

Hanne



A Guide for Newcomers

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



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Introduction

Welcome to our guide to Hanney....

a little publication that aims to be useful to newcomers in our community. I hope that it will also help recent arrivals, and even some of the folk who've spent many years here may find the odd snippet of interest.

As well as offering much information about the community in which you now live, I do hope this guide will strongly hint at the real sense of

'Community' that exists here in the Hanneys.

There's a total of about 1,400 people living in our

two villages of East Hanney and West Hanney, and we share a village hall - often known as the 'Hanney War Memorial Hall' - and a shop, run by volunteers, known as the 'Community Shop'. Within it is a small Post Office.

Details about the Hall can be found on page 11, and you can learn more about the Shop on page 5.

We have two Parish Councils; East Hanney Parish Council, often abbreviated to EHPC, and West Hanney Parish Council, often abbreviated - no prizes for guessing! - to WHPC. Their details are in the article on 'Local Government' on page 24. Our primary school is called 'St James' and is part of the 'Vale Academy Trust'. 60% of the approx



150 pupils live in the Hanneys, with the remainder coming from the surrounding villages. Read more about St James School on page 12.

We have two pubs - the Plough in West Hanney and the Black Horse in East Hanney.

There is an Italian restaurant in East Hanney, 'La Fontana', which also offers accommodation, and the 'Hanney Spice', an Indian restaurant in West Hanney - see pages 14 and 15 for details on them all.

There are two churches - St James C of E Church in West

Hanney, and the Hanney Chapel, a Baptist Church in East Hanney.

See pages 13 and 14 for details.

We have a Royal British Legion branch in East Hanney with its own hall - page 20. Our monthly parish newsletter is called 'Hanney News'.

More details on page 6.

Our website is here: www.thehanneys.uk - see page 11, and our Facebook group's details can be found on page 5.

We hope your time in Hanney, whether it's months, years, decades or a lifetime, will be a happy one, and please feel free to get involved - you'll be sure of a warm welcome!

Jim Stagg - April 2019

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this guide was correct at the time of printing - April 2019 - we make no guarantees, and take no responsibility for any inaccuracies. Please note that a listing does not imply a recommendation or guarantee of the services or produce on offer.

This guide has been sponsored by East Hanney and West Hanney Parish Councils and Hanney News. The producers would like to thank everyone who has contributed.

All material is copyright .

Useful Information

Allotments

These can be rented from the Parish Councils, whose contact details are on page 25.

West Hanney residents can hire an allotment in East Hanney and vice versa.

There is a good community atmosphere amongst the allotment holders - old hands are very happy to offer advice and assistance to newcomers!



Banks

There seems to be an ever decreasing number of bank branches in our area, but many bank-related services are now available at the Post Office in our Community Shop. (see below)

The nearest bank branches are in Wantage and Abingdon.

Churches - See pages 13 and 14.

Community Shop and Post Office

Our Shop offers a wide range of produce... locally sourced eggs, milk, honey, meat, bread, flour, confectionary, coffee, tea, pickles, soups, batteries, stationery, cigarettes, pills, potions and lotions, soups, cereals, custard creams...you get the idea! Whilst you're there, you can have a cup of coffee, tea or hot chocolate - don't forget to ask for your free biscuit - do some photocopying, buy tickets for local events, put an ad on the notice board and pass the time of day with the friendly staff, all of whom are volunteers.

The Shop is also home to our sub-post office, open every morning, from 9 am to 1 pm, Monday -

Friday, except Tuesdays, when it closes at 12 noon. The Shop is open 9 - 5pm, 6 days a week, Monday to Saturday. It accepts credit and debit cards, currently with no minimum spend.

Founded over 35 years ago, it has always been staffed and run entirely by volunteers.

Like our Village Hall, it is a vital part of our community and great credit must go to all the folk who over many years have worked very hard to set it up and keep it open.



Facebook

We have a community Facebook page - 'West Hanney and East Hanney Community' is it's satisfyingly logical title - and it currently has over 1,280 members.

The bewildering range of topics on which folk 'post' are a never ending source of interest and - in many cases - useful information.

Selling and buying stuff, needing and offering help, traffic problems, recommendations needed and given, heartfelt thank-yous, the occasional rants, missing people, pets and lost property, upcoming events, old photos and reminisces of Hanney years ago, ads from local businesses etc. etc. It's well worth signing up to if you're already on Facebook.



Farm Shop - It's called 'Dews Meadow' - details are on page 14.

Garage

'Motovation' is in East Hanney, in the small industrial estate on the A338 next to Sovereign Housing. It offers a complete range of auto-related services, including repair and MOTs. Contact Brad Davey on 01235 867445.

Hanney News is our monthly parish newsletter. It has been published every month without missing a single issue since it's first, back in December 1975. Everyone involved with producing it works on a voluntary basis and the magazine is free.

It's an A5, 28 page, full colour booklet, and is delivered by a loyal team of distributors to every home in the Hanneys, Denchworth, Charney Bassett and Lyford - a total of almost 1,100 copies.

The Community Shop, the Village Hall, our pubs and various other outlets in Hanney and Wantage also carry copies.

It features adverts from local businesses, information including details of upcoming events, a letters page, regular articles from the Parish Councils, the Church and others.

If you are looking for a local tradesman, it's a very good place to start.

Hanney News welcomes articles and letters from anyone, and adverts from locally-based companies, groups, societies and individuals. A PDF of each issue is available on the Hanneys website...see page 11.

Due to its healthy financial state, Hanney News is able to make regular donations to good causes in the community.

The Editor is Jim Stagg...contact details are as follows:

Hanney News Global International HQ. Mulberry House, Winter Lane,

West Hanney, Oxfordshire, OX12 0LF, tel: 01235 867500, email: hanneynews@gmail.com



Library

Thanks to the initiative of a local family, the old telephone box in East Hanney has recently been converted to a library. No room for a librarian, but plenty of books, so help yourself to one or two, return them when you've read them and pick some more. And if you've a couple you'd like to add to the library, feel free.

The box is located very near the junction with the A338 main road in East Hanney.

If you need the services of a large, fully equipped library, there is one in Wantage; it's next to the car park at the rear of Waitrose in Stirlings Road, OX12 7BB. Tel: 01235 762291.

Libraries are run by the County Council, so start here to find details of what's on offer:

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk



Litter Pick

One happens annually in East and West Hanney. Thirty or more volunteers spend a couple of hours collecting rubbish, much of it thrown from passing vehicles, that ends up in the ditches, highways and byways of our villages. The organisers supply picking sticks, waste sacks and hi-viz jackets, and it usually happens on a Saturday morning in March.

Hanney News will publish advance notice of the date, along with contact details if you want to get involved. Any help is always much appreciated.

Medical

Doctors - there are two **GP practices** that cover the Hanneys, both located in the same building - the Health Centre, Mably Way, Wantage.

The Church St Practice website is www.wantagechurchstreet.co.uk, tel 01235 770245

The Newbury St Practice website is www.newburystreetpractice.co.uk, tel: 01235 763451

If you need a doctor after office hours, at weekends or bank holidays please phone 111.

Your needs will be assessed over the phone, advice offered and arrangements made for you to see an 'Out Of Hours' doctor if appropriate.

Hospitals - The nearest major hospital offering an Accident and Emergency service is the John Radcliffe, usually known as the 'JR', which is in Oxford.

The Great Western Hospital in Swindon also offers an A&E service, and there is a 'Minor Injuries Unit' at Abingdon Hospital,

Chemists - The nearest is Bretts in Grove - 01235 763941; Lloyds in the Health Centre, Mably Way - 01235 763028; a Boots in Wantage - 01235 765227; and also a Cleggs - 01235 763046 in Wantage.

Defibrillators - There are currently two defibrillators in Hanney. One is by the main door to the Village Hall in East Hanney, the other is affixed to the outside wall of the brick garage building opposite the Plough pub in West Hanney.



Michaelmas Fayre

That's our name for our annual village fete. It happens on a Saturday in September and is a very jolly affair, raising significant funds for local good causes. There's always plenty to do, competitions to enter, a dog show, a book stall, classic car display, food and drink to be enjoyed, including delightful afternoon teas supplied by our W.I.

A fiercely contested 'East v West' tug-of-war always stirs the passions. The celebrations run into an evening event, known as the 'Feast', and usually held in one of the pubs. The whole occasion is not to be missed!



Milk

There's always plenty in the Community Shop, but if you like yours delivered to your door, then 'Milk & More' is a company you could contact. Their website - www.milkandmore.co.uk - shows the full range of products they offer. You can reach them by phone on 0345 606 3606.

Neighbourhood Watch is active in our community, with most streets having a designated 'Co-ordinator.' To find out who your co-ordinator is, or if you want to get involved, email Ray Woodyear here: rwoodyear@gmail.com

Newspapers can be ordered and collected from the Community Shop - 01235 867408. Please note that the shop does not deliver them. Rowses Newsagents in Wantage do deliver...ring them on 01235 763134.

Petrol Stations

Bellinger's Garage - selling Jet fuels - on the A338 in Grove is probably the nearest, and Sainsbury's in Wantage has a small separate petrol station near their supermarket. The Shell garage at the Frilford crossroads, north of Hanney on the A338, is also close. BP have a garage near Buckland on the A420, and Mellor's of East Challow is a large Esso garage on the A417 between Wantage and Faringdon.

Police

Ring 999 in an emergency or 101 in a non-emergency.

Post Office

Other than the one in our Community Shop which is only open in the mornings - see page 5 for opening hours - the nearest ones are in Wantage, located within Rowses the Newsagents, and the Co-op in Southmoor. One may be opening soon in the Co-op supermarket in Grove.

Public Transport

Buses: Sadly there is no longer a bus service to West Hanney.

Details of services to East Hanney can be found here - <https://bustimes.org/>

Tappins Coaches offer a free bus service to nearby **Milletts Farm** - check out what goes on at Milletts Farm here: <https://millettsfarmcentre.com>.

Their bus departs from outside the Black Horse in East Hanney, every Tues at 9.20am.

It'll bring you back a couple of hours later, when you've spent all your money!

Taxi services: There are many private companies who cover this area. Probably best to start with a Google search.



The Recreation Ground

Usually referred to as 'The Rec', it contains sports pitches, tennis courts, a children's playground, two areas of allotments, the Village Hall and Community Shop, two car parks, a letter box, and a salt bin. There are also litter and dog poo bins, the latter much needed since the Rec is very popular with dog walkers.

The Rec is owned and maintained by both the Parish Councils.



Register to vote

The best way is to do it online. Go to [www.gov.uk/register to vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote).

Or ring the Vale of White Horse District Council on 01235 422528 and ask them to send you a form.

Rubbish

Our wheelie bins are normally collected on a Wednesday, sometimes quite early, so you need to put them out, as near to your front boundary with the road as possible, the night before. Green for recycling, grey/black for rubbish.

The wheelie bins are supplied by the District Council, so if yours gets damaged or lost, ring them or go online to get a replacement. They do not make a charge for this.

Small electrical items can be recycled with the rubbish bin collection.

Old clothing and bedding that's not fit for charity can be placed in a bag on top of the green bin.

For about £40 a year the District Council will supply you with a brown bin - same size as your green bin - for your garden waste, which they empty once a fortnight on the same day, though not at the same time, as your green bin.

You can order one or more brown bins online from the District Council website. (see below.)

For bulky items, there are two local tips, or 'refuse disposal sites' to give them their formal title.

One is at Drayton and the other at Stanford in the Vale. They can get busy at weekends.

When using them, don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it.

This from the Oxfordshire County Council website "*If you need help unloading your vehicle, please alert a member of staff, either verbally or by sounding your vehicle horn.*"

Full details are on their website: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk.

The Vale District Council website also has much useful info on rubbish and recycling, along with details of changes to collection days after bank holidays etc..

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/recycling-rubbish-and-waste.

Schools

Primary - See page 12.

Secondary - Most students go to King Alfred's in Wantage, the 'lead' school in the Vale Academy Trust. It is usually referred to simply as 'KAs'.

Several youngsters travel further afield to schools in Didcot, Abingdon and Faringdon.

There are also **Private schools**, both at primary and senior level, in the area.

Scouts and Guides

See page 20

Speeding

Although we are a relatively small community, we have a constant stream of vehicles passing through, some of whom ignore the speed limits.

A few of our roads are very narrow indeed - Winter Lane in West Hanney is the only road north out of the village, and hence is always busy, yet is only 4.4 metres wide at one point - no pavement! - with a ditch on one side and a stone wall on the other.

The legal limit throughout the villages is 30mph but over half the residents agreed in a recent questionnaire that 20mph would be a much safer limit.

Sadly, speeding surveys have revealed that speeds of 40mph plus are not uncommon.

As a community we are trying to reduce speeding and have active **SpeedWatch** groups in both East and West Hanney. They can be contacted via our Parish Council Clerks, see page 25.



Sports Centre and Swimming Pool

The nearest is the Wantage Leisure Centre. Full details can be found on their website:

www.better.org.uk/leisure-centre/vale-of-white-horse/wantage-leisure-centre,

or by ringing 01235 766201. A wide range of activities are on offer, including a gym, swimming pool, fitness class, crèche, rackets, birthday parties, personal trainers and an over 60s Club.

Street Lights are few and far between here in Hanney. If you've come from an urban, brightly lit environment it may seem a little strange, but you'll soon get used to it. Just remember to take a torch when you go out at night.

Street Map

A map of the Hanneys can be viewed on noticeboards outside the Community Shop and at the eastern end of East Hanney, near the junction with the A338.

You can also view it here: www.diment.org.uk/hanneyguide/ed19.htm

The map is being updated and hopefully will appear on the Hanney website soon.

Note that many properties in the Hanneys have names not numbers.

Supermarkets

You'll find Sainsbury's and Waitrose in Wantage, a Co-op and a Tesco Express in Grove, a Co-op in Southmoor and another Co-op not far away from it in Kingston Bagpuize.

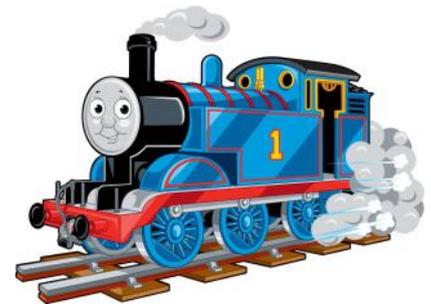
There's a Waitrose and a Tesco's in Abingdon.

Trains, Boats and Planes

There can be few parts of the country as well located as we are for access to major airports and rail and ferry terminals.

Didcot is the closest railway station. Next to it is the **Didcot Railway Museum**, and yes, Thomas himself sometimes makes a guest appearance there.

There's talk of re-opening Grove Station, though I suspect that will be some years off as I write this in 2019. There are two railway stations in Oxford and one in Swindon.



Portsmouth is the nearest ferry terminal, and though Dover/Folkestone is a bit of a trek, the journey is nearly all motorway, so if you can pick the time you travel, it can be relatively quick.

Birmingham, Bristol, Heathrow and Southampton airports are all easy to get to, with Gatwick also fine if you can avoid the rush hour and the motorways are flowing well.

Veterinary Surgeons

There are many in our area, and this list is neither complete, nor a recommendation:

Robert Elliott, Stanford in the Vale, tel: 01367 710595.

Danetree, Grove, tel: 01235 770227.

The Elms, 30 Gloucester Road, Faringdon, tel: 01367 242416.

Abivale, 12A Belmont, Wantage, tel: 01235 770333



The Village Hall, or the 'Hanney War Memorial Hall' to give it its official title, is a busy place and a vital part of our community. It is available for hire at very reasonable rates.

Most of our Clubs and Societies - see pages 16 to 23 - meet there and it's also a great venue for parties, dances, concerts etc.

It has a large stage, a fully equipped kitchen and a bar. There are two car parks outside the hall with designated 'Disabled Parking' places.

The Hall also boasts all the latest high tech audio-visual equipment, with hearing loops etc. Check out the website for more details.

hwmh.thehanneys.uk

It is one of the best equipped halls in the county and great credit is due to the folk who run it.



Volunteering

Hanney is a busy and vibrant community with much going on, nearly all of which relies on volunteers. There exists a very wide range of volunteering opportunities.

Once you've settled in, volunteering is a great way of getting involved in the community and you can be sure of a very warm welcome.

Website

Hanney has its own recently updated website here -

<https://thehanneys.uk/> On it you'll find much useful information.

It's worth making regular visits.

Wildlife

Our area is rich with wildlife, with many species of wild flowers, grasses, trees and shrubs to be found. One hundred and ten birds, twenty four mammals and twenty three species of butterflies have been recorded, apparently!

In the Community Woodland - the area that lies between East and West Hanney on the south side of the road, a variety of flora and fauna can be found, including willow warbler birds and marbled white butterflies. (See page 23.)

A large flock of swifts often screams around St James Church and nearby. Skylarks, song-thrushes, grey partridge and red kites now thrive, and in autumn and winter redwings and fieldfares descend on our area.

Mallards, moorhens and kingfishers can be seen by the Letcombe Brook, which is home most years to a pair of breeding swans.

The Letcombe Brook Project has produced an informative leaflet which is available in the Community Shop.



Welcome to St James CE Primary School.

At St James School we are committed to creating an environment that facilitates learning, where high expectations of teaching and learning are set, good quality resources are provided, parental involvement is encouraged and parents are regularly informed about pupil progress.

Our intention is to provide an education for your child that is both exciting and challenging. We pride ourselves on our caring ethos and high standard of provision. We believe that every child deserves the best education and we aim to provide that within a rich and stimulating curriculum that supports and challenges. We value every child as an individual and celebrate their successes with them. Respect and tolerance for diversity is implicit in



all we do and we aim for our children to become more confident and responsible as they move through the school. We want our children to be spirited individuals who embrace challenge, think creatively, value achievement and strive to be the best they can be.

We aim to provide our children with spiritual and moral guidance rooted in our Christian ethos. Our core Christian values are Respect, Perseverance and Trust and are central to our teaching. We aim to provide an environment that is both stimulating and exciting, with all the resources needed to drive children's imaginations, so that they can become motivated, lifelong learners. Visits are always welcome if you would like to see more.

Janice Peacock – Head Teacher

Friends of St James is the parents association of St James Primary School, and parents can become members as soon as their child joins the school.

We organise various activities throughout the year. In the past, they have included Summer Fêtes, Christmas Bazaars, fashion shows, cake stalls, trips to the pantomime, beetle drives, discos, comedy nights and quizzes. As well as being enjoyable social occasions, many of these have also raised very welcome extra funds for the school.

Hanney Pre-School is a small charity-run group situated in the grounds of St. James Primary School. We believe that education should provide a child with the skills he or she will need to make sense of the world, whatever their age.

At Hanney Pre-School we aim to:

- ◆ Enhance the development and educational needs of the child, working with parents and carers within a community based group
- ◆ Provide a secure and stimulating environment where children have a choice and the opportunity of learning
- ◆ Work within a framework that ensures equality for all children and families



The pre-school is a charity, run by a committee of volunteer parents, in line with guidance and a model constitution from the Pre-School Learning Alliance, of which we are members.

Ofsted says we are 'Good'.

We are also members of Ofsted and compliant with their statutory Early Years Framework, having achieved a rating of 'Good' at our last inspection in 2015.

Hanney Pre-School is for children two to five years of age. Please contact our supervisor Amy, if you would like to arrange an appointment to visit Hanney Pre-School and

meet our team. You can contact the Pre-School during session times on 07759 813301. Our website is here:

<https://hps.thehanneys.uk/>

Places of Worship

The Church of St James the Great is located in West Hanney. It is a very impressive building with a long history, and a beautiful churchyard that is well maintained, some of it by volunteers. Our Church is home to a vibrant and lively community.

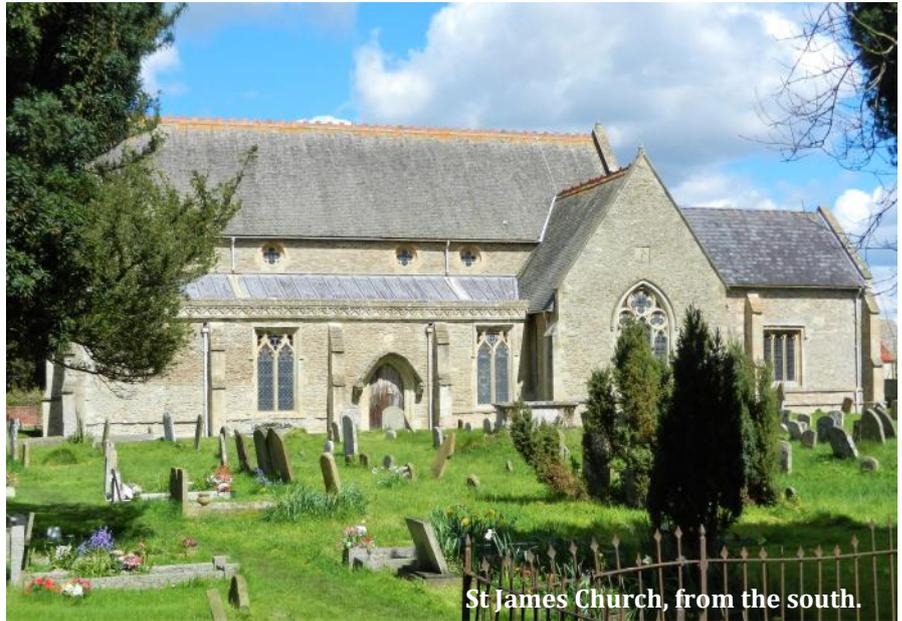
“St James Church, situated on Church Green in West Hanney, serves both our villages and all are invited to share in our services.

It’s also a place to sit in quiet reflection, away from the hustle of daily living.

We hold a Eucharist service every Sunday at 9.30am to which all are welcome – there is a children’s area within the church with plenty of materials to occupy younger members and a worksheet relating to the readings and theme of the service.

Once a month we hold a Family Eucharist with more opportunities for junior participation. On Tuesday mornings at 10 am we hold a Said Eucharist in the Chancel.

Our church hosts the annual Hanney Michaelmas Fayre, the Christmas Holly Fair and many other activities, as well as children-focused events such as our Friday Fun (an after-school activity), summer holiday events and special activities throughout the year. This includes a live nativity at Christmas and on Palm Sunday a procession - hopefully with



St James Church, from the south.

a donkey - through West Hanney. Full details of all these can be found in Hanney News.

The Church is mainly Norman in origin. It’s been here a long time and has seen our community through both tribulation and thanksgiving – in the dark days of wars and conflicts, and times to give thanks for delivery; most recently marking 100 years since the end of WW1 as well as personal celebrations and heartache.”



Church Green, West Hanney

A Baptist Church in East Hanney, known for many years as the 'Hanney Mission', is now called the Hanney Chapel. (See below.) There are Methodist Churches in Wantage and Grove, and Wantage also has a Roman Catholic Church. The nearest Synagogues and Mosques are in Oxford.

Hanney Chapel. Everyone is warmly welcome to our services and meetings at Hanney Chapel, Main St, East Hanney. We are a church made up of people from many different ages and backgrounds, but united by our faith in Jesus Christ. Through the week, we have quite a full programme of events and activities:

On Sundays, we meet at 10:30am and 5:30pm for our main Worship Services.

These include singing, prayer and teaching from the Bible, followed by light refreshments. Newcomers are always welcome. There is a separate Explorers group for children during the morning service.

On Tuesdays, we have Hanney Toddlers for children aged 0-4 and their parents or carers. This includes playtime, singing, a Bible story and craft, and takes place between 9:15-11:00am during term time.

We have a Midweek Meeting at 7:30pm on Wednesdays, either in the chapel or in people's homes.

Jumpstart is a club for children aged 6-10.

It takes place on Thursdays from 6-7:30pm. There is a varied programme including games, crafts, cooking and outdoor activities, as well as a Bible story.

On Fridays, we have two clubs for young people – Friday Club for 10-14 year olds (6:30-8pm), and Friday Club Plus for those aged 14 and above (7:45-9:15pm).



Both include a wide range of activities and some Bible teaching.

On the first Thursday of each month, Lunch & Listen meets from 10:30am, and includes singing, a short message and a free lunch.

On the first Saturday, there is a free Men's Breakfast from 8:30am. We hold a

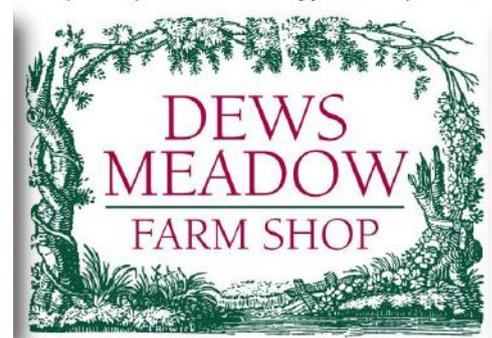
number of other special events through the year, such as a Holiday Bible Club and Harvest Supper. We are an independent Baptist church, holding to the historic truths of the Christian faith, as found in the Bible. More information can be found on our website: hanney-chapel.org.uk

Places to Eat

Dews Meadow Farm Shop is in East Hanney, on the main A338 road. It offers a wide range of fresh farm products, organic milk, cream, butter, hot rolls, baguettes, paninis, sandwiches and much else.

Their website is here: www.dewsmeadowfarm.co.uk or you can ring on 01235 868634.

Dews Meadow has an outdoor garden seating area where folk can relax with a drink and a tasty morsel or two from the shop.



La Fontana is an Italian Restaurant in East Hanney that also offers accommodation.

It is located on the A338 at the junction with the Steventon Road.

It's website - www.la-fontana.co.uk - gives full details of the menus and accommodation. Their phone number is 01235 868287.

The Black Horse is East Hanney's only remaining pub. Not that long ago, there were three.

It hosts many events - live music including open mic nights, discos, parties, quizzes, children's activities etc. It can be hired for private functions. It also offers a full menu. It's Facebook page has all the latest details of upcoming events, or give the landlady Nicola a call on 01235 867179



The Plough in West Hanney is a community owned pub, offering regularly changing cask ales, a restaurant and many events, including live music. Their website is here: www.theploughwesthanney.co.uk and they have a Facebook page. You can reach the landlord Nick by phone on 01235 868987.

Also in West Hanney is **Hanney Spice**, which offers the finest authentic Indian cuisine. It is extremely popular, attracting customers from far and wide. It offers a takeaway service, and it's website is here: www.hanneyspice.co.uk It also has a Facebook page. To book a table or order a takeaway, ring 01235 869007



Clubs and Societies

There are many! Here's a summary....

Aunt Sally is a traditional English game usually played in pub gardens, in which players throw wooden sticks or battens at a model of an old woman's head. (It's actually a small lump of wood and doesn't really resemble anyone's head!). Dating back to the 17th Century, it's played throughout the spring and summer, and both our pubs - see page 15 - have teams. Their approach is informal and they welcome anyone wishing to 'have a go'. The matches are very 'social' occasions. Pop into either of the pubs for more info.

Hanney Badminton Club is one of the oldest organisations in the village dating from the 1970's. Members currently come from the Hanneys, nearby villages, Grove, Wantage and even Faringdon. The Club meets every Thursday in the Village Hall between 8 -10 pm. There is usually a mixture of abilities, and we play doubles matches on an *ad hoc* basis. The main aim is to have an evening of enjoyable exercise. Currently we do not play matches with other clubs. We welcome new members of all ages, especially of the younger variety! If you feel like joining in, or trying us out for an evening or two, do come along or phone 01235 868256. Membership is on a three month basis with fees paid in advance to cover our only costs of hall hire and shuttles. Members can then play on Thursdays as often as they wish. *Michael Hutchings.*

Hanney Bellringers - The Bells of St. James the Great have been heard by Hanney residents for perhaps 12 generations, rung by an enthusiastic band of ringers. The ancient bells, most of which were cast way back in 1702, the same year Anne became Queen, are acknowledged as a 'fine heavy ring of six'. They range in weight from five and a quarter hundred-weight for the treble, the smallest bell, to over eighteen hundredweight for the largest, the tenor. New ringers are always welcome so that these wonderful bells never fall silent. Learning to ring is challenging and rewarding.

It is excellent exercise and also keeps the brain active. People who suffer with back problems find it especially beneficially. There is no upper or lower age restrictions, although children under the age of 11 may find even the lightest bell a little heavy for them. Learning to ring is not quick. It is a challenge and needs a lot of initial practice, but anyone with the necessary dedication will find it a rewarding social pastime.

Once you have mastered the technique it is just like riding a bike; you will always be able to do it,



and you will undoubtedly get immense satisfaction from it.

Why not wander along to the Tower one Wednesday evening between 7:30pm and 9:00pm and just sit and watch for a while? You would be most welcome.

We ring before Sunday and other religious services, for Weddings and even Christenings when requested. We celebrate all the annual festivals and other special occasions, and also ring in each New Year, with the bells half muffled before midnight then 'open' after midnight.

Learning to ring is fun, mentally stimulating and great exercise. We are a friendly mixed bunch so please come along and see us.

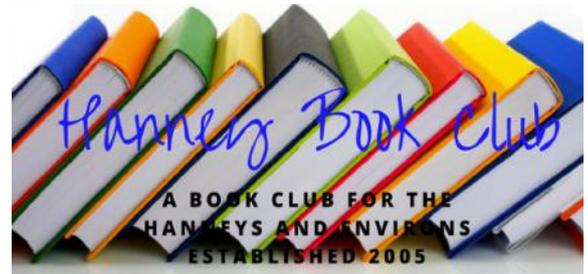
Many of us retire to the Plough after practice to relax and have a chat, and contrary to popular belief, you do not need to be a regular churchgoer to be a ringer.

For more information contact Rosi Rollings, (Tower Captain) on 07710 096734, or Jean Hazard (Secretary) on 01235 868883.

Hanney Book Club, established in May 2005, meets on the first Thursday in the month, at 8:00pm in the Plough, Church Street, West Hanney.

The club's approach to book discussions is very informal and the books are chosen democratically.

If you're interested in joining, then either turn up on the night or visit the website: www.hanneybookclub.co.uk.



Hanney Bowls Club - The Hanney Bowls Club should more accurately be called Hanney Short Mat Bowls Club. To most people the word 'bowls' conjures visions of either ten pin or lawn green bowling. 'Short mat' bowling was originally devised to give lawn green bowlers something to do in the winter when they couldn't play outside.

It is played on a mat 45ft x 6ft, mainly in village halls or lawn green bowls clubhouses.

Google 'short mat bowls' and you can see some short videos of the game being played.

It is now firmly established as an independent sport with its own administrative bodies, competitions etc. It can be played by anyone of any age, with equal chance of becoming proficient, and is gender blind; there is no separate ladies section.

It is particularly suitable for people who have been playing a more energetic sport but are finding that although the spirit is still willing, the flesh is becoming less so.

At least you're still active and not slumped in front of the telly.

Our club was established in 1993, has three mats and meets in the War Memorial Hall every week from 7.30 till 10 pm Wednesday evenings and 2 till 4 pm on Thursday afternoons.

Anybody interested in having a look and having a go, just turn up and you will be most welcome.

The only equipment that you would need initially is a pair of reasonably flat soled shoes such as trainers.

For any enquiries please ring Alan Savage on 01235 764940.

Hanney Cricket Club - For many years Hanney has had a cricket club, running two sides and playing league cricket. Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, support has dwindled and the club is effectively dormant. However, a number of enthusiastic people are attempting to resurrect the club with the intention of starting with a few friendly matches. All ages and abilities are welcome and there is no commitment to attend every match. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact David Johns on 07770 456147 or 01235 868519. or email: djohnski@uwclub.net

Hanney Drama Group - has for many years put on a Pantomime, a big show, a Music Hall or a play in the Village Hall. The performances have proved to be very popular among Hanney residents and many from farther afield.

For a number of years the Group was involved in the Oxfordshire Drama Network's pantomime and children's play competition in which they won several awards.



Look out for notices in the Hanney News for the next production, either to be in the audience or take part! New members are always welcome. Please contact Jean Sutherland on 01235 868396 or via mjsuth34@gmail.com.

For any additional information please contact Lynda Hart (Club Secretary) on 01235 799269 or visit the club Facebook page.



Panto photos by
Keith Diment

Hanney Film Night started back in 2011 and happens on the first Friday of every month, September to May inclusive.

A large screen and excellent sound system offer a near cinema-like experience without the expensive popcorn!

We show a variety of films - modern, classic and quirky might best describe the fare.

It's run by volunteers in the Owen Wright Cinema in the Hanney War Memorial Hall, aka the Village Hall, with all profits going to charity.

Doors and bar open at 7.30 pm, with the film starting at 8 pm, though these times can sometimes change if a longer film is being shown.

No pre-booking is required, just turn up and pay on the door.

For more detail contact Nigel on 07734 051258 or Bob on 07811 452232.

Full details of upcoming films can be found in Hanney News.



Hanney Flood Group - Many Oxfordshire villages were very badly affected by flooding during 2007 and 2008 and remain seasonally vulnerable. The Hanneys Flood Group was established to improve the communities' ability to overcome such events and through regular working parties reduce the risk of recurrences. Since 2009 volunteers have maintained the villages' streams and other culverts and drains; removed trees and other obstructions; made improvements to banks; modified mill weirs; reduced levels of silt; planted appropriate plants to bind river banks and many other activities. HFG is also currently actively engaged with the Letcombe Brook Project and EA River Fly Monitoring (water quality) Project; is removing invasive Himalayan Balsam; coppicing and stream management allowing more light into sections of the bank encouraging plant growth and improving biodiversity.



The group has members from East and West Hanney, and through grants and donations it has the financial support of both East and West Hanney Parish Councils, Hanney News, The Hanney Fund, Hanneyfest, Michaelmas Fayre, other organisations and generous village individuals. We are working very closely with the Environment Agency, Oxfordshire Highways, local landowners, Vale of White Horse District Council Emergency Response Officer and the Vale's Land Drainage Engineer.

If you are you a person who likes being in the water, loves being outdoors, is interested in the local wildlife, wants to meet new people, enjoys working in a fun team, The Hanneys Flood Group could be just what you are looking for! Working parties are always on the third Saturday of the month and are open to everyone. If you would like to know more about us or want to make contact then please read Hanney News regularly or look at our website www.thehanneysfloodgroup.org.uk

Hanney Gardening Club was founded in 1975. The club has a membership of around 60, and is friendly and informal. It meets in the Hanney War Memorial Hall on the first Monday of each month, with tea and coffee from 7:45 pm and a speaker from 8:00 pm. The topics cover all aspects of gardening. More info on the website: www.hanneygardeningclub.org.uk



Hanney History Group was formed over 25 years ago and has just over 50 members. We welcome anyone with a general interest in local history and archaeology who would like to know more about our villages and their neighbours. Our chief activities are:

- ◆ Meetings: we gather on the 4th Tuesday of the month from September to May for a talk-based programme. Topics are mostly focused on the Vale, Berkshire and Oxfordshire areas. Our current subscription is only £12.
- ◆ Visits: during May-August we organise 3-4 visits to such varied sites as Avebury, Mapledurham House, Stonor Park, Clark's Flour Mill and Tudor Steventon. These trips are usually at a lower price than any normal entrance fee.
- ◆ We hold occasional exhibitions such as the successful 'Hanney at War 1914 -18' event.
- ◆ Some members research local topics and publish occasional papers and booklets.
- ◆ We are also contributing to the village character studies in the Neighbourhood Plans, and comment on sensitive planning applications.
- ◆ Meetings are held in the Hanney War Memorial Hall at 8.00 pm. The subject area includes all forms of archaeology, social history, geology, architecture, village and town development, transport and military history. We charge visitors £3 but will refund this if you join within a month.
- ◆ Discovering history is always rewarding and we aim to enjoy our meetings. In this spirit we hold a social evening in December to celebrate the year.
- ◆ We welcome visitors and new members. Please join us at any meeting or visit our website at hanneyhistory.org.uk or call Bill Orson on 01235 868859



Hanney Holy Mowers - are a group of volunteers who help maintain our lovely churchyard at St James in West Hanney. They meet informally and cut and strim the rear graveyard. (The front is done by contractors.) If you are interested in helping - it's usually only one or two hours a month in the Summer only of course - please give Bob Wilson a ring on 01235 868389 or email bobwilson300@hotmail.com

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 and spouses usually join for the evening sessions when prizes are awarded and 'fines' imposed! Contact andrew.fletcher@rer.co.uk for further details.



Hanney Senior Citizens meets every fourth Thursday of the month at 2:30pm in the Village Hall. All villagers over 60 are welcome....just come along on the day. We are a very friendly group and cater for a wide range of interests. Our meetings allow time for chat, usually followed by a speaker for 30-40 minutes and we end with a raffle, tea and more chat! Other events include a summer party, a Christmas lunch and occasional visits. Anyone who wishes to join us but requires a lift should contact Marcia Graham on 01235 867461 We also meet every Tuesday morning at the Village Hall, from 10.00 - 11.30 am. Everyone, of any age, is welcome for tea, coffee, a biscuit - custard creams always available! - a chat and a raffle. For more information, please contact Marcia by phone - see above - or email her: marciag2747@gmail.com



The Hanney Royal British Legion

Due to much demand and to help those Service men and women from the First World War, The Hanney British Legion was founded on 2nd March 1925.

Up until the club was built on its current site in 1966, the meetings were held in village pubs.

We wish to invite and welcome all from within the Villages and the Parishes. The Club thrives and survives with new members, supporting those existing members enjoying an evening pint or a game of pool, the fruit machine or darts.

The Club is not just for current or ex-service men or women, it's open to everyone.

Regular events include a Friday night meat draw, ladies darts on a Tuesday, men's league darts on a Thursday, crib and dominoes, bingo, live music, discos, a free Christmas lunch for senior citizens etc. Free Wi-Fi access allows you to keep online.

A list of all the events can be seen in Hanney News and on the notice board at the front of the Legion. The hall is comfortably furnished and well equipped and can be hired out for private functions at very competitive rates. It has a large car park with designated 'Disabled Parking' bays.

For more details, please contact the steward on 01235 868672

www.hanneyroyalbritishlegion.co.uk



Scouts and Guides



5-7 years



7-10 years



10-14 years

Hanney Guides (girls aged 10 -14) meet on Mondays, during term time in The Hanney War Memorial Hall from 6.30 - 8.00pm. Girls do not have to live in Hanney. Contact Catherine Tysoe 867356 or Sue Clark on 01235 765885.

Hanney Brownies (girls 7- 10) meet on Tuesdays from 6.00 - 7.30pm in The British Legion Hall. Contact Jacquie Donald 07919927832

Rainbows (girls aged 5 - 7) meet in Grove on a Wednesday or Thursday Evening from 6 - 7.00pm. Girls can be Rainbows from 5 - 7.

For further details visit - www.girlguiding.org.uk

BEAVERS

6-8 years

Make friends and try new indoor and outdoor activities

cubs

8-10½ years

Learn practical skills while having adventures with friends

SCOUTS

10½-14 years

Build confidence, resilience and a sense of adventure

Scouts (boys and girls aged 10½-14) Currently we do not have a Scout Section in Hanney but will consider opening one as and when the demand is there.

Cubs (boys and girls aged 8-10½) Currently meeting on Tuesday evenings alongside the Beavers, but will be having their own section meetings in the near future.

Hanney Beavers (boys and girls aged 6-8) meet on Tuesdays 6:15 - 7:15 pm at St. James School, Hanney Causeway.

For more details please contact: janet@thegreensonline.me.uk or visit the Scouting website:

<https://scouts.org.uk>

Come Sing with Us!

St James Singers
a cappella ensemble



If you like the look of "Epitaph" you're our sort of singer!



Already enjoy choral singing? Discover the wonderful experience of a small consort where every voice counts – the closest thing to solo!

Contact: David Gahan
01235 868 933

Play Tennis instead of the Gym

At

Hanneytennis



New members welcome (Adults and Juniors)

Turn up 'n' play sessions - come along and meet the members

- Club sessions: Tuesday 7-9pm, Sunday 10-12noon
- or book a court and play any time
- Individual or group coaching available
- Excellent junior programme / family involvement
- Cardio-tennis: Wednesday 9-10am (non-members welcome)
- League tennis and annual tournament
- Internet court bookings
- Floodlights for year-round tennis
- Low cost membership: only £65 adult, £22 junior, £140 family



Go to: hanneytennisclub.org.uk

Hanney Wheelers Cycling

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month at 9.30 am prompt (10am after the clocks have gone back for the winter) at the Hanney Village Hall.

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 - (HWC) started many years ago when home-made wines were all the rage and people gathered once a month in the Olde Hanney Room of the Village Hall to taste and deliberate over each other's elderberry, blackcurrant, nettle and other flavours of wines.

Well, have things moved on! We still meet once a month in the same venue but that's about the only thing that has stayed the same. Instead of trying wines made from produce gathered in local hedgerows we taste wines from around the world, exploring the common and the unusual with a variety of speakers from local wine merchants, supermarkets and the HWC membership. Topics can be unusual such as 'War and Wine' or 'Flowers, Chocolates and Wines of South Africa' or explore one particular region such as the Bordeaux, the Languedoc or the Jura or cover wines from one country such as Brazil, Spain or Australia.



During a typical meeting we taste eight wines accompanied by a small quantity of nibbles which match the wines. Talks are informal and always very informative with time to ask questions and learn about various wine making processes, local grape growing conditions, harvesting etc. The

tastings provide members with a great opportunity to try wines they might not normally try and challenge their taste buds, often with a discount available for anyone wanting to place an order on the night.

Not surprisingly, the HWC is very popular but has to limit member numbers to 50 due to the venue's insurance. We operate a waiting list to fill places left by members unable

to attend so happily our meetings are usually at or close to full. If you are interested in the HWC please visit our web site

www.hanneynwinecircle.org.uk for more information and contact details.



Welcome to Hanney WI - A Modern Voice For Women

The WI is the largest Voluntary Women's organisation in the UK providing women with educational opportunities and the chance to build new skills, to take part in a wide variety of activities and expand their horizons, but the most important aspect of the WI is the fun and friendship members gain from belonging.

The WI has an unrivalled reputation as a voice of reason on issues that matter to women and their communities. Through its close community ties and wide-ranging activities, the WI plays a unique role in enabling women to turn their interests into achievements. We are a non-party political and non-sectarian organisation.

We meet on the second Thursday of the month (except in Aug) from 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm in the Olde Hanney Room, in the Village Hall.



New members are welcome. At our meetings the business is usually dealt with first and is kept as short as possible. It covers relevant news and future events. We then all sit back and relax while we listen to an interesting and informative speaker, finishing the evening with tea/coffee - sometimes wine - and an opportunity to chat.

Membership gives you 11 meetings a year. For further details please

contact Jean Geary at jeangeary@hotmail.co.uk or 07799 766566.



Woodland and Meadow Volunteer Group

The Hanney Community Woodland and Meadow are there for the benefit of both villages.

The Woodland was planted in the early 1990s by Nigel Eady of Church Farm as part of the Set-Aside scheme, a Government-funded scheme to take land out of cereal production. After Mr Eady died in 2012 his executors gifted the woodland to West Hanney Parish Council for the use of the people of East and West Hanney. In 2017, the Parish Council was given ownership of the adjoining meadow as a condition of planning permission on neighbouring land.

In addition to the trees and shrubs, there is now a wide variety of wildlife in the woodland. Many kinds of birds are present throughout the year, for example woodpeckers and bullfinches. In winter, abundant migratory redwings and fieldfares feed on the berries and in spring migrating warblers return. Deer and foxes can sometimes be seen. Wild flowers include cowslips and teasels together with four species of

orchid, all common but nonetheless spectacular when in flower.

As well as walkers, often with their dogs, several community groups use the woodland, the Guides, Nordic walkers and St James School which has a dedicated area for 'Forest School' activities.

The woodland and meadow are there for the residents of both villages for quiet recreation, including dog walking. All we ask is that you clean up after your dog please. Come and enjoy. To find the Woodland and Meadow either follow the path through the church yard or follow Cow Lane, the green lane opposite the school.

Working parties are held during the autumn and winter to carry out maintenance and to improve the area for wildlife.

If you would like to join in please email the Chairman of the Management Committee: Paul Sayers pkayers@btinternet.com

Your Pace Not Mine is a running group that meets in and around Hanney two to three times a week. We welcome everybody to come and join us; the sessions are either intervals with a mix of walking and running or steady runs with loop backs so no one is ever left behind. We are a very friendly non-competitive group that just enjoy the benefits that running with friends brings. Email me, Carey Hope, to find out more: carey.hope@gmail.com or go to <https://groups.runtogether.co.uk/yourpacenotmine>.



Hanney Youth Football Club was established in 2006 as a friendly village team to give children a place to learn football in a safe and fun environment.

The focus is on having fun (not just about winning, although this is nice) whilst making new friends, keeping fit and learning new skills. We have teams from age 5 up. Teams train during the week and play matches at the weekend on the fields by the Village Hall. 'Rising Stars' train on Saturdays at 9am.

All club officials are DBS checked and coaches fully FA qualified.

New players are welcome, see our website for more details:

www.hanneyyouthfc.co.uk or our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/hyfcfooty or call Paul on 07510 435 508

Local Government

Decisions by our representatives in the various levels of government affect all our lives to a greater or lesser degree.

The most familiar is our **UK Government**, the lot who sit up in the Houses of Parliament.

We are represented there by our Member of Parliament who sits in the House of Commons.

Our parliamentary constituency is called 'Wantage', though is sometimes referred to as 'Wantage and Didcot', the latter being the biggest town in the constituency.

With a total electorate of approx 85,000, it is strongly Conservative, with about twice as many people voting Tory in the 2017 election as voted Labour, who in turn attracted twice as many votes as the Lib Dems.

Our current MP - has been since 2005 - is Ed Vaizey, who was, from 2010 to 2016, a Minister of State in David Cameron's government. He is generally considered a 'middle of the road' Tory and voted Remain in the 2016 EU referendum. Ed was a barrister before becoming a politician and he lives near Wantage with his young family.

To get in touch with him you can write to him at the House of Commons, email or phone.

His contact details are Ed Vaizey MP -The House of Commons, SW1A 0AA, tel 020 7219 6350, or email dicksonce@parliament.uk. He has a website - www.vaizey.com.

The next tier of government is at 'County' level and unsurprisingly, we are part of **Oxfordshire County Council**. This body, often abbreviated to OCC, is responsible for many aspects of our local life, including Highways, Healthcare, Schools, Council tax, Libraries etc.

There are currently - as at March 2019 - 63 Councillors of which 30 are Conservative, 14 are Labour, and 13 are Lib Dems. The remaining 6 are Independents. Each of them is responsible for an area of the County.

Our Councillor, a Conservative, is Mrs Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor who lives in Hatford, near Faringdon. Her email is: anda.fitzgerald@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

You can get current details on our councillors here:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/about-your-council/oxfordshire-councillors/your-councillor>



Next, there are the **District Councils**. There are four in Oxfordshire - West Oxfordshire, South Oxfordshire, Cherwell and the Vale of White Horse. That last one is ours... a bit of a mouthful, so it's usually shortened to simply 'The Vale'.

It too holds sway over many aspects of local life, not least planning. If you want to build 2,000 new homes or just put a bedroom above your garage, you will need to consult with the Vale planners, and if you go ahead without their permission, they will be very cross indeed!

Our representative on the District Council is Matt Barber who lives in West Hanney with his family.

Matt represents both Hanneys at District level and for some years was the Leader of the District Council. He recently resigned as leader to devote more time to his other role as Deputy Chief Crime Commissioner for Oxfordshire.

A District Councillor is also a political position, and Matt is a Conservative, as is the District Council itself, with currently 29 of its total of its 38 councillors being Tory. The remainder are Lib Dems.

You can contact Matt via his email: councillor@matthewbarber.co.uk.

He also has a website: www.matthewbarber.co.uk. Details of your current District Councillors here: <http://democratic.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx?bcr=1>

Finally we get to the most local tier of government, the **Parish Councils**.

East Hanney and West Hanney are two separate Parishes, so we have two Parish Councils, often abbreviated to 'PCs', each with some Councillors - one of whom is elected by the others to be the Chair - and a Clerk.

West Hanney has five Councillors and East Hanney currently has eight; both figures include the Chair. Our PCs charge a 'precept', a modest sum that is added to our Council tax bills each year to generate income to allow them to carry out their duties. Parish Councils are responsible for - amongst many other things - allotments, footpaths, litter and the recreation ground.

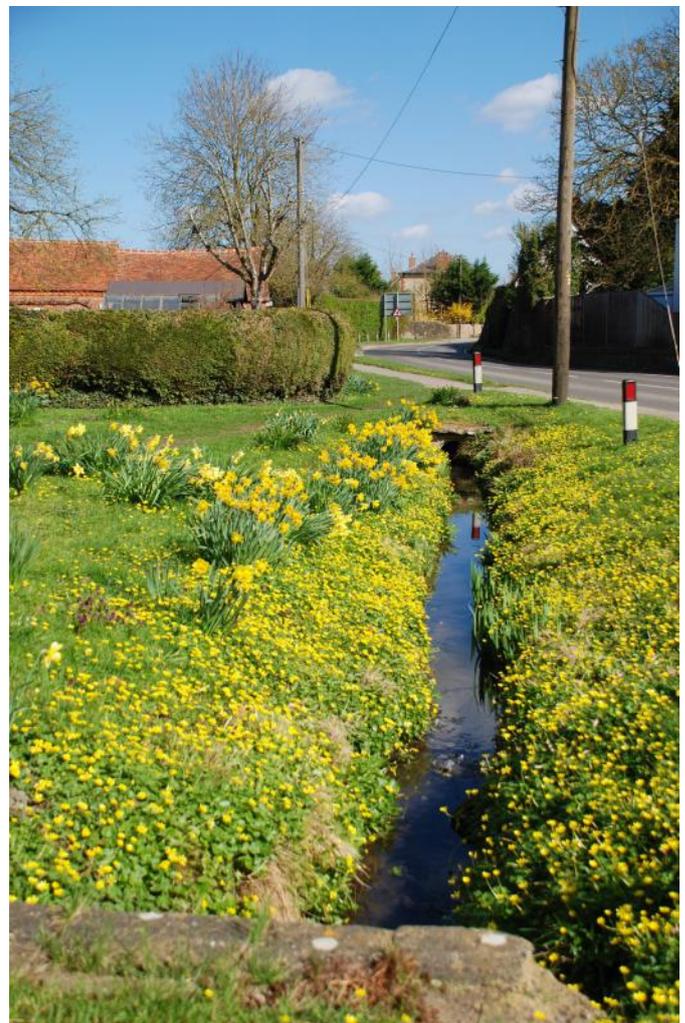
They also consult with the District and County Councils on 'Highways' matters, including traffic calming, tree planting, verge maintenance, and planning.

The PCs hold regular public meetings at which all are welcome. You do not have to live in the Parish to attend.

Hanney News carries details of when and where the meetings are held, as well as containing an update from the PCs on what they've been doing. It also lists who the current Councillors are and how you can contact them individually.

East Hanney Parish Council can be contacted via their Clerk, Guy Langton on 01235 867403 or email: Clerk@easthanneyparishcouncil.org.uk Their website is here: www.easthanneyparishcouncil.org.uk and their Facebook page is here: www.facebook.com/groups/436816943170450/

West Hanney Parish Council can be contacted via their Clerk, Barbara Martin on 01235 868806, or via email: barbiemartin60@gmail.com. Their website is here: www.westhanneypc.org.uk



A Brief History of the Hanneys

People have been living in and around Hanney for at least 5,000 years. Recent archaeology has added greatly to our knowledge of early occupation in the area with Neolithic pottery, and Bronze Age and Iron age settlements.

During the Roman occupation there was a lot of activity with a small settlement to the south of Summertown in East Hanney and a Roman road, possibly on the route of the A338, from Wantage to the religious site at Frilford and beyond.

Two major metal detector rallies in 2009 and 2010 on fields to the south and west of the villages found a small number of Bronze Age items, rather more from the Iron Age and a wealth from the Roman period. However, the most important find was of a 7th century Anglo-Saxon gold and garnet brooch which has become known as the Hanney Brooch and is the logo for Hanney News.



The earliest written records of the area are from Saxon royal charters. One dated 968 A.D describes the gift of land to Abingdon Abbey by King Edgar. The boundaries within it almost entirely correspond to the present parish boundaries of East Hanney. Although no similar charter exists for West Hanney, the Church of St. James the Great is thought to be of Saxon origins and to have been an early minster church, from which priests were sent out to other settlements. The Domesday Survey of 1086, by which time the villages were part of Berkshire, records that the land was held by Norman overlords and by Abingdon Abbey and also by the priest, Tuold. The Norman owners went on to give the land to the religious communities they were endowing. The various manors therefore were mainly managed from afar with regular manor courts being held to review or endorse landholdings. Day to day village life was organised by the small

yeoman farmers who held the land.

West Hanney was always the 'senior partner', the township of East Hanney and the tithings of North Denchworth and Philberds being part of that ecclesiastical parish.

The villages have always had a good deal of fertile arable land with much prized meadowlands along the Letcombe and Childrey Brooks. The names of some of these meadows – Broad Dole, Butterwell, Pen End and Lossall are redolent of cattle knee deep in buttercups in a rural idyll; however, this often belies the harsh reality of rural life.

A Government Commission in the 1880s heard from a ploughboy whose day began at 5 am.

In all weathers he would often have to walk his horses to the far end of the parish to begin his long working day, which could not have changed much over the centuries. As agricultural fortunes plunged in the late nineteenth century, farmers turned to producing fruit, which could be sent to London and other cities on the newly created Great Western Railway from nearby Grove Road Station, now the Volunteer pub on the A338.

Walking around the villages you will still see a few of the remaining orchards and some of the walnut trees, also a feature of the area.

The villages themselves follow the better-drained higher land, the "ey" in Hanney indicating the origin of the present settlements as islands in the Vale. There must have been successions of houses built on the old farmhouse sites. Initially, easily available materials were used – timber, thatch and wattle and daub made from mud and animal hair, but as life became more prosperous and building techniques advanced, stone was used to make more solid foundations and brick and tile from local producers were introduced.



Church St, West Hanney, looking east.

The coming of the Wilts and North Berks Canal in 1810 brought more mass-produced bricks and slates to the area, so gradually many differing buildings grew into the picture we see today. Wandering around Hanney it is easy to identify some of their old farms with modern 'infilling' of their orchards and yards and conversion of their farm buildings.

At present both of the villages are growing in size but this has not always been the case. At the end of both Snuggs Lane and Ebbs Lane in East Hanney there is evidence of medieval shrinkage. The villages appear to have been badly affected by the Black Death in the 1340s and in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries many of the 'picturesque' cottages were lost as villagers moved to the towns in search of work, and landlords failed to maintain the buildings. Until relatively recently, the villages were fully self-sufficient, sustaining many tradesmen, craftsmen, several shops, bakers and pubs. The last baker and the shops in both East and West Hanney closed in 1988.

Water has always played an important part in the community economy. In walking around the villages, it is worth noticing the causeways which keep you out of the wet. Until very recently East and West Hanney used to be regularly cut off from each other in wet weather.

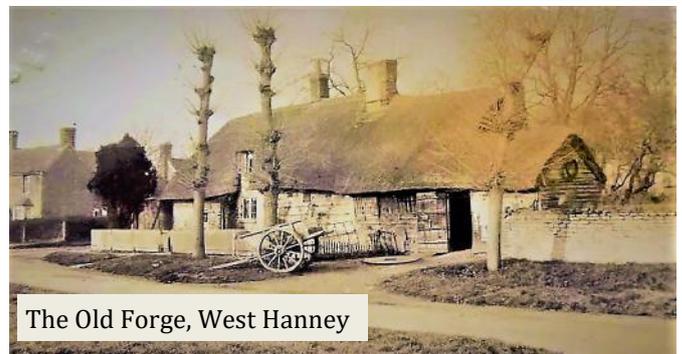
The Letcombe Brook has been the site of several mills, the two remaining being Dandridge's Mill and West's Mill (Lower Mill) further downstream. The present Dandridge's Mill was built as a silk mill in 1820 and church records show the death of an 8-year-old child in its machinery in the 1830s. West's Mill was badly burnt out by a fire in 1906.



Hale Cottage, East Hanney - then...



...and now.

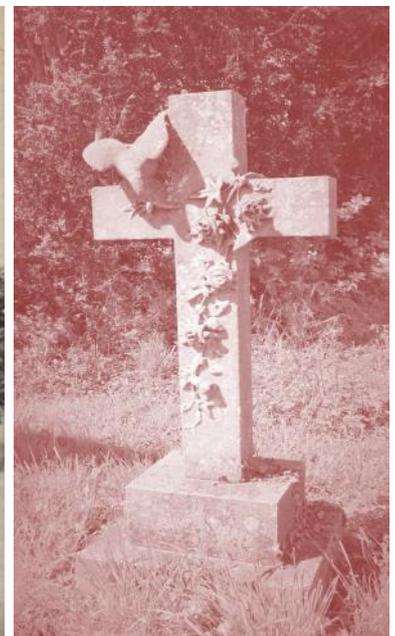


The Old Forge, West Hanney



Dandridge's Mill,
East Hanney

MILL & HOUSE, EAST HANNEY, NR. WANTAGE.



St James the Great Church is a very impressive building with a magnificent Norman inner doorway and a lovely font with delicately incised carving. The brasses in front of the altar are especially fine, showing clearly some of the grander folk who used to live in the area. The plaque on the wall at the back of the church commemorates Elizabeth Bowles who - allegedly - died at the age of 124. On her marriage, her husband brought her home to Hanney in a cart drawn by a team of twelve snow-white oxen. Outside the church the graveyard rises up on either side showing the centuries of burials of unknown Hanney residents.

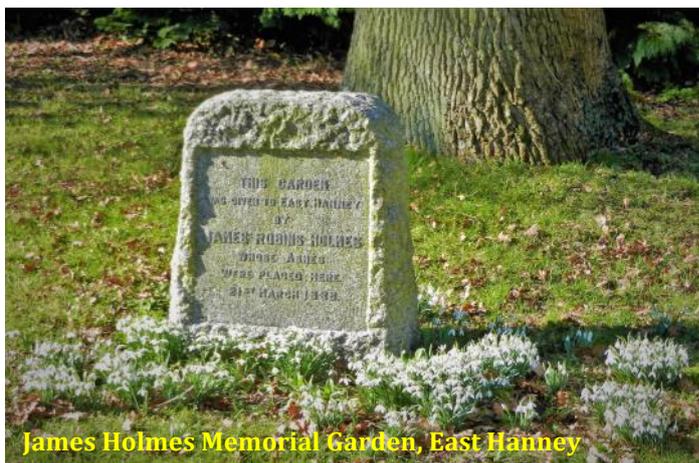


St James Church

To the west of the graveyard is Prior's Court, a fine Jacobean farmhouse which belonged for six centuries to New College, Oxford where our village records can still be found. Across the road behind the high brick wall is the elegant William and Mary façade of West Hanney House, formerly Rectory Farm and once belonging to the Diocese of Salisbury. Across the causeway to the east is the old Vicarage with its Georgian brick frontage and tucked away behind it is Church Farm, now a private house with new, barn style, houses in the farmyard. On the east of the churchyard is the Old Post Office, now called the Dower House, a very fine close-timbered medieval building. On the northern edge of the village green in West Hanney, is the site of the old blacksmith's forge

which was burnt out in another fire, and is now the site of a modern house.

East Hanney also has its share of handsome buildings including The Mulberries, one-time home of James Robins Holmes, and Philberds Manor, previously known as Day's House, tucked away by the brook in a timeless setting. The former church of St James the Less was designed by the well-known Victorian architect, G.E Street and was closed for services in 1976. It is now a private house.



James Holmes Memorial Garden, East Hanney

Mr Holmes recognised the attractiveness of old cottages. Before his death in 1937 he had acquired many of them, keeping them in good order and letting them out at low rents. The result is that they are still with us today. Other cottages which were overcrowded, unhealthy and damp with no modern amenities were pulled down and ultimately replaced in the 20th century by council houses or modern developments. James Holmes believed that residents responded to pleasant surroundings, so he made sure that there were agreeable walks along the Letcombe Brook and planted trees and flowers. He introduced a village bathing place on the brook, just for men and boys. Even the residents of West Hanney were allowed to come! East and West Hanney had traditionally been rivals. Fortunately, today joint enterprises supported by both parishes such as the village school and the village hall bring them together and we all share a wide range of clubs and societies, work jointly on maintaining the Letcombe Brook and the Community Woodland and enjoy our annual Michaelmas Fayre. If you would like more information on the history of the Hanneys contact the Hanney History Group - see page 19. *Paul Sayers and Ann Fewins*

[\(Our back cover shows maps of the Hanneys in Victorian times.\)](#)



Thomas Kitchen's map of the area in 1760

