



# Parish News

## Hankerton

### Miscellaneous Parish News Items

**1869** On the 15<sup>th</sup> inst., at Hankerton, James Woodward, aged 14, in the employ of the Rev J W Buckland, of that place, had the misfortune to break a leg. The boy is progressing favourably.

*Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 20 May 1869*

**1884** A labourer of Hankerton was on Saturday sent to put a new thatch on the roof of a cottage at Pink Lane, Charlton, the property of the Earl of Suffolk. It is alleged that the man commenced smoking on the roof. The weather being very hot and the thatch dry, the roof by some means caught fire, and the cottage and also the one adjoining were burnt to the ground, scarcely any water being available. The tenant, Edward Hughes, who has a wife and nine children, had the greatest difficulty in saving the household furniture, and was rendered homeless by the occurrence.

*Western Daily Press Friday 30 May 1884*

**1888** On Monday, whilst hunting with the Duke of Beaufort's hounds round Hankerton Field, near Malmesbury, Mr Swires, a guest of Captain Paget's, of Gatcombe Park, was thrown while passing over a gully. He received a severe gash in his head and other injuries, which rendered him unconscious. The injured gentleman was at once removed to Mr Branstone's residence, close by, and Dr Kinnear, of Malmesbury, was soon in attendance. In the evening Mr Swires was removed to Gatcombe Park. The same day, whilst hunting with the same pack near Oaksey, Mr J Rich's horse fell and threw the rider, who suffered a great shock and some slight injuries, but was able to proceed to his home at Rodbourne after resting a while.

*Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 22 November 1888*

At Malmesbury yesterday, the Rev Edgar Packer, Vicar of Hankerton, was summoned for alleged driving a motor car to the danger of the public.

The case was a sequel to a collision on the Malmesbury to Chippenham road, where defendant's car was involved in a smash with another driven by Mr Charles H Best, of Whatley.

**1930** Complainant said he was travelling at about 20 miles per hour when defendant's car emerged from a by-road and there was a head-on collision.

Defendant stated that at the time he was not driving at more than five or six miles an hour. His road was obstructed owing to high hedges and approaching the main road, he saw the other car coming at a fast rate. He realised that he would have to go on his wrong side to avoid a crash. Complainant apparently lost his head and swerved to the same side. The case was dismissed.

*Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle Thursday 65 February 1930*

Mr B Young, chauffer to Mr F J Bates, of the Priory, Hankerton, had a finger cut off when he caught his hand in the wheel of his motor cycle, which he was examining. He was treated at

Malmesbury Hospital.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle Thursday 18 August 1930

The Driver of the night mail from Swindon to Malmesbury, Mr A Wheeler, of Cross Hayes, Malmesbury, had a narrow escape from injury early this morning. During the height of the gale, a tree was blown down a few yards in front of his van while he was driving along Caitley road, Hankerton. Mr Wheeler was unable to avoid the tree, but fortunately, the impact was not serious. The steering rod and the front of the van were damaged. A message was sent to Malmesbury head office, and Mr R Watkins set out in his van to bring in the Malmesbury mail.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle Thursday 18 September 1930

1932

Investigations are being made into the suggestion that foxes found dead in the district covered by the Vale of White Horse (Cirencester) Hunt, of which Lord Bathurst is Master, have been poisoned by strychnine.

Two foxes which have been found at Charlton, close to Lord Suffolk's home, and another at Hankerton, have died under suspicious circumstances. The carcasses have been skinned. Examination of one revealed that strychnine was the cause of death.

When Lord Bathurst's hounds met at Minety Old Inn on Wednesday they did not draw the coverts, but were sent on to Oaksey. The last case of poisoning in the district was at Brinkworth, about four years ago.

Cheltenham Chronicle Saturday 12 March 1932

1934

Mr F J Bates, of Hankerton Priory, gave the children in the village of Hankerton a treat. After tea, all of them were given fruit and sweets, and on leaving each child received two new halfpennies from Mrs Wilson. The Rev E Packer, the vicar, thanked Mr Bates for his hospitality.

Western Daily Press Wednesday 17 January 1934

1935

The Rev Frank Hudson (vicar of Charlton) assisted by the Rev Edgar Packer (vicar of Hankerton), and Rev F Lucas (vicar of Didmarton), officiated at the funeral at Charlton parish church of Mrs M A Gore (72), wife of Mr H G Gore, formerly of Cirencester, who died suddenly at Hankerton Priory.

Western Daily Press Saturday 21 September 1935

1936

In aid of church funds, a fete was held at The Priory, Hankerton. Lady Gamble (of Minety), who was welcomed by the Rev E Packer, performed the opening ceremony. The stalls were in the charge of the ladies of the parish council, and there were a number of competitions.

Western Daily Press Saturday 27 June 1936

The fete held at the Priory, Hankerton, in aid of church funds realised £55.

Western Daily Press Thursday 2 July 1936

1937

The funeral of Mr Henry Graham Gore (64), formerly of Hankerton Priory, near Malmesbury, took place at Charlton, Wilts.

A verdict of "Suicide while the balance of his mind was temporarily disturbed," was returned at the inquest held by the Oxford coroner, Mr H F Galpin, on Mr Gore, who was found with his throat cut in the room of an Oxford hotel.

The Rev Frank Hudson, the vicar of Charlton, and the Rev Edgar Packer, vicar of Hankerton, officiated at the funeral. The mourners were Mrs Rideal (step-daughter), Miss Spiking (niece), Mrs Geldart, Mr R A C Forrester, Mr Andrews, Mr and Mrs Clarke (former gardener and housekeeper), Mr Pool (gardener).

Western Daily Press Friday 26 February 1937

The members of Hankerton Ladies' Club presented Mr Eric A Packer, son of the Rev Edgar Packer, with a set of carvers on the occasion of his marriage, and the members of the choir

and the organist and verger gave a fountain pen.

Western Daily Press Thursday 12 August 1937

**1938**

Arranged by Miss Berry, hon. secretary of the Charlton and Hankerton Women's Conservative Association, the last social of the season was held in the hall. Mr Banks was MC, and Miss Woodward pianist. Prizes were won by Misses Sheila Lane, Nora Pennell, Vera Fishlock, Masters Eddie Tidmarsh and D Poole. Miss Bonn distributed the awards.

Western Daily Press Monday 14 March 1938

George James Hillman, who came from Midsomer Norton last year to Lower Stonehill Farm, Charlton, near Malmesbury, was gored by his bull which he was leading to water yesterday morning, and from injuries then received he died in Malmesbury Hospital 15 minutes after admission, despite the attention of Dr Hodge, of Malmesbury.

The deceased was 61 years of age. Edward Sanders, a labourer, of Hankerton, an employee, did his utmost to drive the infuriated animal away, but without avail, though later, with the assistance of Mr Hillman's son, the bull was captured.

Western Daily Press Tuesday 6 September 1938

**1940**

About 350 children, with teachers and helpers, from Tilbury and Grays, Essex, have arrived in Malmesbury.

They were met at the station by the Mayor, Dr B L Hodge, Mr P Jackson, Mr R T Pierce (billeting officer) and others who saw to the children's comfort in the Secondary School paddock, and took them to their various billets.

Many were conveyed by bus to Dauntsey, Lea, Luckington, and Hankerton.

There are more to arrive one day this week.

Western Daily Press Friday 14 June 1940