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## Hanney War Memorial Hall



To book the Hall, the Committee Room, or the Olde Hanney Room, contact Sue Garner on 868684 or 07890 953101  
hwmh.hanney@gmail.com

## Hanney Community Association

To find out more visit:



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or email

[itsyourvillage@hanneycommunityassociation.co.uk](mailto:itsyourvillage@hanneycommunityassociation.co.uk)

To enquire about becoming a member

[membership@hanneycommunityassociation.co.uk](mailto:membership@hanneycommunityassociation.co.uk)



## Final Thought

How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizza?

Deep pan, crisp and even.

## Submissions, Advertising and Charges

To submit an article or letter, please send it to the Editor, preferably by email to: [hanneynews@gmail.com](mailto:hanneynews@gmail.com) or via the box in the Hanney Community Shop by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month for inclusion in the following month's issue. Organisations are charged £12 pa for entry into the 'Regular Events' or 'Clubs and Societies' section, pages 26 and 27. To advertise please ring or email the Editor. [jimstagg@btinternet.com](mailto:jimstagg@btinternet.com) - tel: 01235 867500  
Four line adverts in 'Business Ads' are charged at £3 per month or £23 per annum. Block ads are available for £6, £12 or £18 per month, £60, £120 or £180 per annum. Other sizes by negotiation.

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# Hanney News

Number 493 December 2019

*Wishing all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

## The Vale's new rules

regarding recyclable waste caught several residents out recently. Remember, your recyclable waste must be loose or in clear bin-liners, not black ones. They won't empty your bin if you transgress, and you'll find a notice hooked on the handle that says 'OOPS'. You'll also be sent to the naughty step! See East Hanney Parish Council's article on page 6 for more on this.



## Calling all swingers!

Come on down to the play-ground on the recreation ground and have a go on the new bit of kit just purchased by East Hanney Parish Council. See page 11.

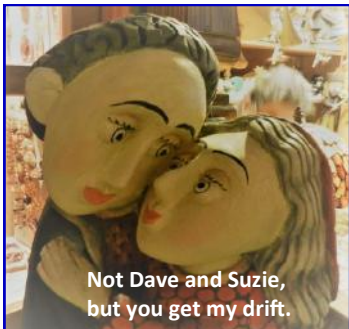


## HOLLY AND CHRISTMAS GIFTS SALE

SAT 10TH DEC  
10.30AM - 1PM  
VILLAGE HALL, HANNEY.  
INCLUDING BOOKS,  
POTTERY, DECORATIONS,  
JEWELLERY, AND FRESH HOLLY  
RAISING FUNDS FOR ST JAMES CHURCH



As something of a nod to the current season of goodwill, I have replaced our usual classy brooch logo with, frankly, a rather weird looking Father Christmas - a disturbing image of an old man who looks oddly similar to one of Snow White's seven dwarves mixed with a chubby, rosy-cheeked baby. Bizarre. Talking of strange folk, a quick reassurance that, as with Brexit, nothing will change here at Hanney News Global following the election of Donald Trump, the orange overlord! Our U.S. correspondent is already trying to arrange an interview and photoshoot with his wife! Meantime, life goes on, and glad tidings I bring regarding two local characters, Dave Hatton - he was on the front cover of our Sept issue holding a set of jump leads to his chest! - and Suzie Metcalfe. They are engaged to be wed and we wish 'em all the best!



Not Dave and Suzie,  
but you get my drift.

If you have any good news you want to share with the community, do let us know. We don't just do hard-nosed investigative journalism...oh no, we have a warm and a fluffy side too.

## Editorial

Do check out a most interesting article from Dudley Iles on page 10 regarding our resident mute swans. They don't say much - clue's in the name - but they are magnificent creatures and we're very lucky to have them. Our flier this month and an article on page 4 tell you about two new local books that I'm sure will be of interest to many. I'm hoping both will be available at the Christmas Gift fayre on 10th Dec. Details of that event on the front cover - tables still available, so contact me soonest if you want to be involved.

Check out page 11 for something to do with the kids after Christmas; a jolly film and 'popcornfest' is promised! And for the older folk the Hanney R.B.L. Women's section are organising another lovely Christmas party on Sat 10th Dec. See page 3 for details. A quick 'big up' to Mr Derek Hockaday who has finally retired from the 'bread run' after many years sterling service. Thank you Derek. Not a lot of people know this, but under the rules, someone else sharing the same first name and first two letters of the surname - no really! - has to take over, so step up Derek Howe and welcome. Lady Sue of Garner has also volunteered for a slice (geddit?) of the bread run action. Welcome to you Sue. Big apols for the very fuzzy St James Church pages last month...cautiously optimistic that we've got it right this time. Meantime, Christmas cards and donations of mince pies very welcome for all the staff here at HQ. Till next month my friends.

**Hanney News Global International. West Hanney HQ. Oxfordshire, UK.**

Editor - Jim Stagg 867500, jimstagg@btinternet.com.

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Distributor - Paul Haines 868811, paul@hainesp.plus.com

**WANTAGE CHORAL SOCIETY** rehearses every Tuesday at CofE School, Newbury St. (next to Comrades Club) at 7.30pm. New voices always welcome. Contact Judy Gibbons 868516, www.wantagechoralsociety.co.uk, email wantagechoralsociety@yahoo.co.uk.

**WANTAGE GARDENERS ASSOCIATION** : 9am - 12noon every Saturday Feb-Sept. See website for details of all they offer. www.wantagegardeners.org.uk

**WILTS & BERKS CANAL TRUST/EAST VALE BRANCH** First Wednesday in the month, Social Meeting at the Hanney British Legion 8pm. Details contact Brian Stovold on 763072 wbct.org.uk

**NORDIC WALKING CLASSES WITH LISA FROM OXFORDSHIRE FITNESS** daytime, evening and weekend classes available please call Lisa on 07885635367, email lisa@oxfordshirefitness.co.uk or visit www.oxfordshirefitness.co.uk for more details or to book a taster session.

**HANNEY WI (WOMEN'S INSTITUTE)** meet the second Thursday of the month (not Aug) 7.30 - 9.30 in the Olde Hanney Room. New members are welcome, contact Angela Morris Tel. 223245, Email: [angie.m@ntlworld.com](mailto:angie.m@ntlworld.com) or Helen Evans 868542

## Regular Events

**HANNEY LITTLE RAINBOWS**, Activity and fun for 0 - 3 yr olds meet every Monday, 9.30 - 11.30am. At the Village Hall Contact Hayley Aram for details 07900 696 921

**DANCING CLASS**, Tuesdays, 3.30-4.30pm during term-time. Children from 3 1/2. Ballet, tap, acrobatic dancing, deportment. New pupils welcome. Nancy Becker on l.becker@virgin.net

**OXFORDSHIRE FITNESS CLASSES** Mondays 6.15 - 7.15pm Legs, Bums & Tums at the British Legion; Thursdays 6.15 - 7.15pm. Pick and mix exercise at the British Legion. Call Lisa on 07885635367

**YOGA (HATHA) - MIXED LEVEL** at Hanney War Memorial Hall, Fridays 9.30-11am. £45 for 6 sessions; £9 for drop-in. Ring Eleanor on 01865 863316 or email eleanorwadge@yahoo.co.uk to book or for more information.

**HANNEY CHAPEL**. Every Sunday, Morning Service at 10.30 (and "Explorers" for children) - creche available. Evening Service at 6pm. All welcome. "Jumpstart" club for 6-10 year olds, Thurs 6pm. Friday Club for 10-15 year olds at 7.30pm, both in term time. Thursday Lunch & Listen first Thurs in month 10.30am. Contact Bob Pritchard on 868864.

**HANNEY PRE-SCHOOL** meets term time, in the Elliott Building in the grounds of St James School. For 3+ year olds: Monday - Friday 9am - 2pm, For 2+ year olds: Mon - Fri 9am - 2pm. Contact Hanney Pre-School on 07759181330 or see www.hanneypreschool.co.uk

**OLDE HANNEY ROOM COFFEE SHOP**, Tuesdays, 10.00-11.30am. Everyone welcome for tea or coffee - chat and a raffle.

**BINGO** every Sunday, R.B. Legion Hall 8pm. Cash prizes. All over 18 welcome

**PILATES CLASS** Wednesdays 6 -7pm (term time only) at the Royal British Legion, East Hanney. Novices and Improvers welcome. To book your place or for more details please contact Pippa Carey (STOTT Pilates teacher) on 07941 260427 or at [pippa@thrive-nutrition.co.uk](mailto:pippa@thrive-nutrition.co.uk)

## Clubs and Societies

**HANNEY BOWLS CLUB** Wednesdays 7.30-10.00pm, and Thursdays 2.00-4.00pm. Contact 868145

**RBL WOMEN'S SECTION MEETINGS** are held at 8.00pm on the second Monday of the month in the RBL 66 Club. New members very welcome.

**THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION BRANCH** meets bi-monthly on the 4th Wednesday of September, November, January, March, May and July in the RBL Club. NEW MEMBERS WELCOME.

**HANNEY BADMINTON CLUB** meets every Thursday in the HWMH, 8-10pm. We welcome new members. Call 868256 for details.

**HANNEY TENNIS CLUB** New members welcome. Club sessions Sunday 10am onwards, Tuesday 7pm - just turn up. For coaching adult or junior contact [andy.aitken@growingthegame.co.uk](mailto:andy.aitken@growingthegame.co.uk)  
More information [www.hanneytennisclub.org.uk](http://www.hanneytennisclub.org.uk) or call 868261.

**HANNEY HISTORY GROUP.** meets 8pm every 4th Tuesday. New members and visitors welcome, non-members £3. For further info ring Bill Orson 868859.

**HANNEY BELLRINGERS** meet every Wednesday St James' Church West Hanney from 7.30 pm until 9 pm. Beginners very welcome. Contact Jean Hazard for more details (868883).

**HANNEY GUIDES** meet on Mondays 6.30 -8.00 during term time. All girls welcome, aged 10+, contact Sue Clark 765885. **HANNEY BROWNIES** (aged 7+) meet on Tuesdays in British Legion Hall from 6.00 - 7.30. **RAINBOWS** (5+) in Grove on Wednesday and Thursday. Further details and waiting lists: [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)

**HANNEY GARDENING CLUB** meets on the first Monday of each month in the HWMH. 7:45 for 8.00pm. Tea and coffee followed by a talk. Visit [www.hanneygardeningclub.org.uk](http://www.hanneygardeningclub.org.uk)

**HANNEY WHEELERS CYCLING** We meet on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month at 9.30am prompt (10am after the clocks have gone back for the winter) at the Hanney WMH. New cyclists, you will be warmly welcomed for recreational local cycling with essential coffee stop!! Call Bob Wilson 868389 or [bobwilson300@hotmail.com](mailto:bobwilson300@hotmail.com)

**HANNEY WINE CIRCLE** meets on the 2nd Tuesday each month: [www.hanneywinecircle.org.uk](http://www.hanneywinecircle.org.uk)

**HANNEY CRICKET CLUB** Indoor nets available in March & April followed by outdoor training every Thursday evening throughout the summer from 6.15pm at the rec. League fixtures every Saturday, occasional friendly Sunday games & mid week T20. Contact: Secretary Jerry May 07714 033651, or first XI captain Mark Tracey 07775 503169

**HANNEY YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB** trains at the rec. on Thursday night. We play in the Oxford Mail Youth League and have teams from age 5 up. If you would like to join us please contact Paul on 07510 435 508, [hyfcfooty@gmail.com](mailto:hyfcfooty@gmail.com) or visit our website [hanneyyouthfc.co.uk](http://hanneyyouthfc.co.uk)

**HANNEY TABLE TENNIS** meet every Thursday from 6.30pm till 7.30pm at the HWMH. £2 entry. Richard Anstis 07908 673367 for details, or just turn up!

**WANTAGE MALE VOICE CHOIR** rehearses at HWMH on Tuesdays, 7.30-9.30pm. The Choir is looking for more men who enjoy a good sing to join their existing number of 30 or so. Call Geoff (868440) or Nick (768249), [www.wantagemalevoicechoir.org.uk](http://www.wantagemalevoicechoir.org.uk)

## Notices...what's happening this month

**Fri 2nd, Village Hall, Hanney Film Night** present 'In the Heat of the Night' See page 5.

**Sat 3rd, Hanney R.B.L. Live Music** with 'Retro' a 60's and 70's band.

**Sun 4th, 4pm, St James Church.** The Guides, Brownies and Rainbows of Hanney and Grove Christingle Service. Page 5 for details.

**Mon 5th, Hanney Gardening Club Christmas Party**

**Thurs 8th, W.I. Christmas Meeting,** 2 course meal.

**Fri 9th, Hanney R.B.L. 8pm, Christmas Bingo.** All welcome, including children.

**Sat 10th, Christmas Gifts and Holly Sale** at the Village Hall 10.30am - 12.30pm.

**Sat 10th, 2 - 5pm. R.B.L. Women's Section invites Senior Citizens to a Free Christmas Party** (food similar to last year). If interested, please contact Maureen on 868744 or Kim on 868967.

**Sun 11th, 9.30am Service at St James Church,** details, page 15.

**Sun 18th, 6pm. Hanney Chapel - Carols by Candlelight.** See page 21

**Tues 20th, St James School,** Term two ends....Boohoo!!

**Thurs 22nd, 7pm. Hanney Chapel - Christmas Music Evening.** Page 21 again!

**Thurs 22nd, Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch,** 12.30pm

**Christmas Day, 10.30am, Hanney Chapel - Christmas Morning Service.** Page 21!!

**Weds 28th 2pm Hanney Hall, Hanney Film Nights and Hanney Pre-School** present the film 'Ice Age - Collision Course' Full details, page 11.

### ....and further ahead

**Weds 4th Jan, St James School,** Term 3 begins...hooray!

**9th Feb, St James School,** Term 3 ends...sob, sob!

**20th Feb, St James School,** Term 4 begins, Yipee!



**The latest Speedwatch** figures from the East Hanney team suggest that about 10% of motorists exceed the speed limit by at least 4mph. The team reckon that closer to 50% break the 30mph limit!

### Contact details for our political chums.

**Ed Vaizey MP** - 'You can contact me on any matter at the House of Commons, SW1A 0AA, 020 7219 6350

or [dicksonce@parliament.uk](mailto:dicksonce@parliament.uk).

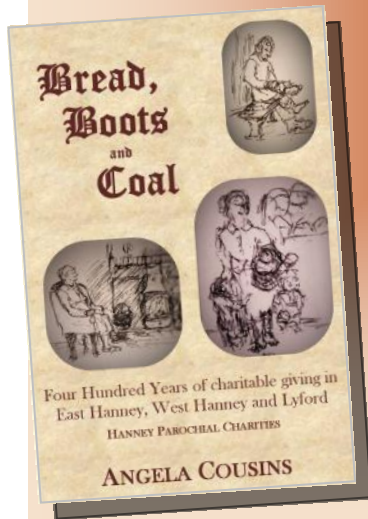
Vale of White Horse District Council leader **Matt Barber's** email and website addresses: [councillor@matthewbarber.co.uk](mailto:councillor@matthewbarber.co.uk)  
[www.matthewbarber.co.uk](http://www.matthewbarber.co.uk)

**'Bread, Boots and Coal'** is the latest book from local author Angela Cousins, and is a fascinating and very readable history of charitable giving over the last 400 years in and around the Hanneys that focuses on the Hanney Parochial Charity. It was formed in 1928, an amalgamation of several small local charities, some that started hundreds of years ago.

The Charity continues to this day, supporting folk who live in East Hanney, West Hanney, or Lyford. Many hours of research by Angela and her team have produced an enlightening read that will be enjoyed not only by local historians but anyone with an interest in charitable giving

and how charities meet the wishes of the original benefactors in a modern and rapidly changing world.

Angela lives in West Hanney with her husband Lionel, who was a Trustee of the charity from 1974 - for many years as Chairman - until he recently retired. Having full access to all the Charity's records has enabled Angela to compile this comprehensive record of the charity. Some splendid illustrations add to the character of this charming little book, which would make a most unusual and interesting Christmas gift. Priced at just £8, it is available from the Hanney Community Shop, the Vale and Downland Museum, Wantage, the Madhatter's Bookshop, Mill Street, Wantage, direct from the author - 01235 868274 - or online at Lulu.com.



**Ok, it's not the Hanney Brooch...**and no prizes for guessing... it's a horseshoe, actually a very old one indeed, recently found by an eagle-eyed villager. Now horseshoes aren't just odd bits of metal bent round and nailed to old Dobbin's feet...oh no, dear readers, there's a lot of technique, skill and experience that goes into making and fitting them, and a massive amount of history around them too. This one is known as a 'Guildhall Shoe' and dates from between 1300 and 1500....oh dat's old! Others have been found in and around our lovely villages, so keep your eyes peeled, you never know what you might find.



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# Part-time Bar & Restaurant Staff

From the end of January we will be offering part time/job share positions serving behind the bar and in the restaurant of

## The Plough, West Hanney.

Bar staff have to be aged 18 years or older. Previous experience is not required as full training will be given.

These positions will suit people who wish to work flexible hours and days during lunchtimes or for evening and weekend work.

If you want to find out more, please contact  
Chris French on [chris-french@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chris-french@hotmail.co.uk)  
or Phil Larder on [philip.larder@btinternet.com](mailto:philip.larder@btinternet.com)

**HANNEY FILM NIGHT in the OWEN WRIGHT CINEMA,  
HWMH, FRIDAY DEC 2nd. , 7.30 for 8.00  
£6, conc. £5 Bar & Doors Open 7.30**



# "In the Heat of the Night"

starring Rod Steiger, Sidney Poitier and Warren Oates, Director Norman Jewison.

One of the best films of all time, a Best Picture Oscar winner, and a highly deserved one at that.. It would be easy for someone to classify IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT as a simple buddy-cop movie, but it is so much more - this is film-making at its finest. An absolutely merciless mystery, it contains some incredibly intense scenes.

**FIVE OSCARS! DON'T MISS IT!**

## The Guides, Brownies and Rainbows of Hanney and Grove

**invite you** to the annual  
Christingle Service on Sunday  
4th December at St James  
Church at 4pm. Come and  
receive a Christingle in  
exchange for a donation to the  
Children's Society. All welcome.



## East Hanney Parish Council

As you will no doubt have read already in this edition of Hanney News, the new basket swing has been installed in the playground area behind the War Memorial Hall. This work was part-funded by East Hanney PC and part funded with a grant from the Vale of White Horse district council Capital Grants scheme.

Whilst on the subject of the playground, it was brought to the PC's attention that water was pooling in the slide. The PC sought advice from the supplier that installed the large tower and slide equipment and it appears to be a result of young people climbing up the outside of the tube slide, so deforming the joints. The Council sought quotations to resolve this by installing a support leg in place so it stops happening. The PC considered this at their meeting in November 2016 and concluded that at over £1000 plus VAT, the cost was prohibitive.

At the November meeting, the PC also discussed issues with dog fouling and the associated rules and regulation for the playing fields. The meeting was well attended and many local residents of both East and West Hanney petitioned the PC to change the rules. The Council considered the rules necessary to lessen the incidents of dog fouling on the playing fields and resolved to work with a small group of villagers to find solutions. One suggestion was an increased number of dog waste bins. This is being pursued by Cllr Paul Aram, should you have a suggestion of where a dog waste bin may be sited so it helps with the disposal of dog waste, please contact him directly, or the Clerk on

the details below.

Last edition, the PC reported that it had asked our Ward Councillor, Matt Barber to investigate the issue of the new strict waste disposal guidelines from the district council and Biffa. It awaits a reply and will publicise it as soon as one is heard.

Parish Council meetings are open to the public and are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 8pm. The agenda will be available to view on the notice board outside the Community Shop, on the Council's website and on Facebook a week in advance.

**The next meeting dates are  
7<sup>th</sup> December 2016 and 4<sup>th</sup> January  
2017.**

Chairman: Jim Triffitt 868314 (Allotments)  
Vice Chairman: Stewart Scott 868503  
(Neighbourhood Plan and Technical Issues)  
Paul Aram 868858 (Playground and Playing field)

David Kirk 07740029059 (Neighbourhood Action Group)

Judy Long 868425 (Footpaths)  
Stephen McKechnie 868823 (Village furniture and annual litter pick)

Clerk: Guy Langton 867403  
[gl-ehpc@outlook.com](mailto:gl-ehpc@outlook.com)

**Parish Council website:**  
[www.easthaneyparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.easthaneyparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/436816943170450/>

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Why not use our **Breakfast and After-School Club** at St James Primary School? Breakfast Club opens at 7.45am and costs £4. After-School Club is open until 6pm and costs £10. We take regular & ad-hoc bookings.

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Your Council is looking for a new Parish Clerk to take on the role from next May. This is an interesting and rewarding position dealing with incoming emails and correspondence, passing information on to councillors, taking minutes at our meetings and producing details of our finances. A small salary is payable.

If you would like to know more please contact our present Clerk, Kay Sayers on 868146 for an informal chat.

We have been in contact with Scottish & Southern Electricity concerning the new supply pole which has been erected on parish land outside the Church Farm development. We believe the stabilisers to this pole are in a very dangerous position right on the edge of the footpath and we have expressed our concerns over the danger to pedestrians who could trip over these steel cables, especially on dark winter nights. SSE have promised to look at the situation.

Several residents have contacted us about the sign warning of a bend which fell, or was knocked, down on the Green recently. This was reported to Oxfordshire County Council Highways on the 13th October. The response received was 'we will repair this within our normal timescale'. What that timescale is we do not know but at the time of going to press on the 15th November five weeks have passed.

On behalf of the district council Biffa have been cleaning our pavements recently which is very welcome. We are however also concerned at the build up of silt and debris on the road edges around the village. We have pointed out that this build up is blocking drainage gullies which could well lead to road flooding after heavy rain. Matthew Barber will be talking to Oxfordshire County Council, who are the responsible body, on our behalf.

From all your Parish Councillors - a very happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

**Next Meeting - Tuesday 13th December 7.30pm - Church Bell Tower**

Your Councillors

Chris Surman (Chairman)	868749	Edward Wilkinson	867316
Kay Sayers (Cllr & Clerk)	868146	Trevor Brettell	868459
Graham Garner	868684		

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## Dog Owners – Hanney Community Group

**We are a new group of dog walkers** formed in response to the need for cooperation and coordination of the community using the public spaces within the village, ensuring all users needs can be met. There has been an unacceptable amount of dog fouling on the footpaths and recreation fields throughout the village. East Hanney Parish Council (EHPC) has suggested that keeping dogs on leads on the recreation ground is a way to address this issue, but we think the problem is much broader than that. The EHPC has agreed to work with our new group to come up with more inclusive ways of tackling this antisocial problem.

We would like to get an idea of where people would like more Poop bins located within West and East Hanney so please get in touch with your thoughts on this (contact details below). We will be also working with Colin Marshall from the Vale District Council to pursue enforcement of dog fouling fines. We welcome people to join the group to help keep our footpaths and recreation areas clean of poop and ensure man's best friend can still play ball with family and friends. For more information about the group's activities and how you can take part please contact:

[hanneydogowners@yahoo.com](mailto:hanneydogowners@yahoo.com) , Jenny on [07585 552308](tel:07585552308) or

Nick on [07880 497084](tel:07880497084)

These swans have nested **The Hanney Mute Swans** men were summoned on along the stream or on Dandridge's Mill lake for about 20 years. Adult swans mate for life and each year they lay up to seven eggs, but usually only two or three cygnets reach maturity. The adults are very protective of their young (as we all know) but come October they up and go, leaving the cygnets to fend for themselves. Swans are heavy birds, and need a long stretch of water to take off! Our cygnets have difficulties here; Letcombe Brooke is narrow, windy and shallow, with obstacles such as the Iron Bridge. This year the two remaining fully grown cygnets were to be seen wandering down the road, looking for some clear open water so that they could take off and follow their parents. Luckily for them, there is a two-man charity "Swan Life Line" which specialises in rescuing swans in the autumn. These

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November by Miriam Vivian and duly arrived with all the equipment needed to catch our two cygnets. They were quickly caught, fed with grain and bread, wrapped up and driven to a lake near Eton to join some 20 cygnets already rescued, from whence they will fly to find their own territory. They probably won't return to Hanney, but our two adults will we hope continue to grace Letcombe Brook for many years to come. It's sad to loose the swans in the autumn, but we'll look forward to welcoming them back in the spring.  
Dudley Iles

**Swan Life Line will be delighted to accept any help, either from volunteers or from a donation. ( the trip to Hanney cost £39) Their number is 01753 839397.**



In the villages of East and West Hanney, only about 90 residents have taken advantage of the excellent information

systems available from the police. There is the 'Alert' system which sends warnings and information about criminal activities. These can be received by email or phone. Recent incidents include thefts from parked cars, particularly at local 'beauty spots'. Also there has been theft of lead from church roofs, including Hanney church, attempted break-ins, and vehicles and trailers have been stolen. Anti-social behaviour has also been a concern in Hanney. However – many residents don't realise that there is also an additional crime warning system, which sends texts to resident's mobile phones. These text messages usually give information about crime that is suspected to be happening very locally at that time, often hare coursing or poaching, and ask people to keep a look-out and immediately report any sightings. In the past, such response from Hanney residents has resulted in criminals being arrested. Neighbourhood Watch encourages its members to apply to receive these useful reports from the police. Whilst Neighbourhood Watch is not controlled by the police, and each group independently tailors its activities to the neighbourhood and membership, it has a close working partnership with the police, who appreciate the support that members can give them.

E & W Hanney have 30 Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators (the best coverage of

any village in the Vale), but as Coordinators usually support about 10 neighbouring members, there are still areas without any neighbourhood watch coverage. Nowadays Coordinators don't have so much to do, as they can enrol their members onto the Alert and texting systems, and therefore have no need to pass on the police warning messages. However, it is also important that members look out for each other, particularly the elderly or disadvantaged, and warn neighbours of anything suspicious. There should also be no hesitation to ring the police on 101 about any suspicious activity, or 999 if you think a crime may be being committed.

**Ray Woodyear – Area Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator**

*Editors note. Many thanks for this Ray. If anyone would like to sign up for the 'Alerts' Ray mentions, if you may be able to help as a co-ordinator, or to find out who your co-ordinator is, please contact Ray via email on [rwoodyear@gmail.com](mailto:rwoodyear@gmail.com).*

*I am the co-ordinator for Winter Lane, and communicate via email. I now have over 80 addresses, spread all over Hanney and beyond, and I include information I think may be relevant to anyone living locally, including details of road closures, developments, community events and the like. All emails are sent 'BCC', i.e. your email address is not shared with anyone. If you would like to join this happy band, please contact me by email or phone - 01235 867500. You do not have to live in Winter Lane, or even the Hanneys. And just to clarify, my emails are wholly separate and independent from my work here at Hanney News Global International.*

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It's time to big up that man Paul Aram again.....As well as



having a full time job and a young family, Paul works tirelessly for our community in a variety of roles. Here's the fruit of his - along with his pals on the Parish Council's - latest labours - a shiny new nest swing at the playground. It's suitable for any ages, and with a giant rubber mat underneath, complies with all the latest 'Elf and Safety' rules and regs that seem to mollycoddle our every step these days.

Not cheap mind, it cost £6,500, with half the dosh coming from a VWH District Council Grant. (Big thanks to the nice ladies and jelly spoons at the Vale!)

The idea to buy the swing

came from that Pizza night Paul organised a while back when the youngsters of the village ate all the pizza before I got to the front of the queue! As well as stuffing themselves, they came up with many interesting suggestions and this was one of them. Paul - he's the grown up in our snap in case you don't know him - says he hopes the swing will be looked after and enjoyed for many years to come. 'Hear, hear' say I. Well done Paul, your efforts for our community are much appreciated, as always!





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## Letters

Dear Editor

On behalf of all the Hanney Fundraisers we would like to thank everyone who helped make HanneyFest such a success. It takes a lot of hard work and many hours organising such an event. We are very grateful for their donation of £859.66p, which has been forwarded to the Churchill Partners CRUK.

May we wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Kath, Lynda, Dulcie and Marion.

Dear Ed.

I would like to thank the Hanney Parochial Charities (a subject that I know is close to your heart) for the generous award given last month to my daughter, Emily. She applied in September to the HPC for funds to help cover the cost of materials she needed for her first year studying 'Textiles: Innovation & Design' at Loughborough University. With the ever-increasing cost of further education, let alone the 'kit' required for a course such as the one she has chosen to study, the award was a welcome addition to her coffers.

The fore-sight of the previous residents of the Hanneys and Lyford when they set up this charity is laudable and we current residents should be very grateful to them that this fund is still available now. It is a wonderful asset available to us simply due to the fact that we chose (very intelligently, I might add!) to live in this lovely part of the world. Please pass on our thanks to the committee. Pippa Carey

**I read somewhere recently that we are going to have** the coldest winter in almost 40 years - hang on, no, maybe that's just the lyrics from an old Rod Stewart song. Anyway, if we do have a cold spell, you'll be pleased to know that

Oxford County Council are ready to salt, pepper and grit our roads to keep us on the move. [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/salting-gritting-and-snow-clearance](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/salting-gritting-and-snow-clearance) has updates on which roads are passable. That's jolly helpful isn't it?

## Much excitement here in Winter

**Lane the other night**, right outside the Hanney News Global HQ building, where two gents were apprehended by the long arm of the law, having been up to no good - nicking stuff from cars I think. A helicopter was involved in the chase and one of the miscreants was arrested in the new Vicar's front garden. (Be assured Alec - for that is the name of aforementioned chap! - and young family, this isn't an everyday occurrence.) Both were cuffed and bundled into the back of waiting police cars. Meantime, I felt sorry for the

Police sniffer dog, who was tasked with searching the back yard of the Hanney Spice Indian restaurant, where the thieves abandoned their car. Poor old Rover's job to sniff out the booty - and maybe drugs? - can't have been easy amongst all the lovely spicy scents and aromas wafting around. Someone give that dog a poppadum!

Rover...somewhat confused!





## THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Dear Friends

Since moving to the Hanney, we have had an electrical pylon catch fire outside our house and a man arrested by police on our driveway. I never thought moving to the countryside would be this exciting! These were both unexpected and slightly shocking events to take place on your doorstep, which I am told happen all too often down Winter Lane. In just over a month we will be celebrating Christmas, which isn't unexpected, hopefully won't be shocking but is rather exciting.

Yet, for those involved in the first Christmas, the arrival of God in body, the son of God born to an engaged teenage girl, who gave birth in a stable in the back of beyond. This was massively shocking; God's people had got the message that someone special was coming from God, but they never expected this. I find that there is a challenge each Christmas to remember exactly how mind blowing and incredible the events of the first Christmas are and how they impact our relationship with God's today. Advent, the run-up to Christmas, is a great opportunity to reflect on all that God said he would do and the need for God to get in involved in a world today.

The prophet Isaiah wrote many hundreds of years before Jesus's birth that; *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. They lived in a land of shadows, but now light is shining on them. A child is born to us! A son is given to us! And he will be our ruler. He will be called "Wonderful Counsellor", "Mighty God", "Eternal Father", "Prince of Peace."*

In a time of shocking news stories, unexpected events and an uncertain future, it can feel that we are groping around in the shadows not sure what is ahead. We can take great comfort from the promise of Christmas; that God is with us and wants to get involved in the world around us, through us and with us, as he came as a child to live with us.

I hope that you do have an exciting but not too shocking Christmas and I look forward to bumping in to you at festive events and services over the next few weeks. God bless

Alec Gill

Associate Vicar of the Vale Benefice, which includes the Hanneys, East Challow, Denchworth and Grove

### SERVICES in DECEMBER - Sundays at 9.30am

4th NO morning service but we are invited to join the regional Guides Christingle at 4pm, 11<sup>th</sup> Revd Nick Cheeseman, 18<sup>th</sup> NO morning service. For full details of all the services please see the Christmas Card being delivered to your door.

Tuesdays – Said Eucharist in the Chancel at 10.00am

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## The Bethlehem Herald

roundabout 4 B.C.

News reaches us of surprise birth in local pub's stable. Local shepherds go to check it out.



**SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER at 2pm in CHURCH** as we re-live the story. Your children are welcome to join in as shepherds or angels – please bring them suitably clad. Everyone is very welcome.

Vicar : Revd John Durant : 766484

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