Did you know? – An occasional series. How 'Ansty' got its name

The name **'Ansty'** has appeared on many maps and documents, changing over time from various corruptions of the old English word 'Anstiga' which suggests Ansty Village was 'founded' during Saxon times.

From Anglo Saxon Charters
ān-stiga (Old English elements) A short ascending road or footpath path usually forking at either end.
In the Anglo Saxon Charters of Shaftesbury Abbey we have a reference to Anstiga and in another charter there is a reference to 'bares anstigan' – a path used by a boar.
Anestige 1086
Domesday Book – a corruption of *'An-stiga ' meaning narrow path (generally up a steep place),' v. anstig .*
Anesty 1220
Document: *Bracton's notebook*; *Feet of Fines for Wiltshire* (1220/1225)
Anestie 1227
Document: *Feet of Fines for Wiltshire*
Anestig 1242
Document: *Book of Fees*
Anestye 1249
Documents: *Various Assize Rolls*
Anesteye 1251
Documents: *Charter Rolls*
Anestygh 1281
Documents: *Various Assize Rolls*
Anstighe 1242
Document: *Shaftesbury Register Manuscript* Brit. Museum
Ansteia 1245 StNicholas
Medieval Manuscript: *15th century cartulary of St Nicholas Hospital, Salisbury*
Anstie
Map: *Saxton 1579*
Anstie
Map: *John Speed map of Wiltshire 1611*
Ansty
Map: Andrews' and Dury's map 1773 – and this is the name we know and love today!

Click on this link: **Survey of English Place-Names** to find out the origins of other parish place names in Ansty. Fascinating!