

# The Grapevine



Summer is almost upon us – where does the time go? It seems like only yesterday we were putting together the April Edition of the Grapevine and yet here we are and it's June already! By the time you read this our young people will be half-way through the dreaded exams so we wish them all the best of luck – rather them than us!

We've had a couple of suggestions recently for future features for the Grapevine – we absolutely love getting your ideas so if you have anything you

think would make a good topic then please send it in – the more the merrier! Likewise, if you have an interesting hobby or story that you'd like to share with the village then feel free to write something up and send it to us – otherwise you may have to read about the time that one of your editors met Donny Osmond and nobody wants to hear about that!

Eds.

**Deadline for news for the August Grapevine: July 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 - June 2024.

High summer and a time of warm weather, relaxing in the garden with a cup of tea (or something colder) and listening to the various drones and buzzes of insects - rather than the pitter patter of rain on the windows, we hope!



This month's subject will certainly help with attracting the bees to the garden to create that ambience, and while they are there, they can also get on with pollinating your peas and beans as well. Common Comfrey (*Symphytum officinale*) is a tall, vigorous perennial plant producing well branched stems and deep green, broad, lanceolate (spear-like) leaves. The flowers are carried on deeply curled panicles and the colour varies from white through to the more usual purple/pink with a hint of blue. The colour can vary from the tip of the panicle to the base. It is commonly seen by streams and ditches and damp roadsides and waste ground. However, as is true

with much of our native flora, it has been hybridised with another species, Rough Comfrey (*Symphytum asperum*) which was introduced from S W Asia. The initial cross was called Russian Comfrey (*S. uplandicum*) but crossing between all three subsequently probably means it is beyond the wit of us mere mortals to determine how much of each species is present in the Comfrey plant that we are looking at.

The petals of the flower form a long tube, up which small bees crawl to reach the nectar, and pollinate the flower in so doing. However, larger bee species that are unable to crawl up the inside of the flower, bypass the tube and bite a hole in the base of the flower to access the nectar directly. That could be described as taking undue advantage, as the flower does not benefit from its visit.

Regular viewers of TV's *Gardener's World* may already be familiar with Comfrey, and its use to produce a good quality liquid fertiliser, for tomatoes especially. Monty Don cuts large bundles of the leaves and soaks them in buckets of water, until the water turns brown and smells of farmyard manure. This is why he advises putting the bucket in



a very out of the way place! The resulting liquid is diluted in water before applying. It is supposed to be very high in potash - good for fruiting.

Comfrey has many common names, which allude to the many uses it has had as a herbal remedy. The whole plant was considered a master healer. One common name is Knitbone, and references state that it was used in place of plaster of Paris. The root was lifted in spring and grated before applying to the injury. It seems that it sets quite hard. It is reputed to have anti-inflammatory properties, with comfrey poultices being used in the Yorkshire coalfields to treat swollen knees of miners, the result of crawling on hard mine floors. Manchester cotton mill workers used to line their clogs with comfrey leaves to ease tired and aching feet. Hopefully using it this way didn't produce the smell referred to by Monty Don!



The internal consumption of comfrey is discouraged now, as the leaves contain alkaloids, which if consumed in quantity can cause liver damage.

So if you have got a bit of a unused corner, why not consider putting in one of these plants for the bees, and maybe the tomatoes. A word of warning, some people say that it can be too vigorous! Alternatively, look out for it on walks around the village.

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**  
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**1 Hillwell, Hankerton**  
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# 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

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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)



As part of Malmesbury's Athelstan 1100 celebrations, the Athelstan Museum will be staging one of the most significant exhibitions that the Museum has ever held.

There will be exhibits not seen before outside of their national institutions. These include from the British Library, the V&A and the Ashmolean Museum who have loaned the Anglo-Saxon Abingdon Sword, pictured.

Among the many other wonderful exhibits in this summer's Athelstan 1100 exhibition are an important group of coins with links to Athelstan, his forebears, and his descendants. An early gold coin is shown here.



We have also been very fortunate to be given access to high quality images of some wonderful manuscripts. Visitors will be able to examine six manuscripts, seeing their translations into modern English and use a screen to zoom in and see the magnificent details.

Entrance is free of charge and the Exhibition runs from 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024 to 29<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

More Exhibition information at

<https://www.athelstanmuseum.org.uk/athelstan-1100/>

Athelstan 1100 information at <https://athelstan1100.co.uk/>

## Hannah Ludlow

### Conveyance of lands in Hankerton – The indenture dated November 4<sup>th</sup> 1848.

Hannah Ludlow granted and released a close of pastureland known as Little Tanknalls and Oaklands to a trust which 'was subject to certain conditions,' to 'time for ever thereafter'.

Conditions:

'to let and set the said lands and hereditaments for the most rent that could be reasonably obtained for the same to such person or persons as they should think fit, and from time to time to receive the rents and profits thereof and yearly on the 25th of November in each and every year.... to divide and pay the net rents and profits of the same lands unto and equally between 6 labouring married men of the said parish of Hankerton as the vicar and churchwardens of the said parish for the time being should from year to year direct.'

This document was found in a desk from the Old Vicarage – a great story in its own right!

To find out more come along to the Hankerton History Group meeting in October when there will be a presentation about this document and the history of Hankerton.

Susan Mockler

Hankerton History Group





## **Patients Participation Group**

### **Surgery News**

#### **Prescription Ordering Direct (POD)**

It is expected that POD will still be operating part time for a while until MPCC makes adjustments. Patients will be informed of the cut-off date for this service.

Of the 165k patients registered at MPCC, since the app has been available:

- 7197 patients actively ordered repeat prescriptions
- 9472 have the facility to order online
- 1500 are without online access

A designated telephone line will be set up for those who do not have access to technology. Details will be announced later when this service is available. The app will not allow you to order your prescription more than 2 weeks before your medication is due. The green repeat prescription will no longer be issued to patients. Anyone needing proxy access can obtain the relevant forms from reception.

The surgery has organised training days for patients to attend who are not familiar with the Apps. Anyone interested in this should contact MPCC reception for more information. Additional training is being given to staff as well.

## PATCHs

This system enables patients to book appointments 2 weeks in advance with their preferred practitioner. It also enables patients to submit requests for appointments online. Hopefully this will increase the chances to book ahead for routine appointments and improve continuity of care as patients can request their usual GP.

Patient feedback received on the new system shows it is:

- Quick and simple system to use saves queuing on the phone
- Straight forward and easy to navigate
- Amazing, wish we had had this before
- It beats waiting for the 8.00am phone call - hands down for non-urgent phone calls

## New houses

New houses being built in Malmesbury and the surrounding villages will impact on patient numbers at the surgery. MPCC expects to be able to cope with the additional demand as there is a fee given for each additional patient taken on and they would be able to take on more GPs to address this.

At present, some of the trainee GPs would like to stay on after they have completed their training so there would possibly be some additional GPs available.

## Chemist

Boots the chemist has been sold and an independent couple from Swindon will be taking over the pharmacy possibly in May.

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. Shayne Smith

**The next Patient Participation Group meetings are on 4 June 2024 and 6 August 2024**

# 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 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	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 9 <sup>th</sup> June	10am, <b>Benefice Holy Communion</b> @ Charlton	
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	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 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	9.30am, <b>Holy Communion</b> @ Ashley 9.30am, <b>Morning Praise</b> @ Charlton 11am, <b>Holy Communion &amp; Baptism</b> @ Crudwell 11am, <b>Morning Praise</b> @ Minety 10.15am <b>Sunday School</b> and 11am, <b>Family Service</b> @ Oaksey	
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	10am, <b>Benefice Holy Communion</b> @ Crudwell 4.30pm, <b>Prayer, Praise &amp; Story</b> @ 1 Days Court, Crudwell	

## Mid-Week Services and Events

Monday	<b>Weekly</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Morning Prayer via Zoom</b>
	<b>Every other week</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Bible Study via Zoom</b>
Tuesday	<b>Weekly</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Morning Prayer in Charlton</b>
Wednesday	<b>12<sup>th</sup> June (2<sup>nd</sup> Wed)</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Coffee &amp; Chat @ Crudwell</b>
	<b>Weekly</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Men's Bible Study @ 1 Days Court, Crudwell</b>
Thursday	<b>13<sup>th</sup> June (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday)</b>	<b>9.45am</b>	<b>BCP Communion Service @ Minety</b>
Friday	<b>Weekly</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Morning Prayer via Zoom</b>
Saturday	<b>1<sup>st</sup> June (1<sup>st</sup> Saturday)</b>	<b>11am – 12.30pm</b>	<b>Café Church @ Hankerton</b>

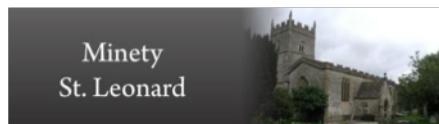
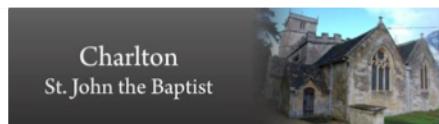
Please visit our website [www.braydonbrook.co.uk](http://www.braydonbrook.co.uk) and Braydon Brook Churches Facebook

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 7 <sup>th</sup> July	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 14 <sup>th</sup> July	10am, <b>Benefice Holy Communion</b> @ Hankerton	
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	9.30am, <b>Holy Communion with Baptism</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 28 <sup>th</sup> July	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 &amp; Baptism</b> @ Oaksey	

## Mid-Week Services and Events

Monday	<b>Weekly</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Morning Prayer via Zoom</b>
	<b>Every other week</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Bible Study via Zoom</b>
Tuesday	<b>Weekly</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Morning Prayer in Charlton</b>
Wednesday	<b>10<sup>th</sup> July (2<sup>nd</sup> Wed)</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Coffee &amp; Chat @ Crudwell</b>
	<b>Weekly</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Men's Bible Study @ 1 Days Court, Crudwell</b>
Thursday	<b>11<sup>th</sup> July (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday)</b>	<b>9.45am</b>	<b>BCP Communion Service @ Minety</b>
Friday	<b>Weekly</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Morning Prayer via Zoom</b>
Saturday	<b>6<sup>st</sup> July (1<sup>st</sup> Saturday)</b>	<b>11am – 12.30pm</b>	<b>Café Church @ Hankerton</b>

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



## Birds of Hankerton

The February edition of The Grapevine included an article I wrote called Birds of Hankerton. It listed fifty-six birds that I had spotted or picked up on an app that identifies birds by their birdsong. I asked for contributions to the list. My thanks to Jacqui Culley-Oakley and Steve and Linda Davies for their responses. The list below includes their additions and other birds I have subsequently identified. There are now sixty-four birds on the list.

John Thorne

1. Barn owl
2. Blackbird
3. Blackcap
4. Blue tit
5. Bullfinch
6. Buzzard
7. Carrion crow
8. Chaffinch
9. Chiffchaff
10. Coal tit
11. Collared dove
12. Cuckoo



Common Cuckoo

13. Dunnock
14. Fieldfare
15. Garden warbler
16. Goldcrest
17. Goldfinch
18. Great spotted woodpecker
19. Great tit

20. Greater whitethroat



Greater Whitethroat

21. Green woodpecker
22. Greenfinch
23. Heron
24. Herring gull
25. Hobby
26. House sparrow
27. Jackdaw



Jackdaw

28. Jay
29. Kestrel
30. Lapwing
31. Lesser whitethroat

- 32. Linnet
- 33. Little egret
- 34. Little owl
- 35. Long-tailed tit
- 36. Magpie
- 37. Mallard
- 38. Meadow pipit



Meadow pipit

- 39. Mistle thrush
- 40. Mute swan
- 41. Nuthatch
- 42. Pheasant
- 43. Raven
- 44. Red kite
- 45. Red legged partridge
- 46. Redstart
- 47. Redwing
- 48. Reed bunting

- 49. Robin
- 50. Rook
- 51. Siskin
- 52. Skylark



Skylark

- 53. Song thrush
- 54. Sparrowhawk
- 55. Spotted flycatcher
- 56. Starling
- 57. Swallow
- 58. Tree sparrow
- 59. Treecreeper
- 60. Water rail
- 61. Willow warbler
- 62. Woodpigeon
- 63. Wren
- 64. Yellowhammer



Red legged partridge

## Aurora Borealis



We love it when we get suggestions from villagers for new features for the Grapevine and here is one such suggestion.

Did you manage to get a photo of the recent Northern Lights display which could even be seen in Hankerton in early May?

If you did then send it to us at the Grapevine ([grapevinesn16@aol.com](mailto:grapevinesn16@aol.com)) for inclusion in

the August edition. It will certainly add a bit of colour to the Magazine and there might even be small prize for the best photo. For those eagle-eyed amongst you we would like to point out that the above photo is NOT Hankerton 😊.

## Pets Pets Pets Pets Pets Pets Pets Pets Pets

We love it when we get suggestions from villagers for new features for the Grapevine and here is another suggestion 😊.

Do you have a special pet? Maybe you have a playful puppy, a cuddly kitten, a hamster, a gerbil, stick insects or even (heaven forbid!) a pet snake!?

Why not send us a photo with a few words about what makes them so special ([grapevinesn16@aol.com](mailto:grapevinesn16@aol.com)) for inclusion in the August edition (we could even make it a regular feature!). We might even manage to find a prize for the best!



### **TURN TO ME**

**“Return to Me, give Me your hearts - Let Me fill them with  
My Spirit so you can start**

**To witness to Me to those all around - Drive out the apathy  
that abounds**

**Tell of My Mercy and of My Grace - Tell all that I have a  
most tolerant face**

**That I AM not easily angered and I AM well content -To  
forgive those who believe and truly repent....”**

Dear Lord, we turn to You in sorrow as we mention -That we  
offer You our days with the best of intentions

But our sins have let us down again – We cause You pain....

Since our return to You, we learn of Your Word at leisure - The  
last thing that we want to do is cause You more displeasure

You fill our days from dawn through night - As we are learning of  
Your Might.

We need to praise and thank You, Lord even when things are  
proving tough - For You are always filled with Kindliness, such  
Gentleness and Love.

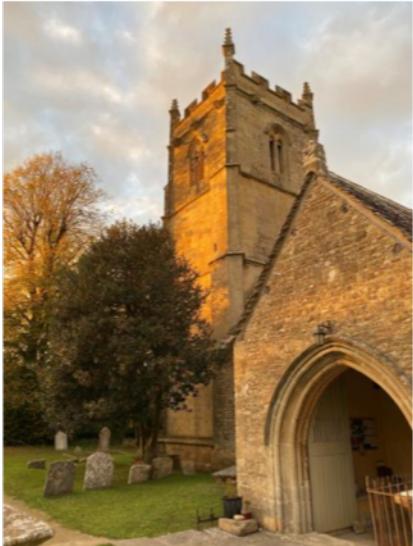
Your Patience overflows upon our heads - Once again we are  
consoled and greatly comforted....

**22.04.97.**

**(Joel 2:12-13)**

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## Church Newsletter



I made the mistake of reading an article in the Telegraph today entitled 'Vandals have taken over the Church of England' and for me, its content cannot go unchallenged!

The premise of the article is that traditional church and choral music is being destroyed, along with any semblance of history, by the current church leadership in the name of wokeness and 'diversity'. It sites the closure of a couple of cathedral choirs as its basis for this theory. The article ends 'It seems particularly poignant that

the custodians of our history are busy destroying the heritage they are supposed to defend just when we most need things that bind us together.

Thanks to the false god of "outreach", the Church of England is severing them.'

There are several points I take issue with here. First and foremost, 'outreach' is a direct instruction from Jesus, a foundation stone of the church and the reason for its creation, from the first days of Christianity – hardly a 'false god'!

Second, diversity amongst believers in God was pretty much invented by Jesus, who came to open the faith of the Jews to all – Paul's letter to the Galatians reminds us

'There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.'

Diversity is also part of the bedrock of our church.

Third, the article entirely fails to address the reasons churches are making, or being forced to make, these decisions preferring to simply accuse those in authority of some sinister plot to undermine the whole institution. Nowhere does it mention the £1000s of pounds required to run a cathedral choir – Westminster cathedral states their choir costs £500,000 a year to maintain, and that doesn't include the cost of repairs and servicing instruments. Even our little parish church organ had a quote several years ago of £32,000 to overhaul it. We spend a lot of money every year on an instrument played a dozen times a year! And therein lies a further problem, one that affects all areas of the Church of England, and at the heart of so many of its troubles. There simply isn't enough people and that means there isn't enough money. Fewer and fewer churches are able to find an organist or choir members. Fewer people are coming forward to train as ministers or are coming forward much later in life after following a different career path. The church is often vilified for there no longer being one parish, one priest, but until there are enough priests and enough congregants to go around, this will continue to be the case. People blame the church, but in fact society as a whole has moved on

and changed the way it works, and the church's resistance to that change has been its undoing.

I in no way advocate the dissolution of the traditional types and styles of worship and music found in our churches – they are woven into the very fibre of what we are – I have a lifetime of memories of turning pages for my organist father, of learning to read from the prayer book in church at my mother's side, of singing in the choir or surrounded by family and friends, bathed in candlelight every Christmas, of allowing the words of a much loved hymn or oft repeated prayer wash over me as its meaning sunk deep into my soul – but I also see how we have distanced ourselves from the people we are here to serve. On a local level we, like many churches, are turning outwards – we are opening our doors and reaching out into our villages, striving to bring the church back to the beating heart of our communities, to love and to serve all those around us, not just those who come to church on a Sunday morning. We are striving to involve young people in worship, to welcome newcomers, to feed and nurture our congregations, and to treasure and protect our worshipful heritage, whilst still acknowledging its imperfections. When I'm asked 'why the Church of England rather than another denomination?' my answer has always been that I love the diversity of the church. I love that whatever your preferred style of worship you can find a home here, that biblical beliefs and principals are upheld, but that we are free to express the love of Jesus and our love for Him in many and varied ways. True diversity (not the artificially created construct) is the lifeblood of our churches, not its undoing. No two churches or communities are quite the same, and I thank God for it.

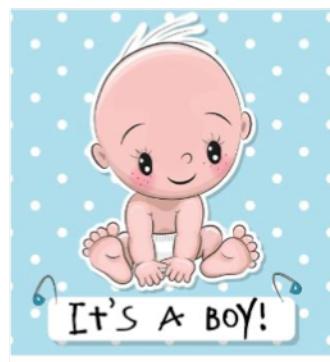
But each and every church is moulded by the nature of the people who attend – if the church of tomorrow matters to you, the only way to shape it for the future is to attend and support it in the present.

Rachel Swatton LLM

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

#### **Archer Fabio O'Brien**

Here at the Grapevine we love to feature the arrival of new babies to Hankerton so we're being slightly self-indulgent here and welcoming baby Archer, the first grandchild of Mary and Paul O'Brien of Follyfield. Many congratulations to James (formerly of Follyfield) and Roberta (formally of Taranto, Italy) on the early arrival of Archer Fabio on April 29th. James only passed his driving test the day before so the first time he drove as a qualified driver was to take his wife to hospital to give birth to their first child! Luckily he got there in time despite Roberta begging him to go faster and James steadfastly sticking to the speed limit! Many congratulations to all the family!



# Men's Weekly Bible Study

**When?**

**Wednesdays**  
**@ 7.30pm**

**Where?**

**I Days Court, Crudwell**

**What?**

**Study - Getting the Most out of Mark's Gospel**



# 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





## **PLEASE BE CAREFUL - A TEAM OF FRAUDSTERS IS TARGETTING WILTSHIRE RESIDENTS:**

We have a concerning number of frauds local to Salisbury and the surrounding villages. The last reported contact that we know of was 14th May 2024, where multiple people have been contacted and 1 victim handed over £3000 to the fraudsters.

The scam is as follows:

Scammers posing as police officers and bank officials will cold call residents and trick them into handing over thousands of pounds – after spending hours duping them over the phone.

The scammers will ask the victims to call them back via 999. The scammers however will still be on the line, so the victims believe they are talking to police. This is the main hook the fraudsters use throughout the scam.

People are encouraged to speak to vulnerable relatives and neighbours about courier fraud following a spate of incidents in recent weeks, including one case where an elderly male was told to withdraw a large amount of Euros from various cash machines, equating to nearly £20,000.

Courier fraud comes in many forms and usually involves fraudsters telephoning a potential victim, claiming to be from their bank, the police, or another law enforcement authority.

### **Please remember that:**

- Police officers, Police staff, banks and other organisations such as HMRC will never call people in this way and ask you to withdraw money or disclose personal or financial information. If someone does do this, please hang up – it will be a scam.
- If someone calls claiming to be a police officer, ask for their ID number and police force. Wait at least five minutes before verifying details with the appropriate Force by calling 101 – do not use any number they provide unless you can confirm it as genuine. Ensure the call has disconnected as scammers will often leave the line open or use another phone altogether. A genuine police officer will not mind waiting while you check their identity (it's a sign that it is a scam if the person becomes pushy or stresses urgency).
- Take a step back from everything and take a few moments to think. Speak to a trusted friend or relative for their opinion before agreeing to anything. The fraudster's tactic is often to keep the victim busy talking and isolated. They stress that they should not tell anyone else about the call.
- Your bank or the police will never send a courier to your home to collect cash, bank cards, PINs or other valuable goods.
- If you are a friend, relative or carer of someone you think might be vulnerable to this type of scam, please speak to them about this advice. You might be the only person who can stop them from being scammed.

If you or someone you know has been a victim of fraud, report it to us by calling 101. If a crime is in progress, dial 999.

### **Elizabeth Threlfall**

Wiltshire Councillor for Brinkworth Division  
Portfolio Holder for ASC Transformation  
Chairman Malmesbury Area Board



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