

Fence-line Ltd

All types of Fencing
Bespoke Garden Buildings
Stables, Storage, Log store etc
2 ton Mini Digger and Operator Hire

Alastair Ulyet, Hanbury

T 01527 821618

M 07973 626055

E alastair@fence-line.co.uk

www.fence-line.co.uk

Wellie Web

Wellies for all the family.

Order online or visit our shop

www.wellie-web.co.uk

01299 851767



Cedarstone Ltd.
Collimore Farm, Rushock, Droitwich, WR9 0NS

Wedding Reception venue available ask for details
Ring's Restaurant open in the evening
Jinney Ring CRAFT CENTRE

Plenty to see and do

– craft workshops open daily

Events all year round
see website for details

www.jinneyring.co.uk

Hanbury, nr Bromsgrove B60 4BU

Aqua Cleansing Ltd

Martley, Worcester WR6 6QA
01886 888471 07860 426282

- Liquid waste disposal including de-sludge of septic tanks & associated vessels
- Blockage clearance & high pressure water jetting
- Sewage treatment plant service & repairs
- CCTV drainage surveys (including defect identification & buyers surveys)
- Interceptor waste, cleansing of gulleys, grease traps & associated systems
- Weigh bridge & associated system cleanses
- Tanker/jetter & associated equipment hire



www.aquacleansingltd.co.uk
enquiries@aquacleansing.co.uk

Complete sewage & drainage services in Worcestershire & surrounding counties

JONATHAN SPROULE AND SONS LTD

(MASTER BUILDERS)

SPECIALISTS IN INDIVIDUAL, CHARACTER, TIMBER FRAME & PERIOD PROPERTIES



20 Years Experience
HOUSE EXTENSIONS,
RENOVATIONS,
CONVERSIONS
& ALTERATIONS



BARN CONVERSIONS
TIMBER/OAK FRAMED GARAGES

Mere Green Cottage, Hanbury, Droitwich, Worcs. WR9 7DZ

Tel: 07973 445048 & 07976 826065

Fax: 01527 821452 Email: sarah@jonathansproulebuilders.co.uk

www.jonathansproulebuilders.co.uk

HANBURY MARQUEES

- Marquees/Linings
- Furniture
- Lighting/Chandeliers
- Licensed Bar
- Weddings & Corporate Specialists
- Personal Service
- Up to 15m Clearspan Marquees

01527 821988

BECKS FARMHOUSE, SCHOOL RD, HANBURY

See our website at
www.hanburymarquees.co.uk

O.S.S.

One Stop Service

Just ASK: we can do it!!

Decking, Paths, Patios Laid or just cleaned,
Fences, Borders, Lawns, Hedges, one off
makeovers or ongoing maintenance, Garden
Sheds & Fencing supplied & erected. Flat pack
Kitchens supplied & fitted. Full Painting &
Decorating Service.

All aspects of general maintenance & D.I.Y.

No Job too Small or too Big.

O.A.P Discounts

Fully Insured

Friendly and Reliable Competitive Local Service.

Whatever your Needs, We Can Arrange, so

One Call Does It All!

Call Andrew on:

07946 521813 / 01527 821128

D. J. GARTLAND

FOR

ALL YOUR TREE WORK

LARGE OR SMALL

FIRE WOOD

LOGS OF ALL SIZES

TIMBER SAWN TO YOUR

REQUIREMENTS

WOOD CHIPS FOR MULCHING

RING

01527 821480

07767 625210



The Hanbury Herald

bringing the people of the Parish together

Issue 68

WINTER 2018



A look at days gone by - Trams in Worcester see page 19.

Here we are after another Christmas season, after which will be a time of real uncertainty for all of us. Let's hope the Brexit outcome will be less awful than some of the forecasts.

In this edition you will find a very moving article of Nicolas Lambert's research to uncover the war record of his great-grandfather who was born in Hanbury and is buried in our churchyard. Should you wish to see the video Nicolas has made, Judith Burman can forward the link. This account is particularly poignant for 2018.

Andrew Harris has changed his research area to the development of trams which includes a lovely photograph of the Worcester of yesteryear.

The team would again, at the start of the New Year, like to thank all our advertisers who so generously support us at a time of real difficulty for small businesses. We are hugely indebted to them and to the Parish Council, without whose support you would not have the magazine as it now is.

We would also like to thank all our subscribers and remind them that their

annual subscription is due this month.

We are a team: there are regular contributors, occasional ones whose arm I twist and spontaneous unsolicited ones which are very welcome. And the deliverers are a much appreciated part of our work.

On a sad note, our team is greatly reduced by the loss of Janet Lowe who did so much and so willingly for the Herald, as well as so much more throughout the village. Her husband David has agreed to be part of the team, so we hope that the wonderful walks, gardening articles photographs and

THE EDITORIAL GROUP - The Editorial Group – the volunteers who produce the Hanbury Herald are :-
Rhona Panton, Celia Barnby, Gill Bishop, Mark Bishop, David Lowe, Ed Richards, Clare Shinner, Maggie Wheatley and Roger Wright.

Thanks also go to those who take the time to send in contributions to the Hanbury Herald and to those who deliver it around the parish.

more that they jointly worked on will continue. Welcome David.

Janet was such a very special person and walking was so dear to her that we have, with David's help, organised a walk for 9 March in her memory. You will see details in this edition. We hope for good weather. Please come and share your memories of a wonderful person.

Rhona



Contact the Editor

Should you wish to contact Rhona Panton, please ring her on 01527 821775, email her on rhona.panton@hotmail.co.uk or put it on a disk or write to her/call in at: The Moorlands, School Road, Hanbury, Droitwich WR9 7EA Please remember - all e-mail attachments need to be in Word or j.peg for photographs - otherwise they cannot be easily downloaded.

Deadline for Issue 69 (Copy & Pictures)

5.00pm, Wednesday 10th of April

For the next edition only, please send your copy to me as usual and also to **Mark Bishop**, email **mab53@me.com**, as I am away some of the time and this will ensure your copy will not be missed.

Disclaimer -

Every care is taken in compiling the contents of the newsletter to ensure that they are accurate, but the Editor accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions.

The Editor reserves the right to use items or not and to shorten, as necessary.

No article or part of any article may be reproduced without prior permission of the Editor and author.

Please note that taking adverts to be placed in this newsletter does not indicate any recommendations of the services offered in them.

Hanbury Herald free advertisement policy.

All Hanbury based not for profit organisations can advertise forthcoming events in the Herald free of charge. The size of these advertisements is solely determined by the Herald committee bearing in mind the cost, retaining a balance between organisations and the potential interest. It is sometimes the case that the printer needs to stretch the typeface to fit. On such occasions we make advertisements bigger.

Some non-village charities may be given a free of charge advertisement after consideration by the committee. These too will never be more than a quarter page unless paid for. Any for-profit organisation will be charged the full commercial rate. And of course these may be as large as they pay for. This money is used to help to fund the Herald.

Diary Dates



January

28th Parish Council Meeting

Village Hall 7.30pm

31st Hanbury History Group

History of Care

Village Hall 7.30pm

February

25th Parish Council Meeting

Village Hall 7.30pm

March

9th A Walk for Janet

Hanbury Church 10.30am

25th Parish Council Meeting

Village Hall 7.30pm

28th Hanbury History Group

The Crusades

Village Hall 7.30pm

TO CONTACT HANBURY CHURCH

To arrange baptism, confirmation, weddings and funerals, pastoral care or for any queries:

Contact **Churchwarden Judith**

(Burman) 01527 821443

juditheburman@aol.com

Regular events

in the Village Hall:

Hanbury Brownies

Monday evenings - 5.00 - 6.30pm

Contact pinky@njain.fsnet.co.uk

Hanbury Rainbows - Thursday

evenings: 5.15-6.15pm

contact aliciabluck@yahoo.co.uk

Parish Council - last Monday in

the month unless separately listed.

7.30pm. Contact

hanburyclerk@btinternet.com

Pippins Pre-School Nursery

Nursery is open from 9am to 2.30pm

- Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri - for

children from 2 yrs - contact

Helen Firminger,

Pippinshanbury@gmail.com

Hanbury Parent & Toddler Group

Hanbury Village Hall every

Wednesday morning (term time)

9.30am to 11am. For babies to 3

year olds - contact the manager

Helen Firminger for enquiries

Hobnobs - Thursdays 10.00 - 11.00

contact amberhoney@btinternet.com

WI - second Thursday in the

month 7.30pm Contact Mandy Cook

01527 821481 or email

hanburywi@gmail.com

Bowbrook Gardens

Imaginative high quality landscaping
Patos & garden walls
Ponds & water features
Swimming pool & ponds fibreglassed
Also Pond & Patio cleaning
Fencing & Hedge cutting
Local, friendly service, references available
Call Glenn on 01905 937852
Mobile 07792 613020

Flowers by Anna Brian

Florist & Flower Farmer
Bespoke Floristry
Weddings, Gift Bouquets, Funerals
& Seasonal Flower Workshops
Tel: 07966 440860
Email: anna@flowersbyannabrian.co.uk
www.flowersbyannabrian.co.uk
Sandal Lodge, Hanbury Rd, Droitwich, WR9 7DX

Kids driving you nuts?

Need a night out with your partner?
Or time to yourself?
Reliable 18 year old babysitter available (male) - please ring on 01527 821725 / 07713 865868
Used to children and has experience working with them. References available.

INFINITE TAI CHI & CHI YOGA Meditation

Body & Mind in Balance
New 11 weeks start:
Monday Chi Yoga 21st January
HANBURY VILLAGE HALL,
Hanbury Road, Hanbury
7 - 8.30pm
Tuesday Tai Chi 22nd January
AMPHLETT HALL (near Acof)
Crown Close, Bromsgrove
7 - 8.30pm
For further information call Wai - Sun Chan on 09872330833 or email waisun2@gmail.com

Red House Farm Garden & Nursery

Flying Horse Lane - Bradley Green
We sell a large range of interesting top quality shrubs and perennials at very reasonable prices
OPENING TIMES
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily
Tel: 01527 821269

BG IRONING SERVICES

Free Pick-up & Drop Off
(Local to Bradley Green) Smoke / Pet Free Environment
Collared Shirts £1.20 each returned on hanger and bag (hangers supplied for first service to be returned from then on)
T-shirts, Trousers, Blouses, Skirts £1.00 each
Jeans/Chinos £1.50, Bed Linen Sets £6.00 / £8.00
Children's Wear 50p / £1.00,
Average sized Washing Basket £25.00
FAST TURNAROUND Cash Payment on return of Ironing
Nikki: 07473 795 347
Email: bgironingservices@outlook.com

IT/Computer Problems?

The virtual IT Department that's always available when you need help: on site or remotely, Home or Office, no problem too small, give DDC a call.....
Contact:
Dave Gearing
DDCdeazdotcom
t: 01837-502625
e: dave@ddcdeazdotcom.co.uk

ROY RAXTER

FOR ALL YOUR CAR BODYWORK & MECHANICAL REPAIRS
TRAILER REPAIRS
TRAILERS FOR SALE
HANBURY GARAGE
01527 821408

Grant Interiors

Curtains, Blind Makers & Fitting
Call Janice
07872 492911
01527 836899
Warren exhibition centre, Worcester Road, Upton Warren, Bromsgrove. B61 7EU
www.janicegrantinteriors.co.uk

Beauty by Elizabeth

Skin Therapist
Beauty therapy, bio sculpture, massage, facials, gel nails, waxing, eyelash tinting, manicure, pedicure and many more!
Flexible appointment times available
Telephone: 01527 822668
Mobile: 07890 878059
Cider Mill House
Cider Mill Lane, Bradley Green
Redditch, Worcestershire B95 6TH

J.H.F. CONTRACTING

GROUND WORKS & PLANT HIRE
• Footings
• Driveways
• Roadways
• Drainage
• Ponds
• Site Clearance
• Suppliers of Hardcore & Top Soil
• 1 ton to 15 ton Excavators
• 1 ton to 6 ton Dumpers
• CPC'S Trained Operators or Self Drive
Tel: 01905 391 249
Mobile: 07767 894 637

Hanbury Accounting Services

J.N. Daly FCCA
We specialise in offering a prompt professional personal service to individuals, sole traders, partnerships, and limited companies.

Our extensive range of services include:-
• Accounts preparation and year end accounts
• Book keeping service • Business tax returns
• VAT, PAYE and returns • Management accounts
• Budgets, forecasting and cash flow projections
• Profit analysis • New business start ups
• Business planning • Personal tax returns & advice
Friendly service, Competitive rates, Free initial consultation.
Day-time, weekend and evening appointments available.

Telephone 01527 821000
07751 479915 / 07771 985017
Lilac Cottage, Forest Lane, Hanbury.
jonathandaly02@gmail.com

Foot Care

Rebecca Kenehan DipCFHP, MPSPract
Registered Foot Health Practitioner
Mobile: 07738 873006
Email Rebecca@footcarebyrebecca.co.uk
• Toe & finger nail cutting, treatment of corns, callus, verrucae & more •
Just ask!

50% Discount Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

Lounge 15'x12' = £26
3 Piece Suite from £50
Curtains - Full Length Pair = £30
Fully Trained and Insured Staff
BOOKING LINE
01886 821554
Highfields, Knightswick, Worcestershire WR6 5QG
mobile: 07971 603007

Book Review: Andrew Harris

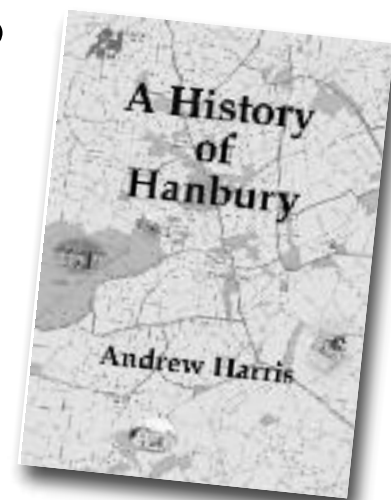
“A History of Hanbury”

I grew up in Hanbury and when I visit my family, I love to take long walks with them to see places and buildings that are familiar to me. I am sure that I am not alone in wondering, while wandering, about the stories of the people who built and lived there and how they and their families changed as the country did. When we stumble over the remains of a wall we can see the structure in our minds, and on a frosty morning, when the old medieval strips are visible in the fields around the hall we think about how life in Hanbury was unrecognizable to us.

This book is a fabulously detailed and researched analysis of how and why this village became what it did. The

author bases his ideas on a variety of sources, all of which give a fresh and interesting perspective on how different life was. Andrew Harris explains why Hanbury didn't exist in a vacuum - salt, taxes and demographics fashioned the village we know today, as we realise that not everybody stayed - plagues and industrialisation more than decimated the population.

The author spends some time looking at personalities (particularly of the Vernon family) and although these chapters are entertaining, as they come across like latter day Kardashians in their eyewateringly high levels of entitlement and dysfunction, the book is most compelling when it details how beautiful Hanbury



came about, farm by farm and house by house.

This wonderful book gives us a glimpse into the past of a village that we hold dear.

Lulu Neame

The book is still available from the author on 01905 779852 or email him at andrewharris1@mac.com

Remembrance Sunday

November 11, 2018 at Hanbury Church



Over 200 people came to remember those who gave their lives in the great War and in subsequent action. We recognised here and nationally a momentous time in our nation's history.

The service was taken by the Rev David Morris ably assisted by John Spencer. After the prayers and introduction, the standards were brought in, led by that of the Royal British Legion. The congregation then faced the memorial to remember all who died in or because of the two world wars.

The following prayers remembered not just those who died but, also those injured in mind or in body and the effects on those who loved them. The readings, interspersed by Blake's wonderful hymn reminding us that we should fight to make England a better and more equal place, were read by Judith Burman and Nicolas Lambert, whose great-grandfather was born in Hanbury, gained two military crosses with bar, and is buried in Hanbury Churchyard.

The Rev Morris's sermon reminded us that those who fought did so for our liberty, which gives us the freedoms of speech and political thought without which we would be a very different

country. He reminded us that we remember because we love, and love always conquers hate.

His sermon turned the daunting numbers of the First World War into accounts of individual participants whose lives were changed by the experience. We were reminded that great truths are simple; we cherish freedom, hope and love. Einstein's aphorism that "A life lived for others is a life worth living" held this thought in our minds.

The service ended with a commitment to peace and brought that back to the individual to remind us to live as good neighbours and with compassion. A timely reminder and so badly needed in the fifth largest economy in the country, that now needs food banks for those in the grip of austerity measures.

This was a sobering and at the same time uplifting service.

As well as the usual hard work from Judith Burman and her team and the British Legion and other presentations, the church had been beautifully beflowered and every window was a delight to the eye. We were also invited to stay for soup afterwards and to a singsong of World War I tunes. Everyone who contributed, and they are

too numerous to mention, made this a very memorable day. This was ably recorded by the photographers whose work you see in this edition.

We read that regular Church of England attendance is decreasing but the numbers who came on this occasion demonstrated that people still greatly value coming together as a community to share great events in our history. And the welcome from the church could not have been bettered. Thank you to all those concerned on behalf of the very irregular attenders who much appreciated the service and the work that went into making it an occasion and a message to remember.

Rhona Panton

See the 100 Year Centenary of the Great War pictures in the special colour centre spread.

If you attended the Remembrance Day service, you will have heard of Capt Walford's descendant Nicolas Lambert read one of the lessons. Some had already seen the video of this war hero whose life started in Hanbury and whose grave is in the churchyard. I invited Nicolas to write an account of his researches. Now read on.....

Be Wise... advertise



The Hanbury Herald

Advertisements

RATES 2018 : 4 Ads per year Call 01527 821775
Small ad = £40 Medium ad = £70
Large ad = £120 Half Page = £200

Hat'ire
Hats and Fascinators for all occasions

By Appointment only: Weddings, Ascot, Garden Parties, and more...

Nikki Davies
 Fields Farm, Bradley Green
 Worcs. B96 6TH
 Phone: 07473 795 347
 Email: hat.ire@outlook.com

Hire Prices from £10-£25
Sale also possible
Hundreds in Stock

featureponds

Garden Pond Installation & Maintenance Specialist

- BLANKET WEED AND MURKY GREEN WATER SOLVED
- EXPERIENCED WITH ALL SIZES/TYPES OF POND
- KOL GOLDFISH AND WILDLIFE EXPERTISE
- LOCAL DEDICATED GARDEN POND SERVICE
- PROFESSIONAL, FRIENDLY, RELIABLE
- RE-LINING, RE-SIZING AND WATER-FALL INSTALLATION
- ALL ASPECTS OF GARDEN POND CARE AND CLEANING

For a **FREE CONSULTATION** or **ESTIMATE**

Call Oliver: 07817 543302 / 01527 821400
 email: Oliffandy@gmail.com

Testimonials and more @ www.featureponds.co.uk



Tidy Gardens-Ange Burnet

Make the most of your garden

Border Management
Lawn Care
Pruning & Topiary
Design Ideas
Planting Schemes
Maintenance & Tidy
Pots & Patios

01527 821755 / 07788 721 707
ange.tidygardens@gmail.com

Regular

Seasonal

One-off

Walford's War

My search for Captain Osborn Walford started after my mother, Walford's elder grand-daughter, bequeathed to me a small dark red leather box saying that it contained a Military Cross – an MC. On opening it, I saw that it had a Bar across the ribbon, indicating that the recipient had won a second Military Cross – hence the MC & Bar denoted on his grave. I was unaware that her father had won such gallantry medals and

thought he would have been too old in the First World War. There was no name engraved on the back of the cross. We had no photographs or other information about John Osborn Walford – JOW - except a pair of Royal Warwickshire Regiment cufflinks which came with the medal.

My hunt began on the Internet. My first google search was 'Walford MC London

Gazette'. All gallantry awards were recorded or gazetted in the London and the Edinburgh Gazettes and have now been digitalised. I found that he served both in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment from 1899-1903 and in the Worcestershire Regiment from 1914-1920 and that his second MC was awarded for actions at Landrecies on 4th November 1919. His first MC did not show during those initial searches.

Advertise Locally... Call Rhona on 01527 821775

My second search was of the on-line Census records from 1841 – 1901. Each page shows the names and ages of all living in each household on the given day and the place of birth. From this I was able to build up a picture of his and, my family and where they were living at each of these ten-year intervals. This tied in with the details of my grandfather, Lt Col JES (Ben) Walford – JOW's only child. He has a short Wikipedia page because he played cricket for Worcestershire as well as for the Army. It records his birth as being at Hanbury Mount in August 1899.

The Worcestershire Regiment's Museum (now part of the Royal Mercians) was my next port of call. They seemed excited to have an enquiry about JOW for several reasons which were later to become apparent. They had two photographs of him and details of all 10 battalions of the Regiment's actions throughout World War One. After the war, money was raised to pay for a Memorial in Worcester Cathedral and for a detailed history of the actions and gallantry of the battalions and their men. This is about the most comprehensive history written about any County regiment, which was an enormous stroke of luck. It comes in two volumes, each of over 400 pages, recording the names of all those who died, each gallantry medal awarded and every action on which one of the battalions was involved. These were each supported with a detailed hand-annotated map showing where each company and battalion was stationed and, when attacking, the route of their advance. As an ex-officer myself, it took no time to track almost all JOW's entire war. Or that is what I thought at the time.

What was immediately obvious was the extraordinary achievements of the 1st/8th Battalion, to which he moved in the autumn of 1917, over the last six weeks of the War. The six senior officers alone won 6 Distinguished Service Orders (DSOs) and 5 Military Crosses, an extraordinary haul for one battalion, let alone one with territorial origins. They were all Worcestershire men and perhaps of families still known to St Mary's parishioners – Lt Col HT Clarke DSO & Bar, Major JP Bate DSO & Bar, Captain



Captain John Osborn Walford and (left) his war medals

LR Bomford DSO, MC & Bar, 2Lt E Wedgbury DSO, MC, DCM, MM, Captain GL Watkinson MC & Bar, Captain JO Walford MC & Bar. Wedgbury, who enlisted originally with the Gloucestershire Regiment, has the most extraordinary collection. He was, and remains, the only soldier to win four different gallantry awards in the history of the British Army. His medals are displayed in the Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum in the case with those who have won the Victoria Cross. As part of my travels, I have met one of his sons who is still alive and is treasurer of our local (Hertfordshire) ABF The Soldiers Charity.

This was all the good news. The Worcestershire Regiment staff sent also a copy of JOW's military records which recorded the outline of his service, his awards and, in small writing, 'Suicide. 21st February 1922'. My mother and my aunt, Pam Brooking, confirmed that this was their understanding but that it and, indeed, JOW was never discussed by their own father. I wondered, given his war record, if any news of his death would have been recorded in a local newspaper. The Internet pointed me to the Worcester Herald and I contacted its successor. A most helpful archivist found an article entitled, 'Tragic Death of Territorial Officer – Capt. JO Walford Found Shot', which was a record of the Inquest into his death. It provided graphic details on the incident in the

orchard at Dunstall Court in Feckenham, the property of Colonel EV Sydenham who it recorded was his brother-in-law – his wife being Margaret Walford's (nee. Scott) sister's husband. There were comments about JOW being a keen sportsman and 'well-known in the hunting field' and the full citations of his two MCs. It recorded that he had been 'invalided home from Ypres with shell shock', and of suffering a 'complete mental breakdown in 1919 while with the Army of Occupation at Cologne...and had been put under restraint for showing suicidal tendencies'. It noted that on the previous evening he had addressed a gathering at Crabbs Cross as a candidate for the forthcoming County Council election stating that 'he appeared to be in good spirits and went home quite satisfied with his election prospects'. His only child, JESW, was serving in India with 3rd Battalion, The Worcestershire Regiment at the time, gaining a Waziristan campaign medal and an MBE. His suicide left a widow who survived him by 24 years living below the castle walls in Warwick.

This news was obviously upsetting. I knew that it meant that his service would not be recorded on any memorial but I was determined to find where he lay. A visit to Dunstall Court was sobering and Feckenham Church provided no grave, neither the Communal Cemetery in Alcester. I went on to the County Records office in Worcester and found a



would stand, and the conductor had little control over the number boarding, leading to complaints of over-crowding. They were double decker, the upper deck being open with seats facing forward – the backs could be angled the other way when the tram changed direction. The front and rear were open, affording the driver no protection from the weather, although later some primitive canvas flaps were installed to give a little protection.

In February 1904, the first routes, from the Malvern Road to Rainbow Hill, and from the Cross to Shrub Hill Station were opened. A few weeks later the line south to the London Road was opened, but as the widening of the High Street had not been completed this section, like most of the others, was single line. Fares were one penny on any section from The Cross, and trams ran every ten to fifteen minutes. The whole system was

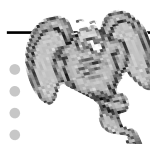
completed in August 1906, with the termini on the Ombersley Road at the Vine Inn, at Astwood Cemetery with its branch to Shrub Hill station, on the London Road at a point just beyond the railway bridge, on the Bath Road at the Berwick Arms (now demolished, near a small Co-op shop), and on the Malvern Road at the Brunswick Arms. The depot remained in St Johns. The total length of the system was just under six miles. Originally extensions to Powick and to Kempsey had been envisaged, but with the advent of motor 'buses the company decided not to create further problems by digging up more streets – in fact the use of horse drawn 'buses had ceased by 1909.

In the years that followed, the tramways operated without any major incident, but although they were well used, aspects of their operation continued to cause problems. Many of these were caused by the relative narrowness of Worcester's streets – due to the fixed rails if a parked vehicle obstructed the line, then the tram had to wait until it moved. The street widening programme proceeded slowly, but when the Council applied for compulsory purchase powers, the advent of WW1 prevented this. The council also wanted to widen the bridge, and eventually this was done, but not until after the trams had ceased running. The tram company's lease was due to end in 1929, and the council began to consider what might then happen. Trams were by no means universally popular. As mentioned above, the narrow streets made parking difficult,

and extending the lines would entail digging up more streets, causing more disruption. A smaller nuisance was that bicycles could get their wheels stuck in the rails – my father remembered this happening to him in Birmingham before the war.

The council considered four options for the future: to continue with the present tramway system; to replace it by trolley 'buses (these were ordinary 'buses but picked up electricity from overhead wires); to replace it by motor 'buses; or to use a combination of these. After careful consideration the council recommended that in future motor 'buses only should be used, as these were completely flexible, able to operate any route, and allow the poles and wires used by the trams to be taken down. The council also felt that, rather than operate the 'buses themselves with all the considerable initial costs, it should negotiate with the Birmingham & Midland Omnibus Co Ltd, known as the 'Midland Red' and a subsidiary of the BET, to operate the 'buses.

Thus, Worcester's trams only lasted until 1928, having been running for 50 years. Many other tramways in smaller towns were also discontinued, although some of the larger systems, for example in Birmingham, lasted till well after the war. The last Worcester tram ran on 31 May 1928, and the new 'bus service started the next day. The new 'bus depot was built in Padmore Street, where it still is, and initially the 'buses ran over the same routes as the trams, but later were extended to villages near Worcester.



DON'T FORGET!

Next issue only, please send your copy to me as usual and also to Mark Bishop, mab53@me.com

Where am I in Hanbury? Answers

1. Church railing, Hanbury Church.
2. Horse in children's play area of Recreation Ground.
3. Milestone on the B4090 entrance to the village.

the manager, in St Johns just above the Bull Ring – the site now occupied by the modern Co-op supermarket.

The new tramways were opened in February 1884. Most citizens welcomed it, although one person wrote to the Worcester Herald complaining that ‘the trams were attracting idlers onto the streets to stand around watching the tramcars going to and fro!’ One operating problem was that the horses were not able to pull the trams up the short but steep slope into St Johns, and a relief horse was kept there to assist. When descending this slope, the trams relied on brakes, but more than one accident happened when the driver failed to control the descent and the tram ran forward over-powering the horses.

But the scheme was not successful financially, as after only 18 months the Company, which had interests in Germany as well as other British towns, was put into liquidation. One problem in Worcester was that the tram line was not allowed by the Great Western Railway Company to extend around the approach road to Shrub Hill station entrance, whereas an omnibus service ran to the station entrance by arrangement with the GWR, meeting trains. However, the ’bus charged 6d against the tram’s 2d fare but was more convenient insofar as it would take passengers to their ultimate hotel or destination, even if it was not on a tram route.

Two enterprising entrepreneurs, Messrs Oppert and Fell, bought the company from the liquidator, and made a large profit when they sold it to a new company, the City of Worcester Tramways Co Ltd, in June 1889. The assets included six tramcars and over 40 horses, showing that it needed at least three pairs of horses to operate one tramcar throughout the

day.

This company’s prospectus promised to build a southern extension through the High Street into the Bath Road, but the new company seems to have been no more successful financially than the last, and this extension was not built. In 1893 City of Worcester Tramways Ltd went into liquidation, and a new company, Worcester Tramways Ltd, took over the enterprise.

By then, horse drawn trams were beginning to look out of date. The main expense was, of course, the cost of providing and looking after the horses. The need to keep at least three pairs of horses for each tramcar and the nuisance of the manure in the streets had led to experiments using mechanical power. Steam was tried – some early Birmingham trams were pulled by a separate steam engine, but the smoke and noise in the streets made them unpopular. A little later the use of electricity was tried, and there were some early experiments using batteries. But these emitted a strong smell, and the continual need to charge them counted against them. Finally, after various other forms of motive power were experimented with, picking up electricity from overhead wires was found to be the best, and the first modern style electric tram started in Leeds in 1891.

In 1896 a new company, the British Electric Traction Co. (BET) was formed to operate electric trams in British towns. Various Midlands towns soon had the new trams, and in 1898 they took over Worcester Tramways Ltd. Meanwhile the City Council had considered whether to use their powers of compulsory purchase to buy and operate the trams themselves, but eventually, in view of their other financial commitments including the

new electric power station at Powick and a new sewerage system, they agreed to offer a 21-year lease to BET. In August 1901, the Worcester Tramways Act received the royal assent authorising the electrification and the change of gauge from 3 feet to 3 feet 6 inches. Other BET systems were built to this gauge, which was also used in Birmingham and the Black Country. Other tramways used the same gauge as railways, 4 feet 8 ½ inches. Power would be supplied from the Powick station and the new one being built on Hylton Rd, both in the ownership of the council. The full network would also be dependent on the widening of the High Street and The Foregate, and steps were taken to purchase the existing properties, demolish the rear portions where new buildings were built, and finally demolish the frontages. This was done on the east side of the High Street, and it can be seen today that all the buildings on this side are modern.

The first work was the erection of the pylons which would carry the overheads wires. This could be done while the horse drawn trams were still running, but in June 1903 a start was made on laying the new rails – not only was the new track a different gauge, but the rails had to be heavier than had been needed for horse drawn trams. This entailed major disruption in the city, which soon came to be known as ‘The Siege of Worcester!’ The streets were closed between the pavements, and there was dust and noise everywhere. In those days the streets were paved with blocks or ‘setts’ rather than modern tarmac. Granite was often used, but wooden setts were more popular as traffic on them made much less noise.

Meanwhile a fleet of fifteen tramcars were ordered. These could seat about 38 passengers, but at busy times many

copy of his Will. This was very brief, making his wife his executor and sole beneficiary. Tellingly, it was written in August 1918 with the address of Hanbury Mount. This confirmed that he and his wife were still living in Hanbury but, of perhaps greater interest, that he had wanted to rewrite his Will when on leave from his Battalion’s posting to Italy. Given that he had just celebrated his 49th birthday and he had spent time in a shell shock hospital in 1917, it leads me to believe that he was going back to the Front from which he did not expect to return. Soon after the Centenary of the start of World War One, the diaries of three of JOW’s brother officers were published privately: These refer on numerous occasions to JOW, either as Walford or, more affectionately as The Old Gent. They write with increasing affection and respect of JOW but refer also to his battles with malaria and trench fever. They record visits to him in his (shell shock) hospital in early 1917 when on leave and questioned as to whether he will be fit enough to return to the Front. From the 5th October at Beaurevoir until the 4th November where he participated in the crossing of the Sambre Canal, he was involved in five separate actions which all lasted most of a day and that at Beaurevoir, for three days. His conduct was often bordering on the foolhardy and, on two occasions, was formally recognised with a Military Cross. Having walked the scenes of the other three actions, it is clear that his gallantry and leadership could have received further acknowledgement. It seems that he was still trying to prove himself to his soldiers and the young officers under his command, even at the age of 49. Between May 1916 when his battalion crossed to France and November 1918, the two territorial battalions with which he served (2nd/8th and 1st/8th) lost over 60 junior officers leading their platoons. JOW was, at 6 foot 3 inches tall, the biggest target, but he had been spared. It is not difficult to imagine how the loss of so many of the youth of Worcestershire would have affected JOW. I contacted King Edward’s School in Birmingham to see if he had attended the school and the archivist, Alison Wheatley, confirmed that he, his father

and his brothers had done so, but confirmed that his name was not recorded on the School’s Memorial.

Following the news that JOW lived at Hanbury Mount in 1918, I left Worcester with the additional knowledge that those who committed suicide at that time could not be buried in a churchyard. Kindly vicars often allowing a church service and burial just over the north wall or fence of the churchyard. I headed immediately for St Mary’s Church. It was a glorious hot July day and my immediate thought on seeing the view across all his old hunting county was that I was hoping that he might be buried here. However, to the northside of the church is woodland. I peered over the fence but there was no sign of any grave. I noted also that most of the lettering on all the old graves had been weathered away. On the church door was a sign providing the telephone number of the churchwarden if one had any questions. I dialled straight away on my mobile phone. Judith Burman answered almost immediately. I explained what I was looking for and she asked where I was. “Right by the church door”, I replied. Judith told me to stay where I was and that she would be with me in 5 minutes with “her box of tricks”. She produced a record of all burials and there, on the last page, was JO Walford with a Robert Walford just below – the numbering pointed to an area to the left as we walked out of the church, just below the path but it was not specific. His younger brother was called Robert. Judith explained then that a gentleman had, in the 1970’s, recorded the wording on all graves as he foresaw that the weather would removing the letters with the passage of time. This meant that we knew exactly what was written on the grave and roughly where it might be. We hastened into the sunshine. There was no immediate sign of it, but Robert Walford’s stood out with its lead lettering. We realised that about five yards away was a similar shaped rough-hewn sandstone covered in moss. Judith and I were quickly on our knees and tugging gently at the moss. The flattened area on the front became visible but initially no writing was obvious. However, in the top right corner the letters ‘ORD’ were

faintly discernible and ‘FEB’ in the bottom left. The 1970s record said that the date of his death was written as ‘February 21st, 1919’ so the ‘Feb’ would be first. We had found him. Tears ran down our faces.


We agreed that he deserved a better memorial. Judith asked a local stonemason for advice and slate was recommended. I asked that he add to the original inscription both ‘MC & Bar’ after his name and include the regimental crest of the Worcestershire Regiment. These would have been on his grave if he had fallen in France.

Much comment was made, and documentaries broadcast, in the weeks building up to the Centenary of Armistice about the suicides then and more recently, and the problems of many ex-servicemen today. We must continue to hold our governments to account to ensure that they look after all our service-men and women, both when serving or as veterans and if, on occasions, we fail, to ensure that each soldier, sailor or airman or woman is properly remembered as were those who returned from Afghanistan and Iraq under a Union Jack.

Pam has a son, Johnny, in the Army and our daughter, Katie, also serves.

Nicholas Lambert

With thanks to Alison Wheatley and Judith Burman for their help in my research.



Don't Forget!

Hanbury History Group
A History of Care
(Dr Mike Jenkins)
31st January
Village Hall
7.30pm

Out & About in Hanbury... Out & About

Path Wardens' Report - Dec 2018

This season we have continued with the never ending task of keeping the vegetation from encroaching onto the paths, we hope with a degree of success!

On that note, we must express our thanks to the team from Worcester County Council, who have responded to our requests for help, and have come and done a magnificent job clearing the bridle track going from Holmes Lane to Forest Lane. I have been living in the parish for nearly 34 years and have not seen this track in such a good condition as it is now and had no idea that it was so wide! They have also replaced the bridge on the footpath leading from Droitwich Road to Middle Hill, and fitted a new kissing gate on Hay Lane. We continue to repair stiles as we go, and have repaired the stile on the top of Ox Pasture Bank, leading into the

woodland. We have requested a gate to replace this stile as the landowner has kindly granted us permission to do this. We continue to request gates to replace stiles especially where it can open up a whole network of routes that can become available to those finding it hard to get their legs over, so to speak!!! (Bet that's edited out!)

Various ditch crossings need replacement planks, notably the one leading from the Jinney Ring to Pump House Lane where the path exits Sophie's Wood, but, frustratingly, whereas in the past we were able to purchase some planks and do the task, we now have to order stocks from Worcester and wait for them to be delivered. This is not always a rapid procedure!

By the time this is printed, we will be beginning to think of the springtime



A job well done! Path cleared

coming, so a timely reminder to all, not to disturb the heavily pregnant sheep or their lambs as they appear, and to treat all the farmers' land with respect by keeping to the paths, leaving gates as you found them, keeping dogs under control and leaving only footprints behind.

Tony

Hanbury Parochial Charities

"The Charity of Sir Thomas Vernon for Clothing and Fuel" and the "Charity of Henry Collier"
Registered Charity Numbers 203854 and 527124

Do you struggle to pay your winter fuel bills?



Could you do with help meeting the cost of training and education?

If you are a resident of the parish, then Hanbury Parochial Charities may be able to help. It's easy to apply with a simple form and confidentiality is guaranteed. The charities have two branches; one for helping with winter fuel bills, particularly for the elderly, and the other for grants to help with education and training. A typical educational grant would be towards the cost of course books or equipment.

Funds are limited, and grants are made at the discretion of the trustees, who meet twice yearly in May and November. (Those currently in receipt of a fuel grant need not re-apply)

For an application form or further details please contact:
Bridget Weaving, Clerk to the Trustees, The Coach House, Hanbury, Bromsgrove B60 4BP.
Tel: **01527 821673**

Where am I in Hanbury?

Can you identify the location of the photographs below? You have probably passed them many times without taking a second glance.



See the answers on page 21.

TRAMS AND ANOTHER SIEGE OF WORCESTER

From our chief local history correspondent Andrew Harris

Anyone who has driven to Birmingham city centre recently will have fallen foul of the bad congestion, much of it caused by installing the new tram system. I've always been interested in transport matters and I've been looking into the history of trams – older readers might remember the previous Birmingham trams, which last ran in 1953. Most major British towns and cities had their own tramway system, the last of which closed in 1960, although a few, including Birmingham, Manchester and Edinburgh, are now building new systems. The only trams in continuous operation are at Blackpool, where trams still run along the sea front to Fleetwood.



Electric tram outside Worcester City Library and Museum on Foregate Street, about 1925

Prior to the coming of the railways in the 1830s, public transport was restricted to travel by stage coaches, but these were slow and expensive. Within towns travel was mostly on foot, but with the growth of suburbs from the mid-nineteenth century horse drawn omnibuses came into general use. Some ran between the railway station and the town centre, as many stations were situated a little distance from the centre – this was the case at Bromsgrove, and at Shrub Hill in Worcester. Before the railway came through Droitwich and Worcester, a free omnibus was provided by the railway company to link the station at Spetchley with Worcester and at Hanbury with Droitwich.

Trams, which initially were like horse drawn omnibuses but running on rails laid in the street, were first introduced because the rails gave a smoother ride and needed less power to pull as friction was less. However, there was

some doubt about the legal position if the town councils laid rails in their streets this was regularised by the 1870 Tramways Act, which allowed local authorities to permit tramway undertakings to lay the rails and operate trams, and this was soon followed by the introduction of trams in many large cities, including Birmingham in 1873.

The lack of trams in Worcester soon attracted the attention of entrepreneurs, and in 1879, no less than four different proposals were made, but were all withdrawn for different reasons – one probably was that a main route through the city would need to pass down the High Street, which at that time was too narrow to permit a tramline to pass down it.

In 1880 a new scheme was proposed by the Tramways Trust Co. This proposed a system based on The Cross in the city centre, with one route going north through Barbourne into

the Ombersley Road as far as the Vine Inn, the second down Broad Street, Bridge Street, crossing the river and along the New Road to the Bull Ring in St Johns, then into the Bransford Road as far as the Portobello Inn. The third, shorter, route went down Lowesmoor, over the canal, and terminated at Shrub Hill Station.

The scheme was approved the following year and laying the tracks to a 3 foot gauge was completed in early 1884. The routes were all single line, with the line being doubled to provide passing places at suitable points. A ride cost two pence, and there were no official stopping places – the trams would stop where needed. They were double decker, with an uncovered upper deck with the seating running fore and aft and the passengers facing sideways, known as 'knife edge' seating. They could run in either direction and had stairs at both ends. A depot was built to house them, with stabling for the horses and a house for

The Hills of Hanbury



Well, I expect we have all rather over indulged over the festive season, so here is a challenging walk to help get rid of those extra pounds!

I'll start from the church for convenience, but as it's a circular walk it could be started at other points depending whereabouts in the village you live.

From the church descend to the school, enjoying the views and the new kissing gate onto the road. Cross the road with care, and follow the path through the playing field and through the next three gates. This brings you to the field with a pond in it on the LHS. Bear diagonally right to the gate and follow the paths down to Pumphouse Lane, exiting opposite the White House.

Turn right here and after a very short distance take the path on your left to go over a stile and follow the hedge on your RHS. Stop at the top of this diminutive hill and enjoy the views, I think these are some of the best in the village. The path continues to Loggerheads Lane where you turn Left. Bear right where the lane forks and, before the junction with the main road, take the footpath on your left to join the main Saltway. Cross over the road with great care and take the footpath

opposite, entering Mere Hall grounds, heading in a slightly south of an easterly direction, gradually veering away from the road to a bridge (be careful, we are awaiting for it to be replaced!) to continue to the left of the hedge line running along the bottom of Middle Hill heading roughly in the direction of the Vernon Arms. However, before arriving there you will join a footpath crossing at right angles to you coming from Droitwich Road and heading up the hill. Take this route up the hill through the gate on your right. (I did warn you in the title!). When you have regained your breath, enjoy the views again, then continue on bearing left and then turning left to skirt around Park Farm and join their concrete track. Turn Left and head towards the Saltway again.

You need now to cross the road again, bearing slightly to your left, to ascend the stone steps opposite. DO TAKE GREAT CARE. Once up the steps the path proceeds a few yards then goes through the gate on the left and on through the delightful Ox Pastures Bank woodland.

On emerging from the wood, cross the stile and turn left down the hill through the gate on your left, continuing straight on with the hedge now on your right for

a few steps before going straight on through a farm gate to a little copse. The path divides here, take the right fork following the field edge round and then through the gate and through the field ahead to join the track to Great Lodge Farm near to Deer Pen Cottages. Turn left and then go through the kissing gate on the left to pass the reservoir on your right. Follow this track to Hanbury Road, again enjoying the views this track affords, and cross the road turning right.

Next turn left past Trafalgar Cottage, up Cank Alley and continue straight on to Sophie's wood. You now have a choice, either continue straight on to the school and up 'cardiac hill' to the church, or deviate by turning right and visiting the Jinney Ring for some well-earned refreshments prior to tackling the final ascent of cardiac hill on your return to the church.

All the paths should be well waymarked. Enjoy it!

Tony

Tony's brief was to write a good post-Christmas Hanbury walk. Perfect. I think you'll agree Ed.

Don't Forget!

**A walk for Janet
Saturday 9 March
at 10.30am,
starting at the
church**



PIPPINS PRE-SCHOOL AND NURSERY

The children at pippins enjoyed picking blackberries in the field and then making a blackberry crumble. We had a Halloween coffee morning where the children sang songs on the stage dressed up in their costumes. For children in need, the children brought in their favourite teddy bear and painted a Pudsey Bear!

We have had lots of fun outdoors this term, enjoying hot chocolate and marshmallows around our model campfire and holding our paper rainbow sparklers, we also made a collage and played in our new mud kitchen!

We take children from 2 years of age any inquiries please contact our manager **Helen Firminger** 01572 821871

See the lovely photographs in the colour pages!



Out & About in Hanbury... Out & About

HANBURY WI REPORT

In October Mandy showed us different ways of making use of old Christmas cards, from puppets to baubles. Everyone got stuck in and stuck together and some wonderful creations emerged. Some of these went onto the Christmas tree in the church which several of the WI ladies helped to decorate. Pride of place was the special bauble made by Pat, which we hope you spotted on the tree.

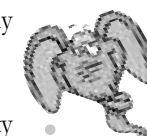
In November it was our Annual Meeting and the time that we elect our President. Michele has been our President for three years and has done a fantastic job, but was ready to pass on the baton. Mandy was duly elected our President and we wish her luck. Some committee members stood down and we have a new committee member in Rachael. Julie took over the role of Treasurer and Alyson and Annette will share the Secretary role. The meeting concluded with some lovely puddings made by members.

In December we had our Christmas Party with a Rudolph Drive, a twist on the traditional Beetle Drive. This was followed by a lovely Buffet organised by Michele.

2017 was our Centenary year and 2018 was another good year for Hanbury WI and we continue to thrive, thanks to all the members enthusiasm and attendance even on wet and windy evenings, when the draw of the fire makes coming out just that bit more challenging!

The programme is set for 2019 and promises to be another good year.

Any enquiries, please contact our President **Mandy Cook** on 01527 821481 or email hanburywi@gmail.com



DON'T FORGET!

Next issue only, please send your copy to me as usual and also to Mark Bishop at mab53@me.com

Hanbury Village Hall 200 Club Winners - 2018

	1st (£65)	2nd (£39)	3rd (£26)
January	Anne Humphries	Jane Edgington	Emily & Ben Steenton
February	John Humphreys	Jenni Gill	Mark Bishop
March	Bridget Weaving	Susannah Panton	David Ford
April	Audrey Allen	Hugh Allen	Pat Richards
May	Hugh Allen	Bridget Weaving	Ann Baxter
June	Andy & Michelle Dunn	Jane Campbell	Fiona Kameen
July	Peggy Weaver	Ruth Bennett	Jill Harper
August	Lizzie Davidge	Susan Jenkins	Maggie Busfield
September	Brenda Goodchild	Angela Godsall	Jenni Gill
October	Brenda Wright	Jane Campbell	Michael Docherty
November	Brenda Goodchild	Ron Spencer	Gary Ford
December	Melinda Humphreys	Angela & Richard Godsall	John Humphreys

Hanbury Village Hall 200 Club

The 200 Club is now in its 4th year, and continues to provide a very welcome income of approximately £1500 per year towards improvement projects for our Village Hall.

Licensed by Wychavon District Council as a Small Lottery, the annual subscription is £24 - £2 per month, 50% of which is given away in prize money at each monthly draw. Currently we have approximately 130 members.

Projects supported so far include cloakroom refurbishment, new stage, new sound system and this year a new stage lighting system.

The Village Hall Management Committee strives hard to maintain and improve the quality of facilities available in the Hall, and would like to thank all 200 Club members for their continued support. You make a big difference to the number and quality of facilities we can provide.

More members would be very welcome – please contact Ange Burnet on 01527 821755 or 07788 721 707 for more detail.

Ange Burnet

We are proud to announce that someone... I wonder who?... won the Champion of Champions prize at Ombersley Golf Course - could it possibly be our Parish Council Chairman do you think?



Out & About in Hanbury... Out & About

HOBNOBS COMMUNITY FESTIVE LUNCH

Early in December, we kick off the festive season with a Christmas lunch in the Village Hall. So on the 6th. December, the volunteers arrived in the kitchen early, donned their aprons and got to work. Having cooked many lunches before, Chef knows a few short cuts, which include buying frozen roast potatoes, cooking the turkey crowns the day before and borrowing Greta's oven at home for the pigs in blankets.

Come 1.00, the tables were laid and looking festive, with table decorations, candles and crackers. The wine was ready either in the fridge or sitting on top of the heating cabinet, the plates were extra hot so serving could commence. We dished up turkey slices,

with roast potatoes, carrots, sprouts, stuffing balls, pigs in blankets and gravy. There was not much waste left on the plates so on with the Christmas puddings - delicious from Waitrose with some brandy cream. Tea and coffee followed with some chocolates for those who still had a small space in their tummies!

The volunteers work especially hard on the Christmas meal, but it is rewarding for us all to join in and to hear the chatter of friends enjoying each others' company.

We are now planning for the year ahead. We hope to recruit more volunteers to relieve the pressure on us, and it would be wonderful for anyone with cooking

experience to take on the planning and cooking of a meal once in a while. We already have a group of our male diners who have made this offer, so we look forward to sitting back and enjoying the results of their endeavours!

If you would like any further information either as a potential diner or as a volunteer, please get in touch with Clare - 01527 821917 or amberhoney@btinternet.com

See our celebration pictures in the colour pages!

The village bonfire - A Roaring Success for Hanbury...

Over 400 pallets collected and donated by Sun And Health International had been kindly stored throughout the year by Councillor Dave Ford.

And with the help of his brother Jack, David transported the pallets on the previous Saturday and Sunday to the village recreation ground.

This enabled Garry and Thomas Allbutt to build the bonfire which was bigger than ever, standing at over 8m tall this year. This was topped off with a fine guy which Thomas had made and lifted into place with the help of Phil Gibbs with his telescopic forklift.

This mainly oak pyre quickly became a roaring success as the high winds on the night instantly whipped the fire into a blazing inferno.

So much so, that intense heat quickly had the grass cuttings near the hedge alight and this was only contained by the sharp thinking of Phil Gibbs who arrived just in the nick of time armed with fire extinguishers.

The main event of a truly spectacular firework display was then expertly delivered by Tim Harper and his well-drilled team.

And at the end of the display, the ropes came down and the crowd gathered around the now 1m high fire and stayed chatting away long into the night.

The great teamwork of all the helpers on the gates, stalls and parking ensured the night ran like clockwork and an impressive total of over £1,100 was raised for local charities.

All in all, it was a great and very memorable night.

Garry Allbutt

See photographs in the colour pages by Emily Allbutt



Janet Lowe

I first met Janet 50 years ago at a dance in The Park Attwood Hotel near Kidderminster. It was late summer 1968, just before she was due to leave home for university. She was to read Mathematics and Computer Science at Reading University followed by a PGCE. During these 4 years whilst I studied horticulture at Writtle College we still managed to see each other regularly. Many of my visits to Reading involved waiting on a chilly touchline while Janet played hockey for the first team, or being entertained by her friends if it was an away game. No guesses as to which option I preferred!

Once studies finished we were married at Wribblehall Church, Bewdley in August 1972 and set up home in Worthing West Sussex. Janet started her teaching career in maths at Varndean Grammar School for Girls in Brighton, a very conservative school but an excellent foundation. I worked as a trainee manager in a large glasshouse nursery in Angmering.

After 4 enjoyable years in Sussex we decided it was time to start a family. We needed a larger house and family support. House prices were rising alarmingly on the south coast, so a move back to Worcestershire was decided upon.

We bought our house in Hanbury in 1976 and in the same year Jennifer was born. We were made extremely welcome in Hanbury. Janet soon made many friends through her association with neighbours, playgroup, Village Hall, Church, Fete and other village activities. I took up a position at Webbs Garden Centre and started a new career in retail.

Chris was born in 1979 and shortly afterwards, and with family help, Janet was able to return to teaching. She started part time at Dodderhill School for Girls Droitwich. Once the children

started school she was able to teach full time, a job she loved. Her association with Dodderhill School continued beyond retirement and she served as a Governor right up until her illness in the summer. Janet thoroughly enjoyed all her involvement in the many aspects of village life especially the Church, Hanbury School, Hanbury Hall and singing with Hanbury in Voice. We both started playing badminton with some of our friends and tennis in the summer. We also joined the tennis club in Droitwich. Another passion that we shared was walking. Both in the local countryside and with friends we have completed many routes in the Lake District, Coast to Coast, Wales, the South Downs and Yorkshire Dales and beyond.

We both felt extremely blessed to have gained so many friends and being a part of such a caring community.

Jennifer, Chris and I would like to take the opportunity to give our sincere thanks to those who managed to attend the service in celebration of her life at Hanbury Church and to our friends who have given us so much support. We have received so many messages of sympathy, practical help, and moral support both during her illness and since her death.

Finally a huge thanks to all those concerned for the organisation of the service at Hanbury Church on the 9th November. It all took place exactly as Janet had wished following her conversations with dear friends just before her death. Every detail was attended to, up to and during the service: flowers, readings, music, hymns, car parking and the marvellous refreshments at the end. It all made for a truly moving and memorable tribute to Janet for which Jennifer, Chris, her brother Ken and I are so truly grateful.

More than £1720-00 has been has donated in Janet's memory to be equally

SAVE THE DATE

**A walk for Janet...
Saturday, 9 March
at 10.30am at the
church**

Janet and David loved to walk together and with friends; very importantly they wrote a large percentage of the walks that you enjoy so much in Hanbury Herald.

So we thought a fitting reminder of wonderful Janet would be to do one of her favourite Hanbury walks, chosen by David.

Everyone is welcome, so fingers crossed for good weather.

It will start and finish at Hanbury Church and is about 3.5 miles long (5.3 km). We don't think there are any stiles and it should be suitable for most people, so long as they can manage the final ascent up "Cardiac Hill" to the Church! We shall go through the Churchyard down to the common, cross the road and descend down to Holmes Lane. Then we shall go along the recently cleared "Chains" "old roman road, cross Forest Lane and return by Platts pond to the B4091. The walk then ends by going back across the fields to the school and up to the Church. We think about 2 hours in all.

And then we shall have a bowl of soup and some bread together.

split between Birmingham's Children's Hospital and The Primrose Hospice at the Princess of Wales Hospital Brompton.

Many thanks.
David Lowe

And now for a true love story... Katie's Engagement Day

Back during the wonderful hot summer of 2018 there was a quiet knock on my office door and Ben, my daughter Katie's boyfriend, popped his head around the door. "Hi Geoff. Any chance I could borrow your electric drill please?" This wasn't a problem but his next question took me by surprise. "Actually Geoff I'd quite like to marry Katie and wanted your permission to ask her." It was great to be asked and I replied that I'd be delighted and that he'd be a great addition to our family.

Ben said that it wouldn't be for a few weeks so could I keep it to myself. A few weeks later he called me and asked if I could make sure that my wife, Sue, and I were out on the following Saturday afternoon as that was the day he planned to propose.

Taking Sue for afternoon tea ensured that the house was empty. What I didn't know were Ben's plans and that Katie's proposal day had already started at 8.00am that morning.

Katie had been told by Becky, one of her friends, that she had been given a spa day by her boyfriend and that she could take Katie, who was delighted.

When she turned up to collect Katie she gave her an envelope and in it was a card from Ben saying that he and Becky had a confession to make. Ben's card said that he had lined up a special day for Katie with a series of questions and tasks for her to complete to lead her to him, where, if she succeeded in her tasks, he'd have an important question to ask her.

Task one was to solve an anagram which would give a location and post code. Anagram solved, Becky drove Katie to her spa session at The Belfry Hotel & Resort. Massaged, pampered and with her nails done, Katie was given another

envelope. "Hopefully you are now nice and relaxed but maybe a little hungry? Your next destination is the location of our first kiss."

This clue took them to The Ewe and Lamb, fortunately a country pub that hasn't closed. Here Ben had organised their lunch.

The next question was "What did you buy as my first birthday present, just after we started dating?" She answered correctly, "The components for a bacon sandwich – and a pack of Cadbury's Giant Buttons." Now that her nails were manicured, the next card told her to go to Denise Leslie for a wash and blow dry.

The tasks now followed thick and fast: "Where we first lived together," took Katie to our Grannie Annex to find what she needed to complete her next task. Laid across the bed was a new dress for Katie to wear.

Now that Katie was dressed to impress, she needed to know where to go next. To find the clue she was required to go to the spot where she "had a little nap, on the first evening that I came to your parents' house and met Bertie." (Katie's cockerpool).

After successfully solving this, Katie got task 7. "Well done, you're getting closer! To find where an accomplice is waiting for you, put these co-ordinates into Google maps." The Latitude and Longitude co-ordinates took Katie into Hanbury Woods, where she found Bertie tied to a tree with another card.

"Bert and I have been playing 'hide and seek' in the common and he will know where to find me. Just think which tree I like to hide in. But first check his collar is in order." On Bertie's collar Ben had added a new silver token inscribed with "He wants to know if you will say yes?" Katie told Bertie to "Find Ben!" Bertie



Ben and Katie

raced off and Katie followed to find Ben in the woods next to some trees which were embraced with bunting. When Katie arrived he got down on one knee and asked her to marry him. After such a memorable day of course she said "Yes!"



Give us a clue - Ben's hide and seek notes

We are now looking forward to a ceremony in Hanbury Church in the spring of 2020.

Note: The weekend that this took place, July 28th 2018, also coincided with the end of the hot sunny weather and the heavens opened. Katie had to wear wellie boots, a coat and with an umbrella to find Bertie, who was soaked. Ben's picnic, prepared as a celebration, never got eaten. But the sun did come out later for the picture.

Written by Katie's proud Dad,
Geoff Pearson

With thanks to Janet Lowe who, on hearing the story suggested that we share it with the Herald.

Out & About in Hanbury.. Out & About

Hanbury Countryside Show - Pie Night

Friday 2nd November 2018

The Hanbury Countryside Show Pie Night was held at the Jinney Ring Craft Centre on Friday 2nd November. Guests were treated to an excellent selection of pies for their main course, these included the classic steak and ale and fish pies plus a very tasty lamb and mint option. These had all been made by the chefs at the Jinney Ring. The desserts included a delicious sticky toffee pudding and decadent banoffee pie. The evening had a terrific atmosphere; with over 100 local residents attending.

Profits from the Pie Night will go towards the purchase of items needed for the 2019 Show; these include sheep hurdles, crowd barriers and signage. During the evening an auction was held

to raise further funds; the lots included an iced Christmas cake and a pumpkin pie. There was also a raffle which raised a whopping £400, half of which was donated to Hanbury Church and the other half to the Show.

The evening was a great success; the staff at the Jinney Ring were fantastic and the food wonderful. We are very lucky to have such a superb restaurant in Hanbury. A huge thanks must go to Amanda and Malcolm for kindly allowing us to use the Jinney Ring's facilities and to all those who attended and helped to make the evening so enjoyable.

Preparations for the 2019 Hanbury Show are progressing well and next year's event will be held on Saturday 6th July – Date for the Diary! Visit www.hanburyshow.co.uk for more information.

The Callow Oils Two Fence Show Jumping Challenge

The organisers of the Hanbury Countryside Show are delighted to announce the introduction of a new exciting competition - The Callow Oils Two Fence Show Jumping Challenge. This will be held in the NFU Mutual Main Arena at lunchtime on Saturday 6th July 2019. This is a first for Hanbury Show.

James Callow from Callow Oils said they are pleased to sponsor this new competition, and he looks forward to presenting the prizes to the winners on July 6th.

Local show jumper and Hanbury Show committee member Caroline Webley added, "It is great that my local show has another top-level show jumping class, I can't wait to compete next year." The winner of this Jumping Challenge will walk away with £500; this makes the competition the most lucrative in the Show. This challenge will be a great spectacle and is

sure to keep the audience captivated. It is hoped that up to twenty show jumpers will take part and it is possible that the competition may attract some big names from the show jumping world.

Callow Oils is a family firm supplying domestic, agricultural and commercial fuels across Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire. Products include quality home heating oil, LPG, diesel fuel and red diesel. They will be celebrating their 50th anniversary in 2019. For more information please visit: www.callowoils.com, Facebook or @callowoils on Twitter. Full details for how to enter will be published on the Hanbury Show website during March 2019. The Two Fence Challenge will be a British Show Jumping affiliated pre-entry event and entries can be made online or by post. For more info about the Show please visit www.hanburyshow.co.uk

Champagne Moment...

John and Maggie Wheatley are grandparents for the second time! Proud parents **Richard and Adrienn** now have another daughter, **Vivien**, born on 13th December 2018 and sister to Lili aged 2.



Harvest supper

The Harvest Supper took place at the village hall on 13th October and was well attended. The ladies from Hanbury W.I put on a delicious ploughman's supper and there was musical entertainment from another local talent - Mick Quickfall. The raffle was very well supported by all those who attended and in all we raised just over £400 which was donated to St Richards Hospice in memory of Sue Graesser who was both a member of Hanbury W.I and the Harvest Supper Team.

Julie Spencer

Edith Mary Harris

Mary passed away peacefully on 21 October at Rashwood, aged 98.



Leslie and Mary Harris lived at Ridge End, Hanbury from 1957 to 1995.

Donations to a fund in Mary's memory may be made to Elizabeth Finn Homes Ltd, c/o Rashwood. Wychbold, Droitwich WR9 0BP.

NEWS from Hanbury Hall

Well... that's another year done and dusted! It's been another great year for the property where we have welcomed lots of visitors over the course of the year, enjoying busy (albeit sometimes soggy) school holidays, hosting some wonderful events, and a scorching hot summer.

As we begin to enjoy 2019 we are looking forward to some changes here at the property as well as keeping an eye out for some of the signs that mean spring is just around the corner. The most significant change that will be happening this year will be that we will be opening the property from 9am-5pm all year round from the 1st March. This means that we will also be opening the Hall from 11am for free-flow entry throughout the year. We've found that our visitors have a much more enjoyable visit to Hanbury when they can get into the Hall earlier, so we think this is a huge bonus for

everyone who loves coming to the property.

In the Hall our conservation team are completing the annual deep cleaning process on the ground floor. This involves vacuuming, dusting and polishing everything in each room from top to bottom, and yes that includes all the ceramics, porcelains and furniture. It's not a job for the faint hearted! Alongside this we will be looking forward to installing a new carpet on the first floor of the house and also some new lighting for our Thornhill paintings. Meanwhile, the gardens and parkland may have looked sleepy over the winter months, but there has been a lot of activity from our busy outdoors team. They have been out and about repairing bits of wear and tear around the property as well as their own equipment that they use on a day to day basis. They have also started to sow the first seeds both for veg in the walled

garden and also some of our flowers for the formal gardens. We will be patiently waiting for the ribbon border to burst into life. We will be keeping everyone updated on our social media channels, so do keep an eye on them to find out when it has all come into bloom as it is quite spectacular!

Looking forward to our events in 2019 we will be welcoming back some of our favourites, including 'Welly Walks', outdoor theatres and cinemas, Apple Weekend, and the return of the hugely popular 'It's Christmaaas!'

Here's to a fantastic 2019 – we very much look forward to seeing you and thank you for your continued support.

The Hanbury Team

01527 821214

facebook.com/hanburyhall

twitter.com/HanburyHallNT

Strange but true...

Continuing the theme of the "strange but true" I relate a story of two wild birds.

Given that it's Winter time and that the most depicted bird is the robin, it's perhaps most appropriate that this is the starting point for a true account of events that relate to living in our previous house.

Whilst gardening, my wife began encouraging a robin that was brave enough to superintend her work, by gently talking to it and making titbits available. Eventually he became brave enough to accept titbits from her hand. In a morning he would regularly stand patiently by the glass front door and on seeing you descend the stairs would fluff out its feathers, lift its wings marginally from its body and bob up and down in anticipation of being fed.

Coincidentally the day that my wife's father was admitted to hospital this relationship developed further to a point where my wife could walk into the front garden, call "robin" and have

him swoop down to land on her outstretched hand.

A few days later while in the kitchen, my wife called for me to look into the hall. Opening the swing door I found the robin looking up at me, whereupon I said "Come on" and together he hopped and I walked the length of the hall (some 15 feet) to where my wife was sitting on the threshold of the open door.

Later that day I went out onto the front drive to check and adjust the tyre pressures on the car. I didn't do this alone because the robin landed alongside me and accompanied me from wheel to wheel. At the fourth and final wheel it allowed me to stroke its chest and back before flying away.

That night my wife's father died in hospital and mysteriously the robin also failed to return.

Fast forward some 18 months and early one morning we became aware of a bird fluttering outside our bedroom window while tapping the glass with its



beak. It turned out to be a long tailed tit and the time happened to be 06.04 hrs.


Thereafter, it would repeat this ritual daily; always fluttering, never perching on the window sill; always appearing at a similar time.

Going downstairs to prepare breakfast, it would then be found

waiting patiently outside the front door ready to be fed by hand despite never having previously been nurtured by us. Rather strangely, if instead of going downstairs immediately I went to another room in the house, e.g. one of the back bedrooms, the bird would unerringly find me and flutter outside this window, pecking the glass.

By a strange coincidence, the day my friend of longest standing died, this bird also disappeared for good too.

Ed Richards



Hanbury Parish Council

MEETING DATES : The next meetings of the Parish Council are as follows; Everyone is very welcome. All at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. January 28th, February 25th and March 25th 2019.

Report of the last three meetings of the parish council

Work at the Village Hall

The porch is the next project and plans are available from the Clerk if you wish to have a look. The old flat roof porch will be replaced by a pitched roof and will be more in keeping with the original look of the building.

Pavillion on the recreation ground

The Parish Council has put in planning permission to replace the pavilion on the Recreation Ground.

The pavilion is to be replaced with a larger structure – but with the same design as the current pavilion. There would be changing rooms with toilets and showers so that any sporting groups can use the pitches in conjunction with the pavilion. Plans are available for inspection and are published online. In addition to this, there will also be a meeting room – about 40m sq. This is for any other parishioners who wish to hire a room for any purpose – for example for book club, bridge club, children/teenage party etc – particularly for use in conjunction with the recreation ground and play area.

The Parish Council are looking for funding which will enable the provision of the project. They are hopeful that the Wychavon community legacy fund will be able to assist with this. The project is expected to be in the region of about £45,000 and over half of the funding needed has already been provisionally allocated.

Consultation with you!

The parish council would like to ask you for your opinions on the project;

- Would this project be useful at the Hanbury Recreation Ground?
- Would a new pavilion be a benefit to the Parish?
- Do you think that the Recreation Ground is fully utilised at the moment?
- What community groups would you like to see using the new pavilion?

Any other feedback or comments on this proposal would be welcomed by the Clerk. The Council would particularly like to hear from people who may wish to use the pavilion space so that consideration can be given to additional features that the pavilion may need.

Broadband

The Parish Council are working together with BT Openreach to provide fibre

broadband to properties on School Lane. The area has been extended to include part of Pumphouse Lane and a feasibility study is currently ongoing, which has delayed the original scheme by 6 months and we are still awaiting a revised quote from BT Openreach for the project.

Elections 2019

The Parish Council will be re-elected in May 2019 and any persons interested in applying for the role of Parish Councillor are encouraged to contact the Clerk.

Training and support is available for new persons who take on this role. No experience is necessary and you would be in a position to help with the spending of the precept on the Parish and in improving the life of the residents of the Parish.

Parish maintenance

Our local parish Lengthsman – Chris Cooke does a fabulous job around the parish, keeping an eye on overgrown shrubbery and reporting fly-tipping on a daily basis. Please note that if you have trees or hedges on your property, that you are responsible for keeping them trimmed and off the highways/foot-paths.

If you notice anything that needs maintaining please do let the Clerk know as soon as possible.

Clerk to the Parish Council is **Clare Shinner (07961 296 369) hanburyclerk@btinternet.com**

Your Councillors Contact Numbers:

Chairman of the Council		John Evans	01527 821231
Roger Weaving	01527 821673	Ian Few	07976 693430
Mark Bishop	01527 821636	David Ford	01905 391675
Neil Cook	01527 821481	Roy Raxter	01527 821425
		Clare Stallard	01527 821917
		Gary Gartland	01527 821480

HANBURY... AUTUMN & WINTER IN HANBURY... AUTUMN &



Biggest bonfire ever!



Penny for the guy



Hanbury sparkles



View across Wychavon



Late autumn evening from the church



Hanbury Church from the woods



Gathering around the glow



Flames jump high into the night sky!



Pippins getting all arty



Pippins' spooky show!

AUTUMN & WINTER IN HANBURY... AUTUMN & WINTER IN



Festive Footpath Wardens



The Christmas Service



Church full of song at Christmas



Hobnobs Christmas party



WI members gather to decorate the Christmas tree



Yippee! you can't beat live music!



The harvest supper - popular as ever

Hanbury remembers...

1918 - 2018



WW1 CENTENARY

The Hanbury Remembrance Service was conducted by the Reverend David Morris assisted by John Spencer and helped by Gary Gartland, who carried the Stoke Works and Hanbury Royal British Legion Standard, honouring those that lost their lives in the Great War.

