



# Hanney News

Number 572 Aug 2023

Clive Ward, head of the community shop, Lucy Ottoway, Headteacher at St James School and four happy youngsters celebrate... see page 5

## The Plough at West Hanney - shares available for purchase

This from board member Karen Bradshaw...

*"As featured in July Hanney News, tenants Owain and Luke recently celebrated a magnificent first year at the helm of The Plough, collecting a haul of prestigious and well-deserved awards along the way.*

*If you would like to buy shares in this increasingly successful pub, which is without doubt an asset to our villages, please contact the board of Hanney Community Pub Ltd at :*

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*with your enquiry.*

*We look forward to hearing from you."*

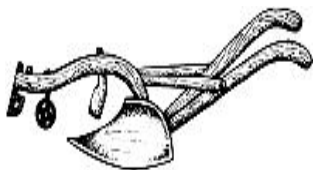


More happy kids... and grown-ups!  
Our MUGA is officially open! See page 8

**Fancy a cream tea serenaded by a choir? Well, on Sat 5th August, at 3pm the Wantage Male Voice Choir invite us all to pop in to the Hanney War Memorial Hall, for a cream tea, to be accompanied by a few songs from them. Entry is free but a donation to choir funds would be much appreciated.**

## Party in the Park....

**pics on pages 8 and 14!**



## Editorial

Maths was never my strong point, but I believe this may be my 100th issue! Crickey! Didn't really expect to get this far. My first, back in May 2015, seems a very long time ago indeed.

Massive thanks go to my team, Chris French our Treasurer and Paul Haines our Chief Distributor, along with Paul's team of Distributors who do their very best to ensure that copies get through

front doors before the start of each month. (Btw, Chris and Paul appear in a rather interesting little snap on page 5.) Whilst I'm on Hanney News, just to let you know that I have a complete archive of them, starting with issue 1 in December 1975, here at HQ. If you wanna have a browse at any time, just let me know.

Also worth mentioning that Hanney News as a PDF is available each month on the Hanney News website - see back page. Also on the website is an archive of PDFs of the mag, going back to January 2016.

The Party in the Park event, organised by the Friends of St James, was a great success, and aside from the odd shower, the weather was kind, if a little blowy. I got down there for the afternoon with the box brownie, but was unavailable in the evening, so no snaps I'm afraid of the later activities. If you've got any, feel free to send them. Pics I did get are on pages 8 and 14. Also snaps in this issue - front cover and pages 8 and 18 - of the opening of our brand new MUGA, a huge asset to our

community. Well done to all involved with both the above.

A couple of letters to be found on pages 15 and 16, one following up the demented penguin piece from July's issue. In that month's editorial, the writer perceived a tone to which he wished to advise me.

I have always tried to make Hanney News warm and fluffy, and am happy to offer a fulsome apology to this gent and anyone else who felt similarly. If at any time, anything in these pages offends, please do not hesitate to let me know, by email or phone if easier. It's very easy to sit here in the magnificent suite of exec offices here at HQ and tap away on the keyboard, trying to raise a smile rather than a frown, but can be a little harder to realise when

the latter may have happened.

The afternoon cream tea offered by the Wantage Choir on Sat 5th Aug - see front cover - sounds very tempting, as does the return of the Hanney Film Night after its summer break on 1st Sept, and please 'diarise' HanneyFest at the Black Horse on the weekend of Fri 8th - Sun 10th Sept. Yellow lines coming soon to Hanney...read all about it on page 4, and Community Shop related stuff on the front cover and pages 5, 17 and 18.

We welcome a new advertiser this month, 'Point to Point Financial Management' on page 9.

OK, enough for this month, till Sept my friends.



**We here at Hanney News Global International welcome articles or letters.**

Please submit items to the Editor, preferably by email, or use the Hanney News post box in the Community Shop. Contact me, the Editor, Jim Stagg, on 01235 867500, or by email: [hanneynews@gmail.com](mailto:hanneynews@gmail.com)

## What's happening this month...

**Thurs 10th and 24th, 'Letcombe Brook Beasties'.** Free! Spaces limited, visit [https://valeanddownland-museum.org.uk/my-calendar/?mc\\_id=5333](https://valeanddownland-museum.org.uk/my-calendar/?mc_id=5333)

**Mon 14th, Hanney History Group:** An easy walk around the 7 Barrows and other remains a mile north of Lambourne, led by David Peacock and BBONT naturalist, with a sunny (?) picnic to follow. £8

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>, Hanney Flood Group working party,** see page 30 for contact details

## And further ahead ...

**Fri 1st Sept, Hanney Film Night, village hall, details next month.** 'The Fabelmans'. 150 minutes so a 7pm opening time and a 7.30 start. Directed by Steven Spielberg, starring Michelle Williams, Paul Dano and Seth Rogen.

**Sat 2nd Sept, Charney Bassett Village Fete...**details nearer the time.

**Monday 4th September - 7.30 for 8 in the Village Hall, Hanney Gardening Club.** A talk on Gardening with Ornamental Grasses by Katherine Crouch, and our AGM. Non-members welcome.

**Fri 8th - Sun 10th Sept, Hanney Fest at the Black Horse, East Hanney.** A full weekend of live music, kicking off with 'Hanney Fest Unplugged' indoor acoustic on Friday 8th. More details to follow.

**Sat 9th Sept - Ride and Stride - Church Fundraiser,** see page 13

**Sat 23rd Sept, Riding for the Disabled Charity fundraiser...** Bingo Night in Southmoor...details next month.

**Sat 30th Sept, Hanney's very own Michaelmas Fayre. Keep it free!! See page 13.**

**Monday 2nd October - 7.30 for 8 in the Village Hall, Hanney Gardening Club.** Russell Atwood is giving a talk on No Dig Gardening. Non-members welcome.

**Sat 21st Oct - Sat 4th Nov, Wantage Literary Festival,** see their website.

**Monday 6th November - 7.30 for 8 in the Village Hall, Hanney Gardening Club.** A talk on Garden Design by Pip Smith. Non members welcome.

**Monday 4th December - Village Hall. Hanney Gardening Club Xmas Party**

**If you missed out** on getting one of the lovely Coronation mugs when ole Charlie Boy was recently crowned, I'm told there are still some available in our Community Shop.



# LETCOMBE BROOK BEASTIES

**TUESDAY 25 JULY. THURSDAY 10 & 24 AUGUST**  
**10AM - 11AM & 11AM - 12PM**

Join Letcombe Brook Project Officer Mark Bradfield as he shows children what lives in Letcombe Brook around the Willow Walk Community Nature Reserve and learn how to identify the different species.



**In the near future**, possibly as soon as September, a large number of yellow lines will be appearing on our roads here in Hanney, indicating parking restrictions. These are intended to improve road safety, particularly around the school and other areas of our villages where the very old and often narrow roads were never designed to cope with modern traffic demands...big wide cars, vans and lorries...and lots of 'em! And then factor in a few drivers who are sometimes a little bit thoughtless when it comes to parking, speeding and general safe road usage.

The recent introduction of a 20mph speed limit has generated much comment, including from the Police, who've said that they will be no more able to police the 20mph limit than they currently are the 30mph limit.. If you exceed a speed limit and provided no community Speed-watch team is around to record your transgression, you will probably get away with it, though there's always the risk of a demented penguin flapping at you - see last month's issue.

This is very different from the situation that exists when parking rules are broken. These rules are 'policed' by private contractors with individual employees who I suspect get incentives for issuing tickets. The companies for whom they work will also be incentivized to do a thorough job of ensuring the rules are strictly adhered to. So, the message is clear ....**do not park on these yellow lines and assume that you'll probably get away with it! You probably won't!**

Regarding parking when dropping off the little people at school, the solution is surprisingly simple... use the newly enlarged car-park just beyond our Community shop. OK, you may have to walk an extra 50 metres. 'Worse things happen at sea' as my Mum used to say if I ever moaned about something as a kid.

**Hanney Lottery  
July Winners**  
**1st - J Bassett**  
**2nd - Mrs B Haines**  
**3rd - George Gerrard**  
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## Great News!

It's a pleasure to include this article from Clive Ward, main man at our Community shop...

*"When Hanney Community Shop was established over 35 years ago, one of the objectives, as a not-for-profit organisation, was to use any cash surplus for the benefit of our local community. Thanks to the tremendous support of all our customers & fabulous group of volunteers, the shop now has a healthy balance sheet & the Committee are delighted to be making a donation of £1,000 to St. James CE Primary School. If trade continues at current levels, we are very hopeful that more funds will be available in the future to support local groups and projects. In addition, plans are being actively progressed to make improvements to the shop & facilities. The success of the shop relies on volunteers to help & if you can spare some time – it doesn't matter how much – please get*



*in touch with Clive Ward  
([thewardsrus@aol.com](mailto:thewardsrus@aol.com) / 07885 819920).  
A huge thank-you to everyone in the villages!"*

Massive big-ups to Clive and Richard Oxley who've truly worked wonders with the shop.

And as to Clive's plea for more volunteers ...think about if you have a bit of free time. It really is fun. I do two sessions a month and thoroughly enjoy them.

There's more shop-related stuff on pages 17 and 18

## Summer Parties very much en vogue

recently for our thriving village clubs and societies, including the Gardening Club who welcomed these three wise monkeys... from left to right, Chris French, Paul Haines and Graham Garner. (I should add that the photographer Dave Bratley is also wise.)



The Book Club held their party here at Global HQ the other night - Mrs Editor a keen member - and the Wine Circle has a summer celebration planned as I write, as does our lovely Senior Citizens Club....that I'm sure will be a 'caketastic' occasion that I'm looking forward to very much! Apols to other clubs I've missed mentioning. So, if summer parties in someone else's garden is your thing, that's another reason to join one - or several - of our great clubs.

# East Hanney Parish Council

The Parish Neighbourhood Plan has now moved to the next stage and an independent Inspector has been appointed to consider all comments from residents, land owners and statutory consultees.

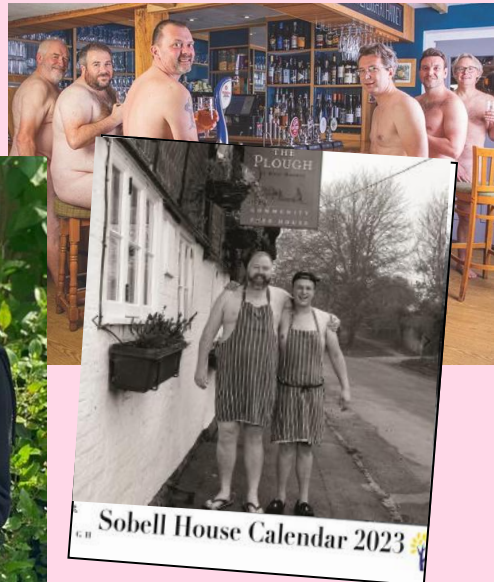
A questionnaire on Facebook regarding the fencing surrounding the original play area, we received several responses to the options proposed and several other also suggestions were put forward. The result was, unsurprisingly, there was no overall consensus the biggest single vote being 25% for leaving "as is." The situation will be reviewed once we have had a full summer's usage.

The MUGA was officially opened on 1st July, with netball, basketball and football talents being displayed together with the culinary skills of Paul Aram. There will be a notice board showing the regular bookings. Just as a reminder please book via Wendy, bookings are free for residents. **Our next Parish Council meeting is at 7.30pm on Weds 9th Aug at the Village Hall.**

**East Hanney Parish Councillors - Chair: Stephen McKechnie - [sme-hpc@gmail.com](mailto:sme-hpc@gmail.com). Vice Chairs: David Kirk - [david.kirk@btinternet.com](mailto:david.kirk@btinternet.com); Paul Aram [pvaehpc@gmail.com](mailto:pvaehpc@gmail.com); Councillors: Dickon Green - [dgehpc@gmail.com](mailto:dgehpc@gmail.com); Rosie Reed - [rrehpc@gmail.com](mailto:rrehpc@gmail.com); Garth Dennill - [gdehpc@gmail.com](mailto:gdehpc@gmail.com) ; Hamish Gowen - [hgehpc@gmail.com](mailto:hgehpc@gmail.com) Clerk: Wendy Bates, tel: 07859 924655, email: [clerk@easthanneyparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@easthanneyparishcouncil.org.uk) Website: [www.easthanneyparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.easthanneyparishcouncil.org.uk)**

**Sales of the slightly saucy Sobell House Calendar** produced by the Plough in West Hanney has raised £2k! Massive big ups all round! I gather there are still some available at the pub!

Two of the fab Plough team display the well earned certificate in recognition of their fund-raising efforts, whilst some of the regulars display a good deal more!



## West Hanney Parish Council

Councillors have the following areas of interest, if you have a particular concern, please contact the relevant Councillor direct, and they will do their best to help;

Planning applications and new development - Peter Packham/Ahmed Farrag

Planning enforcement - Peter Packham/Ahmed Farrag

Village environment, landscape and biodiversity - Peter Packham

Playing field and village greens - Vicki Ruston

Roads, verges, drainage ditches and footpaths - Vicki Ruston

Community woodland, meadow and orchard - David Corps

Tree maintenance - David Corps

West Hanney allotment gardens - David Corps

SIDs maintenance and analysis of data - Graham Garner

Website maintenance and upgrades - Graham Garner/Ahmed Farrag

Community Speedwatch - Ahmed Farrag

**The next meeting of WHPC will be held on Tues, 5th Sept, 2023 at 7.30pm in the Olde Hanney Room at the Hanney War Memorial Hall.**

**Councillors: Chair: David Corps - 867454. Graham Garner - 868684.  
Peter Packham - 868038. Vicki Ruston, Ahmed Farrag - 07388 816079.**

**Barbara Martin (Clerk) - 412742**

**Email: [parishclerkwesthanneypc@gmail.com](mailto:parishclerkwesthanneypc@gmail.com)**

**Website: [www.westhanneypc.org.uk](http://www.westhanneypc.org.uk)**

### **‘Everyone will have read about**

the Thames Water financial situation and the fact that the company is negotiating with the government about how to continue. Will it be new money from existing shareholders? Or new shareholders? Or the government? Over the coming weeks we shall see what happens. It is not clear what this means for the reservoir proposal.

RAPID: The RAPID Gate 2 report came out but as we expected there was no commitment to a particular direction (Reservoir or water transfer). It is disappointing to see that RAPID have not answered GARD’s criticisms of the water companies cost or carbon footprint estimates, nor have they insisted on an early evaluation of Reservoir safety.

**More on the reservoir and Thames Water on page 9.**



**Our political chums... David Johnston is our MP.** Contact him here: House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, or phone: 0207 219 3000. His website is here: [www.david-johnston.org.uk](http://www.david-johnston.org.uk), and his email is: [david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk).

**Juliette Ash is our County Councillor...**her contact details: c/o County Hall, New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND. Email: [juliette.ash@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:juliette.ash@oxfordshire.gov.uk). [www.julietteash.co.uk](http://www.julietteash.co.uk).

**Sally Povolotsky is our District Councillor.**

You can contact Sally here: [Sally.Povolotsky@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:Sally.Povolotsky@whitehorsedc.gov.uk).

She is also very active on Facebook.

Hey Hanney Dudes! Get your trainers on and come on down!

**And here's some good news if you want to stay**

**fit**, or just enjoy a bit of outdoor fun!...our new MUGA (multi-use games area) is now officially open! Pic shows Parish Councillor Paul Aram doing his bit at the opening ceremony\*.

As a regular attendee at the Parish Council meetings, I've witnessed at first hand the really hard work all the Councillors have put in to make this fab new asset to our community actually happen! Well done to all of them.

\*Sadly, I was not able to make the ceremony, so Paul may not have said the exact words I've attributed to him in his speech bubble, but I hope I've captured his sentiments. Another pic and more on fitness on page 18.



**Party in the Park Pics...more on page 14**





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# POINT TO POINT

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## Updates....Water Resources

**Southeast (WRSE)**, Thames Water, Affinity Water and Southern Water are all delaying their response to the consultations on their schemes from the end of June to the end of this month. This means that the picture will remain unclear until September at the earliest.

The only news is that Thames Water (TW) are planning to submit an application to build a test 'model dam embankment' on Cow Common (halfway along the Steventon-Hanney Road) later this year.

GARD have sent me a formal update see page 7, but don't mention the 'trial build'. That said, I heard that GARD are puzzled that it is to be rather small, only three metres high and not very long.

By carrying out the proposed trial excavation and then a survey or two on the clay that they dig out, TW say that they can understand the local clay's qualities under compression. Given that the embankment

for the actual reservoir will be about four miles long and about ten times higher(!) there are doubts about how much it will actually tell them.

Meantime, if you thought - hoped? - that TW's current rather challenged financial situation - slight understatement there Mr Editor - would hinder their reservoir plans, we learned at recent East and West Hanney Parish Council meetings that TW have assured everyone that the reservoir is moving ahead as planned despite the little issue at the bank!

Finally, you may have missed this little snippet of good news.....Sarah Bentley has recently resigned as CEO of Thames Water and the acting CEO will be Cathryn Ross, a former CEO of the Regulator OFWAT.

My understanding is that they're the organisation whose job is, amongst others, to ensure TW don't pump raw sewage into our brooks and streams.

How did that go Ms. Ross?



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# THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



We can all get stuck in a rut. Frustrated that we keep repeating the same errors. Saint Paul's words can chime with all of us; "I do not understand what I do; for I don't do what I would like to do, but instead I do what I hate." Romans 7:15-25

How do we go about making changes in our life?

In a podcast interview the author James Clear advises that the place to start, like Saint Paul, is with self-awareness. We need to be aware of what our struggles are and what we want to achieve. Having goals in life help us to shape what we want to achieve and what sort of person we want to be. For James Clear we can best achieve these by focusing on our daily habits and our every-day choices. What are the habits that we want to keep up? Which habits do we want to do less and which do we want to increase? Whether that's buying different things to eat, putting a book by our bedside, creating a reminder to call a

loved one, scheduling in regular exercise or putting a little bit away every month. Whatever we want to achieve in life, big or small, I have found it helpful to focus on the next one little thing that I can do. In Matthew Chapter 7 Jesus tells a parable about two builders, a successful one who spends time and effort digging secure foundations and a disappointed builder who easily creates a home on unstable ground with disastrous outcomes. Jesus' point is that it takes time and effort for our intentions and our actions to produce the outcomes that we want. There are no shortcuts in creating habits that shape us into the people that God wants us to be. If we keep digging, God encourages us that we can build secure foundations. If we adjust our habits, bit by bit, we can gradually work towards our long-term goals in life. Becoming people who do the things that we want to do.

God bless,  
Alec

## **SERVICES in Aug 2023 at St James**

**Eucharist is celebrated at 9.30am each Sunday.**

6<sup>th</sup> – Revd Nicholas Cheeseman , 13<sup>th</sup> – Revd John Durant,  
20<sup>th</sup> – Revd John Durant, 27<sup>th</sup> - Revd Velma Oxley.

**There is no Midweek Communion in August.**

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Chris Reason: tel - 868375 - [Chris\\_Reason\\_Hanney@hotmail.com](mailto:Chris_Reason_Hanney@hotmail.com)

**Saturday 30 September**  
**Church Green, West Hanney**  
**starting at 2pm.**



**Hanney**  
**Michaelmas**  
**Fayre 2023**

Join us at Hanney's annual Fayre – a combination of all the best bits of traditional summer village event!

Music \* WI Teas\* Competitions \* Things to watch \* Things to do \* Ice Creams \* Pub open \* Things to buy \* Barbeque \* Charlbury Finstock Morris \*

Having a summer clear out? Donate unwanted books, sheet music, "White Elephants" (not the ones with a long trunk and big ears more along the lines of pictures, vases, table linen, costume jewellery, jugs, sets of cutlery and much more) – contact [info@hanneymichaelmasfayre.co.uk](mailto:info@hanneymichaelmasfayre.co.uk) to make delivery arrangements.

Enter a competition – a wider range than ever before – and something for every interest – booklets available with all the details required in the Community Shop or St James Church or online – [hanneymichaelmasfayre.co.uk](http://hanneymichaelmasfayre.co.uk).

Book the date and take the afternoon out to meet friends and neighbours and enjoy the wonderful community we all share.

All profits are available for the HMF Grants Awards – over £20,000 has been donated to Hanney organisations since 2013. For more information see <https://www.hanneymichaelmasfayre.co.uk/grants/>

**Time to get pedalling or walking.** Local charity, 'Oxford Historic Churches Trust' annual **Ride and Stride** fund-raising event happens on 9th Sept. It gives grants to help maintain the fabric of the county's finest churches as well towards the cost of installation of a loo, kitchen, heating etc. St James Church has previously received grants and will shortly be applying for support for our project to improve its facilities. Fancy a bike ride or walk round some beautiful churches?

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# More 'Party in the Park' pics...



Dear Editor,

Hanney News used for cyclist-bashing again I see? I was slightly irked by your “well he got what he deserved” editorial tone highlighting an admittedly ill-advised attempt by a cyclist to circumvent a closed road during the relaying of Winter Lane.

I will balance this with a staggering number of drivers who turned into the Steventon Road during the road repairs experiment conducted in Steventon last week over two days, when clearly marked “Access Only” to return, irate judging from the queues and rubber they left behind, some minutes later.

I would argue it’s an unwelcome societal trait that rules or instructions only applying to others seems to have become the norm, rather than being solely the preserve of the *lycra louts*?

However, I digress. Mr John Myatt’s letter is factually incorrect in its assertion that cyclists are subject to speed limits.

Standard road rules generally apply to all road users, but speed limits are not set for cyclists on public roads. Only motor vehicles are subject to speeding laws. While it might not be deemed safe or sensible by drivers, for horses or bicycles to be ridden faster than motor vehicles, in some situations this is not only possible but desirable and can remove a vulnerable road user from a potentially hazardous interaction. On a related matter, I will also point out that the adoption of 20mph village speed limits according to Oxfordshire County Council, to “make our built environments safer and more attractive places to walk and cycle” is ironically having a marked deleterious effect on officially sanctioned and regulated competitive cycle sport.

I totally see the logic of restricting speeds around vulnerable points and times such as school drop-off and pick up, allowing access to facilities by the infirm or elderly



etc but in these times of declining public health in an increasingly obesogenic environment, it is sad to report that events have already been cancelled locally that once enabled those wishing to take ownership of their health could enjoy. Adoption of this blunt 20mph tool 24/7/365 already has had unintended consequences, isn’t respected by a significant number of road users (yes, the same “that rule doesn’t apply to them” brigade) and likely won’t be policed by Thames Valley Police

Yours, the devil incarnate, a cyclist.

Philip Ward - East Hanney

Dear Editor

I’m an American named Peter Schmaltz, and from 1973-75 my family lived in the Penny Farthing house in East Hanney while my father was on a work assignment to England. I was 7-9 years old at that time and attended St. James primary school. While at first, I was a fish out of water (the only ‘yank’ attending at the time), I soon felt invited and included in the community. They were happy years for me that I retain as some of my earliest memories.

Over the 50 years since I’ve had the opportunity to visit the Hanneys twice, once 10 years ago and then again, this past May (along with my wife Liz). On each occasion, I stumbled into delightful conversations with current residents while I strolled about the villages looking a bit out of place and lost (I gather American tourists taking photos is not a typical occurrence for Hanney). Ten years ago, the friendly local who spotted me and asked me my name happened to also be hand delivering your newsletter door to door. I explained I once lived in East Hanney and attended St James Primary in the 70s. Imagine my surprise when she replied, “I was your teacher, Mrs. Smith.”

.....*Peter’s letter continues on page 16*

# L E T T E R S ...continued

We shared an all too quick friendly conversation and I wandered away with a happy little nostalgic glow, amazed to have run into my teacher on a quiet village street after nearly 40 years.

This past May, my wife and I stopped in at The Plough and found ourselves in another delightful conversation with Owain and a few locals. It was easily one of the highlights of our too brief vacation to England, and the moules Owain served us were easily better than what I'd had earlier that week in London. We wished we'd had more time to linger.

I was inspired to write this note to the



editor of Hanney News as a way to express my thanks and appreciation to the good people of the Hanneys. My humble thanks to you all for taking care of the village that helped raise me.

Sincerely,  
Peter Schmalz



**Talking of our American cousins**, did you know that the legendary 1960's music producer Phil Spector - remember the Ronettes, the Crystals and others? - had a younger brother named Crispin, who was head of Quality Control at Walkers in Leicester?

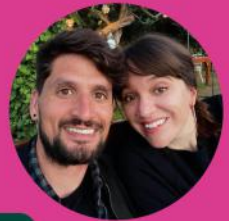
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## Fostering in Oxfordshire

William and Michelle, Oxford



What surprises you about being a foster carer?

There are different types of fostering that can suit different lifestyles and situations so I think that is something people will be interested to hear

Whatever your life situation and circumstances don't rule yourself out from providing a really good level of care to a child.



FOSTERING IN OXFORDSHIRE

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**I often witter on here about our fab Community Shop**, and you'll have already seen how well it's doing under the splendid stewardship of Clive Ward and Richard Oxley. Big ups to them! See our front cover and page5!

Mind, it's not good news everywhere...a community shop and post office that served Finstock, Wilcote, Fawler and Ramsden - an area in Oxfordshire about 20 miles north of here - has closed due to rising costs and lack of footfall.

The 'Woodpecker Community Shop' was, like ours, run by the local community, but - and I quote... *"Income has continued to decline, and our costs have risen to the point that we would now have to triple our daily revenue just to reach a break-even point.*

*The reality is that the traditional village shop is fast becoming outdated, as people change the way they live their lives."*

Thanks were offered not only to *"those who have worked so hard over the years to maintain a shop in the village", but also the regular customers "who made a point of buying something from us on a daily or weekly basis".*

The village Post Office inside the shop also closed.

A Post Office spokeswoman said: *"The Post Office is inside a community shop that has closed. We are facing a particularly challenging period, and the impact of rising costs, inflation and restrictions on our*

*funding from government mean that while we will always look to reopen branches when they close, we cannot commit to doing so in every instance.*

*We are committed to maintaining our access criteria so that 99 per cent of the UK's population are within three miles of a Post Office and 90 per cent are within one mile and will continue to review this position and prioritise those areas with the highest need."*

This is indeed sad news for the fine folk of Finstock and further afield, and the Post Office's official comment will only add to their concern.

I've heard previously that when village shops that contain a Post Office close, there is almost never a replacement PO put in place.

Of course our shop here in Hanney currently thrives, , and long may it continue so to do. But it only will if we continue to support it and our Post Office, so superbly run by Alicia, whose charm is only matched by her efficiency!

If you can set aside a few minutes to make a regular visit to the shop for a purchase - it doesn't have to be £50, just something for a few quid...that would be great.

And of course, as Clive says in his article on page 5, if you can spare some time to help, that too would also be much appreciated.

So, let's not get smug or complacent, and let's keep using this lovely asset and help guarantee its longer term future

*Did you know that Nelson stood only 5 feet tall, whilst his statue on top of Nelson's Column is a full 15 feet tall. That's Horatio of 3 to 1!*

*With all this Wimbledon stuff going on as I write, I saw an interview recently with Mrs Jelena Djokovic, whose Serbian husband is a bit useful with a tennis racquet. She told the interviewer he was a caring and loving husband, and father to their two children, but she wished that once in a while he'd help with the Hoovering!*

**More on the shop....**this rather odd little snap below appeared in a local newspaper...Wantage Herald maybe?...back in the day. In case you're thinking that doesn't look like the shop you know now, well, no it isn't, When the shop first opened it was in a large port-a-cabin standing separate from the hall. The short article below gives the story....

It was a case of all hands to the tills when the twin villages of East and West Hanney lost their only two shops in less than a year.

Now the villagers-turned-shopkeepers have earned themselves a place in the finals of the Village Ventures competition by opening, stocking and running their

own community shop and post office.

No-one draws a wage, and some of their prices are even lower than the supermarkets, volunteers told judges Judy Poore, left and David Purves.

Fresh meat and vegetables sold in the shop come straight from local farms and gardens.

## HANNEY COMMUNITY SHOP



A worthy award indeed, but why did three staff - I assume they're staff? - hide behind the doors in a not very welcoming gesture, though they're smiley and look happy enough.

And why does another lady... shop assistant or customer I know not....squat down in front of the judges clutching a wire basket containing a pack of Andrex toilet rolls, a box of Persil Automatic and a couple of tins of salmon?

Whatever the reason for this lady's pose, if you know the story, pray tell?

Everyone, especially the judges, seem to find the whole thing most amusing!

## More on fitness and stuff...Grove Park

**Run** is a free community 5k walk/run/jog, every Saturday morning at Grove Fields, Mably Way, OX12 9BN. It is highly recommended for runners of all abilities. Dogs and children are allowed (children under 11 must be with an adult and dogs must be on short, hand held leads).

For more information, please visit [www.parkrun.org.uk/grovefields](http://www.parkrun.org.uk/grovefields).

## Meantime, on the Hanney MUGA, the Great Britain Netball team train for their next big



challenge, the 2024 Olympics to be held next summer in Paris. Not too far to travel.

Apart from the bit about Paris not being very far away in global terms, sadly, none of the above is true!

Netball isn't even an Olympic sport, though it certainly should be in my humble opinion.

Nonetheless, our talented players certainly look pretty good!

**This month's calendar pic** is of Darden House situated on the north-east corner of Snuggs Lane and Main St. in East Hanney. I printed the pic in Hanney News back in 2019 and thanks to some very helpful input at that time from the then - and still current - owners, the Swinfens, and Louise Green, Hanney historian extraordinaire, I was able to identify the folk who obviously posed for the photographer in front of their lovely home.

The photo was taken circa 1902. The lady on the left is Bertha Carr, holding a small child, I assume her daughter? Next to her is probably her husband Fred, and in the gateway on the right is Pamela Herman, second wife of George Herman. Pamela is with Alice, one of George's daughters from his first marriage. His first wife was Ellen, whose parents kept the Plough in East Hanney - now La Fontana - in 1871.

Ellen died in Feb 1883, aged just 34, the day after their fifth child was baptised, so almost certainly as a result of childbirth. George remarried and produced six more children with Pamela, who was the daughter of a cattle dealer in Lower Swell, a small village in Gloucestershire. Their youngest child Albert was killed in WW1, and his name is on the memorial in St James church.



There exists another photo, taken by Henry Taunt in 1901...see lower pic. (I suspect Henry Taunt also took our calendar photo.) In it a gent stands in the gateway, probably George Herman, who ran a groceries and provisions business at 'Church Green House' as Darden House was then known, from about 1878 to the early part of the 20th Century. Why the reference to 'Church Green'? Read on...page 20

Well, there is a little green area outside their home and place of business - it's still there - and the property next to it, 'Midgy House', was yet to be built, so the adjacent property was indeed a church... 'St James the Less', and still active back then. It had been built in 1856, designed by the famous church architect George Edmund Street, who at the time lived in Wantage.

Stylistically, he was a leading practitioner of the Victorian Gothic Revival style.

His modest but extremely attractive little church remained an active place of worship until it was sold and became a private house in the 1970s.

Its first owner was Bob Harris, famous 'Whispering Bob' the bearded DJ dude and presenter of the Beeb's 'Old Grey Whistle Test' TV music show. Bob didn't live there that long, the current owners having bought the property in the mid 1980s.



## **I have an update on the subject of Winter Lane**

in West Hanney, often referred to as 'Winters' ...plural.

Ok, I know, it's not life-changing stuff, but it's something I've wondered about since I first heard the name of the road in which I've lived since 2000, and which is now of course where Hanney News Global International's HQ is sited!

This from local historian and all round good egg, Paul Sayers... *"When I moved in 30 years ago I referred to Winter Lane and was told very firmly 'I can tell you're not from round here. We call it Winters Lane, always been Winters Lane. Wasn't till them blokes from the council came round and put up that daft sign that anybody called it Winter Lane."*

*And, of course, he was right because it leads to Winters Tumulus (now ploughed out) referred to in an Abingdon Abbey charter of 956 AD."*

Hmm...wonder who laid 'neath the Tumulus afore it was 'ploughed out'? Someone called Winter or Winters I assume?

Now, long term West Hanney resident and a great village character - one Vic Carter - was actually born in Winter Lane (!) in 1945, and told me that his birth certificate states 'Winters Lane' as his place of birth. That said, local builder L J Barrett always insisted it was Winter singular, and used to get quite angry if anyone pluralized it. I heard - soon after we moved in back in 2000 - that it was so called because it was the only accessible route into Hanney back in the days of harsh winters. That sounded quite convincing to me. So, take your pick ...I'm sticking with the singular, if only for the sake of clarity, since the 'daft' sign at the bottom of the road put up by 'them blokes from the council' does indeed state Winter Lane. If you can shed some more light on this, please get in touch.



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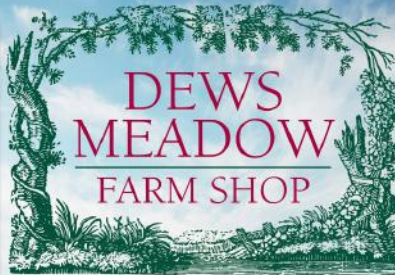
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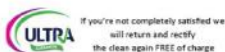


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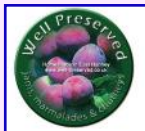
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## Clubs and Societies

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

**HANNEY BELLRINGERS 'Learn the Ropes'**. Wonderful mental and physical exercise with a friendly mixed group. Why not come along and watch a ringing session at St. James church. For more information contact Chris Surman 868749

**HANNEY BOOK CLUB** - 8pm, 1st Thurs of the Month, Plough, W. Hanney.  
[hanneybookclub@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hanneybookclub@yahoo.co.uk)

**HANNEY BOWLS CLUB** - Thursdays 2.00-4.00pm. Contact 868145

**HANNEY BROWNIES AND GUIDES** (for all girls aged 7-14) meet on Mondays in HWMH 6:00-7:30pm during term time. **RAINBOWS** (aged 5-7) in Grove on Thursdays. Girls and volunteers always welcome. Contact Clare Green 07845 047990/ [districtcomgrove@gmail.com](mailto:districtcomgrove@gmail.com) / [girlguiding.org.uk](http://girlguiding.org.uk)

**HANNEY COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING** in the Village Hall, Tuesdays, 10.00-11.30am. Everyone welcome for tea or coffee - a chat and a raffle. Just turn up!

**HANNEY COMMUNITY WOODLAND WORKING PARTY**...contact Paul Sayers by email [pksayers@btinternet.com](mailto:pksayers@btinternet.com) or 01235 868146

**HANNEY CRICKET CLUB** Occasional Sunday friendly games. For details ring David Johns on 07770 456147 or 01235 868519, or email [hanneycricketteam@gmail.com](mailto:hanneycricketteam@gmail.com)

**HANNEY FLOOD GROUP** hold a monthly working party. Contact Clive Manvell for details - [clive@manvell216.plus.com](mailto:clive@manvell216.plus.com), or 01235 868216. [www.thehanneysfloodgroup.org.uk/](http://www.thehanneysfloodgroup.org.uk/)

**HANNEY GARDENING CLUB** meets on the first Monday of each month, Sept to April, in the HWMH. 7:30 for 8.00pm. Tea and coffee followed by a talk. [www.hanneygardeningclub.org.uk](http://www.hanneygardeningclub.org.uk)

**HANNEY HISTORY GROUP.** Meets 8pm on the 4th Monday of every month in the main hall of the Village Hall. For further details and programme visit <http://hanneyhistory.org.uk/>

**HANNEY OCCASIONAL GOLFERS SOCIETY (HOGS)** was formed in 1996, and meets four times a year plus Christmas. HOGS is very much about social golf with all standards welcome. Non golfers/spouses usually join for the evening session when prizes are awarded and 'fines' imposed! Contact 'Poppy' at [andrew.fletcher@rer.co.uk](mailto:andrew.fletcher@rer.co.uk) for further details.

**HANNEY SCOUTS,CUBS and BEAVERS,** Contact Janet Green at [janet@thegreensonline.me.uk](mailto:janet@thegreensonline.me.uk)

**HANNEY SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB** meets on the 4th Thursday of every month except August, at 2.30pm in the Village Hall. Tea, cake, chats, talks and activities. For more details, ring Marcia on 01235 867461

**HANNEY TABLE TENNIS** in the Village Hall, every Friday at 10am. Also every Thurs eve, 6.30pm - 7.30pm. Just turn up to either, or both! £2 a session.

**HANNEY TENNIS CLUB** is a very friendly village tennis club and always welcomes new members. For more info email Jenny at [membership.htc@gmail.com](mailto:membership.htc@gmail.com)

**HANNEY WHEELERS CYCLING** We meet on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month at 10.00 am prompt at the Hanney WMH. New cyclists, you will be warmly welcomed for recreational local cycling with essential coffee stop!! Call Bob Wilson 868389 or email: [bobwilson300@hotmail.com](mailto:bobwilson300@hotmail.com)

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

**HANNEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE (W.I.)** meet the second Thursday of the month (except in Aug) 7.30 - 9.30 in the Olde Hanney Room, Village Hall. New members are welcome. Contact Kate Tyler on 07446 364859

**HANNEY YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB** trains at the rec. on Thursday night. We 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)

**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.**

**ROYAL BRITISH LEGION BINGO** every Sunday, R.B. Legion Hall 8pm. Cash prizes. 18+ welcome.

**SJS THURSDAY SINGING, East Hanney**, a cappella male-voice group, 8-10pm. Join us for our new season of 4-part Folksongs from the 'Home Nations', Australia, Finland, Slovakia, Peru & more! And a pint at the Black Horse later? David Gahan 868933

**WANTAGE CHORAL SOCIETY** rehearses every Tuesday at C of E School, Newbury St. (next to Comrades Club) at 7.30pm. New voices always welcome. Contact Judy Gibbons 767408, [www.wantagechoralsociety.co.uk](http://www.wantagechoralsociety.co.uk), email [wantagechoralsociety@yahoo.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.wantagegardeners.org.uk)

**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 a dozen or so. Call Geoff (868440) or Nick (768249), [www.wantagemalevoicechoir.org.uk](http://www.wantagemalevoicechoir.org.uk).

**WANTAGE U3A:** Visit our website detailing current activities - [www.u3asites.org.uk/wantage](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/wantage)

**PILATES CLASS** Wednesdays 9.15am - 10.15am, and 6 -7pm (term time only) at the HWMH, aka Village Hall, in 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 [pippa@thrive-nutrition.co.uk](mailto:pippa@thrive-nutrition.co.uk)

**VALE NORDIC WALKING** - Nordic Walking is a form of full body exercise, suitable for everyone, irrespective of age, gender or fitness level. A range of group classes or 1:1 sessions available weekly. Telephone Louise on 07709 939997. More information at [www.valenordicwalking.com](http://www.valenordicwalking.com)

**YOGA CLASSES - Relaxing and welcoming Classes** at East Hanney War Memorial Hall every Wednesday 7.30-8.30pm. Gentle movement, calming breathwork and guided meditation to encourage deep relaxation of body and mind, beginners more than welcome! Any questions please email: [Helen@yogatransforms.co.uk](mailto:Helen@yogatransforms.co.uk) Please book your place through the payment page on my website: [www.yogatransforms.co.uk/payment](http://www.yogatransforms.co.uk/payment)

**FITSTEPS** - The 'Strictly Come Dancing' Workout with Debs, every Tuesday 2-3pm at the Village Hall. Suitable for all ages and abilities, this fun and friendly class teaches you ballroom and Latin dance steps while enjoying a full body workout. Dances include the Jive, Cha Cha, Rhumba, Paso, Quickstep, Charleston, Tango, Waltz and Salsa. For more info contact Debs:07968 948007 or email [info@workoutwonderful.com](mailto:info@workoutwonderful.com)

**PURE STRETCH** - Every Tuesday 3pm at the Village hall with Debs (after the FITSTEPS class). Easy and relaxing stretch class to music, combining elements of Yoga, Pilates and Tai Chi. Suitable for all ages and abilities. Props and cushions provided, please bring your own mat. Please contact Debs: 07968 948007 or email [info@workoutwonderful.com](mailto:info@workoutwonderful.com)

**ART CLASS FOR ALL** - Be inspired by teacher Sally Middleton, every Tues at the Village Hall, 10.30am - 12.30pm. Beginners and those with experience welcome, all media. 07825 709686  
Email: [sallyannemiddleton@googlemail.com](mailto:sallyannemiddleton@googlemail.com)

## Hanney



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(and maybe a few 'Old'comers too!)

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Hanney News... Be sure to read it, cover to cover, without fail, every month. It contains so much useful stuff it's quite scary.



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## Where are our Defibrillators?

In East Hanney, it's on the left wall of the open porch in the Village Hall.

In West Hanney it's on the wall of the brick garage opposite the Plough in Church St. Both are accessible 24/7. Hopefully we'll have a third one soon!

## Hanney War Memorial Hall

To book the Hall, the Committee Room, or the Olde Hanney Room, contact Graham Garner on 01235 868684, email [hwmh.hanney@gmail.com](mailto:hwmh.hanney@gmail.com)

Join the 'West Hanney and East Hanney Community', 'The Hanneys Buy and Sell Group', and the 'East Hanney Parish Council' Facebook groups.



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