



THE
HANBOROUGH
PARISH
APPRAISAL



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The Steering Committee is very grateful to the following people who helped in various ways with the project. The following abbreviations indicate the nature of the help:

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In addition the committee is aware that many of the above named helpers were assisted by members of their family. So many people of Hanborough helped that it has been difficult to keep track of everyone. If you helped and cannot find your name on the above list, please accept the committee's apologies.

Sponsors

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Illustrated by Norman Hayes and Brenda Hayden

Cover by Norman Hayes

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INTRODUCTION

Perhaps the earliest picture of Hanborough that exists is the 1605 map included in this report, pages 32-33. The map predates by just a few years the disturbing work by Galileo Galilei who was using his new telescope to prove that the earth was not the centre of the universe.

Galileo's proof is today common knowledge and we know that Hanborough is certainly not part of the centre of the universe. However, it is our home and for that reason alone it may be a useful exercise to look at it from time to time through our own 'telescope' to see how it moves.

This first village appraisal has been an attempt to capture an impression of Hanborough as it is in the final decade of the twentieth century. Where possible we have tried to contrast the present with the past so that some sense of the constant, though sometimes slow, change we have undergone can be communicated.

If the map of the parish that follows is compared with that of 1605 it will be seen that the essential pattern of roads we know today was already in place. It is interesting to search for the changes in that pattern that have occurred in the past almost 400 years.

In July 1993 the Parish Council held a public meeting to discuss the possibility of Hanborough conducting a village appraisal. A member of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC) was on hand to brief the meeting on the nature and possible advantages of a village appraisal. The ORCC also recommended computer software for devising a suitable questionnaire and analysing the results.

From this meeting came the impetus for a group of volunteers to form a steering group whose purpose has been to conduct the process, the outcome of which is this report to you.

The aims that have guided the steering group are:

- to record an impression of the community of Hanborough
- to collect data reflecting the assets and deficiencies of the community
- to provide information that could be used in making decisions for the benefit of the community

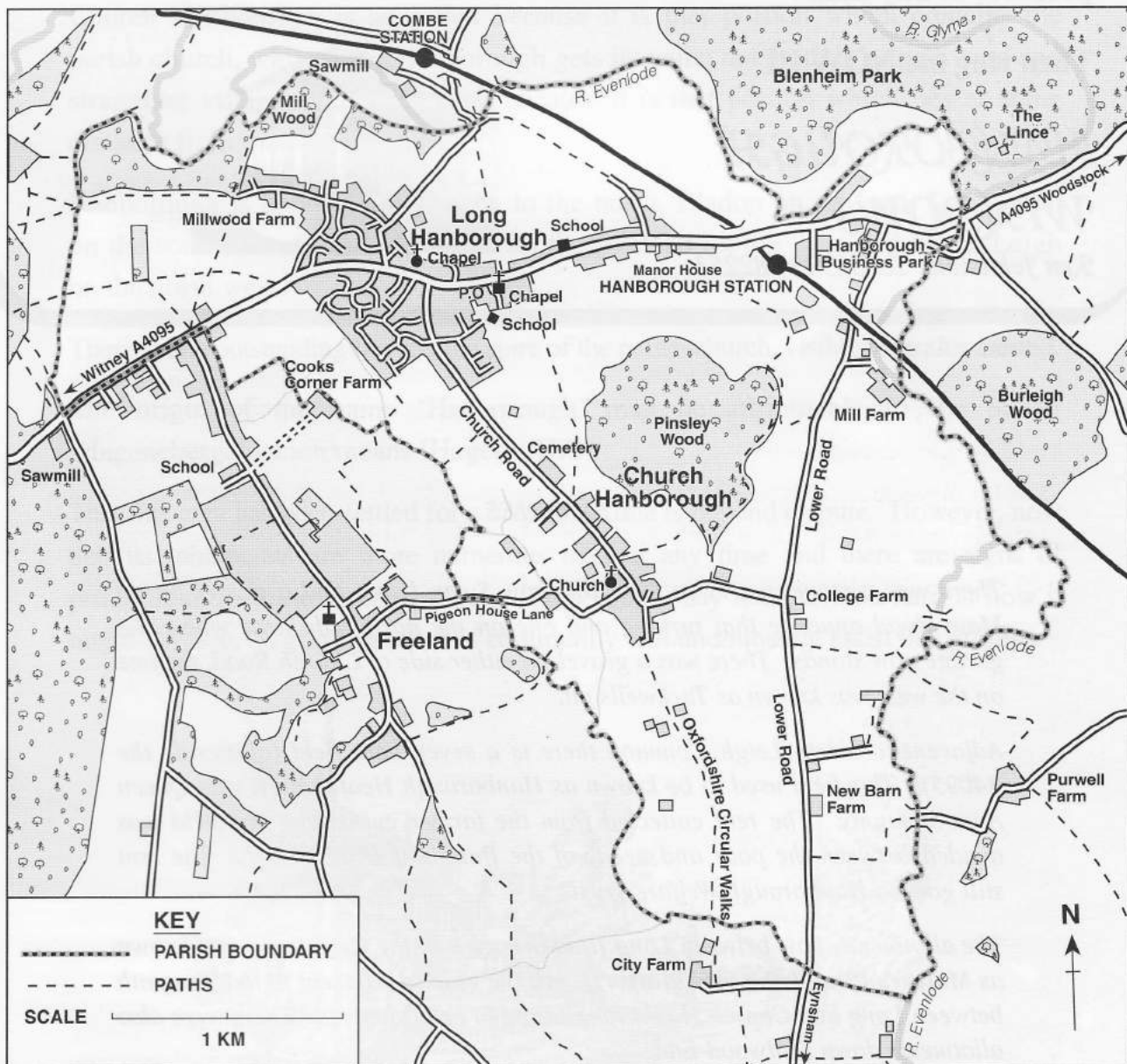
During 1994 questionnaires were delivered to virtually every household in Long Hanborough and Church Hanborough. The return was almost 80%, a tribute to your interest and participation.

We hope that this report gives an insight into the views and wishes of the citizens of Hanborough. It reflects a variety of styles in keeping with the different contributors. It also contains much factual information which we hope will prove useful and interesting.

Footnote

See Appendix A for a detailed description of the conduct of the village appraisal questionnaire.

THE PARISH OF HANBOROUGH



This map has been produced for the Appraisal by Lovell Johns Ltd, Hanborough Business Park

Are you looking for replacement Windows, Doors, Porches or a Conservatory and want the very best installation, using high quality materials, manufactured to the highest standards as already fitted to hundreds of properties in Hanborough and surrounding villages.

Would you like to deal with a firm that places great importance on attention to detail . We ask for no payment until completion of installation.

Would you like to have these products at Low Low Prices fitted by Local Tradesmen fully guaranteed for a ten year period with no hassle or pressure of any kind .

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MEMORIES

There was a stone quarry in Silk Hill (now Swan Lane) and a gravel pit on Main Road opposite that turning and one on the north side near where the garage now stands. There was a gravel pit either side of Church Road, the one on the west was known as Tuckwells pit.

Adjacent to North Leigh Common there is a seven acre field (alongside the A4095). This field used to be known as Hanborough Heath and it was Queen Anne's Bounty. The rent collected from the farmer cultivating the field was divided between the poor and needy of the Parish of Hanborough. The rent still goes to Hanborough Welfare Trust.

The allotments, now between Long Hanborough and the Cemetery, were known as Martin's Piece [who was Martin?]. All the ground adjacent to that footpath between Long and Church Hanborough used to be allotments. There were also allotments down Millwood End.

HANBOROUGH

Hanborough in the county of Oxfordshire is located within the triangle formed by Witney, Woodstock and Oxford. By road it is approximately four miles to Witney and to Woodstock and nine miles to Oxford.

There are two principal portions, the villages of Long Hanborough and Church Hanborough, which are a mile apart and lie on a low plateau. There are a few outlying parts, such as Mill Farm, College Farm, Goose Eye and New Barn Farm to the east of Lower Road in the valley of the river Evenlode.

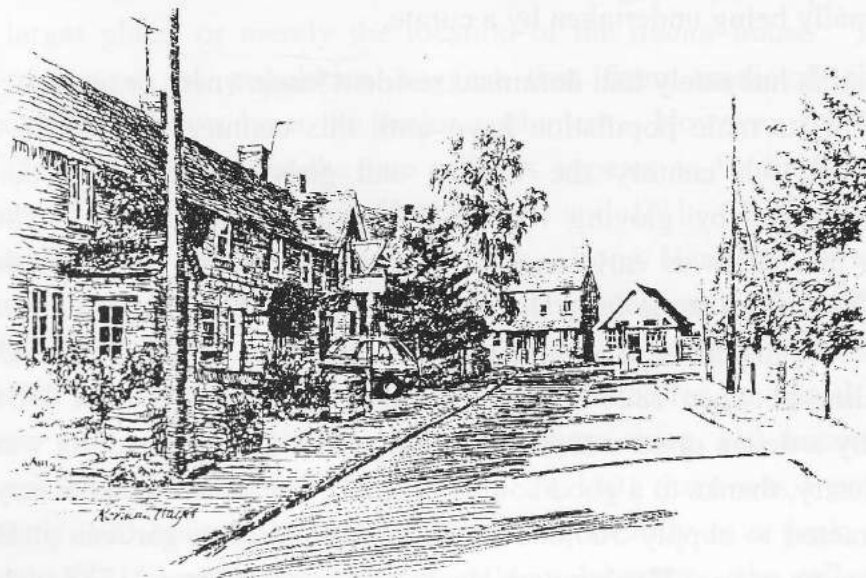
Church Hanborough is so called because it is that portion which contains the parish church, while Long Hanborough gets its name not from it being a long and straggling village, which it is, but because it is that portion which lies at some distance from the parish church.

Hanborough is bounded by Combe to the north, Bladon on the east, Cassington on the south east, Eynsham on the south, Freeland on the west and North Leigh on the north west.

There is one outstanding feature, the spire of the parish church, visible for miles around.

The origin of the name 'Hanborough' may be attributable to the Saxon 'Hageneberga' which means 'Hagen's Hill'.

That this area has been settled for a very long time is beyond dispute. However, now that its inhabitants are more numerous than at any time and there are signs of pressures to increase settlement here, Hanborough may need to look hard at how it might develop. A growing sense of community will undoubtedly assist that process.



A CONCISE AND SELECTIVE HISTORY OF HANBOROUGH IN OXFORDSHIRE

Some time in the year 1105 William the Conqueror's son King Henry I stayed briefly in Hanborough, when three royal charters were dated here. In June 1644 King Charles I passed through the parish at the end of his famous night march from Oxford, and drew up his army on Hanborough Heath (near Shepherd's Hall) before continuing to Burford. Just over 300 years later on 29 January 1965 the train carrying the body of Sir Winston Churchill, after the funeral service at Westminster Abbey, drew into Handborough Station. The cortège passed along the Woodstock road, lined by members of local volunteer services from Hanborough and other villages, to the final resting place in Bladon churchyard.

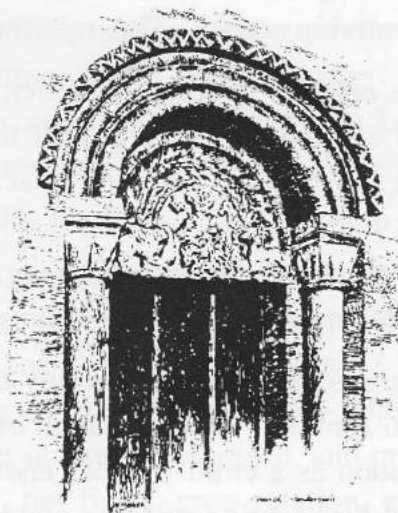
Thus infrequently have national events directly touched our parish. Hanborough is typical of most rural villages in having little but parish pump history. For the past nine centuries the 'manor', the earliest unit of land ownership and law administration, has been in the hands of, first, the Crown, delegated to various tenants for a generation or two or attached to the royal park and palace of Woodstock, and forest of Wychwood; and, second, when the Woodstock manors were granted by a grateful sovereign and nation to the conquering hero John Churchill in 1705, the Duke of Marlborough - whose descendant is still our Lord of the Manor. During the 18th and 19th centuries the ducal estate steadily built up its land-holding, until by 1863 it comprised 1,270 out of the total 2,270 acres making up the parish. The second large landowner is Corpus Christi College, Oxford, whose estate was accumulated in the 16th and 17th centuries.

The advowson of the church (the right to fill the incumbency whenever this falls vacant) has since the later 17th century belonged to St John's College, and from 1665 until 1854 the rectory was annexed to the presidency of the college, with the duties normally being undertaken by a curate.

Thus the parish has rarely had dominant resident landowners or rectors. The vast proportion of its male population have until this century worked on the land, whilst in the 19th century the women and girls supplemented the meagre agricultural wages by gloving for the Woodstock glove trade. There were quarries in the parish as early as 1270 (indeed the parish church is thought to have been built from stone from the quarry in Pinsley Wood). A quarry between Long Hanborough and the Evenlode provided the stone for the Oxford University Press building between 1826 and 1830, and for Eynsham Hall in 1904. There were usually a dozen or so masons to work the stone. Brickmaking was another village industry, thanks to a good source of lime. The lime-burner Henry Wise in 1706 contracted to supply 500,000 bricks for the kitchen gardens at Blenheim. Brickmaking on or near Hanborough Heath was recorded from 1783 to 1911.

All villages have always had alehouses, though only in the past 250 years is there a good chance of finding their names. 'Walter the vintner' was mentioned as early as 1279. The earliest records of victuallers in the parish are in 1533 and 1634, the first pubs named in 1661, the Katherine Wheel, and 1686, the Holly Bush. The first comprehensive naming dates from 1775, with the familiar Hand and Shears, George [and Dragon], and Bell, plus the Ball, which was soon succeeded by the Swan. Shepherd's Hall first appears in the 1851 census, and the Three Horseshoes ten years later.

The earliest surviving feature of the parish is Pinsley Wood, first named, as Pin's wood, in 1237, but certainly part of the 7 by 6 furlongs of woodland catalogued in the Domesday Book of 1086 and shown in maps at Corpus Christi College dated 1605. The parish church, dedicated to SS Peter and Paul, was in existence by c.1130 when it was granted to Reading Abbey, and its earliest architectural features bear this out. The Norman tympanum over the north door, showing St Peter with a lion on his right, a lamb on his left, and a cock at his feet, after nine hundred years is still, in its primitive impact, the finest work of art in the parish. The church itself, with its soaring columns inside and its soaring spire piercing the horizon, is outstanding in a county of fine churches. A published Guide is available, so its many features need no description here. However, it should be recorded that its six bells, three dating from 1602-23, have in 1994 been recast and rehung after an appeal raised the £53,000 required.



The fact that the church was built where it is implies that the earliest centre for administration of the parish was in Church Hanborough, so possibly at that time it was the larger place, or merely the location of the manor house. The earliest records of spread of population suggest that from medieval times Long Hanborough has always been the major settlement. However, the first record which differentiates between the two villages appears to be in 1609/10, when there were 52 dwellings in Long Hanborough and 16 in Church Hanborough, with a further 9 in the Little Blenheim area. Long Hanborough was usually divided into two 'ends', Burleigh End/Green (the eastern end, around the Bell and the George and Dragon) and Wood End (now Millwood End). In 1662 in the whole parish there were only 59 householders assessed for the hearth tax, whilst there were 142 adults in 1676. By 1738 there were 110 houses in Long Hanborough and 20 in Church Hanborough. In 1801 there was a population of 655 but only 100 houses. The population rose steadily to a peak in 1851 of 1,153, including 60 probably itinerant railway labourers (the railway was in

course of construction), and then fell back to 816 by 1921. In the past 75 years Hanborough has developed apace, with several estates built within the last two decades. The electoral roll taken in the autumn of 1993 shows there were 1,836 registered voters in the parish, of which about 1,700 live in Long Hanborough.

Until the late 18th century the parish church was the only centre for religious worship. However, the absence of a resident rector, with perhaps inadequate curates, led to a growth of Methodism, first using the delightful little chapel at Freeland, but with its own chapel from 1827 (still there, close to its successor). The Primitive Methodists were active in Millwood End from 1842. Their former second chapel, of 1904, is on the main road opposite that turning. By the 1890s it was realised that dwindling congregations at the parish church were partly due to the need to walk from Long Hanborough, whilst dissenters had their own places of worship nearby. The 'mission church' of Christ Church was opened in 1893.

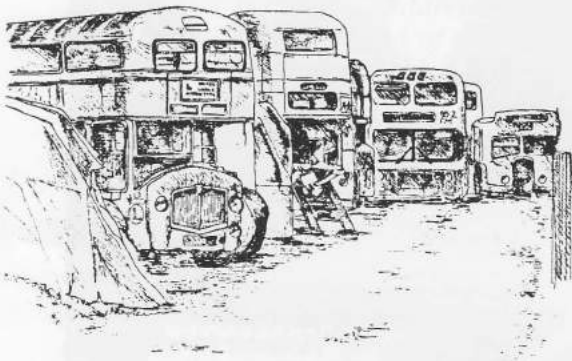
The original rectory in Church Hanborough, occupied intermittently by rectors and curates, and dating from the 16th century, was considered unsafe by 1845, and a typically Victorian replacement was built the other side of the churchyard. In 1966 it was appreciated that not only church but also parson should be near the major part of the congregation, and a new rectory was built in Long Hanborough. Fortunately both earlier buildings remain well cared for in private hands.

There is little evidence of any attempt at education in the parish before the early 19th century. The population of agricultural labourers were desperately poor, and as soon as a child was old enough he or she was put to work on the land, be it only bird scaring or stone picking; there was no money to pay for schooling and little hands were required to earn as early as possible. However small private schools were appearing by the early 19th century in both villages, supported by the Rector and the Duke. In 1832 a National day and Sunday school, with 60 day and 120 Sunday pupils, was opened in Church Hanborough - presumably in or on the site of the old school house by the village square. Within two years it had 48 boys and 46 girls as day pupils, all under 10. The church had provided the school, so the children of Long Hanborough had to walk there rather than have somewhere in their own village - but walking some distance was taken as a matter of course in those days. Only in 1879 was an infants' school opened in Long Hanborough. There were various permutations of junior and senior pupils over the succeeding years, with Church Hanborough eventually closing in 1959, replaced by the Long Hanborough Manor School.

Long Hanborough grew up along the Witney to Bicester road, an ancient route, turnpiked from 1751 to 1870. The bridge over the Evenlode existed as early as 1141. Rebuilt in 1798, it still stands, two centuries later. Its own replacement, built in the early 1950s, had to be reconstructed less than forty years later! One event that must have had repercussions in the early 1850s was the building of the railway: the Oxford, Worcester & Wolverhampton (known, not unjustly, as the

'Old Worse & Worse'). Frequently threatened with closure, it as yet remains open and the only way to avoid the Oxford rush-hour traffic jams.

There must always have been barter and some form of shops. An 1852 directory lists six shopkeepers, three bakers, a butcher, a tailor, a shoemaker and a blacksmith. Similar occupations were recorded in earlier centuries. The blacksmith was succeeded by a cycle repairer in 1907 and two garages by 1924. The Co-op, as shown by the datestone on its building, has been serving us since 1913. Once we had three post offices. Church Hanborough lost its only shop and P.O. twenty years ago, and Long Hanborough has just the one post office now. In the past decade we have seen shops open, flourish and fail, affected by developments outside the village: the opening of supermarkets in Witney and around Oxford,



the closing of the Barclays Bank branch in Eynsham; this, contrariwise, at a time when light industry and office complexes are opening in Long Hanborough, and we even have a Bus Museum.

Every parish that has no history, like Hanborough, really has a mass of it. We know, from reading the

Hanborough Herald or the *Oxford Mail*, how little actually gets recorded. But, in this space of a few pages, what is known has to be severely condensed, and much omitted. Hanborough exists because of farming, but fields, crop rotation, even inclosure (it happened in 1773) have received no mention; nor have the clergy, the gentry and university people who then, like now, chose Hanborough to live in because it was near Oxford. No mention has been made of the many old houses and barns.

For anyone really interested in our history, there is an excellent, readable and authoritative account in Vol. 12 of the *Oxfordshire Victoria County History*, compiled by Alan Crossley and published as recently as 1990. This short history is almost entirely based on that book. Precise documentary references are there.

There is an architectural guide to the parish church of St Peter and St Paul, on sale at the church; and two long out-of-print books: a typically antiquarian history, *Hanborough*, by Robert C.S. Bailey, Rector 1911-1927 (1953), mainly about the church, its incumbents and the medieval descent of the manor; and *Country Neighbours*, by David Green (1948), who lived for many years in Church Hanborough, with some entertaining wartime reminiscences. There's plenty more to find at the Centre for Oxfordshire Studies or Oxfordshire Archives, which house the source material from which much of this history is written.

Jeremy Gibson

MEMORIES

A hundred years ago

We tend to forget that in those far off days the Witney to Woodstock road (A4095) was not tarmac and was dusty (or muddy) and inclined, at times, to be full of potholes. It was also much narrower than at present. It was closed once a year for the Hanborough Feast, a large market and gathering which took place near the Manor House.



The Witney-Woodstock road, Long Hanborough from the railway bridge

War time on the farm

During World War I prisoners were kept at Village Farm, North Leigh (where the garden centre now stands). Some of them were marched to Hanborough daily to work on the land.

Hanborough in the 1920s and 1930s

Many people will know that J.B. Priestley lived in Church Hanborough in the 1920s. The first chapter of his book "Apes and Angels" published in 1928 is a colourful account of the Hanborough Flower Show and describes some of the local characters of the day. Taken from real life, as were so many of his characters, Priestley's account is particularly interesting as being given by an outsider.

World War II

In World War II there was an Agricultural Executive Committee who were responsible for issuing various permits for agricultural activities. The committee members were mostly the less successful farmers! Permits had to be issued for most crops.

Every available land was ploughed up. Grants were given for clearing permanent pastures that were not essential for stock. Grants were given for drainage but the work had to be specified to qualify for a grant.

There was a pool of implements and tools and farmers could apply to use these, but the process was cumbersome and many farmers by-passed the system.

During the Second World War there was a prisoner of war camp in Eynsham Park and a number of the prisoners worked on the farms in the locality. Some prisoners were also brought in from another camp at Curbridge. Some of these men were very good workers and the farmers tried to persuade them to stay on after the war had finished.

Italian prisoners were used for hoeing sugar beet - they did two rows hoeing and then stopped for a meal!

Land Girls also worked on the farms. Sometimes it was difficult to find suitable occupations for them during the day - the evenings were not such a problem!

A trainee pilot landed in the field near East End, North Leigh during the war. These trainees practised using tractors in the fields as dummy targets.

Long House

Long House became a children's home in 1947. Before this General Mullins lived there. He was head of the Home Guard and during the war they held their meetings in the stables. Previous to Mullins, the owner was Major Dodgson. He was a brother of the Dean of Christ Church and was better known as Lewis Carroll, author of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. He wrote several chapters of the book while staying at Long House.

At one time the house was owned by the Anderson family who owned a shipping line. The house was used as their country house and the servants would open it up on Thursday in readiness for the weekend, and large house parties were regularly held, especially in the summer. Five gardeners were employed to tend the grounds. Originally the house belonged to the Manor of Woodstock.

Long House ceased to be a children's home in 1991.



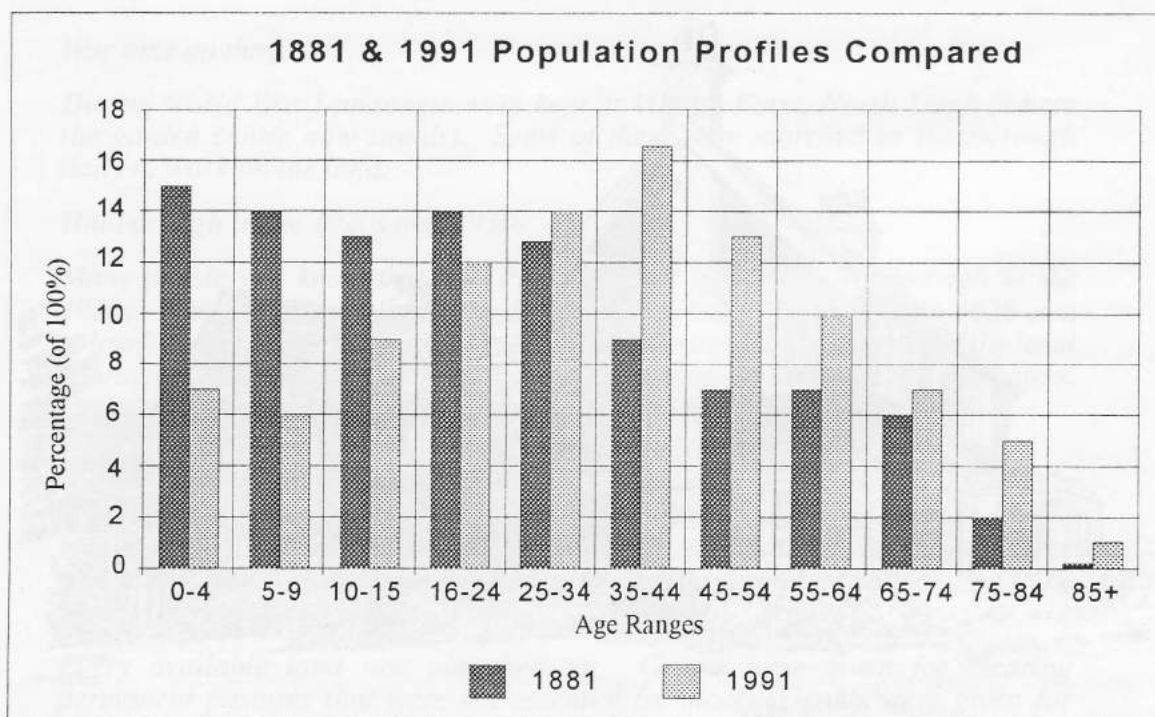
POPULATION AND HOUSING

Population

In 500 years, from the late thirteenth century, Hanborough's population doubled from some 250 souls to 500 by 1771. In the following 70 years the population doubled again to 1,009 by 1841. Thereafter for 90 years or so until the Second World War it fluctuated around 1,000. The 2,000 mark was passed in the late 1960s and by 1971 the total stood at 2,460. The rise to over 2,000 followed the building of new housing in the area of Churchill Way. By 1991 the census showed a resident population of 2,626 living in 975 households.

Oxfordshire population and household forecasts to 2001 do not show these totals increasing significantly.

The parish in its late Victorian days showed a remarkably different population profile from the current picture. As the diagram shows, in 1881 when the total was 968, 42% of the population were aged 15 or younger, whereas today that same age group claims 22%. The peaking of the present day profile in the 35 to 44 age range contrasts with the steadily declining profile in 1881.



The occupational emphasis has changed very substantially. In 1881 when school had been made compulsory for five to ten year olds, 24% of the parish were classified as scholars. The two main groups after this were glovers, 15%, and agricultural labourers, 14%. The parish boasted a station master and 17 railway employees. The Mansell family were carpenters, John Wastie was a stonemason, Emma Lay kept the Shepherd's Hall. There were shepherds, cowherds, carters, a quarrymaster and quarrymen, tilemakers, a drainpipe maker, a cordwainer, a miller and several blacksmiths and a collector of rates. There were eight paupers, seven of whom were women over the age of 60.

In 1991 the socio-economic (census terminology) grouping by household was as follows:

Socio-Economic Group		Total No of Households:	%
		970	
1,2	Employers and Managers	180	19
3,4	Professional	60	6
5	Intermediate Non-Manual	70	7
6	Junior Non-Manual	70	7
7,10	Personal Service	60	6
8,9,12	Manual	140	14
11	Unskilled Manual	20	2
13,14,15	Farming and agricultural	30	3
16,17	Forces and other	20	2
	Economically inactive	320	33

In 1991 cars totalled 1,375 in the parish. They were apportioned among the 900 dwellings, a slightly smaller number than households thus: 141 had no car; 402 had one car; 357 had two or more cars.

Housing

The village of Long Hanborough is made up of just over 900 houses grouped for the most part in the estates of Pinsley-Roosevelt Roads; Abelwood Road; Marlborough Crescent-Churchill Way; Millwood Vale, along the A4095 main road, and Hurdeswell. The housing stock has increased radically since the 1950s, 70% of respondents declaring their dwellings to have been built since that period. Just over half the houses are three-bedroomed, most of the remainder being equally split between two-and four-bedroomed.



If the village is not to merge with the adjoining villages, no more than a mile distant, growth must be restricted to no more than in-filling and rounding-off under current planning policy.

There is a demand for housing for both young and local people, but this is balanced by an equal voice for no change. The difficulty is finding low cost land suitable for development. Most recent building in the village is higher priced beyond the reach of young locals.

The small number of older houses is concentrated mostly along the main road and Millwood End.

Church Hanborough, which contains fewer than 80 houses, is a designated conservation area and therefore no new building is normally permitted.

Of 764 households answering the question on energy saving features, some 90% state that they have lagged hot water tanks and loft insulation, while two-thirds have double glazing and 15% secondary glazing. The more recently available features, such as low energy lighting, seemed not to have attracted much support, but this could be due, for example, to the high cost of low energy light bulbs. Only 1% claimed to have no energy saving features at all.

Excerpt from a letter from Mrs A. Some [1985]

I came to Hanborough 62 years ago so I am still not a "Hanborough-ite". We came to live in one of the small stone cottages in Broad Row which is now Church Road. There were only eight of these, two up, one down and a shed at the back for a wash house. Toilet of course right up the garden. There were no other houses at all along there.

When the Council houses were first built in Church Road (1931) the rent was 6s 11d a week; translated into present money it would be about 35p. Early in the 1930s water, sanitation and electricity were installed in the village. Prior to that water was drawn from wells, light was from paraffin lamps or candles. Sanitation was mostly by septic tanks or the privy down the garden.

EDUCATION

Education before 1944

The senior school was then at Church Hanborough and the senior boys would walk across the allotments to attend woodwork classes in the Parish Hall. Girls had cookery lessons at the hall with Miss Sharp (the late Mrs Wastie). We cooked on a kitchen range. There was a sink but we had a bucket underneath to catch the waste which we emptied into a drain outside the back door near to the earth loo. The senior girls from Combe walked via Hawes Hill to the hall for cookery classes.

We went to infant school until seven or eight and then on to Church Hanborough school until we were fourteen. We could leave school at 14 years, sometimes at thirteen if we could read and write and had attended school fairly regularly.

Young people living in the parish are well served by schools and colleges, both in the private and maintained (state) sectors.

Pre-School

There are several Nursery Schools or Playgroups in the parish. Two well-established schools operate in the Playing Fields Pavilion and in a building in the Manor School grounds respectively - the latter being independent of the Manor School. There is also, currently, another private nursery off the Main Road not far from the railway station.

Primary Education

The Church of England Infants School, or 'Little School' on the Main Road, takes reception children at the age of five (sometimes 'rising fives'). The building dates from 1879 and retains many original features. Indeed, the building is often used by primary children in their historical researches. The number of children on roll varies from approximately 20 to 30 through the year when children are admitted on reaching the age of five (or just prior to this). After a few terms at the Little School, children progress to the Manor County School.



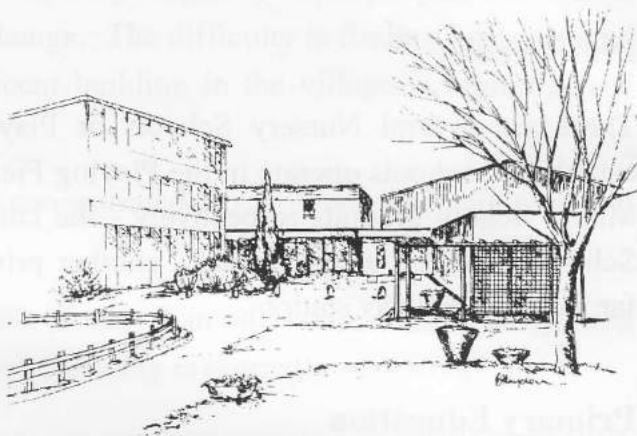
The Manor School is situated behind the main parade of shops in the village. The original part of the school was built in 1960 (until then the school was located in Church Hanborough next to the Church), with a new infant wing being added in

1972. There are several temporary buildings (some have been there for 30 years!). Some of these temporary buildings are very cramped and new accommodation is urgently needed. There are currently six classes ranging from infants to lower juniors and upper juniors. The school is well provided with equipment including up-to-date books and computers, although recent funding cuts have drastically affected the purchase of such articles.

The two schools share many resources (including their Headteacher) and the two governing bodies normally meet together. There is an active and supportive Friends of the Manor Association which helps with fund-raising as well as providing a forum for discussion. Every year the Friends organise a highly enjoyable fete in the summer and a fun run in the spring. All the classes have parents helping in the classroom. There are strong links with the Rector and the Methodist Minister who regularly take assemblies.

Secondary Education

The local maintained secondary school is Bartholomew School at Eynsham, approximately 4 miles away. In 1995 there were 187 pupils from the parish of Hanborough attending the school. A familiar sight for all motorists passing through the villages in the morning are the groups of eager school children waiting for their bus to take them to school. Late buses (5 pm) operate on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays to allow pupils to take part in after school activities such as clubs and sports.



The original school was founded in 1700 by money left by a certain John Bartholomew for 24 'poor boys'. The teacher's salary was then £10 per year! The present establishment was opened in 1958 and is now a successfully mixed comprehensive with approximately 780 pupils in the school, including a thriving sixth form.

There is an active parent-teachers association called the Bartholomew School Association which organises a wide variety of activities and events including a major school fair in the summer. The school is also the venue for many adult education and evening classes ranging from beginner's Italian to men's keep fit.

Further Education

Approximately 60 students attend F.E. colleges for courses such as General National Vocational Qualifications (GNVQs), 'A' Level combinations and BTech. The two main establishments are the West Oxfordshire Technical College (WOTC) in Witney and the Oxford College of Further Education at the Oxpens in Oxford. A few students travel to Oxford Brookes University in Headington for specialised studies and degree courses.

Private Schools

A number of children (between 10 and 20) attend private schools, mainly in Oxford. These include Magdalen College School and St Edward's School for secondary boys, Oxford High and Headington High Schools for secondary girls and the Dragon School for younger children.

Some Views from the Manor School

Children at the Manor School were asked to do their own 'mini-appraisal'. Here are some of their findings:

All children asked say that they like living in Church or Long Hanborough.

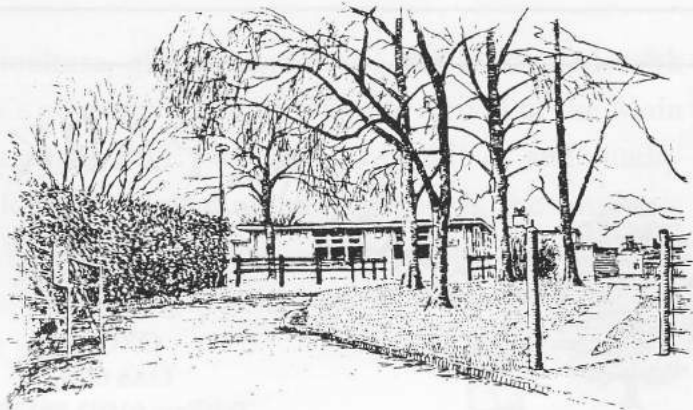
Younger children picked out the Post Office and play area in particular: *"I like the Post Office as I can buy sweets". "I like the swings"*.

Older children said that the people were friendly: *"You can trust them". "It feels safe here"*.

Some children appreciated the surrounding countryside and that they could use footpaths to walk from one area to another: *"We can go to Church Hanborough without going on the road"*.

Some children wanted a swimming pool and a cinema (but appreciated that these might spoil the peace of the villages) and wanted the skate-board area to be renovated. Many were concerned about vandalism.

Shrub and tree areas, such as in Glyme Way, should be maintained and play in them discouraged. The shrub area of Hurdeswell with its clearly defined areas for play, walking and planting was a good example and should be copied elsewhere.



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EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRY

Employment

Half the populace is employed; a further third is either at school or retired, while about 10% are self-employed. Of the employed, the employment is equally divided between construction, manufacturing, education and other public services. Almost half the work force is professional or managerially skilled.

19% of respondents work within the parish; 39% work outside the parish but within 10 miles of home. The remaining 42% work more than 10 miles from home. Nearly half would like their work to be locally based.

Approximately a quarter of village people are involved in some sort of voluntary work.

Industry

Manual work in the form of agriculture, gloving, quarrying and associated work formerly dominated Hanborough's economy. Today, with the arrival of the Main Road and Lower Road business parks, still with sites to be filled, and sundry other light industrial and office locations dotted around the parish, the emphasis is centred more on skills involving technology. Computing, cartography, printing, design, metallurgy, plastics and engineering are but a few of the newer industries attracted here in recent times.

The parish extended to the second Freeland turn and therefore the house called 'The Kilns', adjacent to the Shepherd's Hall public house, was in Hanborough. There were brick works with two kilns and the clay came from North Leigh Common. There is some evidence of brickworks in 1783 and certainly in 1851. The bricks were called Sandstocks and Land Drains were also made there. Horses were used for transport and every day lime would be taken to the gas works and the cart would make the return journey carrying coke for the furnaces. They were eventually closed in 1911.

Some of the longer-standing companies in the parish are: Oxford Scientific Films, Joslin's Stonemason, Fieldfare Nurseries and Upper Norton Jersey Cream Company Ltd. A recently-established water bottling plant is located in Swan Lane.

It may be of interest to know that the present occupants of the business parks are as follows:

Hanborough Business Park - Main Road

Buchanan Lighting
Lovell Johns Ltd
Bishop's Move
Audio Video Systems
Raven Computers
Poseidon
Dijon Design
Storm Fire Protection
Slater Plastics
Food Hygiene Bureau
Walker Collett
Wyko Ewb Bearings
ES Technology Ltd
Gravure Graphics

Exitech Ltd
Advanced Laser Research
Plunkett Foundation
Training Associates
BUPA
DMS Database Services
Datacare
Pfeiffer & Co
Softlink Europe
Scientific Studio
JM Shannan Stevenson Ltd
Dale International Ltd
Oxford Training

Blenheim Office Park - Lower Road

Miller Craig Cocking
Oxford Cryosystems
PM Consultants
Isis Training Services

Club Assist Ltd
Softpress Systems Ltd
Wolfram Research Europe Ltd
Ashtech Europe Ltd



Men, horses and vehicles in Lay's Quarry in about 1890

[Photo supplied by Oxfordshire Photographic Archive, DLA, OCC]

MEMORIES

Wages

Prior to the 1947 Agricultural Act the farmer paid his workers what he thought they were worth - the average for a cowman would have been about 35 shillings for a seven day week, he would have a free cottage and about two pints of milk a day. On this he may well have kept a wife and five or six children.

A building foreman earned about £3 a week but would not have a cottage or milk.

The whole wage bill for a farm employing five men and two boys would be under £25 a week.

Machinery

The first combined harvester in the village was bought by Mr Wastie of Millwood Farm. He bought it at the agricultural show which was held on the old show ground between Kidlington and Bladon. It was an International Combine and the year was 1943. They did, however, have a second hand tractor which was bought from Curtis and Horn, the agricultural merchants. It was usual for farms such as Millwood Farm to have about six horses and employ about seven men.

Threshing

This was a real event in the village. The thresher would come under contract to the farmer with a steam engine and the threshing implements. The farmer had to provide proper coal for the engines and enough to take the thresher on to the next farm. Most of the village would turn out for the days of the threshing armed with sticks and terriers to kill the mice and rats that had been living in the ricks (stacks of sheaves of corn).

Rick building was a great art. The sheaves were built up, with the ears of corn inwards. When the rick was finished it was thatched to keep it dry. The pegs for the thatcher were cut from hazel wood grown locally.

After the corn was cut and left by the binder in sheaves in the field it was stacked in groups of five. The process was called "shocking up". The name was different in other parts of the country.

If the field was empty of "shocks" the village people knew that they could go into the field and "glean" (collect any loose heads of corn for fowl, which most villagers kept). If the farmer left a "shock" in the middle of the field it was an indication that the locals could not go into the field and "glean".

Crops

Sugar beet was grown locally from approximately 1933 and not much after 1942. During the war permits had to be issued for most crops and certainly for sugar beet. Irish gangs came to thin the crop out and eventually after it was dug up, the gangs returned to cut off the tops. The sugar beet was sent by horse and cart to the railway and then by train to Kidderminster. Later it was sent on a high-sided vehicle. The pulp (the residue after the sugar has been extracted) was eventually returned as fodder for cattle - it would have been mixed with something like flaked maize. Ironmonger field, which is at the back of the George and Dragon, was a good field for sugar beet.

THE ENVIRONMENT

The erosion of the countryside due to the ever increasing demands for housing, roads and industry has not prevented the parish of Hanborough from remaining essentially a rural area. Some features will never change; the river Evenlode will continue to flow round half the parish boundary and the quality of the soil will never improve.

Other factors are more transitory. The Blenheim estate controls by far the largest acreage but by the end of 1995, there was not a single Blenheim tenant farmer living in the parish and there were fewer than ten people employed in agriculture and allied trades locally.

The change in land stewardship and the impact of sophisticated machinery has changed the face of the countryside. Not a single cow was milked here in 1995 and not a working horse to be found. The current pattern of a simple arable rotation combined with sheep and grass for conservation is governed by economic expediencies. There are, however, more than 30 horses and ponies kept in the parish for riding. The pendulum could well swing back the other way. Gone are the days when cottagers kept fowl and a pig in a sty at the bottom of the garden, and grew most of their own vegetables.



The area of woodland, predominantly owned by Blenheim, has changed little in over a century but the outline of the landscape was changed dramatically when Dutch elm disease destroyed all mature hedgerow elms in the 1970s - and it is still killing trees twenty years later.

*"The countryside around and in the village is beautiful.
There are woods, fields, the river and the allotments"*

Manor School Pupil

There is no doubt that we all appreciate the countryside around our two villages, and enjoy its many aspects. There is strong support for the parish tree planting programme (65%) and for the need for wild flower preservation (65%). The value of the Church Road footway is also clear (80%).

The parish is fortunate in having eighteen definitive footpaths and bridleways more than seven miles long in all. This gives a wide scope of access across a varied and interesting countryside. Some are well maintained, signed and provided with excellent gates and styles. 76% liked them a lot.

“We like the footpaths so that we can go to Church Hanborough and other local places without having to go on the roads”

Manor School Pupil

And yet the extent to which these footpaths are used is not clear. Many interpreted ‘footpaths’ to mean ‘footways’ or ‘pavements’. This in itself reflects the changing times. It seems that walking for pleasure or by need is on the wane. Only 33% walk anywhere daily and 20% hardly or never walk anywhere at all. Unfortunately, there is vandalism and litter, caused by a very few, which spoils the enjoyment of others.

Both the war memorial and its potentially attractive garden and the Church Hanborough conservation area are highly rated (50% and 51% respectively).



Views were sought as to what could best be done to make roads, lanes and the local countryside better. Answers overwhelmingly confirmed a desire for good husbandry and cleanliness. Considered most important are the removal of litter (71%) and the need to keep roadside verges mown (57%). Only a minority (17%) felt that it was very important to allow verges to grow to encourage wild life. The need to stop verge

damage, to signpost paths and bridleways and repair gates and bridges were all considered important.

Finally and encouraging were the many people willing to help with environmental improvement schemes and with ‘clean-up days’.

Would volunteer for environmental improvement schemes

Yes	269	18%	No	1235	82%
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Would volunteer for ‘clean-up Hanborough day’ twice each year

Yes	564	38%	No	927	62%
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So it is clear that we appreciate our countryside, and that we wish it to be clean and cared for. Perhaps most important of all is that amongst us there are many who are prepared to help keep it that way. However, when all has been said and done “Man may influence the environment, but Nature will have the last word”.

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THE NATURAL HISTORY OF HANBOROUGH

The natural history of the parish has been written by Joan Tompkins who, for several years, has recorded the flowering plants she has seen on local walks, and Gerald Thompson who is a zoologist, entomologist and forester. Since Mr Thompson is disabled and cannot explore the parish, it was agreed that his three acre garden, which he has tended for 38 years, would provide a reasonable sample of the parish fauna.

FAUNA OF OX CLOSE GARDEN

Mammals

Muntjac Deer, *Muntiacus reevesi*. Our smallest deer is a frequent visitor, probably coming from the population in Pinsley Wood. It browses on young trees which have to be protected with wire guards and it nips the buds off lilies.

Red Fox, *Vulpes vulpes*. An occasional visitor sometimes seen but often its recent presence is revealed by the distinctive and persistent smell of urine.

Stoat, *Nustela erminea*. Seen more often than the Weasel from which it is distinguished by its larger size and black tip to the tail. A lone stoat may indulge in sheer joi-de-vivre by running around and leaping and twisting in the air. A stoat has been seen to climb a tree to 24 feet to enter an empty nest box erected for a Tawny Owl. Rabbits, voles, mice and birds' eggs are the usual prey.

Weasel, *Mustela nivalis*. Usually seen singly but occasionally as a pair. Weasels are small enough to pursue mice and voles in their tunnels; they also eat birds' eggs and nestlings and climb well.

Common Shrew, *Sorex araneus*. Shrews are all carnivorous feeding mainly on insects and spiders; they are easy to distinguish from voles by their pointed snouts.

Pygmy Shrew, *Sorex minutus*. Distinctly smaller than the Common Shrew and less abundant.



Common Shrew

Field Vole, *Microtis agrestis*. This vole may become abundant in long grass which provides cover for a network of runways on the ground. Ox Close garden has little long grass and the Field Vole is relatively scarce. Raptorial birds such as the Barn Owl and Kestrel feed mainly on this species.

Bank Vole, *Clethrionomys glareolus*. This species is distinguished from the Field Vole by having larger eyes and ears and a longer tail. It is essentially a woodland animal and like most voles is active day and night and throughout the winter.

Wood Mouse, *Apodemus sylvaticus*. The most common mouse in gardens and woodland. Nocturnal in habit (note the large eyes) and it can be very destructive in greenhouses where it nips the stems of seedlings as they emerge in the spring. This year, 1995, the writer was compelled to use traps - chocolate is an irresistible bait - and caught 30 mice in a month.

Hedgehog, *Erinaceus europaeus*. Most gardens of any size will contain a hedgehog and frequently bread and milk is supplied by caring householders. This is bad practice since hedgehogs cannot digest cow's milk. Water and dog food would be appreciated.

Mole, *Talpa europaea*. Moles live a solitary life each in its own tunnel system which it constantly extends using the spade-like front feet. Under prolonged drought moles must suffer starvation since earthworms, the main food, burrow down to depths of several feet to reach moist soil.



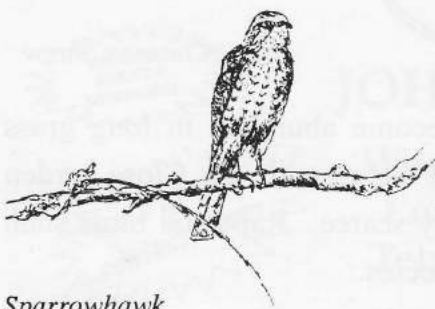
Mole

Common Rat, *Rattus norvegicus*. This ubiquitous and unwelcome visitor frequently takes up residence in the large compost bins in Ox Close garden. The only remedy is poison.

House Mouse, *Mus musculus*. Predominantly an indoor mouse the House Mouse has only been found in the roof-space at Ox Close.

Nearby dwellers associated with the River Evenlode are the American Mink, the Otter and the Water Vole. Badgers are also present in the parish.

Birds The following 28 species have nested in Ox Close garden at least once during the years 1957-95. Experience has shown that the favourite nesting sites are large shrubs of Snowberry, evergreen Berberis, Box, Honeysuckle, Bramble, Pyracantha and hedges of Holly, Beech and Thuya.



Sparrowhawk

The species are: Blackbird, Songthrush, Mistle Thrush, Starling, House Sparrow, Hedge Sparrow, Dunnock, Bullfinch, Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Long-tailed Tit, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Brown Wren, Goldcrest, Robin, Garden Warbler, Woodpigeon, Collared Dove (an invader from the Balkans which first nested in Britain in

1955), Mallard, Pheasant, Magpie, Sparrowhawk, Chiffchaff, Spotted Flycatcher, Pied Wagtail and Swallow.

A further 16 species including the Green, Spotted and Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers have visited the garden, while a further 11 species have been seen in adjacent fields.



Woodpecker

Reptiles The Grass Snake, Slow Worm and Common Lizard are visitors or garden dwellers.

Amphibia The Common Frog, Common Toad and Smooth Newt are present.



Comma Butterfly

Butterflies 22 species have been recorded in the garden: this is about two-fifths of the British fauna. Those seen are: Marbled White, Large White, Small White, Green-veined White, Brimstone, Orange Tip, Red Admiral (originally called the Red Admirable), White Admiral, Comma, Small Tortoiseshell, Painted Lady, Peacock, Speckled Wood, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Small Heath, Small Copper, Holly Blue, Common Blue, Green Hairstreak, Ringlet and Large Skipper.

Moths This is a restricted list of 20 or so moths which have been found in the garden and are noteworthy for their striking colouration, potential as pests or because they exhibit unusual features.

They are: Poplar Hawkmoth, Eyed Hawkmoth, Hummingbird Hawkmoth (a day flying immigrant which probes flowers for nectar with its long tongue while hovering), Puss Moth, Garden Tiger, Yellow Underwing, Yellow-tail Moth, Alder Moth, Winter Moth (the species gardeners band their trees against), Cinnabar, Silver Y, Magpie Moth, Drinker, Red Underwing, Cabbage Moth (the caterpillar destroys the heart of cabbages), Buff Ermine, Buff Tip, Ghost Swift Moth, Common Swift Moth, Waved Umber and Plume Moth.



Humming Bird Hawk Moth



Crane Fly

Flies Flies are distinguished from other insects by having only one pair of wings. There are more than 5000 species in Britain. A few of the many kinds found in Ox Close garden include the Bluebottle that enters the house in summer seeking meat on which to lay its

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eggs, the Greenbottle, the House-fly, a serious distributor of germs that contaminate food and the Cleg, one of the most obnoxious of flies that flies silently and bites humans with lingering effect. More beneficial to gardeners are the Hoverflies whose larvae often prey on aphids.

Beetles This is the largest insect order with over a quarter of a million species in the world. More than 4000 species occur in Britain. The larvae may be serious pests such as Weevils in grain stores. By contrast Ladybirds destroy aphids and are the gardener's friend. Dung beetles and burying beetles are of enormous importance in countries with inadequate sewage systems.

Many different beetles are found in the garden and most are active at night.



Dragonfly

Dragonflies Several kinds of dragonflies frequent the garden including the large green and blue *Aeshna cyanea* and the equally large *Aeshna grandis*.

Hymenoptera The Common Wasp and the German Wasp are common and nest underground. Less common is the Norwegian Wasp with its nest suspended from a branch in a tree or shrub. The Hornet is not uncommon and has nested in the roof of the garden shed. The green, red and purple Cuckoo Wasp is parasitic in the nests of bees and wasps.

Two species of bumblebee are very common, *Bombus lapidarius*, black with a red tail, and *Bombus terrestris*, black with yellow bands. The queen is very large and is usually the first bumblebee out of hibernation in the spring.

Orthoptera These are represented by the Common Field Grasshopper and the Great Bush Cricket.

Hemiptera Of these the following true bugs are important garden pests: White Fly, Black Bean Aphis, Cabbage Aphis, Peach Aphis and Woolly Aphis.

Nemiptera An important ally is the Green Lacewing. Its larvae are active and voracious predators of aphids of which 400 may be destroyed by one larva during its development.

Spiders Some six species of spider are fairly common. One is the House Spider which is large, brown, hairy and long-legged and often invades the bath in autumn.

Soil and Litter Animals The three kinds of earthworm are important to the gardener whereas the Garden Snail and the Garden Slug are often too common for the gardener's comfort. Others in this broad category are the Brown

Centipede and Woodlouse, useful in breaking down leaf litter and decaying wood. Most millipedes do little harm to plants but the Spotted Snake Millipede is destructive to root crops.

FLORA OF THE GARDEN

Trees 29 species of trees grow in the garden including Alder, Ash, Beech, Chestnut, Elm, Hawthorn, Lime, Rowan, Sycamore, Walnut, Weeping Willow and Yew.

A further 27 exotic species occur including the False Acacia (*Robinia*), Western Red Cedar, Pencil Cedar, Japanese Maple, Snake-bark Maple, Western Balsam Poplar, Swedish Whitebeam and Wellingtonia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*).

Shrubs At least 25 species of shrubs are present.

Wild Flowers

In the general area of Hanborough over a period of several years 297 species of wild flower have been identified, 78 of which occur in Ox Close and 213 of which occur in the parish. The list includes such comforting names as Angelica, Bedstraw, Campion, Catsear, Comfrey, Cranesbill, Fat Hen, Good King Henry, Herb Robert, Hawkweed Ox Tongue, Shepherd's Purse, Toadflax, Traveller's Joy and Valerian.

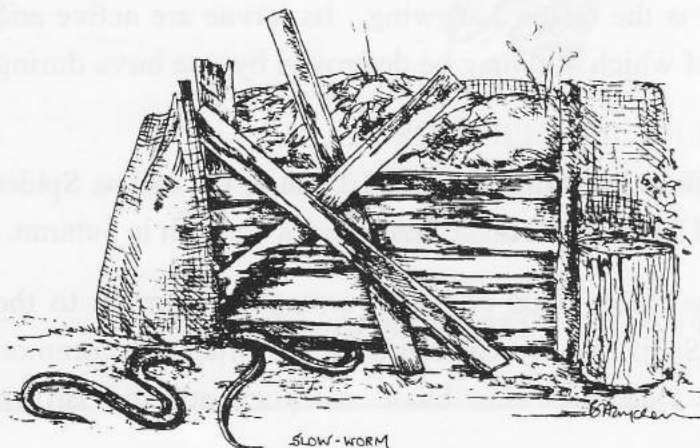


The Morel Fungus

Footnotes

Early morning and evening walkers sometimes see Roe deer on the fringes of the woods near Millwood End.

This article is very much a précis of the far more detailed and highly informative piece prepared by Gerald Thompson and Joan Tompkins. It is hoped that eventually the full length version will be available as a separate booklet.



Slow Worm

[see page 27]

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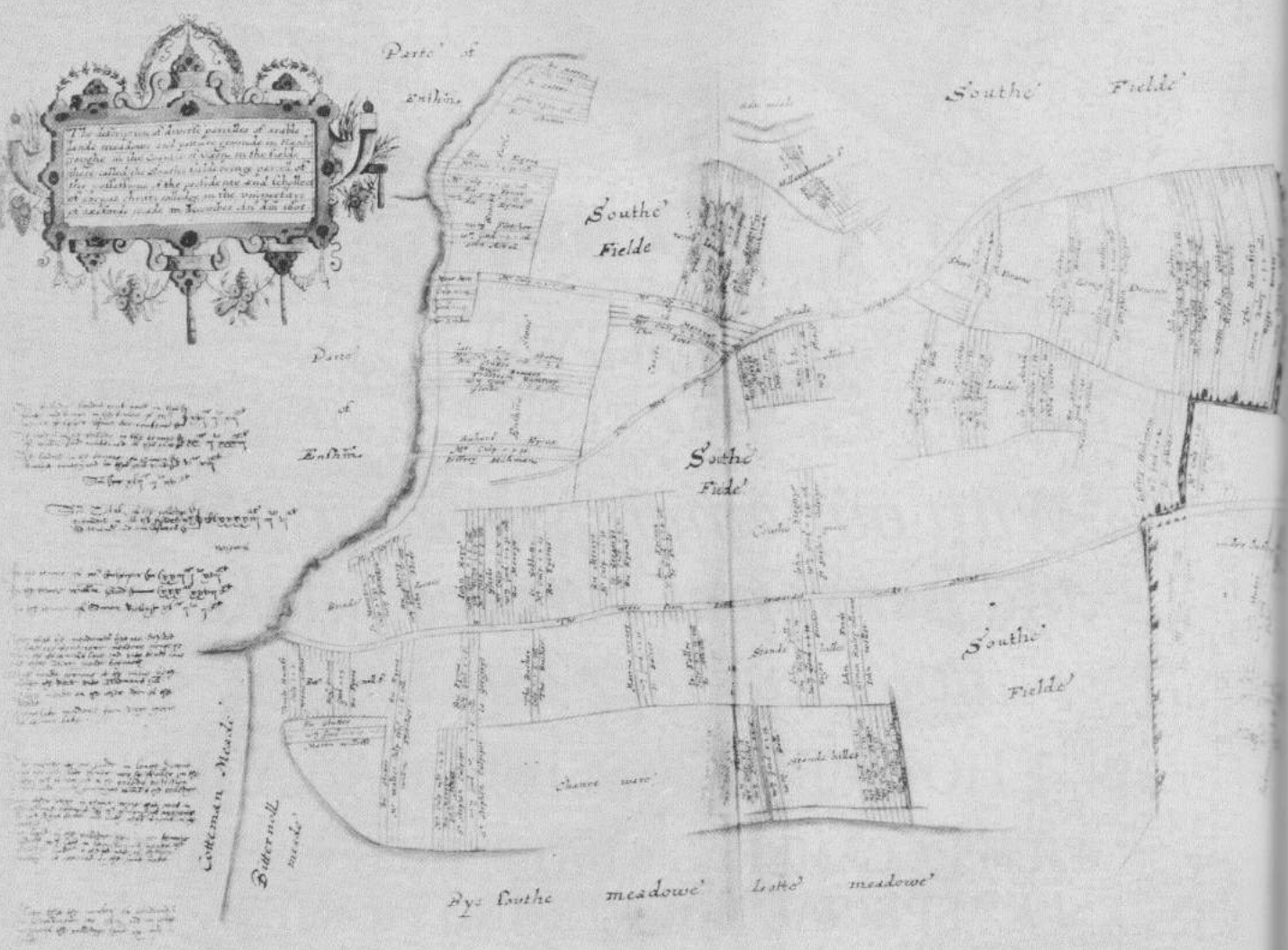
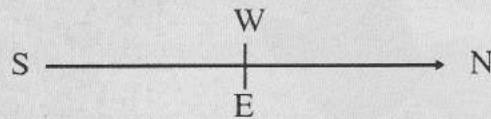
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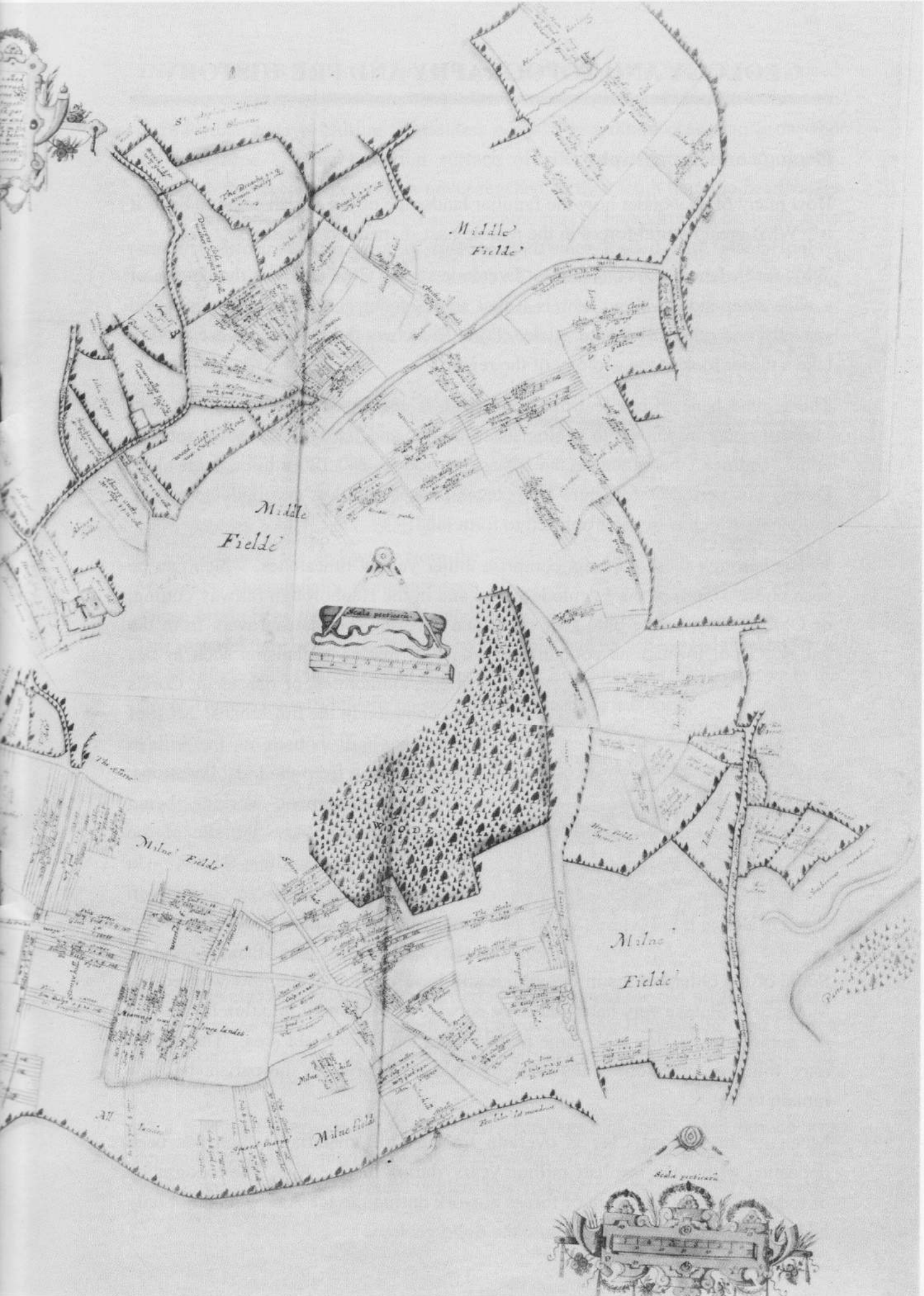
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THE 1605 MAP OF HANBOROUGH

The description of certeine parcelles of arable lande meadowe and pasture grounds in Hanboroughe in the countye of Oxon beinge abroad in diverse partes of the fielde there called Milne field (also Middle fielde and Southe fielde) belonginge unto the presidente and schollers of Corpus Christi Colledge in the universitie of Oxon draune in december An^o dm 1605 according to the proportion of twenty perches to an ynche.

This map has been produced for the Appraisal by John Gibbons Studios by kind permission of Corpus Christi College, Oxford.





GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY AND PRE-HISTORY

Geology and Topography

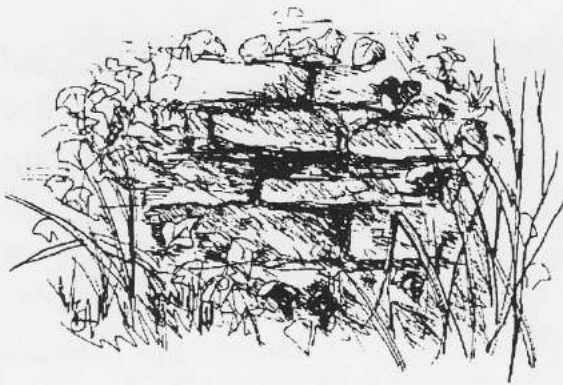
How many of us wonder how the familiar landscape of our parish came to be as it is? What great natural forces in the remote past shaped these features?

Why, for instance, does our modest Evenlode stream flow gently at the bottom of a wide steep-sided valley; how is it that some of our garden soils are light and gravelly, and others obstinate, sticky clay? To answer these questions we need to take a closer look at the geology of the region.

The ground beneath our feet in Hanborough is composed of two very different kinds of material, known to geologists as "Solid" and "Drift". The solid geology is the "bedrock", belonging to the Jurassic period (c. 180-130 million years ago). During this period Oxfordshire lay beneath the sea and thus accumulated marine sediments which were later uplifted to form land.

In Hanborough these deposits comprise either yellow limestones, which can be seen on the slopes of the Evenlode valley and in the Hanborough railway cutting, or Oxford Clay, a fine blue-grey mudstone covering the plateau away from the valley. Both formations contain the fossils of marine organisms such as sea

shells, ammonites, or fish teeth. Corals are common in the limestones. Most of the stone-built houses in the village were quarried from the local limestone, the most prominent working being Brown's Quarry (now the site of the Crystal Spring Bottling Plant). In Pinsley Wood, a large depression marks the spot where stone was cut for the building of the Parish Church.

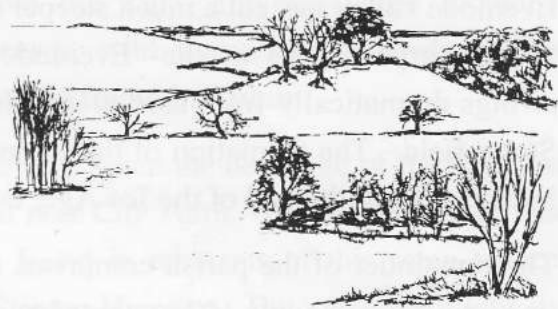


Some of the older houses in the village still have roofing of the now worked-out Stonesfield Slate, a very hard limestone capable of being split into thin layers. As the name implies, this rock came mainly from the Stonesfield area. There were once miles of limestone walls marking field boundaries in the parish, but few remain today.

Much of the Oxford Clay is overlain by the Drift material, which has been deposited within the last half million years, during the Ice Age. The topography of today is largely the result of forces at work during the Ice Age, which not only laid down the Drift but also cut into the Solid geology.

The Ice Age, or Quaternary as geologists prefer to call it, actually comprised numerous fluctuations between long bitterly cold periods and weather somewhat warmer than today. During the coldest periods, vegetation ceased to grow and the landscape became a barren surface of silts, sands, gravels and stones. Although the icecaps themselves never reached further south than the headwaters of the Evenlode, the Hanborough area became part of an enormous outwash zone where the formidable power of rushing meltwater loaded with glacial debris would have created a scene of utter chaos. The remnants of this debris surviving today are but a small fraction of the volume of material that must have been washed down by an ancient Evenlode swollen to fill the whole valley and overspilling it.

The oldest of the Drift deposits, termed the Northern Drift, may be seen in the fields west of the village. Their characteristics are large brown water-worn pebbles which have been carried by the action of ice and water from the Midlands. Occasionally, stones are seen whose origin is as far away as Scotland.



This material may be up to half a million years old, and its widespread distribution in the Evenlode valley indicates that at this time the Evenlode was the main river in the Upper Thames basin, while the present Thames was but a tributary!

The next deposit to have survived is the so-called "Hanborough Terrace", a thick bed of pea gravels underlying most of the village of Long Hanborough. It is composed of more local stones such as the Cotswold limestones. The fact that it lies on top of the hill, up to 30 metres above the valley floor, and yet is thought to be a river deposit, is further evidence that our Evenlode remained a much larger river in the Thames drainage system at this time, between 400,000 and 300,000 years ago. (Geologists are not agreed on the complex question of the date of the terrace, but it is now generally accepted that it was deposited under cold conditions).

These gravels were extensively quarried in the past, and the old pit face may still be seen on the west side of Church Road between Long Hanborough and Church Hanborough. Many of the domestic gravel drives and pathways in Hanborough are composed of this material.

At a later date, perhaps around 200,000 years ago, another gravel terrace was deposited by the Evenlode at a lower elevation on the valley sides. This is the "Summertown-Radley Terrace" which lies mainly in the south of the parish towards Eynsham.

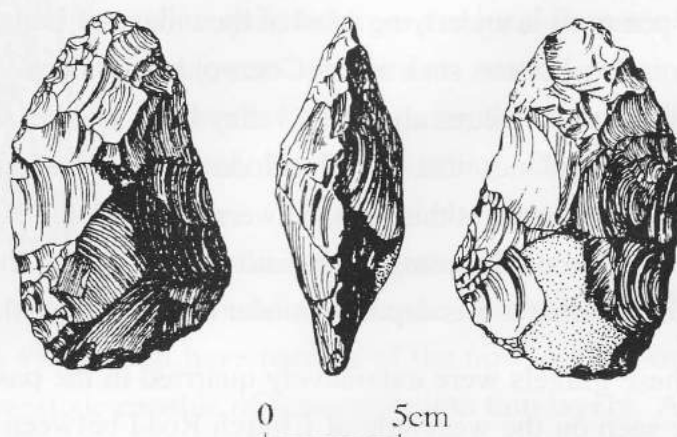
Finally, the valley floor itself, which is usually flat, is composed of the most recent geological deposit of all, a soft river silt called alluvium. This is the product of successive local river flooding over the past 10,000 years, after the end of the Ice Age.

The complex geology described above has to be understood in order to appreciate the present-day topography. Hanborough parish is bounded on the north and east sides by the river Evenlode, a tributary of the Thames. At the northeast corner of the parish the Evenlode is joined by the river Glyme, which has been dammed artificially in Blenheim Park to form the lake. South of this confluence, the river passes through a broad valley with gently sloping sides, until it flows into the Thames near Cassington. West of the junction with the Glyme, however, the Evenlode valley has cut a much steeper sided valley with a narrower floor, known to geomorphologists as the "Evenlode Gorge". Through this gorge the river swings dramatically from side to side in a series of meanders stretching back to Stonesfield. The formation of these meanders may be related to the sudden drop in discharge at the end of the Ice Age, but the exact process is ill understood.

The remainder of the parish comprises a plateau sloping gently southwards from its highest point, some 107 metres above sea level, near North Leigh Common.

Prehistory to the Norman Conquest

Hanborough is exceptionally fortunate in having yielded evidence of human life from a very remote period, in the form of a Palaeolithic flint handaxe. It was dug out of Duke's Pit on the north side of Witney Road, close to where Millwood Vale now stands, by Jack Whitley in 1938. This implement was retrieved from near the base



of the Hanborough Terrace in the course of gravel extraction. Its position indicates that it had been transported in the gravels, rather than dropped on the land surface before the gravels were deposited. But as it is in very sharp condition, it probably had not been transported far from its place of manufacture. The implement may be seen in the University Museum.

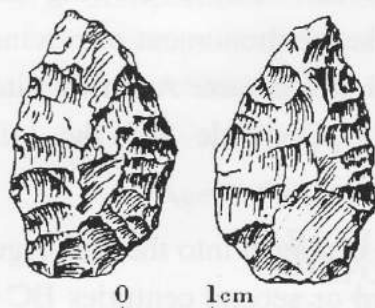
The hominid who made this implement probably roamed the vicinity some 300,000 to 400,000 years ago (once again the exact date is unresolved). He was not fully human, but belonged to an earlier species of mankind, probably *Homo Erectus*, one of the first hominid species to spread from the original African homeland. His brain size was only three-quarters the size of ours, and he would probably have walked upright but with some ape-like characteristics, such as a very strong brow ridge and receding forehead. Despite his smaller brain, he had the intelligence to acquire flint resources (the nearest flint rock is some 20 miles from here) and to shape a nodule into a tolerably good, near symmetric tool, something which most modern residents of Hanborough would be unable to do!

Our distant ancestor shared the barren landscape with some big game, the bones and teeth of which were recovered from the same gravels. These included straight-tusked mammoth, woolly rhinoceros, wild horse and giant deer. The handaxe is, incidentally, one of the oldest to be found in Britain.

Man was certainly present in the area at the time when the next relic of the past, the Summertown-Radley Terrace, was deposited near City Farm. We can be sure of this because man-made implements have been found in remnants of this same terrace material at sites beyond the parish, e.g. at Stanton Harcourt. But when these gravels were quarried at City Farm in the 1960s, no implements were reported from them.

Once again, we take a long leap forward before there is more evidence of human activity. During the latter part of this interval, Britain was gripped by another ice age of great length, culminating in an almost complete freezeup from c. 25,000 to 13,000 years ago. During this cold period it is unlikely that there would have been any human presence, but as the warmer weather gradually returned to southern Britain from about 12,000 years ago, so vegetation, then animals, and finally humans ventured back. By now they were fully modern in appearance. These Mesolithic peoples are known to have lived in the area from finds of their flint tools in other parts of Oxfordshire, although finds have not specifically been made in the parish.

The late Mesolithic period merges imperceptibly into the Neolithic, the first age of sedentary farming and pottery, from about 4000 BC. Here, we have newly-discovered evidence of occupation on our doorstep. A local farmer, Mr Hubert Busby, has retrieved a number of flint artefacts and debris from two different sites in the village. Perhaps the most interesting is a collection of everyday tools found near the top of Swan



Finely worked Leaf Arrowhead from Myrtle Farm, Neolithic period

Hill in the soil of the ploughed field. Pride of place in the collection goes to a beautifully made leaf-shaped arrowhead, so thin it is translucent. Among the other finds are scrapers, blades, waste flakes and cores (a core is the remaining piece of flint when no more flakes can be struck from it). The style of these pieces suggests that there may have been a settlement or a temporary camp of early Neolithic people at this point.

Occasional finds of Neolithic flint material may be made anywhere in the Oxfordshire countryside, but a study conducted recently in the Evenlode valley between Stonesfield and Long Hanborough has revealed a series of village settlements located in successive arcs of the meanders of the river. The arrowheads, blades, awls, scrapers and cores from these sites indicate prolonged occupation from before 3000 BC to after 2000 BC. The presence of hammerstones and "potboilers" (pieces of flint with crazed surfaces indicating they have been heated on a fire and plunged into cold water) help to identify the sites as domestic. The crude pottery of these people was not fireproof and it is suggested that this is the way they warmed their water. One of the most interesting finds was a fragment of a polished axe, perhaps used for felling small trees. We can picture a rural scene with clusters of small thatched huts, surrounded by plots of wheat, with a stockade to keep cattle. Away from the clearing, much of the landscape is still forested, and here, in what is now Hanborough village, the settlers hunt their prey - deer, wild ox, and boar.

Superficially we might have felt quite at home with these village folk. We might even recognise some of the words they spoke. But probe deeper and you would find a culture very remote from ours, for these people were of the same generation who began the building of Stonehenge and devoted substantial time to elaborate religious and burial rituals.

Evidence of such rituals practised by their successors, the people of the Bronze Age, has been found in two places within the parish. By this time, in the second millennium BC, a network of routeways was becoming established in the south of Britain, and it is possible that the series of six Bronze Age ring ditches excavated near City Farm was located alongside one such route. One of the ring ditches was a double circle and has been interpreted as a henge monument or ceremonial site. These features are no longer visible today, but a Bronze Age ring ditch of impressive size may still be seen between the Evenlode and the railway embankment not far from Swan Bridge.

The Bronze Age site at City farm continued to be occupied into the Iron Age, for remains of an iron smelting workshop of the third or second centuries BC have been found there.

By the time of the Roman conquest of Britain in the mid-first century AD, there was certainly a settlement on the site of the present village of Long Hanborough. This is indicated from the discovery, during gravel extraction in 1959, of two kilns for firing pottery, at Tuckwell's pit, on the west side of Church Road. The kilns were constructed using the latest Roman technique which enabled a much more precise control of the temperature, and are similar to ones of first century date found in the Nene valley and in Essex.

We know nothing more of the Roman village, or what happened to it after the Romans left. However, the remains of a substantial Roman villa at Northleigh only a mile west of the parish means that Hanborough might have been part of a large country estate, perhaps owned by a retired army general.

There is one more stop in time before the Norman Conquest. On Lower Road, close to the Bronze Age ring ditches and Iron Age smelting plant, the 1964 excavations found a small group of early Anglo-Saxon burials. The sacred nature of this site may thus have stretched over some 2500 years.

Of course, we can only report on what has been found so far. Undoubtedly more remains to be discovered, but it is remarkable that within this small parish we already have evidence of the presence of man in practically every age over the last 400,000 years.

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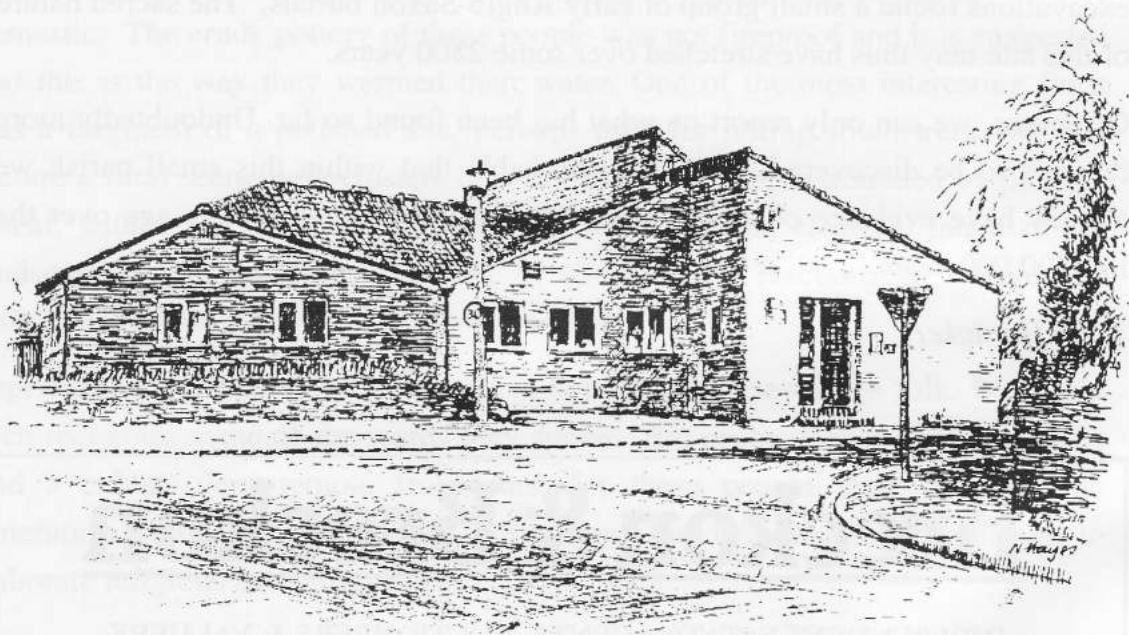
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HEALTH

Long Hanborough Primary Medical Care Facilities

The late Dr Derrick Bolsover effectively started the Long Hanborough medical services in 1948 when he built Millwood House in Millwood End, setting aside one room for the provision of medical services. Despite the later construction of a garden shed (with a bell on the end of a rope) which acted as a waiting room, by the middle 1960s purpose-built accommodation was needed and the present surgery was completed in 1969 and substantially extended in 1983. A further extension is likely in 1996.



The surgery acts as a base for health visiting, community nursing and midwifery services and dispenses drugs on site. Physiotherapy and counselling services are also provided and a chiropody assessment service is available at the Eynsham Medical Centre, the larger of the two surgeries run by the practice of seven doctors. The practice holds its own budget, or fund, to purchase some of the secondary health services.

A total of 12,394 patients are served by the practice of whom 4,977 attend the Long Hanborough Surgery. 2,253 of these patients are from the parish of Hanborough.

Responses to the Questionnaire

A small minority of the parish find difficulty in using the health services, whereas some 90% find those services easily accessible.

The large majority of people using the services of the doctor, district nurse or health visitor considered them good or reasonable.

More than 40% felt that there was a need for both a long-term residential home in Hanborough and more sheltered housing accommodation.

Just over half would be prepared to take part in a good neighbour scheme at least occasionally, but only 6% would be prepared to take part once a week.

The current government policy of 'Care in the Community' needs the time of carers and volunteers to be harnessed for the policy to work. It is difficult to see from the above response how such policy might be implemented.

The provision of dropped kerbs caused most problems for the disabled, but a great deal of recent work has improved the matter, accessibility is considered in the main to be good or reasonable.

Michael Ryan PHOTOGRAPHY

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RETAIL AND OTHER SERVICES

For its size Hanborough is well served by a range of basic retail and other services. However, the car and supermarket competition in recent times have reduced Kay's Pantry from an excellent delicatessen to a sandwich bar, and caused the demise of the Spar grocery shop. The advent of Sainsbury's supermarket in Witney may put even greater pressure on local traders.

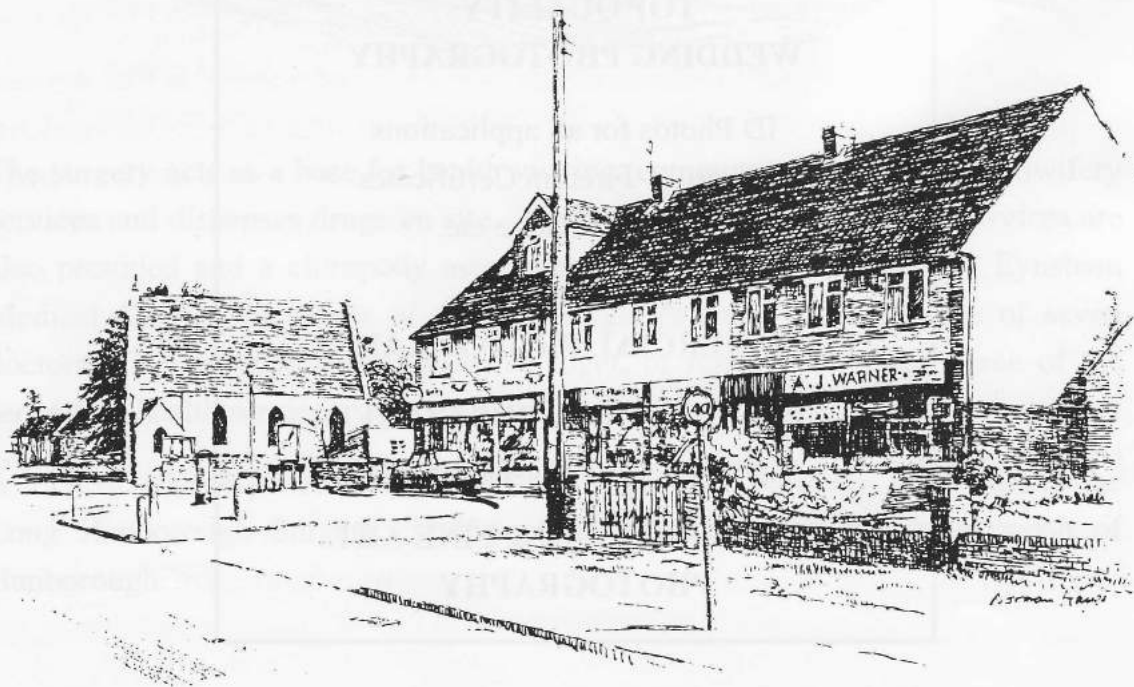
A Co-op '8 till 8', a post office and newsagent cum stationer-confectioner-tobacconist-National Lottery outlet, a cycle shop with an Ali Baba's cave of wares, a greengrocer and florist, a butcher, two hair salons, an antique shop and a photographer comprise our obvious retailers.

The services of three petrol stations, each incorporating a general repair garage and all three having some form of shop, are available. Two car agencies are either linked or are in close proximity to two of the garages. We have five pubs serving a variety of food.

There is a well stocked nursery offering a range of garden products.

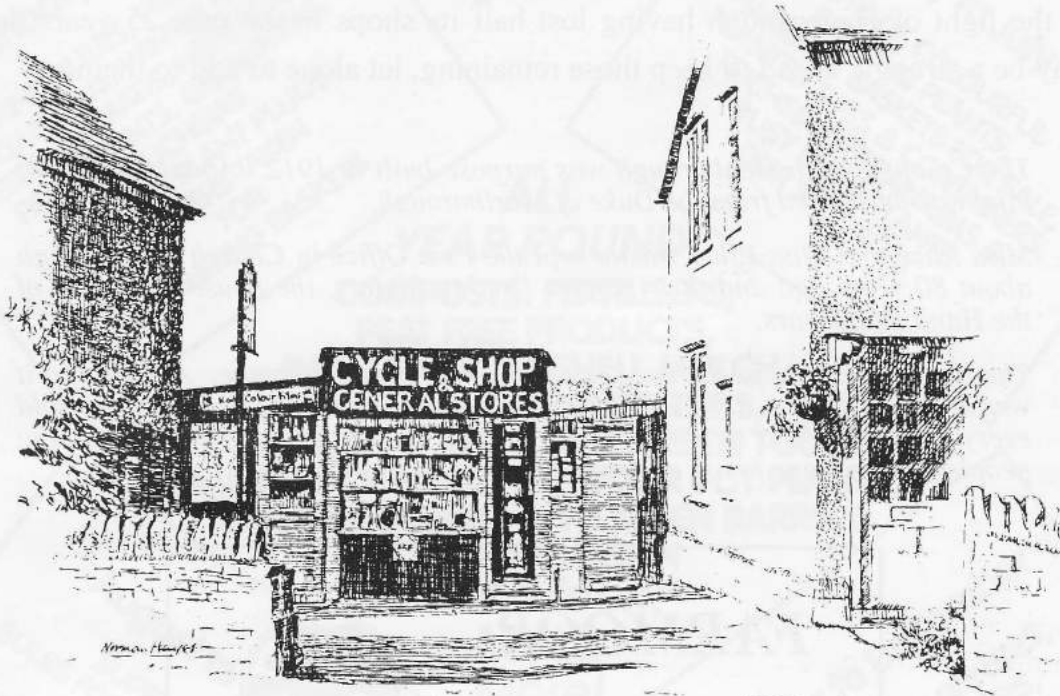
The medical practice has its own convenient dispensary.

A range of services includes heating and plumbing, painting and decorating, garden machinery repair, taxis, electrical installation and repairs, the installation and replacement of windows, doors, porches and conservatories, machinery hire, photography, printing and copying, carpentry and a mobile library.



Hanborough is so conveniently situated in relation to Oxford, Woodstock and the Cotswolds as to be of interest to tourists. Consequently a number of bed and breakfast establishments offer accommodation, which is also used by the developing business park.

Very significant numbers of residents say that they use our shops regularly, either daily or weekly. For example, well over 50% use the post office-newsagents daily. Broadly the same percentage say that they use the cycle shop weekly.



As would be expected, our main use of the post office is for postal services, 84% of users, but 60% pay their vehicle tax, TV licences and other bills there.

It seems that we use our garages equally on an occasional basis and that we use our pubs with the same frequency. In fact we will only admit to being abstemious for none of our pubs has other than single percentage figures in the 'often' category of users.

By far the chief reason given for shopping in the village was to buy 'last minute' items, 78%, though the next reason in importance was that some of us "like to support our local shops", 54%, followed closely by "it saves time", 49%.

The main reasons for shopping out of the parish were that there was more choice, 86%, and that goods were cheaper, 57%.

About half those shopping outside the parish chose Witney, a quarter Kidlington and 18% Oxford city centre.

A very substantial part of the parish, well over 60%, wants no additional shops and services provided. Of the minority wanting change the lists they produced included these suggestions: a take-away, either Chinese or occidental, a fish and chip shop, a chiropodist, a chemist, a dentist, a video shop, a baker, a delicatessen (come back Kay's), a bank or building society or cash dispenser, a sports shop, a swimming pool, public toilets, a health food shop, a bookmakers, a coffee/tea shop, a laundry, a bus service to Sainsbury's, a fishing tackle shop, a dry cleaner, a wine merchant, a library, evening classes, and an ironmonger.

In the light of Hanborough having lost half its shops in the past 25 years there may be a struggle ahead to keep those remaining, let alone to add to them.

The Co-op shop in Hanborough was purpose-built in 1912. About an acre of land was purchased from the Duke of Marlborough.

Miss Alice and Miss Ethel Wastie kept the Post Office in Church Hanborough about 80 years ago and their parents lived at Mylors, the house just south of the Hand and Shears.

The blacksmith's shop was on the corner of the road to Combe. Adjacent to it was another shop - a general store run by Annie Brooks. This shop sold everything from food to paraffin and from knicker elastic to Vim. The young people of the village found this shop the most interesting one.

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LEISURE AND RECREATION

A list of existing clubs and organisations is given at Appendix B.

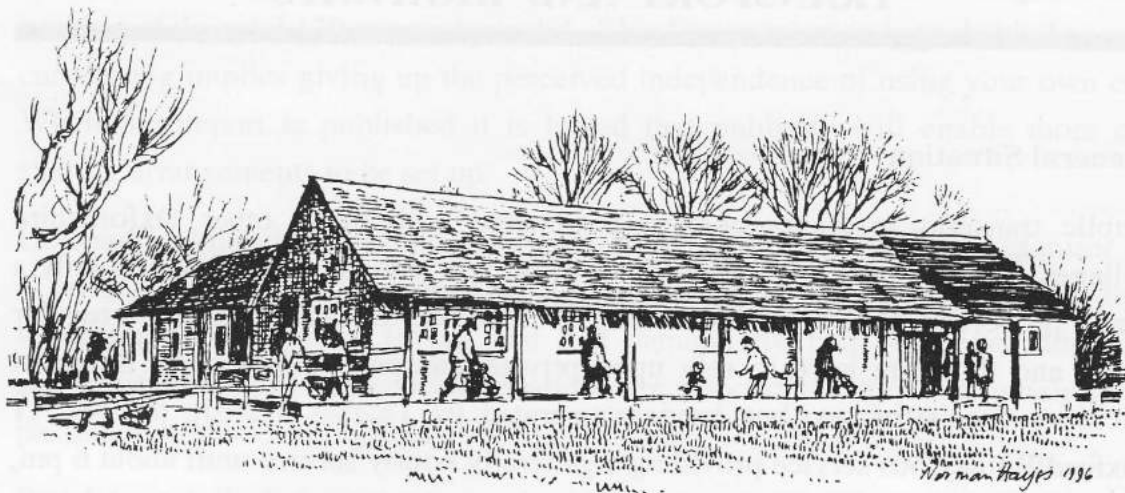
Villagers were asked about their leisure interests and whether they would be prepared to help organise and run any social activities.

The most popular outdoor sports for the 1003 respondents were walking or jogging (73%) and cycling (35%), followed by tennis (19%), football (13%) and cricket (9%). The most popular indoor sport, 879 respondents, was swimming (63%), followed by keep fit or aerobics (24%). Badminton, squash or volley ball were also popular (22%) and many enjoyed pub games like darts and skittles (15%), billiards, pool or snooker (14%). There were many varied interests among villagers - ice or roller skating, athletics, bowls, hockey, table tennis, yoga and golf.

Social activities showed even more variety and no particular leisure activity was favourite, although the most popular leisure pursuits for the 324 respondents were connected with music, drama, choral or dance (22%). Many people belonged to the Evergreens Club (20%) and to the Women's Institute or National Women's Register (19%) and the Luncheon Club was also well supported (13%).

Some villagers said they would be prepared to help organise and run social activities. A youth club would be supported by 37 people. There was also keen support for helping to run the nursery school and playgroup (46 people), and Cubs, Brownies, Guides and Scouts (33 people). There was also support for the Annual Show and Fete if this were to be revived. There was a reasonable amount of interest in forming more clubs, especially a historical society, conservation/environment group, computer club, beer and wine appreciation circle, and gardening club. One suggestion was for a Good Life Club, to cover several interest groups, each of which would meet once or twice a year, as this might have a better chance of success than forming a number of small groups meeting every month. One person proposed a scheme to help people from Eastern Europe with training, and one suggested twinning with a French village. Some people gave their names on the information sheet and will be contacted where there is enough interest in forming a new club.

The majority of the 1534 respondents thought that the village hall and public meeting facilities were adequate for the needs of Hanborough (64%). There was, however, a minority who were not content with the existing facilities and a large number who had no opinion, which might indicate that they never used the facilities. Those who were not happy with the existing facilities were very vocal



with their comments and complaints. Many people suggested that there should be a larger village hall, with meeting rooms, a stage for drama productions and storage space. This might mean redesigning or rebuilding to provide a larger venue for social activities. Some thought there should be better central organisation, and one person said that Hanborough was large enough to have a community centre with a paid part-time receptionist to coordinate activities and bookings. One young person was very bitter because his or her 18th birthday party had been booked at the British Legion [now Recreation] Hall but the booking had been cancelled at short notice. Some people were unaware of activities which already existed and complained that there was a lack of information about what happened in the village. There was some criticism that the Pavilion was used too much for indoor bowls, cricket and football and was not available for other social activities. Though indoor bowls was very popular in the village, there was a strong feeling that the bowls club was now monopolising the village hall so that facilities were not available for others. Another comment was that when cricket was on people should still be allowed to hire the Pavilion as it had been built by our grandparents for everyone, not just for the cricketers.

Many people thought facilities for teenagers should be improved, and that a meeting place should be provided and sports and social activities encouraged. A good youth club and a hall for young people to meet was mentioned frequently, and a new approach to youth facilities was advocated. The question of a meeting place and professional help to start a youth club would have to be addressed first, but if these problems could be solved there would probably be a reasonable amount of support in the village.

TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

General Situation

Public transport in Hanborough is, compared with many other Oxfordshire villages, relatively good. This does not mean it is actually good, because only a small proportion of the population find it satisfactory enough to use on a regular basis and therefore have to rely upon private transport. The public transport facilities consist of two bus services operated by Thames Transit, the No. 11 Oxford/Witney bus service providing a generally hourly service until about 6 pm, and the No. 42 Witney/Woodstock service providing an approximately two-hourly service. The No. 11 service is provided commercially, i.e. without public subsidy, but the No. 42 has a very low patronage and depends for its continued existence upon a heavy subsidy from the County Council. Its future seems safe whilst the present contract lasts but, if current government restrictions on local authority spending persist, this service could suffer heavy cuts in frequency.

Hanborough is also well served by the Thames Trains Cotswold Line giving direct access to Oxford and London Paddington in the south east and to Hereford in the west. However the station is about a mile to the east of Long Hanborough. This reduces the accessibility by local residents of what would otherwise be a very attractive service. A majority of users are residents of communities further away ranging from Witney to Woodstock, for whom Hanborough is seen to be a viable park and ride facility for commuting to Oxford.

The Survey

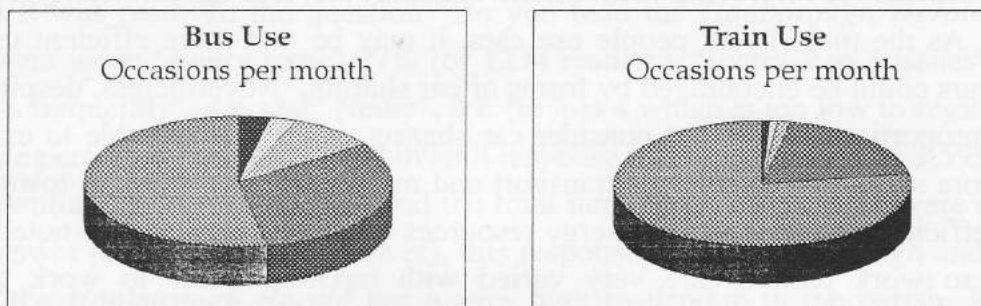
The survey showed that only 8% of people often experienced transport difficulties in getting out of Hanborough, 26% occasionally, but 66% never experienced difficulty. This is probably due to the high availability of private transport as only 15% of Hanborough households had no car at the 1991 census. A minority of people shared cars for various purposes but 55% never shared their vehicles. Only 10% of respondents shared their vehicles for travelling to work.

Respondents were asked if they would be prepared to take part in a scheme to share private vehicle use, but only about 12% answered this question, implying that 88% were unprepared to take part. However, because cars and vans are the mode of transport to work for nearly 800 respondents, the removal of about a 100 vehicles at peak travel times by sharing could help the general environment. Those offering to share were asked to separately give their name and address so

that potential sharers could be put in contact with each other. Only a small number of the total 120 respondents did. This low proportion is probably because car sharing implies giving up the perceived independence of using your own car. When this report is published it is hoped that publicity will enable more car sharing arrangements to be set up.

However, whilst the questionnaires were being processed the local organiser of 'Caring Community' that organises a local voluntary car scheme reported that volunteer numbers were falling and that demand for help was exceeding the supply of drivers. The names of questionnaire respondents prepared to help were passed on to the local organiser.

People were asked about their use of public transport. The charts below show the proportionate use of bus and train services.

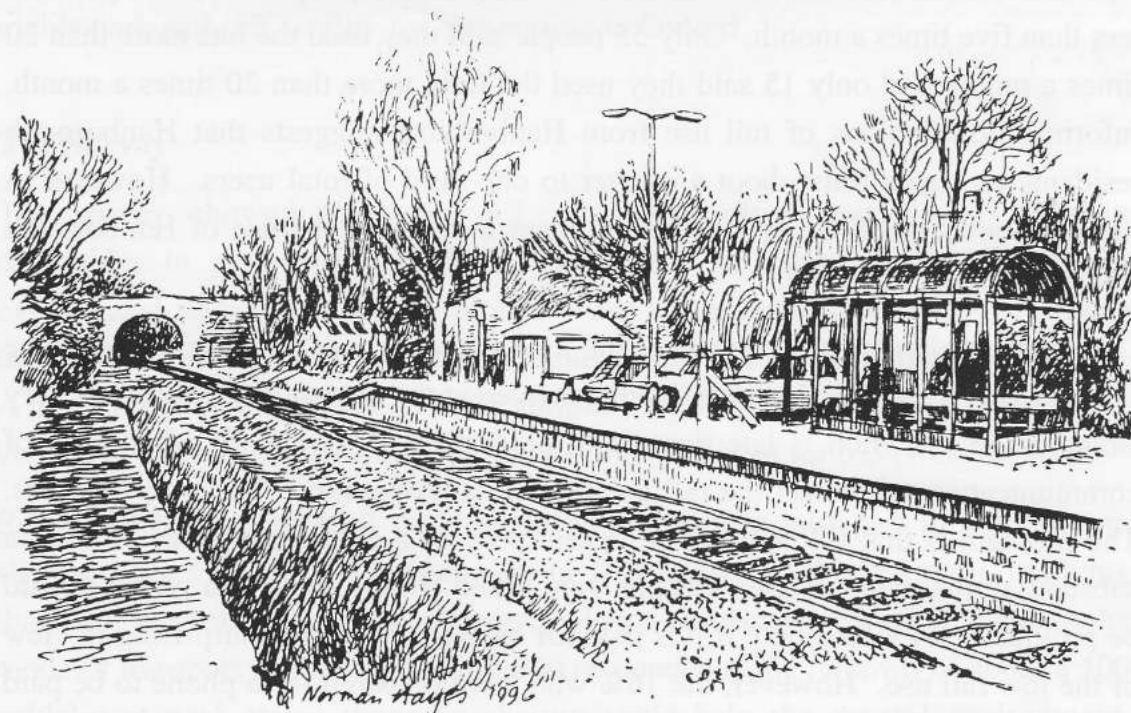


The large majority chunk of the above charts represents people who never use public transport. Of the minority users, the largest segments represent 503 people who use the bus less than five times a month and 305 people who use the train less than five times a month. Only 55 people said they used the bus more than 20 times a month and only 15 said they used the train more than 20 times a month. Informal observations of rail use from Hanborough suggests that Hanborough residents represent only about a quarter to one third of total users. However in the 18 months since the survey a significant increase in the use of Hanborough station has been observed.

One of the main deterrents to use of the train is the mile distance from the centre of Long Hanborough. However, having arrived at the station, the traveller is very isolated and if a train is late there is at present no telephone or other form of communication to contact the rail authorities, taxi operators, family or business. The problem is that BT will not at present provide a public payphone without a substantial guarantee of use. People were asked if they thought a phone should be provided - 84% said only if it is paid for by BT. This is not surprising in view of the low rail use. However, the 16% who were prepared for a phone to be paid for from Parish Council Tax represented 180 people. This suggests that more people might be persuaded to use the train if a phone could be installed.

The Future

National and local policies suggest that there will generally be pressures towards increased public transportation and a reduction in private vehicle use. In Hanborough the survey suggests that commuting to work forms the largest use of private cars. This is the very area that local policies are starting to try to discourage. For the majority of Hanborough's car commuters there is no viable public transport alternative and in the case of the buses, the present peak hour commuter service is filled to capacity. If a switch is to be made to public transport then more services will have to be provided. However, the bus operators are not prepared to provide additional peak hour services because this would mean unused vehicles at off peak times. The county council cannot afford to fund this use and when it was asked some years ago it refused on principle. The prospects for improving local public transport services do not therefore look good. As the majority of people use cars, it may be that more efficient use of local cars could be encouraged by forms of car sharing. Nevertheless, despite the small proportion prepared to consider car sharing, it may be possible to expand this more socially aware use of transport and make some contribution towards a more efficient use of road and energy resources. It should however be noted that travel to work patterns are very varied with reported home to work travel spreading throughout the county and beyond. Public Transport could never economically cater for all of the varying routes used by residents of Hanborough.



HANBOROUGH HERALD

The *Hanborough Herald* is the parish's own magazine. It is published monthly (except January) and aims to cover parish news, announcements and any material that is of relevance or of interest to all or some of the people of the parish. It was first published in the early 1980's and is delivered to all homes within walking distance in the parish. The few homes outside the delivery area can collect copies from the Post Office. All work on its preparation and distribution is undertaken by volunteers and the printing costs, less contributions from local organisations, are borne via the parish council from the parish council tax.

In view of this public expense the committee decided to try and found out how well it was read. To the question "Do you read the *Hanborough Herald*?", the answers were: "Every issue" 77% (or 1234 readers), "Every 2 to 3 issues", 19%, "Less frequently", 4% and "Never", 0% (in fact 4 which is too low to register as a whole percentage number). The overall response to this question was 1,593 out of a potential 1,809. Bearing in mind the total number of people who were eligible to answer (anyone aged 11 or over), this response was extremely high and shows that the *Hanborough Herald* has a very high readership in the parish. We also know that many of the spare copies (about 100 out of a print run of 1,100) are read by people from outside the parish. We also know from the many complimentary remarks made on the questionnaires that the *Hanborough Herald* is valued very highly by many people and seems to be one small item of public expenditure that meets with, generally, public approval.

The following question was also asked:

Do you think Hanborough Herald should include more items on:
(a list of typical editorial matter)?

The summarised answers were as follows:	Total	%
Events in Hanborough	551	53
Parish Council Activities	463	44
People of Hanborough	463	44
History of Hanborough	534	51
Hanborough Environmental Issues	476	46
Other Items (suggestions given)	37	4

The *Hanborough Herald* depends upon the support of a relatively small band of people. For it to be fresh and lively it needs a variety of contributors with differing styles. Many events are covered by people connected with the many

Hanborough organisations. A few people are also prepared to report on parish council activities (and only a few are needed for this coverage). This covers the first two types of article on the above list. There is, however, only occasional coverage of other types of article. The committee hopes that there will be volunteers amongst the parish who might be prepared to cover some of the other types of article suggested above, even if on an occasional basis only.

Bearing in mind the present small band of volunteers, people were asked if they would be prepared to help. 127 people said "Yes" and 1,260 said "No". When asked what areas of help could be given the answers were as follows:

	Total	%
Writing Articles	37	26
Editing	19	13
Art Work	12	9
Typing	23	16
Publicity	8	6
Distribution	82	58
Advertising	1	1

It seems therefore that there are more people prepared to help make the *Hanborough Herald* to continue and be an even bigger success than it is already!

Hanborough Parish Magazine July 1897

. . . We have now two Cricket Clubs in our village, an old-established one at Church Hanborough and a new one for the young men started within the last two months, by Mr Barratt, and called the "Christ Church Cricket Club"

. . . January saw the beginning of three good things - the Parish Library, the Band of Hope and the Parish Magazine

. . . In September (1896) the Queen's reign surpassed in length those of all her predecessors on the throne

. . . On June 22nd (1897) we celebrate the Queen's 'Diamond Jubilee'

Jubilee Day . . . At 11.30 there was a cricket match - 'Long' v. 'Church' Hanborough . . . which ended in a victory for the latter by 10 wickets . . . spectators, numbering nearly 500, were most enthusiastic. At 4 pm all adjourned for tea, in addition to which the adults were provided with cold beef and ham . . . all the children were presented with a Jubilee mug, buns and oranges

. . . (From Bethnal Green Mildmay Hospital) . . . an appeal to my friends in Hanborough. I know many of them have lavender growing in their gardens, and I want to ask them to spare some to distribute in the East End of London among the sick, in the hospitals . . . a little bag of 'sweet lavender' gives great delight to these sufferers

RELIGION

The questions were intended to be inclusive rather than exclusive and answering them was in any case a voluntary matter. One person wrote: "I dislike questions about my religion".

Which Religion?

1476 people responded to this question: 77% regarded themselves as Christian, while 12% called themselves Agnostic and 8% Atheist.



Which Christian Denomination?

958 people responded as follows: Anglican 58%, Methodist 28%, Roman Catholic 8% and Baptist 3%. The other denominations were 2% or less.

Why are Church Buildings Important?

1198 said why church buildings were important: 65% as an historic building, 64% for baptisms, weddings and funerals, 52% as a village asset and 36% for Sunday worship.

Reasons for Not Attending Church

849 gave their reasons for not attending church: 33% because it was irrelevant to their lives, 29% because of lack of time, 26% because of unbelief, 19% because the services were boring, 14% because the church was full of hypocrites. Other comments included: "Being a Christian does not demand attendance at church".

The Methodist Church

Long Hanborough Methodist Church dates from 1895, making 1995 a year of centenary celebrations. The minister lives in Long Hanborough but also has oversight of six other churches, mainly in the Evenlode valley. Sunday services are held at 10.30 am and 6 pm. In the



mornings, the Junior Church meets at the same time, offering graded activities for children of 3 years through to young people of 14 plus. The first Sunday morning in each month is a family service and the fourth Sunday evening is united with Christ Church, using alternate venues.

Many activities take place during the week. Youth clubs are run for 7-11 year olds on Mondays, and 11 upwards on Tuesdays. The Women's Fellowship meet on Thursday afternoons. Once a month on Friday mornings, coffee and tea is served so that villagers can 'come and meet each other', hence the name CAMEO. A House Fellowship is held once a fortnight and, in the summer months, the Chapel Walks are a popular Bank Holiday activity. Community activities on the premises include Table Tennis Club, Line Dancing, Village Voices and Brownies.

The Anglican Church

The Anglican parish of Hanborough is over 800 years old. The parish church is dedicated to St Peter and St Paul and was built in Norman times with later additions. In the last century, Christ Church was built at Long Hanborough to serve its growing population. It has been altered over the years, most notably with the addition of a kitchen and toilet facilities and in the removal of the pews to allow social events to take place.

The parish of Hanborough is joined with that of Freeland in a United Benefice and the pattern of services and events is spread across both villages. The church enjoys a good relationship with its Methodist friends.

The church maintains the historic Christian faith and gospel. It believes it to be true and very relevant to the world we live in today. In its services and other activities it is seeking to draw nearer to Christ, deepen its understanding of him and of what he has done for us and to serve him more faithfully. The Church would love you to join in this.



A wide variety of services are held, at 8 am, 9.45 am, 6 pm and 7.30 pm. Sunday School meets at 9.45 am in Christ Church. Service details are in the *Hanborough Herald*. There are several groups meeting mid-week, including Bible study, Fellowship and Coffee Mornings. The Lunch Club, run jointly with the Methodists, is held in Christ Church every two weeks. More information and a letter from the Rector are in a newsletter which has a monthly circulation of just over 200.

HANBOROUGH - LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ITS REPRESENTATION

Within the context of the Cotswold Euro-Constituency and the Witney Parliamentary Constituency (currently represented by Lord Plumb of Coleshill, MEP, and Douglas Hurd, MP, respectively), Hanborough is served by a fairly complex network of local government organisations. The multiplicity of organisations is often the factor that causes most confusion amongst people.

Oxfordshire County Council

At the highest level Hanborough is served by Oxfordshire County Council based at Oxford. Its services cover more than half a million population and is often seen as remote. It is currently attempting to become better connected with local communities by developing arrangements with parish councils. Its services are however used by everyone and form by far the major part of the Council Tax for Hanborough. They include education (primary and secondary schools and a variety of miscellaneous education functions), social services (homes for children, the elderly and people with learning difficulties, as well as a wide range of services in support of care in the community such as home care, day centres and grants to voluntary organisations) and libraries and museums. It also provides services of a more strategic nature such as the current planning function of revising the County Structure Plan up to the year 2011, highways and transportation (including road safety and subsidies for uncommercial but socially desirable bus services), trading standards and the fire service.

A number of other independent bodies, of which the Thames Valley Police Authority is the major name, provide services over an even wider area.

Hanborough is represented on the County Council, as part of a larger area including Bladon, Freeland and North Leigh, by Peg McWilliam.

West Oxfordshire District Council

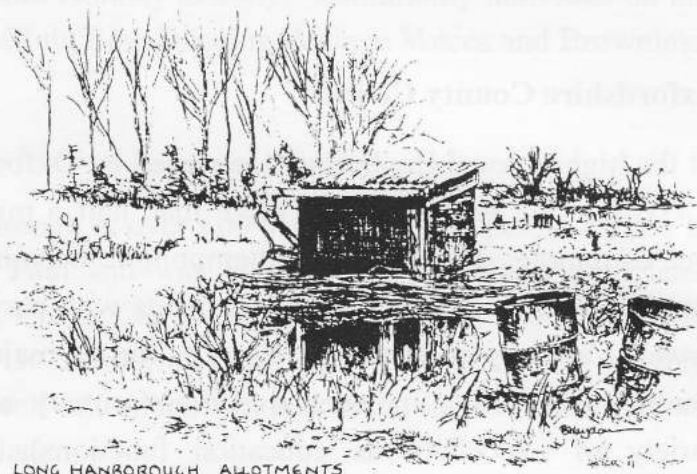
West Oxfordshire District Council is one of five district councils within Oxfordshire providing the middle level of local government services and is based at Witney. Your Council Tax is collected by the District Council, although the larger portion is then redistributed to the County Council and minor portions to the Parish Council and the Police Authority. Its services are of a more local nature, such as housing, planning, building control and environmental health

services (including refuse collection and the provision of bulk refuse skips through its contractor). It also provides leisure services such as swimming pools and a leisure centre at Witney.

Hanborough is represented on the District Council by two councillors (also representing neighbouring Freeland Parish), currently Dickie Dawes and Colin James.

Hanborough Parish Council

At the very local level Hanborough is served by its Parish Council. Its functions are relatively minor compared with the much larger County and District Councils, and include allotments, the cemetery and churchyards and various green spaces maintenance. Probably its



LONG HANBOROUGH ALLOTMENTS

major function is to act as a mouthpiece for local people. In particular, with its statutory right to be consulted on planning matters by the District Council, it performs a very valuable part of the local democratic process.

It is composed of twelve councillors who collectively form a wide local sounding board and first reference point for many local problems. For further details of your local councillors as at the date of this publication, see Appendix C to this report.

Hanborough Tree Planting Group

This is a committee of the Parish Council and was formed in 1978. The aim of the group is to improve the natural environment and soften the landscape by the annual planting of trees within the parish. Over the years many hundreds of trees have been planted by a small group of willing volunteers. Anyone wishing to become involved in future planting schemes should contact either John Lewis-Barned, chairman of the group, telephone 01993-881756, or John Judge, telephone 01993 882278.

Publicity of Parish Council Services

People were asked "How well does the parish council publicise its decisions and activities?" 1513 answered this questions with 4% saying good, 30% reasonable, 43% poor and 23% with no opinion. The Parish Council was advised of the trend of replies before all questionnaires had been analysed, early in 1995, and agreed with a proposal that a *Hanborough Herald* correspondent be invited to report on its monthly meetings, and this has now been implemented.

The Questionnaire

Police

People were asked how they regarded the coverage of Hanborough by the Police. Only 6% saw this as "good", but 37% saw it as "reasonable". However, a further 37% thought police cover was "poor" with the final 21% having no opinion.

Hanborough has had three Neighbourhood Watch schemes that were set up almost ten years ago. These cover Millwood End, Main Road and Church Hanborough. Only 29% said their homes were in a Neighbourhood Watch scheme and 47% said not, whilst 24% did not know either way. In the light of a significant proportion of people being dissatisfied with police coverage, would now be the time to consider an expansion of Neighbourhood Watch schemes to assist the limited police coverage?

Highways and Traffic

The questionnaire allowed people to make their own unprompted comments on any matter that concerned them. It is most noticeable that throughout the parish there is a strong expression of the need for traffic calming measures. In fact it is the single most important cause for comment by villagers whether they be in Church Hanborough or Long Hanborough. Amongst the many suggestions were the following - speed limits; weight restrictions; speed cameras; speed humps (or other speed control measures); pedestrian crossings near shops and church in Long Hanborough; footway/street lighting in Church Hanborough; footway in Church Hanborough; 50 mph speed limit on Lower Road (rat run!); advance warning in Lower Road of emerging traffic from Church Hanborough (from Bladon direction); more mini roundabouts at junctions; careless highway parking.

Dog Fouling

The second expressed concern was on dog fouling whether on the highway or recreation areas. There are in fact local byelaws prohibiting the fouling of footways and grass areas (where maintained). However, to be successful owners who are observed allowing their dogs to foul such areas need to be reported to West Oxfordshire District Council. Unfortunately in small communities, people are not usually prepared to 'shop' someone they may know. So what is the answer?

Views on Public Services

People were asked their opinions on a number of local public services. The responses (in percentage terms) are set out below:

	Good	Reasonable	Poor	No Opinion
Road Maintenance	13	55	26	6
Road Cleaning	17	59	17	7
Verge Maintenance	7	49	37	7
Refuse Collection	83	14	1	2
Street Lighting	58	29	9	4
Litter Bin Provision	24	32	36	8
Telephone Kiosk Reliability	7	19	11	62

People were asked if they would be prepared to pay a slightly higher parish council tax to meet some of the needs of the parish. 1458 people answered, with 37% saying yes, 39% saying no, and 24% expressing no opinion. However, a significant number of respondents added comments to the effect that their answer would really depend on how the extra tax revenue would be spent and a number made suggestions where they would like to see extra funding used. It is usually assumed that most people would like to see lower taxes but the questionnaire produced an even balance. It may be that, after several years of cuts in local government expenditure imposed by central government, people are beginning to realise the relationship between lower taxes and the often resultant lower standard of public services.

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IMPRESSIONS OF HANBOROUGH

We often hear differing views on what a particular place is like, some complimentary, others not. The committee therefore decided to ask people to give their views by selecting one, or more, descriptive phrases from a list that they thought best described their impression of Hanborough.

64% of respondents consider Hanborough to be a "good place", while 59% think it a "convenient place to live". About a third of us consider it a "tranquil place". Of the 11% who consider Hanborough to be a "boring place", by far the greater number fall into the 11 to 21 age range with rather more females than males of this opinion. Does this suggest that there is a lack of facilities for our younger folk?

9% consider Hanborough to be a "place changed beyond all recognition" and 7% think of it as a "place of leisure". 6% think of it as an "expensive place to live" and 5% find it to be a "lonely place"! The latter 5% consists of about 80 people. More than half were in the 22 to 59 age group. In other minority age groups, females were more numerous, but in the case of the over 60s this is probably just a reflection of female longevity. However, if 80 people feel lonely, does this say something about our sense of community? In view of the large number of organisations found by the survey to be active in Hanborough, could it mean that they are badly advertised?

Only 2% consider Hanborough to be a "working place" or a "place for a second home".

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HOW THE VILLAGE APPRAISAL QUESTIONNAIRE WAS CONDUCTED

Soon after the project was started it was decided that Hanborough was too big a parish to analyse the questionnaire results manually. It was therefore decided to purchase a custom computer software suite written by the Countryside and Community Research Unit of Gloucestershire Rural Community Council. Experience proved this to be the correct decision.

The software provided a suite of several hundred standard questions and questions that could be tailored to local needs. After numerous committee meetings, several drafts, and consultations with as many interested organisations as practical, a questionnaire was prepared that was, mostly, capable of analysis by computer. The computer prepared questions were 'closed' questions, i.e. questions where the respondent chooses one, or more, answers from a given range. It was, however, thought that in some instances these would not allow people to fully express their views. Therefore a small number of 'open' questions were included, where respondents could write exactly what they wished. The answers to these questions had to be analysed completely manually in the light of the actual response.

It was also decided at an early stage that simply distributing the questionnaires and asking people to return them would not produce the volume of responses that could be seen to be genuinely representative of people's views. Such methods often produce only a 20% to 30% response, but the committee was aiming to get an 80% response. To help achieve this target a programme of pre-delivery publicity through the *Hanborough Herald* was combined with a comprehensive collection procedure. The parish was therefore divided into areas each with a volunteer coordinator. Each area coordinator organised a team of local volunteer distributor/collectors, altogether about 70 people. The distributor called at each home and explained the purpose of the questionnaire and arranged a convenient collection time and date. This process maximised the response rate.

The questionnaires were distributed over July, August and September 1994, and collected up to November 1994. 774 questionnaires were returned out of just over a thousand homes in the parish, so the 80% target was largely achieved. 2,098 people were identified as living in the 774 homes, with 1,809 people eligible to answer the personal questions (people aged 11 or over). Not everyone

answered all the questions. Up to Christmas 1994 the committee was fully engaged analysing the 'open' answers. In January 1995 the task of processing the 774 questionnaires by computer started. This was dependent upon the small number of people living in the parish with personal computers and who had volunteered to help. About two-thirds was complete by midsummer and these partial results gave the committee a general view of the results that enabled preparation of the report to commence. The analysis was completed in September and, whilst quality control checks identified some particular processing errors that needed correction, the final results were not significantly different from the preliminary figures.

Much of the questionnaire results are incorporated in the report, partly as bold figures and charts, and partly as descriptive text. However, most readers will have little interest in the fine detail and therefore the full results are not within this publication. Anyone who wishes to see the full total results can be supplied with them. It should also be noted that, because the results are also held in computer format, they are capable of further analysis, so that any particular answer total can be analysed over a range of options. Any person or organisation wishing to do this should contact Andrew Wilkins on 01993-882036.

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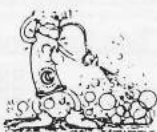
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Clubs and Organisations within the Parish of Hanborough

Name of Organisation followed by contact name and telephone number (Local 01993 STD code)

This information is as supplied to the Appraisal Committee at January 1996 but may not be complete.

Organisation	Contact Name	Tel. No.
Action Research for the Crippled Child - Local branch of national fund raising organisation	Ruth Spencer	882564
Aerobics at the Recreation Hall - Mondays & Wednesdays 6.30 - 8.30 pm	Jane Earnshaw	881050
Anglican Church Fellowship - Meets monthly	Edna Harris	881614
Beavers - A section of the Scout organisation	Sue Hooper	883065
Hanborough Bowls Club - Short Mat Bowls in Pavilion & Outdoor Bowls in summer on new green from mid-summer 96	S. Hutchins	881155
Brownies - Guiding for Younger Children	Hilda Oxtoby	881078
Care in the Community (Voluntary Transport Service) for people with transport difficulties	Edna Harris	881614
CAMEO (Come and Meet Each Other) - Coffee Morning Alternate Fridays in Methodist Hall	Cynthia Floyd	881907
Daffodil Nursery - Day Care Nursery School for 2 - 5 years. Meets 8 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday at Main Road (between Station and Hanborough Business Park)	Sue Gibson	883451
Hanborough Cricket Club - Fields two Saturday teams and one Sunday team plus mid-week & evening matches at Playing Fields	Dick Busby	883265
Hanborough and Freeland Cubs	Sue Simester	883083
Hanborough Day Care Centre - Meets each Wednesday at Recreation Hall - provides lunch and social activities for the elderly and respite for carers	Referral by local G.P	
Drop In Coffee Morning - Meets alternate Fridays at Christ Church	Edna Harris	881614
The Evergreens - (For the Over 60's age group) Meets fortnightly on Tuesday (2.00 - 4.00 pm) at Recreation Hall	Heather Hebborn	881016
The Fireside Group (Bible Fellowship) - Meets Wednesdays at 8.00 pm	Pat Whelan	779099
Hanborough Football Club - Fields three teams in Witney & District League - based at Hanborough Playing Fields	Alan Clarke	882252
Guides	Pauline Williams	
Keep Fit at the Recreation Hall - Thursdays 10.00 - 11.30 am	Mary Payne	881818
King's Forum - (14-18 Age Youth Group)	Rita King	881873
Hanborough Lunch Club - Meets two Wednesdays a month at Christ Church - Meet friends over lunch for lively conversation. Everybody welcome!	Kathleen Deffee or Edna Harris	881950 or 881614
Meals on Wheels - Volunteers distribute lunches to people in need	Les Cookson	881518

National Women's Register - (Discussion Group)	Ruth Spencer	882564
Long Hanborough Nursery School - for 3 - 5 age group - meets mornings during termtime at Playing Fields Pavilion	Jeanne Hall	882136
Long Hanborough Playgroup - Meets Monday - Friday. 9.15 - 11.45 at its own premises within Manor School	Jay MacBurnie	881952
Hanborough Playing Fields Association - Co-ordinating organisation for Playing Fields and Pavilion	Mary Davies (Sec.); Pavilion Bookings - Diane Clarke	881679 882252
Hanborough Welfare Trust - Distributes charitable funds to needy Hanborough residents	John Edwards	881060
Methodist After Eights House Fellowship - Meets fortnightly at members' homes	Wendy Maddison	881364
Methodist Young Church - Meets 10.30 am each Sunday. Classes for Beginners (3-4 yrs). Primary & Juniors (5-10 yrs). Lazer Group (11-13 yrs), Young People's Group (14 yrs+)	Just turn up on Sunday	
Mothers' Union	Margaret Stringer	882112
Rainbow Guides - The youngest section of Guiding	Annie Reynolds	882237
Rangers - Guiding for Seniors	Denise Parrott	881192
Singing Together for 0's to 5's - For carers and children - meets 2 - 3 pm Mondays at Methodist Church Hall	Alison Feast or Zoe Dobson	882897 841237
St. John Ambulance	Helen Rainsley 61 Marlborough Crescent	
St. John Ambulance Badgers (6 - 10 years olds)	Tina Juler	881527
St. John Ambulance Cadets (10 - 16 year olds)	Helen Rainsley 61 Marlborough Crescent	
Hanborough Community Association - Co-ordinating organisation for The Recreation Hall	Robin Stockton Hall Bookings - Sue Gough	882361 882682
Hanborough & Freeland Scout Group - Meets at the Recreation Hall, Fridays 7.00 - 9.45 pm	Mike Joiner	882369
Hanborough Sports - Co-ordinating organisation for users of the Multi-Sports Area at Playing Fields	Terry Glossop	881923
Hanborough Table Tennis Club - Meets Tuesday evenings at Recreation Hall and Wednesday evenings at Methodist Schoolroom	Robin Dawkins	882307
The Princess Royal Trust for Carers - Co-ordinates the needs of carers of people with difficulties. offering practical and emotional support together with advice and help	Stephen Braybrooke Tucker	882518
Hanborough Toddler Group	Alison Smith	883660
Hanborough and Freeland Venture Scouts - Senior Scouts	Gwylm Mason	882685
Hanborough Women's Institute - Meets second Thursday of each month at the Recreation Hall	Christine Rihan	881471
Women's Fellowship (Methodist Church) - Meets 2.30 pm each Thursday at the Methodist Hall from February to June and September to December	Cynthia Floyd	881907

Elected Representatives for the Parish of Hanborough

As at January 1996

Name, contact address and telephone number (Local 01993 STD Code unless stated otherwise)

Member for the European Union

Lord Plumb, DL, MEP
The Cotswold European Constituency Office, Montrose (01242)
House, Wellington Street, Cheltenham, Glos. GL50 1XY 522958

Member of Parliament

Rt. Hon. Douglas Hurd, CH, CBE, MP
Elmfield, New Yatt Road, Witney, *or* House of 702302
Commons, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA

Oxfordshire County Council

Peg McWilliam
3 Chapel Lane, North Leigh, Witney 881429

West Oxfordshire District Council

Dickie Dawes
The Kilns, Witney Road, Freeland, Witney 883770
Colin James
Pinsley Orchard, Main Road, Long Hanborough 881395

Hanborough Parish Council

Peter Brittin (Chairman) 7 Glyme Way, Long Hanborough 881980
Alan Clarke 28 Roosevelt Road, Long Hanborough 882252
John Edwards 6 Isis Close, Long Hanborough 881060
Penny Franklin 77 Main Road, Long Hanborough 882631
Jack Garner 59 Churchill Way, Long Hanborough 881631
Mike Gibbard 149 Main Road, Long Hanborough 881564
Sue Gibson 57 Abelwood Road, Long Hanborough 882132
David Greenway 1 Witney Road, Long Hanborough 883032
Jeanne Hall 36 Witney Road, Long Hanborough 882136
Arthur Keen 65 Marlborough Crescent, Long Hanborough 881478
John Lewis-Barned Rectory Farmhouse, Church Hanborough 881756
Eric Young 36 Hurdeswell, Long Hanborough 881648

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