

# HANHAM HALL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



March 2021 — Issue 5

[hanhamhallnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:hanhamhallnewsletter@gmail.com)

Welcome to the March 2021 Newsletter. It's aim is to be a voice for Hanham Hall residents to share what's happening in this little eco community, particularly in terms of our environment and social events, and while it shares information from the HHRG, it is not produced by committee members nor the Community Interest Company (CIC). We're always looking for information from people, stories, anything you think relevant, so if you have ideas for additional content please contact us or send it in to the Newsletter email address.

Feedback is always needed, even if sometimes unfavourable.

Regarding costs, the first 3 Newsletters last year were produced and printed totally free and voluntarily, at no cost (whatsoever) to the community. The December issue was printed professionally, the costs coming from a local council grant received some time ago with the funds ring-fenced for Newsletter publishing. So no money from our Hanham Hall £50 a year community levy has been used to date, and this will continue for some time to come.

It's hoped most people enjoy the update the Newsletter brings. It saves you all having too many information flyers in your letter boxes, and a lot of foot-slogging delivering them.

## Hanham Hall - Gardens and Green Spaces

### Planters

Our planters are beginning to flower and are providing a welcome reminder that spring is just around the corner. The planters were made by resident Mike Gee some years ago. Since then, Jules Burnett has been responsible for selecting, growing and maintaining a variety of plants that have provided colour and interest throughout the years. Jules is sadly leaving Hanham Hall for pastures new. A really big thank you Jules for all you have achieved here. We wish you well in your new adventure and your new garden.

A new resident Anni Grice has offered to continue looking after the planters. She will need some help, certainly over the dry summer months. We are looking to update our volunteer team. Could we ask that if you have a planter near you and you're willing to commit to splashing some water on it when there's no rain, you just nip out, check the number of the planter, and email the HHRG email address

[hanhamhallresidentsgroup@gmail.com](mailto:hanhamhallresidentsgroup@gmail.com)) with the planter number and your name. It's too much for 1 person to cart water all over the estate, and is so easy if we all take a small part.



hanham hall

Community Interest Company



### Contacts

**Hanham Hall Website** - <http://hanhamhall.uk>

**HHRG** - [hanhamhallresidentsgroup@gmail.com](mailto:hanhamhallresidentsgroup@gmail.com)

**Newsletter** - [hanhamhallnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:hanhamhallnewsletter@gmail.com)

**Pinnacle** - [www.pinnaclepm.co.uk](http://www.pinnaclepm.co.uk) Or

[robyn@pinnaclepm.co.uk](mailto:robyn@pinnaclepm.co.uk)

**Sovereign Housing Officer:**

[Jerome.Dyer@sovereign.org.uk](mailto:Jerome.Dyer@sovereign.org.uk)

Most of us have enjoyed planting bulbs indoors recently, and you might be wondering what to do with them now. All those with gardens will probably be planting them out so they can be enjoyed next spring. If you don't have a garden, or do but don't feel like planting, please don't put them in the bin. We can put them in the planters or around Hanham Hall for everyone to enjoy next year. If you want to donate, please let me know. Please PM me (Anni Grice) on the Facebook Residents Only page, or contact via [hanhamhallresidentsgroup@gmail.com](mailto:hanhamhallresidentsgroup@gmail.com).

## David & Diana Reade Memorial Bench

You may have noticed that the bench by the top play area has recently been replaced. This memorial to David and Diana Reade, after whom Reade Close is named, was originally donated by Barratt Homes when they completed the development. The bench was well used but had been vandalised, and several of the back supports had been kicked out and it probably wouldn't have lasted much longer.

In line with our 'green' ethos, the CIC commissioned the new bench from the Bristol Wood Recycling Project ([www.bwrp.org.uk](http://www.bwrp.org.uk)) in St Philips. They took our specification, built the bench to order from reclaimed timber and then delivered it for us. Including fitting, the total cost was just under £400, which seems good value for such a sturdy and well-made piece of furniture. It's already been used by plenty of people, and it's reported that the upright back is very supportive. We hope it lasts longer and that you enjoy it too.



## Summer Sunflower Competition

If your children would like to enter the Sunflower growing competition, please fill out the tear off slip on the flyer you should have now received in your letter box. Please pop it in the letter box of 5 Malpass Drive. Mark will let you know when the seeds etc are ready for you to collect. If you already have a suitable large pot, you can save the planet and use that.

If any household hasn't received a flyer for their children please let us know.

The sunflowers will all be displayed at some point over the summer, ready for judging, hopefully with a BYO picnic celebration (Covid rules permitting, as always). Details to follow.



## Hanham Hall Environment Group Spring 2021



So what's been happening over the last few months. The good news is that the pond has been cleared. Hooray! Many thanks to Ed and Ragen for wading into the almost freezing waters to do this. We now have open water again and the ducks arrived within days of it being cleared. The bad news is that the Bullrush will grow back as the year progresses as clearing them is a long job which will be ongoing over the next three or four years. Each year more will be removed and we will eventually end up with no Bullrush left in the pond. You may be wondering why there are still piles of vegetation around the pond - as viewed from some perspectives it could be seen as untidy. However it is a useful resource for our local wildlife. As this material has come

out of the pond it means that any pond life that has come out with it has an opportunity to move back into the pond (this is standard practice when clearing ponds). These vegetation piles will also offer a refuge for a host of terrestrial wildlife that can now make their home within them and over the summer the piles will slowly rot down vanishing by next autumn. The current large piles will be spread into a long thin strip in front of the hedge and along the far shore of the pond. We have also planted two willow fences beside the paths that run alongside the orchard. These were trimmings from the hedges which have been recycled and once they are established they will be woven together to form a willow picket which will be an attractive addition to our hedgerows. We began this project in response to the number of people that are using our meadows as a place to exercise and with social distancing in play many people were cutting the corner by the orchard to avoid other walkers but in doing so were turning the grass into a quagmire. Also as a result of the increased traffic across our meadows the path from the surgery lawn has become increasingly worn and the fence has been repeatedly broken. This increased traffic has led to our newly planted trees being damaged and a huge increase in the volume of dog poo left in the meadow. So following a consultation with the CIC we have planted a number of willow saplings on and around the path to block access. Visitors are very welcome but we encourage them to use the entrance to the meadows off Reade Close. Please help to steer visitors in this direction. The two piles of pallets on the far side of Clover Kennel meadow (next to the allotments) are continuing to mature as wildlife refuges. The center one has now been roofed with tiles and the other by the wildlife bank now includes a brash pile of twigs and branches behind it to connect it to the hedgerow and has recently been screened with a palisade of fencing posts. The wildlife bank has now rotted down and a layer of sand will be added to the top at the end of March. This and its south facing aspect will then make it an excellent habitat for mining bees. Once the meadows flower in the spring, I will be organising a number of sessions to monitor the wildlife that we have on our estate. These will include: • Wild flower hunts • Butterfly counts • General insect counts using beetle traps and sweep nets • Pollinator counts as part of the National Pollinator Project (a 10min observation of a single flower) • Pond dipping to assess the diversity of the life in our pond and ditches. I will also invite the Bristol moth group to return and set up for the night in the meadows. We will also record the birds, reptiles and amphibians as they are encountered, and will run some Minibeast safaris for younger residents. With the end of the pandemic restrictions in sight we look forward to an exciting and sociable summer exploring the meadows. Peter Smithers.





## Hanham Hall Clubs

Saturday 'Coffee at the Cafe' will be able to start again outdoors on May 1st, 10.30 - 12.00, depending as always on Covid rules not slipping. It's a good chance to meet up with others living here at Hanham Hall if you'd like to, with a complementary coffee and cake.

Future dates if permitted, will be Saturday June 5th, July 3rd, August 7th, and September 4th.

### Cycling News

Diary dates - This is the provisional programme for Spring 2021

Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April                      Brandy Bottom, site of disused colliery, near Emerson's Green

Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> April                      The Little Coffee Shop, Saltford

Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> May  
Spring Holiday                      Grimsbury Community Farm and Warmley Station  
National Bike Week event

Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> June                      Lyde Green Community Centre and café

- The Rule of 6 will apply to the two rides in April. Please pre-book by phone or email.
- Outdoor exercise only is permitted on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, so it will be an out and back ride with a short break. Please bring your own drinks and snacks.
- Outdoor hospitality and outdoor attractions will have reopened by 25<sup>th</sup> April, and outdoor exercise *and* recreation will be permitted.
- Indoor attractions will have reopened by 31<sup>st</sup> May, and up to 30 people will be able to meet outdoors.
- The above dates are provisional and may change, in which case I'll give as much notice as possible.
- All rides start at the Hanham Hall car park. We meet at 9.45 a.m. for a 10.00 a.m. start, and aim to return by 12.45 p.m.

News - Mark and Tony are now registered Ride Leaders with Cycling UK.

### Oldland Parish Council Cycling and Walking Initiative

This project was launched in 2020 to enable more people to cycle and walk, particularly for those shorter journeys.

For this to succeed, a safe and inviting cycling/walking network of pathways and routes is required, which can be used by everybody in the community.

The project is now operating through integrated 'cross border' collaboration and reflecting this broadened involvement the group has been re-launched as the **Bristol East Fringe Cycling & Walking Group**.

You can find more information on the Oldland Parish Council website.

### Cycling Group Contact List

I've just received a mailing from Sustrans, which includes useful tips on how to keep your bike clean. I'll be circulating this and other information shortly.

Please email me if you would like me to add your name to the Cycling Group Contact List.

Keep well and stay safe.

Ian Hopton Tel: 0117 3320588 email: [ian\\_hopton@hotmail.com](mailto:ian_hopton@hotmail.com)



# Hanham Hall - Events

Please remember to follow Covid guidelines for the time at any Hanham Hall events.

## EASTER



We can only hope that by Easter 2022 we're back to egg and spoon races and egg hunts, but as lockdown continues the plans are again confined to the rules of the day, and every household has by now received a flyer about the restricted Easter plans. So if you'd like your child/children under 13 to receive an Easter egg, please fill in the form on the flyer as requested and return it to 7 Malpass Drive.

Then get creative with an Easter decoration for the Easter Hope Tree - the willow by the playground which will be marked - and tie it on on Good Friday (securely so it doesn't blow away). Put your name on the back, but not your address for security reasons. This is for everyone, not just the children. The decorations will be taken down again on Easter Monday, so if you'd like to keep yours please reclaim it in the morning. If anyone sees any decorations blowing in the wind, please can you tie them back on again.

Happy Easter.



## OPEN GARDEN DAY

An Open Garden day is planned for May 29th. If you'd like to open your garden for other residents to view, or to visit other gardens on the development for inspiration, please go to:

<http://hanhamhall.uk/events/open-gardens/> for more information and all the details about Covid safety.



## WILD WEST SUMMER HO-DOWN -

Saturday September 11th, 3.00-10.00pm  
Children's activities in the afternoon, Intermission with Western-style supper, followed by evening entertainment with live band and dancing.  
Details to follow nearer the time.



**OUTDOOR CINEMA** - Weekend of September 25-26th. Details nearer the time.



## Calendar of Meetings, Group & Events

April	May	June	July
HHRG Meeting Thurs 1st @ 7pm	HHRG Meeting Wed 5th @ 7pm	HHRG Meeting Thurs 3rd @ 7pm	HHRG Meeting Mon 5th @ 7pm
Easter Hope Tree 2nd Easter Egg Delivery 5th	Coffee in the Café 1st 10.30-12.00	Coffee in the Café 5th 10.30-12.00	Coffee in the Café 3rd 10.30-12.00
Book Club Monday 12th via Zoom	Book Club Monday 10th via Zoom	Book Club Monday 4th via Zoom	Book Club Monday 12th via Zoom

## Competition Pages

As you may all be aware we have had a number of competitions running over the last few months. Below are the results of those competitions.

### Window Wanderland - Results

As our usual Christmas event had to be cancelled, it was decided that a Window Wanderland should be created to cheer the place up a bit and help develop the Christmas spirit a little. It was really lovely to see that so many people took part, 40 in all. There were so many ideas and people had put in a lot of effort. We invited an impartial judge who often walks through the development to see the rainbow posters and guy competitions etc. Sam ( 3 ) of Whittucks Rd, dressed in his seasonal Christmas pudding hat, spent a good couple of hours of his freezing Christmas Eve examining peoples windows. He was rewarded for his time and frozen fingers by a surprise sighting of Santa in his festive Beetle. He even stopped for a chat!

There was a lot to talk about at decision time, but luckily Sam's glamorous assistant had taken notes on the way round! In the end it was decided that **3<sup>rd</sup>** prize should go to Natalie and her daughter for their varied array of all things Christmas...candy canes, presents and Sam's favourite cookie cutter style gingerbread men. **2<sup>nd</sup>** prize was awarded to Tony and Maggie for their advent calendar/traditional shop window display, complete with tree and candles. It really felt like Christmas. **1<sup>st</sup>** prize went to Leah, Darren and their family who had filled every visible window with a different, bold and huge decoration (although if truth be known, the Grinch window was enough as far as Sam was concerned!)

Once again, thank you to everyone who put the effort in. This really was a tough one to judge and we wished we had more prizes. Hopefully you all enjoyed your selection boxes for taking part though...we all know that's what counts!

### 1st Place



### 3rd Place



### 2nd Place





## Competition Pages

### World Book Day - Results

A resident recently made a lovely suggestion of having a World Book Day window competition (see HHRG Notice Board). There were some great entries, and it's hoped the children (and parents!) enjoyed doing this.

#### 1st Place - FAMOUS FIVE



#### 2nd Place

WHATEVER NEXT & THE WORST WITCH



#### 3rd Place

OH THE PLACES YOU'LL GO



### Christmas Colouring Competition - Results

In mid December Hanham Hall's post box for letters to Santa had a few extra submissions. Some brightly coloured and beautifully decorated snowmen had been posted for the childrens Christmas colouring competition. There were two age groups being judged, under 5's and 5-10 years. There was so much colour that the judges didn't see right for weeks! Prizes went to Beatrice (6) for her super shiny silver snowman, sibling team, Kit (2) and Ava (4), for their freezing fellows, all pictured, and Ronnie (4) received a highly commended for his bright and cheerful entry. Well done to all who took part (including a couple of pointed entries from adults!). Your efforts were very much appreciated.



## Competition Pages

### Photographic Competition - Results

Congratulations to the winners but also to everyone who entered. It was very difficult selecting the winning entries as there were so many excellent photographs to choose from. They were a wonderful selection of uplifting images to brighten the new year. We must make this an annual event!!!!

#### 1st Place - Anabel Russel



#### 2nd Place - Natalie Welsh



#### 3rd Place - Mark Biggs



#### HIGHLY COMMENDED

Emily Croshaw



Shaun Stone



Soraya Babai

