

ANSTY VILLAGE EVENTS 2020
Including the COVID-19 story as this
unique year unfolds ... PART 1



The New Year 2020 began as the preceding autumn ended; damp, dismal and wet! There were a few vaguely disconcerting news items from China about a mystery virus but no-one gave it much thought and village life in Ansty continued as normal: people enjoying what was left of the holiday season and preparing their plans for the New Year.

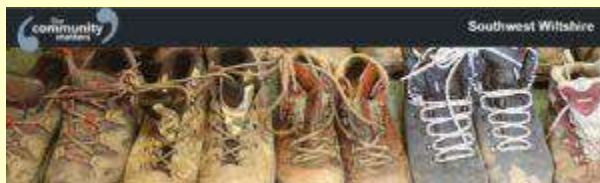
Our website reflected the mundane but necessary business that keeps the village 'as it is' whilst other folk were planning out the usual activities that entertain parishioners throughout the summer and into the next autumn.

Little did any of us know what was round the corner

Welcome to 2020! January - February

Explore Britain Now and Then! (posted 01-01-2020)

Click [here](#) to find a few very interesting websites for you to while away your time usefully and perhaps learn something new into the bargain!



South West Wiltshire 'Our Community Matters' (posted 01-01-2020)

'Our Community Matters' is an interactive notice board for news, events and volunteering opportunities for communities across Wiltshire. It provides people with local interactive notice boards which everyone can use to highlight and discuss local news events and ideas. Tap image to view the noticeboard.

[Sign up](#) to receive a weekly newsletter and keep up to date with everything going on in your local community

Don't be afraid of the dark...! (updated 17-01-2020)

You might be interested in viewing details of Stargazing Events coming up in our local area by tapping: [Go Stargazing](#)

'Well done again' to Wiltshire Council for delivering more highway improvements within our parish. (updated 17/01/2020)



Ever since we put in a [bid](#) (last March 2019) to tap into Wiltshire Highways additional funding to deliver improvements to our local roads and lanes in our parish we have seen pleasing examples of maintenance being carried out over the past 6 months. Potholes have been repaired; road signage has been upgraded; kerbs have been improved and most drains, grips, gulleys have been cleared out and jetted.

The many drains (some badly blocked) on Ansty Coombe Lane were all cleared with the removal of over a ton of debris followed by jetting to clear any remaining detritus. Further jetting and clearing took place last December around the Frogpond area in Ansty Coombe. Many thanks are due to Wiltshire Council and the contractors who completed the cleaning task over a two day period.

**** Over 24 inches (610 mm) of rain has fallen in our area since September 2019 – an unprecedented amount – testing the Coombe and High street drainage system to the limits – and they coped! Of course leaf fall and other debris will always have to be regularly cleared off the drain grids. Hopefully some residents will continue to volunteer to do this. During wet weather like this there is always the possibility of a small landslip in the Coombe, so keep an eye open!**



Wiltshire Council arrive to begin to 'dry out' a wet part of Coombe Lane! (posted 17-01-2020)

Ansty Villagers who venture from the High Street and visit Ansty Coombe will know how wet and mucky the Coombe Lane can get in the wet winter season. There has always been a 'bit of a drainage problem' along parts of this lane but the problem has increased substantially over the last decade or two due to a number of factors. It seems that at long last various bodies are working towards improving things around Frogpond Bend. Tap the image updated details. Since December much of the standing water has now receded thanks to Mr David Button (Wiltshire Highways engineer and

his team – see picture) but there is further maintenance work to be completed over the coming few months before we can finally say 'problems solved'!

Watch out for fallen trees and standing water! (posted 17-01-2020)

The relentless wet and sometimes windy weather over the last 4 months has brought more than a few problems to various locations in the parish. The upper Coombe area has endured several incidents of flash flooding – although there was no damage to private property – and some of these issues are now being sorted out by Wiltshire Council. Elsewhere we have had several trees or large branches falling along the south of the High Street as well as other local lanes. All local landowners are politely requested to check the condition of their trees and hedgerows and assess their safety, particularly if they border a road or are located near a building and take the necessary remedial action if they are not. Click [here](#) to read in depth more about our trees and woodland in Ansty.



New! A local Milk Refill Station in Ansty! (posted 18-01-2020)

From this Saturday, Church Farm Dairy in nearby Semley are providing healthy unhomogenised milk – available to buy from a milk refill station at our local Ansty PYO farm shop! Click on image to find out more.



Fly tipping back again! (posted 22-01-2020)

A well-known local parishioner out on a training run recently came across a pile of mainly household items – probably discarded after a refurbishment somewhere and just dumped on the byway above Ansty. Who, in their right mind would want to despoil such a beautiful area when they could easily take it to a local tip? The incident has been reported and hopefully it will get cleared up.

A new Ansty Parish Councillor has been appointed! (posted 22-01-2020)

Ansty Parish Council, after following the standard procedures are pleased to announce that parishioner Louise Gooding has been appointed to serve as an Ansty parish councillor to replace Morwenna Brewer who stood down in the late spring of last year. Welcome aboard! The parish council is still looking for someone to take on the interesting role of parish clerk. Click [here](#) for more details on our Parish Council page



Lots of exciting new ventures coming to the fore with the Cranborne Chase AONB! (posted 22-01-2020)

Watch this space for all the latest news in the coming months from our very own Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Tap on the image for details of projects coming up under Cranborne Chase & Chalk Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Silent Disco for over 65s (updated 24/01/2020) Seniors, people living with dementia and carers (from parishes around Tisbury) are invited to come and sit or dance at Tisbury's first ever Silent Disco, with music from the 50s, 60s and 70s on headphones. Tap image for further details. Click here to view [South West Wiltshire's 'Our Community Matters'](#) to view Wiltshire Council's interactive noticeboard for news, events and volunteering opportunities across the county.





Visit The Salisbury Museum... (posted 30/01/2020)

Did you know that the [Salisbury Museum](#), located in the medieval King's House in Salisbury's famous Cathedral Close has a fantastic range of collections, exhibitions and events bringing to life the history of our local landscape and the people who shaped it. Tap on image link for more information.



Who needs to go any further than Salisbury to enjoy a vast compendium of cultural creativity? Wiltshire Creative is a new pan-arts organisation that brings together the energy and ambition of Salisbury Arts Centre, Salisbury International Arts Festival and Salisbury Playhouse. It is an ambitious and innovative joint arts offer that secures a bright future for audiences, artists and participants. Click on the logo to find out more.

Parish stewards change focus to potholes. (posted 07-02-2020)



Wiltshire's army of parish stewards are focusing their energies on repairing potholes to combat the wet weather damage on Wiltshire's roads this month. The 20 stewards (including ours at Ansty) work in local communities to carry out repairs and maintenance, based on the needs of the communities they serve. Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cabinet Member for Highways, said: "All our parish stewards will focus solely on seeking out and repairing potholes throughout Wiltshire for the next month." Tap image for the full story.

Wiltshire Creative (posted 31/01/2020)



The most climate-friendly council in England and Wales introduces emission free electric buses! (posted 07-02-2020)

Together with Salisbury Reds, Wiltshire Council have unveiled new electric buses for city's park and ride services. The three brand new electric vehicles – a total investment of £1.2 million – will run from Salisbury park and ride bus services. Tap image for details. For more up-to-date news from Wiltshire Council click [here](#):

Thank you to all those Ansty folk who pick up litter when they see it! (posted 08/02/2020)

Ansty Parish Council is very grateful to several unsung heroes who regularly collect litter from various locations in and around our village. These days, the problem seems to be getting worse despite our best efforts – and it seems that there will always be the need for 'litter picking' until everybody realises that it is just not pleasant and there really is no need to dump rubbish anywhere. Don't forget our [annual parish litter pick](#) is scheduled for the end of March, this year



The CPRE ‘Best Kept Village’ in Wiltshire plaque – 2019 unveiled! (Updated 09-02-2020)

Cllr. Mathew Feltham has kindly attached our winning plaque to a stone in the vicinity of the Commandery to serve as a permanent reminder of our achievement in 2019. The CPRE Standard which was also presented to us and now resides on the bank of Ansty Pond will have to be returned by the end of August, this year. Click image for more details.



Much discussed at the latest Ansty Parish Council meeting. (posted 10/02/2020)

The latest Ansty Parish Council meeting, held at St James' Church in Ansty on Monday 10th February was attended by a small, involved and attentive group of parishioners. Chairman Tim Martin, along with other councillors, efficiently dealt with a long agenda – updating villagers on many matters including several planning issues, financial matters and listening to residents' concerns before making active decisions. Click on image for further information. Click [here](#) to view copy of signed minutes for previous meeting held last November 2019.



[Recycling collection day and system changes ... \(13-02-2020\)](#)

Wiltshire Council are making it even easier for people to use the kerbside recycling collection service. Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste also commented that the collection day changes will improve the efficiency of the rounds and reduce the number of vehicles on our roads. Fewer vehicles mean we will reduce our environmental impact and contribute to our aim of becoming a carbon neutral council by 2030. Tap image.



Wiltshire Council continues on its carbon neutral journey. (updated 23-02-2020)

In July 2019 Wiltshire Council resolved to acknowledge there is a climate emergency and seek to make the county of Wiltshire carbon neutral by 2030. Following on from this pledge they are now working hard on a number of projects to make a difference. Tap image for the details.

Details of the 2020 Salisbury International Arts Festival have just been announced! (posted 26-02-2020)

There will be over 100 events across 16 days (22 May – 6 June) and there is something for everyone – from world-class music and dance, spectacular free outdoor events, famous faces, sporting legends, comedy, film, theatre and visual arts. Click on image for details.



Making good use of our Parish Steward! (posted 01-03-2020)

Wiltshire Council's 'Parish Steward Scheme' had its successful origins back in the 1990s. However after a break in the late 2000s the scheme was reintroduced in 2016 where 'parish stewards' liaise directly with parishes to carry out local minor highways work 'swiftly and efficiently'. Click here for more information: [The Parish Steward](#)

By early March we were all still busy going about our daily routines, shopping, working, travelling all over the place, visiting cafes, meeting people, going to theatres, children enjoying school, making all sorts of plans ...but we were becoming more alert to the spread of this 'coronavirus' ... it sounded rather like a bad case of influenza and so most of us remained unperturbed ...well maybe a little anxious...



Ansty Notice Board has been refurbished and put back where it belongs! (Updated 02/03/2020)

You may recall that Ansty's 'Physical' notice board (left) was taken down for repair early last December (2019). Well after restoration and renovation, the familiar noticeboard is now back where it belongs! Tap image to read the full story. It should last for a few more years now!



Be 'Flood Aware' – Flood alerts flagged down again along the River Nadder and tributaries. (updated 06-03-2020)

Such is the very fickle nature of the potential for flooding incidents 'flood alerts' are often 'here today, gone tomorrow'. Always better to be prepared than to be taken by surprise though. When flooding does happen it is often overwhelmingly quick and can be devastating. If the the Environmental Agency puts out an alert, we have a duty to inform you that an alert is in force and also when it has been removed. **Flood alert no longer in force.** With groundwater levels remain so high even modest amounts of rain can cause problems. Last month we had over 6 inches of rain (well above average) and the month was exceptionally humid throughout – even during 'bright' days. If the Ansty stream alongside the High Street is looking coloured with silt and mud that usually indicates that flooding in the lower Nadder valley is imminent: hence there is usually a flood alert alert in force. If any resident is concerned please contact the [Ansty Flood Warden](#). Meanwhile whilst very the wet weather prevails **click on the map image** for

current Environment Agency information and updates.



Ansty public footpath maintenance season continues! (posted 10-03-2020)

The Ansty volunteer public footpath maintenance group have recently reconvened ready to tidy up all of our footpaths after the winter storms and wet weather! Hopefully this means local people and visitors alike can enjoy pleasant walking along our 6 miles of tracks through some of the most beautiful countryside imaginable this summer. Click on image to read about our second foray!



Our Annual village spring litter pick takes place on Saturday morning, March 28th, 2020, 10 – 11 am. (posted 10-03-2020)

Parish Chairman, Mr Tim Martin is hoping that there will be the usual good turnout of village volunteers to help clear the verges along the High street (and elsewhere, if possible!). The area around the Maypole will also need sweeping to clear away loose chippings – ahead of the children starting their maypole dancing rehearsals the same afternoon. See you at 10 am! Click on poster image for more detail



Cranborne Chase AONB looking forward to providing new activities and events in 2020! (posted 13/03/2020)

Here is the latest newsletter from Cranborne Chase AONB to keep you in the loop with their news, activities and events. Regular updates are posted on their social media pages: just follow the links in the footer to find out more.

... And then the World Health Organisation dramatically declared that we were all in the throes of a World Pandemic. Suddenly, we all took notice and Ansty folk along with all of our local villages swung into action displaying a real show of community spirit. Our ‘normal’ way of life was about to change completely!

This was really serious!

March 2020. The month when life changed completely for everyone in the UK. It was became known as the GREAT 'LOCKDOWN'.

The World Health Organisation declares that we have a Global Pandemic

March 11th 2020

The source of the coronavirus (Covid-19) is believed to have been a 'wet market' in Wuhan, China which sold both dead and live animals. The virus apparently 'jumped' from an animal to a human and the severe respiratory disease that could kill spread rapidly across the world. There is no known cure as yet but there is a race on to find a remedy.

The first confirmed cases of coronavirus in the UK were on January 29th 2020 when two Chinese nationals fell ill at a hotel in York.

The first British national to be diagnosed with the virus was a Brighton businessman who had been on a trip to Singapore. He was later linked to 5 other cases in the UK and 6 others abroad.

On February 28th, the first person to contract coronavirus in the UK was diagnosed: he lived in Surrey, but had not been abroad and there were no known contacts.

The virus was spreading ...

The first death in the UK came a week later on March 5th, when a woman in her 70s was confirmed to have died from the virus.

By mid-March the alarm bells were really ringing and some of us realised that life was about change quite abruptly. No more visiting shops, cafes or going to crowded places of entertainment; no visiting the grandchildren; no travelling. Stay Put. It was beginning to look much more serious than was first thought.

By March 23rd, The Johnson Government put us all into 'lockdown' knowing it would reap unmeasurable hardship for all. Most service industries except food shops closed down; many workers were furloughed. The mantra was: 'Stay at Home' and only go out for food and 1 bout of exercise within a few minutes of home. No driving here and there unless you couldn't work from home.

The cost was going to be astronomical. There was no other way.

The over 70s and those with underlying health conditions were deemed the most vulnerable to the virus.

The idea was to flatten the epidemic curve, save the NHS from being overwhelmed and keep deaths under 20,000.

The local communities, including our parish of Ansty rallied round to put in place volunteer hubs to aid those who were really locked down in the community.



Our own website reflected the frantic changes that overwhelmed us. All the planned events for the village were cancelled. So we kept a log of what happened as the lockdown began...

(please note not all of the links will work or might not be relevant – such was the rapidity of change – but you will get the drift ...)

Our Annual village spring litter picks to be held on Saturday morning, March 28th, 2020, 10 - 11 am. CANCELLED. (updated 13-03-2020)

Parish Chairman, Mr Tim Martin was hoping that there would be the usual good turnout of village volunteers to help clear the verges along the High street (and elsewhere, if possible!). However, the fast ongoing coronavirus (COVID 19) crisis meant that like everything else this event was cancelled.

Cranborne Chase AONB looking forward to providing new activities and events in 2020! CANCELLED (updated 13/03/2020)



Here is the latest newsletter from Cranborne Chase AONB to keep you in the loop with their news, activities and events. Regular updates are posted on their social media pages: just follow the links in the footer to find out more.

Due to the coronavirus outbreak most activities and events have been cancelled for the foreseeable future.



Coronavirus (COVID-19) Advice from Wiltshire Council (posted 13-03-2020)

This latest advice from Wiltshire Council was sent to us on Friday, 13th March. It reinforces what most of us probably know and understand already but it does show that Wiltshire Council has produced a COVID-19 Community Pack with key contacts, resources and information in one place. This should help to support the community during this unprecedented situation. Things are moving at an extraordinarily fast rate.

Karren Price of Ansty PYO achieves her goal! (posted 15-03-2020)

Some Ansty folk will have noticed Karren Price of Ansty PYO & Farm Shop pacing the local trackways and slopes over the past few months keeping her in tip top shape to compete in local marathon competitions. Karren was down to compete in the Bath Half Marathon on Sunday 15th March but it didn't go quite to plan ... click [here](#) to find out more!



No more footpath maintenance for the time being. (posted 16-03-2020)

In view of government announcements made on Monday 16th March concerning coronavirus and recognising that we are rapidly heading for a long term 'lock down' the Ansty Footpath Maintenance Group have decided to cancel any further maintenance plans for the immediate future.

We need to show solidarity with the government's drastic steps even if (at the moment) the numbers of positive tests in Wiltshire still appear relatively low – we need to keep it that way to give ourselves and the NHS a 'bit of time'.



The Ansty Community at its best! (posted 17-03-2020)

Even before Monday's government announcements concerning drastic 'lock down steps' to keep us all as safe as can be from this unprecedented coronavirus situation it seems that it is bringing the best out of folk in Ansty. There have been many offers of practical help and 'good neighbourliness' throughout the parish. Click on the Maypole flag to read more.



Ansty May Day 2020 has been cancelled due to the coronavirus crisis. (posted 17-03-2020)

The May Day committee has just announced decide that sadly they have to cancel our event for this year. Anne Martin, one of the committee members said "we had hoped to run it in a smaller way but this is now not possible. We really hope to be able to run it next year and make it our usual lovely occasion. Please stay in contact in these challenging times." Thank you to all the people who have been involved in the planning so far this year. It must be bitterly disappointing - but there really was no other option.

Last updated Tuesday 17 March 2020 at 13:30

In light of the Government guidance around non-essential contact, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have issued advice that public worship is suspended until further notice.

Churches should be open where possible but with no public worship services taking place. Prayers can be said by clergy and ministers on behalf of everyone and churches should consider ways of sharing this with the wider community.

Public Worship Is Suspended Until Further Notice (posted 17-03-2020)

In light of the Government guidance around non-essential contact, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have issued advice that public worship is suspended until further notice. This includes St James' Church in Ansty. Click on the image for further details.

Be warned: a theft has taken place in Ansty High street (updated 20/03/2020)

A van in the High Street has been broken into and a number of cans of diesel taken. It happened between late yesterday afternoon ! (19-03-2020) and early this morning. Please take extra care and be on the lookout.

Ansty Ladies' Lunch has been cancelled for the foreseeable future. (posted 22-03-2020)

Sadly the monthly Ansty Ladies' Lunches are cancelled for the foreseeable future to comply with Government regulations and of course with the closures of all pubs there is nowhere to go. Anne Oldfield who organised these splendid events stated she felt profoundly sorry for all those lovely pubs that have welcomed the ladies and provided delicious lunches for them to enjoy, along with the chance to exchange local gossip and news. Anne will be contacting them all to express their gratitude and hoping that the businesses will survive and rise again.

Check out the latest planning application details for Ansty (updated 22/03/2020)

Tap [here](#) for the latest planning application details for Ansty Parish. You may wish to comment on applications via Wiltshire Planning or contact a member of Ansty Parish Council. The Council welcomes your views when considering any application. Due to technical problems, some of the comments deadline dates have been extended.

Reflecting on a week when everything changed. (updated 23-03-2020)

In just one week in mid-March, 2020 the Government have decreed many draconian changes to our normal way of life to try and keep us safe and hopefully better prepared to cope with the current coronavirus pandemic which is now upon us. In current parlance we are in a kind of 'lockdown'. [Click here to read more...](#)

Message from Tim Martin (Parish Council Chairman) re COVID-19 Current Government Restrictions (24-03-2020)

Dear Villagers,

I hope that you are well and coping with the recent stringent government announcements. I wanted to update you on some of our events that unfortunately have to be cancelled and to give you a suggestion if re ordering medicines. Click [here](#) to read the full message.



The day the UK (and Ansty) shut down. (posted 24-03-2020)

It has been just over a week since our very way of life began to dramatically change. The threat of COVID-19 coronavirus is so very real and yet it is invisible. Ansty is well and truly locked down - as is almost everywhere else in the country. This day might well be the one that will be remembered in history for a long time to come as expressed by the morning's headlines in some of our daily newspapers. Click on the image.

Another cancellation - this time it is the CPRE Laurence Kitching Award Competition 2020 (posted 25-03-2020)

As you may know Ansty was bidding to win the Laurence Kitching Award this year - where we were competing against other winning Wiltshire villages from last year. [A statement](#) from Mike Manson (Wiltshire CPRE project officer) concluded "sadly, we have no choice but to cancel this year's Competition. We had considered various alternatives to the normal arrangements, including deferral by one or more months, but the impact of Coronavirus is potentially so severe and uncertain that we felt that a fair Competition could not take place." It is such a shame - but we will be back competing again, when the time is right!

A message from Tisbury Surgery re (Boots) Pharmacy (posted 25-03-2020)

A salutary lesson for us all who use the Tisbury pharmacy? [Click here.](#)

New: Cranborne Chase AONB 'keeping in touch' (posted 26/03/2020)



So many things have changed since the Coronavirus Crisis has taken hold in the UK. Many events that had been planned by the AONB team and partners have been cancelled, postponed or being conducted remotely. Here is the latest newsletter from the Cranborne Chase AONB outlining what is going on. Click on the image



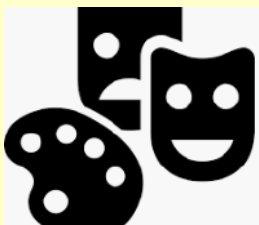
Tree trimming has taken place in the vicinity of Frogpond Bend (posted 26-03-2020)

Some overgrown trees have been reduced back to a former hedge line so as not to interfere with telephone cables along Coombe Lane whilst several other storm toppled trees nearby have been dealt with too. Eventually it is hoped to partially clear a former pond area to help improve drainage on this lane junction with Kings Lane.

Anne Moorse. (posted 27-03-2020)

It is with much sadness that we report the death of Anne Morse. Anne died peacefully in hospital at 9.30 pm yesterday, March 26th. A long-time resident of Ansty and a most wonderful organist at St James' Church for many years, she will be greatly missed. We offer our sincere condolences to the family.

West Wiltshire Police have updated their Crime Map Report to February 2020. (updated 27/03/2020)



NEW! Looking for something to do during these strange times of social 'lockdown'? (posted 28-03-2020)

Click on image to try this list of material to broaden your cultural minds in this time of social distancing. Suitable for all ages.



NEW! The latest Ansty monthly weather statistics have been compiled. (posted 31-03-2020)

MARCH 2020 was a month of stark contrasts: The first half was quite mild, mostly cloudy and wet; the second half was quite cool - especially by night - with clear skies, plenty of sunshine and exceptionally dry!

Tap/Click [here](#) to get the latest details.

New – to cheer us up! A Parish Snapshot (posted 31-03-2020)

To welcome in April even more local photography can be discovered on the [Parish Snapshot](#) tab on the side menu. Just something to cheer us up! Any additions from local folk always welcomed.

Coronavirus – UK Statistics (COVID 19). (updated 31-03-2020)

As of 9am on 31 March 2020, a total of 143,186 people have been tested, of which 25,150 were confirmed positive. As of 5pm on 30 March 2020, of those hospitalised in the UK, 1,789 have died. The figures for test results and for deaths are compiled from different sources. This is why the figures for deaths are reported from an earlier point in time than the figures for test results. There are now 83 confirmed cases in Wiltshire.

[Tracking the latest on Coronavirus COVID-19 from BBC News](#)

For latest information visit go to: [What to do in an Emergency](#)

What should I do to [prevent catching and spreading the coronavirus?](#)



NEW Need help with local shopping? (updated 27-03-2020)

Ansty PYO & Farm Shop are altering the way they do things to help villagers get their shopping in coordination with and help by local volunteers. Click on the image for more details and the options of what is on offer. Thank you K and your wonderful team and all the local volunteers who are helping ensure the order and delivery service is up and running smoothly



Latest Information about Coronavirus and What steps you should take to keep safe. (posted 25-03-2020)

There is a deluge of information out there - but one of the easiest websites to digest is supplied by the BBC in conjunction with the NHS. Click on image.

Here is the official government link 'Coronavirus (COVID-19): [What you need to do](#)

'Your NHS Needs You' - A call to Arms (posted 26-03-2020)

The NHS is "rallying the troops" for the war on coronavirus, with volunteers being called up to help vulnerable people stay safe and well at home. Click [here](#) for more information if you are interested in volunteering. So far more than half a million have joined the list - isn't that great news?

To show our appreciation for NHS workers, carers and volunteer helpers during this the coronavirus crisis, Ansty and Ansty Coombe residents in common with many others up and down the country took part in the first 'clap for our carers' at 8pm Thursday 26th March. Well done all - and thank you so much!

Indeed, everything was cancelled, because of the coronavirus pandemic. Plans were on hold for everyone: going to work, school, shopping (apart from foodstuffs); no recreation – not even meeting family. It was the greatest shutdown of the UK ever seen. It was going to cost us billions of pounds but it was to ‘flatten the curve’ save the NHS from being overwhelmed and save lives.

Meanwhile community life continued amidst the chaos...

April 2020. Another whole month passes and Ansty (along with the rest of the UK) is still in complete 'lockdown'. The newspaper headlines say it all.



The year 2020 will be remembered for a very long time because by mid-March we all realised we were at war with an invisible enemy: coronavirus (covid-19).

The long predicted pandemic caught us all unawares. The world was warned years ago that it was coming and we should all have put in place vital contingency plans. Well there certainly will be plans in place for the next pandemic!

The results of the government (and their advisers) 'lockdown' policy to try and contain the coronavirus covid-19 pandemic was shocking in both economic terms and the human cost. Had they not done this the consequences would have been much, much worse.

However, here in Ansty, as in all towns and villages across the land the community did pull together and almost all people followed the rules to stay safe thus averting what might have been even more catastrophic consequences.

Below is a record of how the month of April unfolded in Ansty – at least it was the sunniest April since records began, although much needed rain arrived right at the end of the month.

CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 EPIDEMIC. LOCAL COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD – Early April

Latest Information about Coronavirus and what steps you should take to keep safe. (updated 01-04-2020)

There is a deluge of information out there – but one of the easiest websites to digest is supplied by the BBC in conjunction with the NHS. Click on image.



[Tracking the latest on Coronavirus COVID-19 from BBC News](#)

For latest information visit go to: [What to do in an Emergency](#)

What should I do to [prevent catching and spreading the coronavirus?](#)

Here is the official government link 'Coronavirus (COVID-19)': [What you need to do](#)



COVID-19: WILTSHIRE COUNCIL HAS SET UP A DEDICATED HUB TO SUPPORT LOCAL VULNERABLE RESIDENTS (01-04-2020)

Wiltshire Council has set up a dedicated hub to support the most vulnerable residents during the ongoing COVID-19 situation.

The Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub is available to anyone who is struggling during this difficult time, such as people who are shielding or self-isolating and don't have a support network around them or know where to get help. Click on image for details.



WILTSHIRE COUNCIL COVID-19 COMMUNITY GROUPS DIRECTORY (01-04-2020)

Look up **South West Wiltshire for Ansty and Tisbury Neighbourhood Response**. Click on image for details.

Tisbury Neighbourhood Response – serving Tisbury, West Tisbury and the surrounding hamlets. (posted 02-04-2020)

The phone number to call is 01747 684010 or you can email liz@emc2publicrelations.com

There are three options: (prescription/medication collection; food shopping; social). There are many volunteers wishing to help.

For Ansty, **Caroline Plumptre** is the designated person to collect & deliver prescriptions for Ansty residents from Hindon Surgery. Just phone her if you need a prescription to be collected.

‘Your NHS Needs You’ – A call to Arms (posted 02-04-2020)

The NHS is “rallying the troops” for the war on coronavirus, with volunteers being called up to help vulnerable people stay safe and well at home. Click [here](#) for more information if you are interested in volunteering. So far more than 750,000 have joined the list – isn’t that great news?



Need help with local shopping? (updated 18-04-2020)

Our Ansty PYO & Farm Shop has set up various ordering and delivery options to help villagers get their shopping in coordination with and help by local volunteers. The shop has also reinstated longer opening hours. Click on the image for more details and the options of what is on offer along with the current order form for April. Thank you so much K and your wonderful team and all the local volunteers who are helping ensure the order and delivery service is up and running smoothly.

More updated Coronavirus News: New! (posted 19-04-2020)

Coronavirus Survivors Hope for Immunity — The Reality Is More Complicated. *Scientists are working hard to understand the extent to which antibodies provide protection against Covid-19. Read in [Bloomberg](#): Shared from Apple News.*

[Emergency Relief Fund](#) (posted 02-04-2020)

The **Alice Combes Trust** supported by **The Lord Arundell of Wardour Charitable Trust** are today launching an emergency food relief fund for residents of the following parishes: Tisbury, West Tisbury, Wardour, Donhead St Andrew, Donhead St Mary, Semley and Ansty. [Tap here](#) for more details.



Looking for something to do during these strange times of social 'lockdown'? (posted 01-04-2020)

Click on image to try this list of material to broaden your cultural minds in this time of social distancing. Suitable for all ages.



The latest Ansty monthly weather statistics have been compiled. (posted 01-04-2020)

MARCH 2020 was a month of stark contrasts: The first half was quite mild, mostly cloudy and wet; the second half was quite cool – especially by night – with clear skies, plenty of sunshine and exceptionally dry!

Tap/Click [here](#) to get the latest details.



All performances and activities at Salisbury Playhouse and Arts Centre Cancelled until end of July (posted 03-04-2020)

Over the past few days, along with businesses and individuals around the world, difficult decisions have had to be made. This year's Salisbury International Arts Festival has been cancelled and activities at Salisbury Playhouse and Salisbury Arts Centre events have also been cancelled. This period has now been extended to cover all performances and activities up to the end of July, with both venues remaining closed for the time being. Click on logo to view more.



The Ansty and the wider community at its best! updated 07-04-2020

It seems ages since the government announced important measures on 16th March concerning drastic 'lock down steps' to keep us all as safe as possible from the unprecedented coronavirus situation that is now a world pandemic. Click on the Maypole flag to read more.



Free digital copy of Wiltshire Life magazine is on offer to everybody! (updated 09/04/2020)

Wiltshire Life, a subscription based magazine, has been the county magazine for Wiltshire for more than 70 years ‘one magazine, one county’ and so during this Easter period they would like to offer everyone in the county access to a digital version of the latest issue of the magazine without having to pay. This is a small gesture, which they hope will provide some connection to the outside world during these troubling times. What a very generous offer indeed! Click on the image to get your free copy!

Anne Moorse. (posted 17-04-2020)

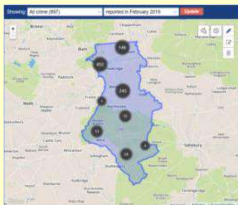
It was with much sadness that we recently reported the death of long-time Ansty resident Anne Morse. Anne died peacefully in hospital at 9.30 pm on March 26th.

For many years, musician and regular church-goer Anne was a much praised organist at St. James’ Church. A former music teacher, Anne was well known throughout the village and highly regarded by everyone. She will, indeed, be sadly missed.

There will just be a brief very private service and committal around the graveside outside St James’ Church for close family only, on Friday 17th April, as no-one is allowed into the church because of the continuing coronavirus epidemic.

It is hoped that there will be a massive thanksgiving for her once we are ‘liberated’ from the ‘lockdown’ restrictions.

We offer our sincere commiserations to the family.



West Wiltshire Police have suspended their Crime Map Report (updated 18/04/2020)

Click on the image for the latest local overview and crime map statistics for Wiltshire Police, West Wiltshire. Their latest crime details have been suspended until further notice due to the coronavirus pandemic.



Ansty Footpath (FP2) has been closed temporarily. (posted 18-04-2020)

The steep footpath that ascends the steep slope opposite the Maypole on its way to Swallowcliffe has been temporarily closed by Wiltshire Council after parish chairman Tim Martin contacted Alex Howson our senior footpath officer. This is because a large ash tree near the top of the slope out on to the green lane has split and is looking dangerous. Please stay away! Click picture to view



Take a look at our Parish Snapshot!

More **local photography** has been added on to the [Parish Snapshot](#) tab on the side menu. Just something to cheer us up! Any additions from local folk always welcomed. (posted 19-04-2020)



Wiltshire Creative Connects ...(posted 27/04/2020)

While Salisbury Playhouse and Salisbury Arts Centre are closed, and the 2020 Salisbury International Arts Festival has been cancelled, we know that arts and entertainment still have an important part to play, offering entertainment and inspiration during these uncertain times. Click on the image to discover more.

Check out the latest planning application details for Ansty (updated 20/04/2020)

Tap [here](#) for the latest planning application details for Ansty Parish. You may wish to comment on applications via Wiltshire Planning or contact a member of Ansty Parish Council. The Council welcomes your views when considering any application.

CORONAVIRUS NOTICE BOARD: end of APRIL 2020

To show appreciation for NHS workers, carers and volunteer helpers and other key workers during this the coronavirus crisis, Ansty and Ansty Coombe residents in common with many others up and down the country are encouraged to participate in the ‘clap for our carers and keyworkers’ at 8pm Thursday 30th April. We thank you all, so very much!

Please stay safe. Stay at home. Observe Social Distancing. The crisis is nowhere near over. If you ignore the rules the virus is likely to peak again and cause far greater difficulties. It is a long game. Thank you!

UK held a minute silence for Key Workers who have died after contracting coronavirus whilst working on the ‘front-line’ at 11 am 28th April.

Coronavirus (COVID 19) UK and local statistics (Updated 30-04-2020)

As of 9am on 30 April, there have been 901,905 tests, with 81,611 tests on 29 April. 687,369 people have been tested, of whom 171,253 have tested positive. As of 5pm on 29 April, of those who tested positive for coronavirus in the UK, 26,771 have died. This new figure includes deaths in all settings, not just in hospitals. The equivalent figure under the old measure would have been 22,791. The daily number of coronavirus associated UK deaths in hospital was 674.

There are now 415 confirmed cases in Wiltshire. Note these cumulative results started to be computed daily from March 9th 2020.

For nearly six weeks our village community has been in 'lockdown' but the resolve had stayed largely firm. Our biggest annual event on the morrow – Ansty May Day was cancelled and people were becoming very weary and upset by the endless tragic news of the brutal effects of the coronavirus and wondering whether there will be a way out of this predicament for any or all of us?

Perhaps Captain (now Hon. Colonel) Tom's 100 birthday message shows the way or not as the case may be.



Newspaper headlines from BBC News Website

Key Events in Ansty for April 2020

THE ANSTY COMMUNITY AT ITS BEST! (06-04-2020)

It seems ages since our Government announced important measures on 16th March concerning drastic 'lock down steps' to keep us all as safe as possible from the unprecedented coronavirus situation that is now a world pandemic.



Even before these announcements were made it seems that the crisis was already bringing the best out of folk in Ansty. There had already been many offers of practical help and 'good neighbourliness' throughout the parish and from beyond.

Older folk and those with 'underlying health conditions' recognised that they really did have to 'stay at home' for the foreseeable future and were worried about shopping for essential items and collecting things like prescriptions. Immediately several kind Ansty people offered practical help to do their shopping and collect prescriptions.

From having no viable 'pandemic plan' whatsoever, within a week, most parishes, including Ansty had put in communication networks based on emails, mobile/phone lines; social media and websites – all coordinating a small army of volunteers (or neighbourhood response teams) to help support the community.

A big 'thank you' is due to all those kind villagers (too many to name) who have offered their support in any way to others via emails and telephone calls and being there 'just in case'; to K and her wonderful team at Ansty PYO & Farm shop who work tirelessly to fulfil orders; to chairman Tim Martin and others for calmly coordinating and ensuring that all the help 'lines' in Ansty are working efficiently and to Tisbury Neighbourhood Response who have kindly reached out to their neighbour parishes. It really is much appreciated. Thanks too, to Wiltshire Council for their 'Wellbeing Hub' and the 'Community Groups Directory' that they have co-ordinated – and yes, Ansty is registered!

When we clap for the NHS, we are also clapping for all the 'key workers' and by that I take it to mean all those who are doing their bit to support the community and help us all get through this unprecedented crisis.

If we are going to have to endure a prolonged 'lock down' as seems likely for most of us then there isn't a better place than Ansty to have to do it: indeed it seems practically all of us are following the 'rules'. This can only help the situation because there is no other plan on the table.

Keep an eye or ear open for those emails and phone calls and offers of help; your website is updated daily and there are a lot of things you can read or look at. Most of us will need some help at some stage. Don't be afraid to ask! People are only too willing to help!

Anne Moorse. (posted 17-04-2020)

It was with much sadness that we recently reported the death of long-time Ansty resident Anne Morse. Anne died peacefully in hospital at 9.30 pm on March 26th.

For many years, musician and regular church-goer Anne was a much praised organist at St. James' Church. A former music teacher, Anne was well known throughout the village and highly regarded by everyone. She will, indeed, be sadly missed.

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It is hoped that there will be a massive thanksgiving for her once we are 'liberated' from the 'lockdown' restrictions. We offer our sincere commiserations to the family.

Ansty Footpath (FP2) has been closed temporarily. (18-04-2020)



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(Update 20-05-2020) It transpired that they were absolutely close the footpath because in mid-May large pieces of the stricken Ash tree have crashed down causing damage to other trees and the tree itself is now in a very unstable condition at the moment. We are awaiting further developments whilst the authorities decide the best way to tackle the problem.

Special commemorative plaque unveiled in Ansty (April 30th 2020)



Long standing Ansty resident Helen Forshaw, formerly of New Barn house died two years ago while out walking with her dog Bea in big sky country near Horwood.

Helen was one of many Ansty folk who became involved in all of our parish activities over many years.

Councillor Mathew Feltham who had known Helen since he was a child said ‘Lots of Ansty villagers recognised all the hard work she had done for the parish over many years and I just wanted something to remember her by’. ‘Helen gave 110% with everything she did.’



So if you go for walk over Horwood way – look out for the plaque.

Coronavirus (COVID 19) UK and local statistics (Updated 30-04-2020)

As of 9am on 30 April, there have been 901,905 tests, with 81,611 tests on 29 April. 687,369 people have been tested, of whom 171,253 have tested positive. As of 5pm on 29 April, of those who tested positive for coronavirus in the UK, 26,771 have died. This new figure includes deaths in all settings, not just in hospitals. The equivalent figure under the old measure would have been 22,791. The daily number of coronavirus associated UK deaths in hospital was 674. There are now 415 confirmed cases in Wiltshire. Note these cumulative results started to be computed daily from March 9th 2020.

It had been established that the peak of the coronavirus outbreak was in mid-April. The 'curve' was flattening.

May 2020. Another whole month passes and Ansty (along with the rest of the UK) is still in 'lockdown'. However, as the month progressed, the message changed to 'Stay Alert' as the Government slowly started to very slowly ease the restrictions. Garden centres were allowed to open (with social distancing measures in place) and more people could go to work.

A mixture of fine weather; 10 weeks of 'Stay at Home' for millions and with the sometimes antagonistic media attention 'holding the government to account' things began to fray a little. Disappointingly, the Whitsun bank holiday and thereafter saw huge crowds flocking to the beaches and other beauty spots as if the disease wasn't a threat anymore. The newspaper headlines were not always helpful either



CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 PANDEMIC: LOCAL COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD May 2020

[New easing of lockdown restrictions as from 1st June 2020](#)

[Tracking the latest on Coronavirus COVID-19 from BBC News](#)

What should I do to [prevent catching and spreading the coronavirus?](#)

For other local emergency problems visit: [What to do in an Emergency](#)

Need help with local shopping? (updated 29-05-2020)



Our Ansty PYO & Farm Shop has set up various ordering and delivery options to help villagers get their shopping in coordination with and help by local volunteers. The shop has also reinstated longer opening hours
Click on the image for more details and the options of what is on offer along with the current order form for May. Thank you so much K and your wonderful team and all the local volunteers who are helping ensure the order and delivery service is up and running smoothly. It does seem as if things are back to a new normal now where customers give in their orders and pick the goods up outside thus keeping to the social distancing rules: there is less reliance on voluntary help now.



Latest Information about Coronavirus and what steps you should take to keep safe. (updated 13-05-2020)

There remains deluge of information out there – but one of the easiest websites to digest is supplied by the BBC in conjunction with the NHS. Click on image.

Here is the official government link 'Coronavirus (COVID-19): [What you need to do](#)

To show continued appreciation for NHS workers, carers and volunteer helpers and other key workers during this the coronavirus crisis, Ansty and Ansty Coombe residents in common with many others up and down the country are encouraged to participate in the

'clap for our carers and keyworkers' at 8pm Thursday 28th May.

Thank you all, so very much! After 10 weeks it has been suggested that this event should be curtailed.

Please stay alert. Observe Social Distancing. The crisis is not over despite the nice weather If you ignore the current advice the virus is likely to peak again and cause far greater difficulties.

It is a long game. Thank you!

CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 PANDEMIC: LOCAL COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD/ continued (May 2020)



COVID-19: WILTSHIRE COUNCIL LATEST ADVICE AND OTHER NEWS. (13-05-2020)

Wiltshire Council has updated its coronavirus advice following on from the Central Government announcements made on Monday 11th May 2020. Click on the image for the latest details.



COVID-19: WILTSHIRE COUNCIL HAS SET UP A DEDICATED HUB TO SUPPORT LOCAL VULNERABLE RESIDENTS (01-04-2020)

Wiltshire Council has set up a dedicated hub to support the most vulnerable residents during the ongoing COVID-19 situation. The Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub is available to anyone who is struggling during this difficult time, such as people who are shielding or self-isolating and don't have a support network around them or know where to get help. Click on image for details.



WILTSHIRE COUNCIL COVID-19 COMMUNITY GROUPS DIRECTORY (31-03-2020)

Look up **South West Wiltshire for Ansty and Tisbury Neighbourhood Response**. Click on image for details.

Tisbury Neighbourhood Response – serving Tisbury, West Tisbury and the surrounding hamlets. (posted 02-04-2020)

The phone number to call is 01747 684010 or you can email liz@emc2publicrelations.com

There are three options: (prescription/medication collection; food shopping; social). There are many volunteers wishing to help.

For Ansty, **Caroline Plumptre** is the designated person to collect & deliver prescriptions for Ansty residents from Hindon Surgery. Just phone her if you need a prescription to be collected.

Tisbury's response to the coronavirus crisis goes international on [Cable News Network](#) (posted 24-04-2020)

[Emergency Relief Fund](#) (posted 02-04-2020)

The **Alice Combes Trust** supported by **The Lord Arundell of Wardour Charitable Trust** are today launching an emergency food relief fund for residents of the following parishes: Tisbury, West Tisbury, Wardour, Donhead St Andrew, Donhead St Mary, Semley and Ansty. [Tap here](#) for more details.

Ansty Parish Notice Board: May 2020



Special commemorative plaque unveiled (posted 01-05-2020)

Long standing Ansty resident Helen Forshaw, formerly of New Barn house died two years ago while out walking with her dog Bea in big sky country near Horwood. Helen was one of many Ansty folk who became involved in all of our parish activities over many years. Councillor Mathew Feltham who had known Helen since he was a child said ' Lots of Ansty villagers recognised all the hard work she had done for the parish over many years and just wanted something to remember her by: Helen gave 110% with everything she did.' So if you go for walk over Horwood way – look out for the plaque.



The latest Ansty monthly weather statistics have been compiled. (posted 01-05-2020)

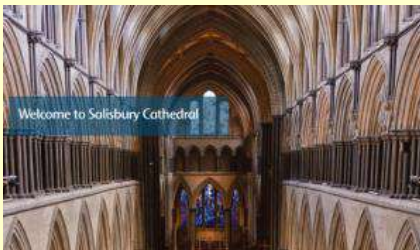
April 2020 was the sunniest April since records began! Rain arrived in just two dollops – mostly at the end of the month. It was another warm month – way above the long term average despite cool nights. Tap image to get the latest details.



Ansty celebrates May Day in 'lockdown'! (02-05-2020)

Today we would have been celebrating 'Ansty May' – our village 'Dancing round the Maypole' tradition is steeped in history going back centuries, if not long before. Alas, in common with everywhere else – the event had to be cancelled due to the covid-19 pandemic. Click image for previous celebrations.

Go to page 43 for the full details of this year's 'symbolic May Day occasion' and other events



Salisbury Cathedral – virtual tours! (updated 02-05-2020)

Have a look at the activities associated with the 'Celebrations of the 800th Anniversary of Salisbury Cathedral'. You can view a Virtual Art Exhibition; an Interactive Art Tour; watch Peregrines Live or take part in a virtual Sunday Service and more! Tap-click picture for details.



NEW! Ansty village pays tribute to the 75th anniversary of V E Day in spite of the continuing coronavirus 'lockdown'. (posted 08-05-2020)
 VE Day celebrates the end of World War Two in Europe when hostilities between our allies against Nazi Germany halted on May 8th 1945. It was a day of celebration across the country, with people waving flags and holding street parties rejoicing at the peace that had been a long time coming. Ansty villagers joined in too ... Tap image to discover more!



More **local photography** has been added on to the [Parish Snapshot](#) tab on the side menu. Just something to continue to cheer up! Any additions from local folk always welcomed. (posted 06-05-2020)



Local Tisbury based Community Magazine goes online for the time being. (posted 08-05-2020)

Many parishioners in Ansty and local folk from the surrounding villages subscribe to the longstanding and excellent 'Focus Magazine'. For the moment this august community publication is only available online on a temporary website. The site has been set up by the Focus Magazine volunteer team in response to the restrictions caused by the COVID-19, pandemic to share locally relevant information that they would normally provide in print for our Tisbury area community (Wiltshire, UK). They appreciate that some of their regular readers may not go online, so they rely on online readers to pick up the phone and spread the word. Click on image for details.

Ansty Village after 8 weeks of coronavirus 'lockdown' (posted 14-05-2020)

Some (but not all) residents of Ansty might be very slowly finding tiny elements of freedom as the 'lockdown' rules are easing from 'stay at home to stay alert'. The last 7 or 8 weeks have been noticeably quiet everywhere – but there is a little more traffic on the High street and a few more Ansty folk can be seen on their cautious forays out to enjoy the fresh air and sunshine. The whole village looks quite tidy and people have managed to clear away the last of winter's debris along with trimming trees and repairing storm damaged property – not to mention the exceptionally neat gardens as most of us strove to find a purpose. Our website front page reflects this community effort. Well done all. Things are looking better – but it will be a very long haul to get back to 'normality'.

Wiltshire Council household recycling centres re-open on Monday 18th May 2020. (posted 14-05-2020)



All of Wiltshire's household recycling centres (HRCs), bar Stanton St Quintin, will reopen on Monday 18 May with an easy to use postcode entry system to help limit the number of people on site at any time and ensure social distancing. Our nearest centres are Warminster, Salisbury or Amesbury. Check before you go! Tap image for details.



Welcome to the latest newsletter from Cranborne AONB team. (posted 15-05-2020)

Over the past few months the AONB team have been working from home. They have spent the time creating a new website and planning ahead for the events and projects connected with the 'Chase & Chalke Landscape Partnership', some of them include a few alterations or date changes to allow for the current coronavirus situation. Click on the image to discover all the new links!



LOST CAT? (posted 20-05-2020)

Several neighbours have reported sightings of a fox sized ginger cat in Ansty Coombe locality in the last few days. The animal doesn't appear stressed or agitated but does seem to be 'lost' and fending for itself. If you think you are the owner of the cat please contact our parish clerk in the first instance: anstyclerk@gmail.com



Ansty Footpath (FP2) is still closed until further notice. (updated 20-05-2020)

The steep footpath that ascends the steep slope opposite the Maypole on its way to Swallowcliffe remains closed by Wiltshire Council after parish chairman Tim Martin contacted Alex Howson our senior footpath officer last month. This is because a large ash tree near the top of the slope out on to the green lane has split and was looking dangerous. Well they were absolutely right to do that because very recently large pieces of the stricken Ash tree have crashed down causing damage to other trees and are now in a very unstable condition at the moment. We are awaiting further developments whilst the authorities decide the best way to tackle the problem. Please stay away! Click picture to view the tree when it first showed signs of splitting.

Don't be afraid of the dark...! (updated 25-05-2020)

You might be interested in viewing details of Stargazing Information relative to our local area by tapping: [Go Stargazing](#)

Ansty Annual Village Meeting



Ansty Parish Council Meeting



Ansty Parish Council Meeting to be held this week! (updated 25-05-2020)

An Order has been convened for a Meeting of Ansty Parish Council to be held on Wednesday 27th May 2020 at 6.00 pm. A Virtual Meeting using Zoom. Parishioners are welcome to join. This is the first Zoom Video Conferencing ever attempted by the Parish Council: let us hope the notorious Ansty Lines are behaving! Click [here](#) for more details from our parish clerk.

A 'Virtual' Ansty Parish Council Meeting held this week! (updated 28-05-2020)

Ansty Parish Council held its very first Council Meeting on Wednesday 27th May 2020 at 6.00 pm using Zoom Video Conferencing technology to discuss a shortened agenda. Using this technology was necessary because of the current coronavirus restrictions. It was a partial success in that the Annual Governance and Accounting Regulations (AGAR) relating to the annual internal audit of the Parish Accounts was approved – but the chance to hear statements from the 'floor' and discuss any other business was missed due to the video streaming breaking up. The Zoom meeting was joined by two parishioners and was recorded by the Parish Clerk.

Earlier items of interest from 2019



Wildflower meadows in Ansty. (posted 09-06-2019)

Inspired by a debate at our local village meeting back in 2018 and a glorious summer that encouraged the appearance of many different wildflowers in some of our local field meadows we decided to have a look at the probable origins of wildflower meadows in Ansty. Tap/click on the image to discover more.



Visit this year's Ansty Pictorial – 2019 so far ... (posted 09-08-2019)

A dozen pictures to look at that show parts of the Ansty landscape taken with the weather in mind ... Tap the image to view the set.



Wiltshire Council named the most climate-friendly council in England and Wales. (posted 02-10-2019)

Wiltshire has been named the most climate-friendly council in England and Wales, according to research that has assessed local authorities' energy, transport and recycling plans. Tap/click image for details. Further reading: [Wiltshire Council Climate Emergency](#)



Cranborne Chase, UK, now Designated as International Dark Sky Reserve! (posted 18-10-2019)

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!

Tap/click on image for more information.

[BBC news](#)

Explore Britain Now and Then!

Click [here](#) to find a few very interesting websites for you to while away your time usefully and perhaps learn something new into the bargain!



Ansty's 6 mile public footpath system remains in fine fettle! (updated 17-11-2019)

Once again we can report that our entire 6 mile (9.6 km) footpath system remains in fine fettle, thanks to regular vegetation clearing and trimming by the Ansty Volunteer Footpath Maintenance Group (AVFMG). Click on the image for full details in the annual report.

Full statistics can be viewed [here:](#) or click on our Parish Footpaths Tab.

Ansty celebrates May Day in 'lockdown'!



Today, May 1st 2020, we would have been celebrating 'Ansty May'.

Our village 'Dancing round the Maypole' tradition is steeped in history going back centuries, if not long before.

Alas, in common with everywhere else – the event had to be cancelled due to the covid-19 pandemic. To cheer us up and remind us of some of the more recent events click on the image.



ANSTY MAY DAY 2020 – A ‘SYMBOLIC OCCASION’ IN KEEPING WITH TRADITION!

The Covid-19 pandemic and the lockdown isolation restrictions meant that Ansty’s big spring event ‘Ansty May’ was cancelled, causing much disappointment to the organisers and their helpers but also to the would-be performers, stallholders and visitors.

This long standing Maypole dancing celebrating the vitality of spring stretches back over centuries – some say the tradition has roots as far back as Ancient Roman times. Certainly back in the 1660s the Lord of the Manor (Arundell) restored the Maypole use after the Puritans demanded the Maypole be removed in 1644.

These annual events usually attract hundreds of people to see the crowning of the May Queen accompanied by Morris dancing, music, along with a raffle, tombola and several stalls. The money raised goes into a Maypole fund which is set aside to pay for a new one about once every 25 years. And these days they are expensive!

Although the event was cancelled for the first time in a long history, some villagers were still keen and able to mark the occasion.

Former Ansty May 'Master of Ceremonies' and Ansty's 'green man' Robert and his wife Jaci (representing the Spirits of Spring) were up early and working in isolation decorated the Ansty Maypole with a simple garland of wild flowers and greenery. They then symbolically danced (and were witnessed) around the



Maypole to ensure that the long established spring rites of fertility were maintained, thus keeping the long held tradition that the Ansty Maypole dance ceremony must take place every year without a break.

Later, the current Master of Ceremonies (*pictured below*) added a small posy of spring wild flowers on behalf of the Ansty May Day Committee.

The star dancers of the show would have been the children who all come from local villages and this year's 'May Queen' is Lottie Birch. She goes to Chilmark and Fonthill Bishop School and has been a Maypole dancer since she was 6.

Lottie (*pictured left*) was very much looking forward to being 'May Queen' this year but will be invited to take part in the 2021 celebrations instead.

Lottie Birch -Ansty May Queen elect 2020



Left- John Cluett who, along with his wife, play the traditional music for the Maypole dancers in Ansty.

The couple paid homage (in isolation) to our Ansty May customs this year despite the event being cancelled because of the coronavirus pandemic. This local folk duo from Shaftesbury, known far and wide as 'Tattie Bogle' - have been ever present at this colourful May Day event.

John, photographed by Margaret, his wife, is playing his familiar melodeon albeit supporting invisible performers and admiring spectators but keeping the spirit of this ancient Ansty May alive until we can hopefully reconvene next year.

Many thanks Tattie Bogle – you did us proud!

You can find out more about John and Margaret by clicking on this excellent link: [Tattie Bogle.](#)

The Wiltshire based White Horse Morris group were also due to be at the event in Ansty and hopefully they will be back here for real next year! In the meantime you can view them here on their Facebook page. [White Horse Morris](#)

Right- The current 'Master of Ceremonies' checks the decorations on The Maypole

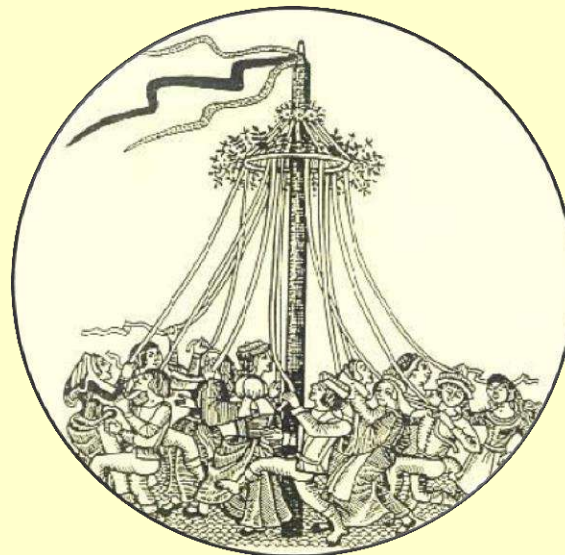


Thanks to all of the Ansty May Committee for their preparatory work and to all the young dancers, their teachers, helpers and parents for their rehearsal work. Thanks to all of our villagers who passionately believe in keeping the long held traditions alive and of course all those people who support us in any way. We look forward hopefully, to the return of the full event in 2021. See you all then!

Here is a postscript to our 'virtual Ansty Mayday' event that took the place of the real occasion which was cancelled because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Local villager Sue Poulton had been charged with the task of growing flowers and vegetables in her own garden and then selling the plants at a May Day stall.

Well of course after the 'lock-down' this did not happen so Sue decided to offer to locals what she had grown in return for donations. There was a great response and around £150 was raised for the May Day account. Anne Martin, a May Day committee member, stated it was such a generous act all round and much appreciated.

01-05-2020



Ansty Village Celebrates the 75th anniversary of V E Day (08-05-2020)



Tap image to discover more!

VE Day celebrates the end of World War Two in Europe when hostilities between our allies against Nazi Germany halted on May 8th 1945. It was a day of celebration across the country, with people waving flags and holding street parties rejoicing at the peace that had been a long time coming. Ansty villagers joined in too ...

CORONAVIRUS NOTICE BOARD: end of MAY 2020

As of 9am 31 May, there have been 4,285,738 tests, with 115,725 tests on 30 May. 274,762 people have tested positive. As of 5pm on 30 May, of those tested positive for coronavirus in the UK, 38,489 have sadly died. This new figure includes deaths in all settings not just in hospitals. The equivalent figure under the old measure would have been 30,861. The daily death rate in all settings for the UK was 113. There are 529 confirmed cases in Wiltshire (a rate of 106 per 100,000 county population) – up one from the previous day. Note these cumulative results started to be computed daily from March 9th 2020.

As restrictions on the ‘stay at home’ lockdown have been slowly eased, the emphasis has been put ‘fairly and squarely’ on to the public to act responsibly; ‘stay alert’ and act within the current guidelines or rules of the time. If some people choose to ignore the ‘commonsense’ rules then, likely as not, we could soon be back in serious trouble with the coronavirus as there is no ‘quick fix’.

Will June see a more widespread ‘new normal’ way of life?

June 2020. Another month passes and Ansty (along with the rest of the UK) was in the process of easing out of 'lockdown'. Garden centres had been allowed to open (with social distancing measures in place) and more people could go to work at the end of May.

The apparent united resolve of people to 'obey the rules' became badly frayed in June and it was obvious that many people – particularly those under 40 were disregarding the rules. Yet the government's push to reopen schools in England fell flat – with many parents refusing to send their children back citing fears of 'catching Covid-19'. Leading psychologists called the delay in getting UK children back to school a 'national disaster' that endangers mental health.

Instead millions decided to 'have a beano' and thronged to the beaches and inland beauty spots particularly towards the end of the month – even though facilities such as toilets, cafes and pubs remained closed. Common sense and social distancing seemed to evaporate in the late June summer heat.

Once again, the newspaper headlines, indeed almost all media outlets, harassed and hectored ministers and scientists so aggressively that in the end it didn't matter what was said because the result was generally one of division, confusion and despair rather than one of unity, clarity and hope. Welcome to the 'new normal'.

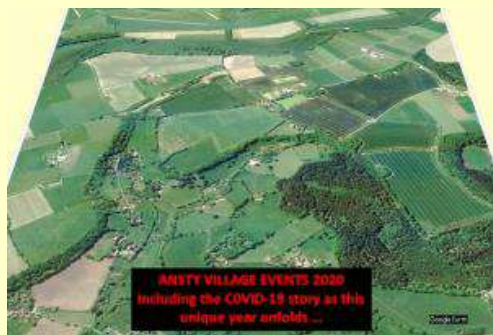


NOTICE BOARD

Village Events Archives: [Village Events 2017](#) [Village Events 2018](#) [Village Events 2019](#)

Click [Latest Coronavirus](#) Information Local and National and other Community Notices from Wiltshire Council.

Recent items of interest for June 2020 are posted below:



Feature: Ansty in 'lockdown' ... the story so far – the first 6 months (posted 01-07-2020)
Recall how the coronavirus pandemic unfolded from the New Year onwards and affected billions of people world-wide. Ansty village was no exception as it went into 'lockdown' in mid-March. No-one ever imagined how life would change so comprehensively over such a short timescale. This archive document will be updated as the year progresses.

The Easing of Lockdown Restrictions (Covid-19) (posted 27-06-2020)

There has been an absolute deluge of information from central government to local level concerning the easing of lockdown restrictions both for the general public, including the over 70s; folk with 'underlying health conditions' and to extremely vulnerable people. Trying to decipher your way through it all can be difficult. We have attempted to summarise the best information on our Covid-19 section on our 'Community Links Page'. The latest document to be added is this one: ['Safer and Supportive Salisbury'](#)

Young Work Wiltshire: Employment, Education, Training, and Support (posted 25-06-2020)



A new service has been launched that aims to support 16 & 17 year olds who are not in education, employment or training.

Three dedicated Education, Employment Advisers will be getting alongside our young people to help them access opportunities to help them towards successful working lives. These young people may face multiple barriers preventing them from participating in EET and need a different type of support. For some young people support is provided by other Local Authority Teams, specifically the SEND service for young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and those working with the Youth Offending Team (YOT). Click on image for more details!

Sarah Gwinner. (posted 22-06-2020)

It is with deep sorrow that we report the death of longstanding Ansty resident Sarah Gwinner. A devout member of the St James' Church congregation and an ardent supporter of 'all things Ansty' for many years, Sarah will leave a void that will be impossible to fill. What you saw is what you got. A truly wonderful lady.

Further remedial work taking place near Frogpond to improve drainage reveals the site of the old pond! (updated 20-06-2020)

Starting on June 17th further works (under the jurisdiction of Wiltshire Council) took place near Frogpond to eventually upgrade the drainage system around the junction of Kings Lane and Ansty Coombe Lane. This area has been prone to flash flooding on the lane for a long time. As if to emphasise the problem the 18th saw torrential rain whilst work was in progress leading to the usual standing water (fortunately temporary) just past the junction of Kings Lane and Ansty Coombe lane! After the clearance of a bog thicket a month ago further dredging of the wetland area took place – encouraging the reincarnation of Frog Pond which had disappeared many years ago due to silting and then invading scrub which upset the drainage. We now await the Wiltshire Highways team to upgrade the outfall drainage. Click on top image to discover more.

Tap on this image to view the 'new' Frog 'pond' which will act as attenuation/storage as water flows through a culvert under Kings Lane.



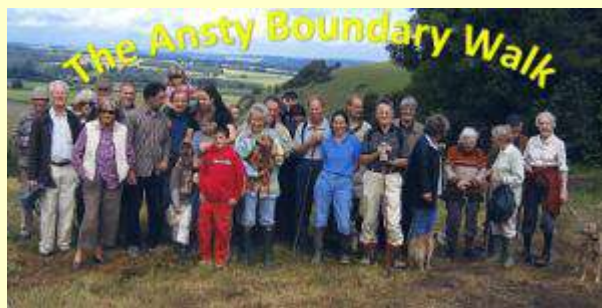
St. James' Church is to re-open for private prayer and PCC agree on their annual donations to charities. (updated 19-06-2020)

Good News! St James' Church will re-open on Sundays only for the time being, for private prayer from 10 am to 5 pm. Hand sanitisers will be available. The current social distancing rules still apply! It is hoped that Church services may resume in some form or other sometime in July.

At a recent 'Zoom' video conference the St. James Parochial Church Council agreed on their annual donations to various local charities. Click on image for more information on both these items.



Down Memory lane: The Thirteen years ago on Boundary Walk' – perambulation of our were once common place Bounds'. Click on the



Ansty Parish Boundary Walk, 2007

Saturday June 23rd 2007, a group of Ansty villagers took part in 'The Ansty Parish organised by Tony Keating (formerly of Ansty Manor) and others. The boundary on that day was more than a reference to the days when such walks and used to be referred to as 'Beating the image to read more...



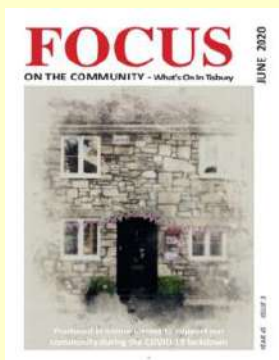
Ansty public footpath maintenance season in full swing (updated 10-06-2020)

After the enforced break from maintenance activities due to the coronavirus restrictions the Ansty volunteer public footpath maintenance group have very recently reconvened to continue to tidy up all of our footpaths after the winter storms and wet weather! Since then we have had weeks of warm sunshine and vegetation growth has added to the problems. Nevertheless, strictly following social distancing measures and operating in 2 entirely separate groups of just two individuals, footpath clearance is taking place once more. Hopefully this means [local](#) people can enjoy pleasant walking along our 6 miles of tracks through some of the most beautiful countryside imaginable this summer – whilst still keeping safe. Landowners have been doing their bit too in keeping our paths safe and maintained. Click on image for pictures of our footpaths and map details!

New Bollards replace the old! (posted 09-06-2020)



Over the past few years some of the original wooden (oak) bollards have become rotten and there were one or two gaps showing. Wiltshire Council were quite willing to replace the wooden bollards but only with plastic black and white reflector posts! Not a good look in this most beautiful historical location as even they admitted. However some of the old or missing bollards have been replaced using new locally sourced oak bollards once gain enhancing this attractive area. Click on image for more details.



Local Tisbury based Community Magazine goes online for the time being. (posted 06-06-2020)

Many parishioners in Ansty and local folk from the surrounding villages subscribe to the longstanding and excellent 'Focus Magazine'. For the moment this august community publication is only available online on a temporary website. The site has been set up by the Focus Magazine volunteer team in response to the restrictions caused by the COVID-19, pandemic to share locally relevant information that they would normally provide in print for our Tisbury area community (Wiltshire, UK). They appreciate that some of their regular readers may not go online, so they rely on online readers to pick up the phone and spread the word. Click on image for details of the June issue.



An opportunity to subscribe to Wiltshire Life Magazine! (posted 06-06-2020)

As you are all well aware, getting out and about to do everyday 'normal things' such as shopping, visiting etc. has meant that we have had to adapt and people selling things have had to adapt also. Last month the 'Wiltshire Life' magazine kindly allowed us to download a free 'one-off' copy – with the hope that some of us might take up a subscription for future copies. The next issue (July/August) is a unique issue looking at how we as a Wiltshire communities came together to cope with these past difficult 3 months.

Amongst many items in this latest issue there is a feature on [Lottie Birch](#) who was to have been our Ansty May Queen this year – but she will now take part in the 2021 celebration instead. Click on the image to discover more details and how to subscribe or even order a one off copy.



Wiltshire Creative Connects... (posted 06-06-2020)

Despite the restrictions caused by the coronavirus pandemic Wiltshire Creative (Salisbury) have a packed programme and have worked very hard to keep people connected with local cultural events. Click on logo to view more.



More local photography has been added on to the [Parish Snapshot](#) tab on the side menu. Just something to continue to cheer us up as we cautiously attempt to regain some sense of normality! Any additions from local folk always welcomed. (June 2020)

CORONAVIRUS NOTICE BOARD: 30-06-2020

As of 9am on 30 June, there have been 9,426,631 tests, with 133,467 tests on 29 June. 312,654 people have tested positive. As of 5pm on 29 June, of those tested positive for coronavirus in the UK, across all settings, 43,730 have died. The daily death rate for the UK was 155. There are 550 confirmed cases in Wiltshire (a rate of 110.2 per 100,000 county population) – stable for the three days. Note these cumulative results started to be computed daily from March 9th 2020.

Undoubtedly Government action has led to a flattening of the number of Covid-19 infections but the number of deaths across the UK from the disease has been disappointingly high. In the fullness of time we shall learn more on why this was so.

We are fortunate in our part of the world that there have been relatively few coronavirus infections and no deaths reported so far.

As restrictions on the 'stay at home' lockdown have been slowly eased, the emphasis has been put 'fairly and squarely' on to the public everywhere to act responsibly; 'stay alert' and act within the current guidelines or rules of the time. If some people choose to ignore basic 'commonsense' rules then, likely as not, some locations could soon be back in serious trouble with the coronavirus as there is no 'quick fix'.

Will July see a more widespread 'new normal' way of life or will we see more drastic 'local lockdowns'?



Headline from the Daily Mirror 30-06-2020

Please Click [HERE](#) to read Part 2 (July – December 2020)