



Tuesday April 27th
Annual General Meeting
Starting at 8pm in the Olde Hanney Room of
the Hanney War Memorial Hall, East Hanney.

SUMMER VISITS

Tuesday May 25th
Guided Tour of Ewelme
Meet at 7.15pm by the King's Pool in the
middle of Ewelme Village. Our Guide will be
Norman Francis, who conducted the tour of
East Hendred last year. The tour will include
the village, church and almshouses.

Wednesday June 30th
**Guided tour of SS. Peter's and Paul's,
Wantage.**
Meet at 7.30 pm outside the church porch. The
tour by a parish guide will include an update on
the recent work, the history and architecture of
the church.

Tuesday July 27th
New College Archives
Meet at 7.30 pm in the Lodge outside New
College in Holywell. The College archivist,
Caroline Dalton, will show us the college,
which was granted a charter in 1379. We shall
see the college library and the archives, which
contain papers concerning West Hanney.

If you would like to go on any of these visits
please contact Derek Hockaday (868231)

SUMMER 1999

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting in April comes at
the end of another season for the Hanney
History Group.

As with all the societies in the village it is very
important that new committee members are
recruited, without them there is no Hanney
History Group. We are looking for new
members this April. If you would like to
contribute to the continued success of the
Group and take a more active role in its future
direction please contact one of the existing
committee or come along to the AGM.

Chairman: Paul Sayers
Secretary: Derek Hockaday
Treasurer: Tony Charles
Pauline Cakebread
Ann Fewins
Val Reason.

.....And finally much of the success of the
Group during the past few years is due to the
hard work of Paul Sayers who finishes a four
year stint as Chairman this April. Our thanks
to him for chairing the meetings, setting up the
equipment for the speakers, and generally
ensuring that everything goes along smoothly.

ANECDOTES FROM THE NEW COLLEGE ARCHIVES

In anticipation of our July outing to New
College Archive (see Summer Programme), I
thought readers might appreciate a sneak
preview from one or two of the vast quantity of
court rolls, maps, deeds, correspondence,
terriers, progress notes, accounts, surveys....
that make up New College's collection.

New College first acquired an interest in
Hanney in 1441, when Henry VI presented to

the College the Manor of Prior's Court which it retained until the 1950's. At this time there were two other manors in West Hanney, those of Ambrose Court and Seymours Court. There were therefore three Lords, but New College was the Chief Lord, and in fact continued holding manorial courts in the village until the 1870's. The Warden of the College, together with a senior Fellow and the Steward, visited all College properties twice a year on what were known as the Spring and Autumn Progresses. These were part ceremonial - in many villages the bellringers turned out to welcome the College party, though not in Hanney as the bell tower was in too poor a condition! - and part business trip to collect rents, inspect properties and hold courts. Village affairs, especially petty law and order and the regulation of communal agriculture, were conducted through the Lord of the Manor's Courts. Up until the seventeenth century Hanney had a court consisting of twelve jurors, four free men from each manor, presided over by the Chief Lord.

Anyone who has followed the twentieth century to-ing and fro-ing over village green boundaries may be amused to learn that this is a pastime which has been maintained for about 400 years! In 1613, the Manor Court instructed the jurors to "meet in the Whitsun week next & set meerestones [boundary stones] in all needful and fitt places in all the fieldes and between Ffylberds and the field and Neves Close... And in case the xii cannot agree, if it be upon a meerestone to be set between tennant and tennant they that so stand and the meerestone to be pitched and set where anie seaven of the twelve shall agree...". The problem persisted across the centuries, largely because the owners of the land, including New College and the other two Lords, were not resident in the village. In 1818 "Mr Eaton remarked, that the College lands are in some parts interspersed with those belonging to other estates & that the old boundaries have been destroyed..."

New College certainly didn't always have the upper hand with its courts: in 1796 Mr Dew of East Hanney "holds a Court Leet in West Hanney and claims the waste on which cottages have been erected by his leave. The Constable

is sometimes sworn in at Mr D's court...". In earlier times there are more sinister reminders of the type of law and order administered: during James I's reign "the jury present that they have no cucking stool or gallows - the inhabitants ordered to erect one and the other under penalty of 5£..." One wonders how many a village "witch" underwent the ducking ritual in the now-disappeared pond, and whether the gallows was actually erected on the meadow which today carries the name Gallows Ham. There are other village landmarks which it seems may be more recent than perhaps we suppose: as late as 1813 "Mr Holmes' attempt to raise money by subscription for a bridge over the Mill Stream has not succeeded". The Progress notes of 1824 record a proposition that the College should make "a donation of £10 towards defraying the expense of a bridge into the village of Hanney", so perhaps this does refer to the bridge at Dandridge's Mill.

There is an enormous volume of documents available at New College of which we have so far touched only a small proportion. Maybe some other History Group members will be enthused to join the quest after our visit in July. My own thanks must go to Caroline Dalton, the archivist, who has provided so much help in my meanderings over the last several months.

Pauline Cakebread.