



# Hanneys News

Number 579 March 2024

## ***“HELP! East Hanney Survey! PLEASE! -***

*East Hanney Parish Council has given the go ahead to a house-to-house ‘update’ survey to be conducted in March/April this year of up to 200 homes in the village.*

*The aim is to take stock since the last survey of 2021/2 of what residents love about the village, but also what they don’t like, and why; and finally ask what would improve things for them.*

*We will want to hear views about flooding/traffic/future developments, along with what you especially value or appreciate; indeed, anything on your minds”*

*...this from Tim Glass continues on page 8, along with more flood-related stuff.*



***Spring is sprung!***

### **And talking of Spring, ‘Hanney’s Spring Clean Litter Pick’**

happens on Saturday 23rd March, starting at 10am. Biffa supply all the kit...litter pickers, hi-viz jackets, etc. Last year’s volunteers did a fantastic job, and if you can help

this year, please register on the East Hanney Parish Council Facebook page or ring the organiser Paul Aram direct on 07510 435 508.

### **One man and his dog....**

Mr JR Holmes is that man, and you can hear his fascinating story on **Mon 25th March, at the Village Hall, when the Hanney History Group presents - ‘Holmes of Hanney and Birth Control: The Most Useful Man in England’**, a talk by Hanney residents David and Katherine Gahan. I don’t know a lot about this gent, but he was a very cool dude, and that is one serious beard! I also don’t know the dog’s name. What d’ya reckon?



## Editorial

March...Spring and all that good stuff! Looking forward muchly! Meantime, I've also been looking backwards into the Hanney News archive, see pages 16 and 19. I'm honoured to be the proud keeper of the archive - including all the inserts - handed to me by Keith Diment, who, with his wife Jenny, started it all off with the first issue back in Dec 1975.

(Remember 1975?... Mrs Thatcher was our PM, and for all you rock fans, Led Zeppelin played some live gigs in London. Hordes of hairy, spotty and callow youths attended. I was one!)

I digress....the archive is complete, all 578 issues, save for one month, Feb 1995, so please check down the back of your sofa and if perchance you find a copy stuck there, may I ask you to consider donating it, in order to complete the official collection.

I also have many other duplicates of back copies that I'm very happy to loan or donate if you have a collection.

Last month I asked for feedback on Hanney News itself wot I produce each month, and I've received many nice comments and emails in response, for which my sincere thanks, they really do mean a lot. Many thanks also to East Hanney Mum Rachel Shepherd for sending this lovely pic of little Xanthe giving her rather unusual take on 'Feedback'!



We welcome a new advertiser this month, Vince Rowe, who can take care of your garden for you... his ad is on page 21.

I strongly urge you to read GARD's pearls, to be found on page 10.

I hope you like the springtime snap on the front cover. I took it on the West Hanney village green and I intend to enter it into a 'Daffodil Photograph of the Year' competition, if I can find one!

In order to get the shot I had to prostrate myself on the ground, and as I did so, a lady, passing in her car at the time, stopped to ask if I was alright. As she explained, she was worried that I might have fallen over. It was a lovely gesture from a lovely lady, and when I win the 'Daff Snap of the Year' award, I will dedicate it to her in my acceptance speech, tho' sadly I don't know her name.

Unsurprisingly the floods still take plenty of space, but there's much good news too...the re-opening of Dews Meadow Farm shop, see page 5, a fun event at the school

on page 4, along with much stuff to do this month.

Great news regarding a 'talking bench' on page 15, a few awful jokes, a story of a dad and daughter raising funds for a very worthy local cause on page 18, along with all the usual stuff. OK, it's off to the printers with this little baby...I'll then turn my attention to the 'month of fools' which follows.

Till then take care!

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

Please submit items to the Editor, preferably by email, or use the Hanney News post box in the Community Shop. Contact me, the Editor, Jim Stagg, on 01235 867500, my mob: 07762 239681, or email: [hanneynews@gmail.com](mailto:hanneynews@gmail.com)

## What's happening this month...

**Fri 1st - Hanney Film Night** - 'One Life' with Sir Anthony Hopkins and the true story of Nicholas Winton. Village hall, doors and bar open 7.30, start 8pm. £8 (£7 Cons) **Card payment only.**

**Mon 4th - 7.30 for 8pm in the Village Hall, Hanney Gardening Club** - Geoff Hodge, garden writer and broadcaster- a talk: 'Pest and Disease Control in the Garden'.

**Fri 15th Flexicare charity fundraiser - 'Night in the Museum' classical concert.** University of Oxford Museum of Natural History... see page 6.

**Sat 16th, 2 - 4pm - St James School Easter Trail...**see poster on page 4.

**Sat 23<sup>rd</sup>** (to avoid Easter Saturday) **Hanney Community Woodland Working Party**, see page 30.

**Mon 25th, 8pm, Hanney History Group** - 'Holmes of Hanney and Birth Control. A talk by David and Katherine Gahan....see front cover.

**Thurs 28th, 2.30pm, Senior Citizens, Village Hall** - AGM and a talk about 'Scams' and how to avoid them.

## And further ahead ...

**Sat 6th April - 'Riding for the Disabled' host a Charity Race Night**, from 6pm. page 10

**Sat, 20 Apr 2024, 5pm. Harmony InSpires' Spring Concert** at St Michael and All Angels' Church Abingdon, 26 Park Rd, Abingdon OX14 1DS. Proceeds from refreshments to Harmony InSpires and St Michael's will receive proceeds from the sale of the tickets. More details to follow next month.

**Mon 22nd April, 8pm, Hanney History Group** - 1066: Oxfordshire and the Norman Conquest, a talk by Julie Ann Godson

**Thurs 25th April 2.30pm Village Hall, Senior Citizens**, an illustrated talk 'Machu Pichu' by Gloria Camino

**Sat 27th April, Hanney Cancer Research sale**, details page 5.

**Sun 5th May - Hanney Gardening Club BIG PLANT SALE.**

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

**Saturday 18th May 2024 from 2-4 p.m. - 'Rummage Sale' with Afternoon Tea in aid of Cancer Research will be held in Southmoor Village Hall, OX13 5BY.** If anyone has unwanted Xmas gifts or is Spring Cleaning and would like to donate items for this very worthy cause they would be very much appreciated. Our storage space is very limited and we cannot accept furniture or electrical items. For further information or collection please telephone Yvonne on 01235 868276 or Hazel on 01865 820817. Alternatively items can be delivered to the hall from 12 noon on the day.

**Sat 18th May, Abingdon Air and Country Show:** [www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk](http://www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk)

**Sun 19th May - Sun 2nd June, Funfair on the Rec. here in Hanney.**

**Mon 20th May, 8pm, Hanney History Group**, 'A Z-A of Oxford - More eccentric aspects of the city's past'. A talk by Richard. O. Smith.

**Some good news...the Vale of White Horse** has been declared the third best authority in the country for domestic waste recycling! Well done them...and us!

Apparently the Vale has been in the top five for the last five years.

For you lovers of statistics, we recycle 60.9% of our rubbish, with the best authority – our neighbour South Oxfordshire – managing just a tad more at 61.6%. Now, Liverpool might be top of the Premier League footie table as I write, but that city, along with Tower Hamlets are at the bottom of this table, recycling just 18%.

(If you're seriously into stats on this kind of stuff, go to the gov.uk website and type in the search box - 'Local authority collected waste management - annual results 2022/23'.

**More good stuff on recycling...this**

year **East Hanney Parish Council (EHPC)** once again offered their Christmas Tree disposal service... they shred the used trees and lay the shreds - not to be confused with Shreddies, a bowl of which was a breakfast option back in the day, tho' not my fave - along our muddy footpaths to help firm them up a bit. A great little initiative and this year they dealt with 138 trees, breaking last year's total which itself was higher than ever before! And still on trees, but not those for shredding.....at a recent meeting, **EHPC** agreed the purchase of 15 fruit trees which will be planted on the Kings Leases, the field at the top end of the so called 'Rec'. Plum, apple, pear and cherry were mentioned.



## Annual Egg Delivery...

'To serve the King and my Community' is part of the guiding promise and to fulfil this promise every year, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from Grove and Hanney enjoy taking part in a community service by delivering Easter cards and fresh eggs to the Senior Citizens of Grove and Hanney.

This year they will be delivering from 20<sup>th</sup>-28th March.

To keep our list up to date, we would love to hear about anyone in Grove or Hanney who is now over 65 and wishes to be in-



cluded in our annual egg delivery, or if our service is no longer appropriate at your family or friend's home. Please telephone or message Jane on 07914539136 or email

jane.syme59@gmail.com by Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March

May the Guiding family of Grove take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy Easter and if anyone would like to hear more about Guiding in Grove or Hanney and would be interested in helping in any of our units please visit - [www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested).



**NOW OPEN!!!**



### **Great news from Dews**

#### **Meadow Farm** in East Hanney.

Here's what they posted recently on Facebook. I've pinched it and stuck it in this little mag, since not everyone 'does' Facebook!

*'We are excited to announce that our new, completely self-service farm shop is now officially OPEN!*

*Shop opening hours are 9am-5pm, seven days a week!*

*To keep things simple to track our end (whilst busy tending to livestock on the farm), payments are card-only. Simply pick up the pre-packaged produce you'd like, enter the amount into the card machine and tap your card.*

*We hope this trial period goes well so that we can continue to build from this point on, and are able to continue to sell produce locally to all those unable to make it to the farmer's markets we attend.*

*If you have any queries or would like to place an order for delivery or a farmers market, please send all enquiries to: [info@littlewildfarm.co.uk](mailto:info@littlewildfarm.co.uk)*

*To catch us in-person find us at Wantage, Abingdon & Reading Farmer's markets!*

*Thank you so much for all your support!'*



**CANCER  
RESEARCH  
UK**

## **Table Top Sale**

**Sat 27<sup>th</sup> April**

**10 till 2, Village Hall**

**Hanney Fundraisers for Cancer  
Research**

**To book a table tel Kath**

**01235 868527**

**In last month's issue, on page 4, I wrote about opportunities for walking in these 'ere parts.**

**Well, the Thursday lunch-time crowd I mentioned have now come up with a name. They are calling themselves... wait for it.....**

**'The Hanney Walkie Talkies'!**

**How cool is that? Great name, great group!**

**Prepare to groan....** I just got some new glasses and as the optician gave them to me he said: "These are our special James Bond model". "Why James Bond?" I asked. "Because they're for your eyes only!"

One of the Chippendales has recently divorced his wife...he claimed she treated him like part of the furniture.



## East Hanney Parish Council

In the last two months we have suffered more flooding from ever decreasing amounts of rainfall. Widespread property damage was only avoided because of the tireless work of the volunteers of the Hanney Flood Group.

When most of the village were keeping out of the rain they were out barricading, sand-bagging, and clearing to push the water through the village as quick as possible, so a huge thank you is due to those volunteers who kept us all safe

The PC has joined a newly formed flood resilience group whose membership contains scientists, climatologists, hydrologists, environmentalists, Parish, District and County Councillors, all looking at the potential impact of climate change, development, waterway maintenance and of course the possibility of a reservoir for the next 30 years, to our community.

Now we need to record the effects of the

most recent flooding events, and their impact on everyday life; a picture of a car stranded in our streets is one thing but what is the story behind it? Were they trying to get to hospital or a GP, returning from hospital, trying to get an appointment, was schooling or employment impacted?

There is a human story and cost to every flood event and the powers that be need to know how our community is disrupted virtually every time we have rain. Please send anything you have, anonymously if you prefer, to Wendy our Clerk so we can begin to catalogue the personal impacts of flooding.

Many residents have property that borders either the brook or the ditches. It is for the safety and security of everyone that these are maintained and cleared of obstructions and it is that property owner's legal responsibility to do so, so please do.

**The next East Hanney Parish Council meeting is at 7.30pm on Weds 13th March at the Village Hall. All are welcome.**

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

**“Hello Hanney!” A ‘talking bench’ is coming to a place near you! This is an East Hanney Parish Council driven initiative. Big ups to them! See page 15.**



**A quick reminder about ‘Flexicare’s** magical ‘Night in the Museum’ classical concert. The trio will perform in the stunning University of Oxford Museum of Natural History on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Doors open at 7:00pm for a prompt 7:30pm start. The performance is followed by a drinks and canapé reception, included in the ticket price of £35.00. Tickets are available from Night at the Museum - Classical Concert in Aid of Flexicar ([ticketstripe.com](http://ticketstripe.com)) or by email: [events@flexicare.org](mailto:events@flexicare.org).

## West Hanney Parish Council

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

Barbara Martin (Clerk) - 412742

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

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

Date of Next Meeting: Tues 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.30pm in the Olde Hanney Room,  
Hanney War Memorial Hall, aka Village Hall.

Community Speed Watch (CSW) is a national initiative where active members of local communities join with the support of the Police to monitor speeds of vehicles using approved speed detection devices. Their aim being to help and support their communities by influencing driver behaviour – by reducing speeds and improving road safety for all road users including pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders and especially school children on their way to and from school.

CSW is all about education, not enforcement, letters are sent by Thames Valley Police (TVP) to registered keepers of vehicles that have been monitored driving over the speed limit, and are simply advised to slow down and stick to the speed limits.

The West Hanney CSW Group now has 9 volunteers who have completed the online

and practical training and are authorised by TVP to operate from three locations in West Hanney. The Parish Council has purchased an approved speed gun that has a longer range than the previous tripod-mounted speed device.

A recent session on Winter Lane recorded 34 vehicles, of which 24 (70%) were travelling faster than 24mph and 5 (15%) were travelling faster than 30mph.

The registered owners of the vehicles travelling at 25mph or over will have received a letter from TVP. 4 of these vehicles had number plates that did not match their DVLA record and these vehicles were also brought to the attention of TVP.

If you would like to join our Community Speed Watch and help keep our roads safer for everyone, please contact Cllr Ahmed Farrag

### Paul Sayers, our Community Woodland group main

man has been carrying out the annual check and clean out of the nest boxes which the group installed in the woodland some time back.

There are currently around 45 boxes, of which 34 contained the remains of bird nests or nesting material. 6 were being used by wood mice, including one where Paul disturbed 4 mice when he removed the front.



He told me that “in view of the current wet ground conditions it would have been unkind to evict the mice”.

Of the remaining boxes, one contained a disused wasp’s nest, and the others were either not used

or in a state of serious disrepair.

As ever, big thanks to Paul and his team for their hard work, from all of us who enjoy the woodland, a great community asset. I’m sure also thanks to him from the little mice still living in the nest box!

## Continued from front page...

*'This survey is intended to be conducted by volunteers from within our village community. We need about 5 or 6 volunteers prepared to give quite a bit of time over two months - perhaps as much as a day a week but probably only an hour or two at a time. Volunteers would also be involved in devising the format of the survey and collating results. It will not work without them!*

*A purpose will be to highlight the most important issues on which people agree. This could provide East Hanney Parish Council with a powerful mandate to speak on behalf of residents to higher authorities.*

*This exercise is deliberately face to face rather than online, or via form filling. It could be fun to be part of it! But it will not easily happen without volunteers happy to give their time. Those interested please email Tim/Sara Glass [glasstal@gmail.com](mailto:glasstal@gmail.com) (best) or ring 01235 868975 by 15th March.'*

**It will not have escaped** your attention that we here in Hanney, Denchworth, Charney, Lyford and elsewhere suffer with major flooding issues.

We always have and, sadly I fear, we always will.

Many splendid folk are making attempts on all our behalf's to ease the problem as much as possible, and one of the initiatives involves presenting a watertight - sorry, couldn't resist that!

- case to the Vale of White Horse District Planners that no further developments should be allowed in Hanney, if for no other reason than they add to the flooding problem.

Put very simply, open areas of land absorb water...developments don't!

The rainwater they prevent from being absorbed into the ground - roofs, roads, driveways, pavements etc. - has to go



somewhere else, and unless and until our whole drainage system all the way from down in Wantage, through Grove and the Hanneys and on up towards Frilford is drastically improved, any new developments are only going to make things worse. The pic above was taken in Winter Lane in 2007....a certain irony methinks as a Thames Water van rushes down a flooded Winter Lane in West Hanney!

## Looking for a great way to 'give back' to a local cause?

**Why not join Vale Community Impact's 500 Club charity Lottery?**

Each month you could be in with a chance of winning £50 cash. The weekly £5 cost helps VCI provide dedicated support, advice and community transport to local people and families.

**For information please email [help@vci.org.uk](mailto:help@vci.org.uk)**





**These are difficult times for many folk,** and here in Hanney we have a charity, **'The Hanney Parochial Trust'** that may be able to help. It is an amalgamation of several local charities that have been set up over hundreds of years, the first of which was back in 1604! I am the Chairman of the board of eight Trustees, which includes both current Parish Council Chairs and our Vicar.

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 rather. Their website is here: **[www.vci.org.uk](http://www.vci.org.uk)** , tel: **01235 765348**.

As well as knowing broadly what we at the Hanney Parochial Charity may be able to help with, the VCI has a wide variety of other ways to assist folk through difficult times. (I published an article about VCI in the June 2023 issue of Hanney News, and see their panel below.)

**Our charity here in Hanney also considers applications for grants to anyone aged 18 - 25 who is starting full-time further education.**

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

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

**Sadly, I've had no response** to last month's plea for a so-called 'Clerk' to join me and others running the small Hanney Parochial Charity (Charity Commission number: 205792.)

Our panel on the left will give you an idea of what we do.

Today, it's run by a board of Trustees, including myself as Chair. Both Chairs of our Parish Councils and long term residents of our community are on the board.

Without someone in the 'Clerk's' role, we could not continue, and our current Clerk is retiring so we need to find a replacement.

If you might be able to help and want to know more, please ring me, Jim, on 01235 867500 or speak directly to our current 'Clerk' John Gunn on 01235 868329 for more information.

It would be a great shame if we had to close the 420 year old charity for lack of a volunteer.

**A boatman friend of mine from Venice has recently passed away. I've sent his family my deepest condolences.**

**Did you catch this year's panto, courtesy of Hanney's very own Drama Group?** A veritable feast of colourful costumes, wild pirate impersonations, the most excruciating jokes - far worse than anything I would dare to include in these pages! - and some very very saucy double entendres!! - made for a thoroughly enjoyable show. **Congrats to all involved...it must have involved a huge effort.**



## This from GARD....

Thames Water have finally admitted that the reservoir would cause a 1 metre rise in ground-water levels without serious mitigation! After 25 years of denying any effect, they still have no evidence of how to address this.

Parts of Hanney and Steventon would be under water for large parts of the year, even without heavy rain!

At the time of writing (13th February) the Secretary of State for DEFRA has not made any decision on the reservoir plans or on GARD's call for a Public Inquiry, support for which has grown to

include: David Johnston MP, Layla Moran MP,

Cllr Povolotsky, Leader of Oxfordshire County Council (Cllr Liz Leffman), CPRE, the Countryside Charity and Steventon Parish Council.

Both the County Council and the Vale of White Horse have passed unanimous council motions re-affirming opposition to the Reservoir, asking for talks and plans to be suspended.

Layla Moran MP called for a Westminster debate on Thames Water's terrible record regarding sewage and spoke against reservoir proposals.

**There is still time for you and our MPs to influence the decision.**

If you sent your complaints to Thames Water in the consultation, and you feel that they have not answered your points, or you want to write against the new, larger, project, please email now, before Steve Barclay makes any decisions.

*Environmental and water quality issues:*

[water.resources@defra.gov.uk](mailto:water.resources@defra.gov.uk), or [Water-Company-Plan@xn--environmentagency-0z2j.gov.uk](mailto:Water-Company-Plan@xn--environmentagency-0z2j.gov.uk)

*Costs to customers, leakage and water efficiency:* [wrmpp@ofwat.gov.uk](mailto:wrmpp@ofwat.gov.uk)

**Don't forget to copy to your MP...contact details on page 13**

## CHARITY RACE NIG HT



Raising funds for  
'Riding for the Disabled Abingdon'

Lower Lodge Riding Centre, Barlow Arena,  
Charney Rd, Southmoor, Abingdon, OX13 5HW

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April**

Doors open at 6pm, first race at 7pm  
or as the light fades.

Great food menu & Licenced Bar available.

To book advanced free tickets please contact:

Nikki on 07717510410

email: [Nic\\_Nac14@hotmail.com](mailto:Nic_Nac14@hotmail.com)

Want to buy a virtual horse? Please contact me.

Admission £1.00 pp on the night.

Cash only on the night when betting  
on the tote.

Caribbean Food, Free Parking,

*All Proceeds to Abingdon RDA*



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



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# THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



In the dim and distant past when I was taking O' levels, as they were called then, I took an O' level in 'House Craft'. It covered everything one might need to know for looking after the home. The teacher, I can't remember her name now, was a fanatic about cleanliness, and we students used to roll our eyes as she went on and on about it.

We have to bear in mind this was the time before such things as branded odour busters or easy to use antibacterial sprays – good old bleach was about the only thing you could buy. But despite her being a figure of fun to us, in retrospect I realise now that she knew a thing or two. She was a great advocate of the cleansing and antibacterial properties of sunlight and fresh air. She would wax lyrical about clothes drying on the washing line on a sunny day and the importance of throwing open the curtains to drench the room in as much sun light as possible to get rid of the germs.

She also endorsed the 'Spring Clean', something that seems to have gone out of fashion – certainly in my house.

When you read this we will still be in the season of Lent, the season in the Christian Church's calendar leading up to the Cross

of Good Friday and Jesus' glorious resurrection on Easter Day. The word Lent has Old English and Germanic origins; lencten 'spring' and 'lengthening' of days. As we journey through Lent and the spring days get longer we are encouraged to contemplate the true cost of what Jesus has done for us by dying and rising to new life. We are encouraged to surrender ourselves to God's spiritual 'Spring Clean' in our life; to prayerfully re-examine our life and to say sorry for the things that stop us being the people God created us to be. Think of this process as placing ourselves under the warm gaze of a loving parent rather than a cold searchlight. Jesus says, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12).

So, as we continue through Lent and celebrate Easter, let's take the opportunity to throw back the curtains as it were, and let in the cleansing, healing sunlight and receive the deep cleansing of God – the deep healing of his Son's light into the dark and raw areas of our lives.

I wish you a very Happy Easter.

Velma Oxley - Retired church minister  
living in West Hanney

Associate Vicar: Revd Alec Gill: 07739 563894 - [vicaralec@valebenefice.org.uk](mailto:vicaralec@valebenefice.org.uk)

Office : (10 – 12 Mon – Fri) 771479 - [office@valebenefice.org.uk](mailto:office@valebenefice.org.uk)

Church Wardens: Stuart Cakebread: tel - 868590 - [stuartcakebread@mac.com](mailto:stuartcakebread@mac.com)

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

## Hanney Lottery - Feb 2024 Winners

**1st - Myra Salt      2nd - Sandra Whittingham      3rd - Lesley Arnold**

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



## SERVICES in March 2024 at St James

Our Sunday Eucharist is celebrated at 9.30am – all are very welcome. Freshly brewed coffee or tea is served after the service.

3rd – Revd Charles Draper, 10th – Revd Alec Gill – Mothering Sunday -,  
17th – Canon Geoff Maughan.

Midweek Said Eucharist – Tuesday 19th at 10am in the Chancel.

### EASTER WEEK 2024

Palm Sunday – 24th – Rev Alec Gill

Monday 25th – Evening Communion at 7.30pm – Revd Velma Oxley

Good Friday – 10am – a Time of Reflection

EASTER SUNDAY Eucharist at 9.30am - Revd Velma Oxley.

## Foundation Governor vacancy

**St James Church of England Primary Academy** has a vacancy for a foundation governor.

While the whole governing body has agreed to uphold the Christian foundation of the school, a foundation governor has a special responsibility to ensure the Christian ethos, vision and principles are supported and developed in all aspects of school governance and life. Foundation governors are likely to be part of their church community. No experience of the education sector is required.



### Become a governor at St James Church of England Primary Academy

*"There are immediate and lasting benefits to becoming a school governor. In volunteering your time, you are making a positive contribution to the success of your school and are therefore having an impact on the lives of its pupils, staff and the local community."*

If this is something you might be interested in, please contact the school office by email: [office@stjamesce.vale-academy.org](mailto:office@stjamesce.vale-academy.org)

***Lucy Ottaway, Headteacher, St. James CE Primary School***

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

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

**Sally Povolotsky is our District Councillor, and you can reach her by email ...**  
[Sally.Povolotsky@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:Sally.Povolotsky@whitehorsedc.gov.uk).



### The Hanney Senior

**Citizens....** In this snap, I spy with my little eye...helpers serving the teas, whilst on the trolley, there's some seriously yummy cake, fruit bread and posh cups and saucers! I also spy mature folk, including me, having a good old reminisce and a chat, enjoying warm and comfy surroundings, smiles and laughter, of which there was plenty. So I wonder why more folk don't join us at this jolly monthly party. See the empty chairs? They're available for anyone, so if you want to give it a try, ring Marcia on 01235 867461. She's the boss, and a very special dame!

### I'm very sad to report that John Cook

passed away on Fri 26th Jan. John was very involved in many ways in our community, in particular he was a strong supporter of our Community Shop, not only as a volunteer helper with his wife Rosemary, but - to mention just a few of his duties - organising the daily newspaper orders, regularly opening & closing up,

producing information notices...and gently reminding us of the shop bin collection dates.

John's had many friends throughout our community, and his passing will leave all of us who knew him with many memories. We send our deepest condolences to his widow Rosemary and the rest of his family.

**Talking Benches** - Some time soon East Hanney Parish Council (EHPC) will be installing some more benches on which we can rest our weary bones as we wander the highways and byways of the parish!

The bench that is to be situated in Holmes Memorial Garden - opposite La Fontana and in which is situated this memorial stone to JR Holmes - see photo - will be designated a 'talking bench'.

A quick word of explanation is needed....

The bench won't talk to you, mainly cos it can't. It's only a bench after all, so no point in talking to it! So, what's with the 'talking' bit?

Well, it refers to the fact that anyone who plants their botty on said bench should feel free to chat with anyone else already sat there, and be prepared for them to maybe talk to you.

Sometimes known as 'Happy to Chat'



benches, the idea is that we can freely chat without feeling that folk may think we're being weird, creepy, over-familiar or whatever.

The Facebook page 'Talking Benches' states in its intro...

'Somewhere that you can sit, but also know that when you do, you are allowed, nay required, to talk to your fellow bench dweller, to pass the time of day'.

As well as in many parts of the UK, this is actually a great world-wide initiative - benches can be found in Africa, USA, Poland and many other countries.

Even the taciturn and uber-cool Swedes are into it - there the benches are known as 'pratbanken'. There's no need however to feel you're being a prat if you sit and chat on a 'Chat Bench'. The initiative has already been shown to help with feelings of loneliness and isolation and I'm delighted that EHPC have signed up! I'm looking forward to some enjoyable chats!

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SJP Approved 16/05/2023

**I've been looking through the Hanney News archive** - much fascinating stuff in it. This little piece caught my eye...front page, March 1992. Sort of topical eh?

NUMBER 196

MARCH 1992

MONTHLY

## Go Slow in Hanney!

We understand from West Hanney Parish Council that both villages have been granted the 30 mph speed limit which many residents have sought in recent years.

Our information is that this limit will be imposed later on this year, i.e. in the new financial year.

**From the same issue**, how about this 'interesting' letter, below, to the Editor, who at the time was Jenny Diment, the original occupant of the editor's chair and the lady - ably assisted by hubby Keith - who started the whole thing off in Dec 1975!

(Jenny finally handed over the editorial reins in 2000!)

Note the comments about the 'threat of a vast reservoir'...and that was 30 years ago!

Considering the slightly unkind remarks made by 'Obedia' the letter writer - I wonder who that was? - I think Jenny was admirably restrained in her response. (Obedia is an old Hebrew name, meaning Servant of God, and a variation of Obadiah.)

*Dear Madame Editor,*

Thank you for reminding us, those of us who learnt to read and write at school, of our responsibility to somehow brighten up the present drab and uninteresting pages of *Hanney News*. Dreary repetitive adverts. for services of one sort or another and Tennis Balls, but never anything really interesting, like [CENSORED - Ed.].

Ever since you, Madame Editor, unwisely banned the mention of ---planes, the whole of Hanney seems to have drifted into a deep sleep. Clearly shattered by your display of female power. Even the threat of a vast reservoir a few yards or perhaps metres from your front doors and even the possibility of East Hanney becoming a second Atlantis as it slides beneath the waves has passed without a ripple.

Imagine the humidity level, the dampness bringing with it Rheumatoid Arthritis and imagine the insects. Imagine the Lorries. You cannot possibly imagine the LORRIES. How many tons or cubic metres of material to be moved at 1 Lorry = 4 cubic metres? Work it out for yourself Madame Editor. Why not ask them and tell us? Imagine the dust on a hot

summers day. Imagine the mud in winter. Imagine the noise. What level the water table then Madame Editor. What of the Water Sport visitors, the Olympic course for this and that. They might even hold an Olympic Games here for Sailing or Rowing. Think of the hordes.

Contrast the 200 - 300 volunteers with buckets and spades and wheelbarrows digging out a 4m wide canal against this huge reservoir project, and they are heading straight towards it!! Its just like the Polish Cavalry charging the advancing German tanks with swords drawn.

You have got to stop these people Madame Editor - but which ones and with what? Is Le Pen mightier than the sword?

Anyone for fox-hunting?

Your faithful surf,

*Obedia*

(Name & address supplied)

*As Obedia learnt to read and write at school, we have not presumed to tamper with the punctuation, syntax or spelling of this letter, but are grateful to our correspondent for such a thought-provoking contribution. - Ed.*



Dear Editor

With reference to your editorial (Hanney News Feb 24,) I feel sorry for the person who doesn't enjoy the best news magazine in the whole of The Hanneys, each to their own.

As someone who can't really be bothered with Facebook, I thoroughly enjoy reading Hanney News every month (as well as delivering it to the residents of our road).

I find it informative and amusing, but of course not everyone has a sense of humour!

It also raises important local issues such as flooding and planning.  
Keep up the good work.  
David Blomley

Dear Editor,

In response to your request for feedback about Hanney News, we would like to offer the following comments.

We lived in The Croft in West Hanney for almost 25 years. We left in July 2007 at the time of the floods. At the time, we wondered whether the removal van would be able to reach us!

We always enjoyed reading Hanney News



when we lived in the village. For some time after we left Elizabeth Tully kindly sent us a copy. Since then, we have continued to enjoy reading Hanney News online from our home in Llanvair Kilgeddin in Monmouthshire.

We like to hear about people and events in the villages and we hope we can look forward to reading many more editions. Best wishes to all at Hanney News Global International HQ

Sue and Stephen James

Dear Editor

Every mindful of the very challenging times many are facing, all the collections taken at the Christmas services held by St James Church – the Village Carol Service, Carols round the Crib, Midnight Communion and Christmas Day Eucharist - were split equally between the Wantage & Grove Foodbank and Crisis at Christmas – in total £962.

In these straightened times for all, it is wonderful how generous our community are in supporting those in greater difficulty. God bless, Alec

*Revd Alec Gill, Associate Vicar, the Vale Benefice*

## I don't know if you spotted this

on our jolly old Facebook thing ...a post from an organisation called Little Explorers - good name eh?

*"This Fantastic Mr Fox can be found at East Hanney Play Area and is the star of the show at this very impressive playground. But it's not just for show - climb up the tail and clamber all over it! The play area has recently been extended and improved after investment from the*



*local parish council. As well as LOADS of play equipment for all ages there is also a MUGA too, all set within vast playing fields. There's even a community shop! "*

They also wax lyrical in similar fashion on their website, and they're

not wrong! Easy to take all this for granted when you live here, but I've witnessed first hand the time and effort East Hanney PC put into getting all this together...they deserve our sincere thanks!!



**This from West Hanney resident,**

ex Parish Councillor and all-round good egg, Eddie Wilkinson... *'My daughter Anna and I will be walking part of the Camino de Santiago in northern Spain with the aim to raise funds for a local charity, SOFEA.*

*SOFEA is based in Didcot and do lots of good things - they work wonders for young people, transforming lives through a community larder that redistributes surplus food and offers loads of support, advice, and friendship. Our son Jake works there and it's having a really*

*positive impact on his life.'*

The walk, which starts on 12<sup>th</sup> March, will cover about 220km -that's 136 miles in old money! – in just 10 days!

To donate to Anna and Eddie's splendid effort go to the JustGiving website - **justgiving.com** and type Edward Wilkinson in the search box. The pic above will come up. Click on it...simple.

Anna recently graduated as a midwife and works in Bristol - clearly a very busy and talented young lady, whilst Eddie tells me he's... *'happily retired.'* I know that any contribution you are able to make to their splendid effort will be greatly appreciated.

**Eric Shepherd.** Many folk, particularly our longer term Hanney residents, will have known Eric, and be saddened I'm sure, to hear of his recent passing. He lived on Main St., West Hanney, and until recently could be seen cycling down to the Community shop every morning. Before retiring, Eric worked as a bricklayer for local builders Barretts. We send commiserations to all who knew him.

**History Snippets....**Helpful and informed folk have been in touch re my mention last month of the opening of the Hanney War Memorial - aka Village - Hall by Lady Page of Hinton Waldrist back in 1970. That was, sadly, fake news! The opening ceremony was performed by Elsie Andrewartha, a Hanney resident who had done much to help raise the money to build it

Tho' I could find nothing on t'internet, I know that Lady Page did indeed exist, amongst other things, serving as a Trustee of the Lyford Almshouses. She lived just outside Hinton Waldrist in Newton House, which nestles in the woodland between Hinton and Buckland. I'm reliably informed that a grand-daughter of hers still lives in the property. Lady Page's daughter Olivia married Christopher Dreyer who was a Commander in the Royal Navy. Olivia's brother Tom was also in the Navy and was a Prisoner of War for a time...hopefully not too long.

Amongst my - digital only - collection of old photos are these two charming pics, both labelled simply **'Teddington'**. I have another seven photos, all labelled the same, but none have any further details.

If you know anything at all about the Teddington family, please get in touch. If I can find out more about them - I assume they were a Hanney family, who maybe lived in West Hanney House? - I'll have an excuse to print more of these fascinating pics. (You'll have gathered I love old photographs.)

From much more recent archives, actually Hanney News' front page of April 1984, was an invitation to join the **Hanney Model Railway Club**, which met every Tuesday evening at the Crown pub in East

Hanney, now a private house, more or less opposite La Fontana.

The layout they were building was '00' scale, and the organiser was a gent called Iain Hicks Mudd. I wonder how long the club lasted, what they built, and what happened to it and Mr Hicks Mudd? If you can shed any light on my questions, I'd love to hear from you.





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## Clubs and Societies

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

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

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

**HANNEY BOWLS CLUB** - Thursdays 2.00-4.00pm. Contact Alan Savage on 07757 394776

**HANNEY BROWNIES (girls aged 7-10) and GUIDES (aged 10-14)** meet on Mondays 6:00-7:30pm in Hanney War Memorial Hall.  
[1sthaneyguides@oxfordshiregirlguiding.org.uk](mailto:1sthaneyguides@oxfordshiregirlguiding.org.uk)  
Clare Green 07845 047990

**RAINBOWS (girls aged 4-7)** meet in Grove on Thursdays 6-7pm or alternate Saturdays 10-12. Register your daughter or join as a volunteer at [girlguiding.org.uk](http://girlguiding.org.uk)

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

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

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

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

**HANNEY FLOOD GROUP** hold a monthly working party. Contact Clive Manvell for details -[clivemanvell664@gmail.com](mailto:clivemanvell664@gmail.com), or 01235 868216. [www.thehanneysfloodgroup.org.uk/](http://www.thehanneysfloodgroup.org.uk/)

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

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

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

**HANNEY SCOUTS, CUBS & BEAVERS,** Contact Steve Houseman [stevehouseman@kascouts.org.uk](mailto:stevehouseman@kascouts.org.uk)

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

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

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

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

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

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

**HANNEY YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB** trains at the rec. on Thursday night. We have teams from age 5 up. If you would like to join us please contact Paul on 07510 435 508, [hyfcfooty@gmail.com](mailto:hyfcfooty@gmail.com) or visit our website [hanneyyouthfc.co.uk](http://hanneyyouthfc.co.uk)

**THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION BRANCH** meets bi-monthly on the 4th Wednesday of September, November, January, March, May and July in the RBL Club. **NEW MEMBERS WELCOME.**

**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](http://www.wantagechoralsociety.co.uk), email [wantagechoralsociety@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wantagechoralsociety@yahoo.co.uk).

**WANTAGE GARDENERS ASSOCIATION** : 10am - 12noon every Saturday Feb-Sept. See website for details of all they offer. [www.wantagegardeners.org.uk](http://www.wantagegardeners.org.uk)

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

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

**PILATES CLASSES:** Wednesday mornings,

8.30am - 9.20am, followed by another from 9.30am - 10.30am, and an evening

class from 6 - 7pm (term time only) at the HWMH, aka Village Hall, in East Hanney. Novices and Improvers welcome. To book your place or for more details please contact Pippa Carey (STOTT Pilates teacher) on 07941 260427 or [pippa@thrive-pilates.co.uk](mailto:pippa@thrive-pilates.co.uk)

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

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

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

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

*...and there's more!!*

## Hanney



### A Guide for Newcomers

Revised and updated January 2024

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.



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## Where are our Defibrillators?

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

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

## Hanney War Memorial Hall

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

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



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