

Hanney News

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 or serving our distribution area - the Hanneys, Lyford, Denchworth and Charney Bassett - ring me, Jim the Editor, anytime, on 01235 867500 to

> discuss advertising with us. Prices start at just £30 for 12 issues.

Can you help?

Our school...page 8

Our Scouts...page 9

Our MP...page 13 (non political stuff!)

Our Speedwatch teams...page 14 Vale Community Impact... page 17



As in previous years, East Hanney Parish Council will be recycling Christmas trees, so if you've got one to dispose of, leave it here, on the grass verge near the Village Hall.

An open letter

Dear Mr or Mrs Sovereign Housing,

Here's a snap of one of your vehicles parked on our shiny new yellow lines about 50 metres from the Village Hall car park, which was half empty at the time. Now, I don't want to 'dob' anyone in it, so I'm not telling you when or exactly where this happened, and I've blanked the number plate of the naughty van, but there are two problems here ...first off, your driver is breaking

the law! No, not the most dastardly, wicked and heinous of crimes I'll admit, but it's still against the law.

Secondly, and perhaps more relevant, you're setting a bad example...there are many folk who don't much care for these lines and have voiced their intention to



ignore them, believing that PC Plod will never bother to come to our sleepy little community and issue parking tickets. Seeing you folk parked on them in your very recognizable vans will only reinforce their view that the lines can be ignored. I'd be grateful if you'd have a word in the right lugholes! Yours sincerely The Editor, Hanney News

PS. PC Plod may not be visiting anytime soon, but other folk

certainly will and, crucially, they are also authorised to issue parking tickets along with our boys and girls in blue! What is more, I understand that they receive a commission for every ticket tucked under our windscreen wiperssomething of an incentive methinks!

Editorial

Well, here we are, another year gone and a new one to welcome, so let me start by wishing a very happy New Year to one and all.

As I write of course it's still a couple of weeks to Christmas Day, such are the demands and delays of the printed word. Now's a good time methinks to thank again our distributors who get a copy of Hanney News through your door each month, rain or shine...or snow? I'm sure they'd much rather be at home, finishing off any remaining mince pies.

We've a new advertiser this month, offering space for you to park your motorhome or caravan...his ad on page 22.

Talking of motorhomes and the like, I'm thinking of buying Luciano Pavarotti's old camper van, it's a Nissan Dormer! Another new advertiser on page 17, Lockhart's the plasterers, and can I recommend Mossinator if you need some work on your roof? See their ad on page 24. Main man Jake is helpful, knowledgeable and very efficient. Worth giving them a call. Excitement is already building as our Drama Group prepare for their annual Panto...full details next month, but meantime, check out page 18.

We've now got our yellow lines and Speedwatch teams here in the Hanneys. West's team has already been out a couple of times. Not everyone's in agreement with the measures of course, but they are designed to increase public safety, particularly with regard to our school. More on this on page 14. Contact details for our County and District Councillors on page 13, and I include an explanation from Sally Povolotsky our District Councillor, on why she's guit the Lib Dems and now stands as an independent. She recently posted the short piece on the East Hanney Parish Council Facebook page, so I don't think it's a secret. More on floods and our Flood Group on page 4, including a snap I took a few years back of Winter Lane under water. Now, I heard that Winter Lane was so named cos it provided the only access into Hanney during Winter, back many years ago. Some pics and a few words on the fab Holly Fair on page 15. In it I reveal which football team Santa supports...as if you care! Warning!...more bad jokes dotted about this issue...stuff like "I went to a pretty wild RNLI Christmas party last night. Boy, do they know how to push the boat out!" I was promised a piece from Thames Water for this issue, but I've heard nothing. Likewise nowt from East Hanney Parish Council, but plenty of good stuff from our School, pages 7 and 8, and a great piece from our Scouts on page 9. Finally to end on a very sad note...I have published a letter - see page 7 - that I've just received, and though the writer has identified themselves to me, they have asked to remain anonymous. When you read the letter - and please do read it!! - you will understand why. Even in a wonderful community like ours this sort of thing can happen, but I certainly can't recall ever hearing of anything quite like it, in 23 years of living here and nearly 9 of editing Hanney News. Let's be thankful it's such a rare occurrence. Moving on, till next month my friends...

We here at Hanney News Global International welcome articles or letters. Please submit items to the Editor, preferably by email, or use the Hanney News post box in the Community Shop. Contact me, the Editor, Jim Stagg, on 01235 867500, or by email: hanneynews@gmail.com

What's happening this month...

Tues 2nd, 7.30pm, Village Hall, West Hanney Parish Council Meeting

Fri 5th, 8pm, Village Hall, Hanney Film Night - 'A Haunting in Venice' starring Kenneth Branagh as detective extraordinaire 'Hercule Poirot'. Doors and bar open 7.30, film start 8pm. £8, £7Cons. See page 4.

Weds 10th 7.30pm, Village Hall, East Hanney Parish Council Meeting

Sat 13th, Local band 'Montmorency' play a gig in the 'Burton-Taylor Studio' in Oxford. Tickets are £12.50 (£10 concessions) and are on sale now. See page 16 which includes a QR code to get tickets.

Mon 22nd, 2024, Hanney History Group - 'Mary de Bohun of Hinton Waldrist and her Royal Family' - a talk by Paul Whitton.

This month's Hanney Community Woodland Working Party has been postponed to Sat 3rd Feb., see below.

And further ahead ...

Fri 2nd Feb: Hanney Film Night - 'The Great Escaper' The much-anticipated heartwarming true story of a man's single-minded determination. Starring on screen for what appears to be the last time, the legend Michael Caine and the late and much missed Glenda Jackson. Doors and bar open 7.30, start 8pm. £8 (£7 (Cons)

Sat 3rd Feb, Hanney Community Woodland Working Party, see page 30 for contact details.

Thurs 8th, Fri 9th and Sat 10th Feb - The Hanney Drama Group proudly present their latest PANTO! Details page 18.

Sat 24th Feb, Hanney Community Woodland Working Party, see page 30.

Mon 26th Feb, 2024, Hanney History Group - 'More than three men in a boat - trends in Thames travel' a talk by Simon Wenham.

Sat 23rd March (to avoid Easter Saturday) Hanney Community Woodland Working Party, see page 30.

Mon 25th March, Hanney History Group - 'Holmes of Hanney and Birth Control, 'The most useful man in England' - David and Kath Gahan

Mon 22nd April, Hanney History Group - 1066: Oxfordshire and the Norman Conquest, a talk by Julie Ann Godson

Sat 27th April, Hanney Cancer Research sale, details nearer the time.

Sat 18th May 2024 - Hanney WI Spring Craft Fair Lots of quality stalls with beautiful handmade items. And of course WI Teas!

Events being discussed for Wantage in 2024.... A 'St Georges Day Artisan Market' in April, the '**Ray Collins Charitable Trust Carnival'** in June, an '**enlarged Food Festival'** in July (I think they mean the festival is enlarged, not the food!), two '**French Markets'** in July and August, an '**expanded AlfredFest'** in October, a large '**Christmas Market'** and '**Dickensian Evening'** in early December, and three possible **Fairs**, still to be confirmed.

Hanney Film Night this month is showing "A Haunting in Venice" a Hercule Poirot adventure. Sounds fun...see page 3. Meantime, Sir Nigel of Kilbey - head hombre of 'Film Night' - has asked me to pass on these words....

"Thank you all for the fantastic support again during the year. Whilst hopefully having fun



and seeing the occasional car chase film nights provide a very welcome injection of funds for the Hanney War Memorial Hall which is a registered charity. Thank you again! Please note that prices will sadly have to rise for the first time in many years to £8 (£7 (Cons) from January 2024."

In my humble, Hanney Film night is another of the jewels in our community crown ...please support it when you can.

I've gone big on our Flood Group this month -

see page 5 - and in case you're wondering why we still get floods here in Hanney, let me assure you that they would be much worse were it not for the continued efforts of the Group over many years. The photo on the right is of Winter Lane a few years back, looking north, with the wooden gates to Global HQ



visible on the left. Of course it wasn't the HQ of anything back then, just our family home, but note the water level!

The ditch that runs the length of Winter Lane on the western side had overflowed and the water crept uncomfortably close to our front door. We were lucky...it never got there. Many Hanney residents were not so fortunate. I think this was in about 2007, before the creation of the Flood Group, and that ditch has never overflowed since.

The BBC News website recently

reported that a new app has been designed to help residents report blocked sewers, flooding and pollution in the Thames Water (TW) area. Once reported, TW said its engineers would investigate an issue and fix it. I rather hoped they did that anyway, but they claim that this app will "Make it as quick and easy as possible for people to report something."

Councillor Lidia Arciszewska, a member of West Oxfordshire District Council, said: "This app brings us one step closer to resolving the ongoing challenges faced by residents." She sounds like an optimistic lady...let's hope she's right!

Our magnificent Hanney Flood

Group, (HFG) - via their head hombre Sir Clive of Manvell always sends me a report of their activities, and invariably it's an impressive list of tasks they have undertaken. Their last one



the roadside gullies were cleared of leaves and in some cases the gratings were removed and large amounts of silt and mud were dug out, some even needing established roots to be cut before digging out. These were particularly

was particularly detailed....read on and prepare to be very impressed! 'Two teams undertook to reduce the volume of road surface water very evident in both villages and to improve drainage systems where possible. It is understood that there are no county budgets for drainage work and road sweeping is funded by the Parish Councils. In West Hanney the team cleared all the culverts and ditches that serve the western area of Church Street mainly outside Aldworths, The Barn and Jubilee Cottage, removing some 40 barrowloads of leaves and other detritus. Overhanging branches and brambles also trimmed back from the nearby western ditch and a number of road gullies (drains) were cleared out here and along Church Street. Gullies in The Meads were also cleared of silt. leaves and other debris.

The hard work of David S, Richard C, Keith R, Lamorna Z, Phil M, Jason K and Owen M was rewarded with the very gratefully received ginger cake baked by Helen S. The **East Hanney** team started by reestablishing the badly neglected roadside grips in both verges of the road leading to Summertown, from the A338. A very disappointing amount of litter was found and removed from this area. It appears that fast food containers and many beverage cans and bottles are discarded from passing cars. Moving on from Summertown along Main Street as far as the main road again

bad in the area east of St James View. Unfortunately, energy and time ran out before being able to carry on around The Green, Morlands, Halls and Ebbs Lanes and into Ashfields Lane. This team were also rewarded with ginger cake baked by Helen S, sandwiches from Mick and a much needed coffee from Meryl and Keith, whose house was miraculously near-by. A significant effort from Ian G, Dickon G, Mick M, Tim G, Peter M, Duncan M, Adrian B, Keith C, Meryl C and Clive M. Additional thanks too to Ian and Dickon for providing and maneuvering cones and road signs to keep the team safe whilst working." Wow! As per usual, I sent a thank-you email to Clive in which I described the HFG as 'fab and groovy'. He responded without delay, assuring me that, and I quote.... "We are well beyond being fab and groovy!!" I asked him to supply the apposite - good word Mr Editor! - phrase that he would rather I use, and he equally quickly responded thus.....

"Skilled and hard working are the words you seek." he assured me.

So friends, if you are 'skilled and hardworking' and you may be interested in getting involved in the great work of our Flood Group, do contact Sir Clive - details are on page 30.

And if you're merely 'fab and groovy', you can always tell a little fib and assure him that you're also skilled and hard-working!

East Hanney Parish Council

Our next Parish Council meeting is at 7.30pm on Weds 10th Jan at the Village Hall. All are welcome.

East Hanney Parish Councillors - Chair: 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: <u>clerk@easthanneyparishcouncil.org.uk</u> Website: <u>www.easthanneyparishcouncil.org.uk</u>



Dear Editor,

One of the great aspects of living in the Hanneys is the support and consideration shown in any adversity.

It was therefore especially shocking that someone saw fit to graffiti my car and leave an A4 sign attached to the windscreen when my car had broken down and could not be moved, despite leaving my hazard warning lights on. The chosen word was of four letters included in Scunthorpe.

The driver from the vehicle recovery organisation was possibly even more shocked than I was, especially when he saw how badly this added to my distress.

(Hanney resident - name withheld)



Following the recent demo - see page 17 of last month's (Dec) issue - I've received this from GARD... *"There was*



good support for the anti-reservoir demonstration, organised by District Councillor Sally Povolotsky outside the Thames Water (TW) 'drop-in' event on the Reservoir. Inside the Village Hall, it was the usual 'brochure stuff' from TW...no proper details of the design, or about the 10-plus years of disruption, but lots of pictures of butterflies and birds in unspecified locations. GARD remains absolutely convinced that there will be major damage to biodiversity by the reservoir project."

Meantime, a very wise and learned lady has penned a piece about the reservoir for the Henley Standard. Her name is Laura Reinecke and she is 'Communications and Events Manager for the CPRE (Campaign for the Protection of Rural England), Oxfordshire. If you have a few minutes, it's worth a read. Access it via the website: www.henleystandard.co.uk

West Hanney Parish Council

Renewable Connections Development have submitted planning application P23/ V2673/FUL to construct, operate and decommission a solar farm on land owned by Manor Farm in the west of our Parish. The project is to be known as Manor Solar Farm. The solar panels will have the potential to generate 30 megawatts of renewable energy and the solar farm has an operational life of 40 years.

Full details of the application can be seen on the VWHDC planning website and the consultation period closes of the 20th January 2024. In summary, Manor Solar Farm will cover an area of approx. 150 acres of agricultural land that straddle the historic route from West Hanney to Denchworth which is a restricted byway. The Denchworth Conservation Area lies approx. 200m to the west of the nearest solar panels.

The construction phase is expected to take approx. 6 months with construction traffic being routed from the A417 Faringdon Road, through Goosey and accessing the site using the private road off Townsend, West Hanney crossing Childrey Brook and passing Highfield Barn.

WHPC will consider this planning application at our **next meeting on Tuesday** 2nd January (not 9th Jan as previously announced) at 7.30pm in the Olde Hanney Room, Hanney War Memorial Hall

Councillors: Chair: David Corps - 867454. Graham Garner - 868684. Peter Packham - 868038. Vicki Ruston, Ahmed Farrag - 07388 816079. Barbara Martin (Clerk) - 412742 Email: parishclerkwesthanneypc@gmail.com Website: www.westhanneypc.org.uk

These are difficult times and here in Hanney we have a charity, 'The Hanney Parochial Trust' that may be able to help. It is an amalgamation of several local Charities, and I am the Chairman of the board of eight Trustees. If you know anyone who is in genuine financial need, please ask them to contact me directly, in strictest confidence.

We are now also working closely with 'Vale Community Impact' (VCI) (previously the Wantage Advice Centre) so feel free to approach them first if you'd

Our magnificent 2024 Calendar, containing thirteen lovely local wildlife photos by East Hanney's seriously talented photographer Barry Wheat, is still available, but if you want one, don't dawdle....there's not many left. Available from me - contact details at foot of page 2 - or from the Community Shop.

rather. Their website is here: **www.vci.org.uk**, **tel: 01235 765348.** They have a wide variety of ways to assist folk through difficult times. (I published an article about VCI in the June 2023 issue of Hanney News.)

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



Successes for St James CE School

I wanted to update the villages on some brilliant successes being celebrated at our school:

In October, the School had its SIAMS inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools). I'm enormously proud of the whole school community, particular pupils and staff, that the Inspectors' report was hugely positive about the School, the education provided and our Christian foundations. It concluded that "St James Church of England Primary is clearly a place where all are cherished to enable them to flourish."

Since I joined St James' as Head in September 2022, we've worked hard to develop and embed an ambitious new vision for the School. This is "to enable all children to flourish to be the best they can be, for the good of all". I'm delighted that the SIAMS Inspectors specifically highlighted the hard work that all my team have put into this, noting that "it is clear there is a shared determination to ensure the vision has an impact on pupils' abilities and character" and that "the vision underpins the decision making of leaders. This inspires and supports all pupils, enabling them to feel cherished and successful." The full report can be read on the School's website.



We are also celebrating the successes of last year's Year 6 pupils who achieved amazing SATS results at the end of their time with us. They did particularly well in

reading, with 88% achieving the expected standard (the national average was 73%). They also achieved combined scores for reading, writing and maths which were well above the national average figures. We are particularly proud of this cohort because of their experiences of the pandemic and the significant progress which they had made since their key stage 1 results. The small size of the cohort also meant that every mark for every child had a big impact on the overall percentages achieved, making their achievements all the more impressive!

St James' is a warm and thriving community and I'm so proud that these results emphasise the hard work being done by my team and our pupils.

Lucy Ottaway

Headteacher St. James CE Primary School



St James

Enrichment at St James CE Primary School

Are you a Sewer or a Knitter? Love Am-dram? Sporty? Play Chess? Could you spare some time to share your passion with the children of

St James school? 'Enrichment' is a very important part of what we offer for the children of St James. To gain the best possible provision we are hoping that there may be members of the Hanney community who might be able to give some time and offer a skill they could share with the children.

This could happen at lunchtime or as an after school club, ideally for a 6 week block. If this is something you may be interested in, please contact the school by email: office@stjamesce.vale-academy.org Phone: 01235 868232

Hanney Scouts AGM Highlights Achievements

The Hanney Scout Group AGM was held at the Royal British Legion in November, bringing together leaders, volunteers and parents to reflect on the Group's achievements over the past year. The Group has achieved so much this year, we would like to share it with you. Highlights from the



Scout Section include developing cooking skills on gas stoves and directly over fire; building confidence using axes, saws and knives; exploring global issues such as the Turkey-Syrian earthquake; focusing on teamwork and strategy through Nerf wars and water fights and practicing swimming and lifesaving skills. Several Scouts took part in the District Patrol Camp which bought together over 100 Scouts from across the Kind Alfred's District. The Cub Section has been canoeing, climbing, cooking, practicing shooting skills (with arrows and bullets!), conducting science experiments and visiting a local fire station. The summer camp aas a huge success with great activities including 3G swings, pedal cars, den building, archery and songs around the camp fire! The Beaver Section has conducted science experiments, learnt about level crossings, visited a Wind Farm, walked to the Grove chip shop and made stained glass poppies to name but a few!

Alongside reflections of a very busy year, awards were handed out to both Leaders and young people to recognise significant achievements.

Kirsten Christensen was awarded the Chief

Scout's Commendation for good service which recognises Kirsten's contribution to the Scouting Community, Ben Crees was awarded wood beads to recognise his significant achievement in leadership and direct service to young people, and Gemma Seale was invested as a Leader!

Each year the Scout Leaders choose a young person from the section

who they feel has not only excelled in their Section but also gone above and beyond. This year the Beaver of the Year Award went to Alfie Reed, the Cub of the Year Award went to Isabel Glavsher and the Scout of the Year Award went to Dylan Atkins. Congratulations also went to all the young people who received their Chief Scout Awards during the year. Helping and being part of the local community is a key element of the Scouting philosophy. There were reflections on the local community events that the Group has been involved in over the year, including The Big Help, Hanney in the Park, the Michaelmas Fair and the Remembrance Parade. None of this would be possible without the hard work and dedication of the Leader teams who do an amazing job of providing and delivering weekly programmes, without whom it would not be possible to run Scouting in Hanney, so we would like to say a massive thank you to all of them, as well as all the members of the Board of Trustees and all the other volunteers who help the Group!

If you would like to know more about the Hanney Scout Group, please contact Steve Houseman

stevehouseman@kascouts.org.uk

If you advertise in these pages,

may I start by thanking you! Without your financial contribution to pay for your space, there would be no Hanney News. We receive very modest sums from our two Parish Councils and St James Church, for their space each month. Their combined total contributions per annum covers less than one month's printing costs. I am quite happy with this as there are very much crucial parts of our community and they are clearly not commercial organisations. This means that we do rely on our commercial advertisers, and always have done since our very early days back in the 1970s...Dec 1975 was the first issue! We try to offer a fair deal to them, and our last price rise was over two years ago. Sadly, but not unsurprisingly, our costs mainly the printing of the 1,300 copies our distributors deliver each month have steadily risen.

Our printers are a local company called

Have you had a chance to try the new restaurant that's recently opened in Wantage? It's an interesting place called 'Karma'. There's no menu, you just get what you deserve.

A new dinosaur has been discovered that could change shape. Archeologists think it's from the Plasticine period. Artisan in Kingston Bagpuss. They are very competitive and, I hope you agree, the quality of their work is excellent, but of course, their charges have gone up broadly in line with inflation, so we now need to pass on that increase to our advertisers. We are increasing our charges by roughly 10%, and, having recently done some research on what other parish newsletters charge, I firmly believe that we are still competitive and offer real value for money. May I finish by asking that you use our advertisers whenever you can. Thank you.

Where Hanney leads, others follow ...eventually!

I note that Wantage Town Council are about to install, or may already have just installed, SIDs - Speed indicator Devices - in four locations around the town. Below is one of ours in action, the photo having been taken some years back.



I'm trying to lose some weight just by wearing some bread on my head. It's a new loaf hat diet I'm trying.

Good news.... Oxfordshire County Council are reopening some



of the bus routes they recently closed down. **Bad news....**West Hanney ain't on the list! We here in the West remain without bus, omnibus, Charabanc, horse and cart...you get the point I'm sure! Hanney Lottery December Winners 1st - Ann Green 2nd - Liz Peck 3rd - Eric Woodhouse December Bonus Draw Ann Stubbington Not got a number yet or want additional numbers? Just call Hilary on 868590.

Thank you to

all

everyone who came along and supported our annual Bazaar in aid of Cancer Research in November.

With your help we raised £1480.

We couldn't continue without our

If you have any presents after Christmas

that you find you no longer want and

would like to donate to our Charity we would be very grateful, just contact us.

supporters and family and friends who are

always there to help, so a big thank you to



CANCER RESEARCH UK Our next event at the Village Hall is on **April 27th 2024**, so do come along. We look forward to seeing you there.

Many thanks again.

We would also like to send a great big thank you to all the Knitters who work so hard all year, and the people who donate wool and unwanted gifts and their time to help us. We are so grateful for their help and support through the years. Thank you all

Hanney Fundraisers for Cancer Research

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

We hold a quiz night and live acoustic music sessions every month.

Visit our website here: https://theploughathanney.co.uk



THE PLOUGH

AT HANNEY

Or phone: 01235 868987

Church St., West Hanney OX12 0LN



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Dear Friends

As 2024 dawns we begin a new chapter in the life of this parish. Our Vicar John Durant has retired after 10 years with us and we are waiting for a search to begin for the new person who will come and work with us in the Hanneys and the grouping of 4 parishes that we belong to ('The Vale Benefice'). So we are in an inbetween space of waiting and wondering! A time of transition.

I have been reading a newish book by Katherine May called 'Wintering' – a Christmas present from last year. It's about 'the power of rest and retreat in difficult times' and suggests that we live through a thousand winters in our lives - some big, some small.

The big winter the writer describes is when she hits the buffers of trying to manage a full-time job, while her husband is ill and they are bringing up their young son. She hands in her notice to the university where she teaches English and settles into being at home with Bert who doesn't like school much. As she withdraws from an over-busy life, she feels like she has begun a personal winter of the soul, a spiritual time of reflection and re-grouping. She thinks of hedgehogs slowing down to hibernate. She talks about being stuck on the sofa with time to kill. She reflects on dark nights when a hot water bottle and an early night beckon her upstairs.

In busy modern Britain we don't know how to do things like this. Having a full and active life is a good thing isn't it? When we have to stop and withdraw, there must be something wrong with us? We feel guilty and ashamed about not coping like we should. But as the book reminds us, our natural world needs its seasons. There would be no spring without the winter. Life needs to be renewed by dying to its old beauties and being replenished for new flowerings.

Sometimes we realise that we are avoiding the big questions in our lives by bashing on with what we do. And then life happens, we hit a road block and have to stop. Instead of being the active worker, we become the person who needs to be looked after by others.

Some find this unwanted gift becomes a gateway to a new chapter in life, a new way of being ourselves, a time of rebirth. A saying of Jesus often comes to my mind: 'Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies it bears much fruit.'

There is a paradox about coming to the end of ourselves: it gives us the chance to begin a whole new way to be who we're really meant to be.

Canon Geoff Maughan

Retired minister and Hanney resident

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

SERVICES in January 2024 at St James

7 th - Revd Alec Gill, 14th - Revd Alec Gill, 21st Revd Charles Draper, 28th - Revd Alec Gill. Eucharist is celebrated at 9.30am each Sunday. Midweek Said Eucharist – every Tuesday at 10am in the Chancel.

The Cosier Homes Advice

Service (CHAS) gives free and impartial advice on how to save money on energy bills to anyone in south central England. It is part of the national award-

winning Centre for Sustainable Energy charity.



If you'd like information or help from

CHAS Energy Advisors, please give them a call on 0800 038 6345, or email them: **cosierhomes@cse.org.uk** No concern is too big or too small, and it's okay if you're not sure what you're asking for. Our advisors are trained to seek out all possible support that will help you keep warm and healthy at home.

Our MP David Johnston has recently launched a 'Local Roads Survey'.

I quote... "to give you the opportunity to tell me exactly where you are seeing issues on our roads that need to be resolved – including potholes, congestion, speeding and other safety concerns."

You can complete his survey online here: www.david-johnston.org.uk/RoadsSurvey

Our political chums...

David Johnston is our MP. Contact him here: House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, or phone: 0207 219 3000. His website is here: www.david-johnston.org.uk, and his email: david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk.

Juliette Ash is our County Councillor...her contact details: c/o County Hall, New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND. Email: juliette.ash@oxfordshire.gov.uk. www.julietteash.co.uk. **but** following last month's piece about her lack of response to any attempts I and others have made to contact her, I'm afraid the news is still disappointing, i.e., no news at all, nothing, not a sausage!

Sally Povolotsky is our District Councillor, and you can reach her by email... Sally.Povolotsky@whitehorsedc.gov.uk.

In case you missed it, **Sally has now formally quit the Lib Dems and stands as an independent.** Here's what she recently posted on the East Hanney Parish Council Facebook page.... 'For those who don't know - I've gone Independent - why? - because I'm done with petty politics and people matter more to me than a party whip or filter. We need strong local voices and we face potential of SESRO (the Reservoir) on the doorstep, a 15+ year project that no one can prove we actually need. I will continue to be a strong local voice of challenge for you all."

West Hanney Parish Councillor

Ahmed Farrag is the main man for the Community Speedwatch team in West Hanney - East Hanney Parish Councillor Dickon Green is head hombre in East - and Ahmed asked me to publish the following....*"We have successfully implemented yellow lines and activated the Hanneys Community Speed Watch (CSW) teams. Over the past few weeks, the West Hanney CSW team has been actively patrolling the area to enhance safety.*

While it's true that not everyone may agree with these new safety measures, it's crucial to bear in mind that these initiatives are specifically crafted to elevate public safety, particularly around the school premises.

The school, operating at full capacity with 200 children, accommodates a significant portion from outside the Hanneys. Consequently, there's a substantial influx of parents every morning and afternoon. Acknowledging the fast pace of contemporary life, it's understandable that some drivers seek time-saving routines. It's apparent that some parents opt to park outside the school for drop-offs instead of utilizing the newly extended car park near the village hall.

However, it's essential to emphasize that the safety of children is compromised when they need to climb out of cars parked immediately outside the school. Some parents expressed dissatisfaction with the introduction of the yellow lines and CSW initiatives.

Despite potential disagreements, it's important to clarify that the school actively supported additional safety measures to protect children and other road users during drop-off and pickup times.

The CSW initiative is not just a local effort; it is a nationwide government initiative



designed to enhance the safety of all road users, encompassing both pedestrians and drivers. This reinforces the effectiveness of our collaborative efforts in ensuring a safer environment for everyone in the community."

Many thanks Ahmed. My snap - taken before the yellow lines were finished shows the CSW team on duty and I'm pleased to report that during the period I was wielding my box brownie, no motorists troubled the team by exceeding the limit! That said, I gather that some folk did decide that Ahmed and his communityminded volunteers were the right people have a shout at regarding the yellow lines, even though it was an Oxford County Council Highways decision to introduce them, and nothing at all to do with the Speedwatch team!

Regarding St James School, I recently spoke to Headteacher Lucy Ottoway.

She assured me that the school is very much in support of the measures, primarily because, if adhered to, they will significantly improve safety for our community's kids. She added that St James School has ben actively involved in their introduction. If you're still not convinced, then, rather than shout at a few good folk trying to serve their community,, write to me here at Hanney News - contact details on page 2 explaining why we don't need these extra safety measures and I will print your letter. You'll reach a wider audience...I hope! **Here's a few snaps** from another great Hanney Community event, the **Holly Fair** held at Philberds Manor in East Hanney. A fantastic location and a beautifully organised ocassion with a huge variety of lovely Christmas gifts on sale at bargain prices. The great and the good were there in numbers, and a visit from Father

Christmas himself only added to the excitement.

That said, with me, all he did was talk about the current misfortunes of mv football team...the not so mighty Spurs...with an inappropriate amount of glee and relish! Oddly enough, he's not a supporter of Lapland United, but rather a small local team named Liverpool FC! Enough football talk Mr Editor I hear you cry, and joking apart, this really was a very special occasion, extremely well

attended and massive congrats must go to the organisers, who all worked very hard indeed to maker it happen. I'm sure there'll be another next year, and my advice is do not miss it!

This from organiser Hilary Cakebread Hall...

"For once we were glad the weather forecast was wrong – instead of the torrential rain promised, the morning was dry and sunny!

And that encouraged lots of visitors who enjoyed the range of products available with lots of purchasing.

St James Primary hosted a terrific array of activities for children and much fun was had. As ever we are very grateful that this event can be held in this beautifully restored Barn and warmly thank the Hodgson family for their hospitality." If you've read any back copies of this little rag, you'll know we have some talented folk who walk amongst us! And here's a gent, standing on the right in the snap, who certainly fits the

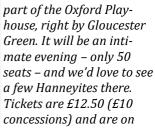
bill...Steve Kendall of East Hanney. Steve and his Mrs, Philippa, moved into the Old Bakery on Main St - not to be confused with the Bakery on the corner of Ebbs Lane over 20 years ago. Since then he's been repairing and making guitars in his workshop, for everyone from the rich and famous to humble beginners.

Indeed, when I reached the giddy heights of being a gigging musician myself, Steve sorted my bass guitar as I recall, though he was unable to improve the quality of my playing! A tall order.

Steve himself has been gigging in a band called 'Montmorency' for some 2 years or so, and they have a gig coming up which sounds most interesting.

It is on **Saturday 13th January** in the 'Burton-Taylor Studio' in Oxford. Here's what Steve told me about it...

"This venue was established with funds from Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor and is



sale now." Steve added that his band play a folky-rocky mix of songs, some traditional and some more recent. If you fancy coming along, there's a QR code below - the first time I've ever put one in Hanney News I think - to allow you to get tickets. I know of two other gigging bands in Hanney - the Faith Healers and the Back 4 and hope to include details of their up and coming gigs in the future.

If you know any more bands based in our circulation area, please ask them to contact me.



In the above article I mention that Steve Kendall lives in what was the old Bakery. This photo, taken in 1930, is outside his property when it was still a functioning bakery. The bread was delivered throughout the village, and in the pic, bottom middle, you can just make out the handles of a couple of baskets, maybe fixed to the handlebars of a bicycle? The owner of the bakery was Mr Lay, the gent far right. The lady far left is almost certainly called Rose,



probably Fletcher. One of the gents in the middle was 'Blowy Carr'...strange nickname!

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Please contact George on 01235 868785, mob:07949 338867 or Bruce on 07468 068380. Email:lockhartgeorge659 @gmail.com On the subject of live music, the Wantage Silver Band, regular and always very welcome visitors to us here in Hanney for Michaelmas Fayre, 11th November Memorial events and such like, have got a new website here:



www.wantageband.org. Worth a visit.

Vale Community Impact do great things in our community and they're seeking new volunteers for various roles including advisors, 'good neighbours' and drivers.

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Rehearsals are now in full swing for the 2024 Pantomime. Hanney Drama Group are setting sail for a swashbuckling adventure on the high seas, as the motley pirate crew head for the Caribbean to rescue Robinson Crusoe from a desert island and hopefully find the buried treasure. It's an action-packed family show with fabulous songs & dances & the group are so excited about being back on stage – we hope you are too!

Hanney Drama Group PANTO Robinson Crusoe pirates and the caribbean Queen

By Cheryl Barrett

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A recent post on our jolly old Community

Facebook page caught my eye "Very sorry that this is the last day of our super postie, Nick, in East Hanney. Always cheerful,

courteous and willing with the heaviest of our parcels when he couldn't get his van through roadworks. Best of luck in your retirement Nick".

Others followed...."I totally agree, such a lovely chapWishing him a long, happy, healthy and fulfilling retirement from us all.....Agreed! Nick has done a great job for us and certainly deserves a very happy retirement..... Wishing you all the best, Nick." Being a resident of West Hanney, I don't believe I ever had the pleasure of meeting Nick, but he sounds like a thoroughly good

egg and I'm sure he will be sorely missed. I should add that we too here in West Hanney are lucky...our postie is the lovely Laura - a super smile and a friendly wave as she strides up to the front entrance at Global HQ, when she sees me peering out of the window of my very grand Editorial office suite!







Hanney History snippets.

Every month in 2023 I devoted a page to the corresponding month's picture in our Historical Calendar.

Our 2024 calendar- you'll know if you got a copy! - features mainly little, local furry and feathered creatures with the odd scaley character thrown in!

David Attenborough I'm most certainly not, so I won't be including info on the featured creature of the month....you'll have to go on the wibbly wobbly web if you want to learn about them.

Meantime, feedback I get suggests that many folk enjoy reading about the history of our community, so I intend to feature odd little snippets about our local history when space allows.

Your feedback on whether this kind of stuff floats your canoe would be appreciated. In the November 2023 issue I printed three lovely old pics of Headings/Eddins pond in West Hanney and told of how the farmer's plough horses would end their day standing in it, being washed down after a hard day's work. Apols, but I got the name of the farmer wrong. It wasn't Wally Smart but rather Harry Dormer. George Fletcher, an employee of Harry's, was in charge of the horses. The three farmhands who would have washed the horses were Harry Tollit, Butty Adams -suspect that wasn't his real first name? - and Alf Booker, known as 'Stump' cos he was only a little fella. Stump used to cook jacket potatoes in the fire in the Plough. West Hanney and hand them out to the customers. He has a nephew still living in West Hanney.

Remember the 'Ashfield Lane' - as it was or 'Ashfields Lane' - as it now is? Well, it probably should be just singular, since there was an Ashfield family that lived in and around Ashfield Lane in the nineteenth century. There were several generations who were all Master Blacksmiths. Apparently the lane was previously called Poffley Lane. And it does lead to Poughley Farm, at the end of Ebbs Lane, which in turn is at the end of Ashfields Lane.



To finish this month I'm delighted to print this lovely photo, lent to me by Mavis Herman. It's of her grandfather George Cox standing by his lorry outside 'Sunnybank', the beautiful thatched cottage on Main St in East Hanney that's still there, tho' nowadays hiding behind some trees. George's wife can just be seen in the background by the gate. The lorry is a Peerless TC4, an American made truck, manufactured in Cleveland Ohio in approx. 1915 and would have been brought to the UK and converted for use on the battlefields of WW1. At the end of the war, many of these vehicles were brought back to the UK, to a Disposal Site in Slough, where Peerless had a workshop reconditioning the lorries before selling them. The registration number of George's - BL8428 - was issued by Berkshire County Council in 1927. (Remember Hanney was in the county of Berkshire until we moved to Oxfordshire in 1974.) For the technically minded, it was a four tonner with a 40bhp engine, giving a top speed of between 12 and 16mph. so no chance of troubling our Community Speedwatch team if you happen to have one! And if you want one, well Bonhams Auctioneers sold one back in 2014 for £42,500!

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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 <u>pksayers@btinternet.com</u> or 01235 868146

HANNEY CRICKET CLUB Occasional Sunday friendly games. For details ring David Johns on 07770 456147 or 01235 868519, or email <u>hanneycricketteam@gmail.com</u>

DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB meets every Wednesday in the Olde Hanney Room 2-5pm. New members welcome. Contact Lyn Morton <u>lynmorton89@gmail.com</u>

HANNEY FLOOD GROUP hold a monthly working party. Contact Clive Manvell for details - clivemanvell664@gmail.com, or 01235 868216. <u>www.thehanneysfloodgroup.org.uk/</u>

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. <u>www.hanneygardeningclub.org.uk</u>

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 <u>http://hanneyhistory.org.uk/</u>

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 <u>andrew.fletcher@rer.co.uk</u> for further details.

HANNEY SCOUTS, CUBS & BEAVERS, Contact Steve Houseman stevehouseman@kascouts.org.uk

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

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

HANNEY TENNIS CLUB is a very friendly village tennis club and always welcomes new members. For more info email Jenny at <u>membership.htc@gmail.com</u>

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 warmly welcomed for recreational local cycling with essential coffee stop!! Call Adrian on 868340 or email <u>adrianbodimeade@hotmail.com</u>

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.

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

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

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: 10am - 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 a dozen or so. Call Geoff (868440) or Nick (768249), www.wantagemalevoicechoir.org.uk.

WANTAGE U3A: Visit our website detailing current activities - www.u3asites.org.uk/wantage

PILATES CLASSES: Wednesday mornings, 8.30am - 9.20am, followed by another from 9.30am - 10.30am, and an evening class from 6 -7pm (term time only) at the HWMH, aka Village Hall, in East Hanney. Novices and Improvers welcome. To book your place or for more details please contact Pippa Carey (STOTT Pilates teacher) on 07941 260427 or pippa@thrive-nutrition.co.uk

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

YOGA CLASSES -Uplifting yoga flow classes at East Hanney War Memorial Hall every Wednesday 7.30-8.30pm. Improve strength, flexibility and balance whilst releasing mental and physical tension. Breathwork, slow flows and optional challenges, always ending in deep relaxation to leave you feeling rejuvenated. Beginners are more than welcome! Any questions please email: <u>Helen@yogatransforms.co.uk</u> Please book your place through the payment page on my website: <u>www.yogatransforms.co.uk/payment</u>

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 <u>info@workoutwonderful.com</u>

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 <u>info@workoutwonderful.com</u>

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

Hanney



A Guide for Newcomers (and maybe a few 'Old' comers too?)

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

Visit the website: https//thehanneys.uk



Hanney News... Be sure to read it, cover to cover, without fail, every month. It contains so much useful stuff it's quite scary. Hanney Community Shop Mon to Sat 9am to 5pm

Post Office hours: Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri 9am to 1pm Tues 9am to 12 noon

Tel: Shop - 867408 Post Office - 868320

Where are our Defibrillators? In East Hanney, it's on the left wall of the open porch in the Village Hall. In West Hanney it's on the wall of the brick garage opposite the Plough in Church St. Both are accessible 24/7 Hopefully we'll have a third one soon!

Hanney War Memorial Hall To book the Hall, the Committee Room, or the Olde Hanney Room, contact Graham Garner on 01235 868684, email hwmh.hanney@gmail.com

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





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