

The Grapevine



Despite the hottest June, grey skies and no rain and grey skies and downpours it is great to see so many gardens looking colourfully planted with flowers. Hankerton is lucky to have so many talented gardeners – and those of us who do not have 'green fingers' are grateful to them for brightening our day. It is in no small part to their efforts as well as everyone

that cleared up litter and kerbsides, that Hankerton did well in the Small Villages Best Kept Village competition again, coming second.

The report from the judges can be found on Page 11. It is to be noted that the Parish Council is aware of the Amenity Area needing attention and they are on the case! Once it has been cleared please take some time on a walk to visit this quiet area full of plants and wildlife.

Eds



The Parish Council are interested to know about your views on Speeding through the village. Watch out for your copy of their Questionnaire coming through your letterbox soon! They are hoping to get responses from a wide cross-section of the village in order to get the best representation of opinions as possible.

Deadline for news for the **October** Grapevine: **September 10th 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

Or to 21 Follyfield, Hankerton. SN16 9LA

The opinions expressed are the responsibility of the authors.

We reserve the right to edit material.

Nature Diary – August 2023.

As a child in Swansea I remember always seeing large numbers of brightly coloured caterpillars munching their way through the glaucous foliage of tall plants that were topped off with large heads of small yellow flowers. It didn't matter whether it was some waste ground, playing fields or meadows, the plants and their attendant caterpillars were everywhere in high summer. Times have changed.



The plant is the Common Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) which produces very many lightweight seeds which spread extremely effectively in the wind – hence their wide distribution. Many of you may already be aware that Ragwort is a poisonous plant with a long history of causing illness and death in cattle and horses

(sheep seem less affected by its toxins). Cattle and horses will not usually eat the living plant because of its bad taste, but if a plant dies or is cut and dried for hay, then it becomes palatable, and has a serious adverse effect on the liver of the animal consuming it (causes cirrhosis). Sometimes, depending on the dose eaten, the animal's liver is only damaged to the extent that it fails to thrive, but others become unwell and waste away, and many die. For this reason Ragwort was placed on the Ministry of Agriculture's (predecessor of DEFRA) list of noxious weeds, which meant that landowners had a responsibility to control (i.e. try and eliminate) Ragwort. This list has existed for many decades, and the fortunes of Ragwort went into dramatic decline as a result.

A plant whose presence on farmland and had such serious consequences has acquired a wide range of local names, such as Staggerwort, Yellow Tops, Stinking Willie (Scotland) and Mare's Fart (Cheshire and North Shropshire), the last two referring to the malodorous foliage.

Control usually involved pulling up the plants and safely disposing of them before the grass field was cut for hay. People must also be careful because the toxins contained can enter the body through the skin of their hands, and cause organ damage, so gloves were worn.

The caterpillar is the larval stage of the Cinnabar moth (*Tyria jacobaea*) and you will notice that the species name of the plant and the moth are the same. This is for a very good reason – Ragwort is the only foodplant of the moth's caterpillars. Thus the fortunes of the moth are closely aligned to that of the plant, and the Cinnabar moth is much less seen than it used to be, as of course are the caterpillars.





The moth is very obvious, being black in colour, but with a long red line and two red spots on each forewing, and red underwings. These colours are also seen on Burnet moths, but with different red patterns. The adults are about between May and August, are day flying as their colour warns off predators, and the caterpillars June to August. The caterpillars are marked with black and yellow hoops, also a clear warning to any predator that they are not for eating. Having fed on Ragwort all their lives they contain the toxins from that plant in their own tissues, so they munch their way through flowers and leaves quite happily in broad daylight in the knowledge that nothing is going to bother them!

Ragwort is also an important plant for many other species of insects, because its flowers provide them with a lot of pollen and nectar. When other flowers have perhaps succumbed to the heat and dry of high summer, the bright yellow colours of Ragwort flowers, especially in profusion, provide a pleasing sight, and then you have the constant insect visitors as well. It is a lot less likely that you will see the Cinnabar caterpillars though, it has become a rare moth.

For understandable reasons, eradication of Ragwort has been attempted, but the collateral damage of this is that a very striking moth has all but disappeared, having been very common in my childhood.

In recent years I have seen much more Ragwort growing than I used to, especially on road verges. Perhaps there are fewer stock keepers among the landowners so not so much interest in limiting Ragwort, and maybe the Local Authorities have dropped "Ragwort control" as a result of budgetary pressures and once a few plants set seed it will recolonise very quickly. So there may be more Ragwort about, but I haven't seen the "*caterpillars with the Wolverhampton Wanderer's kit*" for a long time. Do let me know if you do whilst out on your walks around the village. I'd like a trip down Memory Lane.

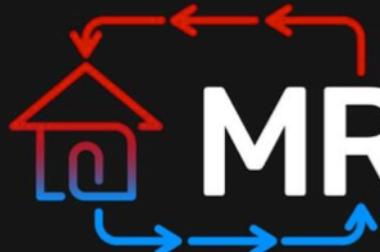
Steve Davies.

We're here to help!!!

Hankerton Parish Council are your representatives here in Hankerton so please feel free to contact them regarding any issues or concerns about the village that you may have.

They are very approachable and can be contacted in person or via their website:-

[Hankerton Parish Council | Hankerton Parish Council Website \(wordpress.com\)](http://Hankerton%20Parish%20Council%20|%20Hankerton%20Parish%20Council%20Website%20(wordpress.com))



MRB HEATING

We are Gas safe registered

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For all your plumbing needs just give us a call

M B Plumbing And Heating

Matt Beesley

07921 266211

1 Hillwell, Hankerton

Email: mbplumbing983@gmail.com



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

ART FOR FUN

Burnham Court 2pm – 3.30pm

Thursday August 3rd or August 17th 2023

Burnham Court have kindly offered to host a series of art sessions and you can still catch the last two!

Come and join in these art afternoons run by volunteers of the Athelstan Museum.

All welcome – a time to relax with friends, old and new, paint or draw any subjects you wish. Local artists have also volunteered their time to teach different techniques or just be there for advice.

These are informal sessions – there is no charge!

Contact Susan Mockler (577526) for details and to book a place.

MELMBSURY LUNCHEON CLUB – VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED!!



Do you enjoy cooking, working in a team and making a difference in the community? The Malmesbury Luncheon Club is held every Wednesday at Malmesbury Town Hall providing a hot meal for the elderly of the area. We need more volunteers to help set up the tables, cook, serve and clear away – if you could spare some time you would only need to help out about once a month from approx. 10.30am – 2pm.

Contact Catherine Doody on 07588695847 if you would like to volunteer or speak to Mary O'Brien (577394) who is living proof that you don't need to be a great cook to join the team!

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



Vacancy!

The Malmesbury Garden Centre Café are looking for a part time kitchen assistant to start asap!

The job role will include:-

- Taking food orders and making hot beverages
- Helping the chef by taking orders out to customers and clearing tables afterwards
- Helping the chef by making salads, sandwiches & panini's
- Washing up
- Willing to work as a team player

We are looking for someone who can work in a fast-paced environment and is happy to cover all aspects of cafe life.

Food and drink are supplied free on shift.

The role is part time with shifts / times to be discussed .

Please pop in for a chat and drop a CV in or send a CV over to our Facebook page.

Thank you!

The Bishop of Bristol and the patrons of the benefice – the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and the Church Society Trust – are delighted to announce that the Rev'd Bob Molton will be the next Rector of the Braydon Brook Benefice. He will be licenced after the school holidays.

Robert Molton says:

As a Bristolian who trained for ordination at Trinity, Bristol, I am excited about a return to the Diocese after three years curacy in West Suffolk and am especially thrilled to join the Braydon Brook Benefice.

Here in Suffolk, my curacy has been shared between a traditional parish church, All Saints, Newmarket, and a pioneering ministry in the village we live in as part of the Diocesan 'Lightwave' initiative. We have loved seeing God at work, bringing the various communities together and people to Himself. In Beck Row, this has been done through an informal breakfast church at an old pub repurposed as a community centre, a children's club, a Bible study at our home and stand-alone events like holiday clubs, a Christmas Live Nativity, an end-of-lockdown craft fair and community meals, as well as sharing food and fun in our home and in those of our new friends here. I've also learned to play (better) pool, as that is a game many of the guys here enjoy. All Saints has been a source of loving fellowship and mutual growth as we have all shared together in deepening our friendship with God through lively Bible study and prayer groups, as well as Sunday gatherings and outreach activities – some of which have been linked, excitingly, back into Beck Row.

Before training for C of E ministry, I taught Humanities in Cornwall and Suffolk, and served as a Headmaster and then a joint Director with my wife, Dee, in international schools in West Africa. Dee has been a French and English teacher and is now working as an editor and translator. We have two wonderful adult children. Church work started for me in Brest, France in 1994 where Dee and I worked with France Mission (now part of Perspectives) and pastoral ministry has always been a big part of my heart.

I am delighted to have this opportunity to join you all, to share what God is doing in Braydon Brook.

Bishop Viv said 'I look forward to welcoming Bob to the Diocese of Bristol and Braydon Brook Benefice. Bob's experience as a Headmaster, and curacy in a pioneering rural context suit him well for ministry across these six villages and developing connections with the schools. I would like to thank all those who have served the churches so faithfully during the vacancy, and who will welcome Bob into the team.'





GOD'S HEART

**"Believe that I know what is best – When you are facing a hard test
If you trust in Me with all your heart – I'll be true to you and play My part**

Share with Me your vision before any decision you make

As you seek, the Light will dawn on the right path you should take

Pray to Me and read My Word, the best of Guides

For as you do, you'll find so much more besides

As you browse, My answer will shine through

And you'll know in your heart what it is you should do

For you are important to Me – My Creation for all to see".

Lord, I place my trust in You, with all my heart and soul
For since You came into my life, I feel complete and whole
Gone are the uncertainties, the misgivings and doubts

Replaced with Love, rejoicing, since You came and sought me out

I feel so peaceful inside yet want to shout aloud Your Name.
To tell the world about You so they too can feel the same
To bathe in the warmth of such a Love as Yours, dear Lord
Overwhelms us and renews our faith in Your Word.

We proffer our repentance and
declare we do believe

Forgiveness flows from God's Heart as we are waiting to receive

The blessings that He showers on us, hush, be still and pray
We thank You, Lord, for Your care for us and offer You our praise.
(Proverbs 3: 5-6)



Help shape the future of Wiltshire – The Local Plan

This month Wiltshire Council will consider the latest review of the Wiltshire Local Plan. The new draft Plan sets out the vision for growth in housing, infrastructure and land for employment for the next 15 years. Once adopted, all planning applications will be determined against the Plan, making it the most important place-shaping document for Wiltshire. This is about providing for high-quality designed housing, including affordable homes, in the most sustainable locations, maximising development on brownfield sites, supporting town centres and attracting new business and tourism.

The draft Plan identifies specific larger sites for housing and employment development until 2038. Following further work to assess the number of homes needed, the number of new homes required in the Plan has been reduced from its last iteration by almost 9000. (When the Plan was consulted on in 2021, it proposed 45,630 homes over 20 years to 2036, but the updated Plan proposes 36,740, of which over 21,900 have already been built or are committed.)

The review includes several important policies, such as on the provision of affordable housing in estates, biodiversity net gain, zero carbon standards, etc. However, for rural areas, the planning strategy remains much as before, with new houses in large and small villages restricted to infill and meeting local needs (although there is now more flexibility if a community can evidence a need and a desire for a rural exception site of affordable homes).

Most of the significant housing development is planned to be in the major urban centres in the county, Chippenham being our closest. Great Somerford, defined as a Large Village, like Malmesbury (a Market Town), is considered to have taken sufficient development in recent years so has not been given a target for more in the next 15 years.

A full consultation on the proposals is expected to take place in the Autumn so please do have your say about the plans. To see details go to [Local Plan Review - Wiltshire Council](#)

Elizabeth Threlfall

Wiltshire Councillor for Brinkworth Division

BEST KEPT VILLAGE RESULTS!!!

And the results are in! Hankerton shared second place with Charlton, just one point behind the winner, Tockenham - the report from the judges is excellent as you can see below – well done to everyone!

NORTH WILTSHIRE – SMALL VILLAGES



We visited Hankerton on a glorious late spring day so that this delightful village was looking very good indeed, and all the hard work that has gone into keeping it so tidy was most apparent, the planting in the pots dotted about the place was so colourfully full of flowers.

The old phone box is an excellent place for the defibrillator, as many we see are rather hidden away. Great to see the smart new flagpole proudly flying the Union flag. The bus shelter with its very up to date notice board was spotless, and a good place for remembering the young man who died.

The turning circle by the church was most impressive and given that it was a community effort it shows a lot of hard work well rewarded. The footpath beside the church is obviously much used and free of nettles which is a joy. We thought that all the footpaths looked very inviting

and how thoughtful to put maps in the church porch. The churchyard is well cared for and the wildlife area is full of many varieties of plants. The very smart new bench was most inviting, although we did wonder why the old and very dilapidated one was still there but felt sure there was a good reason!

We hope that the amenity area will come to something before too long, we did notice that the entrance is very boggy.

The map was very easy to navigate which made our visit a pleasure.

Hankerton has an obviously strong sense of community and we thoroughly enjoyed our visit.

Wheatsheaf Inn Crudwell

Take away service

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) £13.00: 12.30pm to 1.00pm
Order early to avoid disappointment!

Menu choices:

Teriyaki chicken with rice or chips (£11.25)

Moroccan vegetable Tagine with rice (£10)

Crispy breaded scampi with chips or salad (£11)

6oz Cheeseburger and bacon with chips (£10.25)

Cajun Chicken Caesar salad (£10.50)

Beer battered cod and chips (£11.25)

Chicken Madras Curry with rice and naan bread (£11)

Beef lasagna or vegetable Lasagna with chips (£11)

Lentil and carrot burger, salsa and chunky chips (£10)

Desserts (*to be heated at home)

From £4.00

Ginger sponge with custard*

Bread and Butter Pudding with custard*

Butterscotch ice-cream sundae

Cash or card payments

Local Deliveries by arrangement

See www.wheatsheafcrudwell.co.uk for updates



Come & join us as a volunteer!

*If you are already one of our great team **Thank You!** But do look at the list below for other roles and please pass this on to your friends and encourage them to join us.....*

How could you be helping....?

Collections - Work behind the scenes in acquisitions, collections and ensuring safe handling and storage

Events - Help plan and run our popular events programme

Exhibitions - Plan and stage exhibitions

Welcome desk - greet our visitors on the desk

Publicity - Help to promote our activities and events

Community engagement - from schools to care homes we have activities for all ages

Management Team - Our Management Team is made up of smaller teams overseeing particular aspects of museum life. Most importantly we are looking for a leader/co-ordinator to ensure that all the teamwork continues smoothly.

Give your time and share your skills - maybe a just a couple of hours once a month or a regular more involved role every week - **whatever suits you.**

For some roles training and skills updates are available - just ask!

Please visit the Museum website for more information or come into the Museum to talk us.

[**https://www.athelstanmuseum.org.uk/support-us/volunteering/**](https://www.athelstanmuseum.org.uk/support-us/volunteering/)

Or email - vicechair@athelstanmuseum.org.uk

to organise a visit and a friendly chat.

As with all volunteering we appreciate how much time is given freely - and the more volunteers we have the more fun and sociable it becomes!

Hope you can join us!



DOG POO!!!

Yes, it's been a recurring theme in the Grapevine for years but unfortunately it's still a problem. Thank you to Kate Nurden for organising new stickers about dog mess to go up around the village. It is still noticeable that it's either being left uncollected by uncaring dog owners or left in bags around the village. Please clear up after your dog whether on a footpath in the village or on public footpaths across fields. Do not allow your dog to foul crops – these are for food – either animal or human.

If you know somewhere where it's particularly bad and we should be displaying these stickers, please contact Kate on katenurden75@gmail.com. Thank you.



Parish Council Meetings

The next meeting of the Parish Council is September 4th.

An agenda will be posted on the village noticeboard on the bus shelter. All members of the parish are able to attend the Parish Council meetings and can bring items to the council's attention under Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions at the beginning of the meeting or when asked to comment by the chairperson. Mainly, however, parishioners are there as observers.



Grapevine Thanks

The Grapevine is produced by volunteers and thanks go to Mary O'Brien and Susan Mockler as Editors, Paul O'Brien for his publishing skills but mostly to our contributors for the articles they send so please keep them coming in!

The Grapevine, available on-line at the village website, <https://hankertonvillage.com/grapevine> is read by people from all over the world who still have contacts in the village or who once lived here!

Something to smile about?

August used to be thought of as 'the silly season'. It was a time when not much happened, Parliament was in recess and Wimbledon was over. Everything had slowed down and no one went to school. But, I realise, it has been some years now since I last heard August referred to that way. Some things haven't changed – the long school summer holiday and Parliament recess to name but two. But now we seem to worry rather more. What is happening to the cost of living – or to my mortgage which is up for renewal? Who ever thought the war in Ukraine would still be raging after a year and a half? Will this summer's temperature highs be even more scary than last year's? And so on.

Then there is all the stress around exam results days (not just for the young people but for their parents too) and difficulties of transition to a different school, or to college, or into work. Young people may be leaving home for the first time. Life goes on.

But maybe it is at times of change and challenge that we find out how valuable our friends are, how precious it is to spend time with people we love and who love us. And when we look around at the beautiful place in which we live and see the crops ripening in the fields or watch the swifts swooping around the evening sky, there will be much to delight us too. The news isn't all bad but if it does feel that way, try thinking of one thing every evening that has given your heart a lift or made you smile.

There is more good news too. For we are all held in the love of the One who made us, who keeps us and who delights in us. May you know the blessing of God's love this summer.

*Richenda Milton-Daws
Licensed Lay Minister: Braydon Brook Benefice*





Patients Participation Group

Surgery news:

With the new telephones system installed the average queue time has decreased from 7 minutes to 4 minutes. Staffing levels have been tweaked to accommodate peak call times.

New staff workflow:

Currently all follow up letters received from hospitals go to the GP's. New staff are being trained to carry out this task to reduce administration time for the doctors. In April, 1937 letters were handled by the GP's. The following month, after the introduction of the the new workflow system, letters reduced to 537, thus freeing up 18% more GP time. This equates to a workload for one full time member of staff.

Interpreters:

There is a language line available at MPCC for overseas visitors/residents and must be pre booked by the patient.

Process for food bank vouchers:

Each food bank works with different frontline professionals, doctors, health visitors and social workers. You can apply for food vouchers from the living well team at MPCC. There are at present three team members covering six practices. The practice is currently recruiting another member to expand the team.

Staffing:

At present, the practice has four trainee GPs who remain at MPCC for a specified period of time. Reception staff continue to receive abuse and are receiving additional training on how to handle awkward patients.

Social prescribing:

Social prescribing is both practical and emotional support for patients requiring non-medical treatment such as weight management and a healthier lifestyle, and often begins with a referral from either a doctor, link worker, hospital or charity. There is a living well team of three. One of which is a mental health nurse operating from MPCC and this service can be accessed through reception. The surgery is at present trying to recruit an additional two more staff members.

Appointments:

At present, the majority of appointments are booked by telephone. Work is being carried out to see if a booking system is viable which offers a triage facility to determine if a patient can book an online appointment with a doctor. The surgery is continually looking to open more appointments whenever possible. The target is to see patients within a two-week period and this is monitored on a regular basis.

Guest Speaker:

Nick Gamble who lives in Little Somerford attended the meeting. Nick is a volunteer member of the board of governors at the Royal United Trust and represents trust members, patients and the public in North Wiltshire. One of his roles is to review patient feedback to the RUH. If anyone has any experience or feedback they'd like to share with Nick please let me know and I can either pass this on or arrange for Nick to contact you direct.

Annual General Meeting:

The Annual General Meeting of The Patients Participation Group Will be held at the: Malmesbury Primary Care Centre Priory Way. Malmesbury Wiltshire. SN16 0FB on 8 August 2023 at 7pm.

All Patients of the Malmesbury Primary Care Centre Surgery are welcome to attend. For further information contact Margaret Perrin (secretary) Tel: 01666577960 or email mperrin@btinternet.com

If anyone would like to raise a question or provide feedback about the service they've received from MPCC, I'll be very happy to take this forward. If you could let me have the details my telephone number is 07856202115.

The next Patient Participation Group meetings are on 8 August (AGM) and 3 October 2023.

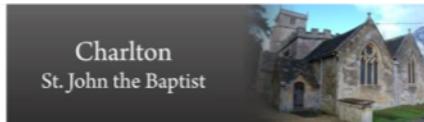
Shayne Smith

Services across the Braydon Brook Benefice

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



Ashley St. James



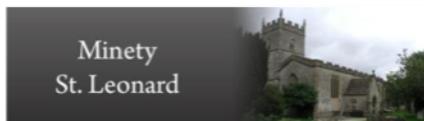
Charlton
St. John the Baptist



All Saints
Crudwell



Hankerton
Holy Cross



Minety
St. Leonard



Oaksey
All Saints

August Services

Date	Services in Church	Services on Zoom
Sunday 6 th August	11am, Benefice Holy Communion @ Hankerton	
Sunday 13 th August	11am, Benefice Holy Communion @ Minety	
Sunday 20 th August	11am, Benefice Holy Communion @ Oaksey	6pm Evening Prayer TBC
Sunday 27 th August	11am, Benefice Holy Communion @ Ashley	

During the month of August, whilst many take holidays, we take the opportunity to join together for a Benefice Holy Communion Service each week. Our normal service pattern will return in September.

Mid-Week Services and Events

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

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

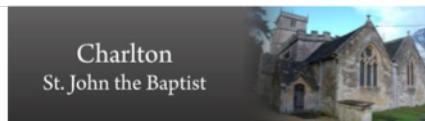


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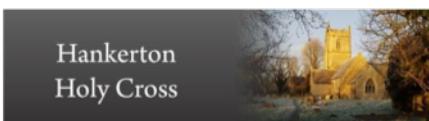
Ashley St. James



Charlton
St. John the Baptist



All Saints
Crudwell



Hankerton
Holy Cross



Minety
St. Leonard



Oaksey
All Saints

Date	Services in Church	Services on Zoom
Sunday 3 rd September	9.30am, Holy Communion @ Hankerton 10am, Friends & Family @ Crudwell 11am, Holy Communion @ Oaksey 6pm, Evening Prayer @ Ashley	
Sunday 10th September	11am, Benefice Holy Communion @ Charlton	
Sunday 17 th September	9.30am, Morning Praise & Baptism @ Charlton 11am, Holy Communion @ Minety 11am, Matins @ Oaksey 11am, Harvest Service @ Hankerton	6pm Evening Prayer
Sunday 24 th September	9.30am, Holy Communion @ Ashley 11.30am, Harvest Service (followed by lunch in Village Hall) @ Charlton 11am Harvest Service @ 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	13 th September (2 nd Wednesday)	10.30am	Coffee & Chat @ Crudwell
Thursday	14 th August (2 nd Thursday)	9.45am	BCP Communion Service @ Minety
Friday	Weekly	9am	Morning Prayer via Zoom

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



Stories from the Stores

Data to Discovery Project

Athelstan Museum has been working with 6 other museums in Wiltshire on a project led by the county Museums Advisory Service, and museum consultant Tim Burge.

The idea was to test the concept of exporting data held by the museums on their electronic catalogues to develop an online publicly accessible joint exhibition.

Each museum selected 3 objects for the exhibition, which is called Stories from the Stores.

The small team from Athelstan museum chose a beautiful Indian choga, or coat, reputed to have belonged to Warren Hastings, a wooden pattern from our Ratcliffe collection and Harry Jones famous gold top hat.

There are fascinating objects from the other museums which reflect the wide range of those participating, from Boscombe Down to Edward Heath's Arundels.

Do take the opportunity to take a look at the exhibition using this link

<https://collections.museumsinwiltshire.org.uk/>

The Indian choga is also currently on display in Athelstan museum alongside information about Malmesbury's links to the East India Company. Well worth a visit

The Data to Discovery project has been supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.



The
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