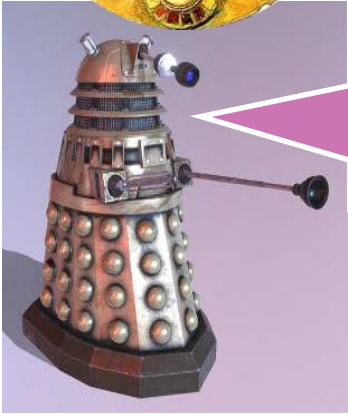


# Hanne News

Number 605 April 2026



## NOMINATE.... NOMINATE!

See page 5

### Burglary in West Hanne

Details on page 21

**Are you starting Uni, or any other further or higher education this year?**

**If you live in Hanne, the 'Hanne Parochial Charity' may be able to help you with a grant towards purchasing of books, equipment and such like. See page 8.**



Thanks Des  
...loving  
the tractor  
and  
the  
hat!

See page 7

Editor's usual stuff - page 2.

What's happening this month? - page 3.

Eating cake and making friends - page 5.

Hilary Clinton and Dragons - page 14.

Community Facebook page and road signs - page 15.

The Stockstock Music Festival...details coming soon. It's sponsored by Oxo Cubes.

And much much more.....

## Editorial

Welcome to April, and to all the fools who dwell amongst us, though the majority of them are up in Westminster of course! We have much to discuss, mostly good.

Back in the Feb issue I included an appeal for sponsors for Sophie Aram and her dance troupe. I also mentioned that they would be performing at the Truck festival later this year. Sadly, due to unforeseen circumstances, they won't be there. The event will be the less for their absence. Btw, it's still not too late to sponsor Sophie in Dublin. If you may be able to help her achieve her dream of dancing in the World Cup this summer, please email her Mum Hayley: hayley.aram@googlemail.com

Iran....who said Hanney News isn't topical enough?!....gets a mention in a brief but delightful piece by Christopher Hitchens, see page 22.

We welcome three new advertisers this month, seamstress Wendy Hunter, see page 11 and page 26, MID Engineering also on page 11, and Thomas Cleary, page 9. Many thanks to them - and all our advertisers of course - for supporting Hanney News.

I'm sad to report that there has recently been some shoplifting - of sweets - in our Community Shop, by some local lads. They were confronted at the time, and hopefully there will be no repeat.

The rumours flying around regarding the recent burglary in West Hanney shows the power of 'Chinese whispers'...am I allowed to use that old phrase these days? You can read the facts on page 21.

Were you at school in Hanney in 1955 or 1946? We've got a couple of lovely old snaps from back then on pages 7 and 13.

The Hanney Community Awards are very much up and running, so as Derek the Dalek commands, please nominate!! All nominations will then be judged by a panel of East and West Hanney Parish councillors, and the winners will be announced at the Annual Parish Meeting happening on Weds 20th May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. This event is when our two Parish Councils get together, and is always worth attending anyway.

Why don't our PCs join forces? A good question methinks, but learned folk who like 'rules' - I've always struggled with rules - tell me that it is not possible... shame!

It's a way off yet, but I urge you to keep Sunday 7th June free, as many of the finest gardens in Hanney will be opening their gates. (See what I did there?...not 'doors' but 'gates'. ...garden gates! Clever eh?)

Who remembers The Hanney Carnival? It happened in 1969, and I hope to have space next month to include a copy of the timetable...donkeys and dancing were, amongst other things, involved!

Since I started editing Hanney News in 2015, the article on page 19 is the saddest and hardest that I've ever written. I don't usually use phrases like 'it comes from the heart', but in this case it certainly does, with a few tears thrown in.

Till next month - the merry one! - dear readers, I bid you adieu.

**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 my mob: 07762 239681, or landline - 01235 867500, or email: hanneynews@gmail.com

## What's happening this month....

**Mon 6<sup>th</sup>, Hanney Gardening Club** Village Hall. 7.30 for 8pm. Soil Improvement by Russell Atwood, who draws on over 25 years' experience in allotment gardening and Crop Science. He delves into the complexities of soil biology and sustainable gardening practices and the importance of organic matter and microbial activity and also practical techniques such as no-dig gardening. Non-members welcome.

**Sat 11<sup>th</sup>, 7pm - Wantage Parish Church, 'Wantage sings in Harmony'** - see page 17.

**Sat 18<sup>th</sup>, 10am - 2pm, Cancer Research UK sale** at Village Hall. See page 4.

**Weds 20<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm, Village Hall - Annual Parish Meeting**, when both PCs get together and are nice to each other!

**Sun 26<sup>th</sup>, 10am - 2pm, Royal British Legion** East Hanney: Abarth - Fiat - Spider "Meeps Meet." s Visitors very welcome - £3.50. Please note that this is an event to raise some much needed funds for the **Hanney RBL 66 club**.

If you're a car enthusiast please do come along - if you have an Abarth - even better bring it along too!!! It will be a fun event with a bouncy castle, food and of course some fun stalls, and there will be some sort of raffle! Pop it in the diary and we look forward to seeing you on the day.



**Mon 27<sup>th</sup> April, 8pm, Village Hall - Hanney History Group**, a talk by Richard Marks 'The Wantage Tramway'. See page 22 & 24.

## And further ahead

**Sat 16<sup>th</sup> May, W.I. Craft Fair. Village Hall.** Hope to see you there. A popular event for all the family. Note: we are full for stalls. Page23.

**Mon 18<sup>th</sup> May, 8pm, Village Hall - Hanney History Group**, a talk by Timothy Walker former Director of the Oxford Botanic Garden - 'History of Oxford Botanic Garden'. Note this is not the usual 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month due to the Bank Holiday. Details next month. Visitors very welcome - £3.50.

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June 1.00pm to 5.00pm Hanney Hidden Gardens**, 17 gardens will be open for you to look around. Programmes and wrist band £5 per person available from the Village Shop, children under 12 free. *This is a community event with the money raised going to local good causes.*

**Sat, 13 June 2026 - Grove and Wantage Extravaganza.** is returning bigger and better than ever . This much-loved community celebration will take place at Grove Recreation Ground, Recreation Lane, Grove, proudly hosted by Grove Rugby Club, in partnership with The Ray Collins Charitable Trust. This marks a new chapter in collaboration and community spirit. If you'd like to get involved, email [Volunteering@groverfc.co.uk](mailto:Volunteering@groverfc.co.uk) or join the Facebook group. More details nearer the time.

**Bad Joke!!** I recently took part in a recording of that TV show 'Hoarders', but I won't tell you what happened.... I don't want to give anything away!

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Our beautiful village  
in winter sun.

# Hanney Community Awards 2026

**East and West Hanney Parish Councils** are delighted to launch the Hanney Community Awards 2026, celebrating the individuals who make a real difference in our two villages.

These awards recognise those people living in **East or West Hanney** who go above and beyond to support others, strengthen community spirit, and contribute positively to life in Hanney.

We are inviting nominations from local residents for people who deserve recognition. Nominees might include volunteers, young people, community champions, or anyone whose actions have had a positive impact on village life.

Award Categories:

- Young Person Award (under 17)
- Community Contribution Award (17 and over)

If you know someone who deserves recognition, please submit a nomination and tell us why they should receive an award.

Nominations close on **Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026**. Nomination forms can be collected from the Community Shop or filled in online by scanning the QR code.

Let's come together to celebrate the people who make East and West Hanney such special places to live.

Winners will be announced at the Annual Parish Meeting to be held at the Village Hall on the 20th May.

(Editor's note....these meetings are always very interesting and worth attending anyway!)



## Did someone say cake?

A lovely first get together was held at La Fontana, in East Hanney for almost 30 women from our recently formed social group and was a great success.

If you would like to join our group please search Facebook for "**Ladies who socialise in West & East Hanney and local areas**"

Or use WhatsApp - number 07840 968736. We plan to arrange a similar



coffee/tea/cake get together very soon.

This is a friendly welcoming group for women of all ages in East & West Hanney and surrounding areas who would like to chat, meet up, find friends, go for walks or just sit and drink tea/coffee and eat cake!

We can also arrange to meet up for meals, lunch or whatever you prefer and to share news and views in a safe supportive place. Based in and around the local area.

Members are invited to host/arrange events to cover a wide range of interests.

# East Hanney Parish Council

**Paul Aram: Chair:** [cllr.paul.aram@easthanneyparish.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.paul.aram@easthanneyparish.gov.uk)

**Dickon Green:** [cllr.dickon.green@easthanneyparish.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.dickon.green@easthanneyparish.gov.uk)

**David Kirk:** [cllr.david.kirk@easthanneyparish.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.david.kirk@easthanneyparish.gov.uk)

**Garth Dennill:** [cllr.garth.dennill@easthanneyparish.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.garth.dennill@easthanneyparish.gov.uk)

**Laura Lolly Bligdon:** [cllr.laura.bligdon@easthanneyparish.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.laura.bligdon@easthanneyparish.gov.uk)

**James Newsome:** [cllr.james.newsome@easthanneyparish.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.james.newsome@easthanneyparish.gov.uk)

**Alexis Pratsides:** [cllr.alexis.pratsides@easthanneyparish.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.alexis.pratsides@easthanneyparish.gov.uk)

**Website:** [easthanneyparish.gov.uk](http://easthanneyparish.gov.uk) - **Clerk:** [clerk@easthanneyparish.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@easthanneyparish.gov.uk)

## Next meeting is on Weds 8th April , 7.30pm, Village Hall.

**Community Awards** – Closing date to nominate someone from The Hanneys for a Community Award is fast approaching. Please take part and nominate someone who you think should be recognised for their volunteering and contribution to our community. Three awards are available, more details in this edition of The Hanney News, page 5. Nomination forms are also available in the village shop.

**SESRO** – Now relabelled the ‘Vale of White Horse Reservoir’. Feedback to the Parish Councils following the recent consultation, suggests that over 2,500 responses were received. Thanks to all who responded.

**Sewage and Drainage Issues** - have been experienced at various points in the village. Reports of incidents have been reported to Thames Water (TW) by both Councillors and residents. TW have been in attendance to pump out at various locations. Please continue to report any incidents to them via their Help Line.

**Road sweep/gutter clearance** - To alleviate the build-up of rain and excess water on our road surfaces, we arranged for a contractor to undertake a gutter clean/road sweep during the month.

**Blenheim Orchard Footpath** - the footpath through to the A338 has been completed by Oxford County Council.... a great improvement!

**Verge Damage** – We have written to both Highways and the bus companies about the extent of verge damage in the village. We await the outcome! In the meantime, there continues to be further verge damage caused by vehicles. If anyone sees a vehicle parked on or going over a damaged verge, please report it / take a photo, so that the Parish Council can evidence the damage to the respective parties.

**Local Government Reorganisation** - Under the reorganisation, the District and County Councils are to be replaced with a new single unitary body. How we will receive our services and the body delivering them in the future will depend on the new structure that is formed. You can read about the three proposals being considered for Oxfordshire here:

[www.twocouncils.org](http://www.twocouncils.org)

# West Hanney Parish Council

## Councillors:

Chair: David Corps - [cllr.david.corps@westhanneyparish.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.david.corps@westhanneyparish.gov.uk) 01235 867454.

Graham Garner - [cllr.graham.garner@westhanneyparish.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.graham.garner@westhanneyparish.gov.uk)- 01235 868684.

Peter Packham - [cllr.peter.packham@westhanneyparish.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.peter.packham@westhanneyparish.gov.uk) 01235 868038.

Vicki Ruston - email: [cllr.vicki.ruston@westhanneyparish.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.vicki.ruston@westhanneyparish.gov.uk)

Ahmed Farrag - [cllr.ahmed.farrag@westhanneyparish.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.ahmed.farrag@westhanneyparish.gov.uk) 07388 816079.

Barbara Martin, Clerk - email: [parishclerk@westhanneyparish.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@westhanneyparish.gov.uk)

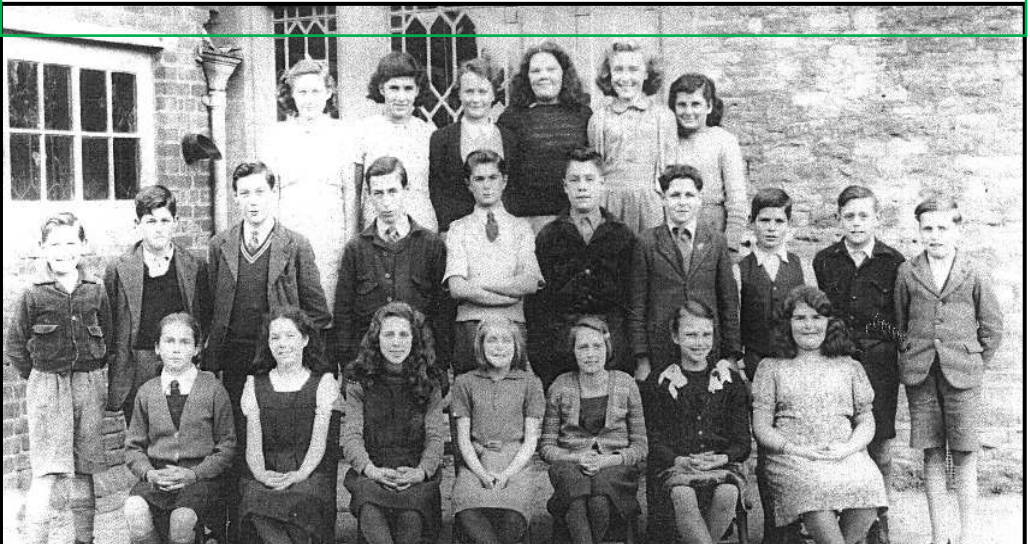
07793 556352. Website: [www.westhanneyparish.gov.uk](http://www.westhanneyparish.gov.uk)

**The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Wednesday 6th May at 7.30pm in the Olde Hanney Room, Hanney War Memorial Hall**

**For many years Des Thomas** has voluntarily cut the rides in our Community Woodland, riding his beloved vintage Ferguson tractor. By doing so, Des has kept them accessible to all. Very sadly, he no longer feels able to continue to do this. WHPC would like to thank Des on behalf of all the residents of the Hanneys, Grove and further afield who enjoy walking in our Woodland.

This winter, Paul Sayers has inspected and cleaned 40 nest boxes ready for the bird nesting season. Several of them had been severely damaged by grey squirrels. WHPC has purchased and installed a number of Woodstone nest boxes that are squirrel resistant. The last Woodland working party, before the bird nesting season starts in earnest, is on Saturday 28th March - please come along to help if you are able.

WHPC is delighted to support the Hanney Community Awards 2026, and Cllrs Peter Packham and Vicki Ruston will be joining the panel to assess the nominations received.



Hanney school approx. 1945 or 46? Recognise anyone?

**These are difficult times for many folk.**

**Here in Hanney we have a charity, 'The Hanney Parochial Trust' that may be able to help.**

It's an amalgamation of several local charities, the first set up back in 1604!

The board of Trustees includes both current Parish Council Chairs, and a representative of the Church, along with long-term residents of our Community.

If you know anyone who lives in East or West Hanney or Lyford and is in genuine financial need, please ask them to contact me directly.

If you apply for any type of grant. I will meet with you to discuss your situation, all in strictest confidence of course. I will then discuss your case with my fellow trustees. We aim to give you an answer within a couple of days.

As well as a general grant, here are some specific ways we can help...the purchase of specialised equipment, e.g. wheelchairs, the payment of hospital transport, school trips etc.

We also offer grants to assist under 25's embarking on higher education courses. This is regardless of their financial situation.

Our rules - the Charity Commission oversee our work - state that our grants are only available to residents of East Hanney, West Hanney and Lyford. Please note that receipt of a grant from us is not dependent upon how long you have lived in our community.

We now work closely with '**Vale Community Impact' (VCI)** in Wantage, 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**.

**My telephone numbers are 01235 867500 or 07762 239681.**

**Email: [jimstagg@btinternet.com](mailto:jimstagg@btinternet.com).**

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

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See Page 17 for details.

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# The Church of England



As I write this, war has once again flared up over the Middle East. And at the time of writing, no one knows how it will end, and what will be the outcome.

It feels like a different world from our peaceful village, as we enjoy the coming of spring-time.

Though even here, life is not all daffodils and primroses. We too have our struggles in life – illnesses, bereavements, and other things that make life painful or difficult.

I always enjoy getting outside in the Spring weather – it is always wonderful to see new life springing up all around us. But the persistent unsettling news can feel like a fly in the ointment.

The Easter season has always reflected the strange mixture of life in this world. In Holy Week (the week before Easter) and especially on Good Friday, we are reminded of the story of the arrest, trial, torture and execution of an innocent man – the suffering of Jesus on the Cross.

But then beyond all expectation, we hear astounding yet strangely peaceful stories following quickly after - as Jesus' friends insist that they have seen him alive – in a garden, in an upper room, by a lakeside, and on a mountain.

And astonishingly, the outcome of the story turns out to be not fear and death, but hope and peace.

The world continues to be a bewildering mix of suffering, pain and struggle on the one hand, and joy, peace and love on the other.

But the Easter story tells us that the struggles and the pain, however great, are temporary, while love, joy and peace are forever.

That's why, however disturbing the news, and however perplexing life can often be, if we look and listen and engage with the Easter story, we will find that it will always be a source of hope.

And this is a hope that will not disappoint – a hope that keeps on growing - a hope that is without end.

A very happy Easter to you all,

PS If you might be interested or might like to know more about the Enquirers' group Geoff Maughan wrote about in the March edition, then it's not too late to contact him on [geoff.maughan@btinternet.com](mailto:geoff.maughan@btinternet.com).

*Charles Draper (retired vicar living in East Hanney)*

**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 Wardens: Stuart Cakebread: tel - 868590 stuartcakebread@mac.com  
Chris Reason: tel - 868375 Chris\_Reason\_Hanney@hotmail.com

## Ding dong merrily on high... Not!

Sadly the magnificent bells at St James church have remained silent since October when the church started to undergo it's massive refurb.

Nicky is the bellringer's team captain, and here's what she told me...

*"Some of the ringers have been keeping up their skills in other local bell towers, and are very much looking forward to getting back behind the ropes of St James to ring out 'the changes' (that's a bellringing joke!) in our new freshly refurbished bell tower. We are always looking for new recruits, so if anyone would like to learn this age- old skill, please contact Nicky Kauert on 07795 571558"*

My pic shows the refurb of the bell tower....not completed yet of course. I'm sure Nicky and her team are very keen to getting back in there and have a good old tug!



## Hanney Lottery - March Winners

1st - Rosemary Cook, 2nd - Helen Smith, 3rd - Neil Surman

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

## Hanney school 1955...recognise any of them?



## Who Knew?!

Part of what the jolly old Lib Dems at Oxfordshire County Council churn out to keep us informed on a wide range of 'stuff', currently advises us on **'Living well at home.'**

So far so good, but hold hard dear friends, who are the two smiley folk in the snap they use to accompany their words?

Why, it's none other than our chum from across the pond Hilary Clinton!! And if I'm not much mistaken, that's Goldilocks' Grandad with her!

I assume Bill C is OK with this...or maybe Hilary's just getting her revenge after Bill's unfortunate 'business' with that little Monica Lew!!

Remember her?

I bet Hilary does! I bet also that H doesn't come cheap as a model, nor her pal GG, so I must ask, is that good use of our council tax?



### Living well at home

A comfortable, safe home is important at every stage of life, especially as we get older. It helps us stay independent, feel confident and remain connected to the people and communities that matter most.



### Meet the 'Dragon'

...No, not that big boat that's finally set sail for Cyprus

recently, but rather this shiny new vehicle on the right, known as a 'Dragon Patcher'!

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) describe it as their latest pothole-blasting monster, and they've got two of them.

It's all very clever stuff....they use a combination of compressed air, heat, bitumen and chippings to repair holes, and are working full-time on our rural roads. During the summer they'll be working double shifts - 5am - 10pm - with crews swapping over half way through the extended day.

Well done OCC!! say I...now get in those cabs you Highways boys and girls, and start filling our holes!



**Our Community Facebook page is rather special**, and I'm not alone in that view.....some 3,500 members follow it. Given that there's only approx. 2,000 folk who actually live in Hanney, and that includes many who aren't on Fb, it's clearly of interest far and wide.

All the more reason that we should all be very very careful indeed when we post stuff.

Recently, due to some very unfortunate confusion, Mark Heyes, a long term member of our community was the victim of some totally inaccurate comments regarding his work as a self-employed carpenter. Posted on our page, the comments were presented as so-called facts - not merely opinions - intended to show his total dishonesty, as a warning to anyone think-

ing of engaging him. I'm sure the 'poster' had the best of intentions, and once the true situation was explained to them, apologies were of course offered and accepted. Let's hope everyone who read the initial post also saw the apology.

I am happy to confirm that, knowing Mark very well over many years as I do, he is as honest and trustworthy as the day is long. He is also a very skilled craftsman, and has done much work for us here at Global HQ. He's been living and working in Hanney for many years, advertising his services in Hanney News from way before I became editor in 2015.

This whole unpleasant business at least gives me an opportunity to thank Mark for supporting Hanney News - see his current ad on page 27.

**These road signs** - known as 'fingerposts' - point the way to our surrounding villages.

OK, some could do with a bit of a wash, and they aren't exactly antiques or works of art, but they've been around a long time, and I rather like them, not least because they remind me that I'm lucky enough to live out in the country, in the wonderful village of Hanney!

Recently, someone, doubtless with the best of intentions, fixed a sign on the fingerpost pole that sits on West Hanney village green, next to the truly picturesque Buttercross. See my photo above.

The sign tells us to pass 'Slow and Wide' for horses! Silly old me assumed that anyone with any sense would do that anyway, but I'm assured some don't, and apparently need a sign to remind them!

Now, please don't get me wrong, I'm all for us motorists doing what the sign tells us,



and giving old Dobbin a nice wide berth as he clippity clops along our highways and byways.

To be honest, these massive beasts have always scared the wits out of me anyway, and the last thing I want is one sat on my car's bonnet, my lap or my head!! Even when out

walking I hide in fields or gardens when I see one approaching!

I'm very pleased to report that the sign has been relocated by the good folk of West Hanney Parish Council, and is now fixed to the 20mph speed limit sign as you enter Winter Lane from the Kingston Bagpuss direction. It no longer spoils my view of the lovely Buttercross on the West Hanney village green but still gets the message across admirably!

Big ups to the boys from the Parish Council, and of course, **please obey the sign and pass horses 'Slow and Wide!'**

**Had a cold caller at the door today** trying to raise funds for Gt. Ormond St Hospital, and yes, ok, probably a bit for himself too. I'm sure these folk get a commission, rightly so in my humble opinion.

I advised him that I had no time to talk - pressure of work here at Global HQ and all that good stuff. The young man - he was only a slip of a lad - smiled, nodded and immediately left. Btw, if the finances of these charities are of interest, it's worth noting that the Chief Exec earns around £160k pa, as do most of the bosses of these big charities.

On one of the postings on our Community Facebook page, a gent suggested that the Police should be called to deal with these youngsters.

Now, by coincidence, our great Speedwatch team in West Hanney were checking speeding motorists that same day here on Winter Lane here, just outside Global HQ. and to be honest, I'd far rather our boys in blue turned their attention to the drivers who seem to think Winter Lane - all 300 yards of it - is a good

place to floor the accelerator pedal. (See page 18 for what sounds like some good news.)

Meantime, let's leave a couple of lads knocking politely on our doors, to get on with their job. After all, it's a very worthy charity isn't it?

**Just want to hand out a couple of 'big-ups' if I may....**local businesses that offer great service to their customers and of course are trying their best to keep their businesses afloat in spite of the best efforts of Keir and his fellow clowns!

**M&M Roofing**, see their ad on page 20, and **White Horse Plumbing**...main man is Darren Cox – 07584 374563. I'm happy to recommend them!



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# EASTER CELEBRATIONS

The Black Horse - East Hanney

Ian and Jacqui warmly invite local families and friends to celebrate Easter with a fantastic line-up of fun, creativity and delicious food at The Black Horse in East Hanney.

Bring the whole family for crafts, games, food, and plenty of Easter fun!

Parents are responsible for supervising their own children.

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March - 4:00pm

## Children's Easter Bonnet Making

£10  
per child

- Make your own Easter bonnet
- Buffet food included
- Drink included - orange or blackcurrant squash

Limited spaces available!

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March - 6:30pm

## Easter Wreath Making Evening

£40  
per person

- Design your own wreath using natural foliage
- Complimentary glass of Prosecco
- Snacks provided

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April - 12:30pm

## The Black Horse Big Easter Egg Hunt

£10  
per child

- £10 per child (includes burger or hotdog)
- £8 per child (egg hunt only)
- BBQ food, Ice cream, outdoor games...
- Children should bring a basket.

To book or for more info:  
Jacqui - 01235 867179

## New team launched to help tackle criminals on our roads

Last month I joined Thames Valley Police Officers for the launch of the Force's new Roads Policing Unit (RPU) Tasking Team.

The RPU Tasking Team will deliver a more strategic and targeted approach to road safety across the Thames Valley using data and intelligence to identify areas of greatest risk and highest harm. The team will then proactively deploy to these locations to directly address the behaviours and offences driving those risks.

The creation of the Roads Policing Unit Tasking Team will be a major boost to Thames Valley Police's capability to bear down on the dangerous and illegal drivers who put others at risk and criminals using our roads.

In addition to their proactive work, the team will support local policing operations wherever possible and will also target those individuals known to us through intelligence, including those involved in drink or drug driving.

In a two day operation last month to mark the launch of the new team, police officers were joined by other agencies including Immigration Enforcement, HMRC, taxi licensing and Environmental Health.

During the operation 16 arrests were made for drug driving and immigration offences along with over a hundred dangerous vehicles taken off the road.

Of course this kind of work is what Roads Policing Officers do each and every day, but the purpose of this team is to be much more proactive. Previously officers would often be called on to respond to collisions on our roads or to assist other officers with arrests. The RPU Tasking Team is intended to focus more dedicated resources to take criminals and dangerous drivers off our roads.

**Our MP is Olly Glover.** [olly.glover.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:olly.glover.mp@parliament.uk) [www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/)

**Ron Batstone is our County Councillor:** Phone: 01235 763564, Mobile: 07941 801479, Email: [Ron.Batstone@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:Ron.Batstone@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

**Sally Povolotsky is our District Councillor:**  
Email: [Sally.povolotsky@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:Sally.povolotsky@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

'I recently went to a lecture about counterfeit money. To be honest, I can't remember much about it, because they told us not to make notes.'

## **Our community here in Hanney has recently lost one of its finest members, John Spindloe.**

I was honoured to count John as a friend, and was very fond of this gentleman - a truly lovely old man. And yes, I'm allowed to call him old, since he was aged 96 when he died, just a couple of month's short of his 97th birthday.

John was unfailingly polite, fiercely intelligent, and with a mind as sharp as a tack. His memory was truly amazing.

As well as his delightful company, I shall miss his memories and reminisces of Hanney that he willingly shared with us, often at the weekly Senior Citizens coffee mornings which he and I regularly attended.

I regret not recording his recollections in more detail, but first a few facts.... John was born in Hanney on 25th April 1929. He started school in 1934, and apart from 2 years when a young child, he spent his whole life here.

After leaving school aged just 14, he started working for Barretts the builders in May 1943. They had a large workshop in North Green, demolished a while back and replaced with housing.

John became a carpenter and the company built many of the houses in Hanney. Often at our coffee mornings, someone mentioned a house in Hanney ... "Oh yes" John would say "We built that place in 1949 or whenever."

Now a few of his many memories.... When a very small boy John remembered falling into Headings pond, which was at



the end of Church St on the left as the road bears to the right before joining Main St. In the Winter, folk skated on it. Sometime in the 1960s the pond was filled in.

John also talked of a big pond next to the Hanney Chapel in East Hanney - then known as the Mission - and there was also one in North Green beyond Barretts' workshop.

John remembered his school teachers...Mrs Hoare, Miss Hickman and Mr Short, who died in 1937.

As a boy, John owned a pet dog, a cocker spaniel called Judy, who sadly had to be put down after her back legs became paralyzed.

Before the Village Hall was built. there existed a 'Victory Hut', this being just after the 2nd World War. Dances and the like were held there. The building was made of wood with wooden floor boards, and John vividly described how the whole place bounced, with dust everywhere, when a dance was held there. John remembered three girls who used to come over from Stanford in the Vale for these dances.

Another of John's stories told of some trouble at the Lamb pub in West Hanney - now New Hanney Spice - with an American G.I. who poured some beer over him. By way of revenge, John and some mates turned a US Army jeep over and bounced it down into a ditch. The next day, some kind of crane had to be used to get it out.

All his fascinating stories told of a very different - some may say better - time, now gone for ever.

I'm sure I speak for all who knew John when I say that he will be remembered with great affection, and will never be forgotten.



**Hearing Dogs**  
for Deaf People

**Back in the January issue**  
I mentioned the recycling of empty printer ink cartridges that can be left at the Community shop.  
As a result, those we have left at the shop have raised £25.85 for 'Hearing Dogs for Deaf People'  
Thank you to all who contributed. Feel free to keep bringing them.



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## Burglary in West Hanney.

I'm sad to report that very recently, there was a burglary in Winter Lane, West Hanney.

Access was gained by smashing one of the French windows.

The house was unoccupied for two hours only, and it's possible that the burglars were watching the place and picking their time. Two of the bedrooms were ransacked, and jewellery was taken. The contents of cupboards, wardrobes etc. were pulled out and strewn across the floor.

In short, the whole house was a mess...naturally very unpleasant and upsetting for the owners, who told me that it's a horrible feeling to think that strangers have been in your home, causing damage and stealing treasured possessions. Our sympathies go to them.

The message is clear...we live in an almost crime-free part of the country which is great, but we really should not be complacent.

Please always be vigilant, and of course, have a burglar alarm system fitted! You may find, depending on the system you fit, that your house contents insurance premiums drop by 5% - 20%. Definitely worth investigating!



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cause childhood can't wait.



**If you'd like to help local families** in your community, Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire would love you to join their team of home-visiting volunteers!

Volunteers are matched to a local family with young children and support them by visiting once a week to provide peer support.

They'll be holding their next Volunteer Preparation Course from Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April in their Didcot office.

If you'd like to find out more about what volunteering in this role involves and can spare a couple of hours each week to help a local family, please email Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire at [admin@homestartso.org](mailto:admin@homestartso.org), have a look at their website [www.homestart-southernoxfordshire.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.homestart-southernoxfordshire.org.uk/volunteer) or call them on 01235 511152.

The lovely ladies who run the Hanney W.I are holding a Craft Fair in May.

Surely a date for the diary!!



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*The Wantage Tramway was deeply woven into the fabric of the town — supporting local businesses, caring for its staff, and fostering a close, collaborative relationship with the mighty Great Western Railway. It was a company with heart, as well as horsepower.*

*The photo above is from 'The Industrial Past Collection'.*

Above is a synopsis of April's Hanny History Group talk on Monday 27th April. Some of the more senior members of our community remember the tram! I'm sure the talk will be fascinating. See page 22 for details about the club.

**More history....** Paul Aram, a very busy man indeed, has produced a very interesting video telling the story of the Holmes brothers and their adventures in aviation, which happened here in Hanney. The boy's father was J.R.Holmes who I've mentioned in the past, was a pioneer of birth control amongst many other things.

To view Paul's great video, you need to go onto YouTube and put into the search box "**Hanney Aviation - Early Aviation**". Alternatively, on Facebook, go to our community page and click on the link.



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**HANNEY CHAPEL** All are welcome to attend our **SUNDAY SERVICES**: held in the chapel at 10:30AM (which includes the 'Explorers' Sunday School) and at 5:30PM. Both services are also live-streamed on Hanney Chapel's **YouTube** channel (search *YouTube* or follow the links on the chapel website).

The Church runs **School Term-time Children's Clubs**:- Toddlers, Discoverers, Adventurers, and Friday Clubs which are for infants through to Year 13s.

**For adults**, Coffee Mornings and Men's Breakfasts occur monthly, Ladies' Breakfasts and other events as announced.

**Contact Mark, or, see the website for more information on particular events.**

Mark & Miriam Fisher Tel – 867105  
email - [hanneyquestions@gmail.com](mailto:hanneyquestions@gmail.com)

[hanney-chapel.org.uk](http://hanney-chapel.org.uk)



# Hanney Chapel

Main St., East Hanney



Mr Jones  
Decorating Services

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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](mailto: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 [pkayers@btinternet.com](mailto:pkayers@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 [hanneyhistory.org.uk/](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 [andrew.fletcher@rer.co.uk](mailto:andrew.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. £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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.hanneyyouthfc.co.uk)

**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:**  
[helpinghandshanney@gmail.com](mailto:helpinghandshanney@gmail.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 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)



# Hanney



## A Guide for Newcomers

Revised and updated January 2024

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New to Hanney? Get your free 32 page Guide from the Community Shop. It's also on the Hanneys website - see below - as a PDF.

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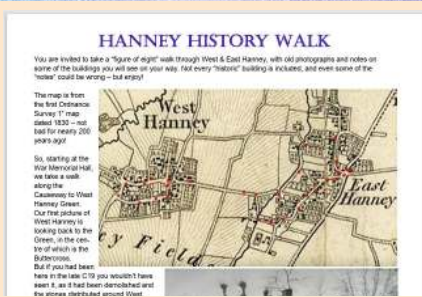
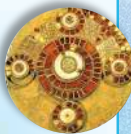
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Join the 'West Hanney and East Hanney Community', 'The Hanneys Buy and Sell', and the 'East Hanney Parish Council' Facebook groups...good fun, most of the time!

Hanney News...be sure to read it cover to cover, without fail, every month. It contains so much useful stuff it's quite scary. Feedback always welcome...to me Jim Stagg, Editor, 01235 867500



This 8 page A4 brochure...clue's in the title....is available free from the Community Shop, the Hall foyer, the Plough and me!

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