

# The Grapevine



A belated Happy New Year to everybody! We hope you all had a lovely break over the Xmas/New Year period and managed to get some well-earned rest and recreation, whether it was putting your feet up in front of the telly (was there anyone who DIDN'T watch Mr. Bates Vs The Post Office?) or skiing energetically down a black slope in the Alps. All too soon, the holidays are over and it's back to 'normality' with a bump – those of you who went skiing may already have a few of those! So, although it may seem like all the fun of the holidays is over and you might be feeling a bit 'bleh', there's still plenty to look forward to. There's

lots going on at the Athelstan Museum in the next few months PLUS it's a BIG celebration for Athelstan himself – 1100 years since he became King, with loads of events planned in Malmesbury for that occasion! We also have our very own Hankerton Art Group exhibiting at the Town Hall in February. You can read about all of these in this edition of the Grapevine as well as all your usual favourites AND don't forget that Easter is early this year – just when your post-Xmas diet is reaping rewards along comes the best excuse ever for a chocolate binge! Enjoy!!!  
Eds.

## **Deadline for news for the April Grapevine: March 10<sup>th</sup> 2024**

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 – February 2024



Many of the bird species familiar to us during the summer have left a long time ago to travel to warmer climes, such as the swallows, house martins and warblers. Even flocks of our Woodpigeons are known to buzz off to Spain and Portugal for a bit of winter sun. Yet the UK is still attractive to avian species that come here in winter to escape temperatures even colder than our winter, especially from Scandinavia and western Russia. (At the time of writing, early January, nighttime temperatures have been recorded in Sweden at – 40 °C!). One such species that comes here is the Waxwing, (*Bombycilla garrulus*), but it doesn't come every year. That depends on various factors back at "home", such as the weather situation and the availability of food. In the case of the Waxwing it likes to feed on berries, and summer weather in Scandinavia may have produced less of a crop of berries, such that it won't last the winter and so the birds have to move elsewhere,

which means heading south-west.

When large numbers of Waxwings arrive here in winter it is described as an "irruption". The same term is applied to other species of bird when they arrive in large numbers. The last big Waxwing irruption was in the winter of 2012/13, but there were also significant but lower numbers in 2015/16.

Now, I have never seen a Waxwing in real life, but this winter they have been seen in Cheltenham and then Cirencester (w/c 8<sup>th</sup> January), so perhaps this is the year that I shall be lucky. It is often the eastern counties of England and Scotland that receive the Waxwings when they visit, so to be seen in Gloucestershire is unusual, and in following the food they may venture down into Wiltshire, as once they have eaten the berries they move onwards.

It is a beautiful bird. The plumage is pink-brown, there is a black face mask and bib, a crest on top of the head, yellow markings on the tail end and wings, and very obviously some bright red markings half way along the wing. These red markings look as if someone has dropped melted sealing-wax blobs on to the wing, hence their name. They are about the same size as a starling, so not tiny little things that may escape your attention.



Here is the interesting thing regarding your chances of seeing them. Their favourite food are the berries of the Rowan tree or Mountain Ash, which hang in bright red clusters on the tree, and these are commonly seen in supermarket or shopping centre car parks, and as long as there are berries they don't seem bothered by shoppers. So if you are doing your shopping in February or March spare some time to look around the car park for Rowan trees and check them for feeding Waxwings. It will be worth it. They also feed on Hawthorn and other berries, common in hedgerows in the village, but Rowan are their favourite. I wish you good luck – and to me!



All photos courtesy of the Ravensroost volunteer group

Steve Davies

Note from the Eds – the above article arrived at Grapevine Towers in early January, waaaaay before you may have seen anything in the media about these beautiful birds! Just goes to show that our Steve is a trailblazer in the world of nature appreciation!

# Discover Malmesbury

## More Reasons to Visit Malmesbury in 2024

Malmesbury always has treats in store but here are some extra special reasons to visit in 2024:



### The Devereux Weekend - 4<sup>th</sup> May and 5<sup>th</sup> May

Experience the 1640s with living history in the town and a real life replay of the last battle for Malmesbury between the Roundheads and Cavaliers of the English Civil War. Live demonstrations of cooking, medicine, weaving, writing and military camp life.

### Athelstan 1100:

#### Celebrating the first King of England – June to October

2024 marks 1100 years since Athelstan became king. He is buried in Malmesbury Abbey and he has a very special relationship with Malmesbury.

## Get ready to enjoy:

### 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> July – 'Malmesbury's Big Athelstan Dig'

Community archaeology at sites around town.

### 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> July – 'Athelstan – A United Kingdom'

Live multi-media performances at Malmesbury Abbey plus an Anglo-Saxon food, drink and craft fair and children's Big Athelstan picnic.

### 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> July – 'Anglo-Saxon Malmesbury'

A large scale re-enactment village and hands on experiences.

Plus top name speakers, a ground breaking exhibition at Athelstan Museum, and happenings from June to October, including:

### Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August – Malmesbury's Carnival Procession, with an Athelstan theme.

19<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> October – Malmesbury's famous annual Wessex Week continues the Athelstan and Anglo-Saxon theme with a brilliant programme of word, music, walks and entertainment.



For information on Malmesbury Events see [discovermalmesbury.life/events](http://discovermalmesbury.life/events) and visit our Town and Tourist Information Centre in Malmesbury Town Hall, Cross Hayes, SN16 9BZ. Tel: 01666 822143.

To be part of Athelstan 1100 and receive information on Athelstan 1100 as they are released: [www.athelstan1100.co.uk](http://www.athelstan1100.co.uk) or email [hello@athelstan1100.co.uk](mailto:hello@athelstan1100.co.uk)

'Malmesbury is a beautiful, ancient, hilltop town surrounded by picturesque rivers. A rich and rewarding history. A lively town centre with interesting independent shops and great places to eat, drink and stay. A packed programme of arts and local events.

A thriving community. A wonderful place to visit.'



Malmesbury  
CARNIVAL  
A Festival

Wessex  
Week

MALMESBURY  
TOWN TEAM

Malmesbury Town Council  
Chairman



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)**

# 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 4 <sup>th</sup> February	9.30am, <b>Holy Communion</b> @ Hankerton 10am, <b>Friends &amp; Family</b> @ Crudwell 11am, <b>Holy Communion</b> @ Oaksey 6pm, <b>Evening Prayer</b> @ Ashley	
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	11am, <b>Benefice Holy Communion</b> @ Charlton	
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	9.30am, <b>Holy Communion</b> @ Charlton 11am, <b>Holy Communion</b> @ Minety 11am, <b>Matins</b> @ Oaksey 5pm, <b>Family Songs of Praise</b> @ Hankerton	6pm <b>Evening Prayer</b>
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	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 10.15am <b>Sunday School</b> and 11am, <b>Family Service</b> @ Oaksey	

## Mid-Week Services and Events

Monday	Every other week	10am	Bible Study via Zoom
Tuesday	Weekly	9.30am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
Wednesday	14 <sup>th</sup> February (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday)	10.30am	Coffee & Chat @ Crudwell
	14 <sup>th</sup> February, Ash Wednesday	12noon	Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes
Thursday	8 <sup>th</sup> February (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday)	9.45am	BCP Communion Service @ Minety
Friday	Weekly	9.30am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
Saturday	3 <sup>rd</sup> February (1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday)	11am – 12.30pm	Café Church @ Hankerton

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



# 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 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	9.30am, <b>Holy Communion</b> @ Hankerton 10am, <b>Friends &amp; Family</b> @ Crudwell 11am, <b>Holy Communion</b> @ Oaksey 6pm, <b>Evening Prayer</b> @ Ashley	
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	10am, <b>Benefice Holy Communion on Mothering Sunday</b> @ Hankerton	
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	9.30am, <b>Holy Communion</b> @ Charlton 11am, <b>Holy Communion &amp; Baptism</b> @ Minety 11am, <b>Matins</b> @ Oaksey 5pm, <b>Family Songs of Praise</b> @ Hankerton	6pm <b>Evening Prayer</b>
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	10am, <b>Benefice Holy Communion for Palm Sunday</b> @ Minety	
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> March Easter Sunday	9.30am, <b>Holy Communion on Easter Day</b> @ Ashley 9.30am, <b>Holy Communion on Easter Day</b> @ Charlton 9.30am, <b>Holy Communion on Easter Day</b> @ Hankerton 11am, <b>Holy Communion on Easter Day</b> @ Crudwell 11am, <b>Service of the Word on Easter Day</b> @ Minety 10.15am <b>Sunday School</b> and 11am, <b>Holy Communion on Easter Day</b> @ Oaksey	

## Mid-Week Services and Events

Monday	Every other week	10am	Bible Study via Zoom
Tuesday	Weekly	9.30am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
Wednesday	13 <sup>th</sup> March (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday)	10.30am	Coffee & Chat @ Crudwell
Thursday	14 <sup>th</sup> March (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday)	9.45am	BCP Communion Service @ Minety
Friday	Weekly	9.30am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
Saturday	2 <sup>nd</sup> March (1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday)	11am – 12.30pm	Café Church @ Hankerton

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

Please see the 'What's happening during Holy Week?' sheet for the full list of services and events taking place.

# Services across the Braydon Brook Benefice during Holy Week

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



Date	Services in Church	Zoom
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>10am, Benefice Holy Communion on Palm Sunday @ Minety</b>	
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>9.45am, Morning Prayer @ Hankerton</b>	
	<b>6pm, Stillness &amp; Peace @ Charlton</b>	
<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March</b>		<b>9.30am Morning Prayer</b>
<b>Maundy Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>9.45am, Mid-Week BCP Holy Communion @ Minety Crudwell</b>	
<b>Good Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>10am, Children's Easter Activity @ Oaksey</b>	<b>9.30am Morning Prayer</b>
	<b>2pm, Service for Good Friday @ Crudwell</b>	
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March Easter Sunday</b>	<b>9.30am, Holy Communion on Easter Day @ Ashley</b>	
	<b>9.30am, Holy Communion on Easter Day @ Charlton</b>	
	<b>9.30am, Holy Communion on Easter Day @ Hankerton</b>	
	<b>11am, Holy Communion on Easter Day @ Crudwell</b>	
	<b>11am, Service of the Word on Easter Day @ Minety</b>	
	<b>11am, Holy Communion on Easter Day @ Oaksey</b>	





# 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 ●

---

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)

## Hope

The last decoration has been packed back into the loft, the last card recycled, the last glass raised to the new year...

This year across the deanery, we have seen an increase in numbers at all our Christmas services, and this benefice is no exception. It's been wonderful to welcome so many people into our churches, both old friends and new.

So what is it that draws people to church over Christmas, more than any other time of year? Of course, it's the celebration of Jesus' birth, although any alien visitors to earth would be hard pushed to realise that fact from the way Christmas is marketed! I think there is a lot of nostalgia too - Christmas traditions and family expectations, the desire to 'feel christmassy' - but I think there may be more to it.

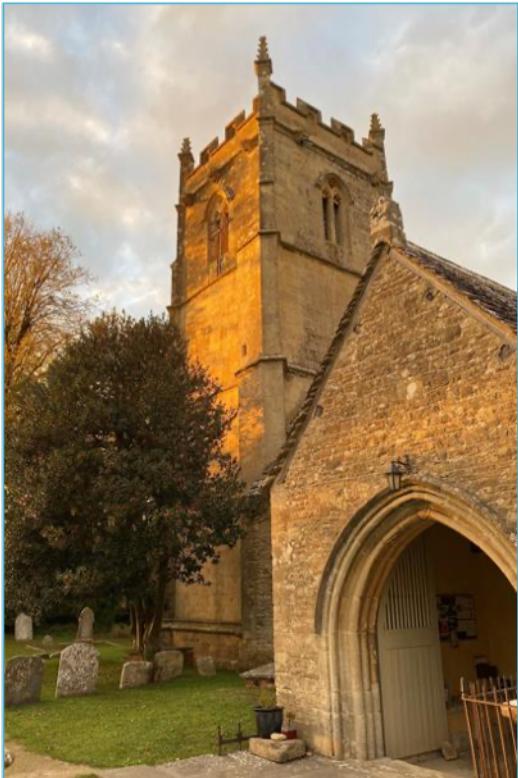
Christmas marks the end of the old year - a chance to take stock, to celebrate a good year or close the door on a bad

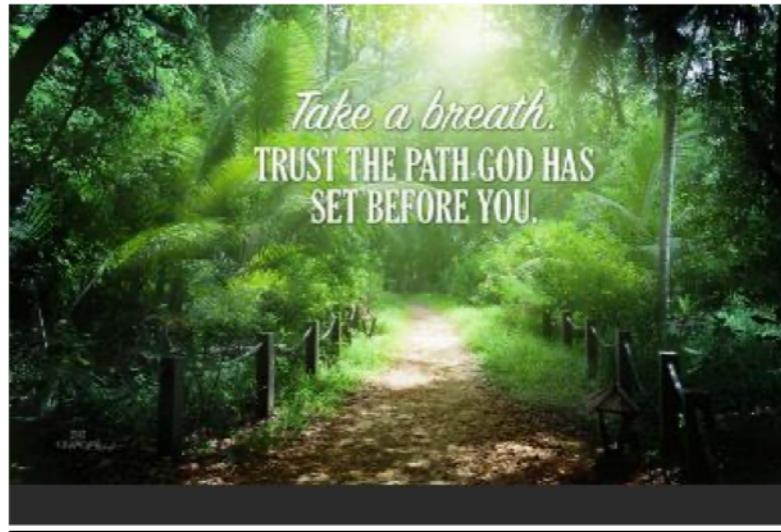
one. It brings with it thoughts of fresh starts and spending time with those we love. In short, it brings with it hope. Perhaps that is why this year has seen such high numbers. Our world seems rather short of hope at the moment. Between wars, political insecurity, the resurgence of Covid and the rising cost of living, it's easy to feel like life is built on constantly shifting sand. In turning to the church, even for nostalgia, we acknowledge our desire for something more permanent.

Jesus is that constant we search for. He is utterly steadfast. His love is enduring and unchanging, even in the face of adversity or dismissal from those He came to save. His church remains ready to receive anyone who's searching, ready to shed light on a life of more certainty, and ready to spread the hope of a new life.

As the shine already begins to wear off our new year's resolutions, I hope and pray that all those who joined us over Christmas and those who have yet to make that first step, will reach out for that steadfast love of Jesus. It doesn't come and go with the season, or the political environment, or the distractions and burdens of life. It's ours, offered freely, in exchange for our lasting commitment to a friendship with him. Christmas is over, the new year is here, but God is for life, not just for Christmas.

Rachel Swatton Local Lay Minister





## A DIFFERENT WAY

Are you willing to follow Our Lord, to be led by a different way  
From the one that you thought was mapped out for you?

Place your hands together and pray  
Ask God for a sign to tell you which is the path to take

Read His Word and find that maybe the decision will not be so hard to make

For when you have Jesus in your life, you know you are not alone – And the way that He is leading  
you, though it might appear unknown

Will not be so hard for you because He is close by your side – What need to fear, when travelling, for  
He's right here, our Comforter and Guide.

Dear Lord, we thank You for Your care – For loving us, for being there

We want to be responsive and obedient to You. - We need to pray and with Your help, to think things  
through

We offer You our worship, Lord, because we know You are the Perfect One. – Creator of Your  
Universe, Your world, of me, of everyone

You are always just in all the ways we live

Worthy of our love and the best we have to give

So, we come before You, Lord, asking in prayer and quiet reflection – Lead us in any way You wish  
and help us follow Your direction.

**18.05.98.**

(Matthew 2:12)

© Copyright Shelagh Dalton 1998

## Good News! Good News! Good News! Good News!



### Henry Albert Durnford

We'd like to congratulate Nick and Zenetta on the arrival of their 3<sup>rd</sup> beautiful baby boy, Henry Albert Durnford, who was born on 20<sup>th</sup> December, delivering a wonderful early Xmas pressie to them both. We'd like to welcome baby Henry (another regal name!) to Hankerton and send our warmest congratulations to all the family!



### The Hannah Ludlow Charity.

Hopefully, as a result of previous Grapevine articles and word of mouth, most parishioners will be aware of this village charity, but with new arrivals in the village this brief notice aims to maintain that awareness. The simple aim of the charity is to help members of our community who are in a position of need, hardship or distress.

Although trustees of the charity try to be aware of those who may qualify for such support, it could

quite easily be the case that some hardship or distress may be unknown to them, and a request for assistance can be made directly by the affected person, or by a friend, neighbour or relative on their behalf. Applications for support can be made to The Chairman, Hannah Ludlow Charity, 1 Cloatley Road, Hankerton, Wiltshire. SN16 9LA, whenever that need arises. All verbal approaches or correspondence are treated in strictest confidence, and only open to the Chairman and trustees of the charity.

As a small charity the support that can be given is limited, but even a little financial gesture reinforces that fellow villagers do care, and it may help to make a difference in outlook for that person in need.

The charity is also able to support young people in the parish who may be raising funds to enable them to undertake charitable work at home or abroad.

## Good News! Good News! Good News! Good News!

### Isabelle Dorothy Cooper

We'd also like to congratulate Jess and Edward on the arrival of their beautiful baby girl, Isabelle Dorothy, who was born on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan. Welcome to Hankerton Isabelle – we're sure you and Henry will be firm friends as you grow older! Congratulations to all the Cooper family!





## Patient Participation Group

### Surgery Updates

A new system was launched mid Jan 2024 to enable patients to submit requests for appointments. Hopefully this will increase the chances to book ahead for routine appointments and improve continuity of care as patients can request their usual GP.

### Shingles Vaccination

There is a National Campaign for the roll-out of the Shingles Vaccination starting with patients who are turning 65 and 70 – they are currently inviting the older (70 pls) group to get the vaccine.

There was very positive feedback regarding the COVID clinics.

### Hankerton Art Group

The Hankerton art Group is having its second exhibition in the John Bowen Gallery in the Town Hall in Malmesbury.

The wide variety of the art produced in the sessions we spend together will be on display. There will be some of Craig's paintings on display in his memory. Craig McCallum, started the group and was an enthusiastic member especially using oils! There will be paintings of animals, landscapes, prints and silk painting - do come along and take a look!

Times: February 10th to February 28th 2024. Open whenever the Town Hall is open.

Anne, Chris, Linda, Steve, Pam and Susan



# 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



# Town, Parish & Community Councils

## D-Day 80 - 6th June 2024



**The Parish Council recently received the following letter from Pageantmaster Bruno Peek:-**

As you are aware, we are organising D-Day 80 - 6th June 2024, throughout the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories in Commemoration/Celebration of the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings on the five Beaches in Normandy, France, which took place on 6th June 1944, enabling your Council and local community to use this occasion to pay 'tribute' to the many, many thousands that sacrificed so much in helping to secure the freedom we all enjoy today. With this in mind, we have developed several ways in which your Council and community can take part in this special occasion.

### Beacon

Light a Beacon at 9.15pm on 6th June, as encouraged by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

There are several styles of Beacons that can be used for this occasion, many of which you may have used for previous occasions, and those of you with the permanent Beacon Braziers and gas fuelled Beacons produced for our late Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee, are urged to re-use these to save money. With regard to the Bonfire Beacons these are ideal for country parks, village greens and our farms throughout the UK etc.

### Lamp Light of Peace

We understand that there are areas of our local communities unable to light Beacons for various reasons, so we have developed the [Lamp Light of Peace](#) providing a simple and cost effective way of becoming and being part of this event by lighting it at 9.15pm on 6th June next year, coinciding with the lighting of the Beacons that night, and once used for this occasion, they can be re-lit at 11am on 11th November

in 'Remembrance' for many years to come. (The flame in the Lamp, along with the Beacons, will represent the 'light of peace' that emerged from the dreadful darkness of War).

## Ringing Out for Peace

With the valuable assistance of the [\*\*Central Council of Church Bell Ringers\*\*](#), we are encouraging every Cathedral and Church throughout the UK, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man to ring their Bells at 6.30pm on 6th June, so we ask you to contact your local Churches etc, inviting them to take part.

All those taking part in the above will be sent the Certificate of Grateful Recognition, enabling them to download, print and frame it as a permanent reminder of their involvement. From the website [\*\*D-DAY 80 BEACONS\*\*](#) you will see there are other elements taking place, making up this Commemoration/Celebration event, with many taking part already as their personal tributes.

We do hope that your Council will participate in one or more of the above and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

My warmest regards to you all,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruno Peek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Bruno" on the first line and "Peek" on the second line.

**Bruno Peek CVO OBE OPR**  
Pageantmaster, D-Day 80, 6th June 2024

Obviously some of these are not suitable for Hankerton but if you are keen to get involved then contact your Parish Councillors with your suggestions and ideas.



## Tea Time Talk

**Tony McAleavy**

### **Aldhelm & the Saxon Palace at Foxley**

Weds 21 February @ 2.30

Tickets avail now - £7 to include tea & cake  
from Museum or via our website:  
<https://www.athelstanmuseum.org.uk/events/>

Tony McAleavy will explain the significance of the remarkable archaeological discoveries made at Cowage Farm near Foxley in the 1970s and 1980s. This site helps us to understand how Malmesbury Abbey was endowed by the royal family of the West Saxons. Aldhelm was a royal prince and the son of King Centwine. The site at Foxley was almost certainly given to Aldhelm by his father and helped to transform Malmesbury into one of the wealthiest monasteries in England

**Note:** Doors open at 2.30pm. Talk starts at 3pm.

*The first of our popular teatime talks for 2024  
Hope you can join us!*



The PC will be looking into improving a 7 metre muddy stretch of the Hillwell - Follyfield footpath after a request from a resident. The damaged and rotten Eastcourt signpost was discussed and it has been decided to ask Highways to replace it; this will most probably be a modern metal edition, which will not incur any costs to the parish. Sadly, not enough names have come forward to take part in the First Aid training to make it cost effective for the PC, so this idea has been shelved for the time being. The escape of sewage effluent on the highway outside the pumping station, which happens when we have heavy rain, is of great concern to the PC and we are escalating this issue with Wessex Water, Council Drainage and the Environment agency. The PC decided a budget for 2024/25 which means for the 3rd year running no increase in householder payments.

The PC wishes everyone a Happy New Year and hopes for a healthy 2024.



## DIARY DATES FOR 2024

Tickets & further information on our website or from the Museum.  
<https://www.athelstanmuseum.org.uk/events/>

**Current Exhibition** - Life in Roman Times - until end Feb.

**Weds 21 Feb** - Teatime Talk @ 2.30 - **Aldhelm & Saxon Palace @ Foxley**

**Fri 8 Mar** - 7pm - **Paul Hill** - details to follow

**Weds 20 Mar** - Teatime Talk @ 2.30 - **Devizes Castle**

**Weds 27 Apr** - Teatime Talk @ 2.30 - **Life in Little Somerford 1954-72**

**Weds 1 May** - 7pm - **Ben Kane** - details to follow

**St Aldhelm's Fair** - Museum Stall

**Fri 19 July** - 7pm - **Paul Hill - King Athelstan, his family & wars that made England.**

**August** - Walks & Talks during **Carnival** - programme tbc

**Petticoat Lane** - Museum Stall

**Museum Quiz Night** - date tbc

**Wessex Week Events** - 18th-26th October

**Tues 31 Oct** - 7pm - **Jon Hammond - Halloween**

**Museum Shop Sunday** - last Sunday of November - tbc

**Late Night Shopping** - first Friday of December – tbc

**Hope you can join us in 2024!**

## Birds of Hankerton

I like watching birds, but I am a bad birdwatcher. I fail to distinguish between a tree sparrow and a house sparrow or a crow and a rook. Two years ago, I discovered the free-to-download Merlin app, which records song to identify birds. Some may call it cheating, but it has increased my appreciation and enjoyment of birds. Occasionally, it has picked up more than twenty birds in Hankerton in just one walk. Below is a list of 56 birds in Hankerton the app has identified, or I have spotted, whether multiple times or on one occasion only.

The [RSPB](#) website lists 268 birds. Given that we do not live on the coast, next to a lake (though Cotswold Water Park has plenty of wildlife) or surrounded by mountains, and some of the birds on the RSPB website are rare visitors to our shores, I think 56 is a good number.

My list is far from definitive. What's missing? There must be a few. Tell me if there are other birds that live in or visit Hankerton. I know that there are some very knowledgeable birdwatchers in our village. Post on the website, email me at [john.thorne@islington.gov.uk](mailto:john.thorne@islington.gov.uk), or otherwise say if you bump into me. At a later date I will update the list.

Finally, if you see me standing in the middle of a field holding up my phone, I am trying to pick up birdsong, not taking a selfie.

John Thorne

1. Barn owl	24. Jackdaw
2. Blackbird	25. Jay
3. Blackcap	26. Kestrel
4. Blue tit	27. Lapwing
5. Bullfinch	28. Linnet
6. Buzzard	29. Little egret
7. Carrion crow	30. Little owl
8. Chaffinch	31. Long-tailed tit
9. Chiffchaff	32. Magpie
10. Coal tit	33. Mallard
11. Collared dove	34. Mistle thrush
12. Dunnock	35. Mute swan
13. Fieldfare	36. Nuthatch
14. Garden warbler	37. Pheasant
15. Goldcrest	38. Red kite
16. Goldfinch	39. Red legged partridge
17. Great spotted woodpecker	40. Redstart
18. Great tit	41. Robin
19. Green woodpecker	42. Siskin
20. Greenfinch	43. Skylark
21. Heron	44. Song thrush
22. Herring gull	45. Sparrowhawk
23. House sparrow	



- 46. Spotted flycatcher
- 47. Starling
- 48. Swallow
- 49. Tree sparrow
- 50. Treecreeper
- 51. Water rail
- 52. Whitethroat
- 53. Willow warbler
- 54. Woodpigeon
- 55. Wren
- 56. Yellowhammer



Yellowhammer



Greenfinch



The  
**GEORGE**  
Equine Clinic

01666 826456

24 HOUR EMERGENCY COVER  
[www.georgevetgroup.co.uk](http://www.georgevetgroup.co.uk)



 Find us on  
Facebook



The  
**GEORGE**  
Veterinary Hospital



AROUND THE CLOCK  
EMERGENCY CARE

[www.georgevetgroup.co.uk](http://www.georgevetgroup.co.uk)



Malmesbury

01666 823165

**NEWS flash!**

**FOSSEWAY NEWS**  
NEWSPAPER DELIVERIES

*We deliver newspapers in your area  
Seven days a week*

*We can also obtain any magazines  
That are printed either  
Weekly or Monthly  
For more information ring Ali  
On 01249 448844  
Or Email  
[fossewaynews@gmail.com](mailto:fossewaynews@gmail.com)*