

ANSTY EVENTS

2018

THE 'BEASTS' FROM THE EAST BLAST ANSTY
IN THE SPRINGTIME!

The weather in March 2018 was eventful in that it was very wet (23 out of 31 days saw some kind of precipitation) and quite mild overall. However what was most unusual was the fact that we had two short very cold blasts from the heart of Siberia (Russia) both accompanied by a substantial snowfall. The first of these cold spells was at the very beginning of March and was nicknamed 'the beast from the east'! The second blast came during mid to late March and earned the title of 'mini beast from the east'! In both cases wind chill was severe but early March saw the lowest actual temperatures (about -9C). It was a chance for photographers in Ansty to get out and take pictures of heavy snowfall not seen since 2010. Here are some pictures for the Archives!



Here is a reminder of the substantial snowfall that arrived via the 'Beast from the East' - very cold air from Siberia mixing with milder air over the North Sea to give us all a dose of heavy snow. For once, there was very little traffic on Ansty High Street – and the village took on a 'winter postcard' look. 02/03/2018



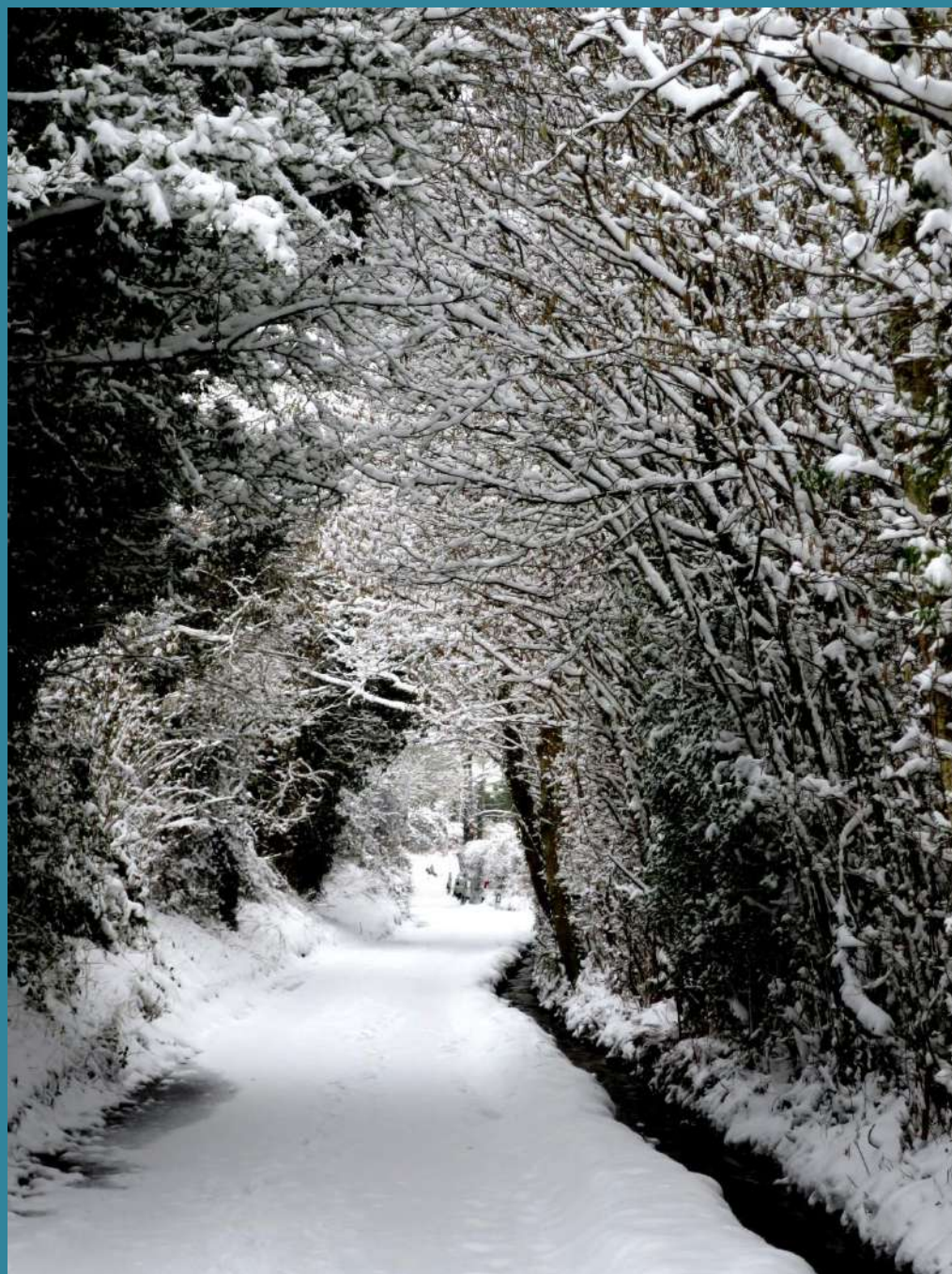


Top- Ansty in the snow on a fine day. The snow was the result of a visit by the 'mini beast from the east' in effect it was a two day cold snap! Picture by Brian Hampshire.

19/03/2018

Left- A coating of ice (after a spell of freezing rain) on the outside of a domestic window in Ansty.

Right- 'Pretty as a picture' – A view looking up Ansty Coombe Lane



The Great British Spring Clean 2018

Ansty participates in the 'Great British Spring Clean' initiative.

Mission Accomplished!

On Saturday 24th March, 2018, an enthusiastic team of villagers gathered at the Ansty Maypole to take part in 'The Great British Spring Clean' supported by Wiltshire Council. The original event scheduled for Saturday 3rd March was postponed by Wiltshire Council because of heavy snow.

The village event was ably organised by Juliette Foy on behalf of the Ansty parish council. The willing volunteers were split up into two groups who then proceeded to clear the High street (north and south) picking up plastic bottles, beer cans, glass bottles, wrappers, aluminium cans and a whole host of other garbage. The southern end of the street towards the A 30 junction was particularly nefarious. Some nine large (and full) refuse bags were eventually collected.

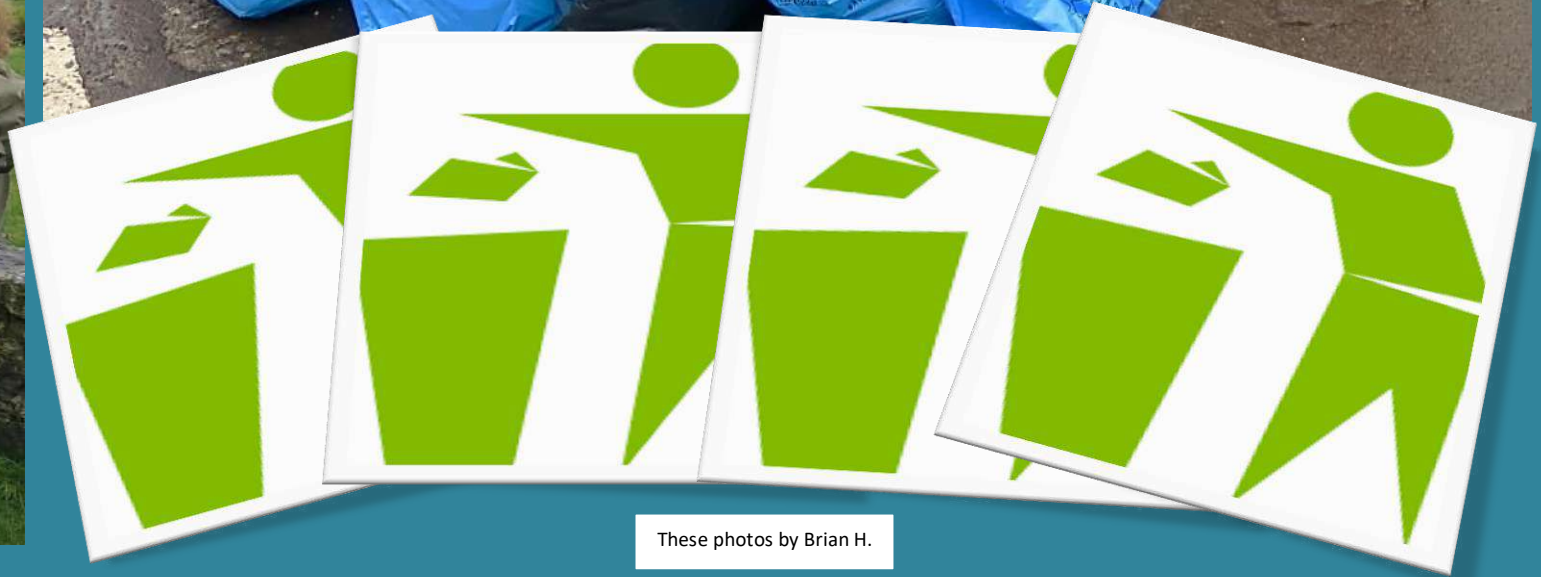
Such was the enthusiasm of the assembled company that the mission was accomplished in about one hour! Many thanks to all those villagers who turned up on the day and to those stalwarts who pursued their own litter pick earlier in the week and added it to the pile of rubbish later!

The Great Ansty 'Spring



Mission Accomplished

Saturday March 24th 2018



These photos by Brian H.



Ansty May Day Celebrations 2018



Picture from Salisbury Journal – see link below

Ansty May Day was celebrated this year with all ages taking part in the festivities. Centre stage were the Maypole dancers who are trained by Wendy Spencer- Smith at: Creative Fitness

They rehearsed in all weathers over several Sundays before the event and the large crowd who came to support them were thrilled with their performance. They all danced beautifully!

This year their costumes were embellished by Claire Morgan adding new coloured sashes and hair pieces.

The May Queen was Felicity Perry-Robinson who is ten years old and lives in nearby Teffont Evias. Her attendant was Alice Morgan aged seven years who lives in Ansty.

Master of Ceremonies for the occasion was Anne Martin who also lives in Ansty.

Marigold Rumble generously made the Queens crown and the posies – a custom she has maintained for many years.

The White Horse Morris Dancers and Tattie Bogle continued the local tradition of dancing and as always entertained the crowd.

Villagers provided plants, cakes and raffle prizes along with the muscle power to put up tents and tables, scale the maypole and decorate the street.

A huge ‘thank you’ must go to all those folk who willingly gave of their time and chipped in to contribute in whatever capacity they could to this year’s May Day celebration. It made the evening run smoothly and it was undoubtedly another delightful success.

View the excellent photo gallery in the Salisbury Journal: [Ansty May Day Celebrations 2018](#)

View our own photo gallery on the next few pages!

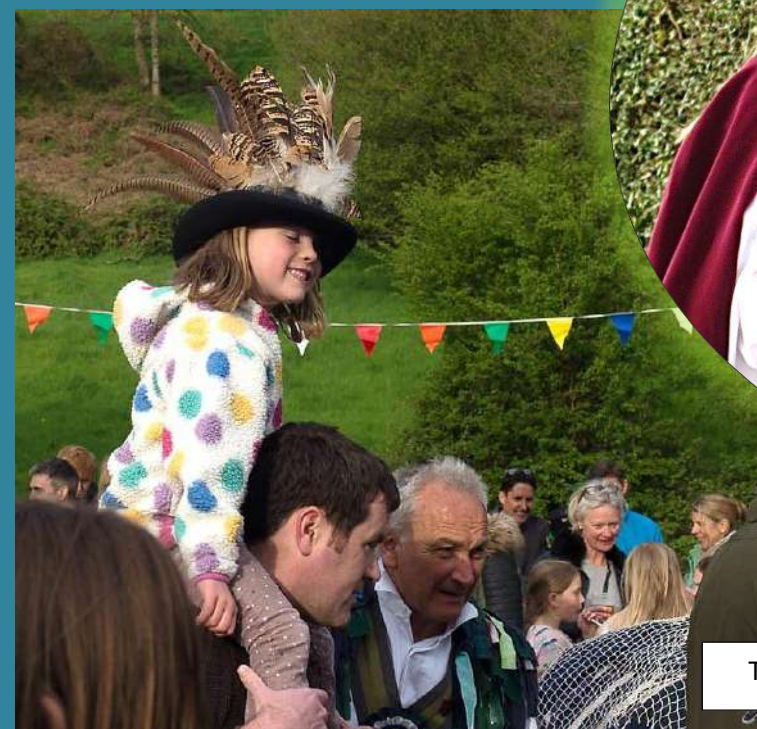


Ansty May 2018



Master of Ceremonies Ann Martin of Ansty, with the 2018 May Queen (Felicity Perry-Robinson) and her attendant Alice Morgan.

Picture from the Salisbury Journal



The May Queen and her attendant and the young Maypole Dancers



The White Horse Morris Dancers



*Top- Tattie Bogle
Right – White Horse
musicians*



*The End of a delightful evening.
Thanks to all who took part.*



Ansty comes top in South Wiltshire's 'Best Kept Village Competition' (Round 1)

July 2018

Very good news was received towards the end of June informing us that Ansty came top of their category in the first round of the 'Best Kept Village Competition'. This first round was judged within Wiltshire South and Ansty looked forward to a second round, which determined how Ansty fared within the whole of Wiltshire. The second round of judging took place sometime in July!

The competition entrance documents and planning were administered by Morwenna Brewer.

In round 1, the judges were very largely complementary about Ansty with particularly positive references noted as to the upkeep of the Commandery, the Church environment, the overall tidiness of the village, good maintenance of its open spaces including Ansty Pond and of course our very own village website. The judges were also very impressed with two local businesses: Ansty PYO Farm & Shop and Ridley's Saw Mill - both scoring maximum marks for their category.

There were just a few small things needed a little more attention before the next round of judging in July and some villagers rose to the occasion and made the necessary improvements.

Thanks and many congratulations to all those villagers who are continuing to keep Ansty looking its very best!

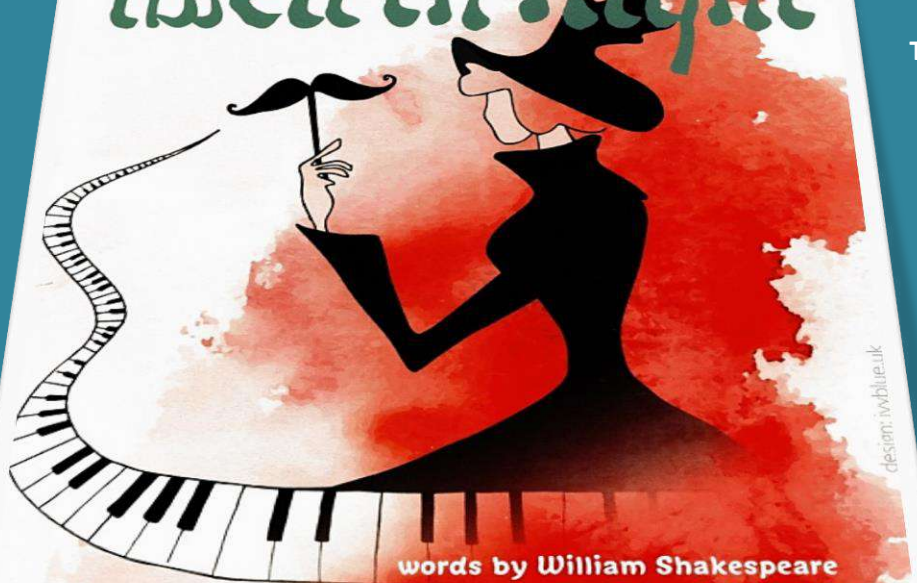
To view the 'First Round' results in the four Wiltshire districts and the judges' glowing reports for Ansty and where we might improve things for the 'Second Round' – please click below:

[BKVC First Round 2018](#)

[Judges' Report](#)

The
Commandery
Players

Twelfth Night



words by William Shakespeare
music by Erik Satie

July 12 to 14, 2018

7.30pm

Ansty Commandery

Tickets £10, Post Office, Tisbury

Shakespeare's 'Twelfth Night' was presented by a local amateur theatre company from 12-14th July inside the historic Commandery building located by the lake at Ansty, near Tisbury. By all accounts the entertainment portrayed across all three evenings was deemed a success.

The Bard's popular comedy of shipwreck and yellow stockings was performed by the 'Commandery Players', whose members have previously two other Shakespeare productions in the atmospheric 16th Century Elizabethan banqueting hall.

Set against the backdrop of the dying years of the 19th century, this new and original production drew inspiration from the hedonism of the French "belle époque".

Weaving throughout the production was the hauntingly beautiful music of Erik Satie, complementing perfectly the wistful and playful atmosphere of Shakespeare's comedy of sunlight and shadows.

The grounds of the Commandery were made available for picnics by the lake, with a bar selling beer, wine and soft drinks.

Tickets at just £10 ensured that the perfect summer's evening event was fully booked. Well done to all those involved with this year's production.

Click here to view one take on the performance: [The Fine Times Recorder](#)



Photo of the 'Twelfth Night' cast from the 'Commandery Players' July 2018



Ansty comes second in Wiltshire's 'Best Kept Village Competition' (Round 2)

After our stunning performance in coming first with a score of 85 in Round 1 of the competition (in the South Wiltshire district) we were pipped at the post by the small village of Charlton in Round 2 (against the whole of Wiltshire). They beat us by just 2 points. So whilst it is congratulations from all of us to the village of Charlton (North Wiltshire district), we can at least console ourselves that we did very well indeed to come second in our class. Thanks to all who helped with keeping the village looking so presentable and to Councillor Morwenna Brewer for submitting the forms back in April. The parish receives £100 for being runner's up.

More details here: [Best Kept Village 2018 – Final Results](#)

August 2018



Ansty Harvest Supper, October 6th, 2018. Another memorable occasion!

Harvest Supper in the glorious surrounds of Ansty Commandery is an enjoyable social tradition that stretches back into the mists of time. Certainly the late Victorians made it very popular. The latest Ansty Supper, held on Saturday evening certainly encapsulated that vital link between the village and farming communities.

It was a celebration of thanks to God for the safe harvest of the crops and the Ansty Vicar Graham Southgate was the one to lead the assembled community into a delicious harvest meal acknowledging what turned out to be a very good year for our local farmers.

Parishioners took great pleasure in catching up with old friends and even remembering two stalwarts of the village who died earlier this year: Aileen Fisher Rowe and Helen Forshaw.

Just over 60 villagers attended the event which was once again organised by Lesley Simm and her willing helpers: from the ticket sellers, the heavy gang transporting, setting up (and taking down) of tables, chairs and other equipment; the cooks, the bar people to the washer uppers. Many thanks are due to all.

Our local correspondent Peter Dalton, gave a super farming report outlining how the extreme weather conditions this year tested farmers to the limit but in the end crop yields and pastoral farming coped much better than anticipated.

Parched farming landscape
near Ansty early August 2018

An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. In the foreground, there is a large, dry, yellowish-brown field. To the left, there is a farm complex with several buildings, including a large barn and a smaller house. In the background, there is a dense line of green trees, and beyond that, a small village or farmstead with more buildings. The sky is a pale blue. The overall scene depicts a parched farming landscape.

HARVEST REVIEW 2018

In the course of any farming year the one thing we cannot control is the weather God sends us! Without doubt, this year (2018) has thrown us more extremes within the 6 months, February to July, than I have ever known in my 50 years' experience in farming.

Last autumn was fairly kind for establishing autumn cereals which were in fine fettle by Christmas but growth undoubtedly stalled by hard frosts early and late December. Later we had "Beast from the East" at the end of February with a continuous week seeing temperatures well below freezing (-10 C) combined with nasty wind-chill.

The last day of February, for us at Horwood, brought operations to a halt with 80 hungry calves as our milk mixing tank was frozen solid and we were struggling to thaw out milking clusters to milk our 250 cows. It was a very long and testing day for all staff involved and it became a daily chore to go round thawing all drinking troughs. Our out-wintered stock had some respite by being brought inside.

Early March arrived with another significant snowfall shortly followed by a thaw. Two weeks later came another "Mini beast from the East" and more significant snow and ice over 3 or 4 days.



Snow covers Ansty Parish.
March 18TH 2018

Spring was to be much later than usual with little early grass for our dairy herd which by now had consumed all silage stocks and were having to be supplemented by bought in feed. Just over the hill early born lambs were also struggling to grow as ewes had little grass on which to milk, the 'knock on' effects from this are still being felt now.

By early April our cows went outside more for exercise and to appease the staff, but it meant yo-yoing between grazing and housing as pastures were being badly trodden.

Thankfully the last half of April saw the ground drying out and the arable team started sowing spring malting barley, the timing being some 6 weeks later than normal. In days gone by this crop would have been termed "cuckoo barley" i.e. late sown, not long in the ground and resulting in very poor yields.

Early July saw start of a prolonged heatwave, although nothing like 1976, which lasted from Easter to September. By 10th July our 250 milkers were getting seriously hungry so we took the decision to forage some wheat for arable silage and this was our saviour and kept the milk flowing.

Providing enough drinking water for our 450 head of stock proved a challenge too: our private source is a spring down in Wardour Woods. Normally a pump refills the reservoir during the night but such was demand we had to pump during afternoon with a further top up at night. Fortunately, 30th July saw 25mm of very welcome rain to germinate our recently planted kale for out-wintered stock and by this time the combine had gathered all oil seed rape and malting barley.

Arable yields are extremely difficult to predict until the combine goes in but in view of the recent heatwave our thoughts were to expect pinched grains and low yields so we were pleasantly surprised by the quantities with a good bold sample of golden colour, just what the maltsters require! Similarly the wheat yields exceeded all expectations having expected it to die prematurely in heatwave and be shrivelled. My conclusion is that following adequate root establishment in the autumn, plants were held in suspended animation during prolonged frost and snow, good rains in April swelled the grains followed by a hot spell for ripening and so this season's weather pattern proved the ideal recipe. With malting barley and wheat above our predictions, oilseed was average but beans, grown as a break crop were disappointing. Forage maize, despite being late sown, germinated quickly and raced away once it absorbed lots of solar heat units but this *forced* growth resulted in spindly weak stems with many crops beginning to fall over setting a challenge for the harvester to salvage the entire crop. I hasten to add that badgers and deer do a fair amount of damage to these crops also!

Our pleasant experience and surprise with yields was, I believe, shared by Ansty PYO who were delighted with their *best ever* soft fruit harvest! A similar abundance can be seen in our hedgerows so plenty of food for our wildlife.

One thing is for sure - this unusual farming year I doubt will be repeated in my lifetime: no 2 years are ever the same....which is why I love farming so!!

Peter Dalton, Ansty





Local smallholder Robert Baker, who was not able to attend Harvest Supper this year and whose association with the farming business goes back many years, concurs and this is what he had to say:

Musings from the Smallholder ...

It all seems quite continental recently, no, not politics, because it has been 'raining ' walnuts; conkers and chestnuts too. Perhaps that unusual event is the culmination of a year of early harvests after the heat of summer.

On the farms the yields of grain have been surprisingly good, without much rain. Harvested early and dry, with corn prices improved, this has favoured the arable farmer. For the dairy man, it has been less simple. Strong grass growth requires moisture and temperate weather. Cattle can suffer from heat stress too. They eat less and drink more, just like ourselves, which has reduced milk production. With no grass out in the pastures, supplementary rations of hay and silage have been fed.

Consequently, in some farms, there may be insufficient stocks of fodder for the whole winter.

In our smallholding, the grass lasted well. Lambs and calves have grown well. The fruit trees of all species have been laden, notably cherries! Let's not mention all the apples, other than read John Keat's Ode 'To Autumn' and quietly listen for those oozings.

Robert Baker

Ode to Autumn

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For Summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,
Drows'd with the fume of poppies, while thy hook
Spare the next swath and all its twined flowers;

And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep
Steady thy laden head across a brook;
Or by a cyder-press, with patient look,
Thou watchest the last oozings hours by hours.

Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are they?
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too -
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
Among the river shallows, borne aloft
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
Hedge-cricket sing; and now with treble soft
The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

Composed by John Keats in September 1819

SID is now up and running - successfully! (October 2018)



Ansty is taking part in a Wiltshire Council initiative and now has the part time use of a Speed Indicator Device (SID) in the village. We have now programmed SID and set it all up and had a successful trial run. Hopefully the flashing screen will encourage some drivers speeding north up the High Street to slow down a bit! The installation is now up and running for another session as from October 10th.. Please click here for further details: [SID](#)

During our initial session in September people living 'upstream' of SID have reported a noticeable slowing of speed as vehicles have approached the village from the A30. We have now been able to extrapolate data from SID at the end of our first session and it does indeed confirm the success of the initiative - at least from this location.

For more details about this extrapolated data please click here: [Analysing SID](#)

A new lease of life beginning for Ansty Pond! (October 23rd 2018)



Local contractors Sampsons have begun draining the historic Ansty Pond on the morning of Tuesday 23rd October. This is the first phase of an expensive operation to repair the ancient retaining walls and bank and remove excess silt from the pond bed and deposit it into a specially dug sump in a field upstream on Ansty Manor land. Click here for details: [A new lease of life](#)



Works on Ansty Pond making steady progress! (November 12th 2018)

At a recent Parish Council meeting held in St James' Church, Ansty on November 12th 2018, Mr Charlie Morgan, from the Manor in Ansty was invited to give villagers and members of the parish council an updated report on how the renovations of Ansty Pond were progressing. Click here for information: [Ansty Pond progress](#)

Recent Stargazing Event at Ansty PYO very informative.

Our own Ansty PYO farm shop was the venue for an interesting evening 'stargazing event' involving representatives from Cranborne Chase AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) and two Astronomical Organisations.

Around 40 people booked in on November 13th, 2018, to witness the dark skies above Ansty Down and Whitesheet Hill as well as to watch a presentation from Amanda Scott, promoting a bid for the status of a 'Dark Sky Reserve' for our AONB and a more technical demonstration from the British Astronomical Association with input from the Wessex Astronomical Society. Amanda encouraged the assembled group and of course all the local folk who live in this area to sign a pledge – accepting the need to reduce light pollution whilst endorsing the AONB's bid.

It was a shame that high cloud had earlier drifted in and spoiled the attempts at real live stargazing – but it is November and it is winter! The whole evening was both informative and made one realise just how lucky we are to live in such a tranquil location and that we can all play our part in ensuring we keep light pollution down to a minimum and b) we sign the 'Darks Skies Reserve Pledge'.

Thanks to all of the organisers of the event and to K and her team for supplying refreshments and the premises!

December 2018

Ansty Parish Council supports a bid for our area to become a Dark Sky Reserve!



We are fortunate to have one of the darkest night skies in the country with starry nights of exceptional quality. This is the reason why the Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (CCAONB) is making a bid for International Dark Sky Reserve Status.

Parishioners received leaflets explaining what was behind this bid and how we, as individuals, might be able to help keep our outstanding starry night skies.

Click here to find much more information: [Chasing Stars](#)



An enjoyable Carol Service at St James' Church, Ansty, makes a happy start to this year's Christmas (2018) Celebrations!



Photo by Morwenna Brewer

This year's customary Carol Service conducted by the Rev. Graham Southgate, was held at St James' Church, Ansty on Saturday 22nd December 2018, at 4.30pm.

The warm scene was set by a brightly lit Christmas tree endorsed by simple but beautiful decorations to the front of the altar and delightfully enhanced by glowing candles all around the church.

The pews were soon filled by Ansty villagers, friends and family who once again listened to the traditional readings of the true message of Christmas and sang familiar carols.

The proceedings were followed by an invitation to taste mince pies and mulled wine! It was a happy and joyous start to the Christmas celebrations.

