12 <sup>th</sup> January	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.



## AUTHOR LAUNCHES NEW BOOK ABOUT MALMESBURY RAILWAY – A LABOUR OF LOVE FOR THE LAST 30 YEARS!

Former headteacher Mike Fenton is returning to Malmesbury next month (Wednesday December 7) to launch a book that has been more than 30 years in the writing. Mike (74) is launching 'Memories, Recollections & Curiosities relating to the Malmesbury Branch Railway' at the Athelstan Museum's Rausing Building on December 7 from 7pm. Illustrated by Adrian Knowles, who lives in Sutton Benger, the hard back book contains stories and old photographs and will be on sale in the Athelstan Museum for £35. Tickets for Mike's talk are £10 and can be booked online - <https://www.athelstanmuseum.org.uk/event/a-malmesbury-railway-companion/>

Mike will be sharing many of the book's stories on December 7 and he will also be joined by David Titchener who is believed to be the only surviving worker from the railway line. David was a fireman on the line for around four years before it was closed.

We at the Grapevine have been hearing from many of you who've been enjoying the 'new' signage at the Hankerton, Crudwell, Eastcourt Junction ever since it appeared on 1<sup>st</sup> April – it has certainly raised a smile for those of us who drive or walk past and the many cyclists who stop to have their photo taken with it in all its recent incarnations, whether pointing to Anchorage, Hogwarts or the current Hanky Panky, Oakey Dokey and Crudders. We have some very creative and imaginative people around!



Merry Xmas Everyone!

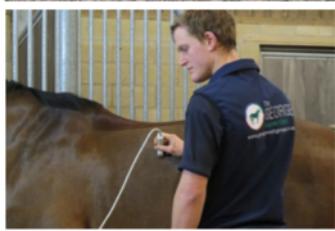




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