

Thanks to East Hanney

Parish Council who recently carried out a partial 'makeover' on

'Holmes Garden'. (Photo below was taken before the makeover.) I'll pop down with the box brownie

once the dafs are out - as you read

intrusive banners fixed to the rail-

moved. They don't exactly enhance the view of this very special little

The garden is now more open and

welcoming, and I believe there are

this they probably are already! -

and the two large and rather

ings have - hopefully - been re-

place in my humble.

# Hanney News

Number 568 April 2023

West Hanney Parish Council









## **Annual Parish** Meeting

East Hanney and West Hanney are holding a joint Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 26th April at 7:30pm in the Olde Hanney Room.

Find out what the Parish Council's have been doing Get an update for the local groups in the Parish. Share your views

Come and join us for drinks and nibbles!



plans to install a bench, specifically a 'talking bench'. That's one, where, by sitting on it, you indicate that you're prepared to talk, or at least listen, if someone else sits beside you. For a relatively small community like ours, I think it's a great idea, and I hope it happens soon. There are also plans to refurb the railings.

And if you wonder who Holmes was - James Robins Holmes to be precise - turn to page 19 for an informative article by David Gahan. How the garden came about is also an interesting tale which I hope to print next month.



HOT OFF THE PRESS...T FAR AND GROOVY HANN MICHAELMAS FAYRE W HAPPENING AGAIN THIS YEAR - WHOOPEE! - ON **SATURDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER!!** 



#### **Editorial**

First off, massive thanks to all who sent me good wishes on the occasion of my 70th birthday...vikes!...much appreciated, as was the fab birthday cake created by Hanney's very own 'L & S Cakes for all Occasions'...see the snap of my twin bro and I, having just blown out all 70 candles! Two delightful little Hanney News Editor figures - remarkably lifelike! - stand on the cake. each clasping a copy of Hanney News! If you ever need a cake, give Liane a ring on 07714 869511.

Once again I want to thank our distributors for their splendid efforts to ensure that you get a copy of Hanney News through your

door by the start of the month, but would ask that if you do not get one, please let me know...there are inevitable hiccups, holidays and 'higgledypiggledyness' - I've just invented that word! - that can cause delays. And please remember that there are always copies available in the Community Shop, the foyer of our village hall, our local pubs, or here at Global HQ...ring me direct on 01235 867500.

It's great to put 3 pieces of good news on the front cover...the excellent work of East Hanney Parish Council on Holmes Garden, the return of the Michaelmas Fayre always a fab community event - and for the first time ever, I believe, our two Parish Councils getting together for a joint Annual Parish Meeting - that's different from their regular meetings - and we're all invited to



Their ad's on page 4.

We've a plea on page 5 for volunteers to work in the shop, and details of events around Charlie's Coronation on page 8.

Our excellent and thriving tennis club invite new members on page 9, as does our badminton club on page 13.

Good news for jigsaw puzzlers there too, along with a most interesting letter!

More on the 20mph speed limit on page 15...it's all getting a bit controversial as the Oxford Bus Company chip in with their twopenny worth.

I've included a short obituary to much loved West Hanney resident Jean Hazard on page 17.

David Gahan's article on JR Holmes appears on page 19, along with a photo of JR with his dog. JR looks a seriously cool dude doesn't he? I'm digging the knickerbockers, but more envious still of those whiskers and the hat!

Till next month 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

#### What's happening this month Mr Editor?

**Mon 3rd, 7.30 for 8pm, Village Hall, Hanney Gardening Club.** A talk on growing and cooking vegetables by Alan Williams.

**Tues 11th, Botley Road, at the railway bridge in Oxford,** will be closed to through traffic for seven months, so no vehicular access into Oxford. Walking/cycling still OK.

Sat 15th -Live Music in Wantage Market Place, 10am - 3pm. Every Sat till Autumn.

Sat 22nd, 12-4pm. Health and Wellbeing Event, the Beacon, Wantage, details page 8.

**Thurs 27th April 2.30pm, Senior Citizens -** 'Photography, a talk by David Bratley'. Village Hall. See page 30 for details.

#### And further ahead pray tell?...

Thurs 4th May, East and West Hanney Parish, Vale of White Horse District, and Oxfordshire County Council Elections - page 7.

Sat 6th May, Coronation. HRH King Charlie of Crown and Spare Son! Sun 7th May, a Coronation 'Big Lunch' in and around the Village Hall. See page 8.

Mon 8th May, Village Hall, Hanney Gardening Club. Annual Plant Sale. Details page 8

Mom 8th May, The Big Help Out - Details page 8

**Sat 20th May, Abingdon Air and Country Show...**details next month.

Mon 22nd May, 8pm, Village Hall, Hanney History Group, Christina Hardyment – local author, journalist and historian. 'Inventing Alyce Chaucer'

**Thurs 25th May, 2.30pm, Senior Citizens.** 'Visual Illusions...can you believe your eyes', a talk by John Ericson from 'The National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies'. Village Hall. See page 30 for details.

**Sun 4th June, Wantage Carnival, Market Place.** Live local bands, Funfair, licensed Bar, Gin & Prosecco Bar, Fantastic food stalls, artisan arts & crafts and more. The Biggest Family Funday of the year!

**Sat, 17th June, 1pm - 4pm,** East Hanney Royal Legion, **Family Fun Day - In Aid of The Brain Tumour Charity.** 

Sat 17th & Sun 18th June, 11am - 5pm, Communitea Flower Festival, St Peter's Church, Charney Bassett - details next month.

**Sat 17th June, The Grove & Wantage Extravaganza,** Free entry. Live music, Dog and Duck Show, Funfair, Bars and more. Details next month. Grove Rugby Club.

**Mon June 26th 2.30pm, Hanney History Group,** a tour of Hinton Waldrist village and 13th century church by Paul Whitton, Village Historian.

Sat 8th July, Car, Truck and Bike Show...details nearer the time. Keep the day free!

**Mon 24th July, 2.30pm, Hanney History Group,** a guided tour of the village of Ewelme, school, church and almshouses, + tea and cakes!

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

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





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# Hanney Lottery March Winners

1st - Beryl King 2nd - Ann & Geoff Phillips 3rd - John & Rosemary Hedderley

Not got a number yet or want additional numbers?

Just call Hilary on 868590.

#### WANTAGE & GROVE FOODBANK

**needs volunteers** to pack & deliver food parcels on Monday & Wednesday mornings fortnightly.

They also need a shopper on Friday mornings, and for that they advise that you need to be fit, healthy and have a car.

They also need larger premises and to be working from one site at a nominal fee (not multiple sites).

If you know of anywhere with parking & no stairs, please do get in touch.

Likewise if you can volunteer. Their email is

wantageandgrovefoodbank@gmail.com

We currently have space for local businesses to advertise here in the best parish mag in the whole of Hanney!

If you run a business based within the area in which we deliver the Hanneys Lyford.

Penchworth and Charney Bassett

ring me, Jim the Editor, anytime, on 01235 867500 to discuss advertising with us. Prices start at £27 for 12 issues.

# Hanney Film Night, Village Hall, Friday 7th of April. 8pm start.

# 'Living'

....is the story of an ordinary man, reduced by years of oppressive office routine to a shadow existence, who at the eleventh hour makes a supreme effort to turn his dull life into something wonderful - into one he can say has been lived to the full. Bill Nighy on top form.

#### Doors and bar open at 7.30pm



# Can I make another plea for volunteers to 'work'...I use the term

loosely...in our community shop. It's really not 'work' like being a teacher, ambulance driver or nurse! It's not even as tough as being a train driver, and with a lot less responsibility!

I usually take one or two turns a month, nearly always weekday afternoons when there is the added bonus from around 3pm of the St James school kids visiting to choose little treats from the sweeties and chocolate shelf! There's a huge selection, and on a good day it can get a tad 'pandemonic'. (My thesaurus defines the word in four ways..... 'wild uproar or unrestrained disorder, tumult or chaos' or......

'a place or scene of riotous uproar or utter chaos', .....or 'the abode of all the demons'....or simply 'Hell'!!

Well it's certainly not the latter two I promise, but does occasionally approach the first two.

The shop's head hombre is long time West Hanney resident and all round good egg, Sir Clive of Ward and Panto.

Maybe you caught him and his fellow Luvvies of the Hanney Drama Group performing last month here in the village hall? He's a multi talented gent who will be delighted to hear from you if you can spare a few hours a month. Ring - 867408 - or pop into the shop and leave your contact details if you wanna give it a go.

I've recently been asked by a reader and resident of this parish to mention the subject of external lights affixed to properties in the Hanneys. He asks that I find space in my 'august organ' ...his words, which I rather like!... to say a few words about external lights

He continues... "I for one pay to live in a dark village, not one speckled with external lights, that are not necessary.

being left on all night.

I agree with security lighting, but these should be linked to a movement detector so they are primarily OFF!"

This is a slightly controversial issue...feel free to chip in with your two pennyworth, which I'll happily print, anonymously if you wish, but I don't think many folk would disagree that having external lights left permanently on all night is, apart from the nuisance, a rather wasteful use of the precious - and expensive! - resource of electricity!

#### **East Hanney Parish Council**

Hopefully with the weather on our side as you read this, work should start on the extension to the Memorial Hall car park. This will benefit hall users, the 'school run' and neighbouring residents, as the roads should be clear of parked cars.

The new MUGA is also part of this build and we're using the same contractor, so be prepared for considerable short term disruption during the construction phase. Holmes' Garden has now been cleared and landscaped, to be followed by the installation of a new 'talking' bench - more on that later as it's an idea inspired by our editor. (See my article on front cover - Editor)

Thank you to both Garth and Dickon for leading this. It was also agreed that in memory of James Holmes - who was born and died on 17th March, in 1859 and 1938

respectively - we are naming the playground area in the new development off the Steventon Road, formerly Rosie B's, as 'Holmes' Park'.

After both a Parish Council consultation with directly affected residents, and a wider Highways consultation, the new parking restrictions outside the school have been agreed. Once the road has been resurfaced the new restrictions will be in place; this should roughly coincide with the completion of the car park expansion that will provide more than adequate parking for the school run.

Steve McKechnie Chairman

Next Meetings - Weds, 12th and Weds 26thApril, both at 7:30pm, Old Hanney Room, Hanney War Memorial Hall, aka Village Hall.

#### Parish Councillors -

Chairman: Stephen McKechnie - smehpc@gmail.com. Vice Chairs: David Kirk - david.kirk@btinternet.com; Paul Aram - pvaehpc@gmail.com;

Councillors: Dickon Green - dgehpc@gmail.com; Rosie Reed - rrehpc@gmail.com; Garth Dennill - gdehpc@gmail.com; Hamish Gowen - hgehpc@gmail.com

Clerk: Wendy Bates, tel: 07859 924655, email: <a href="mailto:clerk@easthanneyparishcouncil.org.uk">clerk@easthanneyparishcouncil.org.uk</a> Website: <a href="mailto:www.easthanneyparishcouncil.org.uk">www.easthanneyparishcouncil.org.uk</a>

These are difficult times for many folk, and here in Hanney we have a charity, 'The Hanney Parochial Trust' that may be able to help.

The charity is an amalgamation of several local charities that have been set up over the years, the first of which was back in 1604!

I am the Chairman of the Trustees, which include both Parish Council leaders and our Vicar John Durant.

If you know anyone who is in genuine financial need, please ask them to contact me, in strictest confidence of course.

We also consider applications for grants to youngsters aged 18 - 25 who are starting full -time further education.

Tel: 01235 867500 - or email: jimstagg@btinternet.com. The Trust's Charity Commission number is 205792.

#### **West Hanney Parish Council**

We are supporting a number of initiatives to help improve road safety. These include the introduction of a 20mph speed limit throughout West Hanney and we await the outcome of the survey conducted by Highways.

We are also supporting the proposed parking restrictions on School Road between Meadow Way and St James Primary School, with double yellow lines on both sides of the road but with 3 gaps allowing six cars to park on the south side of the road.

When these proposals are finalised there will be a public consultation before they are implemented.

We are also looking forward to improvements being made to the road surface of School Road, Main Street and Winter Lane in May and June.

The Annual Meeting of WHPC will be held jointly with East Hanney PC on Weds 26th April - see front cover - at 7.30pm in the Olde Hanney Room at the Hanney War Memorial Hall, aka village hall.

Councillors: Chairman: David Corps - 867454. Graham Garner - 868684. Edward Wilkinson - 07771 705234. Trevor Brettell - 868459. Peter Packham - 868038. Barbara Martin (Clerk) - 868806

Email: parishclerkwesthanneypc@gmail.com Website: www.westhanneypc.org.uk

The upcoming local elections are on Thursday 4th May, and for the first time you will need photo ID to vote.

This a Government requirement....ooh err!

Accepted forms of photo ID will include... but are not limited to... a passport, full or provisional driving licence, disabled parking blue badge, certain concessionary travel cards and proof of age cards with a PASS mark.

If you don't have an accepted photo ID, you can apply for a **Voter Authority** 

Certificate, but you will have to be registered to vote before you can get it.

This all sounds a bit complicated, so best to head to the **Electoral Commission website here**:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk/ or call their helpline on 0800 328 0280.

Please note that though the deadline for getting your Voter Authority Certificate is Tues 25th April, the deadline to register

**to vote is Monday 17th April,** so if you're a first time voter, don't delay!

Parish and District Councillors are elected every 4 years. If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor take a look at your Parish Council website to see what it does.

Also talk to one of the current Councillors to find out what's involved.

Nominations have to be submitted by 4th April. All the information you need is on the Vale of White Horse Council website. West Hanney has five Parish Councillors, East Hanney has eight and Charney Bassett also has five. Elections will need to be held if nominations exceed these figures.

If you intend to vote by post, you must apply to do so by 18th April.

All the information you need on voting can be found on the Vale website.



# HANNEY CELEBRATES THE CORONATION!

A great time to see friends and family, share in community activities and enjoy our local hostelries!

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May - CORONATION DAY -** full details on our special Hanney website - https://www.hanney-events.co.uk

'Ring for the King' – from St James Church Tower. **The Plough, West Hanney** – Traditional British
Coronation BBO from 12noon (booking required)



**Sunday 7th May - The Big Coronation Lunch** – from midday – in and around Hanney War Memorial Hall - bring your own picnic, rugs/chairs. Fun for all ages, and a bouncy castle if it's not too windy!

Coronation Duck Race Hanney playing fields at 2pm Coronation Celebration Service – 6pm - St James Church – with 'bubbles & nibbles' reception to follow And from 3pm 'til late, The Black Horse, East Hanney, will be offering live music, a bouncy castle and great food.

**Monday 8th May - Hanney Gardening Club' Plant Sale** -2pm-4pm, in and around Hanney War Memorial Hall. Plant donations in advance welcome, please deliver to the hall 10am-12noon.

**The Big Help Out** – 2.30pm - 4.30pm - Old Hanney Room (inside HWMH) Thriving communities need volunteers - come and find out about the many ways you could support your village. A great way to get involved and make new friends. Hanney News Global will be there.

**Our local MP David Johnston** is conducting a '*Local Health Survey*' which you can access and complete - it's open until the 17th of April - via his website here...

www.david-johnston.org.uk/

#### Keeping Well in 2023 and beyond.

There will be a **Health and Wellbeing Event** in the **Beacon**, **Wantage**, on Sat 22 April 12-4pm.

The publicity blurb promises...'Many of our sports and social clubs will be represented. Go along to find out more about what exciting activities are available in and around the area to enable you to enjoy a healthier and more fulfilled lifestyle. This is being organised by **Church Street and Newbury Street Patient Groups** and will also include informative talks and demonstrations from local groups and health care professionals. For more details see our website <a href="https://wellbeing.ox12.org">https://wellbeing.ox12.org</a>.





#### The Hanney Historical Calendar is now HALF PRICE, just £5,

which considering we're only a quarter of the way through 2023, is quite a bargain you must admit!
Ring me if you want a copy...01235 867500

And whilst we're on bargains, this from the Hanney Tennis club...

"We are very pleased to

report that the annual subscription for tennis club membership will be held at the 2022 price. So, if you're thinking about having a go, we are a friendly, social group of people who welcome players of any level: rusty racket players, new to the game, youngsters,



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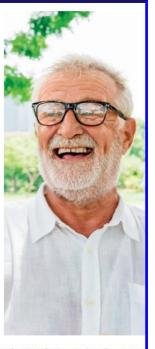
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not so youngsters! or just wishing to have a go. Club sessions are on Tuesday evenings 7pm to 9pm and Sunday mornings, 10am to 12pm. You're welcome to come to a club

session for free to meet members and have a go!"







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### THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



Veganuary, Movember, Lent and Red Nose day; are all times when people choose to do or not to do certain things for certain reasons. We cut things out or add things into our lives, to make real life situations better for ourselves or for others.

When celebrating Easter, Christians remember Jesus' death and rising again. Because of what Jesus did during Easter, we are able to cut out from our lives all the things that we have thought, said and done that hurt and harm ourselves, others and God. While adding into our lives God's power, presence and peace, so that we can live life to the full with God.

In the New Testament St Paul sets out a description of what this approach of reducing certain behaviours while increasing others, looks like in our daily lives: Love others.

In everyday and practical ways we are encouraged to love others. But what does that look like? Love is a small word but it can have lots of different meanings, in different contexts and to different people. Paul describes love in this way:

"Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous, it does not brag, and it is not proud. Love is not rude, is not selfish, and does not get upset with others. Love does not count up wrongs that have been done. Love takes no pleasure in evil but rejoices over the truth. Love patiently accepts all things. It always trusts, always hopes, and always endures." 1 Corinthians 13:4-7"

This definition of love focuses on marking out what love is, by stating what love will do and also what it doesn't do. It sets boundaries for us in our attitudes and actions. Love is more than just passionate feelings that drive our behaviour.

Love is an act of will, to choose how we respond in real life situations, from an understanding that certain responses are required and some are excluded.

Much of the harm humans do to each other stems from a lack of love and concern for others. Without a desire to help and support others, where certain thoughts and behaviours are excluded, we can end up damaging those around us. We can even rank our love for certain people and principles, over any concern for the consequences of our actions on others.

A lot of harm has been done in the name of love that has disregarded the wellbeing of others.

Jesus' actions during the first Easter week are a reminder of the power that acting in love has on ourselves and on others. That as much as love is shown in what we will do, it is also shown in what we won't do. We can choose to show love to those we encounter this week by reducing; pride, jealousy, rudeness, selfishness, anger and by not holding grudges. While also behaving in ways that are marked by patience, kindness, celebration, hope and perseverance.

God bless,

Alec

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

Eucharist is celebrated at 9.30am each Sunday.

 $2^{nd}$  – PALM SUNDAY – Revd Alec Gill,  $9^{th}$  – EASTER DAY – Revd Alec Gill,  $16^{th}$  – tbc,  $23^{rd}$  – Revd John Durant,  $30^{th}$  – Revd Alec Gill

HOLY WEEK - Holy Communion - Monday 3rd at 7.30pm

THERE'S ALWAYS A WARM WELCOME TO CHURCH AND MOST ESPECIALLY ON EASTER SUNDAY WITH SPECIAL ACITIVTIES AND FUN FOR CHILDREN.

Currently there are no Covid-related restrictions, however should there be an increase in infections or mandatory requirements re-introduced, we will take the appropriate action.

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Associate Vicar: Revd Alec Gill: 07739 563894 - vicaralec@valebenefice.org.uk
Office: (10 - 12 Mon - Fri) 771479 - office@valebenefice.org.uk
Church Warden: Stuart Cakebread: 868590 - stuartcakebread@mac.com

Dear Editor.

LETTERS

nears the bend overhanging foliage throws one

In drier months, I practice my anti-surveillance skills in the abundant fields that surround the village, avoiding chatty dog-walkers or ducking enemy joggers whose clear aim is to jostle me into Letcombe Brook. So while the mud persists, my daily exercise takes me anticlockwise round the village via Brookside and Mill Orchard, thence to the safer territory of Main Street and Snuggs Lane. It is at the approach to HO British Legion, on Brookside, as one prepares to give an 'eyes left', that one needs to summon all one's courage to negotiate a precarious pedestrian manoeuvre: the disappearing pathway. As I am no Blondin, one option is to cheat the enemy and hop over the low wall into the brook. I need to keep my nerve. Thankfully, a career in special services has left me with enough bravado to opt for a lesser risk to life and limb: to hug the wall on the right hand side. But even on this side, however, the excitement is heightened. As one

directly into the sights of the enemy - a determined rude boy (with twin exhausts); maybe an electrically silent yet homicidal librarian; the more predictable lorry driver, or even worse, an Amazon Prime van running late. All of whom might say, "Pick another route, mate".

It will be a pity when those overhanging branches and ivy are cut back, there will be no fun in my dry weather circuit.

Geoffrey Bourne-Taylor Somewhere in Dandridge Close.

Dear Editor

One of the oldest clubs in the villages, the Hanney Badminton Club, meets in the War Memorial Hall every Thursday evening for friendly enjoyable exercise.

New members of any ability are very welcome, especially - as several of us are getting older – we need more ladies and young(er) players.

Mike Hutchings, West Hanney

#### Calling all Jigsaw Puzzle lovers!

There's a new Jigsaw Library opened within Wantage Library! Come and browse through our selection of jigsaw puzzles - you are welcome to either

complete a jigsaw in the Library, or choose one to take home! This is totally free - and when you have completed the jigsaw, bring it back, and borrow another one!

#### A Free service supports thousands of residents

in Oxfordshire with their home energy.

They can benefit from the advice and support of **Better Housing Better Health**, a service that helps those worrying about their home energy to create warmer, healthier and happier homes. Last year, through the service's free helpline and free home visit service (BHBH+) the team of trained advisors helped over 2,500 residents. The aim this year is to help even more.



The service can help:

Residents who are finding it hard to understand energy bills, pay for fuel or read meters. Access funding to replace old and broken heating systems.

Access funding for insulation measures.

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Making onward referrals to additional support services, such as Benefits advice and debt support.

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## As you have probably heard, a 20mph speed

limit is soon to be applied to all roads within the Hanneys ...maybe including the built up section of the A338 itself, running north from the junction by La Fontana. I believe local feelings are mixed on this...many folk are much in favour, seeing it as a step in the right direction towards better road safety.

Others however see it as an over-reaction ...it's not needed, they suggest, and anyway, how would it be enforced? A fair question. Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) recently issued a 'Statement of Reasons' - though I can no longer find it on their website - as to why they are introducing this measure - county-wide I believe is their aim. In it they claim that they want to make our 'built environments safer and more attrac-

So far so good. They also suggest that a 20mph limit will encourage folk to look at 'alternative modes of transport for local travel.'

tive places to walk and cycle'.

Hmmm? Not so sure about that. Are they suggesting that I might in future cycle or walk to, say, the Community shop, because once the new speed limit is introduced, I'd only be allowed to drive there at 20mph, instead of 30mph?

OCC's statement goes on to tell us that 'Streets are central to everyday life in Oxfordshire. (Who knew?!) They play a role in all transport journey's.... (Sorry, what's the difference between a 'transport journey', and a plain old 'journey'? And while I'm being picky, why the possessive apostrophe in 'journey's'?) ....and are places where people shop, work and spend time. Improving the experience of being on Oxfordshire's streets will therefore improve people's local areas and their everyday lives.

Improving streets to encourage active travel will also help to deliver further benefits for people in Oxfordshire.

A wide range of people choosing to walk, and cycle will help to

improve public health, reduce road noise, improve air quality and make local areas more relaxing.

Furthermore, 20mph speed limits will help reduce casualty rates and improve road safety.'

Ok, but there's also some less good news...for many the big issue is how the limit will be enforced, and elsewhere on their website, OCC tell us that they will not be providing speed cameras or road humps. However, 'officers will work with local bodies to establish the best methods for ensuring compliance.' they assure us. Quite who these local bodies here in Hanney would be, I know not.

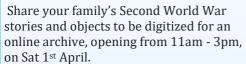
A couple of complications have recently arisen...The Oxford Bus Company has objected to the blanket introduction - county-wide - of the limit. They recently said that...."Buses need to make progress where they can in order to be a viable and attractive alternative to private cars and to attract patronage in order to help to achieve the council's stated objectives to remove one in four car journeys. Following this policy on speed limits will not achieve this."

(Of course we no longer have any bus service in West Hanney anyway!)
All rather confusing, and I know our splendid Parish Councillors are trying to sort it out the mess!

And finally, **the Police**, as one would expect, have pointed out that they will no more be able to enforce the 20mph limit than they are currently able with the 30mph and any other speed limit! More to come on this one folks!

#### 'Their Finest Hour Collections Day'

at Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum (SOFO) aims to preserve Second World War memories



See Second World War living history displays, kit displays, and art exhibitions in the museum galleries.

SOFO is looking for people to bring their stories and objects relating to the Second World War to their Digital Collection Day at the museum in Woodstock.

The event is part of a nationwide campaign organised by 'Their Finest Hour', a team based at the University of Oxford and funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, which is collecting and preserving the everyday stories and objects of the Second World War.

As these stories are fast fading from living memory, it is vital that they - and the war-

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum

time objects that often accompany them - are preserved for future generations.

At the Digital Collection Day, stories about your

family's wartime experience – and associated objects such as diaries, letters, medals, journals and ration books – will be recorded, digitised, and then uploaded to the 'Their Finest Hour' online archive, which will be free-to-use and will launch in June 2024.

To encourage even more people to drop in and share their stories, the SOFO Museum will waive its normal admission fee on the day - entry will be free to all on 1st April. With often limited parking in Woodstock, Blenheim Palace will also be kindly supporting this event, offering free parking to those attending to share their stories. The museum is just a short walk into town through the Blenheim Palace's Woodstock Town gate. See the SOFO website here:

www.sofo.org.uk/

**GARD UPDATE - Thank you** to everyone who responded to the Water Resources SouthEast consultation and Thames Water's draft Water Resource Management Plan. Where are we now with the proposals and responses? As well as the WRSE and Thames Water dWRMP consultations (now closed ) there is the RAPID Gate 2 process on the individual Strategic Sources (Abingdon Reservoir and Severn Thames Transfer). RAPID (Regulator Alliance for the Progressing of Infrastructure Development) will produce a draft decision by 30th March, GARD will make representations to RAPID, and we'll keep you informed. Oxfordshire County Council said: "We have consistently opposed this reservoir proposal. The South East Strategic Reservoir Option will have unac-



ceptable environmental effects. It **should be removed** from the plans."

The Vale of White Horse District Council said that water companies should forget the reservoir and focus on fixing leaks, and that SESRO should be removed from the plan.

We look forward to seeing you at the GARD AGM on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May in the Steventon Village Hall. For further information: www.gard-oxon.org.uk, Facebook: @abingdonreservoir, Twitter @GARD\_OXON

**Obituary:** Everyone who knew Jean Hazard will, I know, have been greatly saddened to hear of her recent passing.

Jean had lived in Hanney for over 20 years, and for 30 years was a hugely respected and much-loved teacher at Josca's Prep School where her husband was deputy head. In her role at Josca's she inspired countless Hanney youngsters who were lucky enough to be pupils there.

Jean was very active within our community, not least with the St James Bell-Ringers, where she continued in an administrative roll after her rope-pulling days were over. She will be remembered with much fondness and affection by all who knew her. We send our deepest sympathy to her partner Colin and all her family and friends.

# This from the folk who publish 'Penny Post'... 'During the Second World War many airmen

War many airmen of the Allies died in

action in the skies over France, Belgium, Holland and Germany.

On 28 April 2024, the people in the French town of Maubeuge are opening a memorial to the 114 airmen from Great Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, USA and France who died.

In France, a team have carried out extensive research on this, and are trying to learn more of an airman from Hanney called **Reginald George Hopkins**.

He is commemorated on the board inside

Hanney War Memorial Hall and also on the war memorial inside St James Church in West Hanney.

Nine charity organisations across the Vale have each received £1,000 of funding to support their work with local communities, thanks to the White Horse Community Lottery.

This from one of the recipients, the **October Club** in Wantage. "We are grateful for the donation from the White Horse Community Lottery. We are a small charity based in Wantage that runs a day centre four days a week for people with all forms and levels of dementia. Clients come from



We know he was in a Blenheim aircraft - see pic - from 15 Squadron which crashed on 18th May 1940. He was born on 2nd

April 1910 at Fulbrook near Burford and died on the 18th May 1940. His father was Clement Charles Hopkins and his mother Edith Hopkins. He had only loose connections to Hanney, even though he is commemorated there. Reginald joined the RAF on 2nd October 1928.

He married Myra Martin from Darlington in 1937 in Abingdon. His widowed mother was housekeeper at Grange Farm in North Denchworth and Myra was a domestic servant there as well.

If you have any info on Reginald or his family, can you please send an email to penny.post.events@gmail.com.'

all parts of the Vale. We own the property from which the Day Centre runs, so are always grateful for any donation to help with the running costs, maintenance of the building, plus buying stimulating activities for the clients. We welcome anyone running a fund raising event for us, or spending a few hours helping our trained staff interact with our clients.

Any queries please contact the Manager by email to enquiries@octoberclub.org.uk. or ring 01235 760428"

#### We have many very

**special folk** in our community and one is Sir Neil of Wilson and Paediatric Cardiology. I'm honoured to count him as a chum, and as chums do, he recently recommended a book to me, entitled 'Not in the Best of Health' written by a pal of his called Charles Godden.

Neil's brief review of the tome appears in it on the inside front cover. I quote...'Not in the Best of Health will entertain and shock. This is an outstanding medical narrative of a life in paediatrics and pulls no punches documenting his experiences of clinical medicine and the frustrations of NHS administration. His integrity and experience shine through

NOT IN THE BEST OF HEALTH

The order

Testificial

Testificial

Charles Godden

with equal amounts of humour and poignancy. His clinical scenarios are elegantly described such that lay readers will completely understand.' Professor Neil Wilson MB BS DCH FRCPCH FSCAI.

Having now read the book, I must say I found it a riveting, if rather depressing read.

Amongst much else, the author confirms that the current state of the NHS is not a recent development...it's been underfunded and badly run for many many years.

If you enjoy these kind of insights into what really goes on 'behind the scenes', this book is certainly worth investigating.

**My mum always said** that if you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all. (I think everyone's mum said that didn't they?)

didn't they? )
Well, a lotta 'not very nice' stuff has
recently been said about our potholes, and
though most comments are sadly quite
accurate, I thought I'd try and find something nice to say about them!
OK, maybe not the holes themselves, but
the hard working folk who fill them!
We recently had a team of three hi-viz clad
gents outside Global HQ here in Winter

Lane.

I watched them from my Editor's chair here in my palatial front room suite of offices. They did a really good job, efficient and thorough, so big up thanks to them. That said, there is maybe just one advantage of having these potholes...yes, really! Folk do drive that little bit slower to save their tyres, wheels and suspension, as they drive on potholed roads, and every little helps to encourage drivers to take it slow when driving past Global HQ, where

the full width of the road directly outside HQ - aka Mulberry House, Winter Lane - is a mere 4.4 metres!

**Talking of Winter Lane,** am I being unnecessarily picky by pointing out that it is 'Winter Lane', singular. Many residents, even old timers, call it 'Winters Lane', plural. Does it matter?

'Winters Rise' the new Lagan Homes development on the eastern edge of West Hanney is now officially named 'Meadow View'. I much prefer the latter and it will save confusion for our lovely posties!

Rumour has it that Winter Lane is due for a resurface soon, probably starting early June and taking approx. 5 days. More on that next month.

And a final point....I once heard that Winter Lane was so named since it was the only route into West Hanney that was accessible during the harsh winters of yesteryear. Anyone know any more on that?

East Hanney Parish Council is refurbishing the Memorial Garden to Hanney's 'Man for All Seasons'...

# James Robins Holmes (1859-1938),

a fascinating character for long-term residents and newcomers alike, whose birthday was 17th March. A man of modern-seeming principles, he acted on them even when it brought physical harm and attacks from the legal authorities – and also villagers! Ninety pounds of stones/missiles

were hurled through the windows of his house *The Mulberries* following his public opposition to the 'madness' (his word) of British colonial conquest in the Boer War – an acquisition of territory comparable to Putin in Ukraine? The 300 strong mob included villagers with sons in the Army, who were possibly inflamed or 'bribed with beer by those above them' as Mrs Holmes (36 at the time) said in her testimony. Holmes apparently paid the fines of those convicted of the attack, sensibly mending fences.

He is most famed, though, for what he called 'the greatest honour of my life' which saw him prosecuted and fined for 'obscenity' - that of distributing 150,000 copies of his 1891 booklet *True Morality* and a price-list for 'hygienic requisites' contraceptives - which he supplied in small packages sent out from Hanney Post Office. Unlike richer folk, poor married couples in the countryside 'from Hanney to Hindustan' had hitherto no access to family planning knowledge, or to these recently affordable products. Holmes was a kind and considerate landlord to poor families in Hanney and would have seen poverty with his own eyes. Census data 1871/81



shows families with 8 to 12 children in Ebbs Lane, and one maternal death after a 10th child. JRH seems to have been operating from total moral conviction. It would be 30 years from his first publication before the first family planning clinic was opened in the UK by Marie Stopes in 1921. A lovely memory of his regular visits to Hanney Post Office to post mysterious little packages comes from someone who, as a little girl at the time, concluded that 'every day must be Christmas somewhere in the world.'

Another evebrow-raising activity was the creation of a village bathing place, a sizeable structure on the brook downstream from the Iron Bridge. Propriety forbade girls from using it but they could get a good view of the boys while peeping through the gaps in the screening. Nothing is now visible of this, with the exception of the nearby bench with a 'Latin' inscription starting: ORE STA-BIT. It's an amusing family puzzle to ask your kids to read this as English (which it is) rather than Latin (which it isn't). All details here come from the excellent history of IRH written by Frank Poller of this parish (1993) which can be perused on Hanney History Group's website Photos & Archive section. You will find many wonderful stories about his village activities, generous spirit and philanthropy: the net valuation of his property at death was nil. He wasn't the most famous person in Victorian social movements, but his concern for the rural poor and for this village make him a man to be celebrated.

(David Gahan lives in West Hanney and has an interest in Victorian social & scientific thinking.)

This month's calendar photo is of the lovely house known as 'Varlins'. It's at the top end of East Hanney village green where Ebbs Lane, Ashfields Lane and Halls Lane meet in an offset crossroads.

It's late Victorian, built around 1890. I have no idea of when our photo was taken, but I'd guess around the time of the First World War.

The house has changed little since then...some newer railings on the low brick wall and the gate in the middle of the front wall removed, as has the ivy covering much of the frontage.

A new building, garage / barn type, has been built in the garden, with access to it via recently constructed entrance gates on the Ebbs Lane side of the property.

The middle photo depicts the house when almost

all the front façade was ivy clad.

Both photos feature a cart. In the calendar picture a gent stands proudly on his, presumably posing for the photographer. (I have enlarged that section of the photo here on the right.) I'm assuming he was just passing, going about his business, when the photographer asked him to pose? His horse is clearly visible, standing still, and the wheels of the cart are not at all blurred. which would be expected were they to have be turning. The gent has a fine,







full beard and seems to be wearing dungarees and a cap. His left arm is resting on what looks like a large whicker basket, but I cannot make out the other contents of his cart...at a guess I would say stone roof tiles maybe?

Any ideas? Also, do you think he looks a bit like Lenin, or 'Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov' to give him his full name, leader of the Russian Bolsheviks back in the early part of the 20th century. Little Lenny apparently visited London on many occasions, so maybe he popped down to East Hanney to preach his revolutionary theories from the back of his cart? If so, he's not exactly drawing a big crowd...clearly not much call for a Bolshevik revolution here in East Hanney back then.



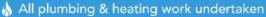


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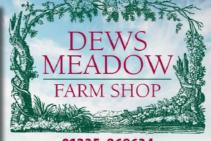
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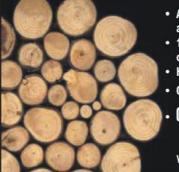
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#### **Clubs and Societies**

**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

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 / 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 <a href="mailto:pksayers@btinternet.com">pksayers@btinternet.com</a> or 01235 868146

**HANNEY CRICKET CLUB** Occasional Sunday friendly games. For details ring David Johns on 07770 456147 or 01235 868519, or email <a href="mailto:hanneycricketteam@gmail.com">hanneycricketteam@gmail.com</a>

**HANNEY FLOOD GROUP** hold a monthly working party. Contact Clive Manvell for details - clive@manvell216.plus.com, or 01235 868216. <a href="https://www.thehanneysfloodgroup.org.uk/">www.thehanneysfloodgroup.org.uk/</a>

**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. <a href="https://www.hanneygardeningclub.org.uk">www.hanneygardeningclub.org.uk</a>

**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 <a href="http://hanneyhistory.org.uk/">http://hanneyhistory.org.uk/</a>

**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 for further details.

HANNEY SCOUTS, CUBS and BEAVERS, Contact Janet Green at 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. Half price membership until 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 is now available – please email Jenny our membership secretary <a href="mailto:membership.htc@gmail.com">membership.htc@gmail.com</a>

**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

HANNEY WINE CIRCLE meets on the 2nd Monday each month: 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 or visit our website 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, email wantagechoralsociety@yahoo.co.uk.

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

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

**WANTAGE U3A:** Visit our website detailing current activities - <a href="www.u3asites.org.uk/wantage">www.u3asites.org.uk/wantage</a> **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@thrivenutrition.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

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: <a href="mailto:Helen@yogatransforms.co.uk">Helen@yogatransforms.co.uk</a> Please book your place through the payment page on my website: <a href="mailto:www.yogatransforms.co.uk/payment">www.yogatransforms.co.uk/payment</a>

**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 <a href="mailto:info@workoutwonderful.com">info@workoutwonderful.com</a>

**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 <a href="mailto:info@workoutwonderful.com">info@workoutwonderful.com</a>

**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

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In West Hanney it's on the
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#### **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

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