

# The Grapevine



At the time of writing, the weather has turned from sweltering hot to distinctly autumnal in a matter of days. Although traditionally not usually the time of year associated with new beginnings, life is all about change and autumn can be full of new beginnings. Our children are

(hopefully!) settled back at school or starting at university or have taken the leap into the workplace for the first time and we wish them all luck with whatever they have chosen to do. We have new neighbours in the village so welcome to all of them! We hope they are settling in and are discovering what a lovely, friendly place they have chosen for their home. Of course, with new people arriving it does mean that we sadly say goodbye to some of our long-standing friends and we wish them well with their new adventures too. We have a new vicar (more of that later) and of course, we have all the fun that autumn brings us with blustery days, evenings huddled by the fire, Halloween, Fireworks Night and, dare we say, Christmas (!) to look forward to! Happy Autumn! Eds.

Deadline for news for the **December** Grapevine: **November 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.

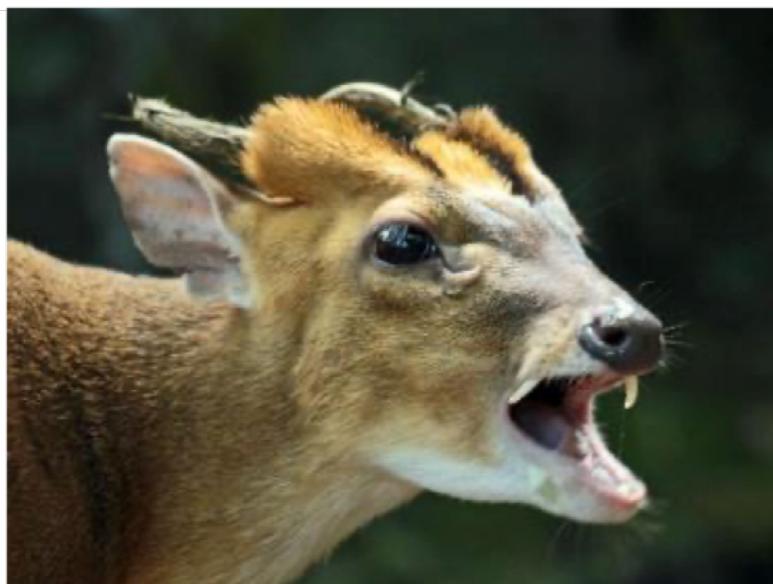
## Nature Diary – October 2023.

Is it a pig? Is it a dog? These are perhaps the first thoughts after spotting the subject of this month's Diary – Reeves Muntjac (*Muntiacus reevesii*). It is the smallest species of deer to be found here, about 17-18 inches (43-46 cm) at the shoulder, but the hind end of the body tends to be higher in its usual stance, which can give the impression of it having the shape of a small pig/boar. We may see it running across a road, so a brief glimpse, and its small size for a deer, may make us think that it was a small dog. So, not an animal that aligns with our usual points of recognition of a deer.

The closer that you look at a Muntjac, the more unusual they seem. The males have two small, back-curving antlers, mounted on long fur covered bases (pedicles) and these bases extend down the front of the face as very prominent ridges, giving rise to one of its other common names – the Rib-Faced deer. The antlers are usually unbranched, but sometimes have a small tine (point) just above the brow. The male also grows tusks, which will protrude below the lip, and can be used aggressively in disputes with other males, in defence, and there are reports of people being bitten by them – so handle with care or not at all!



Scent is also important in communication between individuals and they have two pairs of large scent glands on the head (on the front of the forehead and in front of the eyes), also between the toes of the hind limbs and finally associated with the urinary-genital system. When they run along the prominent tail is often carried vertically.



They are also a vocal species, barking like a small dog, often continuously for many minutes at a time, leading to the other name for the species of the Barking Deer.

They are not a native species, having escaped from a private collection at Woburn Park, Bedfordshire in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and have now spread across most of England and into Wales. They don't seem to have reached Scotland, and individuals appeared in Northern Ireland in 2009 and Eire in 2010 – now how did they get over there? It is possible that they are now the most numerous species of deer in the UK.

Originally they inhabited southeastern Asia, from India into southern China and down into Indonesia. Reeves Muntjac is one of 12 species of Muntjacs found in Asia.

They like to live in thick undergrowth and are mixed grazers and browsers. There were concerns that they could have a negative impact on tree growth as their numbers increased dramatically. They have been seen feeding on young saplings, and they walk over them, thus pushing the top of the sapling down towards the ground where they eat the upper, younger foliage. Then when the sapling springs back up it appears as if a much taller species of deer has been feeding on the young trees. The Roe Deer have been framed! As well as browsing on shrubs they have a liking for horticultural produce, which makes them unpopular with people with allotments.

A lot of our deer have specific rutting and breeding times, but the Muntjac breeds all year round. They are sexually mature from about 7 months old, and the female can expect to be pregnant for most of her adult life, as they re-mate between 18 hours and 3 days after the birth of the fawn. (I can imagine the sympathetic groans from the ladies reading this).



Finally, to explain their name. They are named after John Reeves who was appointed Assistant Inspector of Tea for the East India Company in 1812. He took a great interest in researching the local natural history and in recognition of this work this species of deer was awarded his name, together with a very handsome species of pheasant, the Reeves Pheasant. I am not aware that there is a blend of tea called Reeves, so I do wonder where his greatest application of effort was made.

Steve Davies.



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



**We are Gas safe registered  
Gas/Oil Boiler servicing  
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](mailto:mbplumbing983@gmail.com)**

## Two Job Vacancies!

### Part-time Café Assistant

The job role will include:-

- Serving Food
- Clearing Tables
- Helping the chef by making salads, sandwiches & panini's
- Washing up

We need fully flexible staff as every other weekend will be needed in your shift pattern. Our Cafe is open 7 days a week so the successful applicants need to be able to cover all weekdays & weekends .

No experience is needed as training is provided .

Food and drink are free on shift. Wages are paid Fortnightly.

### Cafe Cook

We are looking for an enthusiastic cook to help cover shifts in our busy cafe . This is a fast-paced environment, you'll be constantly on the go .

Shift patterns to be discussed but you WILL be required to work every other weekend .

Ideal candidate has food hygiene knowledge and has worked in a kitchen/ cafe environment previously.

You will be working alongside the cafe manager who will train you on all aspects of the kitchen and eventually you'll be running the kitchen on your own to cover days off .

Full-time hours: 25-35

Salary: £10.42

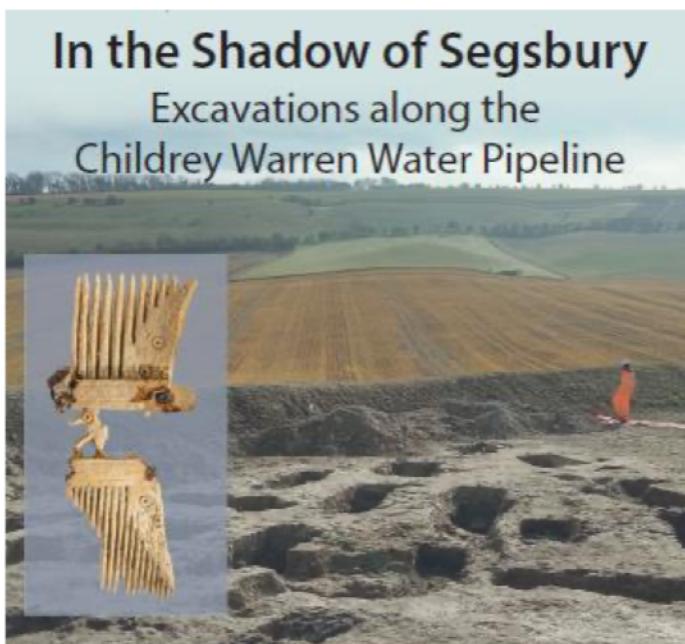
Please pop in for a chat and drop a CV in or send a CV over to our Facebook page.

Thank you!

# In the Shadow of Segsbury

**Cotswold Archaeology & Thames Water online talk –**

**In The Shadow of Segsbury: Excavations along the Childrey Warren Pipeline**



**Wednesday 4th October 19:00 - 21:00**

Here's some further information about the event:

Marking the publication of *In The Shadow of Segsbury*, archaeologists Paolo Guarino and Sharon Clough will present talks on the archaeological discoveries made along the route of the Childrey Warren Water Pipeline (Oxfordshire).

*Please note: human bones will be featured in the presentation.*

To join us for this event, please see the attached poster (with QR code), or follow this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/childreywarrenarchaeology>

Copies of the publication are available from Oxbow Books ([www.oxbowbooks.com](http://www.oxbowbooks.com))

*We look forward to virtually seeing you there!*

Caroline Adams  
Outreach and Community Engagement Officer



## **Wessex Week 2023**

**Saturday 14 October to Saturday 21 October**

We are pleased to be sharing with you some 'hot off the press' events:

From Tony McAleavy and his recent research on the community of the Abbey from 'St Aldhelm to the Dissolution' (signed copies of his new book will be available); to 'The Shallow Grave', an astonishing story of local Saxon burial finds with Archaeologist of the year Richard Osgood; with other walks, talk and music (Wessex related!) during the week.

For full details of all events please click the link below:

[www.wessex-week.org](http://www.wessex-week.org)

Online ticket sales have now opened and some of the events are limited in numbers.

A number of printed tickets will be available in the Tourist Information Centre (Malmesbury Town Hall) from 4<sup>th</sup> September.

**The Wessex Week volunteers very much look forward to seeing you**

## Strawberry Tea in the Rain!

Sixty villagers braved the dreadful wet and windy weather on Sunday 30th July for tea in the garden at The Old School House.

Everybody seemed to enjoy the challenge, some holding a post of the big marquee in the gusty wind in one hand and a jammy scone in the other.



Thank you to all who helped, whether making a cake, serving tea , cutting strawberries, donating a raffle prize or putting up lots of gazebos.

£440 was raised for much needed church funds.

Philip Carter

## Macmillan Coffee Morning

£450 was raised at the Macmillan Coffee Morning for cancer support. Thank you to everyone who came and gave so generously.

This was the last event I will organise, my sincere thanks to everyone who over 20+ years have helped me and supported this event.

I hope someone else in Hankerton will take up the challenge in 2024 and host this event. To do so register at [macmillan.org.uk/coffee](https://macmillan.org.uk/coffee) for your free fundraising pack which should arrive on your doorstep in the spring.

Chris Betts



On behalf of the village, we would like to thank Chris for all her hard work in organising and running this event over the last 20+ years, raising thousands of pounds for this very worthwhile charity. Chris, you are a star!!!

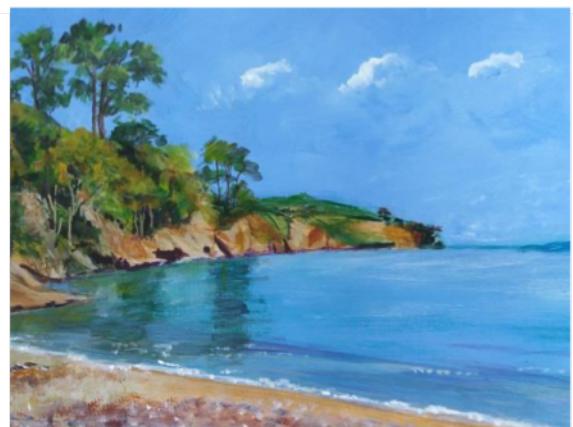
Eds



## Minety Art Club 2023

Minety Art Club's annual exhibition of work by members this year is the weekend of **14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023** between 10am – 5pm in the village hall SN16 9QH.

There will also be half a dozen budding artist paintings from Minety Primary School on display. In addition to the exhibition of work there will be members there to show visitors some of the **"tricks of the trade"** and give visitors the opportunity to have a go.



**Children will be particularly welcome to try watercolour painting.**

There will also be refreshments of tea, coffee and cakes available throughout both days. Entrance is free.

Marjorie Holmes ([mlholmes825@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mlholmes825@yahoo.co.uk))

We are the Ukrainian Bobryshov family. As you know we came to Hankerton a year ago and lived in Cloatley Manor.

During this year we were able to find work, and our children were able to study. In July we moved to Cirencester and live and work in this city. I think it's no secret to anyone that getting a job in a new place is very difficult and not cheap. But thanks to the kind and generous people of Hankerton, we were able to overcome these difficulties.

First of all we wanted to say a big thank you to our Dai Davies and Catherine Ball. These people have done everything for us! Helped us to adapt and settle in the UK. All that we have and what we were able to achieve this year is all thanks to these kind people! We cannot find words to express our gratitude and appreciation to them.

Also, all the people of Hankerton were very, very supportive during our move. Some with furniture, some with dishes and household items. This is very important for us, as we lost everything and had nothing... Huge thanks to all these noble people!

With respect and best wishes for everyone, the Bobryshov family.





# 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)



## **Patients Participation Group**

### **Surgery News**

MPCC only received a 2% increase in funding this year. The surgery saw an increase in electricity charges of £60k alone and overall practice cost increase of 30%, consequently it is going to be a financially difficult time for the surgery. The surgery will be giving both the flu and covid vaccines together this winter, which will be carried out on a Saturday. Patients will be informed by the surgery when this service will start. The surgery will also be offering the flu vaccination for those under 65. Reception staff receive training to enable them to signpost patients to the right doctor/department. There are also 'codes' recorded on patient notes to flag any specific problems he/she may have to help staff identify any known ailments. This enables the staff to signpost patients to the correct clinician e.g., diabetes or patients who have long term illnesses or who are on end-of-life care. 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 3 October 2023 and 5 December 2023

Shayne Smith

## First Aid Training!

We are looking for more takers for the half day First Aid course that the Parish Council is offering to residents. The course is designed to train up to 12 people and at the moment we only have 2, which does not make it cost effective. It would be great to know if there are others who would like to learn some useful and possibly life saving stuff.

These are the skills that will be covered:

- Managing an incident
- Disorders of the Airway
- Resuscitation
- Safe use of an Automated External Defibrillator
- Unconsciousness
- Recovery positions
- Choking
- Epilepsy
- Burns/Scalds
- Control of Bleeding
- Bandaging
- Fractures
- Head Injuries



If you think this is something you would like to do please could you register your interest via email with the parish clerk Michael Bromley Gardner on [mrbg1@outlook.com](mailto:mrbg1@outlook.com), or let any parish councillor know who will respond on their behalf.

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

# 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) £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](http://www.wheatsheafcrudwell.co.uk) for updates



# Speed Survey Results

The votes are in!

Thanks to Michael Bromley Gardner for collating all the replies and to Simon Kearsley for putting it all into an easily understandable graph:-

Q1 Do you think traffic drive too fast through Hankerton ?

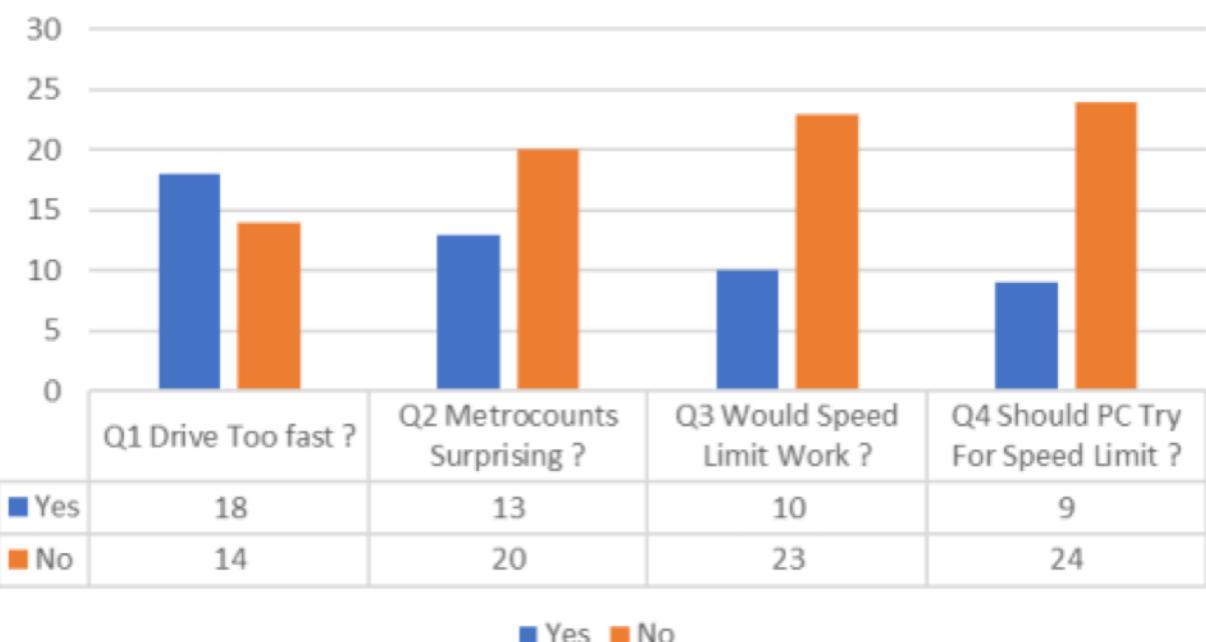
Q2 Are you surprised that the Metrocounts recorded such relatively low speeds ?

Q3 Do you think that a 30mph speed limit would make any difference to the speeds at which traffic drives through Hankerton ?

Q4 Taking all the points into account do you think the PC should try for a speed limit for Hankerton ?

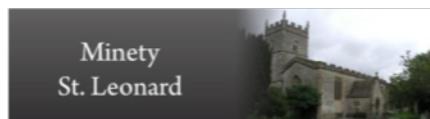
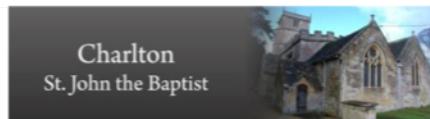
Survey says.....<drum roll>....

Hankerton Speed Survey



# 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 1 <sup>st</sup> October	9.30am, <b>Holy Communion</b> @ Hankerton 10am, <b>Friends &amp; Family</b> @ Crudwell 11am, <b>Holy Communion</b> @ Oaksey 6pm, <b>Harvest Service</b> @ Ashley	
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	11am, <b>Benefice Holy Communion</b> @ Crudwell 11am, <b>Harvest Praise</b> @ Minety	
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	9.30am, <b>Holy Communion</b> @ Charlton 11am, <b>Holy Communion &amp; Baptism</b> @ Minety 11am, <b>Harvest Family Service</b> @ Oaksey 3pm, <b>Tea Time Service – Songs of Praise</b> @ Hankerton	6pm <b>Evening Prayer</b>
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	9.30am, <b>Holy Communion</b> @ Ashley 9.30am, <b>Morning Praise</b> @ Charlton 11am, <b>Harvest Service</b> @ Crudwell	
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> October	11am, <b>Benefice Holy Communion</b> @ Hankerton	

## Mid-Week Services and Events

Monday	Every other week	10am	Bible Study via Zoom
Tuesday	Weekly	9am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
Wednesday	12 <sup>th</sup> October (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday)	10.30am	Coffee & Chat @ Crudwell
Thursday	13 <sup>th</sup> October (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday)	9.45am	BCP Communion Service @ Minety
Friday	Weekly	9am	Morning Prayer via Zoom

# 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 5 <sup>th</sup> November	11am, <b>Benefice Holy Communion</b> @ Minety	
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	10am <b>Holy Communion for Remembrance</b> @ Charlton & then at the <b>War Memorial</b> 10.45am <b>Remembrance Friends &amp; Family</b> @ Crudwell 10am <b>Holy Communion</b> 10.45am <b>Remembrance</b> @ Hankerton 10.30am <b>Remembrance</b> @ <b>The War Memorial</b> followed by <b>Remembrance Service</b> in Minety Church 10.45am <b>Remembrance Service</b> @ Oaksey	
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	9.30am, <b>Holy Communion</b> @ Charlton 11am, <b>Holy Communion</b> @ Minety 11am, <b>Matins</b> @ Oaksey 3pm, <b>Tea Time Service – Songs of Praise</b> @ Hankerton 6pm, <b>Evening Prayer</b> @ Ashley	
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	9.30am, <b>Holy Communion</b> @ Ashley 9.30am, <b>Morning Praise</b> @ Charlton 11am, <b>Holy Communion</b> @ Crudwell 11am, <b>Morning Praise</b> @ Minety	

## Mid-Week Services and Events

Monday	Every other week	10am	Bible Study via Zoom
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Thursday	9 <sup>th</sup> November (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday)	9.45am	BCP Communion Service @ Minety
Friday	Weekly	9am	Morning Prayer via Zoom



Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him,  
upon them that hope in his mercy.

**Psalm 33:18**

DailyVerses.net

### **REMORSE**

When we sit in the quiet and talk with You, by reading and seeking Your Word. - We like to believe we are constant and true and Your Love keeps our fervour stirred  
Then lately we had to confront a fear - And we faltered and trembled and thus appeared

To forget that You are worthy of trust and consistent - We were so full of fear that we lost You that instant

We gave You not a thought, Lord, and are full of remorse  
We neglected to pray, to hold on to Your Cross...

We now look through Your Book seeking solace in Psalms.  
We read them in silence and they bring us such calm

They show us You are trustworthy and that You'll never change - For You are our Dear Lord and forever will reign  
Your Plan is unceasing, You are watchful and care - When we need direction, we must remember You're there

So the next time this happens, we hope to be true - To hold out our hands and to grasp on to You.

We know that You are waiting when life proves it is tough  
To smooth our frayed edges with Your far-reaching Love...

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## Letter from Rev Bob Molton

Perhaps, like me, you noticed the fascinating July news article about Elsie Alcock. She was born in 1918 in her parents' house in the village of Huthwaite, Nottinghamshire. Being 105 is remarkable in itself. She puts her longevity down to, 'Never being idle.' But in addition to her long life, Elsie has another interesting attribute – she has never lived anywhere else!

Imagine the changes she has seen and the number of neighbours she has had! She remembers that when she was a child, there were 30 shops and 11 pubs on the high street. Now there are just two shops and two pubs.

The article caught my eye, as Dee and I were in the throes of packing up our home of the last three years in Suffolk to come to serve here in the Braydon Brook Benefice. Packing and unpacking have been a regular part of life for

us. We've moved about ten times in the last 20 years!

Elsie, while undoubtedly experiencing many challenges in life, has never experienced what it is like to leave behind neighbours and friends. She hasn't sorted through what needs to be taken to the recycling centre and what absolutely must travel to the new home.

Perhaps, like Dee and I, you have your, 'must go with me' things? Your favourite pictures or books or other essential items that will help make the new house feel like home. These may not have much monetary value, but they bring a welcome sense of continuity when everything else feels new and uncertain.

For those of faith, while the practical elements of relocating are daunting, there are always the wonderful words of Jesus to accompany us on our moves. We might inadvertently leave behind something in the attic when we leave one house, but it's different with Jesus. He reassuringly said to his disciples, who were about to embark on a whole new adventure, '*I am with you always.*' Matthew chapter 28 verse 20. This builds upon Psalm 121 verse 8 which says, '*The Lord will watch over your coming and going.*'

If we claim to be followers of Jesus, no matter how many times we move home (or don't move), with all the accompanying turbulence and stress, the promise from Him is still the same.

*'I will never leave you or forsake you.'* Hebrews chapter 13 verse 5.

Jesus is with us in all of life's changes and challenges.

Our adventure is a shared adventure with Him!

Looking forward to meeting you soon.

Bob Molton : *Rector of Braydon Brook Benefice*

## Craig McCallum

Craig and his family moved into Hankerton in 1983, when Craig was working for Pye TMC in Malmesbury, and he quickly became immersed in many village activities.

He was chairman of the Malmesbury Conservative Association in his early days in Hankerton, was always a very keen gardener, growing superb roses, and vegetables.

He acted in the Village Hall panto from its inception, where he had many varied roles, of which the most memorable were probably the Glaswegian cockatoo and one of the Ugly Sisters. The village hall also benefited from having Craig as a treasurer on the management committee, during which time the hall interior was refurbished.

In the days of rapid stock-market growth, he was a founder member of HIC, the Hankerton Investment Club, which spent more time enjoying wine and cheese than making serious investment decisions but did provide a convivial evening on many an occasion.

He served as a parish councillor on Hankerton Parish Council, and after obtaining an OU degree in Environmental Sciences, was lately a consultant to the PC on environmental matters. He edited and printed the Grapevine for several years, and started HAGs, the Hankerton Art Group, as a means for budding artist to get together to draw, paint and enjoy cups of tea! HAGs has already held 2 exhibitions in Malmesbury Town Hall and will be holding its third next February, including some of Craig's work.

Craig was never one to miss a party, hosting Burns' Night suppers for many years, where he would address the haggis to the incomprehension of his guests, before enjoying the haggis, tatties, neeps & whisky.

Craig made many contributions to parish & village life and is fondly remembered by us all.

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# Slow Ways



Help create a national walking network

I would like to draw your attention to "Slow Ways" a developing, crowd sourced, community verified, National Walking Network that aims to connect all Britain's towns, cities and national parks. It is supported by the National Lottery Community Fund.

Slow Ways is asking for help from local people to review and verify the local parts of the network. The relatively local routes I've noted run from Malmesbury to each of Chippenham, Cirencester, Cricklade, Royal Wotton Bassett and Sherston.

There is lots more on the website: <https://beta.slowways.org> if you would like to get involved or just stay in the loop.

Denis DeSouza Footpath Cllr HPC.



Welcome to the Athelstan Museum newsletter Autumn 2023. We have been busy this summer and there is more to come.

We had a very successful joint exhibition with Caerbladon in the Rausing Building and if you missed it here is the link to the website. <https://www.athelstanmuseum.org.uk/in-living-memory-exhibition-july-2023/> The website has been carefully updated and refreshed by a group of volunteers.

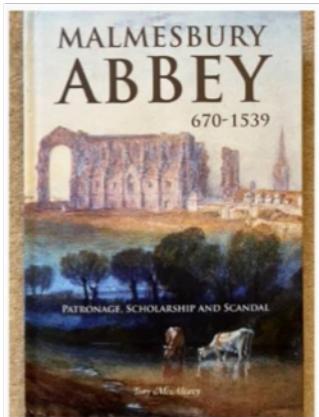
We had exhibitions on the Mezzanine. Until the end of September there are six paintings by students of Malmesbury Secondary School as part of the Turner Diversity Programme. If you missed it first time round the Roman exhibition is up again.

The Children's Book to accompany the Coin Hoard is on sale in the Museum shop. At only £5.00 it will make a great Christmas or birthday present.

Keep a look out for the tea time talk on 1st November "The Athelstan Coin Story". The popular Museum quiz is on 17th November, tables of four, supper included, tickets will soon be available online and in the Museum.

Museum Shop Sunday is 26th November. Please come and support us while doing a bit of Christmas shopping.

**Sharon Nolan**  
**Chair of the Trustees.**



### **Malmesbury Abbey - Tony McAleavy's new book.**

We are pleased to say that Tony McAleavy's brand new book about Malmesbury Abbey in the Middle Ages is now on sale in the Museum bookshop. And if you want to hear Tony talk about the many new findings that he has uncovered for the book, he is talking about this in the Abbey on the evening of 14 October as part of Wessex Week.

The book - *Malmesbury Abbey 670-1539: Patronage, Scholarship and Scandal* - is published by the leading history publishing house, Boydell and Brewer. It tells the story of the Abbey from the time of Aldhelm in the late seventh century to the Dissolution in 1539, using the particularly rich medieval sources that survive for the Abbey. The community produced two eminent writers: Aldhelm and William of Malmesbury. The Abbey was chosen as the mausoleum of

Æthelstan, first king of all England. It was the setting for the marriage in 1015 of Edmund Ironside in defiance of his father, Æthelred 'the Unready'. After the Conquest Malmesbury was patronised by Queen Matilda of Scotland, wife of Henry I. The future Henry II was present in 1153 when a massacre of monks and townsfolk took place in the Abbey church. Although royal patronage dried up after the twelfth century, the Abbey remained an important institution for the remainder of the Middle Ages. The community took the side of the king and the Despensers during the violent conflict between Edward II and his baronial opponents.

Largely unexamined sources are used to shed light on abbots such as William of Colerne who transformed the economic fortunes of the Abbey, and John of Tintern who was accused by Wiltshire juries of terrorising the area by his many acts of criminality including multiple accusations of murder!

### Turner Diversity Programme

The Turner Diversity Programme draws to a close – but there is a positive legacy!

Acquiring the painting of the Abbey by Turner was a major project for the museum; but not all of it! The Diversity Programme formed part of the initial bid for money from the Heritage Lottery Fund. This was greatly affected by Covid and, by the time activities could start up again, people were reluctant to commit to the programme. However, all was not lost and several different activities were organised from sketching outdoors for any member of the community through 'Art for Fun' sessions for vulnerable people.



Some of these were held in the Rausing Building whilst others took place in residential homes. These were well received and the artists created a welcoming and lively atmosphere for everyone. Talks were given to residential homes and groups, (thanks to Sue Poolman for organising the PowerPoint!) followed by the presentation of a framed print of the Turner painting – all of which, now hang prominently in these establishments. Malmesbury Secondary School became involved and an extensive programme of work was designed by art teacher Sue Gibbons. This all resulted in an excellent exhibition in the Rausing Building seen by over 200 people.

But that is not all... following the success of the Art for Fun sessions a request was made for them to continue – and so they do – every other Thursday at Burnham Court. Thanks to the volunteers and volunteer artists who provide us with inspiration. Further requests are coming in from Primary Schools for the outreach team to talk about Turner and sketching the Abbey, and local groups are asking for the talk.

So, although the 'Turner Project' is drawing to a close the legacy continues.

**Susan Mockler**

**Turner Diversity Programme Organiser**

#### Tea time talks

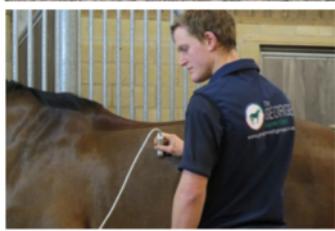
Our very popular monthly tea time talks will resume again in February 2024. We have some exciting speakers lined up for you and are now firming up dates with them. As soon as they are fixed we will let you know.



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