

The Grapevine



Helloooo....is there anybody out there????
Just wondering since our Inbox is practically empty this month! The Grapevine is YOUR village magazine and has been since 1913! It used to be FULL of village news – excitement over a new birth, welcoming new people to

the village, pride over a loved one running the London Marathon or just winning the 3 legged race at school, congratulating a villager for doing well at school or University – even asking for sponsorship for some amazing feat that someone was doing for charity - it was a way of letting everyone know that we were proud of someone in our lives and celebrating them as a village. It was full of information about the various groups that we have here, the minutes from the Parish Council meetings, upcoming events etc. Speaking to a member of the Parish Council recently, I was told that they are considering putting a leaflet together telling everyone about what's going on in the village. 'Isn't that what the Grapevine is for?' I asked incredulously! 'Well yes, I suppose so but there's a general feeling that nobody reads it anymore.' Well, The Grapevine is here and already in place for anything that people want to know about Hankerton. We are very grateful to our regular contributors but really need more! If you don't want the Grapevine to go the way of the Dodo then **PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE** send us your news! Mary and Susan.

Deadline for news for the October Grapevine: September 10th 2026

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 – August 2026



It has been a hot spell(s) of weather by anyone's standards, with warm air moving up from the western side of Europe. This movement of air (or winds) helps summer insect visitors get here, and this year has seen large numbers of Painted Lady (*Cynthia cardui*) butterflies. If you are walking in a meadow, you are very likely to see a small number along with the greater numbers of Meadow Browns, Whites, Gatekeepers, etc. In many years you would be lucky to see just one, and only

occasionally.

It is quite a large butterfly (similar to a Red Admiral or Peacock) and beautifully marked with mainly a rich orange colour with black markings over both wings and white ones at the tip of the forewing. It could be confused with a Red Admiral but that is mainly black with red markings and white patches at the forewing tips.

The Painted Ladies that come here in summer have travelled from North Africa, in enormous numbers, most deciding to settle in continental Europe. It has been reported that when they emerge from their pupae, and decide to travel, they form such large "swarms" that they cast shadows on the ground. They have thinned out considerably by the time that they arrive here.

The adults will feed on a wide range of flowers in meadows and lay their eggs on the different species of thistles. The

caterpillars fold over the leaves of the plant and secure with silk to form a tent in which to shelter. They do eat their tent as they grow, so have to make new and larger ones, eventually growing large enough to pupate. If you see a half-eaten thistle leaf, held together with silk, and littered with caterpillar droppings, it was probably the previous home of a Painted Lady caterpillar!



The life-cycle is probably only a month long, so in hot UK summers there may be several generations produced, with numbers of adult butterflies peaking between July and September, but none of the stages are able to survive our colder winters. Whether adult

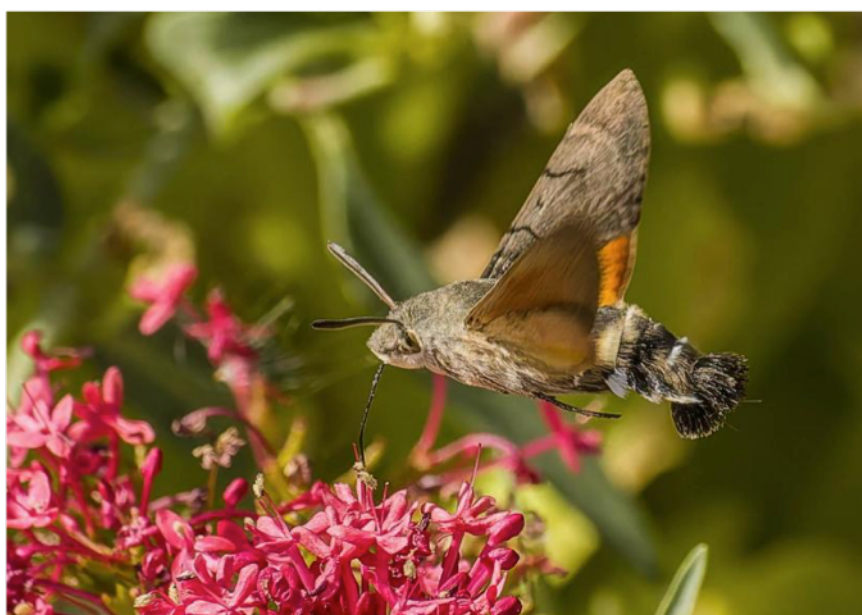
Painted Ladies in the UK return to North Africa in the autumn is not known, but there is evidence that those on the continent do return, where they can breed for much more of the year, and produce the huge numbers to colonise Europe again the following year.



Another insect to try and spot during the summer months is the Hummingbird Hawkmoth (*Macroglossum stellatarum*). It “does what it says on the tin” and looks like a small hummingbird hovering in front of flowers sucking up nectar. It’s not a large moth, the wingspan is 40 – 45 mm (1.6 to 1.8 inches), and the colours are not striking. The body is a pale grey brown, the forewings are pale brown with black wavy lines across them, but the hind wings are orange. It has a tufted tail which is predominantly black, so overall an attractive looking insect. It is its hovering flight and moving swiftly from

flower to flower that will catch your attention, and once spotted, it is a fascinating watch, and if it’s quiet, you may hear a humming sound. Admire the proboscis which it pushes into the usually long-necked flower, as at 25 – 28 mm long, it is about $\frac{3}{4}$ the width of the wings. Flowers that seem to be particularly attractive to the adults are definitely Red Valerian, and also Buddleia, Phlox, Nicotiana and Verbena. The larval foodplant are mainly the Bedstraws.

It used to be said that they didn’t overwinter here, and each year we had to wait for them to migrate north from Europe and North Africa in the spring, but with people spotting them very early in the year on warm days, there is a suggestion that because of climate change they may be surviving winters here in small numbers.



So, two very interesting insects to try and spot when you are out and about or in the garden, and both with a long journey behind them – incredible for such small things.



The photographs are by some of the very skilful photographers at the Ravensroost volunteer group.

Steve Davies



PPG

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AT

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Contact

Please contact us at:
hello@murcottfarmshop.co.uk

Opening Hours

Mon - Sat 8:00 am – 6:00 pm
Sunday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm



CARNIVAL VOICES

ON FLYING MONK RADIO

Flying Monk Radio, on its "Listen Again" page, is hosting Carnival memories in the voices of Bob Browning and Stan Paginton.

Our thanks to Flying Monk & Carnival for supporting our Museum

Here is the link:

<https://www.flyingmonkcommunityprojects.com/malmesbury-carnival-remembered>





Attention2Beauty is now at the Riverside Community Centre, Malmesbury SN16 9JS

Attention2Beauty is excited to announce that we will be at the Riverside Community Centre on selected Fridays. We invite everyone to come and experience a day of relaxation and beauty with us. Whether you're looking for skincare treatments or just a bit of pampering, we have something for everyone.

Stay Connected

To keep up with our schedule and special offers, make sure to follow us on social media. You'll find updates, beauty inspiration, and exclusive content on our platforms:

- **Instagram:** @attention2beauty
- **Facebook:** Attention2Beauty



Please feel free to message me on either of these platforms. I look forward to seeing you at the Riverside Community Centre and connecting with you online!



Treatments currently on offer,

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EMAIL Jean :- attention2beauty@hotmail.com

**Also at Riverside on selected Monday mornings with OAP
discounts! See Mary O'Brien for more details (01666 577394)**



August in Hankerton - by Roz Savage MP

August in Hankerton is one of the quieter pleasures of representing South Cotswolds. The lanes around here; the ones that connect Hankerton to Crudwell, to Ashley, to the broader network of small north Wiltshire villages, have a particular quality in summer.

Earlier in the summer, those lanes were busier than usual. The Crudwell 24-hour 'Le Mans' Bike Ride has been running since 1990, raising money first to build Crudwell Village Hall and now to maintain it and support charities chosen

by the competing teams. The relay route runs clockwise from the Village Hall, through Long Newton, towards Ashley, and back through Chedglow, a circuit that takes in the very countryside surrounding Hankerton. I dropped in on the evening of the 20th to spend an hour with the Friends of Crudwell School team, captained by Guillaume Kerboul, and even managed a lap myself. It is exactly the kind of event that makes this part of the constituency so special; neighbours, teams, a village hall, and a 24-hour commitment to something bigger than themselves.

The village hall at Crudwell is worth reflecting on. It has served this part of north Wiltshire for decades, and the bike ride exists specifically to keep it going. I have been struck, across the constituency, by how many rural communities depend on a single building; a hall, a pub, a church room, as the practical anchor of community life. When those buildings are lost or fall into disrepair, the loss is harder to quantify than a closed hospital or a cancelled bus route, but it is just as real. I will keep making the case in Parliament for proper investment in rural community infrastructure.

In Malmesbury, the nearest town, just a few miles away, summer has brought the inaugural Rivers Festival, and I attended the Midsummer Garden Festival at Abbey House Manor Garden to watch the Athelstan Players perform *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in one of the most beautiful outdoor settings in Wiltshire. Earlier in the month I also joined the Malmesbury River Heritage Walk along the River Avon, led by scientist Dr Jumana Akhtar and local historian Campbell Ritchie. The health of that river, and the question of what is

being discharged into it, connects directly to the landscape around Hankerton, and it is a thread I will keep pulling on.

If you have a local concern to raise or are having a problem you feel I can help you with, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. My team and I will always help in anyway that we can.

Warm wishes,

Roz Savage MP Tel: 01285 286 160 | roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk

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Services across the Braydon Brook Benefice

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



Date	Services in Church	Additional information
Sunday 2nd August	9.30am, Holy Communion & Hankerton	
	10am, Friends & Family @ Crudwell	
	11am, Holy Communion @ Oaksey	
	6pm, Evening Prayer @ Ashley	
Sunday 9th August	10.00 am, Benefice Communion @Charlton	
Sunday 16th August	8.30am, BCP Holy Communion @ Ashley	
	9.30am, Holy Communion @ Charlton	
	9.30 am, Morning Praise @ Crudwell	
	11am, Holy Communion @ Minety	
	11am, Matins @ Oaksey	
	4.00pm Prayer, Praise & Story @ Hankerton	
Sunday 23rd August	9.30am, Holy Communion @ Ashley	
	9.30am, Morning Praise @ Charlton	
	10.00 Family Service @ Oaksey	
	11am, Holy Communion @ Crudwell	
	11am, Morning Praise @ Minety	
Sunday 30th August	10.00 am, Benefice Communion @ Minety	

Mid-Week Services and Events

Tuesday	Weekly	9.00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
Wednesday	12th August (2nd Wed)	10.30am	Coffee & Chat @ Crudwell
Thursday	13th August (2nd Thu)	9.45am	BCP Communion Service @ Minety
Friday	Weekly	9.00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
Saturday	1st August (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

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



Date	Services in Church	Additional information
Sunday 6th September	9.30am, Holy Communion & Hankerton	
	10am, Friends & Family @ Crudwell	
	11am, Holy Communion @ Oaksey	
	6pm, Evening Prayer @ Ashley	
Sunday 13th September	10.00 am, Benefice Communion @ Hankerton	<i>With a harvest lunch</i>
Sunday 20th September	8.30am, BCP Holy Communion @ Ashley	
	9.30am, Holy Communion @ Charlton	
	9.30am, Morning Praise @ Crudwell	
	11am, Holy Communion @ Minety	
	11am, Matins @ Oaksey	
	4.00pm Prayer, Praise & Story @ Hankerton	
Sunday 27th September	9.30am, Holy Communion @ Ashley	
	9.30am, Morning Praise @ Charlton	
	10.00 Family Service @ Oaksey	
	11am, Holy Communion @ Crudwell	
	11am, Morning Praise @ Minety	

Mid-Week Services and Events

Tuesday	Weekly	9.00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
Wednesday	9th September (2nd Wed)	10.30am	Coffee & Chat @ Crudwell
Thursday	10th September (2nd Thu)	9.45am	BCP Communion Service @ Minety
Friday	Weekly	9.00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
Saturday	5th September (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.



Patients Participation Group



Surgery News

Staffing

MPCC is waiting for clarification from the NHS on whether some money is recurrent and, if so, it is hoped to be able to recruit a further GP who will undertake six sessions at the surgery (3 full days).

Continuity of care

This was highlighted as part of the patient survey with patients wishing to see the same GP or medical practitioner. MPCC continues to develop this project with 66/67% of patients in March confirming they saw the same GP for a follow up appointment.

PATCH's

Funding for this scheme is coming to an end and will be stopped by October 2026. Online alternatives are currently being assessed, such as New System on line. This system connects directly with the patient's records and may prove to be a more efficient system. It is hoped that the new system will be in place by September.

End of life care

The Daffodil scheme introduced by Marie Curie is seeking to provide national standards for the structure of end-of-Life Care offered through GP Practices and MPCC is introducing this scheme. This will include a holistic approach with training so that as the EOL care is administered it will enable patients, relatives and carers to have a joined-up approach to their care, whether patient, carer or family. There will also be a named

person who would be in touch with the relevant relative/carer when the patient has died to ensure suitable follow up care.

Patient Participation Group (PPG)

Is a partnership between MPCC and patients enabling good communication between village representatives and GP's to improve the quality of the service that is provided. The group comprises of patient volunteers who are supported by the GP's and Practice Manager and meet every other month and discuss healthcare issues, national and local, large and small so that the members can then relay points back to their community through local networks. The group is looking for more volunteers and if you would like to join (no experience is necessary) then please go the MPCC web site for further details.

Annual General Meeting Is on Tuesday 4th August 2026 at 18.30 and all are welcome.

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 August (AGM). Other provisional dates for meetings in 2026 are: 6 October and 8 December.

Shayne Smith



People's Emergency Briefing

Lea Church,
SN16 9PA

2 September 2026
7.30pm

Admission by ticket only

If you missed the sell-out events in Malmesbury on 26 June, join us for another FREE screening of this eye-opening film about climate & nature that brings together nine leading scientists and experts to talk about the latest evidence and how it will affect us in the UK.

Scan the QR code for
more info and tickets:



Or visit: buytickets.at/emergencybriefinglea/2309686

More information & details of other screenings can be found at www.nebriefing.org

"That's our home, it's the only one we've got. It's where all of our species has lived and died, everyone, every single human.

It's where we breathe, it's where we eat, we laugh, we cry, we love, we hate and as far as we know, together with all the other wonderful life on Earth we are the only known life forms in the universe and we've got nowhere else to go."

Chris Packham - CBE



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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)

Spicey 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



Bricked up Doorways

“Then one of them (i.e. 1 of the 10 lepers), when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He bowed down at Jesus’ feet and thanked him.” Luke 17 vs 15-16



When I first arrived here, I was intrigued by the two holes cut through these large pillars, either side of the chancel in Crudwell Church. I hadn't seen anything quite like them before. They're called '*hagioscopes*,' sometimes known as 'squints.' The term comes from the ancient Greek '*hagio*,' meaning 'holy,' and '*scope*' to 'see.' They were designed to give worshippers, if they were sat behind a column, a direct line of sight to the altar.

I theorised that the bricked in door in the north aisle, must be a 'Leper Door.' The belief was that small doorways in churches, were designed to allow lepers to look inside and observe the Communion from a distance. It is appealing to think that this may be such a door.

But modern historians argue that many of these doors probably served simply as an entrance for the priest or, even more simply, for ventilation. They caused unwelcome drafts and required additional security so many were permanently sealed up when they fell out of daily use.

The bricked in door and the possible connection to lepers in the past, links to the story of the 10 lepers in Luke's Gospel. Lepers remained on the fringes of a community, shunned by everyone, because of their infectious condition. Their disease keeps them at a distance, so, standing some way off, they holler at Jesus:

'Jesus, Master. Have mercy on us.'

Their cry has a profound element of hope in it. They had to shout at Jesus in order to make themselves heard, but Jesus didn't shout back at them! He goes up close, and speaks to them, treating them with all the respect that any human being deserves. They

obey his instructions to show themselves to the priests and are made clean. I don't think we can imagine their shared happiness!

Only one of them returns to thank and praise Jesus. The Samaritan, on seeing what has happened to him, is filled with gratitude, with awe – that strange mixture of fear and wonder and joy. We're not told why the others didn't return. Perhaps, in the sheer moment of wonder, they were so caught up in their changed world, that they simply didn't think of coming back to say "Thank you" to Jesus. Whatever the reason, they lost sight of Jesus. Maybe we too have sat down metaphorically in a place, where we no longer have a clear view of Jesus?

The fantastic news is that Christ never loses sight of us. He comes to talk with us quietly, privately, and to great effect. Like the lepers, we have been ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven....We have been brought into fellowship and family with God. That is wonderful.

Let this moment be a reminder to us to stop, look, call out, receive and notice what we have received, to give thanks, and praise God.

With every blessing - Reverend Bob

From : Elizabeth Threlfall (Wiltshire Councillor for Brinkworth Division)



Booking for visits to the local tips from 15th September:

I am sorry to have to announce that an online booking system is to be introduced for visits to our local tips (aka Household Recycling Centres) at Purton, Stanton St Quintin and Lower Compton. Weirdly this is despite the data which shows that fly-tipping FELL by 20% after the Covid era booking system was removed.

Booking will be via the page link below using a Wiltshire Council Citizen ID. It will open on 8th and from the 14th you will need to have a time slot booked to visit. There will be a telephone number for people who are not online (although it is not available yet) – and it may be that people who do not book in advance are still allowed to use the facility – although no guarantee.



DILEMMA

I was saddened to see in the village today - The
reason behind our need to pray
The old church, Your House of Prayer - May soon no
longer be standing there
For on its old wall, outside for all to see - A “For
Sale” board hangs, now that there is a lack of
community
Who care enough to pray or sing, silence reigns - For
Heaven’s sake the sign should not remain
Folk should play a greater part - Let the church
become again the centre of this village heart
Mayhap this hope would soon come clear - For this
old church has served God’s purpose all these years
Dear Lord, turn us in the right direction - To thus
grant this church our protection

We pray to You, Oh Lord, above - Who holds us in
Your Perfect Love.
Tell us in Your time and place - What should be done
in this sad case
There is a dilemma at the start - For can the House of
God become a home of man or does it stay a church
at heart?
Dear Lord, please help us if You will - To save this
little church from ill
By keeping it a holy place - To see again a
congregation's face
Lighten knowing they're near at hand - To You,
Lord, is this just what You plan?
The saddest sight for all to see - Is a dying church, so
hear our plea
We need to sit and think and pray - From now indeed
and every day
I hate to see a church redundant made - For then the
light of God's Word thus might fade
Where better then to hear our children's voices lift in
song - We need God's church to meditate, in
fellowship belong
Let's use our power of prayer to make come true -
This dream to keep alive the voice of God in this
House too.

26.03.97.

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Message from the Ministry - Coping with the inevitable changes we all face in our lifetime

Whether we welcome them or not, changes come along and affect our lives! Some of the changes are barely discernible, and we take them in our stride easily, whilst others will have a profound, ongoing impact. Changes in our personal relationships, employment (or the lack of it), finances, retirement, moving homes, starting a family, children growing up and leaving home, ageing, bereavement – all these factors play their part in changing our lives, just as the seasons change throughout the year.

God's Word promises that seasons change. When change comes our way, it is helpful to remind ourselves that all seasons will pass. God is still with us, and he will carry us through these changing seasons. Life might change, but God and his Son Jesus never will. Find peace in this promise. He offers peace in the shelter of his wings. The writer of Hebrews states that **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever**. Because life is unpredictable, scriptures like Proverbs 3:5-6 encourage us to trust God rather than lean on our own understanding, to help bring peace and direction through our life's transitions and difficulties – particularly those unwelcome changes with which we must come to terms. Our circumstances and people are always changing, but the Scriptures remind us that God never changes, offering a foundation of stability and faithfulness in turbulent times. Joshua 1:9 states 'Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.'

Remember, life will change, but God does not change. He also promises to walk with us into each new season. The change might not make sense to us, but God is working. Do not be frustrated by a lack of understanding. God is delighted when we express our trust in times when we do not understand what he is doing. The Apostle Paul, writing to the people in ancient Phillipi, wrote 'Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation present your requests to God.' We are to talk to God, pray to him, cast our cares on him. He will help us and fill us with the peace that surpasses understanding as we give him our worries.

Paul also wrote to the people of ancient Corinth, 'Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.' This verse reminds us that even though change can be challenging in the flesh, God is working in our souls. We will all receive his rewards one day in heaven.

Please feel free to contact a member of the ministry team if you would like prayer for any of the changes you are experiencing currently.

Katy Bell LLM



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

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