



Hanne News

Number 611 Oct 2026

**Solar Panels...lots of
'em!....are being
proposed for our
green fields.**

**Cue for an argument
I suspect.....See page 6**



Meet Aunt Sally on page 17



**Hanne Village Hall working party 2026
Saturday 10th October 10:00 - 12pm.
Come and join us at the big Village Hall tidy up.
See page 4. The pic is of last year's happy volunteers**

Some good news to start....one

of the first projects that began after the end of the Second World War was the rebuilding of Botley Bridge in Oxford. Well, some 81 years later, it's finally finished - yes really! - and due to its re-opening, there are major changes to bus routes county-wide.

Full details, supplied by my chum Alan Turner, to whom my sincere thanks, are on page 4.

Again I find myself needing to apologise for typos in last month's mag...a couple of boobs were to be found on page 3!

I want to give a quick pat on the back if I may to the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner, West Hanney's very own Matt Barber. He's been popping up on the old telly a fair bit of late, talking about the outrageous plan to release early the young men who dragged PC Andrew Harper to his tragic death.

Matt's and other's petition garnered over one million signatures and I'm sure helped those in power realise just how strong feeling was against their early release proposals.

As you read this, the Michaelmas Fayre will be memories, but as I write, it looms large in the life of our community.

A few words from the main organiser Hilary Cakebread are on page 14 and add a hint of nostalgia. Who does remember Kenneth Wolstenholme?

Last month I included a letter that sang the praises of Matt Evans and his 'Green Jacket Tree Care' company. This month I'm



You're Ken Wolstenholme, and I remember you!!



pleased to welcome him as a new advertiser...his ad is on page 9.

In contrast with this rather angry, finger-wagging young lady above, there's a very jolly and smiley young lady on page 20, telling us about the Wantage Literary Festival.

Andrew Wastie's Village Hall working party is happening on the 10th. If you can lend a hand, it would be much appreciated. See page 4.

In order to mount a serious challenge to Thames Water's reservoir proposals, GARD have launched a crowdfunding campaign. This will allow them to access independent legal, flooding, environmental and planning expertise. See their article on page 22.

Solar panels? Mmm, not sure? Yes green and all that, but what with the reservoir, methinks it's all getting a bit much. Our Parish Councils are on the case - pages 6 and 7.

Enough wittering on Mr Ed, but just to say that any feedback, positive or negative, is always welcome. And if yours is a strongly felt dose of the latter, feel free to volunteer to take over the reins. I should warn you tho'...the pay's not great. Till next month!

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....

Thurs 1st, 7pm - 9pm. People's Emergency Briefing at The Beacon. See page 15

Sun 4th, St Johns Church, Main St. Grove OX12 7LQ, 3pm. An afternoon of music with the Wantage Male Voice Choir. See page 15

Mon 5th. Village Hall, 7.45pm, Hanney Gardening Club (HGC)....'An Armchair Walk Through Blenheim'. Andy Mills gives a fascinating insight into the life of the head gardener at Blenheim Palace.

Sat 10th, 10.30am Hanney War Memorial Hall, annual wash and brush-up. Can you help? See page 4.

Weds 14th, East Hanney Parish Council meeting. 7.30pm, Village Hall.

Tues 20th, 1pm and 7pm, Weds 21st, 10am and 1pm. 'Smoking Apples Theatre' presents award-winning show 'Kinder' at Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock. Aimed at ages 9 - 18 years, it tells the story of a Czech-Jewish girl escaping on a 'Kindertransport' train in the 1930s using inventive table-top puppetry and shadow play see page 19.

Mon 26th Hanney History Group (HHG) The Largest Smell in the Kingdom. Village Hall. See page 14.

Mon 26th - 7th Nov, Wantage Literary Festival. See page 20, and their website: www.wantageliteraryfestival.co.uk. Also on Facebook and Instagram.

And further ahead...

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 7th Nov - 28th The Plough will be showing every England game of the Autumn Rugby Internationals.... "We'll even show the Welsh ones if you want a laugh." *Greatest rugby player ever.

Fri 13th Nov The Plough...Apres Ski night, The Plough, £50 per person

Sat 14th Nov, Village Hall, Cancer Research Charity Sale. See page 14.

Mom 23rd Nov HHG - 'A Tale of 3 Chaucers' Paul Whitton.

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. Hanney Gardening Club... Christmas Party. Details soon.

Mon 25th Jan 2027 - HHG - 'Oxfordshire Pub Names' - Andrew Long.

Mon 22nd Feb, HHG 'Yesterday's Runways' - Bill King.

Sun 28th Feb, Editor's birthday...gifts and cards welcome.

***Phil Bennett.**





Bus routes and times through Oxfordshire are changing, due to the re-opening of the Botley Bridge.

It effects the routes going through East Hanney. They changed on 20th September.

Sadly there is still not a bus to be seen in little old West Hanney.

The X1 bus currently running between Oxford Railway Station via Abingdon and

Black Horse EH to and from Wantage Market Place has been cancelled and replaced by the new route for the X35 which will run half hourly between Abingdon (Stratton Way), Black Horse EH, Health Centre, Market Place Wantage and then on a longish route to Didcot via East Hendred and Harwell.

The S9 service will continue with a half hour service from Wantage Market Place through East Hanney but will now terminate at the John Radcliffe Hospital Main Entrance.

It's a welcome improvement in services, now with four buses an hour into and out of Wantage, two an hour into Abingdon and two an hour to John Radcliffe Hospital. The new timetables can be downloaded at the webpages below.

Full details for Oxford Bus Company on their website: <https://www.oxfordbus.co.uk>. Likewise Stagecoach; www.stagecoachbus.com

Hanney Village Hall working party 2026 **Saturday 10th October 10:00am - 12pm**

Our Village Hall which includes the Community Shop and Post Office, offer wonderful facilities for the many clubs and societies that use it. Both are run solely by volunteers and being a building the size that it is, needs regular maintenance.

Come and join us at the big Village Hall tidy up on the 10th October 10am - 12pm.

We will be working on the outside of the building cleaning facias, lights, cameras and windows. The majority of hedge trimming has been completed already but there is still some small ground-based clearing to be completed.

Please bring brooms, clothes, buckets, trowels and spades and most importantly your enthusiasm to give the Hall the freshen up it deserves.

Free tea, coffee and drinks will be available for all volunteers

Further details will be posted on the Hanney Post Office Facebook page nearer the time.

See you then and many thanks.

Andrew Wastie & Marion Mantle

Contact wastieworld@googlemail.com for suggestions and questions or pop into the Post Office

Still on the Village Hall, it is certainly one of the jewels in the Hanney Crown. Officially known as the 'Hanney War Memorial Hall', it's a registered charity, number 300096.

I have three pleas regarding it. Allow me to explain.....

A large number of organisations and individuals use the Hall regularly. The hire fees are very competitive indeed, and, along with great facilities large fully equipped kitchen, bar, toilets, including disabled, it has an easy to use booking system. Full details are on its website here:

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

Massive thanks go to Big Chief Graham Garner and his committee, who run and maintain the hall, in particular the Treasurer Phil Donovan whose consummate mastery of all aspects of 'Treasurer' type stuff is truly bewildering!

So my first plea is to ask that you consider it as an excellent venue for your special event.

My second plea....Graham welcomes anyone who's interested in joining the committee, so if you might be interested in getting involved, please get in touch....contact details on back page.

For the maintenance jobs on the Hall, Graham does a lot himself, and also uses local tradespeople and companies.

The excellent Hanney Glazed is one such, see their ad on page 27, and my pic is of one of the finest craftsmen in the area, Sir Mark of Heyes and Swindon Town FC. He looks surprisingly cheerful as he brandishes his Black and Decker! His ad also is also on page 27. Gotta say Mark, you must have mighty tough knees!

My third plea...once a year - annually even!



- a working party is held when the Hall gets a very thorough wash and brush up from a team of volunteers led by another great community-minded chap, Sir Andrew of Wastie and Post Office!

This year it's happening on Saturday 10th October at 10:30am and if you could pop along and give a hand, that would be much appreciated. See page 4

East Hanney Parish Council

The following was discussed at our last meeting:

Overgrown hedges - there are some hedges on the roads through Hanney that are forcing vehicles into the middle of the road. Can we please remind residents that hedges must be kept cut and within the boundary of your land.

Ditches - following our appeal for residents to clear their ditches, many have been addressed, thank you.

Pavilion - progress continues, we are currently seeking expressions of interest in building the pavilion or helping with technical drawings.

Cearn Solar Farm - at the time of writing, very little, other than the issued leaflet is known about this proposal. It is on a huge scale, 2,800 hectares and surrounds both Hanney's, Lyford and Garford. We will attend a design meeting with the developer to determine the facts to share with residents. Clearly this is linked to the proposed reservoir and authorities need to consider any application with this in mind.

Next meeting 14th October, 7.30pm, Village Hall.

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

As Paul has mentioned above, there are proposals to cover large areas of farmland around the Hanneys with solar panels.

This is a very big deal indeed, and I understand that the Parish Councils of all the areas potentially affected are meeting to discuss the proposals.

Thence to a meeting with the company Cearn. Word has it that's to be around the 6th October.

Apparently, nousey parkers like me are not



welcome, but I'm sure our PCs will keep us updated, and if you have any views for or against - many of us will have! - do let them know.

The large A4 pamphlet to which Paul refers is not very helpful, intentionally

I'm sure. It gives no real idea of exactly how close to our villages the panels will actually be located.

The photo is from the Cearn Solar Farm website and shows some panels nestling snugly in a green field surrounded by plentiful trees and hedges.

West Hanney Parish Council

Households and the Parish Council have been informed about the proposal by Cearn Solar Farm Ltd to construct a large solar farm with battery energy storage on 2,800 acres of farmland extending from East Hanney and Garford in the east to Stanford in the Vale and Baulking in the west. An underground grid connection is planned 7 miles away at a new substation west of Cumnor.

Together with the East Hanney solar farm and the solar farm to the east of Denchworth, over 3,100 acres of our Vale Lowland landscape would be covered in solar panels, an area greater than the controversial Botley West Solar Farm on farmland north of Cumnor to Woodstock.

The Cearn Solar Farm project is of serious concern to residents. WHPC has arranged for the 13 Parishes of Vale affected by this solar farm to meet to formulate our initial response to these proposals.

Councillors:

Chair: David Corps - cllr.david.corps@westhanneyparish.gov.uk 01235 867454.

Graham Garner - cllr.graham.garner@westhanneyparish.gov.uk 01235 868684.

Vicki Ruston - email: cllr.vicki.ruston@westhanneyparish.gov.uk

Ahmed Farrag - cllr.ahmed.farrag@westhanneyparish.gov.uk 07388 816079.

Parish Clerk: Simona Cammalleri - parishclerk@westhanneyparish.gov.uk 07479 022580

Website: www.westhanneyparish.gov.uk

“Join our friendly team at Citizens Advice!”

Are you seeking a new challenge, and want to contribute something positive to your community? Citizens Advice Oxfordshire is looking for dedicated and compassionate volunteer advisers to work in our offices.

Citizens Advice gives people the knowledge and confidence they need to find their way forward - whoever they are and whatever their problem. Our volunteers play a vital role, ensuring that people receive the advice and support they need.

A Citizens Advice volunteer recently commented on the way many clients are transformed after benefitting from the close attention and help of an adviser.

What kind of basic skills will you need to volunteer with us? You will need to be confident with computers and have a both

a willingness to learn and a positive desire to help people. In the course of your volunteering you'll learn new skills and meet new people, helping clients with problems in the areas of debt management, benefits, employment, housing and relationships (no prior knowledge necessary).

After extensive training you will be giving confidential advice to clients, mainly on the telephone at first, and then later by emails, in person or by using webchat.

We would like you to be available for two sessions per week, either mornings or afternoons or for a whole day. We offer a rewarding, flexible and supportive working environment.

If you would like to discuss these volunteering roles, please email: volunteer-recruitment@caox.org.uk and one of our staff will contact you.”

The Plough, Black Horse and Legion all have Aunt Sally teams, a traditional Oxfordshire game that's taken rather seriously around these parts! The happy chaps on the right are the Plough team.

I've not heard from the Horse or the Legion on their fortunes this season...it's just finished, but the Plough team's big chief Sir Kevin of Sanders has been in touch. Here's what he told me....

"The Plough Aunt Sally team have had an amazing season and, having been promoted two divisions to the B league, at the end of last year's very successful season, we have finished 4th. This is the highest any team from Hanney has ever finished.

We also made it to the cup semi-finals, only losing to the Premier League champions! If anyone is interested in playing next year please get in touch with Kevin. Email him on kevin.sanders@sky.com or message on 07881 858065."

From all here at global HQ we say well done chaps!



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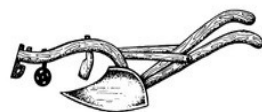

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The Church of England



***“We plough the fields and scatter
the good seed on the land...”***

October is the traditional month for Harvest Festivals. I wonder if you have memories of Harvest Festivals, perhaps in your younger days? Memorable harvest hymns like “We plough the fields and scatter”, or maybe children’s harvest songs like the classic from the 1970s - “Cauliflowers fluffy and cabbages green” (A quick look on youtube will remind you how it goes!) Harvest Festivals can have an extra resonance for those of us who grow some of our own fruit and vegetables. We have had mixed results – including the year we found Deadly Nightshade growing with our Sunflowers – and the year we grew green peppers which all disappeared one night. (We never did find the culprit – possibly muntjac deer?)

But of course this year we have had the long hot drought. And our yields are well down. That plus the wildfires around the world, and the dreadful floods in Nepal, can make us feel anxious. Climate Change has become an unfashionable subject almost to the point of taboo – we all know about it, but none of us want to be reminded. Yet the events of this year have shown us that this

is not a subject for the “pending” pile – rather it needs to be in the “Urgent Action” tray.

However I am not a doom monger! I am encouraged by these words from the early pages of the Bible:

*“As long as the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night
will never cease.”* (Genesis 8 v 22)

That’s not an excuse for inaction, but it suggests to me that if we try to work with our Loving Creator, and to co-operate with his Creation, then he will help us.

So Harvest Festivals are not just a nostalgic memory. They can give us fruitful grounds for thought, a positive way into a subject that can feel tired, and potentially a spur to action.

We would love to see you at our Harvest Festival on 11th October where we look forward to enjoying the well-known harvest hymns and songs, celebrating all that is good in creation around us, and praying for those in our world who are hungry. And to end on a positive note, after only two wet days, green shoots are starting to appear on our brown lawn – a sure sign of hope! *Charles Draper - retired minister living in East Hanney.*

Hanney Harvest Festival

SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER in St James Church at 9.30am.

Join us to sing all those glorious harvest hymns (and have a peek at how splendid the church is looking). And most importantly a chance to support the work of the Wantage & Grove Foodbank -please bring along donations of food or other essentials (food must be tins or packed goods with a minimum of 6-month use by date) or bring a cash donation which we can pass on to support them. Need help to get it to us?

Email : hilarycakebreadhall@gmail.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**

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

Hanney Lottery - August Winners

1st - Bill Watkin. 2nd - Colin Rice. 3rd - Ian Brown.

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

Last month I included a pic of a partially hidden grave, that of Rev James MacDougall.

Since then, with the aid of my strimmer, I tidied it up.

As the Rev. looks down on me from heaven above - for that is surely where he resides! - I hope he approves of my modest endeavours. See photo on the right.

The other pic, far right, is one of the same grave before mother nature camouflaged it so effectively.

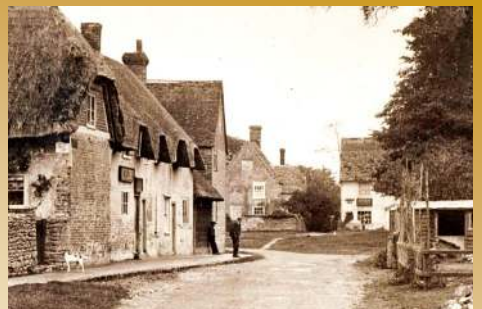
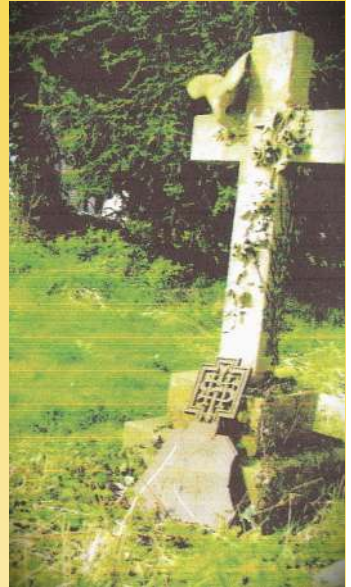
At the bottom of it is a plaque with intertwined letters.. 'IHS'. Thanks to Chat LPBGTO, I can tell you that it's a 'Christogram', a sacred monogram or short form that represents the name of 'Jesus Christ', frequently appearing on church altars, stained glass, vestments, and old gravestones.

I had hoped to uncover the plaque, but as my strimmer did its stuff it became apparent that it was no longer there. If you know its whereabouts, please let me know.

At some point the gravestone must have been straightened, since it looks to be sloping backwards in the earlier snap.

Help needed. I find local history fascinating, and I'm currently putting together a non-academic (i.e. there may be several mistakes in it!) book on the history of the Plough in West Hanney.

If you have any photos, documents, memories or anything else even remotely connected with the pub that you'd be happy to share with me, I'd be delighted to hear from you. My contact details bottom of page 2.



BAZAAR

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SAT Nov

14th

Hanney WMH 10 till 2pm

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A while back I made some not very complimentary remarks about Oxfordshire County Council's Waste Recycling Centres. However, whilst chatting with a chum recently he told me that they're actually not bad at all, with the workers there usually very helpful, particularly early on a Saturday or Sunday morning when they may have been out partying the night before!

He recommends the one in Stanford in the Vale, to be found here....Faringdon Road, Stanford in the Vale, Faringdon, SN7 8LD

You need to book in advance - online or by phone - to visit. Their opening hours are Monday to Sunday, 8 am to 5 pm.

I strongly suggest a visit to their website to read up on the various rules and regulations ...there are many.

Their website..... www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling

Hanney Michaelmas Fayre.... "It's probably showing my age that I can remember this - but as Kenneth Wolstenholme famously said *"they think it's all over it is now!"* Well at least for 2026. As I write this, we are working hard to make this year's Fayre a great community day. Thank you to everyone who helps in any way, to those who support it and to Hanney for being such a great community to live in. Photo gallery in November issue (thank you Jim)." *Hilary Cakebread.*

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"

Hanney History Group

offers talks that mainly focus on the history of the Hanneys, the Vale of the White Horse and Oxfordshire.

We meet every 4th Monday of the Month, from September 2026 to May 2027 at 8pm at the Hanney War Memorial Hall OX12 0JL

Visits are arranged in the Summer.

New members and visitors are always welcome. A £16 subscription covers eight evenings - £ 4:00 per talk for visitors

Summer visits and walks at venue/guide cost price.

People's Emergency Briefing at The Beacon

1st October

19:00 - 21:00 BST

A special community screening: *What's happening with climate and nature, and what does it mean for everyday life in the UK?*

Join us for a screening of the People's Emergency Briefing - an eye-opening 50-minute film bringing together nine leading UK scientists and experts with the latest evidence and why it matters for things like:

- ☐☐ Extreme weather
- ☐ Food security
- ☐ Health
- ☐ Cost of living

The film is based on the National Emergency Briefing in Westminster (featured by ITV, Channel 4 and The Times) with appearances from Chris Packham, Deborah Meaden, and a range of voices from across the UK.

Age rating 16+ *After the film there will be an open discussion about what it means for our community and what we can do locally.*

Seats are free but limited, so please book in advance.

If after booking you are unable to attend, we'd be very grateful if you could let us know so that we can re-allocate your ticket to someone else. Bring a friend, neighbour or family member: everyone is welcome.

This screening is co-hosted by Sustainable Wantage, Letcombe Brook Project, Down to Earth Cafe, The Makery, Vale of White Horse District Council, Wantage Town Council, Wantage Cafe Sci, Vale Community Impact, Westmill Sustainable Energy Trust, Betjeman Millennium Park, Wantage and Grove Active Travel and Vale and Downland Museum.

Together in SONG

Come and join us for an afternoon of music to celebrate Autumn.

Wantage Male Voice Choir
and
Simply Singing

Sunday 4th October 2026
3.00 pm

St. John's Church, Main St., Grove, OX12 7LQ.

No tickets, just donate to the choirs if you like us.

This from the Wantage and Grove Neighbourhood Policing Team...

"We are receiving lots of reports of youths regularly fishing in Letcombe Brook. Now, before anyone accuses us of being party poopers... we know there are far worse things young people could be doing than enjoying the outdoors and having a go at fishing. However... there's one small problem.

Fishing isn't allowed in Letcombe Brook. Why not? Because Letcombe Brook is a very special chalk stream and home to important wildlife including brown trout, kingfishers, water voles and otters. Some of the wildlife around the Brook is protected, and the habitat is carefully managed.

Fishing is a fantastic hobby, gets people outdoors, and teaches patience - something we could all use when sitting in traffic!

So by all means enjoy fishing, but please do it in the right places and with the proper permission.

For youngsters wanting to get into fishing:

- Under 13s do not need a rod licence. 13 to 16 need a free junior rod licence.
 - Permission from the fishery or landowner is still required regardless of age.
- If a sign says NO FISHING, the clue is in the wording."

NOVEMBER 08th 2026
ST JAMES CHURCH,
WEST HANNEY

REMEMBRANCE *Service*



10:15 - MEET @ EAST HANNEY RBL
10:30 - MARCH LED BY WANTAGE SILVER BAND
10:45 - SERVICE BEGINS

POST SERVICE REFRESHMENTS @RBL

Everyone is welcome to join us as we come together to honor and remember the brave soldiers who have sacrificed for our freedom. This ceremony is a time for reflection and gratitude.

Poppy Appeal, starting 22nd October.
Donation boxes will be located at Hanney Village Shop & the British Legion.
Pin Badges can be reserved/ordered by messaging me Jamie Butcher, Poppy appeal organiser on **07342 812801** and collected from Longfields in Marcham.
Your support and generosity



last year helped us raise nearly £5,500. This is a tremendous amount, and we thank you in advance for your donations for this year's Appeal.

All your donations are invaluable in enabling the Royal British Legion to provide life-long support to serving and ex-serving members of the British Armed Forces and their families.

Local Government reorganisation.

The recent planned and endlessly discussed changes to the way that Oxfordshire and Berkshire are governed at Parish, District and County level have been delayed.

The government had previously announced the area would be split into three new unitary authorities - one to the north, one to the south including west Berkshire, and a Greater Oxford authority for the city and its greenbelt.

But Ms. Rayner, red of hair and political persuasion - officially 'Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government' - has announced a pause until the decision is "reviewed".

Her words in Parliament on September 7th ... *"It's only right that I make sure that everything we do is working towards that plan to change Britain, without delay"*.

The reorganisation is now at a complete standstill whilst Angela ensures the legal framework is robust.

Fair enough...we must all stay on the right side of the law mustn't we!

Apparently heavy duty lawyers are lining up to fight the proposals, presumably taking yet more of our taxes, so due diligence from Angie and others is essential.

That said, the delay has sparked widespread frustration, with leaders at West Berkshire Council and Oxford City Council noting that thousands of hours of folk's time and millions of pounds of taxpayers' money have already been spent preparing for the 2028 transition.

Our County Councillor, Ron Batstone confirmed the above to me when I met him at September's East Hanney Parish Council meeting.... much money and time wasted.

I spoke to the Meteorological Office recently and they told me that the volume of hot

air expended at the endless discussions over these potential changes will have been in part to blame for the rather hot summer we've had this year!

The good news is that the District and County Councils will continue functioning as normal, at least for now.

Below are the latest words on the above direct from Oxfordshire County Council....

"The government has announced it will review its local government reorganisation (LGR) minded to decisions across England to ensure LGR is robust and aligns with its new priorities.

This has implications about the future of councils in Oxfordshire and West Berkshire following its decision in July to create three new unitary authorities for the area.

The scope of the review has not yet been agreed but government wants it to be quick, in the next couple of months. As a result, the timeline for Oxfordshire and West Berkshire will likely be moved back a year. This is yet to be confirmed.

The government has restated its commitment to devolution – the transfer of powers and funding from national to local government – and has said LGR is a fundamental part of achieving this. As a result, preparatory work across Oxfordshire and West Berkshire will continue while the review takes place.

Although timelines may change, councils remain focused on partnership work to prepare for all outcomes and delivering the best services for local communities."

I suspect this story has legs.

Waste crime knows no boundaries.

We have seen the huge impact of large scale waste crime here on our doorstep with the massive illegal dump near Kidlington which has cost the Environment Agency millions of pounds to clear up. More arrests have already been made in this case and the investigation into others continues.

It is not just these huge waste sites that are the problem though. Each year across the country there are over a million incidents of fly-tipping and many of these have serious consequences for victims. Often land-owners, large and small, are left with the clean up costs and the problem of disposing of someone else's waste.

In Oxfordshire the problem has only been exacerbated by the changes made to our local tips. The County Council's new policy for our local household waste recycling centres is making it harder for many residents to legitimately get rid of their waste, and that can play into the hand of organised criminals.

Thames Valley Police regularly work with local authorities and with the Environment Agency on joint operations to tackle waste criminals. Sometimes operating as seemingly legitimate businesses - some even have waste carrier licenses - these criminals are not just responsible for fly-tipping, but are often linked to other forms of or-

ganised crime.

They operate across borders, and so must the enforcement. Thames Valley Police's Rural Crime Taskforce frequently operates in London and neighbouring counties to identify and apprehend those responsible for fly-tipping, rural crime and other offending locally across Oxfordshire.

The impact of fly-tipping can be significant. It is not just an inconvenience but can land the victim with a bill for thousands of pounds to safely remove someone else's waste.

In the coming months I hope to be able to announce a pilot project across Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire that will allow victims to claim support to deal with some of the costs of the clear up.

This will help victims financially as well as helping to protect our local environment. The intention of the scheme is to increase reporting of fly-tipping incidents and increase the chance of catching those responsible.

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

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GARD is launching a Crowdfunder on **4th October** to raise £100,000 by December 2026 for independent legal, flooding, environmental and planning expertise during the reservoir planning application process expected in late 2026.

The purpose is not to oppose reservoirs in principle, but to ensure that Thames Water’s proposed White Horse Reservoir plans are tested properly and that any decision by the Planning Inspectorate is evidence-led, robust, affordable and demonstrably better than the alternatives.

Any funds raised will support expert evidence on flooding, dam safety, environmental impact, cost, deliverability and options including leakage reduction, water recycling, regional transfers, demand management and smaller distributed schemes. GARD believes these alternatives should be fully examined before an irreversible commitment is made.

As GARD has noted, the reservoir would remove productive farmland, damage habi-

tats and landscape, raise flood-risk concerns, in particular in East and West Hanney, and expose billpayers to an estimated £7.5 billion cost over 250 years. Thames Water has yet to present its final design or complete a dam-break assessment.

GARD is an entirely voluntary group, with members giving many hours of their own time because they care deeply about securing the best outcome for water provision – one that is safe, robust and effective and represents genuine long-term value for the community and the wider region.

Raising the full £100,000 will allow the proposal to be scrutinised robustly; if less is raised, the evidence available will necessarily be narrower. Any money raised above the amount required for this work will be donated to a charity chosen by GARD members.

Every donation will help put a strong, independent case before the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of communities, the environment and billpayers. Please donate via the GARD website and share it widely:

groupagainstreervoirdevelopment.org

No reason for including this pic, other than I think it’s rather nice.



WHY .21 .

MEMORIAL CORNER. WEST HANNEY.

Anyone up for a bit of local history?

On the front cover this month you may have spied the number 611, followed by the month and year. It indicates the number of issues the mag has published since the first one in December 1975.

If you're good at big sums, you'll realise that, including the December 1975 issue, there have been 611 months since then, counting this one, October 2026.

This is no coincidence! It shows that Hanney News has not missed a single month since its first issue. I'm sure I speak for all of us - current and previous - who have been involved in bringing our humble periodical to you, when I say we're rather proud.

That said, referring to December 1975's as the first issue is not strictly true.

Back in Victorian times a 'Hanney News' was produced for several years. Some copies still exist and from them I intend, once in a while, to include a few snippets for your delight and edification!

The top panel is from the February 1888 issue, a mere 138 years ago, with an early reference to 'Mad Cow'!! An interesting opening sentence to this short piece.... "Not many things of interest..." then followed however by a succinct description of a poor fellow's near death experience on the horns of a young cow!

The next snippet from June 1879 sounds like a bit of fun. I wonder who Professor Omri was? A.I. tells me the following on the unusual name.... "*The word or name Omri means "my life" or "my age" in Arabic as an affectionate phrase, and "my sheaf of grain" or "servant of the Lord" in Hebrew as a given name.*"

A familiar tale in the bottom panel, also from June 1879... 'Rain stopped play!' It is a great shame that the Hanney Cricket Club is no more, but games do happen here in Hanney when the 'Golden Sparrows', a Didcot based team, play their matches on the Rec. See page 5 of the July issue.

Big thanks to East Hanney's Andy Robertson for supplying these little gems.

Not many things of interest to the Parish have taken place during the past month. An occurrence indeed took place that might have been attended with very serious effects. Mr. John Herman purchased a young cow of Mr. Lenthall, of Besselsleigh, which turned out outrageously mad. It gored Henry Giles in the leg, and was very nearly running its horns into Mr. Herman's body, which must have proved fatal. Fortunately it slipped in the mud, and was secured before doing any further damage.

May 15. An entertainment was given in the school-room by Professor Omri, consisting of juggling tricks and ventriloquism. There was but a small attendance, but the Professor did his best to amuse the company, and succeeded admirably. His card tricks were wonderful !

The Members of the Hanney Cricket Club commenced playing a match with a Wallingford team on Whit Monday, but, owing to the wet weather, they were compelled to give up after the Hanney side had been in once and the others not at all.

Last month I mentioned how my curiosity had been peeked by a gravestone in St James churchyard, that of a Mr Paul Mackarel, 'Racing Driver'. See Sept issue, page 22.

A few folk have since been in touch, so my sincere thanks to them, and as a result of their research, I have learned that Paul and his wife lived in East Hanney, possibly Blenheim Orchard, and she may have belonged to the tennis club.

He may have been a racing driver by profession, or possibly this was just a hobby. Whichever, a 1993 British motorsport programme, listed Paul Mackarel from East Hanney, driving a Porsche 911SC – 3000cc car, and entering a race at Snetterton on 8th August 1993, in car number 67. Maybe his car looked like this one? Snetterton is a still working motor racing circuit in Norfolk, originally opening in 1953.

Paul was born in 1952, so in 1993, he would have been 41. He died just 2 years later aged 43....I wonder if maybe he was killed in a motor racing accident?

I believe we have one or two Porsche owners in our community, though from my front window here at Global HQ the only cars I see that treat Winter Lane as a race track are more likely to be Volkswagens, one in particularly sounding as if the exhaust has fallen off.

I know the 20mph is a pain, but some of the exits from the drives of the houses afford very little sight of the road until you're nearly halfway out on it. Much care is needed.



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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 psayers@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 at the War Memorial Hall 2-5pm. New members and beginners welcome. Lessons available. Contact the club at wantagebridgeclubinfo@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:
helpinghandshanneys@gmail.com

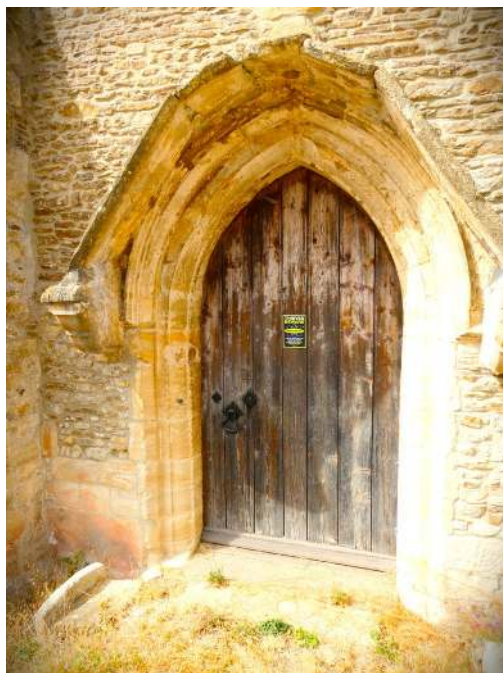
WANTAGE GARDENERS ASSOCIATION :
10am - 12noon every Saturday Feb-Sept. See website for details of all they offer.
www.wantagegardeners.org.uk

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 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 East Hanney, on the left wall of the porch in the Village Hall and on the fence between the Sovereign building and Motivation entrance on the A338.

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

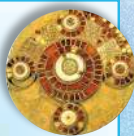
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