



Most Covid restrictions ended this month. Welcome to July 2021 ...

As we moved into July it was becoming obvious that the UK Government (mostly representing England!) had decided that with the vaccine programme onstream and progressing to cover a large part majority of people that we (as a population) were just going to have to learn to live with this Covid-19 coronavirus. To that end England confirmed plans to remove all regulations on face masks and social distancing by July 19th. The devolved nations tended to 'follow suit' shortly after the main announcements but adding their own variants as to what they saw as good for their populations but also to score political points and boost their own 'power base'.

The government had one eye on the well-being of the population at large whilst trying to create conditions whereby the economy and our way of life before the pandemic could be restored to something like normal. The whole coronavirus catastrophe had cost us dear in all sorts of ways and it was clear that it was going to be a long time before life would be anything like 'normal'.

Since the beginning of the Covid pandemic in early 2020, all forms of the media and social media remained utterly preoccupied with the pandemic and its dire effects both on people and the economy of the country. Day after day, headlines were generally fearful, argumentative, combative, and largely unpicked the government's attempts to control the situation – rarely giving credit where it was due. A sizeable number of the population refused to see the 'bigger picture' and opted not to conform to any rules or regulations; far too many did not see the need to get vaccinated – some even spouting ludicrous theories they had 'picked up' on the social media platforms that the pandemic and vaccination was a government conspiracy to 'control them' or designed to harm them.

July 3rd The very stressed NHS celebrated its 73rd birthday. Meanwhile the covid virus was still rampant in countries throughout the world – a pattern was developing where the virus would surge and the retreat in recognisable waves.

July 5th England confirms plans to remove all regulations on face masks and social distancing on July 19th, despite the fact cases were rising again having reached a low point in the previous month.

July 7th UK's covid cases had doubled on figures a few days before. Most cases were of the new 'delta variant' – even more readily transmissible than the earlier variants.

July 11th It was emerging across many countries that even if you had been double jabbed you could still contract the covid virus. However, you were less likely to be hospitalised.

July 13th Scotland announces similar actions concerning the easing of most restrictions although some would remain – always slightly different to the English approach and put over in a more coherent way.

July 15th There were over 60,000 cases of covid-19 infections – the highest since January 2021 – in the throes of the winter lockdown.

July 16th 1,200 scientists called England's proposed lifting of all restrictions 'unethical' and it would be a threat to the world.

July 19th England removes many Covid-19 restrictions including social distancing and mask wearing. **Dubbed 'Freedom Day' by the mainstream media.**

July 20th Covid cases continue to run high across the UK and there were 96 deaths reported on this day – the highest since March (during the third lockdown).

From now on we were learning to live with the disease as it was still with us. Most shops, transport services, hospitals and GP surgeries still required you to wear a mask and sanitise hands etc. Most complied but a large minority exercised their rights not to do so. Not surprisingly Covid cases continued to rise as did the death rate – though not on the scale of the winter lockdown. Hospitalisations of covid patients did rise but not in an overwhelming way – all down to the vaccine rollout which almost all people over 60 had enthusiastically accepted. Some younger people were sometimes more reluctant, and others found vaccination against their principles for one reason or another, that is, until they were hospitalised.

We will continue to give a short summary of how things are going at the end of each month, but our diary of events of the pandemic since January 2020 is being curtailed. Somehow one feels that we are nowhere near 'out of the woods' yet and the negative headlines will continue to prevail!

By 31st July a rolling average of 75 people a day were dying in the UK and the cumulative number of coronavirus deaths since the start of the pandemic was reported as 129, 719.



June 21st was supposed to be the day the UK lifted most restrictions – but this was delayed until July 19th dubbed 'Freedom Day' by some papers. Some sections of the press were not at all happy about this, but others were upbeat. However, Covid cases were on a rapid rise again with the virulent delta version. It did not help that there was a change of Health Minister; frequent chopping and changing of travel 'rules'; the NHS Covid App was working only too well and causing issues and further difficulties about when and where to wear a mask.

Some postings that kept Ansty Villagers informed in July:



[Good Luck Ansty in the BKV competition \(Laurence Kitching Award\)!](#)

Judging takes place unannounced sometime in July!

Click [here](#) to read more information regarding this exciting competition!

We won the Best Kept Village in the small village category in Wiltshire in August 2019, (*see picture on the top of our home page*) and then we became one of only 6 villages invited to compete in this exclusive contest to find the 'Winner of Winners' in 2021. Click on the CPRE logo for more details. Click [here](#) to view our BKV poster!

Thanks to all villagers who have once again ensured that Ansty Village looks at its 'summer best'. Let's hope the judges think so as they visit our parish sometime during the month of July. The only sad thing to report is the apparent death of the huge willow tree that afforded such a wonderful backdrop to the Maypole area of the village. It seems that the many frosts of April might have hastened its demise. Anyway, let us hope we have done enough to win the Laurence Kitchener Award for the second time!

Latest news from the Cranborne Chase AONB and the Chase & Chalk Landscape Partnership. (posted 02-07-2021)

The Hart

Working with you to keep
this living landscape special



Items covered in this edition of The Hart includes - Farming in Protected Landscapes; the Dark Sky Friendly Scheme; the Martin Down National Nature Reserve; the Shaftesbury Neighbourhood Plan; News from the Chase and Chalke Landscape and a Festival of Archaeology at the end of this month at Salisbury Museum.

New visitor admissions building plan submitted for Old Wardour Castle. (posted 06-07-2021)



Full planning permission has been sought to demolish the existing visitor admissions building and erect a replacement visitor centre. The objectives of the project are to replace the existing admissions building, which is no longer fit for purpose due to multiple defects; to improve the layout of the building and provide more space for the gift shop and storage and to provide an enhanced building for a more positive introduction for visitors to Old Wardour Castle. As the Old Castle is practically on our doorstep,

Volpone at the Ansty Commandery (posted 11-07-2021)



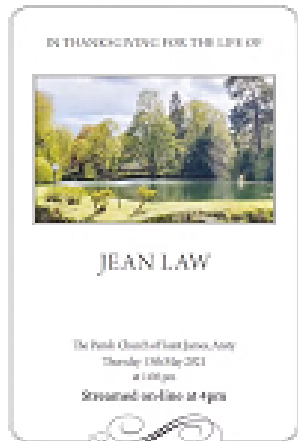
The well-known Commandery Players are going to perform Ben Jonson's comedy, "Volpone" at the Ansty Commandery from Wednesday August 18th to Saturday August 21st. Past productions at the Commandery suggest this will be another excellent set of performances over the four nights. Click on the TAG logo for the latest information. Tickets will be on sale from the Tisbury Post Office from Monday July 12th.

Chase & Chalke Wild Week 26 – 30 July 2021 (posted 16-07-2021)



Chase & Chalke are hosting a series of fun, free and family-friendly activities from Monday 26 July to Friday 30 July 2021, Children must be accompanied by an adult at all our Wild Week events. No booking is required – just go along and join in! Click on the image for all the exciting details!

Jean Law, Ansty, 1928 -2021 posted 16-07-2021



Jean Law, of Ansty, sadly died on April 19th of this year after being in poor health for some months. She was 93 and leaves a niece Christine. She had been in hospital since March and then on to Salisbury hospice whilst adaptations were being made to her home – but sadly she was not to return. Only now are we in the position of being able to commemorate her passing with our short tribute to a very stoic lady. Click on the image for the thanksgiving.



Watch out! There are hedgehogs about in Ansty! (posted 20-07-2021)

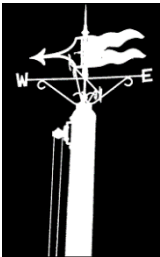
A villager kindly emailed the Ansty Parish council recently asking that our footpath volunteers be particularly careful when strimming or working on our village paths and verges, as hedgehogs have been seen in the village after many years absence. We are all pleased about this, and our footpath volunteers have long been aware of the need to ensure all forms of wild life and wild flowers must be protected. Click on the picture to read more...

Moving into the last week of July! The judges have surely paid us a visit, if not two! Did they appreciate what they saw? Some of us have managed a litter check and some further tidying this last week. Most gardens along the High St. continue to look splendid. Well-done all! Let us hope that the constant background of renovation and earth movements over the past few weeks (months) did not prove to be a distraction – even though it indicates that Ansty is indeed a desirable place to live!

Covid-19 UPDATE: **LATEST ADVICE and other News.** (posted 30-07-2021). **Covid-19 is still around although life has returned to a level of normality, courtesy of the vaccine programme since the beginning of the year!**



The latest Covid-19 statistics for Wiltshire continues to increase with 2,070 cases over the last 7 days, whilst the rate of cases per 100k has risen from 295 last week to 414 this week - still below the national average for England but the number of infections continue to climb quite quickly. Please keep playing your part to help keep these case numbers in check. The Delta variant is on a rapid increase, so we need to very cautious indeed.



The latest Ansty monthly weather statistics have been compiled for July 2021. (posted 01-08-2021)

Overall July 2021 was a warm, wet month and often showery, but we did have an 11-day heatwave as well when there was no rain at all and a baking hot sun! Click on the weathervane for July's weather statistics!

There were 89 deaths from Covid in the UK on July 31st. 130,000 people had now died since the pandemic started. Over 26,000 people tested positive in the UK on the 31st (after a peak of over 60,000 on the 15th). The numbers testing positive and dying in Wiltshire were very low which was encouraging. It seems the vaccines were working.

Some postings that kept Ansty Villagers informed in August:

Ansty comes a creditable 3rd in the Best Kept Village Competition!
(Laurence Kitching Award) (01-08-2021)



Ansty 3rd in the 'Best of Best' Village Competition 2021 (Laurence Kitching Award)

Judges' Report published.

We have a great history of doing well in the Best Kept Village Competitions as all the certificates in Ansty PYO can testify – thanks to our village community. This year, however, we were in the **Laurence Kitching Award of the BKV** where we were competing with the 'best of the best' villages of Wiltshire. We have won it before – so we thought we could do it again! But it was not to be!

Judging took place during July and the results have been announced. Ansty came a very creditable 3rd out of 6 best Wiltshire villages in the 'Small Village Category', scoring 87 points. Just 4 points separated us from the winners Urchfont. Mike Manson, the CPRE project manager has now sent us the CPRE Judges' report. Overall, it was an excellent report, and it is very clear where we gained and lost points. Many thanks to all villagers who supported us in any way and to our councillors who worked so hard behind the scenes. Many thanks also to Mike Manson, his CPRE team and sponsors for organising the competition.

Click to view the [Judges' Lawrence Kitching Award 2021 Report for Ansty](#)

Click to see all the results: [CPRE WILTSHIRE BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2021](#)

The long awaited Ansty Maize Maze 2021 is now officially OPEN! (03-08-2021)



The well-known Ansty Maize Maze is now officially open! Booking is recommended! Follow the paths, solve the riddle, and find the hidden gems before you walk the plank! Guess the theme for this year (!) Brilliant summer fun for the whole family! Click on the image for a tantalising glimpse of what awaits you!

Click on the **Ansty PYO website** for contact details.



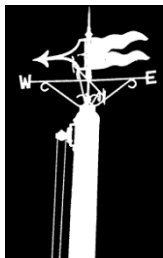
Volpone at the Ansty Commandery (updated 31-08-2021)

The well-known Commandery Players performed Ben Jonson's comedy, "Volpone" at the Ansty Commandery from Wednesday August 18th to Saturday August 21st. By all accounts this latest production at the Ansty Commandery was the best performance yet over the four nights. Click on the logo for more details of the performance!

Covid-19 UPDATE: **LATEST ADVICE and other News.** (posted 27-08-2021)



The latest Covid-19 statistics for Wiltshire **has increased further to 1,846 cases** over the last 7 days, and the rate of cases per 100k has risen from 283 last week to 366 this week – now above the national average for England. These figures are not good. The Delta variant continues to infect so we all need to be very cautious indeed. Click the panel to read the details. Other items include Changes to self-isolation; Covid vaccines for 16 and 17 year olds; Wiltshire Climate Strategy; refugees from Afghanistan and latest roadworks.



The latest Ansty monthly weather statistics have been compiled for August 2021. (posted 01-09-2021)

Overall, August 2021 was noted for its very average temperatures; well below average rainfall; cloudy days and high humidity throughout the month!

Click on the weathervane for August's weather statistics!

At the end of August, the average number of people being tested positive for covid in the UK stood at around 40,000 cases a day. A total of 133,3112 people had died – since July the number of deaths had started rising but only slowly. The number of cases per day at the end of August in Wiltshire averaged at around 250/day taking the figure to a cumulative total of 32, 357. Just one or two/week people died from the disease.

Some postings that kept Ansty Villagers informed in September:

Wiltshire Council's Climate Strategy engagement exercise begins in September (posted 03-09-2021)



Everybody knows that one of the biggest emergencies the whole planet is facing right now is how to tackle the 'climate change' crisis that is now upon us. Some of the damaging elements of it are already irreversible. Most of us know and understand the causes but finding the solutions quickly is proving to be a formidable barrier. It is going to be costly for all of us and we are all going to be well 'out of our comfort zone' in the way we do things. But tackling the issues we must. Wiltshire Council was one of the first to acknowledge that there was a **climate emergency** back in July 2019 and committed itself to become **carbon neutral** as an organisation by 2030. This is a great start and now a new draft carbon reduction strategy has been prepared and the Wiltshire public are being given an exclusive opportunity to 'have their say' to help shape the draft to take Wiltshire Council's action on climate change forward for the next 5 years. Click to view: [Wiltshire Council Climate Strategy Consultation page](#)

Click to view the [Wiltshire Draft Climate Strategy 2022-2027](#). It is a wordy document but rightly so since the catastrophe that is about to unfold if we don't get this right is unimaginable – and good on Wiltshire Council for getting this underway. Please give this some thought and 'have your say'!

At the approximately the same time another important consultation initiative from Wiltshire Council concerning our Natural Environment is up for public consultation. The Wiltshire Green Blue Infrastructure (GBI) Strategy will focus on the natural environment and how by creating a strong, well-considered network of green and blue corridors and spaces we can support adaption and resilience to climate change, halt loss of and improve biodiversity and contribute to the health and wellbeing of our communities. Click [here](#) to find the full information and download the strategy documents to read.



Keeping in touch with our Wiltshire Councillor for Fovant and Chalke Valley! (posted 16-09-2021)

When our newly elected representative, **Nabil Najjar**, came to visit us at our Ansty Village and Parish Council Meeting at the beginning of June and introduced himself we were assured that he would be readily accessible to all residents and would work tirelessly to support communities and their aspirations. True to his word, Nabil has sent us his second full report outlining how things are progressing within the division. Click on the image to find out more!



Tisbury & District Car Link Scheme (posted 24-09-2021)

If there is one worthy voluntary organisation that might be singled out for due praise at any time, then it is the local Car Link Scheme. This excellent voluntary scheme has, over the years offered a vital transport network, ferrying people (usually elderly folk without the means to travel as they once did) to hospital or doctors' appointments, collecting prescriptions as well as offering other 'good neighbour services'.

If you haven't got access to transport or perhaps you no longer drive, then give LINK a call. We are here to get you there - to hospitals, doctors, dentists and related appointments. We are happy to take requests for visits to hairdressers, shops, etc. but due to current pressures we are having to prioritise the medical ones.

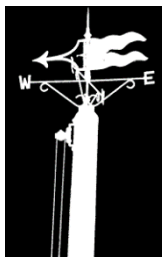
Please click on the logo image for more information. The local LINK scheme is always looking for volunteer drivers: please email tisburylink@gmail.com if you think you may be able to help.

Click [here](#) for our tribute written at the beginning of 2021 and the call for help with the first rounds of the vaccination campaign!

Village 'Get-together' a resounding success! (Updated 27-09-2021)



On Sunday 26th September many Ansty parishioners and friends gathered at the well-known Ansty PYO farm shop for a special Harvest Tea. The event was organised to celebrate the taking part in this year's CPRE BKV Laurence Kitching award (we came a creditable third in the Wiltshire winner of winners in the small village category) and to celebrate the end of the harvest season. Click on either image to read more!



The latest Ansty monthly weather statistics have been compiled for September 2021. (posted 01-10-2021)

Overall, the weather statistics for September 2021 can be summed up as a month of above average temperatures, below average rainfall, sunny and very humid!

Click on the weathervane for September's statistics!

At the end of September, the average number of people being tested positive for covid in the UK stood at around 33,000 cases a day; almost 8 million people had contracted the disease; A total of 137,124 people had died – the number of deaths had started rising by about 112/day. The number of cases per day at the end of September in Wiltshire averaged at around 309/day taking the figure to a cumulative total of 39, 253. Less than one person/week died from the disease.

Some postings that kept Ansty Villagers informed in October:



When all at once I saw a crowd, A host, of golden daffodils... (posted 16-10-2021)

The UK grows more daffodil bulbs than any other country – about half the world's total! Now, thanks to a donation from Ansty PYO's Karren Price (left) at the recent great 'village get-together' we have been at work planting a large bag full of bulbs: adding to Wordsworth's lyrical 'host of golden daffodils' to brighten those early days of next spring in Ansty. Just you wait and see! Many thanks, Karren!



A month's rainfall in our local area leads to localised flooding (posted 21-10-2021)

After two thoroughly rain drenching-events in the space of 36 hours between the 19th and 20th October it was inevitable that there would be some localised flooding – especially along the Sem and Nadder valleys. The many springs and streams on the valley sides poured a huge amount of water into the Nadder catchment zone in a very short time. Click on the image for our report!

News from the Cranborne Chase AONB (posted 22-10-2021)



Items covered in this edition of The Hart includes: Half Term activities for all; Training for Schoolteachers; Stargazing events at Damerham Village Hall; Farming in an AONB – applications for funding; Cranborne AONB Annual Forum 2021; Forest Practitioners; Monitoring our Dark Skies; Looking for volunteers; Click on image for all the details.

The Wiltshire Community Environmental Toolkit shows the way! (posted 24-10-2021)

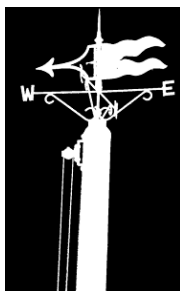


The Wiltshire Community Environmental Toolkit has been developed in partnership with Natural England to allow communities to take the lead in defining and restoring biodiversity in their community. Designed for use by community groups, local landowners, Parish and Town Councils, schools, and youth groups it provides a structure for how local communities can better understand what they already have in terms of biodiverse habitats as well as how to plan for developing greater biodiversity and nature-based carbon sequestration in the future. How might this be of use to Ansty? Click on the image to find out more!

View the latest addition to our 'Reading the Ansty Landscape' series! (posted 29-10-2021)



'Ancient Landscapes: number 4 in the series, looks briefly at the background to our long-established agricultural roots in Ansty parish and how the current landscape still yields quite clearly the clues to help us imagine what the landscape might have looked like as far back as Saxon times! We look at where the 'open field system' was established back in Saxon times, expanded during Medieval times, and lingered on well into the 20th century! Click on the image to find out more. Click [here](#) to discover much more about how our long history has impacted on the geography and landscape of the parish.



The latest Ansty monthly weather statistics have been compiled for October 2021. (posted 01-11-2021)

October was a month of stark contrasts: 3 very wet sessions (two in quick succession in the latter part of October, resulting in localised flooding) interspersed with calm weather: often cloudy but with some good sunny days too. It was exceptionally humid, throughout. The month was another very mild one with no frosts recorded but there were a couple of windy days when some trees were blown down in the parish.

At the end of October, the average number of people being tested positive for covid in the UK stood at around 38,000 cases a day; over 9 million people had contracted the disease; A total of 141,302 people had died – the number of deaths had continued to rise to an average of 173/day. The number of cases per day at the end of October in Wiltshire averaged at around 345/day taking the figure to a cumulative total of 52, 926. About one person/week died from the disease in Wiltshire.

Some postings that kept Ansty Villagers informed in November:



Ansty Footpath Maintenance Report 2020-2021 published. (posted 09-11-2021)

Once again, we can report that our entire 6-mile (9.6 km) footpath system remains in good shape, thanks to regular vegetation clearing and trimming by the Ansty Volunteer Footpath Maintenance Group (AVFMG). Volunteers Mark Norris and Rob Wilkinson generally looked after the smaller woodland and meadow footpaths, whilst Jon Gooding and Tim Martin presided over our more distant footpaths – which involved much more walking to get to the work venues. New volunteer Gray Ayrton joined us late in the season. Click on the image for all the details. Click [here](#) to view our parish footpath page.



Ultrafast Broadband in Ansty has been delayed until spring 2022 (posted 09-11-2021)

Customers who signed up to receive ultrafast broadband services from Wessex Internet look as though they will have to wait until beyond the spring of 2022 before the project moves forward. Access across land has been delayed due to wet ground conditions. Click on the image for more details.



News from the Cranborne Chase AONB (posted 22-10-2021)

Almost a stone's throw southeast of the A30 – including our chalk down lands sits the Chase and Chalke Landscape Partnership Area. The **Chase & Chalke Landscape Partnership** is a group of organisations working to protect and enhance the special landscape of Cranborne Chase and Chalke Valley, having been awarded a lot of funding from the National Lottery and our southeastern chalklands are part of this landscape.



Covid-19 UPDATE : LATEST ADVICE and other News. (posted 19-11-2021)

Slightly less positive news again this week. The rate of cases per 100,000 in Wiltshire has gone from a high rate of 478 last week to 513 this week – still higher than the rate of cases per 100K in England in the last 7 days which is 252.1. The number of Covid cases reported in the county over the last 7 days stands at 2,588. The total number of cases in Wiltshire since the start of the pandemic is over 59,000 out of a total of around 500,000.

Latest News from the Cranborne Chase AONB: see what's coming up...it's getting busy! (posted 25-11-2021)



There's a lot happening over the next few months into the early part of the New Year so take a look at their latest newsletter 'The Hart' and see how you can get involved and maybe join in with some free courses, training and events for all ages. Click on image for all the details.

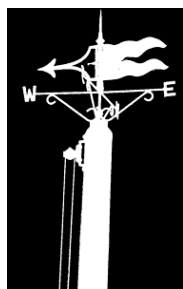
Covid-19 UPDATE : **LATEST ADVICE and other News.** (posted 26-11-2021)



Again, less positive news again this week. The rate of cases per 100,000 in Wiltshire has gone from a high rate of 513 last week to 563 this week – still higher than the rate of cases per 100K in England in the last 7 days which is 441, (up on last week). The number of Covid cases reported in the county over the last 7 days stands at 2,840.

The total number of cases in Wiltshire since the start of the pandemic is over 60,000 out of a total of around 500,000. Case numbers continue to be particularly high in the 5 to 14 age range, and those aged 35 to 49.

The latest Ansty monthly weather statistics have been compiled for November 2021. (posted 01-12-2021)



November was another month of contrasts in the shape of three very distinct sessions. The first week was cool by night; bright and mild by day; the second and third week was largely mild or very mild; often cloudy and damp; and the last week or so was quite cold, including a short-lived storm! The common factor throughout was the fact that November saw very little rainfall here in the south. The mild spells and cold spells cancelled each other out and gave us near average monthly figures. Click on the weathervane for all the details!

At the end of November, the average number of people being tested positive for covid in the UK stood at around 47,000 cases a day; over 10.3 million people had contracted the disease; A total of 145,245 people had died – the number of deaths had fallen somewhat to an average of 110/day. The number of cases per day at the end of November in Wiltshire averaged at around 373/day taking the figure to a cumulative total of 63, 946. About one person/week continued to die from the disease in Wiltshire.

Some postings that kept Ansty Villagers informed in December:

Consultation on the Planning Application submitted by Tisbury Community Homes concerning the proposed development of the Tisbury Station Works Site has now expired. (Updated 01-12-2021)

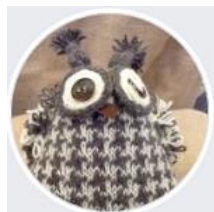


A planning application submitted by Tisbury Community Homes proposing the redevelopment of approximately 1.9 hectares of the 4.1-hectare site known as Station Works, Tisbury, for a mixed development comprising 86 dwellings, a 30-40-bed care home including community medical facilities, enhanced vehicular access, and enhanced pedestrian access from the site to Tisbury village centre, and associated landscaping and open space has met some fierce resistance! The proposals have raised hundreds of comments from Tisbury residents and from surrounding satellite parish councils. Most comments objected to the proposals outright, but some have made some thoughtful suggestions – recognising that the area does need sympathetic development. Click on the planning application

reference [PL/2021/0977](#) to view the submission documents (all 48 of them) and the many comments made by local people.

Click [here](#) to read the response to the Tisbury Station works submitted on behalf of the **Access To Tisbury Group**, comprising the parishes of Ansty, Chilmark, Fovant, Sutton Mandeville, and Swallowcliffe. Click on the image to view the Planning Statement made on behalf of Tisbury Community Homes and was released in mid-October. Click [here](#) to read earlier accounts of the Station Works Site.

A Successful Craftwork Event at the Springhead Trust's Garden of Delights. (posted 07-12-2021)



By all accounts the Christmas Garden of Delights at Springhead in Fontmell Magna proved to be an excellent stage for several craft makers to display and sell their wares over a three-day occasion at Springhead held at the beginning of December. Although it was rather chilly at times, predominantly fine weather enhanced the experience which drew plenty of visitors looking to buy a unique Christmas gift. Click on the image to read more...

Keeping the flag flying on the Ansty Maypole! (posted 09-12-2021)



Following discussions at recent parish council meetings concerning safety aspects to do with the raising and lowering of the flags on our village Maypole, Councillors Tim Martin and Mark Norris, along with Robert Baker have been considering steps that might be taken to improve access to the flag hoisting equipment and also how to avoid the flying flag snagging on the weathervane and the maypole ribbons snagging on the flag mechanism! Robert has looked after the flying of the flag at Ansty for several years. Click on the image to find

out more!

Covid-19 UPDATE : (posted 09-12-2021)



This week, more national measures have been introduced to mitigate the risk of the new COVID-19 variant, Omicron. This is a fast-moving situation, and you are urged to follow the latest measures to help keep everyone safe.

Click on the panel to see the latest guidance from the government.

A successful Christmassy Evening at Ansty PYO farm Shop! (updated 13-12-2021)



The Christmassy evening at Ansty Farm Shop was an absolute treat! With over 20 stalls displaying an amazing variety of Christmassy wares visitors were spoilt for choice – mostly locally sourced; beautifully hand-crafted sustainably produced items. Click on the right-hand image for more details!



Well attended Christmas Carol Service at St James' Church (posted 20-12-2021)



Last Sunday morning 19th December, the sound of Christmas Carols emanated gently from St James' Church reminding those passing by that Christmas Day 2021 would very soon be celebrated – hopefully marking the end of another difficult year of ups and downs caused mainly by the ongoing pandemic.

Around 30 Ansty villagers gathered, swelling the usual congregation – including long established parishioners but with a fair sprinkling of newcomers too. The threat of the virulent omicron virus did little to dampen the enthusiasm of those present

but sensible precautions were taken including the wearing of masks. The traditional carol service and the Christmas narrative once again reminded all present (as if they needed it!) the true meaning of Christmas.

After the service mulled wine and mince pies were served.

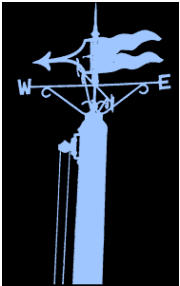
Covid-19 UPDATE : **LATEST ADVICE and other News.** (posted 31-12-2021)



The rate of cases per 100,000 in Wiltshire has gone up to 756.8 this week – but below the rate of cases per 100K in England in the last 7 days which is up again to 1,207. The number of Covid cases reported in the county over the last 7 days stands at 4,222 – well up on last week. The total number of cases in Wiltshire since the start of the pandemic is over 76,791 out of a total population of around 600,000. Case numbers remain particularly high

those aged 20 to 49 but infection is creeping into the older age ranges.

The latest Ansty monthly weather statistics have been compiled for December 2021. (posted 01-12-2021)



December turned out to be a rather depressing month weather-wise. After really crisp sunny days on the 2nd and 4th, the month descended into two long and very cloudy spells – with pockets of dank drizzle and barely a glimpse of the sun. For the most part, December was mild or exceptionally mild, especially during the last few days. Not much rain fell either until the last few days when copious amounts brought the total up to the monthly average. December must surely rank as one of those near record breaking climate change ‘warm’ months we keep hearing about. Click [here](#) to catch up on the yearly statistics too.

Yvonne Pritchard



Ansty lost another very long standing, well respected and much-loved member of our village community at the beginning of December. Yvonne Pritchard died at home and will be sadly missed by all those in Ansty who had the privilege of knowing her and who can recall the immense contribution she made to our village life over many years. We share in the grief of her nephew Kevin and his wife Sally. Goodbye Yvonne.

Yvonne's funeral has now been arranged for **Wednesday 12th January at 1pm** at Salisbury crematorium. The service will also be via live webcam for those who would like to attend but unfortunately can't. It will be family flowers only, or donations to Tisbury Surgery or Salisbury Stars Appeal. This will be set up by the undertakers for people to donate.

Postscript

So far, the Covid-19 pandemic has seen 4 waves of infections. The first wave started in earnest around March, peaked in early April and then declined by the end of June. The second wave began in late September; peaked at the end of November before a short decline before a third tsunami of infections began in December, peaking in mid-January with a daily death rate of nearly 1400 before declining by the end of March. From the end of December onwards the whole country embarked on a mass vaccination programme spearheaded using our home-produced Astra Zeneca. This was to prove vital in the control of the spread and severity of the coronavirus. Each of these 3 waves were controlled by some sort of lockdown measures. During the summer of 2021 cases remained relatively low and although infection cases were rising again somewhat (courtesy of a new more transmissible 'delta' virus) July 19th saw the removal of almost all covid restrictions by the UK Government (which means England these days). We were all going to have to 'live with this disease' and the hope was that it could be controlled by vaccinations. Already the older population were looking forward to a third booster dose of Pfizer vaccine.

From August 2021 onwards a flat fourth wave began, and cases gradually rose albeit slowly with a daily death rate varying between 100 and 150. Another new covid-10 coronavirus variant appeared in the very late autumn – named 'omicron' which was even more easily transmissible – bringing in a huge surge of infections mainly in the younger age ranges. There followed a huge government inspired uptake in what became known as booster jabs. First fears were that we were going to see another huge peak of hospitalisations and deaths, but this had not materialized by the end of December and the death rates had stabilized at around 120 a day even though infection rates were around 200,000/day. What will January 2022 bring?

Hospitalisations since an early November peak of over 9,000 had settled around 7,500 but by the end of December were back up to 9,000 again. Medics and scientists are constantly looking to see whether the hospitalisations will increase into 2022 and whether the mass vaccination programmes have been sufficient to keep the number of hospitalisations stable or even declining. Whatever happens the virus is still with us in one form or another.

The total number of UK deaths from coronavirus on 1st January 2021 was 77,202. The total number of deaths from coronavirus on 1st January 2022 was 149,000. The average daily death rate had crept up to around 130/ day in the UK by the end of December. In Wiltshire, the infection rate was 1,500/100,000 week ending 31st December. Deaths remained low at 1 or 2 per day – but hospitalisations were increasing and with so many staff off self-isolating local hospitals were feeling the strain. The vaccination campaign seemed to be working and the pandemic looks likely to become endemic. We may even need another booster jab in due course – but full lockdowns seem less likely: we are indeed learning to 'live with it' like we do with 'flu and other diseases.

Ansty Photos & Events 2021

Ansty looked a picture in its wooded setting on this bright March morning – using a telephoto lens from the top of Ansty Down. If you look carefully, you might just pick out the Ansty Maypole and its flag of St. George, which was flying on St. David's Day in 2021.



January 2021



*The first winter
snows fell overnight
on January 24th,
2021. The snow
didn't last long but
these delightful
scenes will!*

Wintery Scenes in Ansty Coombe





*The natural blue
tinged light added to
these winter
wonderland pictures*



Wintery Scenes in Ansty Village



February 2021



Just after dawn on February 6th, 2021- the waning crescent of the moon about to descend behind the treeline of Gore Copse above Ansty Coombe.

April 2021



The clear blue sky was a hint that much colder weather was on the way! April in Ansty was noted for its many night-time frosts. The temperature fell to -3.3 C on the morning of the 15th when this picture was taken showing Ansty Pond. The other notable feature of the month was that it was exceptionally dry!

May 2021



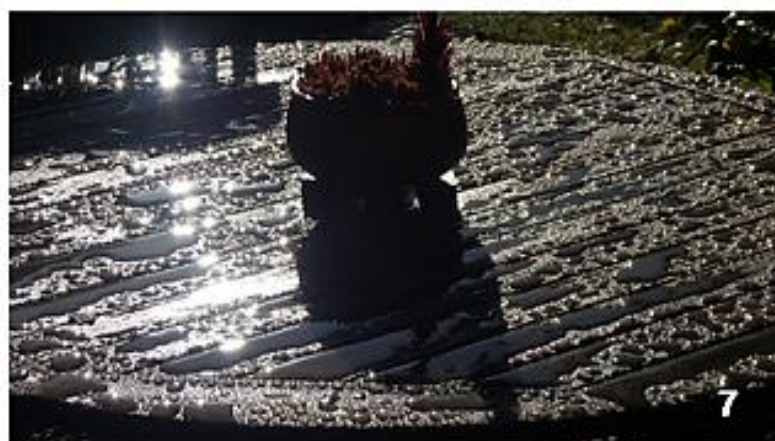
A beaming Alice Morgan – crowned Ansty May Queen 2021 – despite the cancellation of the main May Day event. Tap the image for more information. A lovely start to the month which then turned out to be very wet and cool! Tap image to remind you of this unique event...

June 2021



*Erigeron and Ox-Eye
daises in an Ansty Garden,
mid-June 2021*

July 2021



Rural Scenes in Ansty in July 2021

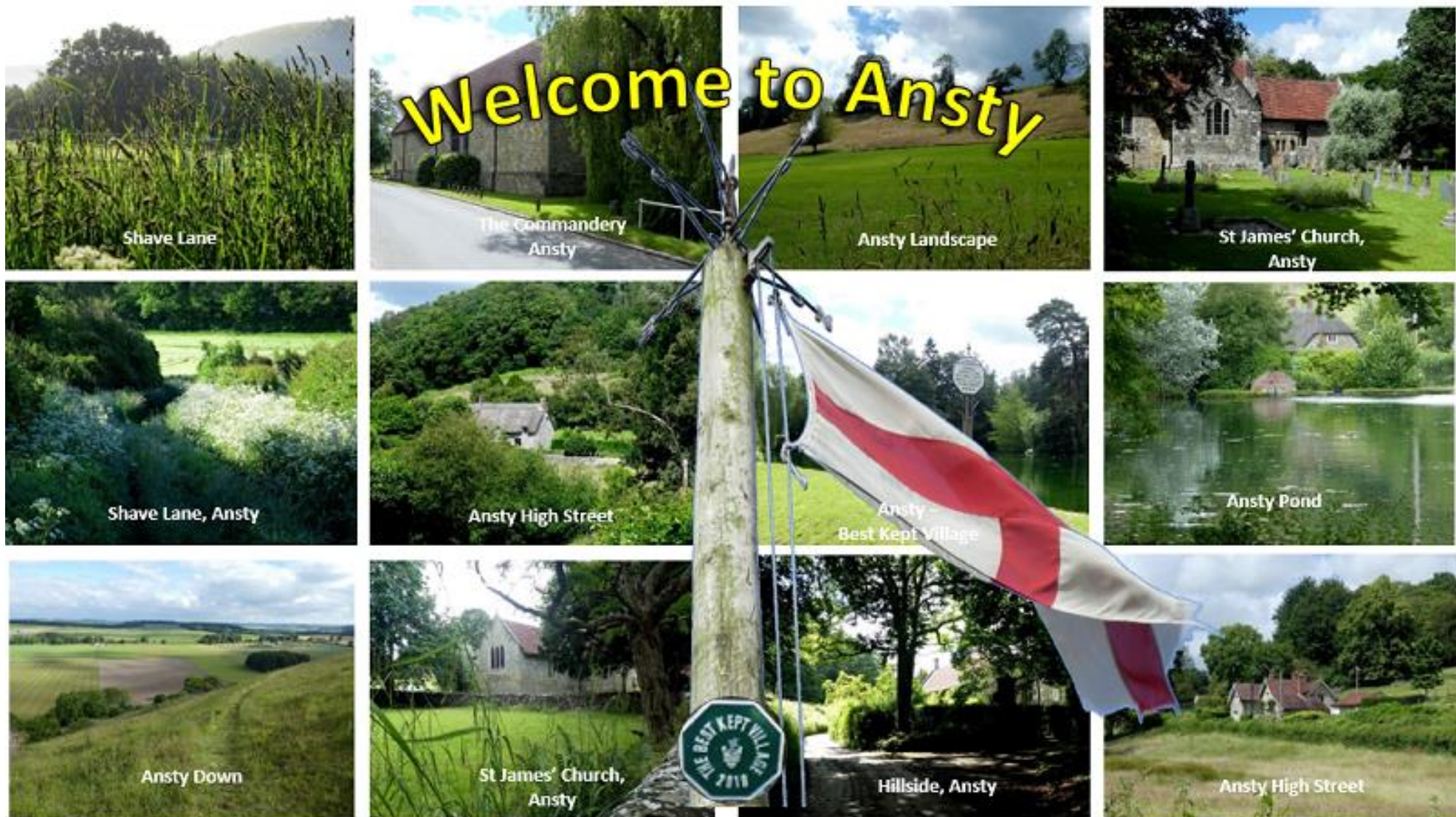
1 Newly restored in 2020, Frogpond was last mapped in the 1800s but has now been restored to its former glory. 2 A rabbit in one of the many Coombe Closes on a warm July morning. 3 Footpath from 12 Acre Copse to Ansty Coombe Lane – one of several in this vicinity. 4 The common Meadow Brown butterfly – one of hundreds on a wildflower meadow above Ansty Coombe. 5. Most of the Coombe Closes are being restored to hay meadows with wildflowers and appropriate grazing. 6. Looking across the old medieval Gasson meadows towards Kings Lane. 7 A heavy shower was soon followed by bright sunshine early one morning, at the beginning of July.



Moon over Ansty – July 21st, 2021

This waxing gibbous phase shows the moon is well on the way to being a full moon. Photographed by Alan Hardwick.

Click on the image to see how he almost made a lunar landing from Ansty!



Ansty Village in High Summer 2021

Towards the end of July this photo mosaic made for a stunning welcome on our Home Page on the village website

August 2021



*Shave Lane
on August
6th, 2021. Is
this the
perfect 'green
lane'?*

August 2021



*This beautiful
footpath
running
through
Denmead
Copses
receives our
'gold award'
for the best
kept Ansty
Footpath
looked after by
landowner
Rob Beale.
August 6th,
2021*

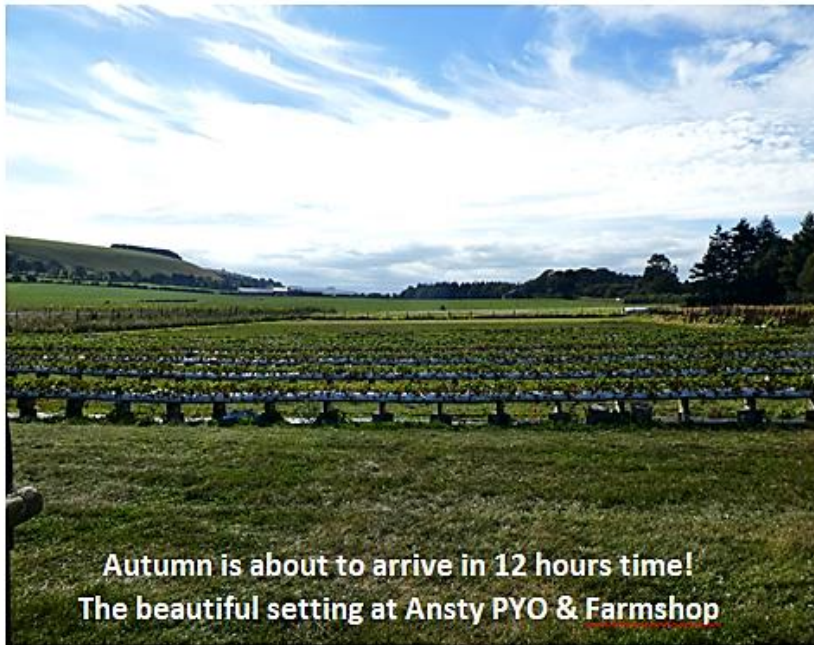


Almost one year on since its restoration and Frogpond has received many accolades from local people as it has now mellowed into a thing of beauty whilst acting as an attenuator to mitigate against flash flooding once the bane of the lane near this locality. August 6th, 2021

September 2021



*View from Kings Lane,
across the Ansty Valley
on the morning of
September 4th, 2021.
Early morning mist
heralding the promise
of a fine day but also
reminding us that
Autumn is not far
away...*



The afternoon of September 26th saw a great gathering of Ansty Villagers to celebrate coming 3rd in the CPRE Laurence Kitching Best Kept Village Award and the successful gathering of the harvest 2021 with a Harvest Tea at the Ansty PYO & farm shop...





The weather was largely fine; over 70 villagers attended including quite a few children and a good time was had by all!



The Great Ansty Harvest Tea 2021 a selection of Ansty personalities!





One of the organisers of this event was Lesley Simm. The Harvest Tea was prepared by Karren Price and her fantastic team at Ansty PYO.

October 2021



*Early morning on
October 6th and the
sun filters down on to
one of the many
footpaths found in 12
Acre Copse*



*A sure sign that autumn is well and truly upon us again! **Coprinus Comatus** – a common fungus seen here growing on leaf litter on the forest floor near Ansty Coombe. Apparently, it is edible when young.*



The sun was starting to break through the murky cloud on the morning of October 16th. Here one of Ansty's ancient meadow footpaths picks its way across the fields from Hillside to Kings Lane and beyond. There is more than a hint of autumn as the leaves on the trees are turning to beautiful russet and yellow colours.

November 2021



The first air frost of the new winter season arrived on the morning of November 3rd heralding a much calmer period of weather after a very wet end to October. Here the footpath to Turners Copse and Kings Lane can be seen snaking its way through the frosty meadow close above Ansty Coombe.

December 2021



*A timeless scene looking towards the sheltered Ansty valley from a hill above the hamlet of Ansty Coombe. Very little has changed except for the number of trees and the loss of neat field hedge lines. Truly a gem of a village setting.
December 4th, 2021*



This fine view was taken from the top end of a field in Ansty Coombe looking towards Gore Copse.

It was a cold early morning with frost in lingering in the hollows and the rising sun was shining through high cloud. The lower darker cloud heralded much milder, wetter weather for the Christmas period.

December 22nd, 2021