

2017-2018 PROGRAMME

We offer a wide range of talks and visits for anyone interested in the past of Oxfordshire and the Vale of the White Horse. This year's varied selection is summarised below:

September 26th Jill Hind	<i>From Wells to Water Meters Oxfordshire's water supplies: from 1600 to today.</i>
October 24th Gary Lock	<i>Living with the White Horse: Ridgeway hillfort excavations</i>
November 28th John Leighfield	<i>Putting Hanney on the Map: from Gough to Google</i>
January 23rd Stephen Barker	<i>Oxford in the Civil War: a view from people in the Royalist capital</i>
February 27th Mike Greig	<i>A History of Garford: why is Hanney's closest neighbour so different?</i>
March 27th Deborah Hayter	<i>Lost villages of Oxfordshire: what causes thriving communities to disappear?</i>
April 24th Nick Hance	<i>Harwell's Nuclear Research site: from Europe's first reactor to its largest science park</i>
May- August	<i>3-4 2018 Summer visits being planned.</i>

JOHN HOLMES – HANNEY'S FIRST AERIAL VISITOR – OCTOBER 1916



Hanney History Group

**EVERY 4TH
TUESDAY OF
THE MONTH:
26 SEPT 2017-
24 APRIL 2018
8.00 P.M.**

**War
Memorial
Hall
East
Hanney
OX12 0JL**

**New members and
visitors are always
welcome**

**Costs: 7 evenings for a £12
member's subscription or £3
per talk for visitors [summer
visits at group cost price]**



***“Oxfordshire’s Water Supplies:
from Wells to Water Meters”***

Jill Hind

It is easy to forget that many Oxfordshire villages such as Hanney were not connected to mains water until after 1945. Jill traces the history of local water supply from the 16th Century to the formation of the current water companies. Advances in technology have allowed water to be treated to ever higher standards and transported over longer distances than seemed possible centuries ago. It’s no longer necessary for villages to draw water from wells, pumps and local streams. Changes in public health legislation have followed suit, moving responsibility from village communities & private landowners, via Oxon authorities to the present commercial organisations. A journey that has had a profound, if forgotten, impact on our lives... and it was achieved without a local reservoir!

**Hanney
History
Group**

**TUESDAY 26
SEPTEMBER
2017**

8.00 P.M.

**War
Memorial
Hall
East
Hanney**





“Living with the White Horse: excavations at Ridgeway hillforts”

Professor Gary Lock

The Uffington White Horse is an iconic landscape feature that we are all familiar with, but what do we know about the people who may have constructed and used it? This talk will address this through the detailed excavations of three nearby hillforts: Uffington Castle, Segsbury Camp and Alfred’s Castle. By comparing the evidence from these three sites we can build up a picture of the life of later prehistoric people and assess the importance of these enigmatic and spectacular monuments.

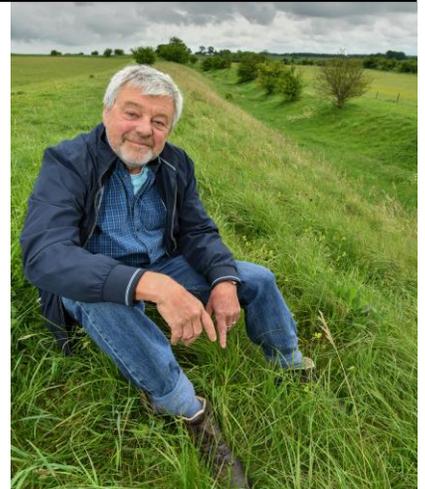
Gary Lock is Emeritus Professor of Archaeology at Oxford University and recently co-authored ‘The Atlas of Hill Forts of Britain and Ireland’, identifying some 4147 sites!

Hanne History Group

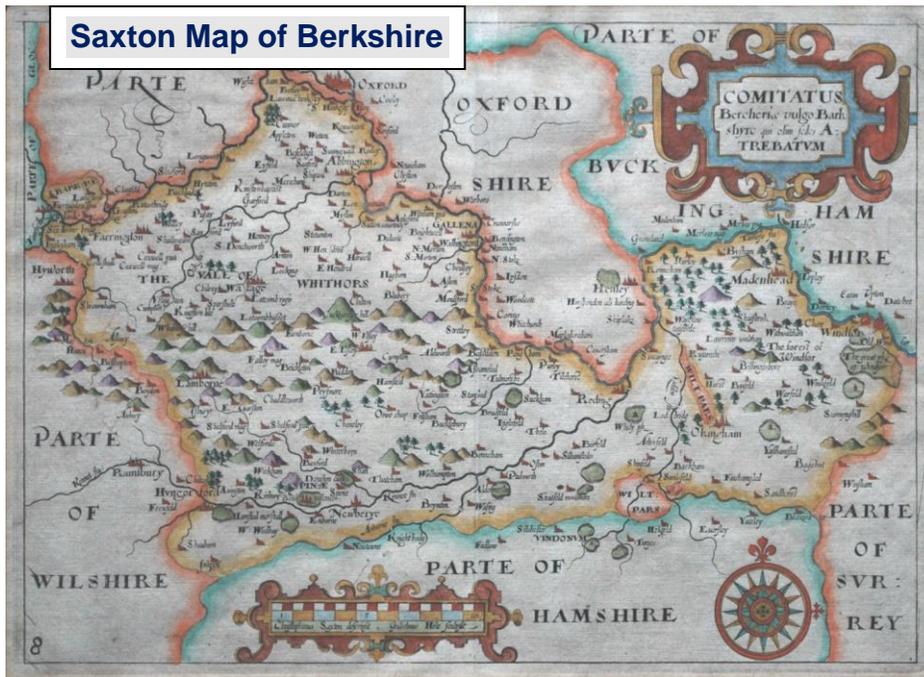
**TUESDAY 24
OCTOBER 2017
8.00 P.M.**

**War
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Hall
East
Hanne
OX12 0JL**

GARY LOCK AT SEGSBURY CAMP



Saxton Map of Berkshire

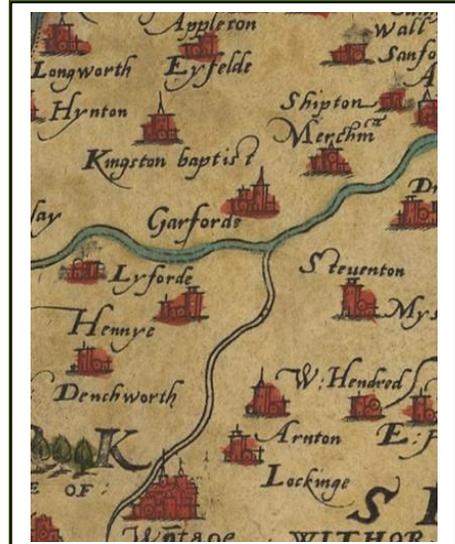


Putting Hanney on the Map -from Gough to Google

John Leighfield

John starts his journey with a brief look at early attempts at mapping, such as the 6th Century BC Babylonian "World Map". On the 1250 AD map by Matthew Paris, England and Wales are just about recognizable, with Hadrian's wall at the top. John's story really starts with the "Gough" map from 1360, where Farringdon, Abingdon and Oxford are clearly identified. By 1574 we can see "Wantage", "Hennye", "Lyforde" and "Kingston Baptist" in Christopher Saxton's map – over 400 years ago! Improvements in surveying and printing take us on, with ever greater detail of our part of Berkshire, to the Ordnance Survey in 1795 and the impact of Google in the 21st Century. John will bring many actual local historic maps to illustrate his talk further.

**Hanney
History
Group
TUESDAY 28
NOVEMBER 2017
8.00 p.m.
War
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East Hanney
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Visitors are
welcome**





View of Oxford's fortifications by Jan Wyck 1689 [detail]

Oxford in the Civil War 1642-46

***A view from the people in the
Royalist capital***

Stephen Barker

This talk looks at Oxford's role as the Royalist capital through the eyes of people who were present. It assesses the impact of the war on the city and its surrounding area and highlights what remains of the defences to this day. Stephen also reviews the tension between town & gown, the city's rapid population growth and the roles of significant besieged individuals in a unique period of the city's history.

Hanney History Group

TUESDAY 23

JANUARY 2018

8.00 p.m.

War

**Memorial
Hall**

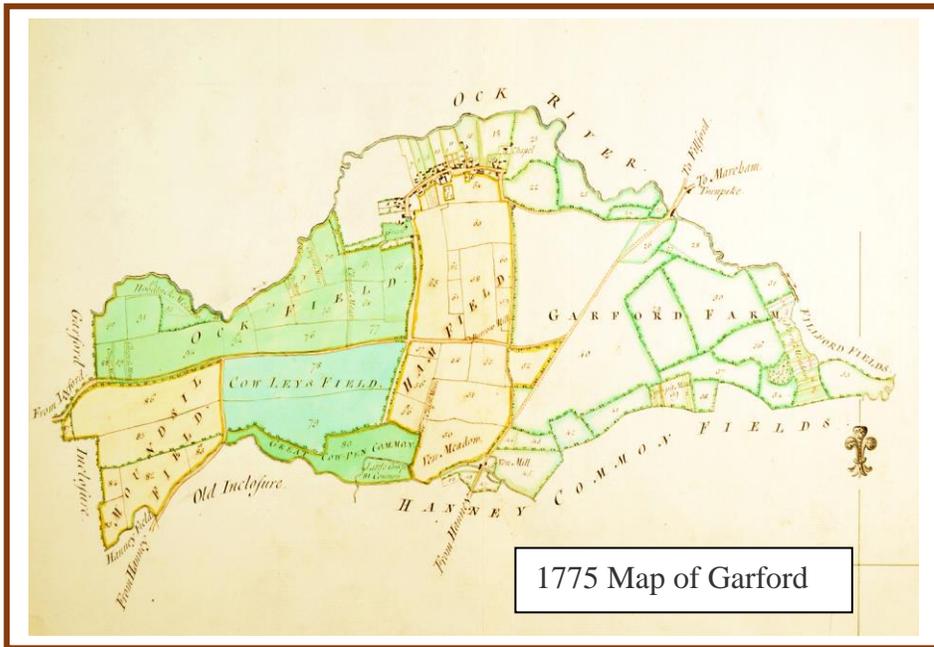
East Hanney

OX12 0JL

**Visitors are
welcome**



**Bust of Charles 1st in
Whitehall**



A History of Garford Why is Hanney's Closest Neighbour so different?

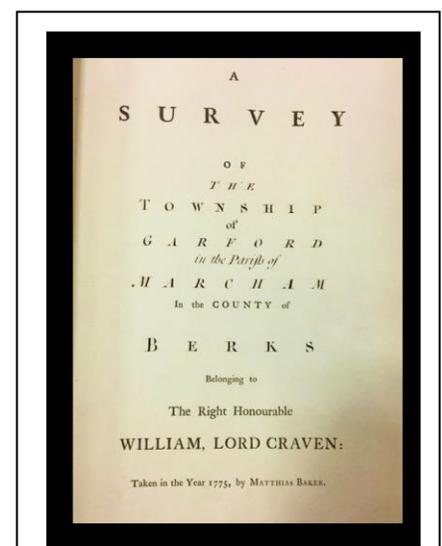
Mike Greig

Garford is Hanney's neighbour to the North and shares considerable elements of history. Both have Anglo-Saxon charters, are mentioned in the Domesday book, had Open Fields and then Enclosure. Unlike Hanney, Garford has not changed much in over 1,000 years and this makes it easier to see the historical features. Garford's smaller size also makes it easier to put together an almost complete record of its history. Mike lived in East Hanney for 6 years before escaping to the peace and quiet of Garford and so is well placed to compare and contrast the history of the 2 villages. Mike will illustrate his talk with a wide range of maps, photographs and original documents.

Hanney History Group

**TUESDAY 27
FEBRUARY 2018
8.00 p.m.**

**War
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Widford Church near Swinbrook, all alone in the middle of a field

The Lost Villages of Oxfordshire

Deborah Hayter

Everyone knows something about deserted medieval villages – locals will generally say it was the plague or because of sheep– but what really happened to them and why did they disappear? The Black Death caused the population to crash everywhere, but some places were vulnerable while others survived, some were deliberately destroyed and some just gradually dwindled away through the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. This talk will do its best to separate fact from folklore. Archaeology too is becoming increasingly useful in discovering the layouts of old settlements, such as Wretchwick, near Bicester, shown here in the small map. Only the earthworks and the name remain.

Hanney History Group

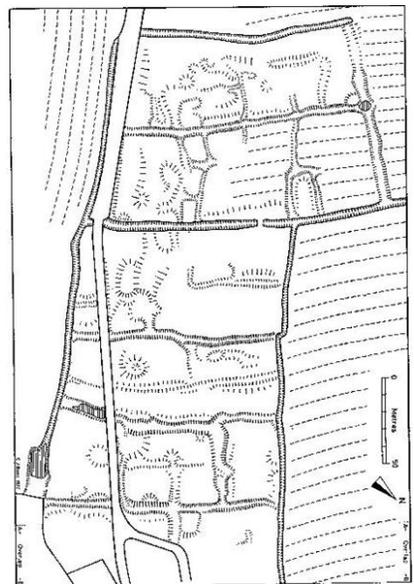
**TUESDAY 27
MARCH 2018
8.00 P.M.**

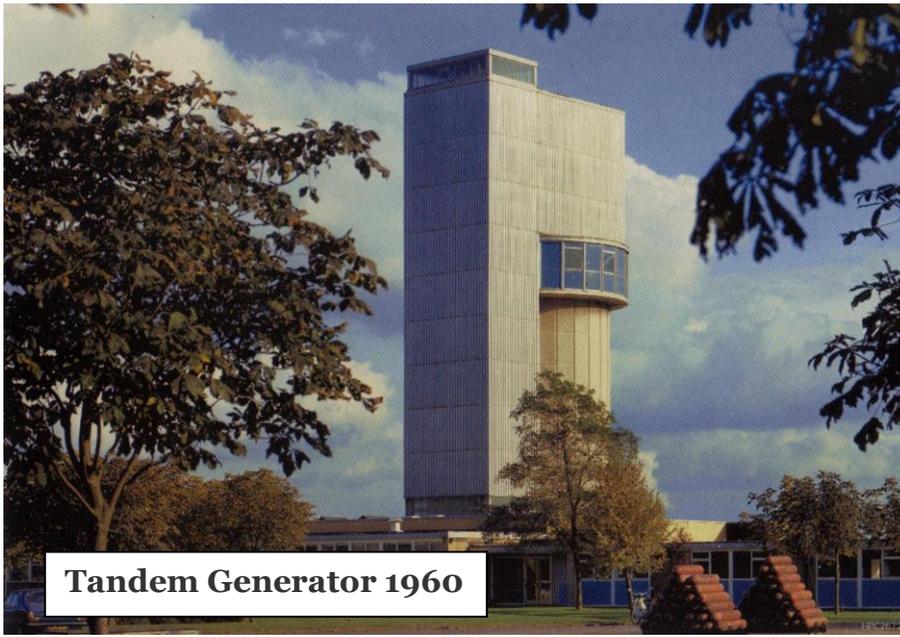
**War Memorial
Hall**

East Hanney

OX12 0JL

**VISITORS ARE
WELCOME**





Tandem Generator 1960

Harwell Nuclear Research Site – from Europe's First Reactor to its largest Science Park

Nick Hance MBE

The possibility of generating nuclear power had been recognised in the late 1930s, but it was not until late in World War II that the Ministry of Supply was charged with establishing a British atomic project. Use of an old RAF base was considered the quickest route and proximity to either Oxford or Cambridge Universities was also preferred. On 1st January 1946, Britain's secret nuclear research project commenced at Harwell. Nick Hance traces the story of the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, from building Europe's first nuclear reactor in an aircraft hangar to its transition into one of Britain's foremost industrial research centres in the 1980s – the biggest science park in Europe.

Hanne History Group

**TUESDAY 24
APRIL 2018
8.00 P.M.**

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Dido Reactor 1956