

# HANHAM HALL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



November 2021 — Issue 7

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Welcome to the Autumn Newsletter. Since the last one we've had a Cowboy Hoedown, an Outdoor Cinema, 4 beautiful goats have arrived for their holidays to help clear the brambles in the meadow, and the annual summer slug infestation is finally disappearing.

Our neighbour Anni has given us a lot of her time this year working voluntarily on the planters, but has now moved away, which leaves the planters at the mercy of anyone who may or may not like to water them, with the real possibility their days may be numbered. Thanks go to Anni for her willingness and hard work to enhance our living environment.

Sadly there's been some anti-social behaviour in the form of not very creative graffiti - can't read the notice board anymore - and the lovely sturdy memorial bench by the pond has somehow not been sturdy enough to withstand its arms being pointlessly ripped off. All a bit disappointing.

On a happier note, life seems to be gradually getting more 'Covid-normal', and those who wish to have had their vaccinations and all hopes are for steadier times to come. Schools and working lives are getting back into routines, and maybe we are 'learning to live with it' now.

Next stop Christmas, and we hope to have a visit from Father Christmas again if we're good, but in less 'isolated' circumstances than last year. Flyers have been delivered to your letter boxes with more information.

Keep well, and hopefully you'll find something of interest or use in this Newsletter.

## Hanham Hall: Summer Slug Fest

Another pile of dog poo for some small child to walk through?

Look closer - **SORRY DOGS.**

It's not a pile of poo but a pile of slugs.

We had our usual summer infestation this year. Covid didn't change that.

Can anyone provide a solution to keeping these slugs at bay.



## Residents - Letter

Dear Newsletter

Please can all residents not use the unofficial pathway through the meadow and over the fence into the Doctors' Surgery. The fence has been broken several times and the surgery will take legal action against anyone causing criminal damage to the fence. Also residents of Whittucks Road are threatening to apply for a public right of way through the meadow. This is our private land and we want to protect the meadow. The meadow has a wonderful abundance of nature and I'm sure we would all like to preserve this natural asset.

Thank You. Regards Simon Atwell



hanham hall

Community Interest Company

## Hanham Hall - Gardens and Green Spaces

### Planters

Anni Grice, who has been living temporarily at Hanham Hall for the past year and who volunteered to take on responsibility for the planters, has now moved away, and currently there is no-one available to continue with this project. While it's a perfect solution for any frustrated gardeners living in flats or coach houses, it also depends on people watering planters near their homes, and time has shown that this can't be relied on.

The CIC will be replacing the damaged planter at the end of Kynaston View with a bollard. The future of at least some of the other planters is uncertain as they're looking rather sorry for themselves without regular watering, plus the occasional battering from passing vehicles.

If there's anyone who has that rare commodity, time, and who would like to be a horticultural hero at Hanham Hall to save the remaining planters, please get in touch ([hanhamhallresidentsgroup@gmail.com](mailto:hanhamhallresidentsgroup@gmail.com)).



## Hanham Hall Environment Group Spring 2021

### Street Goat at Hanham Hall

The 4 beautiful goats came on Thursday 14th October beneath a bright azure blue mackerel sky, which was in hindsight a portent that their stay with us would be a success. Unsure and slightly nervous the four goats Titch, Molly, Poppy & Damo made their first (but far from their last) donation of nutrient rich packages to the site while they received a quick pedicure prior to being introduced to their new home.



Once in the meadow they quickly made themselves at home and made a start at trimming back the raspberries that had grown through the fence. A couple of hours later they had discovered the hedge and then divided their time between browsing this and chilling in their shed. So it appeared that our latest residents were happy and relaxed in their new environment.

## Hanham Hall Environment Group Spring 2021—continued

So why are we having goats in our meadow? The main reason is that the bramble thickets on the edge of the meadow by the allotment (Clover Kennel) have invaded the main meadow and if we do nothing about this the lower half of the meadow will become one large bramble thicket, an outcome that would eliminate the wild flowers that have become established and reduce access to much of the meadow. We now have the meadows cut for hay each autumn, a practice that offers some control of the bramble but will not control it on its own.

Traditionally hay meadows have been managed with a hay cut in June/July followed by grazing over the rest of the summer and into the autumn. This practice produced a rich and diverse habitat that brimmed with wild flowers, insects and a wide range of other wildlife. Unfortunately we have lost 90% of the UK wild flower meadows since the Second World War so the fact that we have one here at Hanham Hall makes it an extremely rare and valuable habitat, especially in the context of the current biodiversity crisis (if you want to know more about this I suggest reading Dave Goulson's book, *Silent Earth*. It's an easy read and full of fascinating, if sometimes disturbing facts).

Here at Hanham Hall we break with tradition and cut our meadow in the autumn in order to allow all the plants to set seed before the cut, and this also allows many of the resident insects to prepare for winter by hiding away in the soil or roots of the vegetation before the cut. We also leave areas of the meadows uncut to act as over-wintering refuges for the many invertebrates including our meadow butterflies that over-winter as caterpillars amongst the vegetation.

Our plan is to encourage the goats to browse down any bramble that regrows after the hay cut and graze back the bramble thickets on the meadow edge thus lowering the risk of future bramble invasions. The goats will also eat a wide range of plants including some grass, and it is this selective nibbling that will allow a new range of plants to become more common in the grazed area next spring. However which wild flowers they will be remains unknown but it will be interesting to see which flowers emerge. The goats will eat the leaves and damage the bramble as they graze and without their leaves the bramble will struggle to grow. Also once all the leaves have been eaten it will be easier to clear the remaining dead stems (a job for the environment group).

A small army of volunteers offered to help care for the goats while they are with us checking them twice a day and clearing away any soiled hay from their shelter. When I first wrote this piece I had expected to goats to be with us until mid November at least but our dynamic foursome have exceeded all expectations and have cleared the bramble thickets in just over two weeks raising the prospect that they might run low on potential food and begin to cast their eye towards the allotments. Hungry goats quickly become Houdini's and develop the ability to escape from their enclosures. So sadly they had to be moved to pastures new where there is an abundant food supply. We said goodbye to them over the last weekend in October, wishing them well in their new homes.

This first session was an experiment to see if and how grazing goats would benefit our estate and I am sure that we all agree that it has been a roaring success. Both as a way to manage our meadows and also as a focus that has generated a massive amount of interest across our community. As a result I am already in discussion with Street Goat to have their goats back next spring to graze the lower section of the allotment meadow. Watch this space.

We hope everyone has enjoyed having Street Goat here at Hanham Hall, but if you did manage to miss them don't worry. As they say in the movies; They'll be back.

I would like to thank Carol and David Laslett from Street Goat for their enthusiastic support of this project and their extremely helpful advice.

Peter Smithers

## Hanham Hall - Clubs & Activities

Bee Group - a small group of 5 to 8 residents, depending on who's available, who look after 2 colonies of bees in the meadow, to encourage pollination and occasionally provide us with honey (but none this year sadly).

Book Club - 3rd Monday of the month, organisation shared by a small group of around 10 residents, who decide together what to read. Meetings have been held on Zoom during the Pandemic but may soon resume in the Hall. Fairly low key and a chance for a good natter about books in general.

Cycling Group - Meets on the last Saturday of the month at Hanham Hall car park at 9.45 for 10.00 start. Children under 18 should be accompanied by a parent or guardian, and it's recommended that you wear a helmet, and bring hand sanitiser and a face covering. Changes are currently being proposed to this format.

Environment Group - organised by Peter Smithers, to help enhance the Hanham Hall environment. Activities include tree planting, tree pruning in the orchard, occasional goat minding, weed digging, and having barbecues.

Yoga - Gitananda Yoga is an authentic Indian Yoga that emphasises the health benefits of yoga through movement and breath. The classes offer a warm welcome and relaxed atmosphere suitable for students of all levels with an experienced teacher trained both in India and the UK. Classes are held in the Hall on Thursday evenings at 7.00pm. There are some spaces available for returners to Yoga or first timers.

If you'd like to get involved in any of the above groups, contact the Hanham Hall email address ([hanhamhallresidentsgroup@gmail.com](mailto:hanhamhallresidentsgroup@gmail.com)).

## Bee-keeping News

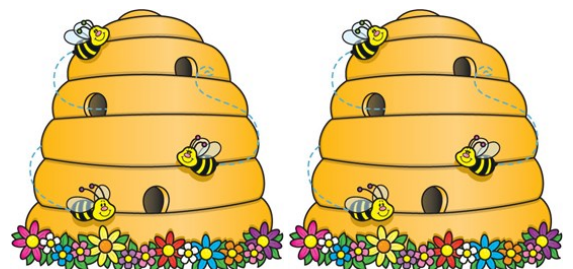
Our colony has struggled this year we think due to the late spring and unusual weather patterns, with the result that we have an infertile 'drone-laying queen'. This means she isn't producing any workers (the females) who do all the work to keep the colony going, and therefore in time the colony will die out. We've taken advice on how best to help them, and somehow they seem to be surviving, but it seems this is a common problem this year for many bee colonies. As if they don't have enough to deal with, they're currently being invaded by wasps as they aren't strong enough to defend the hive.

We bought a new young colony over the summer, and this second hive is thriving and happy. Our plan is next spring to take one of the 'brood frames' (with tiny eggs in the cells) from this healthy colony and give it to the struggling colony, who should then create a new queen for themselves and solve their problem. Hope you're keeping up!

Because of the bee's struggles this year, we haven't taken any of their honey as they need all they can produce for themselves if they're to survive the winter. We're currently feeding them sugar syrup so they build up their honey stores, and are doing the annual varroa treatment to keep them healthy. We'll soon be preparing both hives for winter, wrapping them and putting wire around the hives to protect from woodpeckers, and a little 'mouse guard' at the entrance to keep out those other cheeky raiders.

I wasn't too delighted to find a little family of mice in one of our storage boxes one Sunday! We've now rehomed them all in the meadow and so far they haven't returned.

Susie Armsden for the Beekeeping Group



## Cycling News

Looking back over the past year, we have not had to cancel any rides, but the last two rides, in particular, have not been well supported. Looking forward to next year, I should like to propose that the starting time for at least some of our rides be brought forward to 9 a.m. This would enable us to plan some slightly longer rides. I should also like to propose that we introduce monthly mid-week morning rides, in addition to the existing pattern of rides on the last Saturday of the month.

I'd welcome any suggestions that would help us to be more responsive to the needs of cyclists in this community. My email address is [ian\\_hopton@hotmail.com](mailto:ian_hopton@hotmail.com).

If you've recently moved to Hanham Hall you are very welcome to join the Cycling Group. We are affiliated to Cycling UK, an organization that has been helping people to enjoy riding their bikes for the past 143 years.

One final thought: 42% of people in the UK own bikes, but don't use them.

Ian



## Hanham Hall - Events

### Summer Event - Wild West Hoedown

Did you mosey on down to the Hoedown in September? Well around 141 residents did, and seemed to find something there to enjoy, whether it was the entertainment or just being with neighbours and friends, renewing acquaintances or making new ones.

There were ice creams on arrival, and a few competitions with prizes - the fastest draw in Hanham (bananas instead of guns), best cowboy swagger, and best outfit in town. The Flaming Feathers got the atmosphere going in the afternoon with a very energetic saloon bar cancan with plenty of whooping, and in the evening excellent live music from Bristol-based band For The Record got people up on the dance floor in the marquee. Alex at the cafe put on an enormous spread to fill the boots of all good cowboys and girls (cow-people?) at the cantina, and there was a free beer waiting at the bar.

It was good to see so many people coming together in our community, and entering into the spirit of the event with cowboy hats, bandanas and checked shirts, and some added sparkle with fancy boots.

Thanks again to the willing team who got the Hoedown off the ground and gave those who wanted to, a chance to come together as a community.



## Outdoor Cinema

Another Outdoor Cinema evening was organised for Saturday September 25th. The weather forecast gave just a 5% chance of rain, so what did it do? It rained! But only until the films started, though that might have put a few people off coming out. But around 30 brave souls came along to the formal lawn with coats and blankets, camping chairs and picnics, and Peter Smithers showed a series of very entertaining short films about creepy crawlies. The main film was The Greatest Showman.

The outdoor cinema itself was very impressive. The blowup screen was very big, giving a really good image, and the WiFi headphones gave great sound quality and ensured that we didn't disturb any neighbours - it just created a slightly weird scene with everyone's headsets glowing in the dark.

Those who came really enjoyed it, and a number of people have asked if we can do it again next year.

Thanks to all those who organised this.



## HHRG - Defibrillator Introduction

The HHRG is hoping at some point to organise a short introduction to using a defibrillator. In the meantime, here's the advice provided by the British Heart Foundation.

1. Call 999.
2. [Start CPR](#) Do not be afraid to push hard when doing chest compressions.
3. Ask someone to bring a defibrillator if there's one nearby. (If no one is available to get one, listen to the emergency operator for further instructions.) The operator will give you the key code to open the box. (Tell the operator it's the defibrillator outside 67 Roman Way, BS15 3FG. It will assist them to get the code quicker.)
4. Turn on the defibrillator and follow its instructions.

Due to the current coronavirus outbreak, there are several important changes to CPR advised by the Resuscitation Council UK. If you find someone unconscious follow these simple steps:

1. Shake the person gently and shout for help.
2. Call 999.
3. Don't put your face close to theirs. If you think there's risk of infection, use a towel or a piece of clothing and lay it over their mouth and nose.
4. Give chest compressions only - do not give rescue breaths.
5. Continue until an ambulance arrives.
6. After the ambulance crew have taken over wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water or use an alcohol based hand gel.

## Neighborhood Watch

If residents have concerns about criminal activity then they should contact the police.

If however, you have security issues or concerns with antisocial behaviour this may be fed through to the nearest NHW contact, such information can establish patterns of behaviour - linked to other similar reports.

Our security is better served in a collective approach sharing information through NHW. I may be contacted a 115 Roman Way.

## Hanham Hall Residents' Group -

.... needs some new ideas and inspiration for events and activities for the community.

Some members will be leaving the committee in the new year and some fresh people to take this on would be so good. The people doing the existing jobs are happy to support anyone joining the committee - it's not as daunting as it might seem and you can put as much effort in as you can manage. If you'd like more information about what's involved, please contact [hanhamhallresidentsgroup@gmail.com](mailto:hanhamhallresidentsgroup@gmail.com).

If you'd like to be kept informed of what's happening at Hanham Hall, please

contact [hanhamhallresidentsgroup@gmail.com](mailto:hanhamhallresidentsgroup@gmail.com) with your email address and we'll add you to the contacts list.

## Sunflower Smiles - Summer 21

Several kits were given out earlier this year for people to grow sunflowers if they'd like to. Some of the results (and photos) were amazing. Thank you everyone who enjoyed having fun and tending to their sunflowers. If anyone has any photos they'd like to share, please post them on the HH Facebook page, or send them to the HHRG email ([hanhamhallresidentsgroup@gmail.com](mailto:hanhamhallresidentsgroup@gmail.com)) for posting on the Notice Board, or for posting on the Website (<https://hanhamhall.uk/>).



## Father Christmas is coming to town.

**Father Christmas visits Hanham Hall - Sunday 5th December 1.30 to 3.30**

Santa will be delivering gifts to children aged 13 and under, and a flyer has been delivered to each household for parents to sign up for this - very important.



Once Santa has visited please join in the procession wearing your Christmas jumper, Christmas hat or Christmas fancy dress. There'll be prizes for the best outfits.

From 6pm come up to the Café for mince pies and Christmas goodies with mulled wine or fruit juice. Once again, you'll need to check your flyer to sign up and book in if you're coming, so that we have enough food to go round. The Black Sheep choir will again be performing their beautiful Christmas harmonies.

## Naughty Corner - People, we need to talk about football!

Although the months for playing outside until all hours may well have passed for this year, here's your time on the naughty step about the responsible use of the community goal posts and storage shed. Unfortunately, at some point over the Summer, the shed key required for accessing the community goal posts went missing and the shed door was left wide open on a number of occasions. This is obviously not ideal as various HHRG equipment and decorations for our events is stored in there.

The door was then locked with the spare key, however it was then either left unlocked or forced open and left again. Although a plea went out on Facebook, this proved unfruitful and the key was not returned. The lock and keypad have now been replaced and the door securely locked. This, combined with several complaints about football being played near parked cars or on the formal gardens rather than the kick about area, and that the now very damaged football net was frequently left out rather than being put away.

Outdoor activity is something we really want to encourage here at Hanham Hall, which is why the nets for the kick about area were bought in the first place, and we don't want this to stop. We would just like people to look after the equipment provided for them so that others, in turn can enjoy it. The shed key can now be requested on Facebook or via Hanham Hall email.

### Hanham Hall seeks resident Directors

Becoming a CIC (Community Interest Company) director is a great way to help support the community here at Hanham Hall. Everyone is busy these days but being a Director is flexible and is a great opportunity to focus on the aspects that you enjoy about living here. Even a couple of hours a month makes a big difference. On the CIC everyone brings different skills and come from all walks of life. We also live in different property types which helps see things from different perspectives. We welcome all but would love to have more representation from those with different types of properties or with families of different ages to help grow our diversity of thought and consideration. Being a director is not always easy but it's an interesting, and rewarding voluntary post. You also get to work with a great team at Pinnacle so you are never on your own. From my own experience on the CIC so far I've learnt a lot about how it takes a small army to keep the estate looking so good.

### From Pinnacle

If you are a home owner and interested in learning more about becoming a Director of Hanham Hall CIC please contact Robyn at Pinnacle [robyn@pinnaclepm.co.uk](mailto:robyn@pinnaclepm.co.uk) who will pass your interest to the CIC and also explain more about what is involved. This unfortunately does not apply to shared ownership residents, as they are represented by Sovereign who are already appointed as a Director.

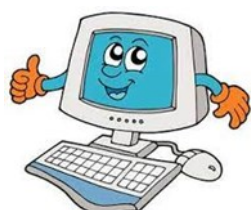
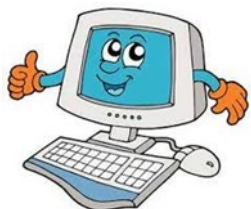
As Covid restrictions have now been relaxed we are hoping to arrange the next AGM and Residents Meeting for early next year, as the 2021 year end accounts would have been finished and signed off by then.

Whilst writing, could we please ask you to ensure that you dispose of your waste correctly, as there are unfortunately a few residents who are not doing this.

- All rubbish/recycling must be put in the correct bins, as the binmen will not empty the bins if they are contaminated.
- No rubbish is to be left on the floor, it is to be placed in the correct bin.
- No household furniture is to be left in any of the bin stores. If you have items which you cannot take to the local recycling centre yourself, you must arrange for the items to be collected by your local Council.
- All cardboard boxes must be broken down/turned up, so that the cardboard fits in the bin. Please do not leave cardboard boxes on the floor or on top of the bins.

Please only use the bin store that is allocated to your property and if your own bin gets full, do not dispose of your rubbish in another bin/bin store as the Council have allocated the correct amount of bins to each store.

It is important that bin stores are kept as clean and tidy as possible as we do not want to attract vermin into them. It is also not nice for the residents who are kind enough to clean and tidy the bin stores after some residents have left them a mess.



### Contacts

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

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

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

**Pinnacle** - [Wessex@pinnaclepm.co.uk](mailto:Wessex@pinnaclepm.co.uk)

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

