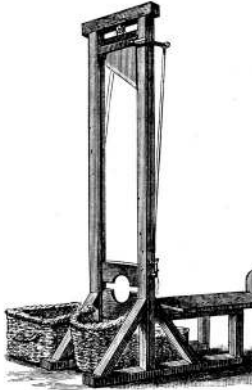




Hanne News

Number 609 Aug 2026



Yes, they're all a bit older now -
this snap from 2019 -
but these boys can still
give a good tug when
needed, and it certainly
will be on Saturday 26th
Sept at the Michaelmas
Fayre, which sees the
very welcome return of
the Tug-of-War!

Page 13 for details.

**Last month's mistakes?
Rest assured dear readers,
heads have rolled !!**

**See Editorial,
page 2.**

Oh dear!

**The
morning
after the
night
before!!!**

.... page 4



**Butterflies are
beautiful, but
they're in trouble
and need our help.
See page 4**

Editorial

Apols dear readers, but a few cock-ups last month....the usual typos of course, but an unforgiveable error, pointed out to me - I'd already spotted it after 1,300(!) copies were delivered - of three large 'X's on the front page that turned out not to be Roman numerals! Oh dear. Sadly this exact same error happened in the June issue!

Not only that... on page 6, I included details of the recent Parish Councils' Community Award. However I also included a brief mention of the very recent loss of two members of our community.

Our graphic designer laid it out such that the pics of a very much alive Paul Aram and Clive Manvell appeared to be of the deceased.

I can assure everyone that when I last checked, both were alive and well! Big apologies to them.

Now the good news... both graphic designer and proof reader have been summarily dismissed, losing their very well paid positions here at Global HQ. Yet another load on me of course, but I'll try my best.

Meantime our miscreants are, I understand, taking us to the Employment Tribunal claiming unfair dismissal. In the meantime, they have had to cancel holidays in Mustique and the order for the new all electric BMW.... their welfare payments they are now claiming won't quite stretch to that kind of luxury. Shame.

Ok, back to the usual stuff....

Actually not that usual in fact, 'cos our MP Olly Glover is paying us a visit on 30th July. I know it's a bit late, but on the off chance... page 17 for details. And though Olly and I may not bend in the same direction politically speaking, I applaud him for paying us a visit. Let's make sure we give him a warm and stimulating welcome!

Meantime, things happening in August include HanneyFest, Black Horse Sat 1st Aug. Full details, along with the other happenings at said hostelry throughout August and September on page 17.

We have an obituary on page 15 paying tribute to one of Hanney's finest, Bob Wilson, known and loved by many. His son Dave's lovely tribute to his Dad says much, but as Dave told me..... "He did so much over the years that is difficult to pack everything in, and I have chosen to leave out a few things (e.g. he started the sputnik astronomy Society, the classic car club, took part in HOGS golf, bellringing, flood watch etc.)" Well. I'm very happy to give them a mention here.

It is rare indeed when folk such as Bob appear within a community and proceed to do so much for it. My pic shows Bob looking very determined to get rid of those sacks of rubbish!!

That's it this month folks, stay well, don't burn and as the words in the song have it..."I'll see you in September."



We here at Hanney News Global International welcome articles, emails, letters, photos, in fact anything you feel may be of interest to our readers. Constructive - or amusing! - criticism always welcome, and if you wanna have a go yourself, just let me know!! Contact me, Jim the Editor.... mob: 07762 239681, landline - 01235 867500, or email: hanneynews@gmail.com

What's happening this month....

Sat, 1st, Black Horse, East Hanney, HanneyFest.... page 17. Landlady Jacqui assures me that "King Elvis will be "entering the building".

Also on **Sat, 1st, 1 - 4pm, Letcombe Valley Wildlife Discovery Day Letcombe Regis...page19.**

And there's more on this busy day...**Sat 1st, Wantage Library, 10.30am - noon**, the Neighbourhood Police Team hold a 'Have your say' session. No need to book.

Hanney History Group - Museum of Rural Life – August date to be finalised. An introductory talk on the Museum and its collections, followed by the opportunity to walk around at your leisure. The Museum has a café open during visiting hours. Details to follow. Check their website... hanneyhistory.org.uk. Cost : £7 per person.

Mon 10th, 10 - 11.30am, Wantage Library, A Family History expert 'on hand.' Free but you need to book, call 01865 815197 or email: wantage.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Mon 24th – Thurs 27 Aug, 10-4pm, Harvest at the Clumps, Earth Trust, OX14 4QZ. Four days of family fun beneath the stunning Wittenham Clumps. Climb giant hay bales, explore the farming activity trail, discover traditional harvest skills, welly wanging, sensational science, enjoy nature crafts and outdoor games, and tuck into delicious local food. Find out more at earthtrust.org.uk/whats-on/



And further ahead...

Mon 7th Sept. Hanney Gardening Club (HGC) Short AGM followed by a very topical talk by Simon Gul-liver 'Climate Change in Your Garden'. Simon is a Garden and Parks consultant for the National Trust and has worked for both Edinburgh and Birmingham Botanical Gardens and RHS Wisley.

The first ever Black Horse Beer Festival starts Fri 18th Sept from 5.30pm, and continues all day Sat

19th and Sunday. Details next month.

Sat 26th Sept - Hanney Michaelmas Fayre. Put it in the diary now. Details page 13.

Mon 5th Oct. HGC....'An Armchair Walk Through Blenheim'. Andy Mills gives a fascinating insight into the life of the head gardener at Blenheim Palace.

Mon 2nd Nov. HGC.... 'Roses' Kerry French is the head gardener at the National Rose Society. A perfect chance to get to grips with the ins and outs of growing magnificent roses.

Sat 14th Nov, Village Hall, Cancer Research Charity Sale. Details nearer the time.

Sun 29th Nov 11am - 3pm, Market Place. Wantage, Christmas Artisan Market - 'tree-mendous' fun for all the family!

Fri 4th Dec, 4pm - 9pm, Wantage Market Place, Dickensian Evening, an opportunity to celebrate the most wonderful time of the year.

Mon 7th Dec. HGC... Christmas Party

Come on folks...some sympathy please for front cover's Sleeping Beauty - or should that be 'slightly hung-over' beauty? Of course you gotta celebrate when you've just won the prestigious 'OX IN A BOX' Award for the best Pub / Bar in the whole wide world!! Cut the sleepy dude some slack - it's the much loved Owain, Landlord at the Plough, West Hanney, along with his great pal Luke. They've only gone and - yet again! - won this very prestigious award! Massive congrats from all here at Global HQ! Get on down to the Plough and check out why the OXBOX crowd - and many many others - love the place!!!



Love butterflies? Want to help count them?

Check this out from 'Butterfly Conservation'.

"We count butterflies because not only are they beautiful creatures to be around but they are also extremely important. They are vital parts of the ecosystem as both pollinators and components of the food chain. However, they are under threat. Numbers of butterflies and moths in the UK have decreased significantly since the 1970s. This is a warning that cannot be ignored."

"Butterflies are vitally important. Their presence acts as a barometer of the health of our environment. Their ongoing decline tells us that all is not well in the British countryside."

These are the words of Sir David Attenborough, president of Butterfly Conservation, who is urging wildlife lovers to take part in this year's Big Butterfly Count, running from 17th July to 9th August.

Can you help? Their website is here:

<https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/>

You can download a butterfly identification chart and find out how to get involved.

(The lovely creature above is a Red Admiral I believe.)



**Butterfly
Conservation**

**BIG
BUTTERFLY
COUNT**

It truly beggars belief, and is a warning too!.... A 40-year-old barrister is facing prosecution by the Environment Agency (EA) for pulling rubbish out of a local river without a licence.

He and a group of volunteers cleared a section of the River Roding in Barking, East London, filling over 200 bags of rubbish. Following the clean-up, he received a letter from the EA..... he was under investigation

for operating without a licence.

The offence can carry a punishment of two years in prison, and he could also lose his job. I'm lost for words! Unusual for me!

OK, rant over, now the warning to our amazing 'Flood Group' and the litter pickers.

If you're a picker, watch out, there may be some EA 'jobsworth' waiting to catch you doing your good work for the community!

This year's litter pick.....well, at least the bags are a pretty colour aren't they? Thanks to all involved with this great annual community event. And the bags? Of course they contain all the usual rubbish and detritus that some inconsiderate morons - almost certainly not from our community - dump around the delightful highways and byways of Hanney, many items obviously chucked out of cars driving through!

Thanks to Keith Ringsell - a regular picker over the years - who sent me this photo and these words...

"This years haul! Mostly comes from roads into the village and consists mainly of drink cans and plastic bottles. Items of interest I found were an 8" grinding disc and a money belt used by market traders in new condition. They do not match up to my previous finds of a Landrover repair manual and packaging for a penis enlargement pump!!"

Many thanks Keith. Did you happen to remember the name of the manufacturer of the last item?....asking for a friend of course.



This is Jo who lives in East Hanney and will soon be selling lovely flowers such as the ones she's holding in my snap, right here in East Hanney from her new business 'Blooming-Scents'. Her patch will be in the corner of the car park by the allotments, and I urge you to visit as soon as it's set up if you love genuine home-grown flowers...these from her own garden! Jo told me that most flowers you can buy in supermarkets today are grown abroad. Many in Africa! Stuffed full of preservative chemicals, half frozen, and then sent thousands of miles round the world to be sold here. Crazy or what? Jo's on the other hand are grown by her from seed, right here in sunny, flower loving Hanney!

And still on a 'green' theme, all Jo's packaging is compostable or recyclable.

All the more reason to get your beautiful blooms from Jo. See her ad on page 11.

East Hanney Parish Council

Paul Aram: Chair: cllr.paul.aram@easthanneyparish.gov.uk

Dickon Green: cllr.dickon.green@easthanneyparish.gov.uk

David Kirk: cllr.david.kirk@easthanneyparish.gov.uk

Garth Dennill: cllr.garth.dennill@easthanneyparish.gov.uk

Laura Lolly Bligdon: cllr.laura.bligdon@easthanneyparish.gov.uk

James Newsome: cllr.james.newsome@easthanneyparish.gov.uk

Alexis Pratsides: cllr.alexis.pratsides@easthanneyparish.gov.uk

Website: easthanneyparish.gov.uk - **Clerk:** clerk@easthanneyparish.gov.uk

Next meeting is on 12th August at 7.30pm, Village Hall.

Footpath Works - the council is seeking quotations from local contractors to widen and gravel the footpath from the iron bridge to the stile at Snuggs Lane. If you are interested in quoting for this work, please contact the Clerk.

Allotments - there are several smaller sized allotments now available - so if you are not sure if a full or half size is for you, or would like a bit more space then get in touch.

Bike Rack at the Blackhorse Bus Stop - thank you to the resident who suggested this, a new rack has been installed.

Ditch Maintenance - if your property is adjacent to a ditch then you are probably liable for making sure it is kept clear. Please maintain your section of ditch as it makes a huge difference. If you are unsure if you are responsible, please contact the Clerk.

Hanney Community Awards 2026 - it is with great pleasure that we announce the winners of the first Community Awards, which have been created to recognise individuals within the communities of East and West Hanney, who have or continue to make a difference on a regular basis.

There were 30 nominations in our first year of awards - that is a fantastic recognition of those who have and continue to contribute to the success of the Hanney's.

The Nominations included: Graham Garner, Phil Donovan, Clive Ward, Jim Stagg, Kevin Hughes, Steve Black & Lynton Quiggs, Hilary Cakebread, Paul Sayers, Alison Rosum, Bob Wilson, Clive Manvell, David Carter, Sue Rogers, Marcia Graham and Tim Glass

Congratulations to all of the nominees and thank you for your dedication and hard work to help improve the villages - without you and many other volunteers we would not be so fortunate to live in such an amazing place - Thank you!

And the winners are:

Clive Manvell - Community Award 2026 - Clive has been a pivotal part of the Community Flood Group for many years and continues to drive the ongoing works, clearing streams, ditches, gullies and culverts, without which the villages would certainly be more flooded than we see. Clive was nominated by a number of people - those who work with him on the team as well as others who recognise his contribution. Thank you Clive - a well deserved award.

Bob Wilson - Lifetime Achievement Award - this is an award that may not occur every year but recognises the achievements of an individual over their time in Hanney.

This year Bob Wilson was awarded the lifetime achievement for his many achievements during his time in Hanney.

Bob was nominated by friends who mentioned his involvement in the Hanney Drama group - his Dame renditions will be remembered by many, the Tennis Club as Chair and Maintenance, organising and running the annual litter picking event, the Film Club - advertising and organising, mowing the church yard - when that was a thing, East Hanney Parish Councillor, creation of the Hanney Wheelers cycling club and organiser of the Michaelmas Fayre - including the soap-box derby and the Classic Car Club. Finally (I'm certain there are many more) a distributor of this great magazine.

What an amazing legacy that Bob was either directly involved with, or influenced. Sadly Bob recently passed away, but we were so pleased that he was aware of the award before his passing and that it will be with him at his remembrance service. We send our condolences to Joy and the family, but hope that this award is a suitable reminder of Bob's love of the village and the legacy he leaves.

Bob, thank you for everything you did for the villages and rest in peace.

See Bob's Obit on page 15.

We have recently lost Peter Packham, another hard-working member of our community.

One of his many roles was as a West Hanney Parish Councillor - their tribute is on page 8.

Peter also worked very regularly in our Community Shop, and Clive Ward who runs it, sent me these words....

"I am so sorry to tell you that Peter Packham has passed away after a short illness. Peter was such a strong & valued supporter of the Community Shop over a very long period

and I, like so many, really enjoyed spending time with him. His warmth and good humour made him excellent company to be with & he will be very greatly missed by everyone that knew him.

I am sure you will all join me in sending our deepest sympathy to his family at this exceptionally difficult time.'

Thanks you Clive. We echo your thoughts...Peter was indeed excellent company, and a great member of the Hanney Community..

Just received this email from 'Which' magazine.

Years ago it simply told you which washing machine or hedge trimmer you should buy. Today it does a load more...online of course...including warnings about baddies, and none come much worse than scammers. Here's what they said... *"Three quarters of Brits received a scam call last year, with victims each losing an average of*

£784. The rise of artificial intelligence, which enables nasty tactics like voice cloning, makes them increasingly difficult to spot.

Our scams expert has rounded up the latest phone scams you're likely to encounter, including a convincing call that referenced legitimate emails from Lloyds Bank."

Check out their very useful website: **which.co.uk.**

West Hanney Parish Council

Councillors:

Chair: David Corps - cllr.david.corps@westhanneyparish.gov.uk 01235 867454.
Graham Garner - cllr.graham.garner@westhanneyparish.gov.uk - 01235 868684.
Peter Packham - cllr.peter.packham@westhanneyparish.gov.uk 01235 868038.
Vicki Ruston - email: cllr.vicki.ruston@westhanneyparish.gov.uk
Ahmed Farrag - cllr.ahmed.farrag@westhanneyparish.gov.uk 07388 816079.
Website: www.westhanneyparish.gov.uk

The next meeting of West Hanney Parish Council is on Weds 2nd September at 7.30pm in the Olde Hanney Room, Hanney War Memorial Hall

Councillors were very saddened to hear the news of the death of Cllr Peter Packham on Sunday 12th July after a short illness. Peter served our community as a parish councillor since 2019. The council is very grateful for his wise advice and drawing on his experience as an architect, he helped the council respond to many planning applications.

Peter was also instrumental in commissioning our wheat sculpture at Meadow Way. He played a big part in our community, in the shop, running table tennis and in many other ways. He will be greatly missed.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends at this sad time.



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THE BLACK HORSE East Hanney

1st August....Live music at HanneyFest, see page XX, and the first ever 'Black Horse Beer Festival' which starts Fri 18th Sept from 5.30pm, and continues all day Sat 19th and Sun 20th.

Opening Hours - Monday - Closed Tues to Sat - Food from 12pm - 2pm, & 6pm - 9pm, Bar from 12pm - 2.30pm & 5.30pm - 11pm
Sunday - Food from 12pm - 3pm.
Bar from 12pm - 7pm

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The Church of England



By the time you read this, the World Cup will be over, and you will know how far the England team got, and who were the overall winners.

I am writing this just after the extraordinary England-Mexico match, an experience so intense that it left Harry Kane unable to speak! (And no I didn't stay up till 4am – the privilege of retirement meant I was able to watch it at 8.00am, thankfully avoiding spoilers!)

Of course behind the technical brilliance of the players lies many thousands of hours of intense practice. And behind their brilliant teamwork, many hours of training together. Also by the time you read this, we will probably have a new Prime Minister.

If, as expected, it is Andy Burnham, he will have been on a steep learning curve, transitioning from his role as Mayor of Manchester to the difficult and demanding role of Prime Minister. And during this summer he will have spent many hours preparing for this new role.

Training, learning, preparation – they are often hidden from view, and yet are vital for any worthwhile enterprise.

I find it interesting that when you look closely at the accounts of the life of Jesus, that he spent many hours training up his team of twelve apostles. And he had a wider circle of over a hundred disciples as well, and he spent much time teaching them.

We tend to see “disciple” as a religious word, but actually it just means “learner”.

Or perhaps a better word – “apprentice”. To be a Christian is to be an apprentice of Jesus, seeking to learn from him how to live our lives better.

But whoever your role model may be, all of us are apprentices, in that we never stop learning. I think the biggest mistake is to think we have nothing left to learn - how dull that would be!

I believe we are never too old to learn and discover new things – and yes - old dogs CAN learn new tricks!

Charles Draper (retired minister living in East Hanney)

Vicar: Revd Alec Gill: 07739 563894 - vicaralec@valebenefice.org.uk

Associate Vicar : vicarmiriam@valebenefice.org.uk

Office : (10 – 12 Mon – Fri) 01235 771479 office@valebenefice.org.uk

Church Warden: Stuart Cakebread: tel - 868590 stuartcakebread@mac.com

**The Eucharist is celebrated every Sunday
at 9.30am in St James – all are warmly welcome.
Freshly brewed coffee or tea is served after the service**

Hanney Lottery - June Winners

1st: Des Thomas, 2nd: Alison Trowell, 3rd: Kath Carter.

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

Hanney Michaelmas Fayre - 26 September 2026!!

2pm - 4.15pm in and around Church Green, West Hanney

Join in our community's special day – something for all the family!

Lots to do, to buy, to enjoy!

WI Cream Teas, The Plough BBQ, Max's Ice Creams, Community Shop – for crisps, sweets and cold drinks

Book and Bric-a-Brac Stalls

Games to play

Competitions to enter – forms and full details in Hanney Community Shop and hanneymichaelmasfayre.co.uk

THE SCARECROW TRAIL – back by popular demand – plenty of time to design and create your Scarecrow (full details now in Hanney Community Shop and on hanneymichaelmasfayre.co.uk)

Tug-of-War – East Hanney v West Hanney

Wantage Silver Band

Artisan stalls to browse and support

Teddy Tombola

And you can help too – send us your preloved books and bric-a-brac to sell, take part and make the day more fun, take part in the competitions and more.

Email us on info@hanneymichaelmasfayre.co.uk for more information.

ALL PROFITS GIVEN IN GRANTS TO HANNEY ORGANISATIONS



It's great to see the return of the Tug-of-War.

The cover snap shows some serious effort from both Hanney teams back when it did happen, with some ferocious rivalry!

And the kids got involved too! Please allow them to have a go again this year?

There's a whole generation of youngsters likely to grow up never experiencing the joys of tug-o-war, a sport practised in ancient Egypt, India, China and Greece, and dropped from the Olympics - shame!! - in 1920.



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admin@flexicare.org. For an informal chat phone Maureen Tossi on 07342 041388. A full job description is available on our website at www.flexicare.org/work-with-us

This vacancy does not have a formal closing date, it will remain open until a suitable candidate is appointed.

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West Hanney Parish Council would like to thank Alan Cottrell for cutting, baling and carting the hay from our community meadow. By removing the hay each year, the fertility of the meadow gradually reduces, weakening the growth of grass, enabling more wildflowers to become established.

A song thrush has nested in one of the newly trees planted at Headings Pond. See photo above..

I recently wrote to Mr Tim Bearder, he the Lib Dem Chair of 'Oxfordshire County Council', on hearing that they had successfully gained legal backing via the courts to forbid the public display of 'Union Jack' and 'St George' flags.
*"Dear Tim, great news on your recent successful efforts to stop flags appearing across the county! Money and time well spent.
I edit Hanney News, and would love to tell my readers what you have in mind to ban next!"* I hope he got the sarcasm..... maybe that's why I've yet to receive a reply?

I was pressing one of my favourite shirts yesterday when "Waterloo Sunset" started playing from the breast pocket. It took me ages to iron out the Kinks.

A bloke came up to me and said "I identify as a supermarket."
I asked him, "How long has that been going on?"
"Ever since I was Lidl" he replied.



Obituary Bob Wilson 1948-2026

Bob was originally from Solihull, moving to East Hanney in 1985 with Joy and his two children – Celia and David. He was a chartered surveyor and later a property developer.

He had many hobbies and interests, but he particularly loved to travel – and he was known to many as “Holiday Bob”. He

hitchhiked around South America in the early 1970s, trekked across Baffin Island and climbed up to Everest’s North Col.

He was a keen writer, and extracts of his “jottings” from his travels would appear on the annual Christmas card.

After skiing to the South Pole, he gave a talk in the village hall dressed in full polar garb – which he gradually peeled off as the lecture progressed until he was down to his underwear!

Bob threw himself into village life and was involved with countless activities and clubs over the 40 years he lived in Hanney.

He was on the early committee of the Tennis Club, including a stint as Chairman. He devoted much time for the upkeep and improvement of the courts and helped secure lottery funding for the floodlights.

He served on the Parish Council and



organised the Michaelmas Fair soap box derby, the Christmas Holly Sale and the annual litter picks.

As well as volunteering, he raised significant sums for charities, including Headway, following a serious head injury sustained by a work colleague.

Together with others, he was instrumental in establishing various village groups, such as the Hanney Wheelers, the Film

Club, and the Holymowers.

He was a longstanding member of the Drama club – where his performances would often descend into fits of giggles. When he stepped on stage as the Dame in the Panto one year, his brother audibly remarked “my god, it’s mother!”

His contribution to the community was recently recognised through a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Parish Council, something of which he would have been very proud.

He loved the village and was blessed to count so many of you as friends.

Bob died on 30th May following a progressive decline with Lewy body dementia.

Joy and the family would like to thank all those who offered understanding, love and support to us throughout his illness and in recent weeks.

The Vale Community Impact in Wantage. provides free, independent advice services on various topics, including debt management, benefit entitlements, employment, and consumer rights. Their **volunteer drivers** in the **Transport Scheme** assist clients by taking them to medical appointments and other essential destinations. Their **Good Neighbour Scheme** matches volunteers with lonely or

isolated individuals in the community, offering companionship and support. They are always needing more people they can call on as volunteers for the above schemes. If this is something that might interest you, check their website: <https://www.vci.org.uk/> pop in to see them at the office just off the Market Square in Wantage or give them a ring 01235 765348.



Soldiers of
Oxfordshire
Museum

Sat 23 May – 13 Sept.
Lee Miller: A Woman at War exhibition is at the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock.

It features photographs by the renowned photojournalist, photographer and surrealist.

It includes photos taken of nurses at Churchill Hospital Oxford, her first wartime assignment for *Vogue*.

Alongside many iconic photographs taken in wartime Britain. Miller accompanied US troops into Europe, a correspondent on battles and the liberation of concentration camps.

See also page 20.

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WE ARE ON THE BUS ROUTE TOO!

Our MP is Olly Glover. olly.glover.mp@parliament.uk www.facebook.com/
 I've just received a letter from Olly (14th July) advising that he's holding an 'Advice Surgery' on Thurs 30th July from 2.00pm - 4.30pm.

Good on him for organising this, though a bit of a shame that full-time 'working folk' probably won't be able to get along, and that notice of it is was a month too late for the July issue(!). Nonetheless, I hope you'll see this before August hits and you're able to get along. I'll be there wearing my tough-questioning, no nonsense political journalist's hat!

Ron Batstone is our County Councillor: Phone: 01235 763564,
 Mobile: 07941 801479, Email: Ron.Batstone@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Sally Povolotsky is our District Councillor:
 Email: Sally.povolotsky@whitehorsedc.gov.uk.

Getting mobile phones out of the classroom - and latest crime stats

Back in April I wrote about the benefits of making school properly 'phone free' during the school day. Now I am giving £255,000 taken from criminals to help schools make it happen.

More than 60% of schools in Thames Valley simply ask that pupils just have to keep them out of sight, and we know it does not work. This approach leads to disruption, confiscation and distraction.

I announced the new funding for headteachers at an event at Aureus School in Didcot. Schools can decide how to use the cash on options including secure storage such as lockable pouches, lockers or boxes, that still allow students access to their phones when travelling to and from school.

The money to support the project is being taken from criminals, through the seizure of stolen goods and forfeiture orders by the courts.

Smartphones have clear benefits, but we're also increasingly aware of the potential harms they can cause. Schools and the police see firsthand the safeguarding issues brought about by mobile phone use such as online bullying, peer pressure and exposure to harmful content as well as vulnerability to exploitation.

Schools like Aureus, that have already introduced lockable phone pouches have seen huge improvements in discipline and academic performance.

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I have also just published my annual report that highlights some of the work over the last year to improve neighbourhood policing, support victims and cut crime.

Some of the key updates over the last 12 months include:

6.2% reduction in neighbourhood crime.

800 young people received interventions through 'Op Deter Youth'.

Overall vehicle theft offences have reduced by 9% with theft from vehicle offences falling by 17%.

Further 12% reduction in knife crime
9% reduction in shoplifting offences with over 900 new sign-ups to DISC (retail crime reporting platform)

Year-on-year reduction in rural crime by 34%.

Over 350 active Community Speedwatch schemes have observed and recorded over 146,000 speeding vehicles since 2020

95.4% of 999 calls answered within 10 seconds, up from 92.6% last year



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Soldiers of
Oxfordshire
Museum

If you're onto a bit of history this is worth a quick read.

The above Museum have organised these...

'Women at War' with Dr Kate Vigurs, 7pm, Wednesday 19 August 2026
.....Historian and author Kate Vigurs presents a two-part talk, looking at trail-blazing women like Lee Miller who covered the events of the Second World War as they happened. In the second part, she'll uncover the stories of women who dropped into Occupied France, following their journeys from recruit to SOE secret agent. Tickets: £15

An Evening with Ami Bouhassane – Lee Miller: A Woman at War
7pm Thursday 3 September 2026. Author Ami Bouhassane, joins us to discuss the life and legacy of her grandmother – Lee Miller. Tickets: £15.

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See also page 16

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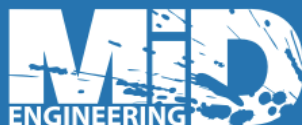
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Checking Charney's 'Chequers Inn'

Although it will be quite a while before it re-opens its doors, the team behind the pub plan to run a mobile bar on selected sunny weekends throughout the summer. Dates and times will be publicised through its website, www.chequersinncharney.co.uk. If you have any ideas for events that they could run, email info@chequersinncharney.co.uk with your suggestions.

Holy Mowers?

If you are interested in finding out more about possibly restarting a volunteer rota for mowing the section of the churchyard currently used for burials, please email vicaralec@valebenefice.org.uk using the subject title "Hanney Holy Mowers"

In the June issue - page 23 - I printed a great pic of the W.I. float at a Hanney Carnival.

The photographer, Keith Diment - ex of this Parish, long time servant of Hanney News from its inception in 1975, and now living in Wantage - has been in touch.

"I well remember taking it! A tall ladder leaning against the telegraph pole in Lay Cottage garden offered an ideal vantage point to photograph the carnival each year.

(I say 'telegraph', but it actually carried the overhead electricity supply and phone lines.) B&W film, of course.

My memory of faces and names is not good, but I believe I can see Pat Webb, Jean Smith, a couple of Belcher sisters and Sheila Wilkinson among them."

Many thanks Keith... I wonder what today's 'Elf and Safety' mob would have had to say about your location! It's a superb photo and a most interesting viewpoint!

In Sept 1993's Hanney News, this rather amusing letter below, from Mr Neville Bowler - clearly a gent with a good sense of humour - was published. It refers of course to what we today call potholes.

the Editor

One could hardly fail to notice that the Department of Patches has been around our local roads recently. This raises several questions, viz:

- What must be the depth of a hole before it becomes patchworthy?
- Why is every fifth hole left unrepaired?
- Why do some patches stop halfway across a hole?
- What are the regulation step-up and step-down dimensions for the start and end of a patch?
- Or vice versa?
- In a long patch, what is the required distance between the crests of the waves?
- And what is the minimum height, trough-to-peak?
- Is it true that every seventh patch will be a big one?
- How many patches are allowed on patches?
- What is the warranted patch life, in weeks?
- What is the ratio between yellow-chalkermen, measurer-men, and patcher-men?
- Why is the hole outside your house never patched?

Answers please to Oxfordshire County C.....
Neville Bowler

Meantime, another letter to November 1999's 'Hanney News' politely asked that whoever fly-tipped their old kitchen here in West Hanney, would they please remove it. I have no idea whether it was or not! "Aye lad, there's nowt new under t'sun" as my old Mum used to say. A bit odd really since she was a cockney!



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I think it is wonderful that this collection of our rubbish stops stuff going into landfill and also raises money for a worthwhile charity, so please keep contributing and encourage your friends and neighbours to do likewise.'

Couldn't agree more Jane and many thanks to you for organising this great little initiative.

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Mobile: 07747 630 202 (texts preferred)

Email: davemsearle@aol.com

Google Search: Searle School of Motoring

Website: www.davidsearledrivingsschool.co.uk



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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 Nicky Kauert 07795 571558.

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 Alan Savage on 07757 394776

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

HANNEY COMMUNITY WOODLAND WORKING PARTY...contact Paul Sayers by email pksayers@btinternet.com or 01235 868146

HANNEY DRAMA GROUP We produce the village annual pantomime in February. If you are interested in being involved in any capacity please contact Clive Ward: 07885819920 or Charlie East: 07914 380636 www.hanneydramagroup.co.uk

HANNEY FLOOD GROUP hold a monthly working party. Contact Clive Manvell for details -clivemanvell664@gmail.com, or 01235 868216.
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

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

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

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

HANNEY TABLE TENNIS in the Village Hall, every Friday at 10am. £2.50p a session. Also every Thurs eve, 6.30pm -7.30pm. Just turn up to either, or both!

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

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

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

HANNEY WINE CIRCLE meets on the 2nd Monday each month and enjoy wine tasting evenings from a variety of presenters. We maintain a waiting list for potential new members. hanneywinecircle@gmail.com
Facebook: Search "Hanney Wine Circle"

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 - all ages from 5 to seniors. For more details visit www.hanneyyouthfc.co.uk

DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB meets every Wednesday in the Olde Hanney Room 2-5pm. New members welcome. Contact Lyn Mortonlynmorton89@gmail.com

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - All welcome to come and join us. Become a member. Pool Table & Darts. Bingo and Music quiz once a month. Please check out our Facebook Page for details. (Hanney RBL Sports & Social Club)

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION BRANCH meets monthly, NEW MEMBERS WELCOME.

SJS - 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 second Saturday, R.B. Legion Hall 8pm. Cash prizes. 18+ welcome.

ST JAMES SCHOOL HELPING HANDS:
helpinghandshanne@gmail.com

GROVE MONDAY ART GROUP: We meet most Mondays throughout the year in Grove Village Hall, Main Street, Grove, OX127JY from 12.30pm to 3.15pm. All abilities welcome and advice given if required. Each session is £5 which includes refreshments. For more details contact Alan Winter 07591 228737 or alanwinter1@sky.com

WANTAGE CHORAL SOCIETY rehearses every Tuesday at C of E School, Newbury St. (next to Comrades Club) at 7.30pm. New voices always welcome. Contact email: wantagechoralsociety@gmail.com.
www.wantagechoralsociety.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 -
<https://wantage.u3asite.uk/>

Hanney



A Guide for Newcomers

Revised and updated January 2024

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In West Hanney it's on the wall of the brick garage opposite the Plough in Church St. All are accessible 24/7

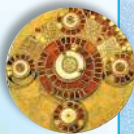
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