

The Grapevine



On a damp and windy Sunday in September, Hankerton was pleased to welcome the Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire, Mrs. Sarah Rose Troughton, who came to present us with the award for the Best Kept Small Village in Wiltshire. This was quite an honour and was thanks to each and every one of us who helps to keep our village looking so lovely.

The award was accepted on behalf of the village by David Pynn who goes out every day in all weathers to litter-pick and who also helped to paint the defibrillator and post box along with Dave Woods. There were also special awards for Steve Davies who maintains God's Acre in the churchyard, Sarah Keen who looks after the lovely flower beds in Hillwell and Tony Stoneham who can often be seen on



From left to right – Steve Davies, Sarah Keen, Philip Carter, Mike Manson from CPRE, Tony Stoneham, Lord Lieutenant Sarah Troughton, Cllr Bridget Wayman, Chairman of Wiltshire Council, High Sheriff Dr. Olivia Chapple and David Pynn.

his motorised lawnmower keeping the grass verges looking tidy. A special mention must also be made for Chris Betts and Sue Woods who also go the extra mile by keeping the communal flower tubs filled with beautiful flowers and to everyone else who helps to keep the village such a lovely place to live – we should all feel rightly proud. Eds.

Nature Diary – October 2024



I usually try to write about something that at the time of publication there is a good chance you may actually see around the village. This month's subject is one that you are very unlikely to see – at all. Primarily, this is because it lives underground and

rarely ventures above, so although occasionally a corpse of one is found, I have never seen a live Mole (*Talpa europaea*). That said, you are often very aware of their existence because of the presence of heaps of soil, molehills, seen in pastures, woods and sometimes lawns (to the annoyance of the enthusiastic gardener!).

The mole is a small, cylindrically shaped animal with dark grey coloured, short and very dense fur. The hair is not directional, i.e. it doesn't lie in a particular direction, which allows the mole to move forwards or backwards in its tunnel system without "brushing its fur the wrong way". The most obvious feature of a mole's anatomy are the very developed front legs with huge "hands", evolved to allow efficient digging in soil. If the soil is loose, it will "swim" through the soil, breast-stroke fashion. If compacted it will use one hand at a time to break up the soil, pushing it behind it, and moving on. The old name for the mole was "Mouldewarp", which comes from old Saxon, where "molde" means earth, and "warpen" means to throw.

Obviously creating tunnels means that it has to get rid of the spoil, so it digs a vertical tunnel to the surface and pushes the surplus up and out of the ground, creating the familiar molehill. I have often wondered why the soil doesn't fall back down the vertical shaft? To date I haven't come across the explanation.

Moles are about 15 cm long, excluding the 4 cm tail, weigh 70 – 130g and live for about 3 years. They are solitary in nature, in fact described as very intolerant of each other, except during the breeding season when a degree of indulgence is allowed. Males will fight violently if they meet, and the female will only tolerate the young for a about 4 weeks after their birth before sending them on their way.



Living in the dark, underground, means that the eyes have limited use, and they have evolved so that probably they can now only detect movement, and dark and light. That said, they have a fantastic ability to appreciate their underground environment with skin that contains more organs of touch than any other animal, and their hearing is good.

They even have a good array of sense organs on their backside for going backwards. Another adaptation is that their blood has a variation of haemoglobin that makes better use of the lower levels of oxygen found in a sub-terranean environment.

Moles feed on invertebrates, especially earthworms. The latter are usually detected when they fall into the mole's tunnel system, and before consuming, the mole squeezes along the length of the worm to expel the dirt and soil from the worm's gut. In time of plenty the mole will store surplus worms in a larder, biting off the head of the worm and balling it up before storage. I did read that if stored for too long, the worms can regrow a head and make their escape! Sounds outlandish.

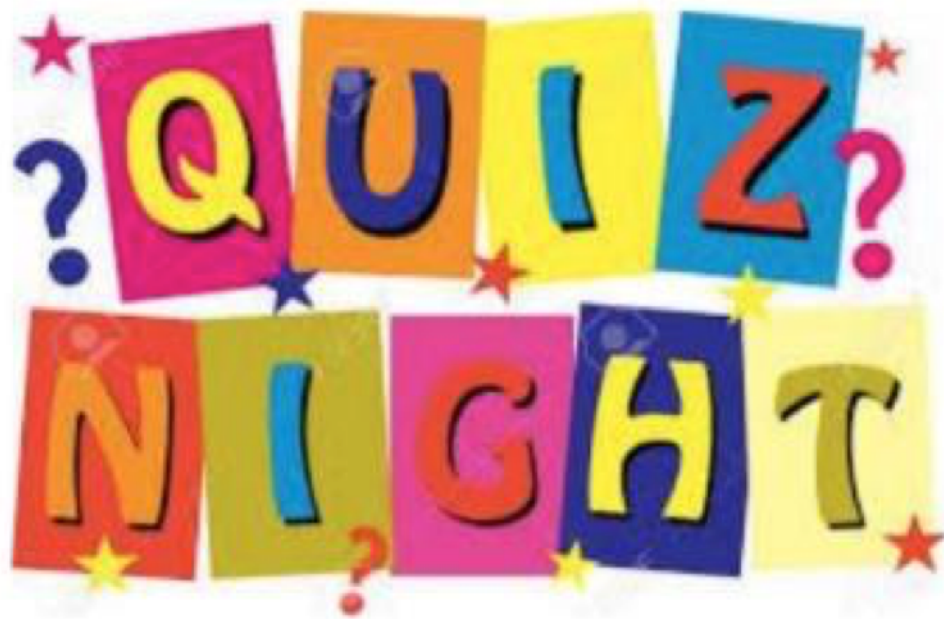
They also eat carrion apparently. A naturalist records being interested in observing the small carrion feeders (beetles and flies) and how they dealt with a dead shrew or mouse. She covered the corpse with a wire canopy to keep away crows, etc. but the bodies kept disappearing. One day she noticed movement under the canopy and saw a mole retrieving the dead mouse and taking it away. She then added soft sand around the future corpses, and only ever found the footprints of moles when the bodies disappeared again.

I mentioned molehills being a nuisance for the gardener, but these spoils of earth also can cause problems with preserved grass for livestock, in that the heaps can be picked up when the cut grass is collected, and it causes the grass crop to spoil. In the garden their tunnels can cause unsightly subsidence in a lawn, as well as the heaps, and in the veg patch undermine growing plants so they fail to thrive. Moles do not eat the roots of plants. So, there is a long history of people controlling (killing) moles for various reasons, but there are benefits from their toils. The extensive network of tunnels (they can tunnel up to 20 metres in a day!) allows for aeration of the soil and helps with drainage, but maybe it is time for us to show more tolerance of those creatures around us and put up with the activities of a fascinating creature – even if we don't get lucky enough to see it. And remember, Moley was a goody in "Wind in the Willows".

Steve Davies



Charlton & Hankerton



@ Charlton Village Hall

Saturday 5th October 2024

7.30pm (doors open 7.00pm)

Advance Tickets Only.

£14.00

includes supper and a pud

Cash bar available

For tickets contact Helen 07778 529421

John 01666 575498

Come as a team (max. 8) or join a team on the night.

Proceeds to Charlton Recreation Centre projects (reg. Charity No. 279819)



minety community shop

Minety Village Hall Minety SN16 9QH
Tel: 01666 860013 www.minetyshop.co.uk
Weekdays: 8am - 6pm Weekends: 9am - 1pm

New Into Your Shop:

Fresh Meat from Hiscocks our local butcher with special orders on request

Fresh Hobbs-House Bakery bread, pastries & cakes orders taken

Freshly made Bean-to-Cup Coffee and other hot drinks

Local Tracklements Condiments ideal for that special occasion

Local Beers & Mates Cider



Plus all of our usual products:

Off Licence ● Convenience Goods ● Confectionery
Fresh Produce & Frozen Produce
including a range of local & Minety Made products
● Newspapers & Magazines to order ●

Support your local shop: Did you know if every household spent just £5.00 per week in the shop the future of the shop would be guaranteed. The Minety Shop is a "not for profit" organisation but needs to cover its running costs.

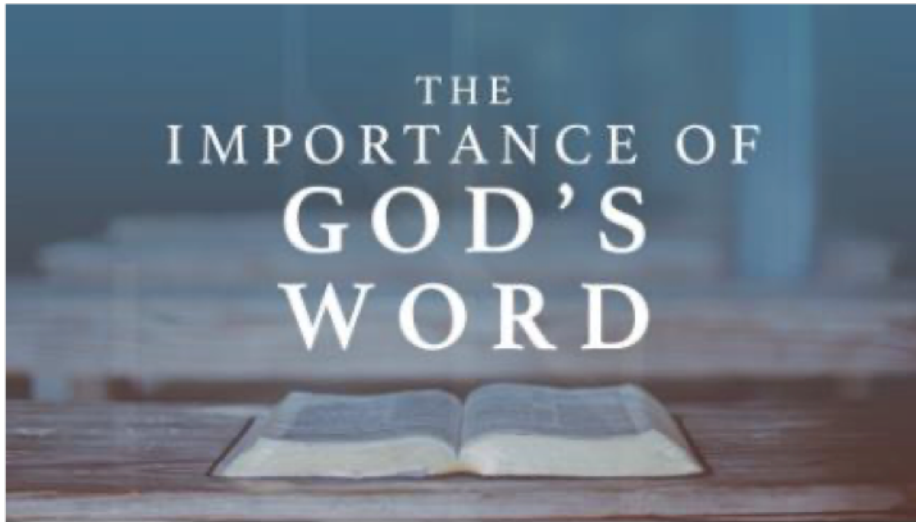
We are always looking for more volunteers to help in the shop or on the committee.

For more information call

Steve: 07802 3538325 or

Catherine: 07786522455

or email: minetyshop@gmail.com



WAITING IN HIS WORD

Do you sometimes feel your lives are full of emptiness? Are your spirits low, do you find yourselves depressed?

Do you feel sorry for yourselves for all that you don't hold? - Don't think in negatives, don't think of loss; concentrate on gold

Thank Our Dear Lord for what you **do have** as you're growing in His sight - As His Hand is reaching downwards to hold on to us tight

When all things seem impossible to do - Hold out to Him, He's waiting for us, true

Seek a deeper understanding of Our Lord. - The clues for our awareness are waiting in His Word.

So, thank You, Lord, for Your Blessings and for Your most precious gifts - Our lives that we should cherish; for through You our spirits lift.

13.12.96.

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Minety Art Club
Annual Exhibition & Sale of Work
Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th October 2024

Including Budding Artists' Paintings from Minety Primary School



FREE ENTRY

Minety Village Hall (SN16 9QH) 10:00am to 4:00pm daily

Artists' Demos and Opportunity to "Have a Go"
Children Welcome To Try Watercolour Painting

Refreshments of tea, coffee and cakes on sale

Deadline for news for the December Grapevine: November 10th 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

Or to 21 Follyfield, Hankerton. SN16 9LA

The opinions expressed are the responsibility of the authors.

We reserve the right to edit material.

Autumn Talks

Dr Bendor Grosvenor - The Invention of British Art



Thursday 24 October @ 7pm - Rausing Building

Tickets £20 to include drink on arrival

available now in Museum and via our website:

<https://www.athelstanmuseum.org.uk/event/the-invention-of-british-art/>

Britain has produced some of the world's most famous artists and paintings. But what made British art 'great'? Was it the individual genius of artists like Hogarth and Constable? Or were their careers shaped by a distinctly 'British' society, culture and history? And if so, why has that distinctiveness been overlooked, and why have we ignored so many of the characters who helped create the story of British art?

In *The Invention of British Art*, Bendor Grosvenor embarks on a journey of discovery through an incredible array of artworks and artists from 10,000 BCE to the nineteenth century, revealing how the art from these isles was created, what made it distinctive, and why it took so long to emerge. From folk art to the role of female artists, from the influences of invaders to the colonised territories of the British Empire, the book embraces previously overlooked contributions to the story of British art and explores the cultural, political and economic factors that helped to shape it.

Dr Bendor Grosvenor is an art historian specialising in Old Masters and British art. Best known from the BBC series *Britain's Lost Masterpieces* and *Fake or Fortune?*, he has discovered a number of important paintings by prominent artists including Van Dyck, Rubens, Titian, Gainsborough, Beale and Lawrence. He previously worked in the London art trade and is now based in Scotland.



Halloween

The ancient, mysterious & spooky origins!!

John Hammond

Wednesday 30 October @ 7pm - Rausing Building

Tickets £15 to include warm spicy apple drink on arrival

available now in Museum and via our website:

<https://www.athelstanmuseum.org.uk/event/the-ancient-mysterious-and-spooky-origins-of-halloween/>

Coins



Bradley Hopper - Noonans Coin Specialist

Friday 22 November @ 7pm - Rausing Building

Tickets £15 available now in Museum and via our website:

<https://www.athelstanmuseum.org.uk/event/coins-a-talk-by-bradley-hopper-a-coin-specialist-with-noonans-mayfair/>

Sunday 1 December

Museum Shop Sunday

Gifts, special offers & stalls!

Hope you can join us!

FAMILY FUN DAY!

The great and the good of Hankerton came together for a Family Fun Day on the August Bank Holiday Monday. The sun shone, the rain kept away (unusual for this summer) and a lot of fun was had by all. The event was instigated by our new (ish) vicar and his wife, Bob and Dee, and included elements of our old Street Fayres plus games for the children and a bouncy castle!



Delicious food was provided by Andy and Sue from the village and EVERYONE walked away with at least one prize on the dodgy tombola!



There was also lots of delicious produce to be bought including home-made dog biscuits baked by everyone's favourite dog walker, Jane Moulder. (I know she's making some more, including grain-free so if you get a chance to buy some then do – our dog LOVED them!)

The tug-of-war proved very popular as did the welly wanging and the sock game and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves!



The vicar wanted to thank everyone who helped to organise, helped on the day and those who came along to support. Same time next year?



Isabella waiting to welcome everyone to the fun!



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



MRB HEATING

**We are Gas safe and OFTEC registered
Gas/Oil Boiler servicing and heating upgrades
Just give us a call or email**

Matt Beesley

07921 266211

1 Hillwell, Hankerton

Mbplumbing983@gmail.com

Hankerton History Group

Tuesday October 29th at 7pm in Hankerton Church.

Entry : £4.00 please. No need to book - all welcome.

Hankerton is an ancient village -

- Do you know how far back its history can be traced or the origins of the name?
- Have you seen the old maps of the village - or the aerial photographs?
- Have you ever seen the items discovered by the metal detecting team or in people's gardens?
- Did you know that the Hannah Ludlow Charity can be read about on village charity boards in the church?

All this and much more will be revealed by Anne Goodyer, Susan Mockler and the team at this evening's event.

Further information from Susan on 01666 577526





Patients Participation Group

Surgery News

Malmesbury Primary Care Centre (MPCC) has signed up to administer the autumn flu and Covid jabs and sessions will start in October.

Patients will receive invitations to book appointments.

There is concern this year with respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and certain patients will be offered the vaccine during September.

PATCHs

Contact can be made between 6-11am each weekday morning.

Phone requests can be made up to two weeks in advance with a GP of your choice.

So far 2.5k patients have registered to use the system.

In the future there is the intention to open it up for a longer period of time.

This has reduced the number of calls received at 8am.

POD

The necessary IT changes have been made to enable MPCC prescriptions to move over to the new pharmacy - Malmesbury Pharmacy and Travel Clinic.

Their opening times are:

Monday - Friday 8.30am to 9pm

Saturday - 8.30am to 8.30pm

Sunday - 10.00am - 4pm

Telephone number - 01666 826115

Whilst some patients may have experienced delays with their prescriptions requests to date things will settle down and it's hoped prescriptions will be processed on the same day.

Prescription requests cannot be ordered more than 2 weeks in advance.

The MPCC phone lines are running from 2-3pm for prescription requests for those patients who don't have access to IT.

GP Action

The BMA gave GP's 10 actions to consider regarding withdrawing their support for certain work streams.

MPCC GP's are not planning to take any collective action at this point in time.

Miscellaneous

100 appointments have been provided to help patients use the NHS app. If anyone would like further details on this then please contact the surgery.

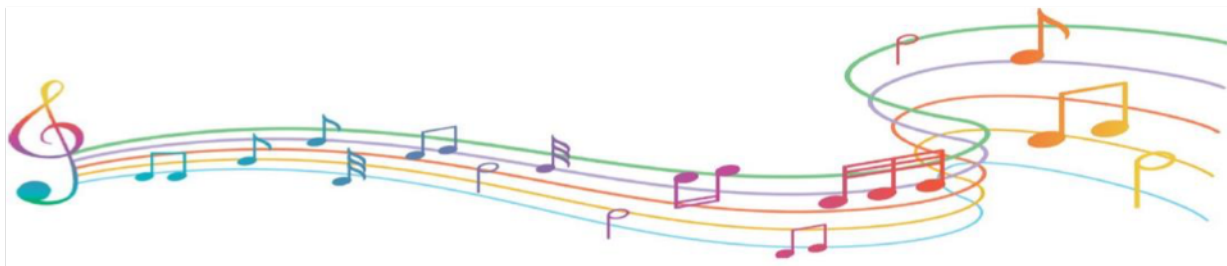
If anyone would like to raise a question or provide feedback about the service they've received from MPCC, I'll be very happy to take this forward. If you could let me have the details my telephone number is 07856202115.

The next Patient Participation Group meeting is on 1 October 2024.

Shayne Smith

Would you like to be part of a Braydon Brook Benefice Choir?

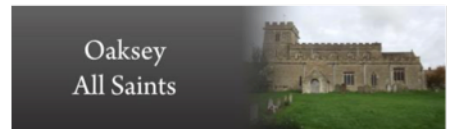
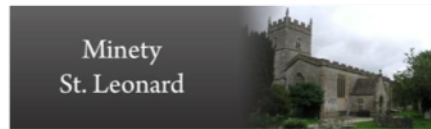
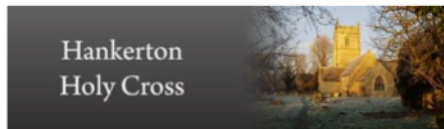
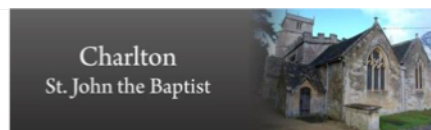
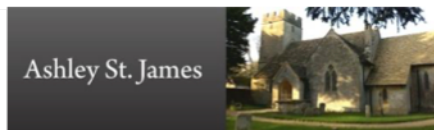
It would mean potentially singing in churches across the Benefice on special occasions, weddings and Benefice services.



If you are interested, please contact the Parish Office at bbbandgb@gmail.com. Your contact details and interest will then be passed on to Neil Medland.

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 6th October	9.30am, Holy Communion & Harvest Celebration @ Hankerton	
	10am, Friends & Family @ Crudwell	
	11am, Holy Communion @ Oaksey	
	4pm, Harvest Festival @ Minety	
	6pm, Evening Prayer @ Ashley	
Sunday 13th October	10am, Benefice Holy Communion Harvest Festival @ Ashley	
Sunday 20th October	9.30am, Holy Communion & Baptism @ Charlton	6pm Evening Prayer
	11am, Holy Communion @ Minety	
	11am, Harvest Festival @ Oaksey	
	4.30pm, Benefice, Prayer, Praise & Story @ Hankerton	
Sunday 27th October	9.30am, Holy Communion @ Ashley	
	9.30am, Morning Praise @ Charlton	
	11am, Holy Communion @ Crudwell	
	11am, Morning Praise & Volunteers Service @ Minety	
	10.15am Sunday School and 11am, Family Service @ Oaksey	

Mid-Week Services and Events

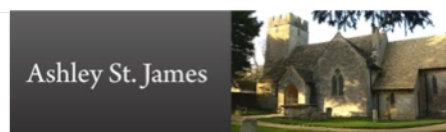
Monday	Every other week	10am	Bible Study via Zoom
Tuesday	Weekly	9.30am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
Wednesday	9th October (2nd Wed)	10.30am	Coffee & Chat @ Crudwell
	2nd, 9th, 16th October	2pm	Uncover – See for yourself 1 Days Court, Crudwell
Thursday	10th October (2nd Thu)	9.45am	BCP Communion Service @ Minety
Friday	Weekly	9.30am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
Saturday	5th October (1st Sat)	11am – 12.30pm	Café Church @ Hankerton

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

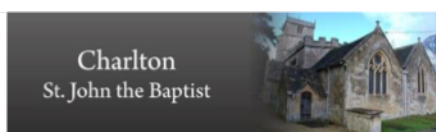


Services across the Braydon Brook Benefice

Some of these Services are still to be confirmed



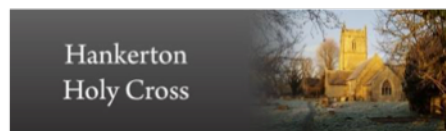
Ashley St. James



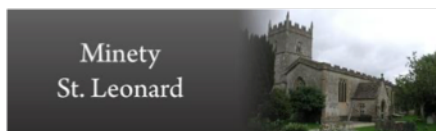
Charlton
St. John the Baptist



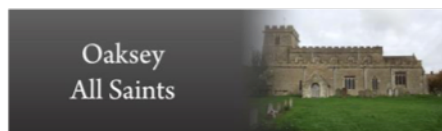
All Saints
Crudwell



Hankerton
Holy Cross



Minety
St. Leonard



Oaksey
All Saints

Date	Services in Church	Services on Zoom
Sunday 3rd November	9.30am, Holy Communion @ Hankerton	
	10am, Friends & Family @ Crudwell	
	11am, Holy Communion @ Oaksey	
	6pm, Evening Prayer @ Ashley	
Sunday 10th November	10am, Holy Communion @ Charlton followed by War Memorial Service	
	10am, Holy Communion , 10.45am Remembrance Service @ Hankerton	
	10.30am War Memorial Service followed by 10.55am Service in church @ Minety	
	10.45am Remembrance Service @ Crudwell	
	10.45am, Remembrance Service @ Oaksey	
Sunday 17th November	3pm, Celebration of 25 years since the Bells re-hung @ Charlton	
	11am, Holy Communion @ Minety	
	11am, Matins @ Oaksey	
	4.30pm, Benefice, Prayer, Praise & Story @ Hankerton	
Sunday 24th November	10.30am Deanery Service at Malmesbury Abbey	6pm Evening Prayer

Mid-Week Services and Events

Monday	Every other week	10am	Bible Study via Zoom
Tuesday	Weekly	9.30am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
Wednesday	13th November (2nd Wed)	10.30am	Coffee & Chat @ Crudwell
Thursday	14th November (2nd Thu)	9.45am	BCP Communion Service @ Minety
Friday	Weekly	9.30am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
Saturday	2nd November (1st Sat)	11am – 12.30pm	Café Church @ Hankerton
	2nd November	5pm	All Souls Quiet Benefice Service





Saturday
19th October

Richard Osgood: Retracing Saxon Footsteps
Malmesbury Town Hall – 7pm - **£10**

Sunday
20th October

Campbell Ritchie: Guided walk around the Saxon heart of Malmesbury
Malmesbury Town Hall – 10.30am
£7 Adult, £3.50 U16

Wednesday
23rd October

Tony McAleavy: The Stumpe Family of Malmesbury
The Old Bell Hotel garden room
Talk – 7.30pm - **£10**
2 Course dinner and talk– 6pm - **£40**

Friday
25th October

David Mitchell: The North Wessex Way – The Forgotten Road
Malmesbury Town Hall – 7pm - **£10**

Saturday
26th October

Tony McAleavy: The building of Malmesbury Abbey
Malmesbury Abbey– 7.30pm - **£15**

Full details of each event and tickets on the website

www.wessex-week.org

Tickets also available from the Malmesbury Tourist Information Office.

Wheatsheaf Inn Crudwell

Take away service

Please ring 01666 577739 or

Email tobygregory@aol.com

Available:

Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays:

12.00pm to 1.30pm and 5.30pm until 7.00pm

Sunday (roasts only) £13.00: 12.30pm to 1.00pm

Order early to avoid disappointment!

Menu choices:

Teriyaki chicken with rice or chips (£11.25)

Moroccan vegetable Tagine with rice (£10)

Crispy breaded scampi with chips or salad (£11)

6oz Cheeseburger and bacon with chips (£10.25)

Cajun Chicken Caesar salad (£10.50)

Beer battered cod and chips (£11.25)

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

Beef lasagna or vegetable Lasagna with chips (£11)

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

Desserts (*to be heated at home)

From £4.00

Ginger sponge with custard*

Bread and Butter Pudding with custard*

Butterscotch ice-cream sundae

Cash or card payments

Local Deliveries by arrangement

See www.wheatsheafcrudwell.co.uk for updates





So what?

If you spend any time on social media, or out with friends, or in the pub, you'll see how enraged people get when they see something they perceive as incorrect or unjust. From the smallest grammatical error to the atrocities of war, people are extremely vocal in expressing their

distaste regarding what is wrong in our world.

As I write this the Olympics have recently finished, and the world has listened with horror and revulsion to the fate of Olympian, Rebecca Cheptegei, who was set on fire by her ex boyfriend on her return home, and died from her injuries. We are quite rightly outraged by such an inhuman action, and the media is flooded with people giving their opinion on the situation.

The war in Israel rages on, with reports from both sides about the terrible wrongs being perpetrated against their people.

Refugees face unimaginable risks to try to find their way to safe haven, but even in countries such as our own, the situation in which they find themselves and the way they are treated is a very poor reflection on us. The media is only too happy to shout about the situation with each perspective taking its own, often opposing, view.

So many opinions, so many voices...so what ?

So what are we **DOING** about it? We know of the Olympic runner only because she was famous, and yet every day, all over the world and on our own doorsteps, people die or have their lives irrevocably changed by domestic violence. What are we doing about it?

We may not be able to head into a war zone to fight or protect, but are we just talking about it, or are we pressuring our governments, spending our money only with companies who aren't making financial gain because of bloodshed, and insuring those brave souls who do venture into war zones to help are doing so fully and financially equipped and supported? What are we doing about it?

Are we actively trying to seek the facts regarding refugees, the homeless or dispossessed, or having our opinions shaped by the loudest voice? Are we putting our money where our mouths are and offering support? Are we, even for one moment, putting ourselves into their shoes and asking what should we do about it?

All of us who have any moral compass have a duty to do more than just talk about how bad a situation is but rather, to actually do something about it. Those of us who call ourselves Christians are particularly challenged – we are under orders to do so!

As Christians we believe we are saved by the grace and mercy of God, and the sacrifice of Jesus – that our actions are not enough to save us, but rather it is our belief in God. But if we truly believe and chose to follow His command for us, we are then compelled to act. James 2 reads: You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that

What good is it if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

Our world is very far from perfect but, whether we have any faith or none, every single one of us, by our mere existence, WILL change the world. Whether we chose to change it for better or for worse is up to us.

Rachel Swatton – LLM



Hannah Ludlow Charity

During August we were visited by the Malmesbury and District u3a who wanted to look around our beautiful church and also read the indenture granting the Hannah Ludlow field to the parish. The money from renting this out is used by the Hannah Ludlow Trust for people in need in the village.

The explanation about the Hankerton charities and a full talk about the history of Hankerton will be given on 29th October at 7pm by the Hankerton History Group (see advert on page 13). We are hoping to encourage new residents to come and find out about the village they have chosen to live in.





The
GEORGE
Equine Clinic

01666 826456

24 HOUR EMERGENCY COVER

www.georgevetgroup.co.uk



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Facebook



The
GEORGE
Veterinary Hospital



**AROUND THE CLOCK
EMERGENCY CARE**

www.georgevetgroup.co.uk



Malmesbury

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