

The Grapevine



A belated Happy New Year to everyone! It seems like such a long time ago now but we hope that everyone had a good Xmas and New Year and are ready to face 2025 with renewed energy.

At the time of writing we've survived ice, fog, Storm Eowyn and 'Newsgate' and it's still only January! Looking forward to seeing what the rest of the year has to bring.

Don't forget we love getting your

contributions to the Grapevine so keep them coming in. So, without further ado let's get on with your February edition.

Deadline for news for the April Grapevine: March 10th 2025

The size and content of The Grapevine depends on the amount of copy we receive from individuals and groups, so please keep the news and events coming in!

All articles, adverts to be sent to: grapevinesn16@aol.com

Or to 21 Follyfield, Hankerton. SN16 9LA

The opinions expressed are the responsibility of the authors.

We reserve the right to edit material.

Nature Diary – February 2025

Willow trees comprise a group of about 300 different species around the world, mainly in cooler, more temperate and damper climes. They are trees that have been very useful to us, providing material for basket making, helping to stabilise watery environments, providing an early season source of pollen for bees and even a source of a treatment for pain. The list of uses is much more extensive than this.



We may be most familiar with the Crack Willow (*Salix fragilis*), often seen growing alongside rivers and streams, where it performs an important function of helping to stabilise the river bank and prevent erosion by the flowing water. These willows are often pollarded, where the branches are cut back to the trunk every few

years and allowed to regrow, thereby providing some wood to use, and also allowing light to reach the river. Pollarded willows will be known to most of us through the illustrations of Arthur Rackham in *The Wind in the Willows*, with Ratty and Mole boating along past river banks dotted with them. However, there are pollards in and around Hankerton. Pollarding also makes the tree less prone to splitting, and the Latin species name “*fragilis*” alludes to the fact that this species breaks very easily. If you bend a twig away from the supporting larger twig, it will break easily off at the junction.

The bark is brown and criss-crossed with thick ridges, and as the pollard gets older the crown becomes filled with holes and crevices which in turn hold decaying leaves which provide a growing medium for other species of plants. One researcher looked at 400 pollards along the



Evenlode and Windrush rivers in Oxfordshire and found 74 species growing in the crowns.



The leaves are elongated with a gentle toothed along the edge. The tree is deciduous, but one of the last to shed its leaves in autumn. Left to grow, the Crack Willow can grow to 25 metres, providing wind and weather have not caused it to split or break.

Like all willows it will grow readily from a cutting, in fact they rarely fail. Stakes for hedge-laying are usually driven into the ground upside-down, (i.e. the narrower end of the stake making it easier to push through the earth), but willow stakes will even “take” when planted upside down! So, they are avoided by those maintaining hedges.

Another willow species that we are all probably familiar with is the Pussy Willow, or more correctly, the Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*) also known as the Sallow. “*Caprea*” refers to a goat, and it is thought that it has been applied to this species because the earliest illustration of the species shows a goat browsing on its leaves.

This is a more shrubby species growing to perhaps 18 metres. The Pussy Willow refers to the male flowers that emerge in January and turn yellow towards March when the flower opens up and reveals the pollen, which as previously mentioned is a very important source of pollen for bees early in the season. Willows are dioecious - that is, the male and female flowers are borne on different plants. The female flowers are green in colour and not as obvious to see. The leaves of the Goat Willow are more ovate (rounder) than the Crack Willow.



Another species that is widely cultivated is the Osier (*Salix viminalis*) which is a fast-growing shrub, especially after coppicing, and provides the long, straight shoots suitable for basket making. There are many cultivars and varieties grown here, and the colour ranges from pale yellow to deep purple.

Osier is also what is known as a hyperaccumulator of heavy metals and other pollutants, and so may have a future role in phytoremediation (using plants to clean up our mess).

Finally, those who may have over-indulged at Christmas, perhaps reached for some Aspirin to ease a headache, but did you know that the active ingredient ultimately came from willow bark. The bark contains salicin which Scottish physician, Thomas MacLagan, showed was very effective in treating rheumatism. Within a few years chemists had produced acetylsalicylic acid which is the active ingredient of Aspirin, and the cure for the hangover (and much more) had arrived.

So, willows are a most useful tree species, but also add so much to our environment. The preservation of river banks, perhaps with a Weeping Willow hanging over the water as your boat glides along on a summer day, the wind rustling the leaves in some statuesque Crack Willows, and the occasional sound of a cricket ball being struck in the mid-distance (by willow, of course!).

Steve Davies





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

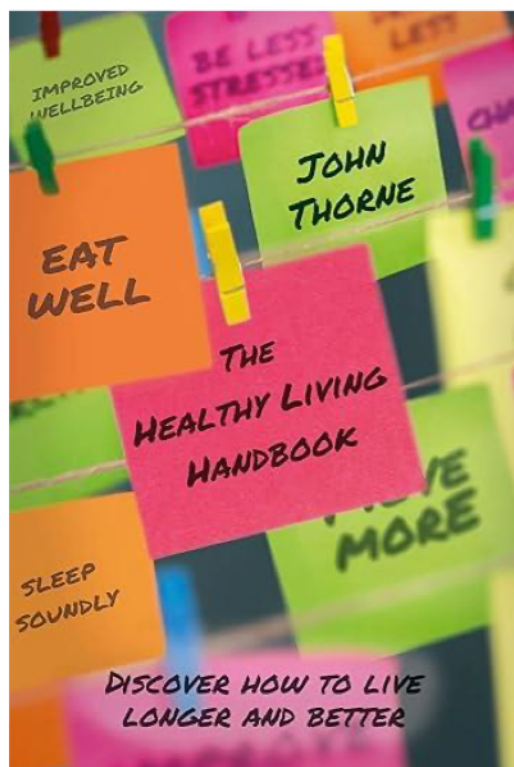
Steve: 07802 3538325 or

Catherine: 07786522455

or email: minetyshop@gmail.com

The Healthy Living Handbook

By John Thorne



I live in Hankerton. You may have seen me around the village, walking Barney the dog, or running when I should be indoors.

I have published The Healthy Living Handbook. In the UK one in seven deaths are preventable. The top six illnesses cause most of these deaths: a healthy lifestyle cuts the risk of all of them. What's more, a healthy lifestyle benefits every part of our lives. Relationships, how we feel about ourselves, our enjoyment of life, our looks, our outlook, our sex lives, how much money we have, how long we live for, and our quality of life.

The book states how to achieve these benefits. It also acknowledges the barriers to living healthily and addresses them. All in 150 pages.

The book averages 4+ stars in reviews on Amazon and Goodreads. Amazon gives a summary of its reviews: "Customers find the book readable, well-written, and well-designed. They say it's a useful reference guide with clear advice on how to improve health. Readers also appreciate the warm, friendly style and that it'd be ideal for those looking for somewhere to start."

Here are some individual reviews:

A little gem of a book! I love this book A must-read

The book has an integrity that is warm and welcoming

A great guide to help you feel better in all areas of your life

The author cuts the waffle, goes straight to the point and does so with attention-grabbing humour I highly recommend this book

The book would make an excellent present or help with the common New Year resolution to get fit and healthy.

thehealthylivinghandbook.co.uk has more information, an excerpt, and links to buy the book. It is £9.75 on Amazon and £4.99 on Kindle.

QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 7th February 2025

7pm – 10pm

Rausing Building, Malmesbury

Prizes

Raffle



Fun!

**Light
Supper**

Come on your own and join a team on the night - or come as a team of 4.

Suitable for all - quiz covers a wide range of topics.

Cash bar on the night.

Tickets £10.00 (includes light supper) are available online and in the Athelstan Museum shop.



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 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

BOLD BEGINNINGS IN GENESIS

Marilynne Robinson in her book Reading Genesis, says 'The Bible is...a meditation on the problem of evil. This being true, it must take account of things **as they are**. It must acknowledge in a meaningful way the darkest aspects of the reality we experience, and it must reconcile them with the goodness of God and of Being itself against which this darkness stands out so sharply.'

Bold Beginnings in Genesis

is the subject of two study groups between now and Easter



Men's Den @ the Rectory, 1 Day's Court, SN16 9HG. Wednesdays @ 7:30pm

Women and Words @ the Rectory 1 Day's Court, SN16 9HG @ 2:00

March 5, 12, 19, 26. These are discussion groups. All perspectives are warmly welcomed.

PUB THEOLOGY 7:30 @ THE HORSE AND GROOM, CHARLTON

NOVEMBER 22ND JESSY PRICE: BRIDGET JONES MEETS SAINT PAUL

JANUARY 28TH DAVE FRAMPTON: WHY TALK TO GOD?

FEBRUARY 28TH DOUG JOHNSTON: CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE CHRISTIAN CONSCIENCE

MARCH 25TH / APRIL 29TH / MAY 20TH FAITH FLOWS

MARCH: OLIVER ROSS: DO I BELIEVE WHAT ALTHELSTAN BELIEVED? BLENDING IN AND STANDING OUT THEN AND NOW.

APRIL: : HOW DO I BELIEVE? DOES FAITH JUST HAPPEN?

MAY : JOANNA AND RICHARD BACON : CHILDREN AND BELIEVING: SHOULD WE PASS IT ON?



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 2nd February	9.30am, Holy Communion @ Hankerton	
	10am, Friends & Family @ Crudwell	
	11am, Holy Communion @ Oaksey	
	6pm, Evening Prayer @ Ashley	
Sunday 9th February	10am, Benefice Holy Communion @ Minety	
Sunday 16th February	9.30am, Holy Communion @ Charlton	6pm Evening Prayer
	11am, Holy Communion @ Minety	
	11am, Matins @ Oaksey	
	4.30pm, Prayer, Praise & Story @ Hankerton	
Sunday 23rd February	9.30am, Holy Communion @ Ashley	
	9.30am, Morning Praise @ Charlton	
	11am, Holy Communion @ Crudwell	
	11am, Morning Praise @ 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	9.00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
Wednesday	12th February (2nd Wed)	10.30am	Coffee & Chat @ Crudwell
	Weekly	7.30pm	Men's Bible Study 1 Days Court, Crudwell
Thursday	13th February (2nd Thu)	9.45am	BCP Communion Service @ Minety
Friday	Weekly	9.00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
Saturday	1st February (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.

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	9.30am, Morning Praise @ Charlton		
	11am, Holy Communion @ Crudwell		
	11am, Morning Praise @ Minety		
	10.15am Sunday School and 11am, Family Service @ Oaksey		
Sunday 9 th March	10am, Benefice Holy Communion @ Hankerton, Mothering Sunday		
Mid-Week Services and Events			
Monday	Every other week	10am	Bible Study via Zoom
Tuesday	Weekly	9.00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
Wednesday	5 th March (Ash Wednesday)	12.00 noon	Holy Communion, Imposition of Ashes
	12 th March (2 nd Wed)	10.30am	Coffee & Chat @ Crudwell
	Weekly	7.30pm	Men’s Bible Study 1 Days Court, Crudwell
Thursday	13 th March (2 nd Thu)	9.45am	BCP Communion Service @ Minety
Friday	Weekly	9.00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
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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. This winter a new pertinent factor may be the removal of winter fuel payments for the elderly, especially in the event of prolonged cold weather. So, keep an eye on each other, as people in Hankerton always do, and contact the charity if assistance could be provided.



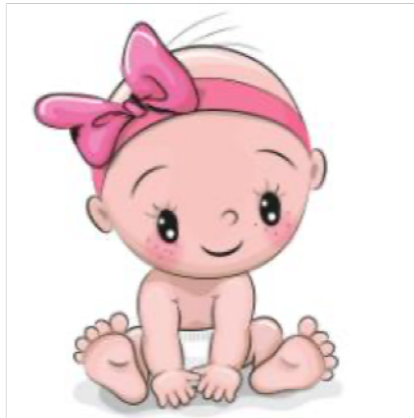
YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU !



I could do with some help with the church treasuring, with a view to taking over. I've done it for too long. To discuss further, please contact me at The Old School House, next to the church or 01666 575465 or email me at philipjacarter@hotmail.co.uk

Philip Carter

Good News! Good News! Good News! Good News!



Layla Rose

You wait for years for your first grandchild and then, just like buses, another one comes along right behind! Mary and Paul O'Brien would like to welcome baby Layla Rose into the world, the first child of Lauren and Jordi, born on New Years Day at RUH in Bath (very thoughtful of her – free parking for the proud grandparents!). We'd like to thank everyone on their behalf for all the good wishes and gifts that you've bestowed on them and look forward to showing her off in the coming (warmer) months.



QUIET PLACE – Shelagh Dalton

Some days when I sit down to write – Either by day
or by night

I find that my words will not easily flow – As they
used to do, not long ago

And what I need is feeding by the reading of Your
Word – To enable me to contemplate all that I have
seen or heard

And then I can communicate between You, My Lord
and me – So, I thank You in my Quiet Place for Your
Truth has set me free

I miss it when the words will not come in plain verse
or in rhyme – But when You restore the flow to me, I
thank You every time

Keep writing to me, Lord, let your letters never cease
– For when I am in this Quiet Place, I am enveloped
in Your Peace.

CHURCH MATTERS



Another year has rushed by and while there has been a change of government and the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, things have been steady at Hankerton church. Our biggest annual service was again the Carols on 22nd December, when 90 attended, supported by a small choir and a saxophonist. There were also 53 in church on Christmas Day. The Carol service was followed by mulled wine and mince pies, then people went home past the splendidly lit Christmas tree outside by the tower. Nick Durnford had kindly donated this tree, as well as another one inside the church. We also thank Steve Davies for once again managing the north side of the churchyard, including traditional hand scything the long grass, also thanks to lots of people on the cleaning and flower rotas and Heather Goodwin for regularly playing the church organ.

On 26th August, we had a “Family Fun Day”, mostly in the churchyard with a variety of children's games, a raffle and finishing with an all-ages tug-of-war in the “ridge and furrow” field, next to the churchyard. There was also a barbecue, kindly organised by Sue and Andy Waring. We also held the annual Strawberry Tea in the churchyard and, in December, an Advent Sale.

In September, Peter Wyman set up some waterproof speakers at the top of the tower, so that on special occasions, we have been able to hear the Malmesbury Abbey bells, as well as bells from other major churches and cathedrals. The sound is most realistic and much appreciated.

We would also like to thank our rector Bob, as well as Sarah and Richenda for taking various services throughout the year and there was another very good attendance (42) for the annual Remembrance Day service, taken by the War Grave. Our Holy Communion service on the first Sunday continues and Bob has introduced a new informal service on the 3rd Sunday called PPS (Prayer, Praise and Story) for all ages.

As in previous years, the annual finances are close to breakeven, thanks partly to income from old legacies and the generosity of villagers, doing regular tax-efficient “Planned Giving”. Philip has been Church Treasurer (as well as Churchwarden) for a long time and he will be resigning as Treasurer at the annual meeting in April 2025. Please contact him to discuss it further. We need PCC members and also volunteers on the cleaning rota. If you could do just 2 weeks during the year, it would be greatly appreciated.

As ever, we look forward to 2025 with renewed confidence and optimism.

Philip Carter Valerie Durnford Churchwardens

Athelstan Museum 2025



2024 was a successful year for all the activities held in the museum and the Rausing building.

The new year brings more opportunities for people to enjoy a wide-ranging series of talks during afternoons and evenings.

This starts with a quiz (not all history you will be pleased to know!) on **February 7th**, tickets include a light supper and there is a paid bar.

The afternoon talks, which include tea and cake, start at 2.30pm for tea followed by a speaker.

We have some great talks lined up for 2025:

Teatime Talks - Wednesdays at 2.30pm

Feb 26th - Deborah Clogg

Behind the Scenes at the Museum. What, Why & Where is the Collection. Athelstan Museum holds nearly 5,000 objects in its collection. How do we take items into the collection? Why and how do we move them out? How do we know what we have and where it is? How do we look after the collection? How do we make it accessible to the public? Plus, a look at some of the fascinating and perhaps surprising objects that you may not know we hold!

March 19th - Tony McAleavy

Manuscript Treasures from Medieval Malmesbury.

April 23rd - Anne Goodyer

A history of Malmesbury told by its Buildings 1170 to 2014.

May 21st - Bill Reed

The Lost Language of Wiltshire. The Everyday Speech of Jackdaws and Moonrakers.

June 18th - Alexia Clark

The work of the MOD War Detectives.

Evening Events

Feb 7th - Museum Quiz

May 9th - Nicola Moorby

Talk about JMW Turner



Tickets & further details for all Museum Events will be available from our

website <https://www.athelstanmuseum.org.uk> or in the Museum.

Thank you to everyone for supporting the Athelstan Museum in 2024 – one of our most successful with over 15,000 visitors who can all visit the museum free of charge thanks to fund-raising and donations.

Susan Mockler



A Message from Roz Savage MP

As we enter 2025, I've been taking some time out to reflect on 2024, and to set my priorities for the year ahead, given the many opportunities and challenges facing our South Cotswolds community.

The recent rainfall and consequent flooding issues remind us that we live in a

changing climate, putting environmental issues front and centre. I'm pleased to see so many businesses, farmers, and local groups stepping up to do their part and make a difference. My Climate and Nature Bill, which is due for its second reading in Parliament on 24th January, is part of this push to support positive environmental changes nationally, but also right here in our community.

Here are some of our other priorities for this year:

- Tackling the challenges of **health and social care, public transport, and broadband provision** in our rural communities
- Working with farmers and the Royal Agricultural University to promote **regenerative agricultural practices and making high quality, local food accessible to all**
- **Addressing water quality and flooding issues** – we're hiring a dedicated team member and will be drawing together residents, landowners and authorities to create effective solutions
- Building and sharing community best practices to help tackle the continuing **cost of living crisis, share skills, and boost social connections**
- Ensuring the **views and voices of our young people are heard**, and their needs met

There is still so much untapped potential and expertise in the South Cotswolds. I firmly believe that the best people to decide what a community needs are the people who live in that community.

My team and I are keen to listen to what you have to say, and to coordinate efforts to face whatever challenges may come our way and build a brighter, more sustainable, more secure and resilient future for all.

Wishing you a Happy New Year filled with hope, health, and new opportunities.

Roz Savage MP (roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk)

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 (£14.95)

Moroccan vegetable Tagine with rice (£13.95)

Crispy breaded scampi with chips or salad (£14.25)

6oz Cheeseburger and bacon with chips (£12)

Cajun Chicken Caesar salad (£13.75)

Beer battered cod and chips (£14.95)

Chicken Madras Curry with rice and naan bread (£14.25)

Beef lasagna or vegetable Lasagna with chips (£14.75)

Spicy Vegetable burger, salsa and chunky chips (£13)

Pan fried Lambs Liver with mash and onion gravy (£14)

Desserts (*to be heated at home)

All £4.00

Sticky Toffee Pudding 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



Patient Participation Group – Surgery News



Vaccines

Vaccine clinics have now finished.

90% of patients had both Covid and flu vaccines.

GP's

Two GP's are leaving - Dr Blackman has been with MPCC for 5 years and is retiring. Dr Jones is leaving.

Two new GP's have been recruited to replace them.

It's hoped to add two more GP sessions in the New Year.

Two new specialist medical practitioners are joining the practice - Hannah Lawday and Manthan Goomer with a primary focus on diabetes.

Missed appointments

MPCC is going to publish data on the number of patients who fail to keep their appointments.

Numbers remain high and patients are advised there are a number of ways to cancel an appointment, at any time via the NHS app or phone, without having to speak to a receptionist.

If you have any comments that you would like to make about the services at MPCC please do not hesitate to let me know and I'll be very happy to take this forward. My contact number is 07856202115.

The next Patient Participation Group meeting is on 4 February 2025.

Provisional dates for meetings in 2025 are: 1st April, 3rd June, 7th August, 7th October and 2nd December.

Shayne Smith



The
GEORGE
Equine Clinic

01666 826456

24 HOUR EMERGENCY COVER
www.georgevetgroup.co.uk



 Find us on
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Malmesbury

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