



# Hanney News

Number 595 June 2025

## Your Community Needs You!



### Glad I persuaded Owain and Luke

to allow me a quick snap with their proudly won certificate.

We know that they're both, particularly Owain, rather shy and retiring lads. Another lovely smile and details page 4.

Our Community Shop needs volunteers, East Hanney Parish Council need Councillors, and our Flood Group and Community Woodland Working Party are always grateful for help. Many other opportunities too...getting involved is rewarding and fun!

**The Plough's not the only Hanney hostelry winning awards...Ian and Jackie at the Black Horse have also earned the approval of CAMRA...more on page 5.**

**They've won more awards! And been on the wireless!**



Unless you started on the back page of this month's offering, you'll have noticed that our Community needs help! Check out page 6 if you want to know more about what's involved in being a Parish Councillor. Meantime this from Clive Ward head hombre at the shop says it all really... "Our shop is in need of more volunteers to keep the shop viable. Please do try to encourage friends, colleagues & neighbours to take part in keeping the shop open - our weekly turnover continues to be very strong, which reflects the excellent support from the villages, and it would be a real shame to erode that support through closures."

And worth mentioning again...No shop, no PO! It really is that simple.

It seems I'm not the only one who recognises that we have some of the best eating and drinking establishments in the county...if not the world! CAMRA do also, and hence have made two awards, one to each of our pubs, the Black Horse and the Plough. The latter has also been recognised by South England Prestige Awards.

Details and pics of happy smiling landlords on page 4 and 5.

Word on the street is that St James Church will be holding another Michaelmas Fayre this summer, one of the very special annual events we enjoy here in Hanney. This year I hear that we will witness the return of the 'Tug O'War' competition, keenly fought in previous years twixt East and West, with big blokes huffing, puffing and tugging!



In these enlightened times, how about a ladies competition as well?

The fab and groovy Morris Dancers will be shaking what their mamas gave 'em, and of course there'll be all the other usual attractions. West Hanney's finest award winning pub will be involved, offering no doubt lotsa yummy grub. Jaunty Jilly's hoping for an invite to officially open the event! Not to be missed.

Talking of the church, I urge you to read their piece this month from Geoff Maugham on page 12....thought-provoking indeed!

Still on the church, Mrs Editor and I won the Hanney Lottery this month...will pay for a nice lunch in one of our local eateries. If you don't have a ticket, check out page 8. Hanney Film Night are taking a break and will see you in September.

You'll find a moving little piece on page 9 about tortoises, and GARD's contribution is on page 7. Allotments available... page 15. A warning of a dangerous footpath in West Hanney and a lovely old pic on page 19. (No, I didn't take it!)

Our grown-ups footie team have had a great season, see page 18. Here at Global HQ we send our congrats.

Big news from East Hanney Parish Council...page 6.

Till next month friends, readers and countrymen...

**We here at Hanney News Global International welcome articles, letters, photos, in fact anything you feel may be of interest to our readers.**

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, my mob: 07762 239681, or email: [hanneynews@gmail.com](mailto:hanneynews@gmail.com)

## What's happening this month....

**Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock**, hosts 'Operation Varsity: Crossing Time' an exhibition from 7 June - 27 July 2025.

**Fri 13th, 7.30pm, Village Hall, Hanney Drama Group** are having a party...page 9!

**Thurs 26th, 2.30pm, Senior Citizens**, 'The Life and Music of Cole Porter', a talk by Nick Gill.

## And further ahead ...

**Thurs 24th July, 2.30pm Senior Citizens Summer Garden Party**, Venue to be arranged.

**Mon 18 August, 11am. Hanney History Group**, a walk in Eynsham. More info soon.

In case you missed it, David & Kath Gahan will be repeating their talk on Hanney's 'J.R. Holmes & History of Birth Control' at history groups in Grove (16th Sept, 2pm) and Harwell (17th Sept, 7.30pm).

**Sat 20th Sept, Family Fundraising Bingo Night**, for the Abingdon Vale Swim Club.... details page 7.

**Thurs 25th Sept, 2.30pm, Senior Citizens**, 'Fun and Games, Your Choice'.

**Thurs 23rd Oct, 2.30pm, Senior Citizens**, 'The Nostril Series'. A chat with the author Jonathan Cox.

**Thurs 27th Nov, 2.30pm, Senior Citizens**, The Oxfordshire Museum Service, 'Fond Memories'.

**December's Christmas Lunch, Senior Citizens**, date, time and venue to be arranged.

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**Well, they look a happy bunch don't they?** So they should be...and proud too! For the third year in a row, the Plough in West Hanney has been voted by the members of CAMRA as the 'Country Pub of the Year'. Massive big ups from here at Global HQ! Here's what CAMRA said....



### ***"Hat trick for The Plough"***

*Members of White Horse CAMRA have again voted The Plough in West Hanney their Country Pub of the Year. This is the third year running that The Plough has won and the first time ever that a Pub has won the award three consecutive years running. Owain and Luke are seen with pub regulars receiving their Certificate from White Horse CAMRA Membership Secretary, Tarquin May. White Horse CAMRA Chairman, Simon Moore said 'The Plough has deservedly won the award for a third time. They serve 4 regularly changing real ales and they're always in tip-top condition. The pub serves great food and has a lovely atmosphere. Congratulations to Owain, Luke and the team at The Plough!'*



### **And whilst the boys**

allowed themselves a modest libation by way of celebration, news came through of another award they've earned, this from '**South England Prestige Awards**' who voted them - not for the first time!! - 'Best Pub of the Year.'

Big ups to all our landlords, chefs, cooks, bottle washers bar staff and any others that help our splendid hostellers offer the service they do!



**And there's more!** I don't know how many of you listen to BBC Radio Two? If you do, apologies for what follows...no offence intended! In my humble, it's just a load of silly nonsense and forced jollity, interspersed with snippets of what apparently is considered music these days! And yes, I am wearing my grumpy old man's hat as I write. To get to the point....the other day something **big** happened on Radio Two! The **Big Man** we know and love as Owain, Landlord at the Plough, was interviewed and broadcast live to the nation I believe - that was a risk Auntie Beeb, but you got away with it! The broadcast turned out to be an all too short 'oasis of charm and wit' - with a Welsh accent of course! - in a desert of drivel. Well done Big Man, you were fab and groovy!

**Meantime CAMRA have wandered** over to the eastern side of our little Kingdom and visited the Black Horse! Here's what CAMRA's Tarquin had to say....

*"We have voted the Black Horse in East Hanney our most improved pub of 2025. Jacqui and Ian Crayford took over the pub, which had been closed since the middle of 2024, after successfully running the Chequers at Charney Bassett for over 12 years. Since opening in late November 2024, the pub has gone from strength to strength and further improvements are still planned.*

*The Black Horse now sells four real ales, which normally include Timothy Taylor's Landlord, Theakston's Best Bitter and two regularly changing ales.*

*Simon Moore, CAMRA Chairman said 'Jacqui and Ian have revived the Black Horse, and it is now back where it belongs*



*as centre of the East Hanney community. They serve a good selection of real ales to a high standard, along with good food and are having regular community events. Congratulations to everyone involved with this transformation!"*

Ian had this to say... "We are so thrilled to announce that we have been awarded the 'MOST IMPROVED PUB OF 2025'! We joined this wonderful village in November 2024.

The team have worked so hard to make it where it is today. And still with lots of exciting announcements to come too!

To win this award means such a great deal to us all here at the **Black Horse**, and we would like to thank everyone who has supported us on this journey.

Ian, Jacqui and the team can't wait to see you soon to celebrate."

Congrats to Ian and Jacqui from us at HQ.



**Whilst celebrating the above well deserved award,** Ian and Jaqui invited our local rock gods 'Rock of Ages' to play in the pub garden. T'was a shame that the weather gods didn't sing from the same hymn sheet as one might say.....it was blooming cold! No matter...about 200 fans turned up and a good rockin' time was had by all. Jacqui tells me more gigs are planned.

**Unusual photo of the month!** Horse riders - they're all rather shy aren't they? -stop for an ice-cream (!) outside **Hanney Spice**, purveyors of the finest curries in the county! Thanks to Gaffi for the snap, and big up congrats to him too! I believe he just got married!



## East Hanney Parish Council

### Big changes at the Parish Council!

Steve McKechnie steps down as Chair...Paul Aram steps up, with David Kirk as his deputy. And two newbies, Laura Lolly Bligdon and James Newsome join the happy band. Massive thanks and good luck wishes from all here at Global HQ!

This from Paul....*"As incoming Chair I would like to thank Steve McKechnie personally and on behalf of my fellow Parish Councillors and, I'm certain, many residents, for all his hard work. Steve has represented the council for the past seven years as Chair, undertaking many tasks behind the scenes, ensuring we have been able deliver a number of projects and resolving many problems along the way. Steve steps down this month and will be*



*missed by all. Thank you, Steve - your efforts have not gone unnoticed, hopefully you will have much more time on your hands to do what you want to do now - enjoy!"*

I'll second that Sir

Paul. I've seen - close up - the work that all the Councillors put in, and they deserve our thanks. Steve used to allow me to butt in sometimes at meetings without sending me to the naughty chair! I'm hoping Paul will be as tolerant!

I know Paul, deputy David and the other councillors will continue to work hard, often without thanks or recognition, for the good of our community.

My snap above shows Steve with the gang, allowing himself a big beamer, Paul also, second from left, manages one. May it remain, spread across your newly bearded chops Sir Paul of Aram and Chair!

### Parish Council Vacancy

Want to make a difference? Do you have a skill or expertise we could utilise? Do you care about the village and its future? Then you might want to think about joining the Parish Council.

We look after the village in many different ways including the playground, recreation

fields, car parking, allotments, bus stops, benches, trees and open spaces.

If you have a passion for getting things done, improving the village for the long run and making a difference - drop us a line to have a chat about what's involved. You could be holding the piece of the puzzle we need.

**Paul Aram: Chair:** [cllr.paul.aram@easthanneyparish.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.paul.aram@easthanneyparish.gov.uk)

**Stephen McKechnie:** [cllr.stephen.mckechnie@easthanneyparish.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.stephen.mckechnie@easthanneyparish.gov.uk)

**Dickon Green:** [cllr.dickon.green@easthanneyparish.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.dickon.green@easthanneyparish.gov.uk)

**David Kirk:** [cllr.david.kirk@easthanneyparish.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.david.kirk@easthanneyparish.gov.uk)

**Garth Dennill:** [cllr.garth.dennill@easthanneyparish.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.garth.dennill@easthanneyparish.gov.uk)

**New Councillors - Laura Lolly Bligdon and James Newsome.** Contact details soon

**Website:** [easthanneyparish.gov.uk](http://easthanneyparish.gov.uk)

**Clerk:** [clerk@easthanneyparish.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@easthanneyparish.gov.uk)

**Next Meeting Weds 11th June 7.30pm, Village Hall**



# West Hanney Parish Council

**Councillors: Chair: David Corps - 01235 867454. Graham Garner - 01235 868684.  
Peter Packham - 01235 868038. Vicki Ruston email: vickiruston@hotmail.com  
Ahmed Farrag - 07388 816079.  
Barbara Martin, Clerk - email: parishclerkwesthanneypc@gmail.com  
Mob: 07793 556352**

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

## **Congratulations to Cllr Ron**

**Batstone** for being elected our County Councillor representing the newly formed Division of Grove, which includes East Hanney, West Hanney and Denchworth. The Council looks forward to working closely with Ron on all matters affecting West Hanney residents.

A meeting was held with the Highways Engagement Officer to enlist her help in progressing a number of unresolved Highways issues, these include the recording and maintenance of the roads around West Hanney Green, and the

recognition and maintenance of the footway on the south side of School Road to St James Primary School as a Public Right of Way.

By the time you read this, contractors for Thames Water will have repaired the damage to our village green and roadside verges caused by the sewage tankers in February and are due to repair the damaged surface on the byway running from the school past the sewage pumping station.

**The next meeting is on Wednesday  
18<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm in the Olde Hanney  
Room, HWMH.**

## **GARD June 2025 :Campaign reaches a critical point:**

Legal challenge-Judicial Review 25th/26th June. Result expected in July.

We need your involvement now!

May 30th 8pm GARD AGM Millenium Room, Steventon Village Hall.

June: 13th, 18th JOIN US: Millets Action Days

18th: Petition presented to the Secretary of State (share now with family, friends and colleagues).

Join GARD. Members will be notified of the result. If we succeed, there should be a Public Inquiry with open and unbiased scrutiny. If we don't succeed, Thames Water proceeds to apply for the Development Consent Order (2027, to be decided in 2028) and we continue to challenge.

**FUND RAISING:** Legal costs for the Judicial Review have absorbed available resources.



GARD is a local community group formed to campaign against Thames Water's proposals to build a reservoir south-west of Abingdon.

Please contact us with ideas or offering help to raise funds. Donations: 71266438 40-45-36 Include your name as reference & email below.

New: Leaflets are available about Groundwater effects, thoughts on a smaller reservoir & Thames Water's claims versus reality. A recording of our comprehensive online information session is available. **ACT NOW** before the Judicial Review!

Write to MPs/Councillors

Like/share our social media posts

For information, questions, to join GARD, volunteer or display a banner email [gard.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:gard.secretary@gmail.com)

## Last month Jaunty Jilly urged us all to vote.

Well, some of us did...a total of 2,097 out of an electorate of 7,367, that's 28.5%, and the candidate we selected was Ron Batstone, a Liberal Democrat. He got 886 little ticks in his box, some 42.3% of the vote, well ahead of the next candidate, Martin Freeman of Reform, who got 554 votes..

Tories were next with 373. Labour and the Greens were very close to each other on 122 and 123 respectively.

The latter candidate was the aptly named 'Adam Swallow' ...good name for a Green person?... Swallow? ...birdies and all that green stuff ?!

Ron clearly hadn't heard the good news about his election success when this snap was taken. He does look rather glum doesn't he?

No matter, I'm sure when he realises what a lovely bunch we Hanney, Denchworth, Lyford and Charney folk are, he'll manage a big cheesy grin!

Meantime we offer him our big up congrats .....it would be great to see him sometime, maybe at a Parish Council Meeting or two? West Hanney Parish Council leader and the font of all knowledge David Corps advised me - for which my sincere gratitude - on a few 'Council' related matters....

*"Our electoral division had been reorganised and East Hanney, West Hanney and Denchworth are now with Grove. Cllr*



*Ron Batstone is a Liberal Democrat and Town Councillor for Grove, District Councillor for the ward of 'Grove North' in the Vale of White Horse District Council, and now a County Councillor for the new*

*division of Grove. (Ron is a busy gent, me-thinks!)*

*Cllr Sally Povolotsky remains our District Councillor for the ward of Steventon and the Hanneys.*

*Things will get more complicated in the future. The ward of Steventon and the Hanneys is due to change with West Hanney and Denchworth joining the ward of Grove North, leaving East Hanney and Steventon.*

*However, the Labour Government is pressing ahead with local government reorganisation that will see District Councils abolished and the County Council replaced with a Unitary Authority. What form it will take is still to be decided with three proposals being considered.....*

*An 'Oxfordshire Unitary Authority' akin to Oxfordshire County Council currently, a 'South Oxfordshire Unitary Authority' or a 'outh Oxfordshire and West Berkshire Unitary Authority'.*

*We can also look forward to electing a Combined Authority Mayor in due course, probably covering Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire."*

**Our political chums - MP - Olly Glover.** Email - [olly.glover.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:olly.glover.mp@parliament.uk) [www.facebook.com/OllyGloverLD](http://www.facebook.com/OllyGloverLD) Bluesky: @ollyglover.bsky.social

**Ron Batstone is our new County Councillor:**

Phone: 01235 763564, Mobile: 07941 801479,

Email: [Ron.Batstone@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:Ron.Batstone@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

**Sally Povolotsky is our District Councillor:**

Email: [Sally.povolotsky@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:Sally.povolotsky@whitehorsedc.gov.uk).

## Hanney Lottery ...

**May Winners:**

**1st - Jim & Anna Stagg,**

**2nd - Gill Lowe.**

**3rd - Jo Brettell**

**Not got a number yet or want additional numbers?  
Call Hilary on 868590.**





The Award Winning

## Hanney Drama Group



### Summer Social and Recruitment Evening

Join Us for a Fun Occasion!

Friday, June 13th  
7:30 PM onwards

The Olde Hanney Room  
Hanney War Memorial Hall  
Brookside, East Hanney

We're always looking for new members!

Come and meet our friendly and active drama group  
for an informal chat

Enjoy refreshing drinks & tasty nibbles

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Come and meet us - we can't wait to welcome you!



Darlings,  
great news!  
the local  
'Luvvies' are  
having a  
party!! I'll be  
there, so  
come on  
down, and  
let's share a  
glass...or  
several! ...of  
bubbly!

**Are you already the owner of, or thinking about**

purchasing a tortoise? They're friendly little creatures, loyal, affectionate and always up for a slightly nobbly cuddle.

There's loads of stuff on social media about them...owning one is a growing trend apparently.

Confession time.... I have some guilty feelings about tortoises, one in particular named 'Ringo'. My brother and I owned



him as a pet when we were kids. I think it may have been the Winter of 1963, a particularly severe one. At that time the Beatles were getting famous...we were big fans, hence his name. We felt he wasn't a

John, Paul or George. Dad insisted he could hibernate in a cardboard box left in the garden shed. As a result, he froze to death. Very sad...it certainly 'taught us' a thing or two about looking after our pets....'taught us'....tortoise?...oh never mind.

**The Plough** is the ultimate country pub that offers an incredible atmosphere and dining experience. The building is a classic thatched inn where customers can choose to eat in the restaurant, beside the fire in our cosy bar, or in our beautiful sun-trap garden.



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## Opening Hours

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Tues to Sat

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Bar 12pm - 2.30pm

5.30pm - 11pm

Sunday - Food 12pm - 3pm.

Bar 12pm - 7pm

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## Recent headlines have been difficult to cope with.

Depressing stories of 'men behaving badly' (it's usually the men, I have to admit): autocratic leaders throwing their weight around; cruel conflicts that leave innocent people bereaved and homeless; war crimes that no one seems able to stop. Life seems to be getting harder for all of us, as we get poorer and sicker, instead of enjoying life the way we hoped it would be. Friends tell me that they have stopped listening to the news, because it is so overwhelming and hard to bear.

So it's not surprising to hear people say they can't believe the world was created by a good God. Surely a God who is supposed to be loving and powerful should be doing a better job? Is there a good answer to this challenge to the Christian faith?

It really depends what we think the purpose of life is all about. Is the universe here just so we can be happy in our small corner? What kind of control do you expect God to exercise over the way people behave? We might like the idea of God sorting out the war in Ukraine or Israel, but we probably don't want God interfering with our own freedom to do what we like. Christians believe that God has given us all free will. We can choose how we will live, for good or ill. This is because freedom is the essential requirement for love. If we are compelled to love God or other people, it is not genuine love but forced obedience.

Giving us free will means taking an enormous risk that we will abuse it. We believe God took that risk in creating us and then had to pay the price for it in his own person – his Son Jesus got crucified.

Compare our world with life at school. In the classroom, under the beady eye of the teacher we behave ourselves (mostly) and pay attention. We get told what to do and we get on with it as instructed.

Outside in the playground, things are a bit different. We have a bit of freedom. There is less supervision and bad things can happen. Games develop and groups form. Some people get left out. There is teasing and bullying. The head teacher knows the stuff that happens outside of class time. Does she try and stop it all? Not necessarily. Because head teachers know that there are important things for us to learn during break - like how to cope with 'real life', when things are challenging and relationships get stressful.

Do we expect God to run the world as if he was the teacher in the classroom, keeping everyone in order with his eye upon them? Or is life more like the playground, where we have freedom to get away with things? He has chosen the path of freedom so that we can learn to love.

*Geoff Maughan*

*Retired minister living in West Hanney*

Vicar: Revd Alec Gill: 07739 563894 - [vicaralec@valebenefice.org.uk](mailto:vicaralec@valebenefice.org.uk)  
Office : (10 – 12 Mon – Fri) 01235 771479 [office@valebenefice.org.uk](mailto:office@valebenefice.org.uk)  
Church Wardens: Stuart Cakebread: tel - 868590 [stuartcakebread@mac.com](mailto:stuartcakebread@mac.com)  
Chris Reason: tel - 868375 [Chris\\_Reason\\_Hanney@hotmail.com](mailto:Chris_Reason_Hanney@hotmail.com)

**The Eucharist is celebrated every Sunday  
at 9.30am in St James – all are warmly welcome.**

**Freshly brewed coffee or tea is served after the service**

**These are difficult times for many folk**, doubtless made worse for some by the current lot in government who decided that cutting benefits was the way to go to patch up our faltering economy!

Here in Hanney we have a charity, **'The Hanney Parochial Trust'** that may be able to help. It is an amalgamation of several local charities, the first set up back in 1604!

I am the Chair of the board of Trustees, which includes both current Parish Council Chairs.

If you know anyone who lives in East or

West Hanney and is in genuine financial need, please ask them to contact me directly, in strictest confidence.

We are now also working closely with **'Vale Community Impact' (VCI)** so feel free to approach them first if you'd rather. Their website is here: **[www.vci.org.uk](http://www.vci.org.uk)**,  
**tel: 01235 765348.**

**Our charity also considers applications for grants from anyone aged 18 - 25 who is starting full-time further education, and lives in Hanney.**

**Tel: 01235 867500 or 07762 239681 or email: [jimstagg@btinternet.com](mailto:jimstagg@btinternet.com).**

**The Hanney Parochial Charity Trust's Charity Commission number is 205792.**

### **Last month I mentioned 'Smartphone Free Childhood'.**

I was recently sent an article that appeared in the 'Independent Online', detailing how screen time can impact very negatively on the development of a child's brain.

It also advises what you can do about it. To find the article, enter 'Independent



screen time' in your search box and you should get to the whole article. It's most interesting. Sadly, the Indie would only allow me to cherry pick a max of 100 words from the very long and informative piece....certainly not enough to convey much of the very fascinating information contained within it. All I can do is urge you to try and find the article....it's long but well worth a read.

**Calling all dog owners...**I've been contacted by Natalie, a lovely East Hanney lady, who's asked me to include this in the mag....

*"Is your dog home alone, lonely, bored and possibly destructive? Why not consider an hour's walk for your beloved pet with someone who would give them TLC and exercise... might just help to relieve all the above?"*

*I'm an experienced dog walker with a passion for dogs, and have all the necessary insurances with advanced DBS.*

*I'm happy to take more than one dog from the same household. However, all dogs must be socialised and neutered.*

*My rates are £15.00 per hour, plus £5.00 per extra family dog.*

***Please call Natalie on 07551732644, or email [natalierous@icloud.com](mailto:natalierous@icloud.com)"***

## Our responsibilities online

Social media and the increased use of technology in our everyday lives have brought benefits that would have been unimaginable just a few generations ago, yet we all know that there are drawbacks. A lot of the debate about social media can leave us feeling rather powerless. It's all about big tech giants and the need for governments to impose regulations and restrictions, but the reality is that social media only serves to amplify the trends that already exist in society - both good and bad.

We can all have a role to play, whether it is about keeping ourselves and our loved ones safe, or being conscious of what we are sharing ourselves.

There is a lot of useful information available for parents in particular - a good place to start is [internetmatters.org](https://internetmatters.org), which provides practical advice for parents and teachers. What's always worth remembering is that in many ways the risks that exist today have always existed, they have just taken on a different form. The speed of social media and the fact that it brings the outside world into our most private spaces presents some new challenges, but the underlying issues remain the same.

Increasingly parents will be aware of the risk of online grooming, but few people realise the largest proportion of indecent images are shared by children with other children - often to those they consider themselves to be in a relationship with, and these images may then be shared on to other people. Our children need to learn, not just how to be safe from strangers, but the importance of normal, healthy relationships, and how to treat each other offline as well.

Parents are key to this. Of course all children are different, with varying levels of maturity and differing needs. There is an understandable worry of children being left behind if they don't have access to the latest tech. These can be difficult decisions but if we as parents cannot withstand the inevitable "peer pressure" then why would we expect our children not to follow the same path.

Keeping children safe online often makes us think about the darker, more sinister side of social media; but we should also think about how we engage with the more benign side of social media. The old adage, never say anything online you wouldn't say to someone's face, remains very true. Often the separation provided by a screen can make us forget that we are talking to, or about, real people - whether that's celebrities or someone in our own village.

Social media is great, I use it a lot, but we know it has its down sides. There are things that big companies can do to protect children in particular, but it's unfashionable these days to talk about our own responsibility. We can all play our part in making our online and offline world a little better.

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**This from Laura Lolly Bligdon...** 'A date has now been set for the next Family Fundraiser Bingo Night, fundraising for the Abingdon Vale Swim Club.

Last year was a MASSIVE success and I wanted to get the date out there to people : **20th September** , at the Royal British Legion in East Hanney, time to be confirmed. I am, as always, on the scrounge, looking for anyone or business who is willing to donate a prize / hamper /voucher for our night.I am also looking for fantastic condi-

tion items that can be put into hampers and also hampers themselves.

I am happy to collect the items and as always am very grateful.

Last year's prizes were unbelievable and I'm really hoping we can achieve the same standards again. Please drop me a message do you feel you can help

Watch this space for more updates as we get closer

Laura Lolly Bligdon - 07531 859169. Email: [Laura.brawn13@gmail.com](mailto:Laura.brawn13@gmail.com)

### Allotments.

Both East and West Hanney Parish Councils have allotments available. There's a great community atmosphere in both, with allotment holders always happy to help and advise newcomers. If you might be interested, David Corps for West and Garth Dennill for East are the gentlemen to contact.... details on pages 6 and 7



### Bad jokes...don't say I didn't warn you!

As I get older, I find I only need 3 shops...Specsavers, Boots and Greggs. My life now really is just specs and drugs and sausage roll.

I was in Sainsburys looking for a treacle

pudding, but I couldn't see up to the top shelf. A very kind Viking lifted me onto his shoulders and walked me up and down the aisle till I found it. I thanked him and asked his name, but he said he didn't have one. Seems I'd been riding through the desserts on a Norse with no name!

### Our two GP Practices at

Mably Way have a '**Patient Participation Group**', and they produce a newsletter. This was in the latest...

"VACCINATIONS - Getting vaccinated when offered not only helps you avoid the worst symptoms, it also reduces the rate at which infection spreads. It was very reassuring to see so many take up the offer of vaccinations at the recent clinics round of Covid Vaccinations in Spring 2025. The virus



mutates over time, and the vaccines are changed to try to combat this. Clinically vulnerable people in the 18 to 64 age

groups are urged to take up the offer of vaccination when invited to attend. The shingles vaccine helps protect against shingles. It's recommended for all adults turning 65, those aged 70 to 79 and those aged 50 and over with a severely weakened immune system. Find out more here or ask the Practice. [www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/shingles-vaccine/](http://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/shingles-vaccine/)

## At the recent Joint Annual Meeting of our two Parish Councils,

the 'main man' of our Community Woodland, Paul Sayers gave us an update on this real Jewel in Hanney's Crown!

**'The Woodland was planted** in the 1990s by Nigel Eady of Church Farm under the EU Set-Aside scheme to take land out of cereal production because of a perceived surplus. It was gifted to West Hanney Parish Council (WHPC) by his estate in 2012. The adjoining Church Farm Meadow came to WHPC in 2017 as part of a 'Section 106' agreement with Sweetcroft, the developers of St James Way.

Both were skilfully negotiated for us by Chris Surman, then Chairman of WHPC.

The Woodland covers 27 acres (11 ha) with 1.6 miles (2.6 km) of rides. The Meadow covers 7 acres (3ha).

**Maintenance:** We aim to hold regular monthly working parties throughout the autumn and winter, these mainly concentrate on cutting back scrub encroaching onto the rides and also swamping the areas which have been kept clear for wild flowers.

Des Thomas has continued to cut the rides for us when ground conditions permit.

There is little problem with litter but any which does appear, usually bottles or cans, is quickly picked up either by me or by other dog walkers.

**Wildlife:** Despite the wet winter, the orchids did reasonably well last year, it will be interesting to see how they fare after a second very wet winter. The cowslips are doing well this spring and those which my wife Kay grew from seed gathered in the Woodland are now well established and spreading.



There are now 42 nest boxes. Of which 32 contained bird nests or nesting material with a further 3 containing mouse nests. One of those with a bird nest also contained at least twenty snails! Deer are sometimes seen in the woodland, mainly muntjac but sometimes roe. Also rabbits in the drier parts and occasionally a fox.

**Church Farm Meadow:** Alan Cottrell kindly cut the meadow for us again. This is essential maintenance.

The trees along the northern edge are now well established and the only maintenance they will require this year is to loosen the tree ties to allow the trunks to expand.

**Acknowledgements:** I would like to thank all the volunteers who turn out for the working parties, Des Thomas for mowing the Woodland rides and Alan Cottrell for cutting the meadow.

### **Paul Sayers**

*And may we here at HQ also add our thanks to all who help -not least of course, to Paul himself.*

*Thank you Paul for all the hard work you put in to keeping this tranquil space very special indeed. Pic above is some of the volunteers enjoying a well-earned break!*

*If you might be interested, do contact Paul, his details on page 30.*

**A recent talk** given to our History Group by a very learned lady from the Oxfordshire Museum, was most interesting, not least because she brought with her a replica of the Anglo Saxon 'Hanney Brooch', which was discovered in a field to the southwest of West Hanney in 2009.

The original - the one pictured on our cover every month - is on display in the Museum.

The skeleton below is that of the young lady who was the proud wearer of the brooch.

Several examples of this style of Anglo Saxon period brooch have been found....this one in Kent was described by those who know all the technical terms as.... *"MIND-BLOWINGLY GORGEOUS! 500-600 AD - Early Anglo-Saxon era silver-gilt plated disc brooch. It contains a nielloed border and gold appliqué with cloisonné garnet and glass cross, five shell bosses and filigree. Excavated in Kent."*



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**In the April issue I told you about young Jake Wilkinson** of West Hanney, who was intending to walk 15 miles to raise funds for the charity 'Sofea'. Well, he did it!! Massive congrats to him!! He told me that it was a "very fun day walking around the beautiful area of Windsor. We finished in just over four and a half hours, and I would like to say thank you to everyone for supporting and donating to the fundraising page for Sofea."



We have managed to raise £1,385". Big ups Jake from us at HQ...proud Mum Sharon smiles!





**"Hanney Football Club win promotion in their first season! Amazing stuff lads! On the 31st May we'll be celebrating our success at the Royal British Legion in East Hanney from 6pm onwards."**



## **Here in Hanney we recently lost Marinella Johnson, a local and much loved lady.**

As a very modest tribute, I've selected just a few of the many comments that have appeared on Facebook....

*"The world became a little less fun yesterday with the passing of dear wonderful Marinella Johnson, there are so many great memories to remember her by and she made sure we had the best of times."*

*"I still find it so hard to compute that she has left us but I was so grateful for her in my life!"*

*"This will take a lot of time to get through. She was one of a kind and will be sorely missed. We have those memories that we all shared together"*

*"We will all miss her! She was great fun and so kind."*

*"Raise a glass for 'M' when you next have a drink...she would like that!"*

*"Marinella was a wonderful, larger than life character who will be sorely missed. Whenever or wherever you met her, you knew you were in for a lively, amusing and entertaining chat!"*

*"Sad news. What a lovely fun lady she was."*

*"Such incredibly sad news. M was such a fun, quirky, caring lady. I will miss our lengthy chats about anything and everything. I'm very grateful to have known her. She will be terribly missed I will raise a 'sauv' this weekend."*

*"The word 'Character' will be used a lot when describing M and rightly so. However there was always so much more to her, kind, generous, caring, delightful company, straight talking and yes, on occasion, downright naughty! I will miss her greatly, the village is sadly a less colourful place."*

I think the above says it all really...we send our deepest condolences to her family.



**Our lovely school St James recently held an Easter Extravaganza** where there was much fun to be had. Staff and Mums - and a Dad? - in the snap below, and the Easter Bunny poses in the fab and groovy school library.



**Above is a lovely old snap of Main St., West Hanney,** looking east towards the village Green. The raised footpath on the left hand side of the road is still there, but in parts is not in a very good condition. Care is needed when walking along it, especially in the dark! The problems have been reported to 'Fix My Street' by some very thoughtful residents of Main St. Not altogether unexpectedly however, any remedial action - they were told it would be 'carried out soon' - still hasn't happened, so proceed with care if you take a stroll along that stretch.



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The Church runs **School Term-time Children's Clubs**:- Toddlers, Discoverers, Adventurers, and Friday Clubs which are for infants through to Year 13s.

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**Mobile:** 07747 630 202 (texts preferred)  
**Email:** [davemsearle@aol.com](mailto:davemsearle@aol.com)  
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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 Alan Savage on 07757 394776

**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)

**DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB** meets every Wednesday in the Olde Hanney Room 2-5pm. New members welcome. Contact Lyn Morton ....[lynmorton89@gmail.com](mailto:lynmorton89@gmail.com)

**HANNEY FLOOD GROUP** hold a monthly working party. Contact Clive Manvell for details -[clivemanvell664@gmail.com](mailto:clivemanvell664@gmail.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 [hanneyhistory.org.uk/](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 & BEAVERS,** Contact Steve Houseman  
.....[stevehouseman@kascouts.org.uk](mailto:stevehouseman@kascouts.org.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. £2.50p a session. Also every Thurs eve, 6.30pm -7.30pm. Just turn up to either, or both!

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

**HANNEY WALKIE TALKIES**...organised by Cheryl and Sue, we meet at the junction of Meadow Way with School Road at 12:30 lunchtime every Thursday (weather permitting) for a walk in Hanney of approx. 50 minutes and chatting along the way. New faces are always welcome to our friendly group.

**HANNEY WHEELERS CYCLING** Meets on 2nd and 4th Sats of each month, 10.00, at Hanney WMH. New cyclists warmly welcomed for recreational local cycling with essential coffee stop!! Call Adrian on 868340 or email [adrianbodimeade@hotmail.com](mailto:adrianbodimeade@hotmail.com)

**HANNEY WINE CIRCLE** meets on the 2nd Monday each month.  
[www.hanneywinecircle.org.uk](http://www.hanneywinecircle.org.uk) (Please note that at the Wine Circle meetings, they only drink the stuff, no treading takes place nor are any grapes harmed during their meetings)

**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** Hanney Youth Football Club, all ages from 5 to seniors. For more details visit [www.hanneyyouthfc.co.uk](http://www.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.**

**HARMONY SINGING on Thursdays with SJS**, one of Oxon's oldest male-voice a cappella groups (6 of us) Rich treasury of 4-part songs; learn from the inside and make a difference. East Hanney, 8-10pm; pint at the Black Horse later. David Gahan 868933

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

**ST JAMES SCHOOL HELPING HANDS:**  
[helpinghandshanneym@gmail.com](mailto:helpinghandshanneym@gmail.com)

**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 :**  
10am - 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 CLASSES:** Wednesday mornings, 8.30am - 9.20am, followed by another from 9.30am - 10.30am, and an evening class from 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-pilates.co.uk](mailto:pippa@thrive-pilates.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)

**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 or email: [sallyannemiddleton@googlemail.com](mailto:sallyannemiddleton@googlemail.com)

## Hanney



### A Guide for Newcomers

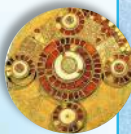
Revised and updated January 2024

New to Hanney? Get your free 32 page Guide from the Community Shop. It's also on the Hanneys website - see below - as a PDF.

Visit the website:  
<https://thehanneys.uk>



**Hanney News...be sure to read it cover to cover, without fail, every month. It contains so much useful stuff it's quite scary. Feedback always welcome...to me Jim Stagg, Editor, 01235 867500**



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## Our Defibrillators?

In East Hanney, on the left wall of the porch in the Village Hall and on the fence between the Sovereign building and Motovation entrance on the A338. In West Hanney it's on the wall of the brick garage opposite the Plough in Church St. All are accessible 24/7

**Hanney War Memorial Hall - To book the Hall, visit our website [hwmh.thehanneys.uk](http://hwmh.thehanneys.uk) and click on the 'Book Now!' link.**

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



If you are thinking about advertising in these hallowed pages, contact Jim the Editor by phone - 01235 867500 or email: [hanneynews@gmail.com](mailto:hanneynews@gmail.com) to discuss your requirements.

Join the 'West Hanney and East Hanney Community', 'The Hanneys Buy and Sell', and the 'East Hanney Parish Council' Facebook groups...good fun, most of the time!

### HANNEY HISTORY WALK

You are invited to take a 'Stair of sight' walk through West & East Hanney, with old photographs and notes on some of the buildings you will see on your way. Not every 'historic' building is included, and even some of the 'notes' could be wrong - but enjoy!

The map is from the first Ordnance Survey 1" map, dated 1832 - not laid for nearly 200 years ago!

So, starting at the War Memorial Hall, we take a walk along the Greenway to West Hanney Green. Our first picture of West Hanney is looking back to the Green, in the corner of which is the Suburban.

But if you had been there in the late C18 you wouldn't have seen it, as it had been demolished and the area distributed around West



**This 8 page A4 brochure...clue's in the title....is available free from the Community Shop, the Hall foyer, the Plough and me!**

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