



## Welcome to January 2021 – the Covid crisis continues with another long lockdown looming

Barely a fortnight after Christmas 2020, the whole of the UK found itself under covid-19 lockdown restrictions again - so soon after a previous 'shorter lockdown' in November 2020. For most people the 'third' lockdown was merely a continuation of the November shutdown.

The writing was on the wall when after the Christmas break when over 80,000 people tested positive with coronavirus on Dec 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Worse still, new 'variants' of the virus were being detected that were more transmissible than the old virus.

On 5<sup>th</sup> January, the UK government imposed a strict lockdown (in England) that was to last until the end of March at the earliest. Schools and colleges closed: students worked at home 'online' and people were told to 'stay at home' and only leave home to buy food, obtain medicine and undertake exercise just once a day. 2021 GCSE and A level exams were cancelled. Those that could worked from home. 79% of the population supported these measures – but more people paid less attention to the rules than did during the first lockdown back in March 2020.

Hospitalizations shot up, as did the death rate from the virus and the NHS realised that they were going to be badly impacted.

The only good news was that the vaccine roll-out that began in late December was forging ahead thanks to an astonishing number of volunteers who rapidly answered the call to help vaccination centres to function smoothly and help medics administer the doses. The first Pfizer jab in the world was given to Margaret Keenan on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020, and the first Astra Zeneca was delivered to an 82-year-old in Oxford on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.

By January 1<sup>st</sup> a million jabs had been given to UK citizens over 80 and vaccination centres were popping up all over the place – or nearest big

centre was in Wilton. The target was to get all care home residents, carers, over 80s, frontline medics, clinically vulnerable and over 70s vaccinated with a first jab by mid-February. The second jab would follow on within 12 weeks.

At the time of the third major lockdown in January over 75,400 covid-19 deaths had been reported with almost 60,000 positive cases per day. There was no other way to avoid a lockdown. The mood across the country and in Ansty was decidedly gloomy – along with the weather! By mid-January the UK deaths were rising rapidly but the infection rate was starting to show signs of dropping. Vaccinations for the over 70s started on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Two grim milestones were passed January: on 19<sup>th</sup> 1,359 people died because of catching Covid-19 and on 26<sup>th</sup> when deaths from Covid-19 passed 100,000.

At the end of January, we began to see extraordinary behaviour from the EU over the sluggish roll-out of their vaccine programme: their ponderous administration had not prepared properly for the eventuality, and they sought to blame the UK.

All media outlets continued (as they had done throughout 2020) to aggressively question and sometimes denigrate the government, 'holding them to account' - often putting forward their own covid plans and opinions and frankly it all just got in the way and confused large sections of the public whilst stirring up trouble in other quarters.

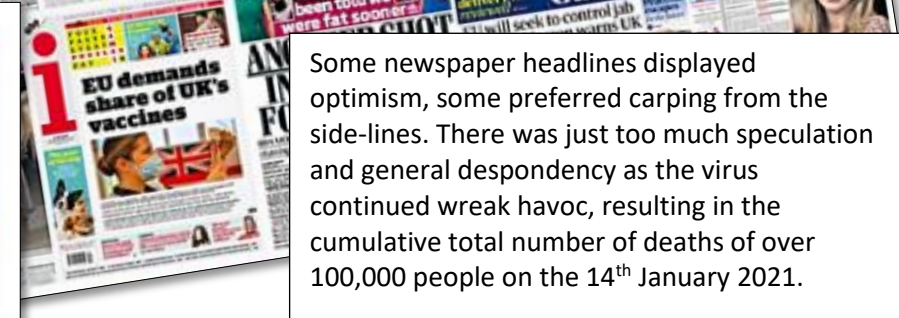
The devolved nations generally followed the government line but made sure that they tweaked the rules to suit their own agendas. It was going to cost an eye watering amount of borrowed money – far more than any financial crash seen in history.





The collage includes several newspaper front pages:

- Top Left:** A page with the headline "follow the rules" in large, bold letters.
- Top Center:** A page with the headline "DAILY EXPRESS" and a sub-headline "VACCINES FOR OVER-70s START".
- Top Right:** A page with a headline about "abandon run" and a photo of a person wearing a face mask.
- Middle Left:** A page with a headline "£5 OFF" and a sub-headline "INSIDE 5-minute work".
- Middle Center:** A page with a headline "VACCINES FOR OVER-70s START" and a photo of a man in a suit.
- Middle Right:** A page with a headline "VACCINES FOR OVER-70s START" and a photo of a person in a white lab coat.
- Bottom Left:** A page with a headline "AMERICA" and a photo of a woman.
- Bottom Center:** A page with a headline "VACCINES FOR OVER-70s START" and a photo of a person in a white lab coat.
- Bottom Right:** A page with a headline "VACCINES FOR OVER-70s START" and a photo of a person in a white lab coat.



The 100,000-death toll was marked by very sombre news headlines in the mainstream press. It was unfortunate that the government was somehow made to shoulder the blame: as if they were the prime cause of the prevalence and malevolence of the virus.



## Some postings that kept Ansty Villagers informed in January:

**Ansty PYO & Farm Shop will continue to support you through lockdown 3!** (posted 06-01-2021)



**Happy New Year!** from 'Team at Ansty Farm Shop'. Now we are in another extended lockdown customers are advised to check out the delicious stock that is available in the shop and think about getting their orders in soon. Locals can still make their orders online if they so wish. The shop premises are near 'Covid-secure' as they can possibly be. Click on the shop image to visit our website home page for the modes of shopping on offer.

Click [here](#) to find out more about what's on offer this month.



### **All Sunday Services at St James' Church SUSPENDED until further notice.**

After careful deliberation the Ansty PCC voted to suspend Sunday Services at St James' Church until further notice. The church building will only be open for private prayer as before. This is for everyone's safety whilst the coronavirus pandemic continues to be a dangerous threat.

### **Some more updates for you – mostly trips down memory lane!** (posted 25-01-2021)

At least we have had some snow this winter! Overnight snowfall in our area left Ansty Parish looking a lovely winter wonderland – if only for a very short time! Click [here](#) for some pictures! For those of you who remember Leslie Parsons, the parish master thatcher, who died in 2009, click [here](#) for some of his recollections of 'Old Ansty'. If 'reading' the history of our magnificent landscape appeals then try this [page..](#) More can be found in in our [Maps and History](#) section on our menu.



### **January 2021 Weather Report** (posted 31-01-2021)

Overall, January turned out to be 'near average' instead of the usual 'another mild/warm month' that we have got used to! Two cold spells were cancelled out by two mild spells! The mean monthly temperature was 3.7 C – just 0.2 of a centigrade degree below the long-term average. There were no exceptionally cold nights or warm days. Rainfall, however, did exceed the long-term monthly average of 3.64 in. This month clocked in 4.25 in. Click on image for all the statistics!

# Another Month; another Covid-19 ‘Lockdown’. Welcome to February 2021

In early February, the EU tightens travel restrictions on places outside of the block, with only travellers from countries with very low cases to cut down spread of new covid-19 variants that were appearing. Some nations like Poland, Switzerland and some EU nations were raising questions about the efficacy of the AstraZeneca vaccine, but a study here suggests the Oxford/Astra Zeneca vaccine provides sustained protection against Covid-19 for at least three months and cuts transmission of the virus by two-thirds. AstraZeneca then warns that their vaccine had a significantly reduced efficacy against a South African variant of coronavirus, whereupon South Africa suspends the use of this vaccine.

By Feb 8<sup>th</sup> the WHO tells nations not to dismiss the AstraZeneca vaccine – but the political doubts had been sown. The UK death rate or infection rates were dropping gradually, but the NHS was still very much overwhelmed with just under 30,000 patients in hospital. The WHO announces it was going to investigate the source of the infection in China. The rest of us knew that nothing would come of it – except what we already know. The WHO also endorsed the use of the AstraZeneca vaccine even though a lot of European countries had restricted its use.

By mid-February, many countries across the developed nations were still in no hurry to begin looking at the easing of lockdowns. The infection R Rate drops below 1 for the first time since July 2020. Prime Minister Boris Johnson announces that he is optimistic that his announcement of his roadmap out of lockdown on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February will include easing of restrictions. The media latched on to this vision about things rapidly going back to normal (as if!).

On February 15<sup>th</sup>, 15 million Britons had now received their first dose of a covid-19 vaccine – the result of fantastic organisation by the authorities, the NHS and an army of volunteers being able to open vaccine centres up and down the country including our nearest one at Wilton. Nobody thanked the government or the scientists and public health managers for being instrumental in organising the logistics behind this success and reaching this target they had set back in December 2020.

There was talk of issuing vaccine certificates to allow people free movement between countries in various world regions. The often-maligned AstraZeneca vaccine carries on unabated: South Africa now offers its doses of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine to the African Union after suspending its use of the vaccine due to efficacy concerns.

By February 18<sup>th</sup> it was announced that global coronavirus infections had fallen to their lowest level since the mid October 2020. In some countries there was concern that not enough people were prepared to take up the vaccine offer – possibly putting themselves and others in danger. A couple of days later it was announced that all adults in the UK will be offered a first dose of a coronavirus vaccine by the end of July 2021.

February 22<sup>nd</sup> saw the USA coronavirus death toll pass half a million. The UK government announces a 4-stage roadmap to lift England out of lockdown over 4 months. Schools would reopen and outdoor socialising with one other person allowed from 8<sup>th</sup> of March. The devolved nations tweaked out their own roadmaps following similar lines. It was becoming increasingly obvious that a large minority of people in the UK were frankly ignoring this cautious approach and were virtually carrying on ‘as normal’. We had become a very ‘disunited’ Kingdom. Data showed that transmission of coronavirus and deaths from it was dropping quickly in the population that had received their first jab. Evidence continues to support that Pfizer and Astra Zeneca vaccines are robust and very effective against Covid strains so far identified. Europe still thought otherwise re Astra Zeneca: they will not use it! Too many EU citizens were apparently becoming ‘vaccine hesitant’ fed on a diet of social media pap and political dithering.

**In the UK on February 28<sup>th</sup> there were 6,035 Coronavirus cases; 122, 849 deaths and 20 million vaccinated so far (first dose)**





February's press headlines focused in on the Vaccination effort and its early success at reducing the rates of Covid and deaths across the country. There was also the news of the shaping up of a road plan for 'Freedom Day' mooted for some time in July or earlier. It was noted that not all the population were taking up the vaccination plea.



## Some postings that kept Ansty Villagers informed in February:



**A special thankyou to all those involved in the covid-19 vaccination program.** (posted 03-02-2021)

With the Covid-19 vaccination program in full swing thanks to the small army of volunteers and health professionals working flat out in local pharmacies, halls, churches, leisure centres and other venues doling out the jabs, perhaps now is the time to thank them all for their good humour, expertise and reassurance. It is particularly gratifying to see so many youngsters stepping up to the plate to help. As the late inspirational Captain Tom Moore, who raised the spirits of our nation said during the first lockdown – ‘the sun will shine again’ and so it shall prove true.



**Ansty PYO & Farm Shop raise yet more money for Salisbury District Stars Appeal** (updated 04-02-2021)

It seems an awfully long time ago now – but villagers will still recall the fantastic Ansty Maize Maze back in the late summer of 2020. More than a few of us had a go at getting lost along with hundreds of other local visitors too. A proportion of the money from ticket sales amounting to £1,618.70 was donated to the Salisbury District Hospital Stars Appeal supporting the NHS. WELL DONE K AND HER MAGNIFICENT TEAM! Click on the image for the full story.



**Welcome to the latest newsletter from Cranborne AONB team.** (posted 26-02-2021)

We are well into 2021 and yet another lockdown, the LPS team and AONB Director Linda Nunn have managed to establish lots of projects and events, to keep things moving during these difficult times. Hopefully, as we move into the summer things will improve and the AONB team will be back on track (literally) with lots of innovative new projects. Click on The Hart Newsletter Logo to catch up on the latest news. Click [here](#) to explore, learn, discover and support our Cranborne Chase AONB.



**The latest Ansty monthly weather statistics have been compiled for February 2021.** (posted 01-03-2021)

For the third month in a row, we have had another month of contrasting weather! Two thirds of the month was mild or very mild (and often quite wet) and the other third was a notable cold slot, hard frosts, but no snow, around the 2nd week in. Overall though, the month was another mild one; with rainfall just above the long term average. Click on the image for all the latest monthly statistics for Ansty as well as other information.

# Another Month, still in Covid-19 ‘Lockdown’. Welcome to March 2021

Early March saw more panic in the UK as a new ‘Brazil’ strain is discovered. So far only a very few cases. Valiant attempts made to isolate people by surge test and trace.

The Government was able to announce that just the one jab of vaccine was bringing down hospital cases dramatically. Meanwhile Rishi Sunak, the Chancellor of Exchequer further extended the furlough scheme to give support to the self-employed. Eye watering sums of money have now been borrowed by the Government. On budget day a further £65 billion was found to further boost the economy – but there was a hint that taxes may rise

On May 5<sup>th</sup> it was reported that the EU was turning on the use of our Astra Zeneca – amounting to what appeared to be unsavoury political point scoring against the British vaccine roll-out success by trying to undermine the take-up of the vaccine because of ‘concerns’. Over a million people may need treatment for the after-effects of covid.

March 8<sup>th</sup> saw schoolchildren going back to school after months of home schooling online. Teachers talked of a big rise in mental health problems in children.

The EU continued to trouble Astra Zeneca and ‘safety’ and supplies- still failing to realise that they did not get their orders in early enough. Nor could their own factories meet the supply demand. The rumblings went on for days with suspensions and concerns about the safety of the vaccine and a large minority of EU citizens unsurprisingly didn’t want the Astra Zeneca jab anyway – after unsubtle suggestions from some leaders that it wasn’t good enough. Many commentators recognised that the Astra Zeneca jab had been weaponised by the major EU leaders. Ironically the EU regulator for vaccines said the Astra Zeneca vaccine was ‘absolutely safe’.

By mid-March it seemed inevitable that much of the continent was facing another serious wave of covid-infections. Meanwhile our vaccination rollout went on successfully although there were hints that there would be a slowdown of vaccine due to production issues and demands for the vaccine elsewhere.

It was also announced that Britain was set to jab all adults by early June. Spirits were boosted as people were told that we are on the road to freedom. Later the scientists were more cautious.

Over the weekend of March 20<sup>th</sup> much was made of how our resilience has apparently improved with the success of the vaccine programme in the UK - up to ¾ million jabs in one day. This upsurge in community spirit was tempered by protestors in Bristol and London – seemingly unable to view the bigger picture of working together with the majority to help a common cause.

The government warned people in the UK that Europe’s third wave will affect the UK. The ponderous EU political machine was in plain disarray with their vaccine procurement, manufacture and indeed vaccine take-up by their population and their conflicting nationalistic approach to tackling the surging coronavirus cases. They actively sought to downgrade our AstraZeneca vaccine (paid for by our taxpayers and supplied at cost not for profit) whilst stating we should send more of our supplies their way

On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, the UK took part in a ‘candle of remembrance’ where people stood on their doorsteps with a torch or candle to remember the 126,000 lives lost to the pandemic. Rumbles continued throughout Europe about vaccines – but some in the bloc were beginning to realise the errors were entirely of their own making

March 28<sup>th</sup> UK hits 30 million coronavirus vaccinations. March 30<sup>th</sup> Germany restricts the use of AstraZeneca to the over 60s only – because of safety fears?

**March 31<sup>st</sup>: UK 4,052 daily coronavirus cases; 126, 713 deaths since the start of the pandemic. In Wiltshire cases down to 25/100,00 and to date 16,822 cases.**







## Some postings that kept Ansty Villagers informed in March:

**Introducing 'Tis the Future': Refill, Reuse, Reduce, Reimagine** (updated 05-03-2021)



We all acknowledge that we need to do more to reverse climate change and halt the decline of our environment. Well, here is a local based initiative that hopes to show us the way forward that is set to become operational in the New Year. Set up by group called the Tisbury Community Benefit Society a zero-plastic, electric powered, mobile refill shop – community owned and community run – will visit local villages, including Ansty and stop for an hour. The stopping place in Ansty will be the Maypole area. 'Tis the Future' will initially be selling purely staple store cupboard ingredients such as rice, oats, flour, pasta, and cereals etc. Click on the vehicle image for all the details and a timetable.



**Beware of the Mole Traps!** (05-03-2021)

Some folk walking in the fields above Ansty Coombe may have noticed lots of molehills appearing on some of the slopes. Mole activity can become a nuisance if left and they damage functional areas such as pastureland. Moles are most active in early spring and occasionally mole catchers are called in to deal with them. Walkers (and their dogs) are asked to avoid going near any traps they see as they could cause injury to persons or animals. The advice is to keep away and stick to the public footpaths and remember that these fields are classed as private land and they are not classed as accessible open space!



**Ansty May Day celebrations very much restricted this year.** (updated 06-03-2021)

It looks very much as though we will be unable to hold any sort of group event again for this year's Ansty May Day due to Covid-19 restrictions. By May 1st we will still be in the second phase of the easing down of restrictions where the 'rule of six' for gatherings outside and the 'stay at home rule' becomes 'stay local' will be in operation. Even the third stage which starts on May 17th at the earliest, outdoor group meetings are limited to just 30.

The May Day committee have agreed that this year's May Queen elect, Alice Morgan, from Ansty, will be crowned at the Maypole on May 1st at an unspecified time and within the restrictions.

Some locals may wish to tie flowers on the Maypole on this day to mark this longstanding village tradition, perhaps when they are out for exercise but remember social distancing will still be important until June 21st at the earliest!



**New Land Management Plan for Ansty Coombe Meadows!** (posted 10-03-2021)

There is a plan afoot to restore pasture meadows above Ansty Coombe back to their former glory restoring and conserving the historical character of these ancient hay and wildflower meadows. This will be achieved by employing very old, tried, and tested livestock grazing patterns with careful pasture maintenance to keep bracken and scrub at bay. Click on the image to learn more.



## St James' Church resumes limited Sunday Services in March

St James' Church is planning to resume Sunday services, as the national guidelines allow for more limited activity. It will be good to welcome back the congregation again. As before, until further notice the protocols for avoiding catching Covid remain the same. People still cannot sing or mix on pews (unless in a family bubble) and everyone must use hand sanitisers and wipes on entry. St James Church is still open on Sundays for private prayer and reflection from 11.00 am until 4.00 pm.



### **Ansty PYO & Farm Shop continues to support you through lockdown 3 and beyond!** (posted 10-03-2021)

Looking forward to Easter! Now we are slowly coming out of the latest extended lockdown customers are advised to check out the delicious stock that is available in the shop and think about getting their Easter orders in soon. Locals can still make their orders online if they so wish. The shop premises are continuing to be as 'Covid-secure' as they can possibly be. Click on the shop image to visit our website home page for the modes of shopping on offer.

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### **The Wylie Valley Art Trail.** (posted 16-03-2021)

The Wylie Valley Art Trail is a biennial festival of the visual arts in southwest Wiltshire, with exhibition venues scattered across some of the most beautiful countryside this county has to offer. There will be a wide and eclectic patchwork of art and craft ranging from award-winning artists with international reputations to others only just starting out on their creative paths. Well known country-based ace artisans from Ansty and Tisbury Row, Robert and Jaci Baker, will be exhibiting some of their amazing creations sourced from local resources on their own

smallholding. Click on image for more details.

### **Ansty finds time to reflect on the grief and loss felt by so many during the pandemic** (posted 23-03-2021)

Along with the many Remembrance events in the UK, a 'beacon of remembrance' moment of reflection was held by villagers on the moonlit night of March 23rd. Although we were spared such distress, people in Ansty quietly reflected on the 126, 284 people who have died of the covid-19 coronavirus since the pandemic began one year ago. Click on image.



### **Socially Distanced Litter Clearance takes place on Ansty High Street.** (posted 24-03-2021)

Two Ansty councillors recently completed a litter-pick along Ansty High Street on March 24th in a Covid-safe way – counting this as exercise but also recognising that if left until later much of the litter would not be found as plant growth would have taken place. Working separately and socially distancing, both sides of the High Street were cleared from north to south and both verges on the A30 Holloway. It all looked great until the next time...Click on the image for more information.

### **It looks like a green light for the Improvement of 'Broadband' in Ansty – the latest important update...** (posted 26-03-2021)

As some of us know only too well, the 'broadband service' in Ansty varies from fantastic for a few to mostly frustratingly poor for the rest!

Back into last year Tim Martin, chairman of Ansty Parish Council endeavoured to plough through the various government schemes to try and take advantage of the Fibre Broadband already installed in Ansty – but not readily available to most residents in the parish. This meant a degree of collective self-help and 16 households eventually expressed an interest into entering a contract with broadband provider. Eventually Wessex Internet took up the challenge and the latest news is that Wessex Internet has now requested 16 x Rural Gigabit Vouchers in Ansty (with 3 further registrations of interest to follow up.) The Planning Manager at Wessex Internet is currently pencilling in a work schedule for the fibre installation to households who signed up for the end of this summer – subject to access being agreed.

### **Two Ansty Parish Councillors not seeking re-election in May poll.** (posted 27-03-2021)

Councillor Mathew Feltham and Councillor Rob Wilkinson have both announced that they will not be putting themselves forward as candidates to serve another term on Ansty Parish Council in the forthcoming local elections on May 6th. Both men have enjoyed their public service stint working for the best interests of Ansty village since 2017. Chairman of Ansty Parish Council Mr Tim Martin is now urging other villagers to put themselves forward to help take Ansty through the next 4 years – perhaps with fresh ideas to offer. The closing date for nominations is April 8th.



### **The latest Ansty monthly weather statistics have been compiled for March 2021.** (posted 01-04-2021)

March 2021: 'In like a pussycat, out like a lamb!' March came in quietly and went out quietly! The month was an 'average' month temperature-wise but also drier than normal but still quite humid throughout. Anticyclonic conditions prevailed and there was plenty of sunshine too, for the month. Rainfall total for the month was 72% of normal. Click on the image for all the latest statistics.



# Government Road Plan to ease restrictions ‘on target’. Welcome to April 2021

April 1<sup>st</sup> Take up of the Astra Zeneca remains low as public confidence within Europe drops. Several nations in the EU experiencing surges of covid infections and lockdowns are mooted. Other countries in the world are experiencing similar new ‘wave’ surges.

April 5<sup>th</sup> UK Government confirms that the UK’s roadmap for the easing of lockdown restrictions will go ahead as planned on April 12th. Plans to test all people twice weekly for all people who want it are to go ahead.

Turkey and Brazil were in a bad way with huge surges in coronavirus cases and in the case of Brazil over 4,000 deaths recorded in a single day from the disease. In Scotland the number of deaths passes 10,000 on April 8<sup>th</sup>. The tiny risk of blood clots allegedly associated with some vaccines, including Astra Zeneca was constantly amplified by the media effectively damaging public confidence even further. Australia and Sicily steer away from using the AZ vaccine.

On April 12<sup>th</sup> UK begins vaccinating the over 40s, whilst non-essential shops, gyms and pubs reopen in England. Ireland restricts the use of the AZ vaccine to the over 60s.

Problems arise with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine in another case of rare blood clots being caused by the vaccine. Once gain the EU, along with Canada and the US temporarily pause the use of the vaccine. Sweden now has the highest covid-19 case rate in Europe.

The WHO warns that Covid is on the rise in many countries and there was a new variant to worry about

On April 15<sup>th</sup> it was announced that 77 cases of a Covid-19 Variant first identified in India was found in the UK. Meanwhile thousands were travelling to and from the UK to India with no checks at the UK border. France becomes the eighth country to pass a 100,000-person death toll from coronavirus. Some World leaders called for intellectual property rules for vaccines to be waived. Here in Britain the AZ vaccine was basically funded ‘at cost’ by the taxpayer and it was hoped to be able to distribute the vaccine worldwide eventually. Unfortunately,

bad press and politics ensured that the vaccine – which seems to be as sound as the others – is not a favourite. Latvia offered the AZ vaccine to clear it out of storage due to hesitancy. Sweden offered an alternative vaccine to people who had a first dose of AZ vaccine.

April 15<sup>th</sup> - global death rate reaches 3 million.

April 21<sup>st</sup> Greece announces it plans to reopen for tourism from 15th May. Meanwhile more cases of ‘Indian variant’ found in Britain. Low numbers it is true – surge testing and isolation techniques were applied. Will this succeed or will we have another dominant variant?

April 24<sup>th</sup> 50% of the UK population by now have had their first dose of a covid-19 vaccine. Germany, Kuwait and Iran ban travellers from India as their toll (with the variant taking hold rises astronomically. The UK did not ban travellers from India, but they did send equipment including ventilators to that stricken country. The EU launches legal action against the AZ vaccine company (after roundly and comprehensively rubbishing it) for failing to fulfil its contracts; what nonsense.

April 29<sup>th</sup> UK secures 60 M doses of the Pfizer vaccine to be used as booster shots from the Autumn. 400,000 people have now died from Covid-19 in Brazil. India records a one-day total of 370, 000 infections and over 3,000 deaths. This was to go on for several more days at this rate and even higher.

The undoubted success highlighted this month is the dramatic fall in the number of hospitalisations from Covid and the much lower number deaths per day – now averaging about 10. By the end of April 4.4 million people in the UK had contracted the covid-19 virus but the rate had slowed down considerably.

**The total number of UK deaths stood at 127, 580 – but at least we were slipping down the ‘top ten’ table. The weekly death rate in Wiltshire was now extremely low and the cumulative death total since the beginning of the pandemic stood at 373.**







## Some postings that kept Ansty Villagers informed in April:

**Ansty and Tisbury feature in the Sunday Times as great villages in which to live!** (posted 02-04-2021)

The Sunday Times highlighted our local area as a great place to live in (once again) in a supplement feature “best places to live in Britain’. The article gave us a flavour of the Nadder Valley and focused on Tisbury and Ansty, mentioning all the things that we all know and love (and sometimes take for granted). Click [here](#) to read more. Readers may recall a similar feature appearing in **The Telegraph** back in 2011 when Ansty was described as a dream place to retire to!



**Welcome to the latest newsletter from Cranborne AONB team.** (posted 02-04-2021)

We are well into 2021 and the lockdown measures are cautiously easing, and everybody is itching to get out more and re-connect with things that really matter! The LPS team and AONB Director Linda Nunn have managed to establish lots of projects and events throughout the area to whet our appetites this coming spring and early summer! Click on The Hart Newsletter Logo to catch up on the latest news. Click on [Click here to explore, learn, discover and support our Cranborne Chase AONB](#). Things to look forward to include ‘International Dark Sky Week’ – next week – ‘out and about items’; trees; changes in farming; and a walking festival to name a few. Yippee!



**More local footpaths cleared of winter debris ready for spring and summer!** (posted 04-04-2021)

Local footpaths crossing the field slopes above Ansty Coombe and crossing into 12 Acre Copse and beyond have been cleared of winter debris by the Ansty Footpath Maintenance Group. This year has seen an unprecedented rise in the number of walkers using all these paths due to the covid-pandemic – which is good to see. The only disappointment is the way just a very few people parked their cars on soft grass verges of our lanes with no thought as to the damage they were causing and spoilt the environment for those who live here. Volunteers are currently repairing them. Click on the image to read more...



**Local installation arouses much curiosity!** (updated 07-04-2021)

A new installation that has recently appeared on what we all know as ‘Aileen’s paddock’ has certainly aroused some local curiosity. Some thought it was a kind of bird box, perhaps to attract owls. Others thought it might be a squirrels’ hideout. A few suggested even more fanciful ideas: it was a piece of modern ‘sculpture’ or even something to ward off aliens from outer space. Most agreed that whatever it was it was extremely well made out of natural materials. But what exactly is it? Click on the image to find out more!



### **An Extraordinary Man** (posted 09-04-2021)

Friday April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021, was one of those awful days when someone's death touched all of us as if we had lost someone close to us within our own family or village community. We were all saddened to hear of the death of His Royal Highness Prince Philip The Duke of Edinburgh. Our thoughts are with Her Majesty The Queen and the Royal Family at this sad time. Click on the image to read our short tribute.

### **Wiltshire's Book of Condolence for HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh** (posted 09-04-2021)

Richard Gamble, Chairman of Wiltshire Council, said: "This is an incredibly sad time for the entire country and our thoughts and prayers are with His Royal Highness Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh's family at this difficult time. You are invited to

share your thoughts and memories of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh in a special online book of condolence, which will be available until the day after the funeral. Click on the image for more information.



### **All Change for the Fovant and Chalke Valley Division on May 6th.** (posted 10-04-2021)

As many of you know, Jose Green is stepping down as our long serving Wiltshire Council representative for the Fovant and Chalke Valley division and we in Ansty Parish thank her profusely for her many years of sterling work on our behalf. There are three candidates standing for election to this important office on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and they are: Richard Lewis Ecclestone (Green Party); Nabil Habib Najjar (Conservative) and James Campbell Robertson (Liberal Democrats). Although there will be no Ansty Parish Council election we still have to vote for someone to represent the Fovant and Chalke Valley Division at Wiltshire Council and thus our interests too.

Let us hope whoever wins the vote on May 6<sup>th</sup> will be able to match the efforts put in by Jose Green. The polling station will be located at Ansty PYO & farm shop premises, as usual. See you there!

### **No Parish Council Election for Ansty on May 6th** (posted 10-04-2021)

The confirmation statement of candidates nominated to stand for election for the 5 seats on Ansty Parish Council has been released on the Wiltshire Council Website. We have four nominations and no other entries. Accordingly, there will not be a parish council election in Ansty on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Click [here](#) for more details.

### **José Green stands down after over 25 years of representing Ansty parish at district level.** (posted 21-04-2021)

Serving your local community as a councillor can often appear to be a rather thankless task. Take José Green for example. She has tirelessly represented our parish and 14 others in the Fovant and Chalke Valley ward for over 25 years and was our main link to the top tier at Wiltshire. José stands down from her role on May 5<sup>th</sup> 2021. Click on the image for José Green's recollections and our sincere vote of thanks and appreciation for all those years of service.



### **New! The latest Ansty monthly weather statistics have been compiled for April 2021.** (posted 31-04-2021)



April 2021 was cool; very dry; very sunny and exceptionally frosty! More frosts recorded than any winter month this year! In every respect April turned out to be an exceptional month. Anticyclonic conditions prevailed throughout often pulling in cold and dry arctic air – replacing warm air that washed over us at the end of March. The statistics were confounding – only the April of 1938 was drier, and no April has recorded so many frosts since records began! Click on the image for all the latest figures!



# Welcome to May 2021

## Restrictions easing; infections and death rate from Covid reaches a welcome low.

May 1<sup>st</sup>. It transpires that daily covid-19 cases in India topped 400,000 per day and the variant identified there was extremely transmissible. Yet travel to and from India was still considered safe! UK sends more than a thousand ventilators to help India.

Meanwhile Denmark bans the Johnson and Johnson vaccine (because of the possibility of rare blood clots). Pfizer announces a £19bn turn-over in covid-vaccine sales. The USA said it will support a patent waiver on Covid-19 vaccines; France agrees but Germany does not. Other countries consider introducing vaccine 'passports' to enable travel to certain places or events.

May 6<sup>th</sup>. Brazil hits 15 million covid-19 cases. England's chief medical officer, Chris Witty, warns that that covid-19 is unlikely to be eradicated.

EU says it will not renew its orders for the AZ vaccine – despite opening further court proceedings against the firm for allegedly not producing the goods.

May 10<sup>th</sup>. WHO classifies the B.1.617 variant first identified in India as a variant of global concern.

Norway ditches the AstraZeneca vaccine

May 13<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister Boris Johnson warns that the Indian variant is of a worrying concern – as the UK strain of the virus doubles in a week. But the UK government would respond coolly and calmly to this threat. Many countries were in various states of lockdown; vaccine pauses; alerts or states of emergency due to the ever-shifting threats of the coronavirus.

May 16<sup>th</sup> hints are given that the easing of lockdown in the UK may have to be halted. Germany scraps its covid vaccine priority lists and opens to 'all comers'.

Pfizer invests 40 M dollars in a vaccine centre in Eire. G20 leaders back vaccine voluntary licenses but not a patent waiver. Germany declares the UK as a variant virus region. India objects to the Indian covid variant being referred to as the Indian variant. IMF proposes 50 B dollars to end pandemic by vaccinating 40% of the world population by end of 2021.

May 22<sup>nd</sup> UK's health secretary confirms that two doses of vaccine effective against the Indian variant (indeed any variant so far discovered). UK has now put 60 million jabs into the arms of its population.

The spectre that covid-19 escaped from a lab in Wuhan raised again in the USA. Of course, China denies the claim. In any case, what is done is done.

May 26<sup>th</sup> Many countries now trying to ease restrictions but there are still pockets of wave surges taking place. EU seeks court order to force AstraZeneca to deliver millions more vaccines to the bloc despite apparently ditching it!

May 29<sup>th</sup> Data shows more than half of people in their 30's in England received the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine in the second half of May. Scientists warn ministers that a third wave may have already started in the UK. Data shows that only 1% of the 1.3 billion vaccines injected globally have been administered in Africa. The huge covid infection wave in India is now receding.

**On May 31<sup>st</sup> only 7 deaths were recorded for the whole of the UK – a downward trend that continued throughout the month. The cumulative UK death total stood at 127, 829, a rise of about 250 Over the month. But the number of coronavirus infections was clearly rising especially amongst much younger people. The figures for Wiltshire remained very low. Some experts warned that Britain was about to enter another wave of infections...**



Most of us surely thought in May that we had seen our way through the Covid gloom, and that 'normal service' was about to resume.

The weather was generally kind with plenty of blue skies and sunshine and people were beginning to get out and about and visiting family and friends once gain. The creative Arts businesses and hospitality were seeing customers returning and everything looked fine until a new Covid-19 variant showed up – first detected in India. It wasn't long before this variant – which became known as the Delta variant embedded itself into our psyche.

It dawned on most of us that Covid was going to be with us forever. There will be further waves and restrictions and alas more illness and deaths.





**Some postings that kept Ansty Villagers informed in May:**

## **The Ansty May Day Event Cancelled.**

This year's May Day committee realised back in March that we would be unable to hold any sort of group event again for this year's Ansty May Day due to Covid-19 restrictions. By May 1st we will still be in the second phase of the easing down of restrictions where the 'rule of six' for gatherings outside and the 'stay at home rule' becomes 'stay local' will be in operation. Even the third stage which starts on May 17th at the earliest, outdoor group meetings are limited to just 30. Hence this year's May Day event was cancelled! **This was originally announced on the website in late March – into April.**



The May Day committee has agreed, however, that this year's May Queen elect, Alice Morgan, from Ansty, will be crowned at the Maypole on May 1st at an unspecified time and within the restrictions. Some locals may wish to tie flowers on the Maypole on this day to keep this longstanding village tradition 'live' – perhaps when they are out for exercise but remember social distancing will still be important until June 21st at the earliest!



## Very Limited Celebrations for ‘Ansty May’ this year! (Again!) (01-05-2021)

Another year passes and we were still unable to celebrate the well-known Ansty ‘May Day’ event due to the current covid-19 coronavirus restrictions. However, the day did not pass without due recognition to the very long-standing tradition that honours this ancient ‘arrival of spring’ festival rooted in Celtic pagan beliefs. Click on any image below to find out more!

### **Plants for sale – proceeds to the May Day fund.** (updated 03-05-2021)

Sue Poulton’s May Day plants are now available to buy. All proceeds will go to the May Day fund. There are Gardener’s Delight, Alicante and Money Maker tomatoes, globe artichokes and a few cucumbers. There will be more cucumbers and aubergines later on. Everything has been reluctant to get going in this freezing weather but is now taking off so please do buy Sue’s plants. Contact Sue in the first instance.

Sue also has a stall at Furzelease Farm this week as part of the Wylfe Valley Art Trail, if it is easier to collect from there.





## **A new Development Proposal for Tisbury may be breaching the local Neighbourhood Plan?** (posted 12-05-2021)

The proposals for the regeneration of the Station Works site (formerly Parmiters) do not affect Ansty directly but the current draft of the design and access statement by the developer's agent 'Intelligent Land' indicate that there could be some impact for people travelling to and from Tisbury via Jobbers Lane. Click [here](#) to view Tisbury Parish Council's take on it and click [here](#) to read the developer's proposals for the site.

## **The Wylde Valley Art Trail – the best ever?** (posted 13-05-2021)



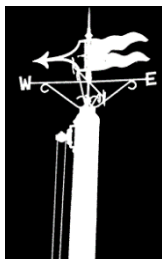
By all accounts, the biennial festival of visual arts known as the Wylde Valley Art Trail was a resounding success if only judged by the positive recollections of our local country-based artisans Robert and Jaci Baker. Their 'North Cottage Creations' were on display at nearby Furzelease Farm in Tisbury Row, courtesy of John Edgley. This great site drew in several hundred visitors over the festival period. Click on the image for more details.

## **Chalk-Escape Walking Festival 20-30 May** (updated 15-05-2021)



A series of walks and other activities for all ages and abilities in the Cranborne AONB are now open for booking. Click on the image to find out more and register for this year's events. Our local AONB was highlighted recently on BBC 'Countryfile': if you missed it, you can also catch up with this!

## **The latest Ansty monthly weather statistics have been compiled for May 2021.** (posted 02-06-2021)



May 2021 will be remembered for all the wrong reasons! It turned out to be a cool month and a very wet one too! The cool nature carried on from April, unusual itself for the number of frosts it had! In the end, no records were broken in our locality, but May was decidedly wretched and not the tonic that matched last year's May we were all hoping for after the dismal winter months and the drawn out Covid 19 pandemic restrictions. The very last week of the month was much better however – and long may this continue! Click on the image for the May weather statistics.

# Welcome to June 2021 ...

## Optimism at the end of May that the Covid-19 Coronavirus was in decline was misplaced although the vaccine roll-out was a great success....

June 1st. Britain records no new deaths within 28 days of a positive Covid-19 test for the first time since July 2020. The World Health Organisation approves the Chinese Sinovac vaccine for emergency use. On the other hand, we were logging up about 5,000 new covid cases/day and this was rising daily.

June 3rd – 5th After the elation of no deaths being reported UK on June 1st reports its highest number of new cases in one day since March 2021. Wales announces plans to ease lockdown restrictions on June 7. Portugal removed from the UK Government's 'green list' of destinations. UEFA announces that it is in talks with the UK Government about easing restrictions for overseas supporters during the knockout stages of the Euro 2020 championships. UK Government advisor has said it would "foolish" to go ahead with reopening on June 21. France announces it will allow tourists from the UK if they have had two vaccine doses. Prime Minister Boris Johnson will urge G7 leaders at the Summit to commit to global vaccination by the end of 2022. NHS boss says that the Delta variant is 'not significantly increasing' hospital numbers.

June 6th – 12th UK Health Secretary says that Ministers are open to delaying the reopening date of June 21 if the spread of the Delta variant worsens. Vaccine passports to be used for the first time in the UK at sporting events for England's Euro 2020 group games at Wembley. Pfizer begins testing its Covid-19 vaccine on a larger cohort of children under 12.

ONS estimates that 80% of adults in the UK have Covid-19 antibodies. Government data suggests Covid-19 cases in England are rising at their fastest rate since the winter wave. Prime Minister Johnson warns that the spread of the Delta variant of Covid-19 is of 'serious concern'.

June 13th – 18th G7 leaders call for an investigation into the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic. G7 pledges 870 million vaccine doses to COVAX. England delays the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions by four weeks. First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, says further

relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions likely to be delayed by three weeks. MPs in England approve regulations to delay easing of lockdown restrictions to 19th July. Wales postpones relaxation of coronavirus restrictions by four weeks, as Delta variant causes cases to surge. 350 Indonesian doctors have contracted Covid-19 despite receiving China's Sinovac vaccine. WHO Chief Scientist says the Delta variant of Covid-19 is becoming the globally dominant variant of the disease.

June 19th – 22nd. Brazil passes 500,000 Covid-19 related deaths, as protestors take to the streets over President Bolsonaro's handling of the pandemic. China hits one billion vaccines delivered. Mandatory mask-wearing and nightly curfew ends in France today. UK confirms it is working on a booster vaccination programme. Many countries in the EU have imposed restrictions on travellers from the UK to help stop the spread of the Delta variant.

By the end of June, we were effectively entering another wave with the delta variant of Covid the prominent virus variant. Hospitalisations which had dropped to below 1,000 in mid-May began to climb again towards the 2,000 by the end of June. However, deaths remained relatively low averaging about 16/day at the end of June. The intense vaccination programme seemed to be sheering off the need for massive intensive care. On the last day of June 50% of the population had been double jabbed; 68% of the population had received 1 dose or more. The cumulative death toll had risen to 128,140 a rise of some 311 over the month – a relative slight rise when compared with May. The number of deaths recorded in Wiltshire for the month was very low. Nevertheless, Wiltshire had recorded a cumulative total of deaths with Covid-19 on the death certificate as 847. Looking at the statistics we seemed to be back where we were in September/October 2020 in terms of deaths, but the number of delta variant infections has risen quite steeply in a similar fashion to that we found ourselves in the week before Christmas. The pandemic is still far from being over, but the vaccine is doing its job with far fewer people dying from covid.



Newspaper headlines in June wavered wildly between hope and uncertainty as the month progressed.

Just as the scientists and medics think they are winning the battle against covid-19 virus another variant appears threatening to unhinge plans to wind down most of the restrictions on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

At the top of most peoples' list was whether they would be able to book a holiday for this summer – especially abroad.

Nevertheless most people continued to act cautiously and found a new confidence that hasn't been around for 18 months when it came to visiting shops, cafes and visiting friends and family.





## Some postings that kept Ansty Villagers informed in June:

### THE LAURENCE KITCHING AWARD 2021 – BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION – 62nd YEAR



The countryside charity  
Wiltshire

**New! Preparing for the Best Kept Village Competition in July! Now looking for a little help from the village community!**

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

#### Ansty Annual Village Meeting



**A well-attended Village Meeting followed by an Ansty Parish Council Meeting – means we are getting back to 'normal'? Hopefully!** (posted 04-06-2021)

The Annual Ansty Parish (Village) Meeting took place on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021 at 6.30pm at St. James' Church, Ansty. This Covid secure event was well attended and the temporarily elected chairman (Tim Martin) welcomed our new District Councillor, Mr Nabil Najjar who outlined some of Wiltshire Council's forthcoming priorities along with Mr Fergus McClaren Webster, landowner, who spoke about the restoration of the traditional hay meadow closes on land in Ansty Coombe. Villagers were given the opportunity to raise local issues. The minutes of the last Village meeting in May 2019 were approved after the long gap caused by the covid-19 pandemic. Click [here](#) to view the May 2019 minutes. Click the image to view more details about the Village Meeting.

#### **The 'Access to Tisbury Group' release two statements.** (posted 08-06-2021)

At the recent PC meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021, the parish council chairman Mr Tim Martin mentioned the formation of a group of parish councils and communities, namely, the 'Access to Tisbury Group', that are concerned about the impact a major Tisbury development known as the 'Station Works Proposals' will have on the roads and villages surrounding Tisbury. Two statements have been released by the Group which raised some valid observations the proposals. If you missed our initial report on these proposals on this website then you can click [here](#) to view Tisbury Parish Council's take on it and click [here](#) to read the developer's proposals for the site.



#### **Boys show off their Toys at Ansty PYO!** (posted 23-06-2021)

On the morning of June 22nd, the Ansty PYO farm shop team were able to support our local [Stars Appeal](#) by having a 'Boys Toys' group assemble on their car park and show off their selection of 'toys', ranging from series 1 Land Rovers to Teslas and Ferraris! Ninety bacon butties later, they waved off a whole selection of vehicles; now off enjoying a trip around the local area, give them a wave if you see any of them on the roads! Click on image for more information!





### Keeping in touch with our Wiltshire Councillor for Fovant and Chalke Valley! (posted 23-06-2021)

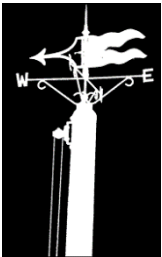
When our newly elected representative, **Nabil Najjar**, came to visit us at our last Ansty Village and Parish Council Meeting at the beginning of June and introduced himself we were assured that he would be readily accessible to all residents and would work tirelessly to support communities and their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

### Covid-19 UPDATE: **LATEST ADVICE and other News.** (updated 02-07-2021)



The latest Covid-19 statistics for Wiltshire has increased with 365 cases over the last 7 days, whilst the rate of cases per 100k has risen from 44.4 last week to 73 this week – below the national average for England but the numbers are climbing. Please keep playing your part to help keep these case numbers in check. The Delta variant is on a rapid increase, so we need to cautious.

### The latest Ansty monthly weather statistics have been compiled for June 2021. (posted 02-07-2021)



June 2021 turned out to be very dry until we got two distinct wet periods when showers came in thick and fast, and the figures made the average total for the month! Temperatures were above the monthly average with some noticeable warm days and overall, the month was a humid one. Click on the weathervane for June's statistics!

[Click here to read Part 2!](#)