

ANSTY VILLAGE EVENTS 2019

Aileen's Bridge



A very good turnout of Ansty villagers and friends of Ansty gathered together on a Sunday afternoon (January 13th 2019) to witness the official opening of a new footbridge in the parish and its dedication to the memory of much loved parishioner Aileen Fisher-Rowe who died exactly a year ago to the day aged 95. **Tap the footbridge picture** for the full report. You might also like to read the story behind the footbridge and its construction: [Aileen's Bridge](#).

Roger Rigby



Roger Rigby (1922 – 2019) Many Ansty villagers will have been saddened to learn of the recent death of Roger Rigby who died on 19th January aged 96. A long-time former resident of the parish, he was an exceptionally clever and talented man and a true friend of Ansty. Tap the image to read more about the life of Roger Rigby. Roger Macbeth Rigby passed away peacefully on 19th January aged 96 in Shaftesbury. Much loved husband of the late Patricia Tufnel, father of Melissa and Tanya and devoted grandfather of India, Iona, Amber and William. A Memorial Service was held at St James's Church, Ansty, Wiltshire, 6th April followed by a celebratory lunch at Ashley Wood, Fonthill Gifford. Tap/Click on image for full details.

Another successful conclusion to this year's 'Great Ansty Spring Clean'



On Saturday 30th March, 2019, another enthusiastic team of 15 villagers gathered at the Ansty Maypole to take part in 'The Great British Spring Clean' supported (in part) by Wiltshire Council. For a while it looked as though the event wasn't going to be supported by Wiltshire Council in the wake of the Novichok incident last year – but at the last minute we were given the go ahead for our 'Ansty Volunteer Community Litter Pick' from Wiltshire Council's Community Engagement Officer.

What used to be down to prevailing 'common sense' (understandably after the Novichok incident in Salisbury last March) now meant that the parish council organisers had to comply with Wiltshire

Council procedures including a detailed risk assessment and general guidance.

These aspects were duly covered from all angles: via emails, our village website and again verbally on the day. The village event was organised by members of Ansty Parish Council. The willing volunteers were split up into two groups who then proceeded (in sunny and warm conditions) 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 day was a far cry from last year's event when the weather was damp and cold. Litter at the southern end of the street towards the A 30 junction remained particularly disappointing – but not nearly as bad as last year by any means! Some seven or eight large refuse bags of rubbish were eventually collected and deposited at a small temporary waste depot in Ansty.

Such was the enthusiasm of the assembled company that the mission was accomplished in about one hour! Many thanks are due to all those villagers who turned up on the day and gave us some of their valuable time – including those stalwarts who cleared the church grounds. For more pictures, click on or tap the image.

Ansty May Day 2019



The Master of Ceremonies with George Morgan (May King 2019) and Grace Spencer Smith

Ansty's May Day 2019 celebrations were a resounding success!

Earlier in the day rain had threatened to dampen May Day festivities in the pretty village of Ansty, Wiltshire. However, the damp weather cleared and it quickly dried up and once again the well-loved 'Ansty May' celebrations got under away in time honoured tradition.

The current 50 ft. (15.2 m) maypole had been decorated with coloured bunting and ribbons along with a beautifully adorned hay wain.

Ansty villagers along with locals from the surrounding area in this corner of South Wiltshire had formed a considerable crowd on the closed high Street from the Commandery down to the Maypole to watch the procession of the May King, his attendant and the 18 or so young Maypole Dancers admirably coached by Wendy Spencer-Smith (creative fitness.co.uk). The parade was led by Mr Mark Dunkley – as Master of Ceremonies.

Villagers manned stalls selling a range of items from home produce to hats, jewellery and plants. There was a bar and plenty of

refreshments, along with a raffle. The entertainment included plenty of traditional live music, Morris Dancing and of course the main highlight of the evening were the children dancing around Ansty's famous Maypole before the crowning of the May King, 11 years old George Morgan from Ansty and his attendant Grace Spencer-Smith from Tisbury.

It was a very agreeable evening and thanks are due to all those who organised or indeed took part in making this event such a success. Another wonderful page of Ansty May Day history has been added to the many hundreds that have already been writ through the centuries past. Well done everybody!

Any profits from the evening's event go toward the 'next Maypole fund'.

Click [here](#) for a full pictorial roundup and other links.

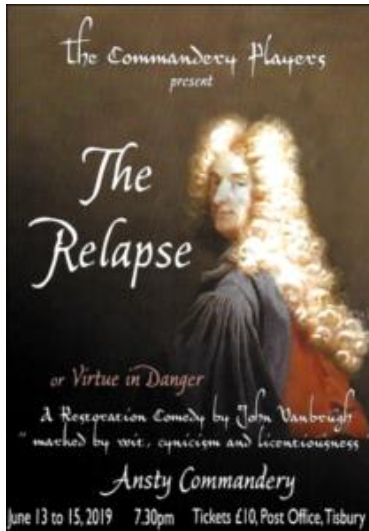
Ansty remembers D-Day – 6th June 1944 – 75th Anniversary.



On June 6th 1944 many Ansty families would have been listening to the 'wireless' when at 10 am John Snagge (a top BBC newsreader) announced that 'D-Day' was under way. Villagers would have instinctively known that the 'hour of European liberation was approaching' and that the dreadful War that began in 1939 was coming to an agonising end. Tap/click the image to find out more.

Enthusiastic reviews (or is it revues?) of one of the classics of British theatre!

15-06-2019



Enthusiastic audiences were treated to the Tisbury-based Commandery Players production of Sir John Vanbrugh's Restoration comedy 'The Relapse' on the 13th – 15th June.

Click [here](#) for a first review from 'The Fine Times Recorder'.

Click on the image for other details.



Ansty wins round 1 of the CPRE Wiltshire & The Hills Group Best Kept Village Competition 2019!

We are delighted to report that, thanks to everybody in Ansty who has helped in any way to keep our village litter free, very tidy and neatly presented we have again won round 1 (South Wiltshire 'Small Villages' category) of the competition for the 2nd year running. **Click/Tap on the CPRE logo to read the CPRE Project Officer's letter and a breakdown the results of the first round.**

We now go into the second 'County Round' where we are up against worthy entrants from the whole of Wiltshire. Judging will take place during July. Last year we came 2nd overall – having lost out by just 2 marks! Can we go just that one step further? We would like to hope so – but it will mean maintaining the upkeep of our beautiful village! Thank you so much for your support! **Click/tap [here](#) to see the Judges' report for round 1 (South Wiltshire 'Small Villages' category):** it is a joy to read!

AnstyFest 19

(posted 01-07-2019)



Ansty tapped deep into the spirit of the Glastonbury Music festival on Saturday June 29th by holding its own musical celebration! On what turned out to be the hottest day of the year with unbroken sunshine, the AnstyFest 19 event, organised by Sam and Kerry Wiggs, took place in a delightfully sloping field above the village of Ansty. Tap/Click image for more information.

We will Miss Them ...

It was with much sadness that we received news of the death of two ladies at the beginning of July who were very much part of Ansty village for a long time. Hazel Green, wife of Tony of Waterloo Farm, Ansty and Pat Hamshere, wife of Brian, Arundell Cottage, Ansty.



Pat's funeral was held at Salisbury Crematorium on Thursday 18th July 2019 at 11.30 am. All of us who knew Pat remember such a happy, smiling lady who lightened your day every time you met her. Indeed, her warm presence still enveloped all who were present at the service. Son Richard, her 'one and only' paid a moving tribute to his mother articulating how much Pat loved people and how, along with his father Brian enjoyed being a publican (at the Maypole) as well as being a great cake and pastry chef. A moving poem 'To Those Whom I Loved And To Those Who Loved Me' read by Elizabeth Shaw reduced many of the congregation to tears. It so reflected Pat in life.

Hazel came from Semley and her family are buried there. She was a big part of the local farming and equine loving community. She and Tony farmed at Waterloo Farm (when it was a much larger concern) all their married life – over 60 years. Hazel loved her horses and rode the bridleways and lanes regularly and was a great supporter of point to point racing.

Both ladies will be very much missed by all who knew them.

Well Done Ansty! We came 1st in the CPRE 'Best Kept Village Competition' (County round 2)!



Ansty has done this before in the past and we have done it again in 2019! So many villagers continue to make such an important contribution to making this village an extra special place and this is clearly evident in the Judges' reports in the preliminary South Wiltshire round back in June (which we won) and now the final Wiltshire County Round 2019. Thanks to all who help organise or support any of the Ansty events; our local businesses for their attention to detail; litter



picking; keeping the village looking tidy, footpaths accessible, hedges trimmed and gardens looking so attractive – and reading this website! Long may it continue!

Tap on the **village image** for the latest press release from the organisers and sponsors of the 'Best kept Village Competition' 2019. Tap [here](#) and [here](#) for a local news roundup.

Tap [here](#) for the Judges' report of Round 1 posted in June 2019.

SEE BELOW FOR DETAILS OF THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY HELD ON SEPTEMBER 15TH 2019!

The Ansty Gourmet Luncheon – A Very Successful Fundraising Event!



Around 30 Ansty Villagers and friends responded to the open invitation (by email or through our website) to sample excellent food (and wine) at the Ansty Gourmet Luncheon which was held locally on Sunday 11th August 2019. The ticketed gathering was to raise funds in aid of St James' Church Fabric Fund. Tap image for more details.

THE CPRE 'BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION' PRESENTATION WAS SUCCESSFULLY HELD AT ANSTY PYO FARM SHOP ON SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 15TH.

ANSTY RECEIVED SEVERAL AWARDS FOR WINNING THE BEST KEPT SMALL VILLAGE IN WILTSHIRE CATEGORY IN 2019



Ansty's winning certificates and plaques

Ansty put on its best face at the presentation of awards ceremony as winners of the CPRE's 'Best Kept Village in Wiltshire' competition held at our own Ansty PYO & Farm Shop on Sunday 15th September 2019.

The short ceremony which started at 15.00 pm included the unveiling of the CPRE BKVC standard and Shield and the presentation of several awards by various dignitaries

representing the 'Campaign to Protect Rural England' (Wiltshire CPRE), Wiltshire Council and the Hills Group – one of the main sponsors of the event.

In absolutely gorgeous warm and sunny weather an enthusiastic crowd of Ansty villagers beamed proudly as the CPRE Standard and Shield was unveiled by Mr. David Scott, the Wiltshire High Sheriff.

Cllr James Sheppard, Chairman, Wiltshire Council presented the Wiltshire Council Plaque to Juliette Foy, vice chair of Ansty Parish Council; The High Sheriff of Wiltshire and Swindon, Mr David Scott presented a framed CPRE certificate to Karren Price of the Ansty PYO and Farm shop; Mr Peter Andrew, a group director of The Hills Group (main sponsors of this competition) presented the Hills Group Plaque to Mr Mathew Feltham (Ansty Parish Councillor) and Anne Henshaw, Chairman of CPRE Wiltshire presented a framed District Round CPRE Certificate to Rob Wilkinson (Ansty Parish Councillor).

At the end of the presentation Juliette Foy, the vice chair of Ansty Parish Council delivered a vote of thanks.

Karren Price and her wonderful team at the Ansty PYO Farm shop laid on some very welcome refreshments in the tea room afterwards where the VIPs mingled with the villagers and all enjoyed the convivial hospitality.

So many villagers continue to make such an important contribution to making ANSTY an extra special place and this was clearly evident in

the Judges' reports in the preliminary South Wiltshire round back in June (which we won) and then going on to win the final Wiltshire County Round 2019, where the report was just as glowing.

Thanks are due to Mr Mike Manson, Project Officer, CPRE Wiltshire who, with his team, did the 'behind the scenes' organising for this event. Thanks also to the visiting 'VIPs' who generously gave of their time adding such flair and aplomb to the proceedings; thanks to Cllr Bridget Wayman (Nadder and East Knoyle Division) and Wiltshire Cabinet member for Highways, Transport and Waste) and Cllr. Jose Green (our local Fovant and Chalke Valley Division) who also attended.

Thanks to all those folk who help organise or support any of the Ansty events; our local businesses for their attention to detail; to our litter pickers who help keep our lanes and verges clean; to others who keep the village looking neat and tidy, footpaths accessible, hedges trimmed and gardens looking so attractive – and occasionally reading this website! Long may it all continue!

As for the CPRE Standard and Shield – that will remain for a short while at Ansty PYO before being moved to a new site near the heart of the village where it will be proudly displayed.

THE CPRE 'BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION' 2019

PRESENTATION IN PHOTOGRAPHS



[Tap each image to view picture details](#)



Another successful Harvest Supper held in The Commandery, Ansty.

Ansty Village celebrated Harvest Festival in The Commandery on the evening of Saturday October 5th with some 50 residents, parishioners and family friends enjoying an excellent supper which was laid on by a group of volunteers in this ancient, candle-lit hall. Tap the image for more details.

Flash Flood contained on Ansty Coombe Lane (Sunday 13-10-2019)



After more than 2 days of relentless rain on top of what has been an exceptionally wet spell since the last week of September residents woke to find water cascading down their local lane. Just before this wet spell began a Wiltshire County crew cleared out all of the drains on the lane, whilst local volunteers ensured the laneside stream was clear of debris. Unfortunately a series of earth gullies (grips) on a top track into 12 Acre Copse were all blocked (after logging

activities) allowing water to pour off the top of the Coombe slopes down the narrow lane. The infrastructure just about coped but residents were out in force clearing drain grids of leaves and debris – averting what might have been a potentially serious flash flood incident. The lane was also cleared of debris too. Well done all the helpers. Notches were cut into at least 6 blocked grips on the forest track to try and avoid a repeat situation.

CRANBORNE CHASE, UK, NOW DESIGNATED

AS AN INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY RESERVE!

(OCTOBER 2019)

Cranborne Chase has become the 14th Reserve across the globe and joins an exclusive club of International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Protected Areas to gain international recognition for our dark skies. What a stunning achievement! Well done to all of the Cranborne Chase AONB officers who spent years putting the 'Dark Skies Reserve' bid together and then successfully campaigning throughout the area to persuade people to pledge their support for the bid.

Here in Ansty, some villagers along with Parish Council supported the bid after Amanda Scott (one of the Dark Sky advisors) gave an interesting presentation at a Parish meeting that outlined what the bid was about and what we could all do to keep light pollution to the minimum. Thank you Amanda!



King Alfreds Tower, Stourhead, Wiltshire. Photo: Paul Howell, Pictor Images.

“Some people are lucky enough to recognise ‘the Plough’, but for others, seeing stars and their constellations is often impossible because of light pollution. Here in Cranborne Chase we can see the Milky Way and the Andromeda galaxy, if the clouds allow!” said Linda Nunn, Director of Cranborne Chase AONB.

Bob Mizon, who leads the Commission for Dark Skies in the UK and has played a major supporting role in the application, added: “You can’t fail to be amazed by the show the night sky puts on when you’re in Cranborne Chase AONB on a clear night.”

There are several outstanding localities in and around Ansty where one can gaze skywards and pick out a huge number of stars, constellations and planets of the solar system.

This dark sky status will certainly help to keep it that way for future generations.

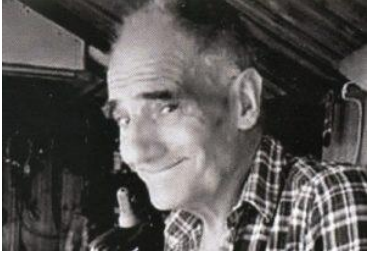
Click here for further reading: [Cranborne Dark Skies](#)

Try this ‘free to use’ link to view the whole sky as seen in our locality in real time. Use the icons at the foot of the screen to explore constellations, various grids, and deep sky objects. This online link is a ‘cut down version’ of the software app which you can find and download for yourself. [Stellarium](#)

Check out this interactive map showing the incredible images of England’s light pollution and dark skies: [England’s Light Pollution and Dark Skies](#) Go to ‘Search Tools’ and type in SP3

Click here for information about [Chasing Stars in our Outstanding Night Skies](#)

Farewell to Les Stonier. (November 22nd 2019)



On Friday 22nd November, the tiny church of St James in Ansty was packed to capacity with family, friends and villagers to support June as they all said goodbye to her husband Leslie Stonier who died peacefully at home on the 28th October, 2019. Les was a much loved countryman, with a reflective understanding of the local history of Ansty and an ability to read the landscape. He used his time wisely and could turn his hand to almost any task and had a 'wicked' sense of humour!

[Click on the image for more details.](#)

Christmas 2019 celebrations begin in Ansty! (21-12-2019)



A very dismal, wet Saturday afternoon did not dampen the enthusiasm of Ansty villagers, family and friends as they poured into St James' Church to take part in this year's 'Carols by Candlelight'. The pews soon became filled to capacity and the congregation once again listened to the traditional readings of the true message of Christmas and sang familiar carols. [Click on the image for details.](#)