

HANHAM HALL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



June 2021 — Issue 6

hanhamhallnewsletter@gmail.com

Welcome to the Summer Newsletter, still funded from a local council grant, still written and produced by your volunteer neighbours, and bringing you news from our community.

So, have you checked out Hanham Hall website yet? Many people use Facebook, but there are also many who choose not to. The Newsletter brings us all information, but only on a quarterly basis, and we pop flyers into letter boxes before events when possible but there isn't always time. But the Hanham Hall Website does all these things and can be updated or changed instantly with Helen Adams on the case! It's a simple and easy way to share information to everyone living here, regardless of their social media preferences, and doesn't require volunteers getting rained on or hailstoned or heatstroke or any of the other variety of weather affects we're currently experiencing. The last minute changes to the Circus student's visit could be posted quickly when 'rain stopped play' recently.

Hanham Hall Website: <https://hanhamhall.uk>

Helen is now regularly updating the website, and with the cost-saving new host she's moved the site to, is able to anonymously track visitor numbers and what's being looked at. During May there were 128 visitors looking at 437 different items. So you may go onto the site for something specific, then find other things of interest while you're browsing. The new site also has a search function to help you find what you're looking for.

Though there weren't many gardens posted in the virtual 'Open Gardens' event, there were 94 views of the Virtual Gallery over the weekend. The Garden gallery will stay there, so if you want to show your garden anonymously, you can still send your photos to Helen via hanhamhallresidentsgroup@gmail.com

Helen has also just posted Kirsty Brown's information on how to use the "Trim Trail" equipment around the meadows, the same day as Kirsty did her demonstration. Kirsty's a personal trainer who lives here, and offered her time recently to show anyone interested how to make use of the equipment with as much or as little effort as you want. The story and some very comprehensive Trim Trail exercise ideas and information is now on the website.

And as always, there's technical information on how to run your house, photo gallery, contact details, etc. So, when you're looking for information about living here at Hanham Hall, check out <https://hanhamhall.uk>

Residents Thank you



hanham hall

Community Interest Company

A resident suggested we thank our posties, Tanya and Mark, for keeping going through Covid and lockdown, never missing a mail delivery, and always being cheerful and helpful. So two special Easter Eggs were bought and given to them with thanks from the whole community. They were very surprised and very grateful.

Hanham Hall - Gardens and Green Spaces

Allotments

Growing your own vegetables has become very popular in the past few years due mainly to TV programmes and press coverage with the emphasis on organic and healthy food. There are many benefits for having an allotment:

- Exercise - with plenty of fresh air and Vitamin D, gentle muscle work (after the initial digging) and benefits for mental health. So much better than going to the gym!
- Organic fresh food - most food bought in supermarkets has been sprayed with pesticides and stored for some considerable time.
- Helping the environment - growing your own vegetables will reduce your carbon footprint as well as limiting the packaging used on bought produce.
- Sense of community - allotments are a great way of making friends and sharing different ideas and techniques.
- It's rewarding - there's a sense of achievement from growing something from seed and knowing exactly what you're eating.

Planters

Anni's spending a lot of time planting, tending and weeding all the planters. These were created by residents and are not the responsibility of the gardening team. If you live near a planter, would you help it - and Anni - by splooshing some water on it during this dry spell we're having. Please?



Splish
sploosh



Site Visitors

Since the pond was cleared earlier this year it's been good to see the ducks back, and some fun with puns on Facebook too. They knock on the doors near the pond and get treated to some ducky snacks. Unfortunately Mrs Duck seems to have currently gone AWOL.

- Good for the environment - all manner of wildlife can be found on the allotment - toads, newts, frogs, slow worms, and different species of birds and insects. You can also recycle kitchen and allotment waste through composting.

Hanham Hall Allotments are rented on a yearly rental paid to Pinnacle. Each plot has a shed and water butt.

My advice if you take on a plot is that you take the initial digging slowly if you are not used to strenuous exercise and always try to keep the weeds at bay. Grow your own vegetables from seed if possible, and if not then purchase plants from a garden centre. Always feel free to ask anyone on site for advice.

There is something satisfying in tucking into a meal that contains vegetables you have sown, grown, harvested and cooked yourself.

Phil Deane



Contacts

Hanham Hall Website - <https://hanhamhall.uk>

HHRG - hanhamhallresidentsgroup@gmail.com

Newsletter - hanhamhallnewsletter@gmail.com

Pinnacle - www.pinnaclepm.co.uk Or

robyn@pinnaclepm.co.uk



Hanham Hall Environment Group Spring 2021



It has been quiet over the rather damp and cold spring that we had but we did manage a litter pick that was well attended and to our surprise collected very little litter which is an encouraging sign. However the summer has arrived and there is now lots to do. The trees that we have planted over the last three years have grown and many now need liberating from their protective tubes and the grass cleared from around their bases. The removal of dock plants in both the swale and the meadows is an ongoing job that will also need our attention. So look out for when the environment group will be meeting. But most importantly, enjoy the colourful spectacle that the meadows will offer over the coming months.

The Bug Hotel on the corner of Roman Way attracts a lot of attention so I thought a brief explanation of what the various sections are intended to do might be of interest.

The top section with the vertical slits in the front is a butterfly overwintering box. It contains a series of vertical divisions that are attached to the top but leave a gap at the bottom of the box. These are aimed at butterflies such as the Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Comma and the Brimstone all of which hibernate in sheltered locations over the winter.

The bamboo and the reeds are offering accommodation for the larvae of a range of solitary bees. These lay their eggs in hollow plant stems and cavities after provisioning them with pollen. The larger bamboo will attract Red Mason bees and Leafcutter bees.



Butterfly hibernation box

Holes for smaller mason bees and solitary wasps

Holes for larger Mason and Leaf cutter bees

Holes in brick for large and small Mason bees



Ground compartment for walking invertebrates



It is easy to tell which one has taken a tube for its young as Mason bees seal the tubes with mud while Leafcutter bees use fragments of leaf. The reeds will attract the smaller mason bees and possibly the very small Harebell bees. The brick with the holes was included as both the large Mason bees and the Leafcutter bees often build their nests in cavities, cracks or holes in walls.

All of these holes also offer a potential home for the many solitary wasps that we have in the UK. These are not the yellow and black striped ones that are often so unpopular but small wasps that most people never notice. These provision their holes with caterpillars, spiders and other small invertebrates in order to feed their young when they hatch from the eggs.

The base of the hotel is filled with stones and straw which provides a sheltered environment for many invertebrates that don't fly. These include woodlice, beetles, centipedes and spiders.

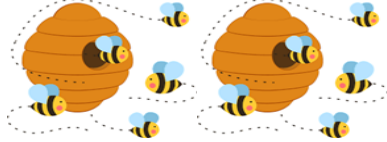
So next time you pass the hotel stop and check out the holes, see if you can spot any occupied ones and work out who might have taken up residence.



Hanham Hall - Clubs

Bee-keeping News

In early May the Hanham Hall residents who had attended a bee-keeping training course (Zoom) earlier this year, visited the Bath Bee-keepers' Association teaching apiary at Newton St Loe for a session on hive inspection. Despite a forecast of heavy rain, the session went ahead, and it stayed dry for most of the time.



We finally carried out an inspection of our own hive in late May, which is much later than usual, but we had to wait for the warmer weather - bees don't like having their home opened to the elements if it's too cold, same as us. From conversations we have had with a member of Bath BKA who has offered to help us, it appears that other beekeepers have had a difficult Spring and a slow start too, so we look forward to the Summer and some progress with our bee-keeping.
Ian Hopton

Hanham Hall - Events

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

Circomedia Visit

One sunny late afternoon in May, we were treated to a free performance by 29 first year degree students from Circomedia, a School for Contemporary Circus and Physical Theatre in Kingswood. The students had been deprived of many performance opportunities due to Lockdown and Covid restrictions, and had asked if they could perform here at Hanham Hall. They did a circular route through the development, stopping 6 times to perform over the almost 1 hour visit, ending on the Formal Lawns with their grande finale. A lot of people came to watch and follow the group along their route, entering into the clapping and whooping and cheering, pulled along by the very infectious enthusiasm of the performers, with others watching from their balconies.

It was great to see lots of balconies decorated with balloons to welcome the students (which the performers noticed), and so many children loving the acrobatics, the stilt walkers and the fun. Alex at the cafe brewed tea and coffee and baked cakes for them all to keep their energy levels up. Cat, one of the teachers and organisers, sent this thank you.....

"... We all had an absolute ball and couldn't have asked for a better audience to perform to! The event totally exceeded my expectations and felt really special, coming at the end of a very difficult 15 months."

Hopefully they'll come again - we'll keep you posted.

Cycling News

Summer Dates 2021

Saturday, 26th June - Lyde Green Community Centre and café

Saturday, 31st July - Willsbridge Mill and Coffee Mill café Includes a short walk in the Willsbridge Valley.

Monday, 30th Aug - A Walk in the Park I (Late Summer Bank Holiday) A ride to Warmley Station and a walk in the Warmley Forest Park.

Sunday, 26th Sept - A Walk in the Park II Page Park, Sensory Garden and Bean Tree Café, Staple Hill

All rides start and finish at the Hanham Hall car park, off Roman Way, meeting at 9.45 a.m. for a prompt 10.00 a.m. start, and finishing at about 12.45 p.m.

Children and young people under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Although not compulsory, we recommend that all participants wear a cycle helmet. Ian Hopton Tel: 0117 3320588 email: ian_hopton@hotmail.com

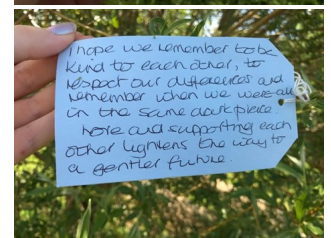
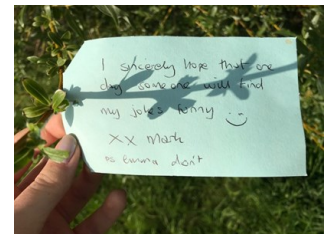


Hope Tree

Over bank holiday weekend, you may have seen the willow tree near the park was covered in paper tags. If you looked closer, you will have seen that there were lots of lovely messages of hope written on these tags. Here are some images of some of the tags.

One of my favourite things was to see so many people, who had bumped into each other whilst putting their tag on the tree, having conversations, and meeting each other. This was something I didn't think about during the planning; it was great to see another way in which the hope tree was bringing the community together.

There were some wonderful messages written on these tags and it was nice to see that, even through these difficult times, we could still do something good as a community. So thank you to everyone who participated in creating such a wonderful thing to see. Penny, 13



Summer Event - Wild West Hoedown Saturday 11th Sept

Mosey on down to Hanham Hall's WildWest Hoedown:



- Meet and greet with Flaming Feathers because we Can Can Can
- Cat walk - best dressed (Western style) - anything from Calamity Jane to hot dogs.
- Prizes for different age groups and those 'out-of-the-box' ideas.
- Family daring-do circus skills.
- Games - fun - ice cream.
- The 'Cantina' will provide a Western-inspired buffet.

As our usual practice we will deliver a flyer with a return slip for the number of people attending and their preferences in advance of the event. We will be getting the party started with our guest band "For the Record" and dancing and singing or a good bit of toe tapping will be encouraged.

Calendar of Meetings, Group & Events

July	HHRG Meeting Mon 5 th @ 7pm	Coffee in the Café 3 rd 10.30 – 12.00	Book Club Mon 12 th @ 7.30pm	
August	HHRG Meeting Tues 3 rd @ 7pm	Coffee in the Café 7 th 10.30 -12.00	Book Club Mon 9 th @7.30pm	
September	HHRG Meeting Wed 1 st @ 7pm	Coffee in the Café 4 th 10.30 -12.00	Book Club Mon 13 th @7.30pm	Summer Event 11 th 3pm – 10pm Outdoor Cinema 26 th & 27 th
October	HHRG Meeting Thurs 7 th @ 7pm	Coffee in the Café 2 nd 10.30 -12.00	Book Club Mon 11 th @7.30pm	

We are looking forward to things slowly returning to normal now that lockdown is easing although continuing to adhere to Government guidelines. Pinnacle and the CIC have, as always, been working very closely to ensure that Hanham Hall is being maintained to the high standard you would expect.

1. Gardening. We are pleased to confirm that we have entered into a contract with a new gardening company and hopefully you have seen an improvement on site, since Ed's Gardening started work. The gardeners will be carrying out a 2nd weed spray of the year in the next couple of weeks.
2. Having re-established the flower beds on the Formal Gardens, we are now considering a planting scheme of bee and butterfly friendly shrubs and plants, and hope this will be carried out in due course. We are currently consulting with the Environment Group and resident gardeners on the plan.
3. Secret Garden. In due course, we hope to re-plant the Secret Garden with a woodland theme which will be ideal for that area.
4. Sleepers/planters. We are in the process of obtaining quotes and schedules for the replacement of some of the damaged sleepers and the planters around the site. This will include raising the height of the sleepers and making them more secure and re-planting where necessary.
5. We are aware there is an issue with drainage in the play areas. We are currently waiting for quotes to level the ground at the slide, climbing frame and swings and once that has been done, matting will then be fitted. Once these works have been carried out, we will then look into a solution for the drainage in these areas.
6. Climbing net. We have unfortunately had to have the net removed for safety reasons. We do hope to have this piece of equipment repaired soon and apologise for any inconvenience this may cause as we are aware that it is a popular piece of equipment.
7. Wooden equipment. You may be aware that numerous pieces of wooden play equipment have deteriorated already. We are currently in discussion with the company who fitted these pieces and hope to have them replaced soon.
8. Allotments. We are currently in the process of arranging for the felt roofs on the allotment sheds to be replaced. If you currently rent an allotment, could we please remind you not to leave debris etc outside of your allotment boundary as the gardeners are unable to access areas when mowing the grass. We are also looking at increasing the number of water tanks so more water will be available for watering your allotment. There is currently no waiting list for the allotments and there is availability. If you would be interested in renting an allotment, please e-mail robyn@pinnaclepm.co.uk, who will be able to give you more information.
9. Greenhouses. There is a waiting list for the greenhouses and if you would like to be added to the list, again please e-mail robyn@pinnaclepm.co.uk.
10. The room in the Hall is now available again, for functions of up to 40 people. The room is free of charge for residents at Hanham Hall and if you would like to book the room, please e-mail robyn@pinanaclepm.co.uk who will e-mail you the relevant form for completion. Even though the room is free of charge for residents, please bear in mind that whoever makes the booking is responsible for any repairs/making good should any damage occur while they are using the room for their function.
11. A tree condition report has been carried out on all trees on site and works have commenced on the trees that needed urgent works. The remainder of the works will be carried out as and when necessary.

Pinnacle and the CIC meet at least once a month to discuss both on-going issues and new issues, which arise all of the time and if you have anything that you would like discussed at a meeting, including any relevant Consent/Permission that you may need, please e-mail Robyn, if you are a private resident, or Sovereign if you are a Sovereign resident.

Thank you and stay safe.