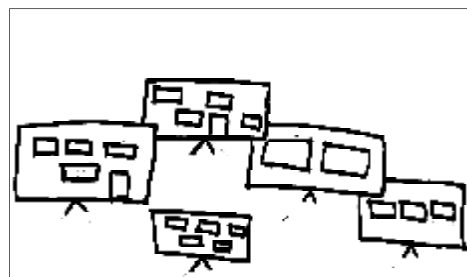
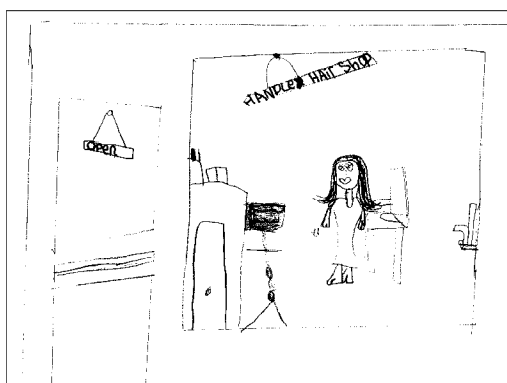
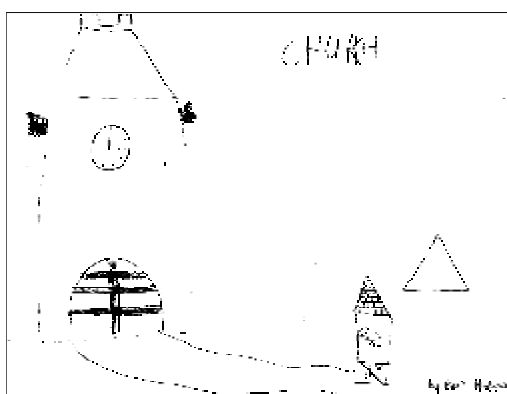


The Downsman

NEWS AND INFORMATION MAGAZINE



PARISH OF SIXPENNY HANDLEY WITH PENTRIDGE

February 2000

Including: Woodyates, Deanland and Minchington

Published by Sixpenny Handley Parish Council

Delivered by Sixpenny Handley Homewatch

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Parish Councillors

Sixpenny Handley

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	Miss E. Waller.....	552305
	Mr. P.G. Chick.....	552256
	Mr. S.Judd.....	552563
	Mr. A.H. Gibb.....	552704
	Mr. P.J. Kellock.....	552849

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	Mr. R. Warner.....	552665
	Mr. J. Porte.....	552677

Clerk

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Assistant Clerk

	Mr. Tony Henderson.....	552279
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	Fax	552405

District Councillor

	Mr. A. Humphries.....	517365
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	Ian Davies.....	552076
	Brian Hansford.....	552468

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	St. Rumbold's, Pentridge	
	St. Andrews, Gussage St.Andrew	
Vicar	Rev. Ron. Wood.....	552608
Roman Catholic	Church of Our Lady of Lourdes & St. Cecilia, Blandford Forum	
Priest	Fr. John Mordaunt.01258	452051

1st Woodcutts Scout Group

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Scout Leader	Bob Lewis.....	517465
Cub Leader	Esme Isaacs.....	517203

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	Drs. Pelly, Nodder & Morgan	
	Dean Lane Surgery.....	552500

Schools

First School	Handley First School.....	552356
Middle School	Cranborne Middle School	517348
Upper School	Queen Elizabeth's School Wimborne.....	01202 885233

Sixpenny Handley Village Hall

Chairman	Mr. S Judd.....	552563
Secretary	Vacancy	
Bookings	Mrs Michelle Daniels.....	552189

Sixpenny Handley Flower Show

Chairman	Brian Hansford.....	552468
Secretary		

For The Kidz

Chairman	Bronia Styles.....	552658
Secretary	Geraldine Vincent.....	552788

Overall Co-ordinator & Police Focal Point

John Curtis.....	552397
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Area 2 - Dean Land & North East	Barry Howes.....	552583
Area 3 - Handley Central	Charles Nodder.....	552292
Area 4 - West & South	George Tozer.....	552330

Other Areas (These are separate Homewatch Schemes)

Pentridge	Roy Elford.....	552296
Woodyates	Roy Warner.....	552665
Police	Blandford Station. 01258	452101

The Chase Nursery and "Chasers"

(Previously Sixpennies Pre-School)

Chairman	Julia Stokes.....	552314
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The Chase Nursery Link Group

(Previously Sixpennies Pre-School Link Group)

Contact	Hazel Killeen.....	552980
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Sixpenny Handley W.I. (Formed in 1922)

President	Mrs Margaret Staplehurst.	552795
Secretary	Mrs H. Eynon.....	552308

Sixpenny Handley Mother's Union

Leader	Pamela Wood.....	552608
Secretary	Jean Mayne.....	552692

Sixpenny Handley Bowls Club

Chairman	Tony Groves.....	552236
Secretary	Gill Martin.....	552297

Handley Sports Club

Chairman	Tony Dale.....	552540
Secretary	Brian Hansford.....	552468
Team Managers -Sat.	Mark Young.....	552741
-Sun	Stuart Haskell.....	552498

The Wednesday Club

Chairman	Pamela Wood.....	552608
Secretary	Vacancy	

Chase Community Friends

Chairman	Dr. Geddes.....	552395
Secretary	Sally Clarke.....	552674

Sixpenny Handley Lawn Tennis Club

Chairman	Michael Catchpole.....	552879
Secretary	Rosemary Dike.....01258	840136
Membership/Treasurer	John Carlisle.....	552271

Sixpenny Handley Cricket Club

Chairman	Simon Ellingham.....	552370
Secretary	Juli Spendley.....01202	822244

Sixpenny Handley Flower Arranging Club

Chairman	Eileen Miles.....	552768
Secretary	Dawn Ridout.....	552407

Happy Nappy Club

Chairperson	Penny Morrison.....	552024
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S.H.E.D.D.S.

Chairman	Godfrey Turner.....	552533
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Sixpenny Handley Homewatch

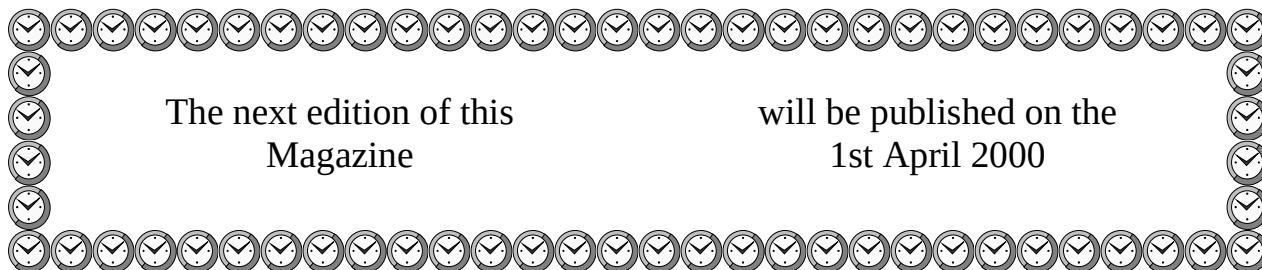
Welcome to the latest edition of The Downsman.

Terrific night at the Village Hall on New Years Eve. Well done to all the organisers.
We have a new series starting in this edition. Written by our local Military Historian Bill Chorley, it describes the impact of the Battle of Britain on our own area. Look out for mention of Charles Sims in the next edition.

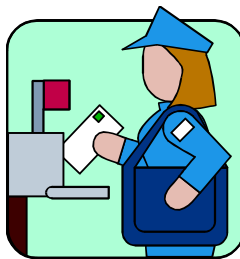
Continue to send your contributions to.....

Alan Vincent, 5 The Parsonage, Sixpenny Handley, SP5 5QJ

Telephone – 01725 552788, Office Hours - 01722 412202. E-mail: alan@num5.freemove.co.uk



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J.G. - The Man For All Reasons
Chris - The Quiet One

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Front Cover

Drawings by some of the members of the Youth Club.

The Church by Ben Holden
 Handley First School by Grace Morrison
 The Caravan Park by Emma & Chaz
 Handley Hair Shop by Philippa Sheen

Parish Council Meetings

Full Parish Council: 16th March,

Planning Committee: 3rd February, 2nd March

Finance and General Purposes Committee: 10th February, 9th March,

Football Fixtures – February 2000

Saturday League Div. 3 N&E

5th Feb. Handley v Mariana Sports
 H
 12th Feb. Handley v Stourpaine FC
 H

Sunday League Div 4.

6th Feb. Handley Sports v FC Thistle
 H
 13th Feb. Handley Sports v Sandford FC H



The CCF offer voluntary support to those who need it,
within the Cranborne Chase villages.

In the form of :-

- Transport to the Surgery, Dentist, etc, with an appropriate contribution from the user of 30p per mile, to cover petrol costs.
- Collection of prescriptions - local shopping for the house bound.
- Emergency garden care - child sitting - dog walking.
- We hold regular Social Day Centres, at Sixpenny Handley Village Hall.
- And weekly Coffee Mornings at the back bar of the Roebuck Inn, Sixpenny Handley.
Thursday mornings 10: 30am- 12 midday.

So come along and make new friends, or play cards.
For any information concerning Chase Community Friends,
Please contact CCF co-ordinator,
Margaret Pendrigh on 01725 552510.
New volunteers always most welcome.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on
Monday 28th February 2000 in the back room of the
Roebuck Inn, Sixpenny Handley.
Start at 7:30pm and enjoy a glass of wine afterwards.
All are welcome.

Christmas with a difference at Sixpenny Handley First School

There was a change of emphasis at school this year, moving away from the idea of receiving to the satisfaction of giving others, less fortunate, pleasure and enjoyment. Each family was encouraged to bring a gift in to school to be given to a needy child being cared for this Christmas by Barnardos. The response was overwhelming! Mrs Beesley from Barnardos came in to school to receive each gift and to thank the children individually for their kindness. Many of the children had given up their own pocket money to purchase the gifts so they were truly gifts from the heart. Mrs Beesley was quite sure they would bring a lot of enjoyment to many children who would otherwise have not experienced a very happy Christmas.

The traditional visit to the Village Hall by the children was much appreciated by the Wednesday Club who enjoyed the carols, old and new. It is a special occasion when the different generations of the village meet and enjoy a few minutes together.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to our school funds when the parent carol singers toured the village on Sunday evening, 12th December. We hope that their singing brought some festive spirit and seasonal good cheer to you all.

Everybody appreciates being given a gift at this time of year and all the children were so delighted to be presented with very special Millennium books by St Mary's Church. Each child received an inscribed gift from Mr Wood as a memento of this exceptional New Year

RICHARD T. ADLEM

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ADAMS

David, Ann and Suzanne would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind messages of sympathy, donations to the NSPCC and attending the funeral of Tracey. Your kind thoughts at this sad time have been much appreciated. Please accept this as a personal acknowledgement.

NOTES FROM RSPB GARSTON WOOD

Amazingly the millennium passed without any unwelcome bugs ruining the proceedings and in fact, the residents were really quite delighted to see anything remotely like a bug moving about, particularly as the wet and cold threatened to spoil the party!

Once again we must apologise to regulars for the paths being rather muddy, but this recent cold dry spell has improved things a little and we hope to put down some more stone to make a long-term improvement. Work in the woods continues apace with two coupes cut, more scalloping on the rides, while most of the new path through the plantation has had the trees felled but is it not yet cleared enough for public access. This will be a pleasant contrast to the rest of the wood when it is finished, providing a much more open aspect in the conifers and beech.

As you can imagine there is little to report on flora and fauna at this time of year but it is probably unusual to see violets flowering quite so early, not just in the wood but on a cultivated housing estate verge near my daughter's house in suburban Ferndown. We believe this is a good omen for the Pearl Bordered Fritillary that we hope will re-colonise the woods soon. For those who are out and about, there are a few Little Egrets in the area with sightings in the Gussages and at Bowerchalke. Winter migrants are all around if you look carefully, from flocks of finches to Merlin and various 'foreign' thrushes.

Some time ago we found a dead Tawny Owl in the wood and sent it away for a post-mortem. The results have just been returned to us and it was quite surprising to find that the bird was undernourished. This is very surprising given the large numbers of wood mice that seem to be about; however they may be sheltering from predation in Dormouse boxes, which is where we found so many of them last summer!

Winter is the time for planning and repair. We are working on a new leaflet for the woods together with a series of events to follow on from those run so successfully last year. These will include the usual Open Days with specials for other interests, especially Bats and Dormice. Before the summer we intend to mark footpaths for short, medium and long walks in the woods, to help casual visitors enjoy their experience of Garston Woods. With further viewing areas planned, providing seats and nest boxes in sight, we hope you will find the Reserve has much to offer. A happy new millennium to everyone.

David Tucker

ROEBUCK INN

Freehouse

22 High Street, Sixpenny Handley

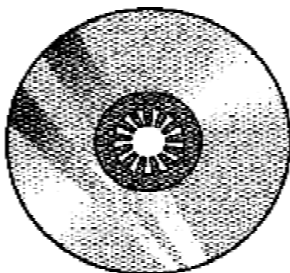
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Do you read **THE SUN**?
Do you read **THE TIMES**?
Do you buy **WALKERS CRISPS**?



If so, then please will you save the
Tokens for

FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS?

Last year, Handley First School joined the scheme and managed to get a really
worthwhile number of free, new books.

Will you help them do even better this year, please?

Tokens can be handed in to Styles, at the School, or at the Vicarage.

Please don't throw money away!

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU AT SIXPENNY HANDLEY SURGERY Tuesdays 9:30am – 12:00 noon Christine Pacey

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FOR YOU?

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- Family Breakdown
- Issues relating to being a Carer
- Issues related to Community Care



Domiciliary appointments available

WOODCUTTS REVISITED

The October issue of The Downsman published the article about the arrival and introduction of my wife and I to the wonderful countryside around Woodcutts, almost a year ago. Oh, what changes we have seen since then!

Firstly a human population explosion has occurred. The number of residents down the lane (which has no other name than "between gates", according to our resident historian, Mrs Win Kirby.), has increased by some 12.6%, in the last six months. This is of course contrary to the European trend where there is a slight fall in numbers being experienced.

In this case, this startling upturn is due to two new young families arriving, namely Harriet, Lucy and Hugo with their parents, Jane and David and Jessica and Hannah with their Mum and Dad, Mary and Scott. These children have caused the estimated average age of this little community to fall from 41.84 years to 30.56 years. Who says the countryside is dying! (To avoid embarrassment it must be emphasised that the ages of the adult population have been estimated.)

It is wonderful to see all these children plus their parents and the three already resident, Harry, Jack and Terry, pass the gate, either in pushchairs, on bicycles, running, walking or in Hugo's case driving his toy tractor. The ages of these children vary from one to eight and it is tremendous to see the delight and enjoyment these children get out of these forays into the countryside. With the ground beneath their feet, the sky above and in between all God's creations to mystify and amaze there is no need for computers here!

Perhaps we do only have eight out of a population of several million children in the U.K., but it is a start. We might be a small community but it's big enough to confuse a town dweller. How many delivery van drivers drive up the muddy lane, look out across the fields completely bewildered and utter those immortal words, "Hey mate, where do I find number one hundred and ten."

Enough of the people of Woodcutts and on to the second change or happening, "The War". In September 1999, men with guns, sticks, flags, whistles, four wheel-drive vehicles and tractors invaded. Some even brought dogs, although no white sticks were seen. It has been said, that the gunmen would have to be blind to miss their targets, since there are so many of them and they make little attempt to hide.

These of course are pheasants and partridges, seen black across the stubble immediately after harvest but now down to a thin grey line, as the population radically declines coming to the end of the shooting season.

So much for the fragile ecosystem of our countryside but as these colourful birds are lost, we do have compensations, for instance, the snowdrops, which have been in flower since two days before Christmas along the garden wall at the manor. (See Norah North's article in December's issue) So we have something to thank global warming for. Periwinkle, the common Daisy, Mahonia, Forsythia etc. etc. are all still flowering, and the leaves of the Lesser Celandine, Violet, Cuckoo Pint and Honeysuckle are very much in evidence.

Daffodils are showing five to six inches of leaf but not in flower as reported in the Echo of

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Sunday	11am to 1pm

the eighth of January, at Bournemouth. Perhaps now is the time to think about getting ground ready for planting early potatoes under fleece at the end of February. To dig potatoes before the blight gets them, or at least to be able to cut off the tops before the tubers are spoilt would be a great asset. Blight is one of the disadvantages of global warming.

Having seen some of the stubble, overwintering in this area, presumably sprayed with glyphosphate, looking absolutely dead, not a weed, not a blade of grass, no deer, no rabbits and very few birds, except for pheasants, who don't know any difference anyway, since their stomachs are filled with grain supplied by the keeper, it becomes more obvious that organic methods, should be considered as an option.

This comment coming from an ex-farm manager who in his working career was responsible for spending hundreds of thousands of pounds on fungicides, some for blight control, herbicides, insecticides, growth regulators, and antibiotics and other medications now not permitted.

At the time it was the thing to do, now it is almost certain that it wasn't, hindsight is a wonderful thing. Now of course, genetic engineering is upon us, what successes will this bring and at the expense of how many failures?

On this note it is best to end, but with just one final question, *Do we really want places like Woodcutts to cease to exist”?*

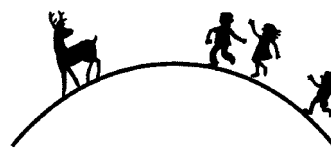
Ted Cox, Woodcutts

THE CHASE NURSERY **TREASURE HUNT PRIZE WINNERS**

£50 Cash won by D8 Paul Barnes.
2 dozen bottles of award winning Beer won by E22 Adlam.
Hamper won by C8 Richard Morris.
30 minute aircraft flight from Compton Abbas won by D15 Rachel.
Family ticket to Alice In Wonderland Family Park won by D3 Grace.
Family ticket for one days unlimited Bus Travel won by C11 Robin Hilliard.
Day out to Poole Pottery for 2 people won by J16 Chris Haskell.
Family ticket to Bovington Tank Museum won by J15 Rupert Nodder.
£5 Sainsbury's Voucher won by D6 Maggie.
Network Railcard for Southwest Trains won by G21 Cullen.
Free 10-pin bowling for 6 people at Megabowl won by C26 Bill Meaden.
Family ticket for Swanage Railway won by C3 Louise.
Family tickets to Stapehill Abbey won by N22 Ali Low & C14 Susie Nodder.
Child's Seasonal Membership to Crealy Park won by I19 Roger Bundy.
Complimentary ticket to Farmer Giles Working Farm won by K7 Cullen.
Family ticket to The Deep Sea Adventure won by I16 Ross & Sarah.
Family ticket to Farmer Palmer's Farm Park won by I20 Julian Lounds.
Car pass for Moors Valley Country Park won by E13 Mr & Mrs Smith.
£10 M&S gift voucher won by J1 Jason Coombes.
Family ticket to Abbotsbury Tithe Barn Children's Farm won by K6 Paul Mileham.
Family day pass to Butlins Resort in Minehead won by C11 Robin Hilliard.
2 complimentary tickets to Woodlands Leisure Park won by G9 Miss Moon.
Swatch Watch won by O3 Ted Meaden.
Box of Belgian Chocolates won by I8 Ade.
Bottle of wine won by I4 K Steele.
Large sack of potatoes won by Q1 Alison Goodfellow.
Small sack of potatoes won by M15 Andy Mullins.

The Treasure Hunt has been an enormous success and we have raised a total of £329.00. Thank you to everybody who supported this event, not only to those people who bought tickets but especially to those who gave up their time to go round selling tickets.

The Chase Nursery



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East Dorset Countryside Management Service

The Wardens of the East Dorset Countryside Management Service (EDCMS) manage Moors Valley Country Park and over twenty Local Nature Reserves in the East Dorset area. The EDCMS also manages two waymarked round walks, the Woodlands Walk, a 6.5 mile route starting in Verwood, and the Sixpenny Handley Walk, either 4 or 6 miles around Cranborne Chase AONB.

Moors Valley Country Park is a 1500-acre mosaic of forest, woodland, heathland, lakes and grassland dissected by the Moors River. The Park is run jointly by East Dorset District Council and the Forestry Commission.

Despite the large number of visitors the park supports a whole host of wildlife. Some rare plants and animals found include Marsh Gentians, Dartford Warblers, Sand Lizards and scarce Blue-tailed Damselflies.

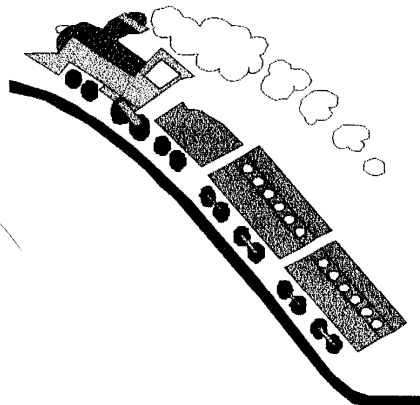
In addition to managing countryside sites, the EDCMS runs an Environmental Education programme for local schools and groups, available at Moors Valley and on other sites in East Dorset.

A wide range of events are run for families and children throughout the year, from wildlife and survival activities to cycling and guided walk events both at Moors Valley and in East Dorset.

Moors Valley is open every day except 25th December from 7.00am until dusk. There are no admission charges but parking charges apply. For a free copy of the events programme, roundwalks leaflets and information on how to become involved with the Countryside Action Group who carry out practical conservation work on Sundays throughout winter, please ring the Warden's office on (01425) 470721.

Bright Sparks

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YOUTH CLUB

At the end of December we had our Christmas Party - this was thoroughly enjoyed by all and everyone participated by bringing a plate of food. There were masses for everyone and several children took home large 'doggy bags' of the remains of the buffet. We had a grand tombola stall and wonderful chocolates for prizes. We also played some games and for the last hour a disco.

On the evening of Friday 14th January we travelled to Salisbury in a coach provided by Victory Tours (ably driven by driver Lee - who I doubt could concentrate with the amount of noise and excitement) to the pantomime. Our party numbered 86 and we had taken advantage of buying the tickets as a Group Scheme - giving us a big discount.

This year the pantomime was Aladdin and without exception everybody had a wonderful evening. We all joined in with the refrains and songs and from the youngest to the oldest everyone sang and shouted with gusto. We even had a mention from the stage that we were in the audience - this raised a mighty cheer.

The following week at Youth Club we made a montage of the trip, everyone looking out of the windows of a cardboard bus, as a thank you to Victory Tours and Lee.

We are enjoying steady numbers on a Thursday night - but if you are either over 8 or a Mum or Dad who has an hour to spare we would be pleased to see you.

Dorset at War

At approximately fifteen minutes past midnight during the night of 26-27 June 1940, German bombers, operating from airfields recently captured in Northern France, passed over the town of Shaftesbury, dropping a total of four high explosive (HE) bombs. The first bomb fell into the garden of a house in Grosvenor Road and in the ensuing explosion, two properties were quite badly damaged by blast and flying splinters. "Windyhaugh" (since renamed "Flying Clouds") suffered the worst damage with many roof tiles smashed, windows blown out and one room scarred by a fragment of shrapnel that penetrated the brick work. Fortunately, the occupants escaped injury, but it had been a most frightening experience.

In the next few seconds, as the bombers tracked southwards, explosions were heard from the direction of the watercress beds and in open fields until, finally, one HE plunged through a hayrick near Melbury Abbas but failed to detonate. Meticulous measurements were subsequently made of the points of impact and at the watercress beds the crater was found to be 22 feet in depth and 20 feet in diameter.

This brief report has been taken from the files of the Daily Report of Chief Constables, copies of which are now held in the Dorset Record Office at Dorchester. It is believed these were the first enemy bombs to fall over the county, but before the Battle of Britain (then in its embryo stages) was over, towns and villages in Dorset would suffer extensive damage and more than a few deaths.

Historically, the first phase of the Battle of Britain took place between 10 July and 7 August, during which time the Luftwaffe attempted to stamp its authority over the Channel thus denying the Allies safe passage for the navy and the merchant fleets and as a precursor for the invasion of our shores which threatened throughout the summer of 1940. This was the period when the Strait of Dover was subjected to almost continuous daily attack and no little attention was given to the sea areas around Portland. As recounted, the airfields in the Pas de Calais and around Le Havre provided the Luftwaffe with excellent facilities from which to mount a concentrated bombing offensive against shipping in the Channel, while every Fighter Command airfield in the south of England was less than an hour's flying time for the bombers and their fighter escorts. In respect of the air defences for Dorset, 609 Squadron equipped with spitfires were operating out of Warmwell, a key fighter station between Weymouth and Poole, while further inland 501 Squadron and 238 Squadron, both equipped with Hurricanes, were stationed at Middle Wallop.

Although the Daily Reports do not give a complete picture of what was taking place, nonetheless, a flavour of the increasingly desperate air fighting can be detected within the reports and with the help of other published papers, a reasonably accurate description of events is now possible.

On 11 July, two Me 110s from the 9th Staffel of Zerstoerergeschwader 76 (commonly described as 9/ZG 76) were brought down during a sharp attack on Portland harbour. One crashed on the Bill, killing both members of its crew, while the second (now known to have been 2N + EP) forced landed on Grange Heath between Wareham and Lulworth. Shaken, but otherwise unhurt, the pilot and his radio operator were soon captured by soldiers from a

nearby searchlight post and whose prompt action thwarted the crew from setting fire to their relatively undamaged machine. A few hours later both were taken under military guard to Blandford Police Station to await interrogation.

Forty-eight hours later, the Chief Constable reports indicate that an enemy aircraft, possibly a Dornier type, crashed into the sea off Chesil Beach after being hit by anti-aircraft fire. Moments before the bomber hit the sea, the crew jettisoned their bombs and these exploded close to an anti-aircraft battery, wounding one of the gunners. It is further reported that one survivor from the bomber was rescued, having sustained serious wounds to the chest and legs. Further investigation into this incident, which took place at around 3 o'clock in the afternoon, suggests that the Dornier, believed to have been from 2(F)/123, may have been shot down by a 238 Squadron Hurricane piloted by Flight Lieutenant J C Kennedy, an Australian from Sydney serving with the Royal Air Force. Tragically, however, while returning to base (it is likely Kennedy was operating from Warmwell at the time) the Hurricane (P2950 VK-) crashed while avoiding HT cables, coming down near Littlemoor Road at Southdown. The pilot's body was taken to Weymouth Mortuary before being interred at Warmwell (Holy Trinity) Churchyard.

While this action, reported above, was in progress, observers spotted a small boat in West Bay (the sea area west of the main road linking Weymouth to Portland Bill) and the naval authorities were alerted. Taken in tow, the craft was beached and its single male occupant detained. He turned out to be one Theoder Skorzikso of Hamburg and when interrogated stated he had escaped from Germany, in fear of his life, and having reached Brittany he had stolen a dinghy and commenced rowing in the direction of the south coast, a task that eventually took him four days and nights to accomplish. Not surprisingly, he was in a state of near exhaustion and, undoubtedly, the timely intervention of the navy saved his life.

As the first stage of the Battle of Britain drew to a close, and with the Luftwaffe thwarted in all its attempts to neutralise Fighter Command and thus gain air supremacy, the reports once again pick up on enemy air activity by night. On 26-27 July, raids were carried out in the Bristol area and it is likely that the seven HE bombs (one failed to explode) that fell near Holt (and reported by the Wimborne Police Division) probably came from bombers participating in these attacks. Three more bombs caused explosions in open countryside near Wimborne St. Giles, while between Wimborne and Parley Cross the villagers of Hampreston had a narrow escape when two bombs fell close to houses, but failed to detonate.

With the Royal Air Force desperately short of squadrons trained in the art of night defence, it was left to the hard pressed day fighter units to fill the gap until such squadrons were deemed proficient. Airborne radar was then in its infancy with very few sets available for the Blenheims and Beaufighters equipping the night-fighter squadrons. In many respects, the Spitfires and Hurricanes were totally unsuited for night flying, especially the former with its long engine cowling making night landings an extremely hazardous exercise for all but the most experienced of pilots. Thus, the pilot of a 609 Squadron Spitfire, tasked to try and find the bombers returning from attacks on Bristol, was indeed lucky to escape with his life when he forced landed K9815 PR in a field at East Farm near Piddleshinton, some 4 miles north of Dorchester. As his machine skidded to a halt, so a fierce fire developed and

though local fire appliances were called, the Spitfire was totally destroyed.

With little respite from the almost nightly attacks on the Midlands, Wales and the West, it is not surprising to find mention of many local villages in the daily reports. In the early hours of 8 August, Chettle was shaken when nine HEs fell in a line between the village and the main Blandford to Salisbury road. By light of day it was seen that the craters were about 100 yards apart and though there was ample evidence of eight of the bombs exploding, a bomb disposal team had to be called to make safe the missile lying in the second crater.

On 8 August, the opening day of what is regarded as the second phase of the Battle (8 to 23 August inclusive), the Luftwaffe mounted three sharp attacks on shipping in the Channel. In Volume 1 of Norman Franks compilation of Royal Air Force Fighter Command Losses of the Second World War (published by Midland Publishing Limited), a total of twelve Hurricanes and five Spitfires were lost to enemy action, fourteen of the pilots involved being killed in action. One of these aircraft features in the Chief Constables reports; 152 Squadron, equipped with Spitfires, had been operating from Warmwell since 12 July, and in the late afternoon of 8 August, the squadron was caught up in dog-fighting with Me 109s off Swanage. In the fierce exchanges, Pilot Officer W Beaumont's Spitfire was crippled and he was forced to make an emergency landing in a field near Spyway at Langton Matravers on the western outskirts of Swanage, a fire breaking out, destroying his aircraft.

A few minutes later, a second Spitfire from the squadron, piloted by Flight Sergeant D N Robinson, crash-landed at high speed into a field at Marsh Farm, Bestwell and ended up in a ditch. Robinson was treated for a badly wrenched knee, but Beaumont was unhurt and was soon back in action. Sadly, he was to lose his life before the Battle was brought to its successful conclusion, but on a happier note it seems that Robinson made a good recovery and survived the war.

Above I say "one of these aircraft", although, subsequently, the fate of two are described and this leads me to touch on one of the hundreds of oddities that confront historians reporting the Second World War. The Chief Constables papers fail to identify Pilot Officer Beaumont's aircraft while stating that Flight Sergeant Robinson's Spitfire was marked K9894 UM-N. In Franks compilation of Fighter Command's losses, Robinson is shown as flying R6811, which he (Franks) goes on to state was burnt out at Bestwell, but no mention is made whatsoever of Beaumont.

An examination of the Royal Air Force serial registers published by AirBritain (Historians) shows K9894 (identified in the Chief Constables reports as being flown by Robinson) being issued to 152 Squadron, but later passing into the hands of 57 Operational Training Unit before coming to grief on 3 July 1941, on high ground near Ruabon, 5 miles SSW of Wrexham, while R6811 is reported as crashed near Langton Matravers on 8 August 1940. Names of pilots are not recorded in these registers. Being aware that squadron records (held at the Public Record Office, Kew and which Franks would have examined) are not the most accurate of documents, I believe it likely that Pilot Officer Beaumont was flying R6811 and the location should have been reported as Langton Matravers and not Bestwell.

(To be continued)

Bill Chorley

From John Curtis - Chairman Parish Council

Dear Parishioners,

As we have passed into a new century, I thought it only right to say a few words to you all about our Parish.

We are very lucky to have so many things going on in our community; you only have to look in the front of the Downsman to see what I mean. When I have had friends and relatives here to visit nearly everyone comments on what a wonderful amount of activities we have going on. We can also boast of a Recreation facility second to none, which is the envy of many of the clubs who visit us to play Bowls, Tennis Cricket or Football. The four founder clubs of the newly formed Sports Association are all looking for more members. Participation is better than spectating and it will help to keep you fit and maybe away from the Doctor's surgery.

To complement the Recreation Facility in the Millennium year we are working with the District Council and the 'For the Kidz' organisation and others to provide new play areas of a very high quality for the up to 16 year olds.

We are lucky to have so many people who give of their time freely and willingly (unsung heroes and heroines), let us hope that we can sustain all of these things, it will only happen if we all make a concerted effort to support the many groups and clubs which we have. Above all we are very lucky to have our own village hall, but it is a struggle for the committee to keep things going and the hall in good repair. I would like to make a special plea that you all search your conscience when the hall asks for our support.

We have a very unique name for a village, a village for which we should be proud, as we enter a new century; let us all make a concerted effort to look after our home. We shall enter the best kept village competition again this year - one of the things that let us down is the amount of litter - we are judged in May or June - could I ask you to try and pick up any tins, paper etc that you when going to the shops etc.

Starting in April this year the Parish Council are going to carry out a survey of every house in the parish, asking for suggestions of what kind of facilities you would like to see in the future.

I would like to finish by thanking the 9 other members of the Parish Council for all their time and effort again give quite freely. It makes me really angry, when I hear people say that the Parish Council is a waste of time and that they never do anything. I wonder if those same people have ever bothered to find out what is being done on their behalf and the many hours put in for their locality.

Lastly may I thank Brian Hansford, the clerk, who only draws half of his wage entitlement (as he wants to help the people in the village) - here is a list of the bodies that he helps with -

Football Club, Sports Association, Village Hall Committee, Flower Show Committee, Allotment Association, Bowls Club, you name it Brian has been involved in some way or another. His first involvement was with the football club - I believe at the age of 15. I reckon that he deserves a medal - at the very least a big thank you from us all.

I would like to finish by welcoming Tony Henderson, our assistant clerk into our fold, may his stay be an enjoyable one.

Yours sincerely

John Curtis, Parish Council Chairman



Sixpenny Handley Homewatch

Warning: Distraction Thefts

There has been a spate of 'distraction thefts' throughout Dorset, the closest to us – so far – being in Wimborne and Blandford.

The Blandford incident was typical. Two males knocked on an elderly lady's door posing as council workers needing to inspect the drains. One encouraged the lady into the garden to locate the drain cover. Only after they had left did she find that the other must have dashed into the open house and stolen her handbag. The distraction 'story' is often different, but the danger remains the same. If unfamiliar people knock on your door, always check their identity. Genuine council workers will be able to identify themselves but if in doubt ask for a number that you can ring to check. Never let unknown people into your house and if you do go outside with them, for whatever reason, lock the house behind you.

January Carol Singers

Residents in Sheasby Close report an un-seasonal visit by 'carol singers' recently. Several village boys were out carol singing for their own ends before Christmas; some of us sent them on their way, others paid up. All in all they must have done well at it, because some have had the nerve to carry on since! Whatever your attitude to 'private' carol singing in December, carols for pocket money in January are clearly not on. The police ask that such visitors are sent packing, or that the doors of the more timid should remain firmly shut.

New Police Constable

Sixpenny Handley Homewatch would like to extend a warm welcome to WPC Fen Luckham, the new Detached Beat Officer at Blandford Police Station who has special responsibility for the village Homewatch schemes in North East Dorset.

WPC Luckham is a great believer in the crime prevention value of Homewatch and she has already visited most of the Handley Co-ordinators in their own homes (carefully identifying herself first!!), as well as working with our own Special Constable, Yogi Patel. Since she arrived, liaison with Dorset Police has definitely improved and we wish her well in her new role.

Handley Crime Awareness Day

Although we are lucky to have a low crime rate in the parish, it is still noticeable that many of the crimes we do suffer could have been prevented by greater public crime awareness. Your Homewatch Co-ordinators are therefore organising a Handley Crime Awareness day on Saturday 15 April. The Dorset Police Crime Awareness caravan will be parked in the High Street during peak shopping hours and representatives of the Police and the local Homewatch Scheme will be there to talk to you about making your property safer.

Replacement Signs

Replacements for broken or badly faded 'Homewatch Area' signs have been ordered and will be going up shortly. The more prominent and well-maintained these signs are, the less

likely criminals are to stop here. Please let us know if the signs near you get damaged, and if they have got muddy from road spray during the winter, why not give them a wipe with a rag. It all helps.



Ringmaster and Email Crime Notification Systems

We still have vacancies on the Ringmaster system for anyone who wants information direct from the Police about local crimes, suspect cars and so forth. Remember too that Charles Nodder is setting up an Email 'tree' to pass this information on to anyone in the Parish with access to email. If you are interested in either service, call Charles on (01725) 552292, or e-mail him at cnodder@msn.com.

HELP!

WEDNESDAY CLUB is in real need of more volunteers to help organise this afternoon meeting. It takes place every OTHER Wednesday, so is not a tremendous commitment; and the existing helpers are very willing to change around so that anyone who volunteered could do a task that suited them.

THE WEDNESDAY CLUB

Will you help? We really, really need you.
Please phone Tony Henderson 552279 or Pam Wood 552608.

Programme

February 9th

The Land of the Bible
Margaret Wickham

February 23rd

The Tee-Gees

March 8th

Musical Entertainment
Queen Elizabeth School

March 22nd

A Tale of Smuggling on the Isle of Wight.
G Chapman and E Stock

April 5th

Regrettable Quotations
David Milsted

April 19th

Women's Institute Choir

May 3rd

Sports Correspondent
David Briers

May 17th

Sandroyds School Choir

May 31st

New Zealand
J. de Pledge

June 14th

Country Ways
Norman Goodland

June 28th

Local History
John Day

Letters to the 'Editor'

apologies as well as our thanks.

Dear Editor,
Charity Cycle Ride, July 17th 1999
We have finally received all the monies promised in sponsorship for the many people who took part in the cycle ride.

The total raised was £1,540.24; a little down on our previous effort but still a very good result nevertheless!

The Salisbury Hospice Care Trust will receive £770.12, in memory of Harriet Madan-Mayers; the Motor Neurone Disease Association will also receive £770.12.

We would also like to express our thanks to all the many helpers on the checkpoints, also Caroline & Paul-late of the Star Inn, Jerry & Jim in the back-up vehicle and Paul Styles who supplied spares for any breakdowns. Not forgetting Tesco in Salisbury and Blandford, Sainsburys in Salisbury and Hall & Woodhouse for the refreshment provided for the riders en route. If we have forgotten anyone please accept our

So then, until the next time, keep in shape and any suggestions for a new (More difficult?) route would be welcome!

David and Stephanie Heath
Wimborne St. Giles

--000000--

Dear Editor,

On behalf of all the Millennium eve partygoers who attended the village hall Party on New Years Eve 99 I would like to thank Bronia Styles, Jean Cross, Hilary Muspratt, Robert Jesse and Pat Sheen and all the other hard workers for providing us all with a memorable and above all enjoyable evening it will certainly live for a long time in my memory. Once again our heartfelt thanks to all concerned.

Yours sincerely
John Curtis

--000000--

Dear Editor

Violin Lessons for beginners

Competitive rates
Flexible hours

CONTACT ANDREW CHORLEY 01725 552776

Re the Douglas Wynne Stuart Charity article in the December edition of the Downsman.

On reading the above article I was particularly interested, as the Rev Maxwell Staniforth's daughter is a long time friend of mine. Both his daughter, Mrs Ros Du Cane, and myself lived for many years in the Lymington area. Mrs Du Cane still lives there. Consequently I photocopied the article from The Downsman and sent it to Ros Du Cane. The answer came - she was interested in the article but her father died in 1985 - not more than 30 years ago! One of Ros Du Cane's grandchildren is named Maxwell after his grandfather.

Yours sincerely

Gill Carter

{My apologies to Mrs Du Cane for the error. Ed.}

Dear Editor,

In broad daylight on Sunday 12th December near a small copse of trees in Dean Lane, Sixpenny Handley, a Toyota Hilux pick-up was parked. The sound of a chainsaw could be heard. Then a man drove off in the pick-up.

On closer examination of the copse I found fresh sawdust which indicated trees had been cut down.

How many more trees has this man cut down in the village?

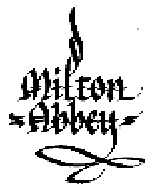
What gives him the right to cut down our heritage?

Where was the Homewatch when this incident was occurring?

Watch out, your trees could be next.

Yours,

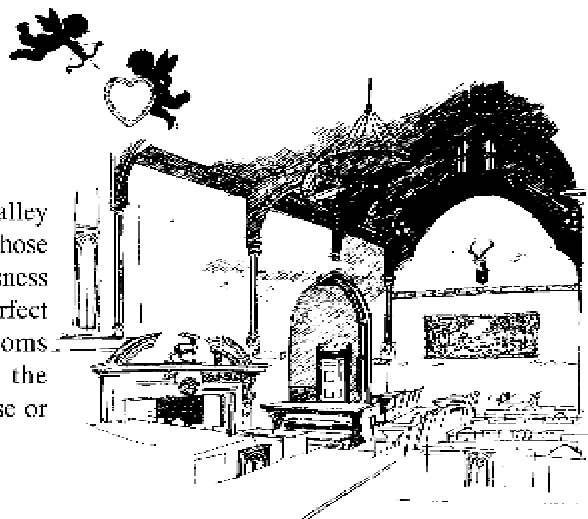
A Very Concerned resident of Sixpenny Handley

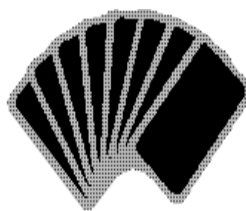


A new wedding venue!

Milton Abbey stands in a heart-shaped valley in the Dorset downs. It is an idyllic place whose beauty is enhanced by qualities of timelessness and otherworldliness which make it a perfect setting for your wedding. The State Rooms are licensed for civil marriages and the reception may be held either in the house or in a marquee in the grounds.

Please contact Rosemary Brinton
at Milton Abbey on 01258 880484
email:charles.cowling@miltonabbey.co.uk



WHIST AT THE VILLAGE HALL**BRIDGE AT THE ROEBUCK****7:00 FOR 7:30pm****COMMENCES: 8:00pm**

In an exciting finish to the first half of the competitive whist drive season, Brenda Walker of Child Okeford emerged the winner by a single point from Wilf Jacobs. Brenda returned a final round score of 170 to bring her overall total to 829 points, with Wilf tantalisingly close with a 168 and 828 points in total. Harvey Gocher, who scored consistently well throughout the six/five drives, posted a final round of 164 to bring him to 822 points, one ahead of Ken Bennett who had led the contest from round three. Unfortunately, Ken was not able to participate in the final round and thus his lowest score of 150 had to count in the best of five from the six rounds played.

Altogether, 32 players (an asterisk identifies those players who contested all six rounds) were eligible for consideration after the sixth round, the ten leading scorers being:

Four players returned overall totals of 800 and more; Marge Poolman (803), Elsie Rose (801), Jeremy Cole (800) and Nora Davis (800). As may be realised, no one bettered Mary

1.	Brenda Walker	170	160	154	175	170	=	829
2.	Wilf Jacobs	184	170	149	157	168	=	828
3.	Harvey Gocher*	169	168	161	160	164	=	822
4.	Ken Bennett	174	169	174	154	150	=	821
5.	Len Diggins*	152	162	161	175	170	=	820
6.	Sylvia Thorne*	155	168	164	170	159	=	816
7.	Marv Meaden*	192	160	139	159	160	=	810
8.	Christine Haskell*	160	164	167	158	161	=	810
9.	Daisy Nobles*	162	152	173	151	169	=	807
10.	Ron Hancock	164	154	170	171	144	=	803

Meaden's opening round score of 192, but two sub-140 scores in subsequent rounds reduced Mary's chances of a top three finish. Ten contestants played four rounds and Sylvia Marskell returned a most creditable 652 points, whilst heading the list of nine competitors who managed three rounds was Evelyn Angell with 482 points. Mary Penny, who posted 171 in round five scored 166 in the final round and, thus, for the second match in succession found herself among the prize winners. on average over the six rounds, eleven full tables have been in play.

Nineteen tables were in contention for the Christmas drive on 11 December and after 24 hands, Paul Sawyer of Weymouth emerged victorious with a score of 183 from Ken Bennett returning 177 and Vi Craft notching 176. The selection of prizes for both the whist and the two draws was truly excellent and there were many satisfied players when the evening eventually closed. In addition to the prizes purchased, generous gifts were forthcoming from many of the regular players and the organisers warmly thank all who gave, thereby ensuring the overall success of the last drive for 1999. Generous appreciation is also extended to Glynnis and Monica for their help in preparing tea and coffee throughout the first half of the season and to Trish who manned the kitchen for the Christmas drive.

Recent bridge rounds, at The Roebuck, have continued to see some highly competitive play with six spades bid and made occurring during the evening of 10 November. Bill Chorley (south) partnering Judy Judd (north) was able to make a 2 club opening (23 points plus) to which Judy returned a positive two spades and with ace and king of the suit held in the south hand, a small slam was in the offing. An extremely sharp distribution of the suits twixt Sally David (west) and Helen Goodwin (west) nearly tempted the opposition to make a sacrifice bid but caution prevailed and north was duly allowed to make the play. On the next deal, fortunes were reversed and Helen bid and made four spades, eventually finishing with six tricks.

At the first December meeting, no less than four small slams were bid, but only that of Helen Goodwin (south) and George Marskell (north) succeeded. From the strong opening bid by Helen of 2 diamonds, George was able to provide positive support with 2 hearts and it was this major suit that eventually prevailed. Their opponents, Anne Reed (east) and Robin Radclyffe (west) later attempted 6 diamonds, going off by a couple of tricks. On the second table, Christopher Haskell (south) partnering Doug Haskell (north) went one off in 6 no trumps to Bill Chorley (east) and Trish Chorley (west), while the latter pairing were defeated by three tricks in a similar contract, doubled for penalties, later in the evening.

Whist Drives:-

February 9th & 23rd

March 8th & 22nd

April 5th & 19th

Bridge sessions at the Roebuck are on alternate Wednesdays

Bill Chorley 01725 552776

In House Hair

50 High Street
Sixpenny Handley

Bridget welcomes existing and new clientele

Monday Closed

Thursday 9 - 5

Tuesday 9 - 5

Friday 9 - 6

Wednesday 9 - 6

Saturday 9 - 2

Always happy to see you

Appointments not always necessary

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Manicures, Pedicures & Eyebrows also available

S.H.E.D.D.S.**STREET FAYRE AND CARNIVAL**

Once again the annual Midsummer Street Fayre and Carnival was a success. This time I was able to give the 1st Woodcutts Scout Troop the sum of £275.69.

I would like to thank the two young ladies who entered the Carnival Queen/Princess contest, the result was

Carnival Queen Miss Julie Bennet

Carnival Princess Miss Emma Day

Well done girls, hope you enjoyed your day.

This year I would like to have at least two entries for each class or I may have to consider suspending the class or both of them. So come on girls it is fun, just ask Julie or Emma.

Congratulations go to all those who won the prizes in the carnival float, fancy dress, children's treasure hunt, children's road race, bar maids race, wheelbarrow race

contests. Thanks to all who entered. These competitions are open to all of you so why not enter and join in the fun.

A special thanks you to all the High Street businesses for agreeing to accept the Shedd's Gift Vouchers. I hope you will all do the same this year.

I would like to give a big thank you to all the following for their support and help in running the event: - Mrs Helen Rivers, Miss Louise Cutler, Mrs Gwen Jesse, Mrs Ivy Thorne, Mrs Doris Day, Mrs May Tricket, Mrs Rita Card, Mr Ian Davis. Mr John Clarke, Mr Gordon Clarke, Mr Richard Guppy, Tecplan Limited, C & N Ductwork Services, E & D Properties and all who donated prizes to the raffle and tombola stall. This year I shall have to change some of the events and venues, which take place prior to Carnival day because of the sad loss of the Star Inn, which was our main base of operations.

The Imps band was as usual extremely musical. Thanks to all of you and I hope you will be able to come again. I am also hoping to have a marching band to bring the carnival parade through the village in 2000.

The 5th Annual Midsummer Street Fayre and Carnival day will be held on Saturday 17th June 2000.

Lets see if we can get that 1000 prize tombola stall this time, we reached 276 prizes in 1999.

BINGO

It was with regret that I had to suspend the Shedd's Bingo and Social Club but as we all know we lost the venue. There will be a Carnival Bingo in 2000 - watch out for the date and venue.

Godfrey J Turner
Chairman SHEDDS

Chris Wadge Clocks

Partners: C.J.Wadge P.J.Wadge

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Sixpenny Handley And Chalke Valley Practice

Dr Fiona Ellis-Jones MB BS Lond

We are delighted to confirm that Dr Fiona Ellis-Jones, our GP Registrar, will be extending her time with the practice until the end of July 2000.

Surgery Gardening

We would like to take this opportunity to thank both Mr Bill Laity and Mr Les Perrett for their work in looking after the surgery flowerbeds. Their hard work is very greatly appreciated by both practice staff and patients.

Carers

Are you a Carer? A Carer is someone who regularly helps a disabled, ill or frail relative, friend or neighbour. A Carer may be of any age and may take on the caring role suddenly, or over a period of time.

In February 1999 the Government published the "National Carers Strategy" which aims to provide information, support and care for Carers. The importance of Primary Healthcare Teams is mentioned in the National Strategy and requires each GP Practice to have identified all patients registered with them who are also Carers by April 2000.

So, if you are a Carer we would like to know so that we can offer you information and support. You can let us know by mentioning it to any member of the practice team.

If you are caring for somebody who lives in Dorset, the local charity "Help and Care" can provide you with free information and support and can be contacted on 01202 434455.

Celia Stone, Manager

Patient Information Group

The Patient Information Group exists to represent your views. Please do not hesitate to make contact if there is an issue you would like to raise.

Col Gordon Beard, Tollard Royal 01725 516296	Miss Bridget Sheppard, Bishopstone 01722 780640
Miss Joan Bissett, Bowerchalke 01722 780205	Mrs Mary White, Broadchalke 01722 780024
Mrs Christine Foley, Tarrant Hinton 01258 830433	Mr James Hepburn, Farnham 01725 516444
Mrs Patsy Geddes, Gussage St Michael 01725 552395	Mrs Sue Fry, Broadchalke 01722 780093
Mrs June Head, Chettle 01258 830206	Mr Ian Fowler, Broadchalke 01722 780519
Mr Lionel Hunt, Gussage All Saints 01258 840468	Mrs Sue Shepperd, Sixpenny Handley 01725 552784

Lent Book Review

At whatever stage you are on your spiritual pilgrimage "The Return Of The Prodigal Son" by Henri Nouwen may help you.

A chance encounter with a reproduction of Rembrandt's "The Return of the Prodigal Son" catapulted Henri Nouwen on a long spiritual adventure.

Here he shares the deeply personal and resonant meditation that led him to discover the place with which God has chosen to dwell. The challenge to love as the Father and be loved as the Son will be seen as the ultimate revelation of the parable known to Christians throughout time, and here represented with a vigour and power fresh for our times.

The unconditional love of God for us gives peace of mind, joy and happiness that nothing else in this world can match.

Books are for sale at the Church (Open all day, just put money in the box), published by Q.L.T £8.95

Terry Richards, St Mary's Church



News and Information

NATIONAL
FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S
INSTITUTES

Report for December 1999 and January 2000.

Our December meeting; the last one of the 20th century was well attended and members enjoyed a most interesting and informative talk by Mrs Erbetta, who had brought her wonderful collection of sewing aids - past and present, all designed to make sewing and mending much easier.

Mrs Maggie Staplehurst is our new President and we wish her well in the future.

A gift of teaspoons has been received from our New Zealand link at Tatarariki.

The general business of the meeting was discussed; it included the plans for our Millennium celebration dinner to be held in January.

The competition was for the 'Best Wrapped Gift', everyone competed - all gifts went into a 'Lucky Dip' so that each member received one.

The meeting ended with a Cheese and Wine Supper enjoyed by everyone.

The new Millennium started with our January meeting in a beautifully decorated hall with very attractively laid tables.

Business was brief after which 42 members and guests, who included Mrs Diana Perry, the County Chairman, Mrs Heather Husey, our VCO and Presidents from other W.I's in the Beacon Group and our members and husbands, sat down to a most enjoyable meal prepared and cooked by Mrs Barbara Osment and helpers, and afterwards entertained by Mrs Anne Humphries attired in costume of the period, who presented 'An Evening with King Harry', when she demonstrated a collection of very old wind and other instruments and songs, ending with a mediaeval dance in which some members took part.

This very enjoyable and memorable evening concluded with general thanks to all concerned.

Date for our diaries' is the Annual Jumble Sale - Saturday February 26th 2000 in the Village Hall.

Winifred Judd



**Problems with roads and pavements, street lighting or
blocked road drains?**

Call Freephone - CLARENCE

The Happy Nappy Club



The Happy Nappy Club
meets at the Village Hall
on Monday mornings
between 10 and 11:30am
(during school term)

We will really welcome you and your children. We'd love you to come and visit us to meet for a friendly chat while your children play. You're welcome to bring along any friends or relations with you! This club is run to give mothers, carers and kids a chance to meet, so come and see for yourself.

We have tons of toys here and plenty of room to play. There are slides, climbing frame, bikes, trikes, sit-n-rides, play tent, tunnels, books, puzzles, painting, playdough, play kitchen, dressing up clothes, and even a parachute! There is also an opportunity to join in with action rhymes at the end of the morning.



Everyone is welcome - from babies and toddlers to children up to school age, with their mums, dads, nannies and minders! £1.40 per morning, refreshments inclusive.

If you have any queries phone Penny on
01725 552024

K2000

NO, not the Millennium but a group of six students from Queen Elizabeth's school in Wimborne including myself, **Daniel Butler** from the High Street, and **Lee Gill** of Dean End.

The team is rapidly approaching the departure date of our expedition to Kyrgyzstan in July of 2000 -hence the "K2000". "Kyrgyzstan?" I hear you cry. What and where is that!

- Well I'll tell you.

It is a fairly small country in Central Asia surrounded by China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajik. It is one of the newly created independent countries following the collapse of the former USSR. It is a country of extremes; lush valleys, rolling hills, flat plains and a skyline dominated by mountains, with the temperature during an average year ranging from -10C (14 F) in January to 30 C (86 F) in July.

It is here that we will be spending a month, trekking, exploring, doing a bit of community service, and with a bit of luck reaching the top of one or two of these mountains and possibly naming them.

Unfortunately we have to get there first and this costs each member of the team £2500, plus any individual kit and equipment and *vaccinations*. As part of the Challenge this has to be raised by our own efforts -individually or as a group. We have held several fund raising events including a hugely successful Fashion Show in Wimborne with another (spring collection) coming early in March, which is not to be missed. There will also be a coffee morning bonanza with cakes and crafts coming soon.

Keep your eyes open for forth-coming events and we hope to see you there. Watch this space!

Enquiries to Daniel Butler 01725 552711

Anne Reed, B.A., M.C.S.P., S.R.P.

Chartered and State Registered Physiotherapist

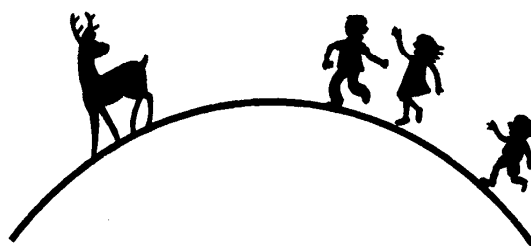
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Telephone: 01725 552518

The Chase Nursery

Where your child comes first

(formerly Sixpennies Pre-School)



*New Name
New Ideas
New Times*

*The way forward for your
children*

Held in Sixpenny Handley Village Hall

*Tuesday and Wednesday mornings: 9:30am – 12:00 noon
+ an extra optional hour for lunch: 12:00 noon – 1:00pm*

Where qualified and experienced staff provide high quality pre-school education at a reasonable cost in a secure and happy environment. Where children can have fun, fulfil their potential, develop a love for learning and go on to school well prepared and confident.

... “Chasers” ...

*A parent and child session for children aged 2 years +
Thursday mornings: 9:30am – 12:00 noon*

*A structured session, incorporating a **gym session** with our qualified pre-school gym and trampoline instructor.*

*Telephone Julia Stokes (our Chairman) for further information
01725 552314*

St Mary's Church

"I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the
unknown'.

And he replied:

'Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the
hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and
safer than a known way'."

Louise Haskins



As you will already know, the Parochial Church Council decided that, as part of the Millennium Celebrations, they would give a GOSPEL to every household in the village. This gift was made financially possible by a donation made by a member of the congregation.

The P.C.C. hope that you agree with them that the most appropriate way for the Christian Church to mark 2000 years of Christianity was to do their bit to spread the Good News of Christ!

Ron Wood



OLD CHRISTMAS CARDS

If you would like to give your used Christmas cards, then these will be turned into new, recycled cards for sale in aid of the three churches -St Rumbold's, St Andrew's and St. Mary's. Cards can be dropped off in St. Mary's Church or at the Vicarage. All will be gratefully received.

Thank you



CHORAL EVENSONG

On Sunday, 13th February 2000 at 6:00pm,
at St Mary's Church, Sixpenny Handley,

the **CHOIR OF SANDROYDS SCHOOL**
will sing Evensong.

ALL ARE WARMLY INVITED

February & March 2000

ST MARY'S	ST ANDREW'S	ST RUMBOLD'S
-----------	-------------	--------------

February 6th Fifth Sunday before Lent

9:30 Family Worship 6:00 Holy Communion	11:15 Morning Prayer & Holy Communion
--	--

February 13th Fourth Sunday before Lent

10:30 Morning Prayer 6:00 Sung Evensong with Sandroyd Choir	9:30 Holy Communion
--	---------------------

February 20th Third Sunday before Lent

9:30 Holy Communion 6:00 Evensong	11:15 Morning Prayer
--------------------------------------	----------------------

February 27th Second Sunday before

9:30 Holy Communion	11:15 Holy Communion
---------------------	----------------------

March 5th Sunday before Lent

9:30 Family Worship 6:00 Holy Communion	11:15 Morning Prayer & Holy Communion
--	--

March 8th Ash Wednesday

7:30pm Holy Communion

March 12th First Sunday in Lent

9:30 Holy Communion	11:15 Holy Communion
---------------------	----------------------

March 19th Second Sunday in Lent

9:30 Holy Communion 6:00 Evensong	11:15 Morning Prayer
--------------------------------------	----------------------

March 26th Third Sunday in Lent

9:30 Holy Communion	11:15 Holy Communion
---------------------	----------------------

April 2nd Mothering Sunday

9:30 Family Service 6:00 Holy Communion	11:15 Morning Prayer & Holy Communion
--	--

**Easter Sunday this year is April 23rd - about as late as it can be.
Look out for details of Good Friday and Easter services in the next
issue of *The Downsman* and *The Seeker*.**

The Inn On The Chase

If you're in the mood
for some damn good food
The Inn on The Chase
must be the place
Come and see the piggies bar
while you're there have a jar

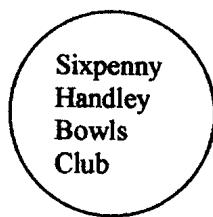
For the finest food in Cranborne Chase
The Lantern restaurant is the place
Sandwiches, Bar Snacks, we have the lot
bring the kids, they won't be shot

With 3 real ales and lager too
have we got a choice for you

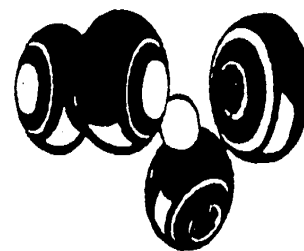
All those families with children too
Don't you worry we'll cater for you
With darts, pool table, juke box too
This really must be the place for you

Oh beg my pardon
I forgot the Beer garden!

Telephone: 01725 552230



Sixpenny Handley Bowls Club



Our Christmas Quiz has come and gone and every time I think they cannot get any better I am proved wrong again. I want to thank everyone who came along and supported us and all the club members who worked so hard. What a grand evening! The next one is booked for 1st April so get your bookings in quickly.

Our Short Mat league players are still being very successful. They have played 8 matches now and won all of them. We beat Pimperne by one shot on 24th November and ended up with four of the six points available (the two points dropped are the only ones at the moment).

On 8th January we held our annual dinner at the Crane Valley Golf Club when we presented the trophies won on the outdoor green during the summer. It was a very enjoyable evening.

Last Sunday we played for our indoor singles trophy and this was won by Gordon Martin and runner up was Ivor Hunt. We are playing the pairs one off on Sunday 13th February. We start at 10.00 am and make it an all day event just stopping for lunch. Spectators are always welcome on any Sunday afternoon from 2.30 pm.

We are still anxious to find new members. It isn't a difficult game to learn and with being on TV at the moment it must look tempting. If you get hooked, you might even end up with some of the new coloured woods that they are showing!

Some of our players are still using the outdoor green and were even up there on New Years Eve and New Years Day (none on Christmas Day though).

The Annual General Meeting this year is going to be held on Monday 21st February at 7.30 pm in the Pavillion.

Gill Martin

Sixpenny Handley Stores & Post Office

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Use it or risk losing it!***

EAST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL

SEARCHING FOR LOCAL HEROES!

Community Service Awards 2000



Do you have unsung heroes in your community? If so we would like to hear about them as we launch the Community Service Awards 2000, with the help of local businesses.

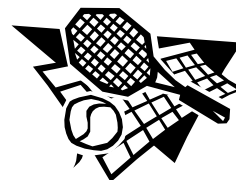
Chairman of East Dorset District Council, Cllr George Russell, would like to receive nominations of people who deserve recognition of good deeds carried out in East Dorset either voluntarily or above and beyond the call of duty in their paid employment. Also included in the Award Scheme are people who have shown an outstanding achievement in a particular activity. So long as the benefits are felt within the East Dorset District, the nomination will be considered.

Nomination forms are now available throughout the local area at libraries, schools, doctors and dentist surgeries, post offices and community centres. Alternatively copies of the form can be obtained from Furzehill Council Offices, telephone Jaci Elliott on (01202) 886201 ext. 289 for information. Closing date for nominations: 29th February.

The scheme is only possible thanks to the generous sponsorship of local business:- HSBC Bank Plc. - Key Industrial Equipment Ltd. - S.I.T.A. - Community Magazines - Rollalong Building Solutions. With donations from: Bournemouth & West Hampshire Water; Badger Brewery; Meggit PLC; East Dorset Housing Association.

Sixpenny Handley Tennis Club

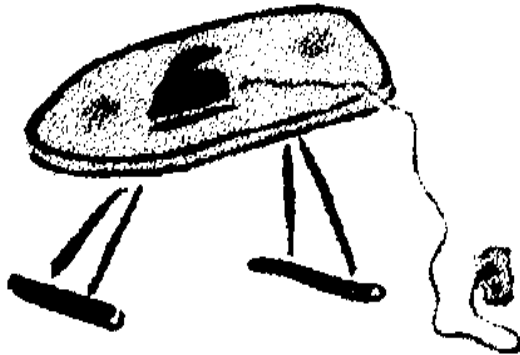
A most encouraging entry list has been received for the Club's Winter Tournament. No less than eleven couples are competing in the Ladies Doubles, well bettering the men's which closed at five pairings. The mixed doubles, however, have attracted six entries, while seven ladies, Jill Carlisle, Sally David, Rosemary Dike, Manda Glenn, Elizabeth Legg, Annie Noble and Julie McRoberts are competing for the Ladies Singles title. All matches must be completed by April 2nd, 2000 and a copy of the Tournament Rules is posted on the Club's notice board in the pavilion.



On Wednesday, 7 December, Roni Peck, ably assisted by Julia McRoberts, organised an excellent doubles tournament for the regular Wednesday morning adults and despite almost continuous drizzle and a near gale force wind, some excellent tennis was achieved by the twelve participants. After retiring to The Roebuck, Steph Chick was duly declared the winner with 23 games won and, thus, was presented with a bottle of wine. This was a fitting end to the autumn coaching sessions, much enjoyed by all who have attended.

Adult coaching on Wednesday mornings throughout February and March 10:00am - 11:30am

Fed Up Ironing?



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Next Day Service**

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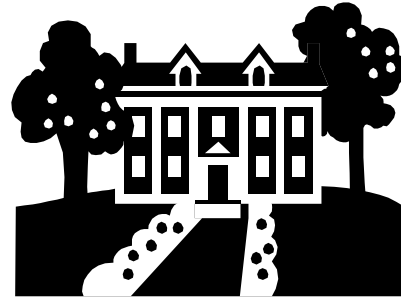
And Details

Amanda

01725 552984

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OXFORD

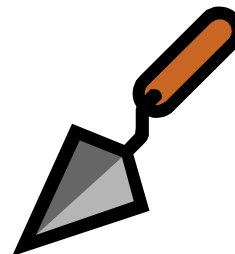
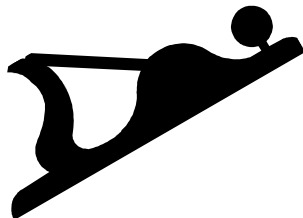
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Church Farm Workshop
Sixpenny Handley
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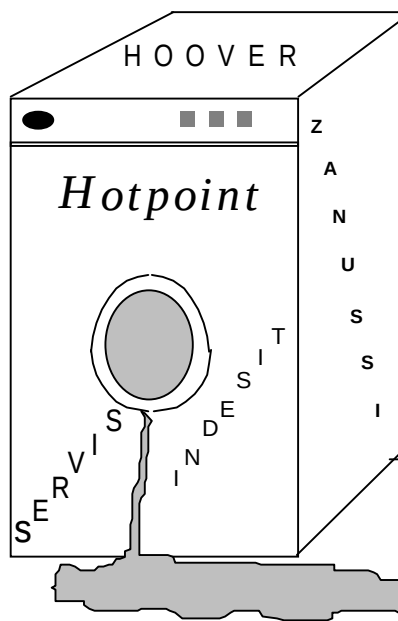
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PARISH DIARY

DATE	FUNCTION	PAGE	DATE	FUNCTION	PAGE
Feb-03	Chase Community Friends	0 4	Mar-02	Chase Community Friends	0
			Mar-08	The Wednesday Club	2
			Mar-08	Whist at The Village Hall	2
			Mar-09	Finance & General Purposes	0
Feb-05	Football Club Home Match	0 3	Mar-09	Chase Community Friends	0
			Mar-15	Bridge at The Roebuck	2
			Mar-16	Parish Council Meeting	0
			Mar-16	Chase Community Friends	0
Feb-06	Football Club Home Match	0 3	Mar-20	Downsman Copy Deadline	0
			Mar-22	The Wednesday Club	2
			Mar-22	Whist at The Village Hall	2
			Mar-23	Chase Community Friends	0
Feb-09	The Wednesday Club	2 1	Mar-29	Bridge at The Roebuck	2
			Mar-30	Chase Community Friends	0
			Mar-31	Royal Corps of Signals	0
			Apr-05	The Wednesday Club	2
			Apr-05	Whist at The Village Hall	2
Feb-09	Whist at The Village Hall	2 4	Apr-06	Chase Community Friends	0
			Apr-12	Bridge at The Roebuck	2
			Apr-13	Finance & General Purposes	0
<u>Handley Sports Club</u> ‘100’ Club 1999/2000					
Draw No 3					
£40	25	Nora Churchill, Dean Lane, Sixpenny Handley			
£10	116	K New, Sheasby Close, Sixpenny Handley			
£10	190	John Box, Row de, Devizes			
£5	65	M J Cuff, Berwick St John			
Draw No 4					
£40	58	Z R Neave, Cashmoor, Gussage St Michael			
£10	103	M Catchpole, Hill House, Sixpenny Handley			
£10	41	C Sims, Sheasby Close, Sixpenny Handley			
£5	77	I Burroughs, St Mary’s Close, Sixpenny Handley			

Feb-12 Football Club Home Match 0
3

S I X P E N N Y

SIXPENNY HANDLEY FIRST SCHOOL

Age 4 - 9 years
Give your child a first class education in the friendly, caring environment of your village school.
Register your child as soon as possible to ensure a place.
Contact - Mrs A. Latchem (Headteacher) Tel:- 01725 552356

THE CHASE NURSERY LINK GROUP

An introduction to mainstream school. Time to get to know the teachers, the routines and expectations of school life.
Monday and Friday Afternoons 12:30pm - 3:00pm
Contact - Hazel Killeen Tel:- 01725 552980

THE CHASE NURSERY

Structured learning through play within a caring environment for children aged 2½ - 4.
Tuesday, Wednesday 9:30am - 12:00 noon + optional lunchtime 12noon - 1pm
Thursday 9:30am - 12:00 noon "Chasers"
A parent and child structured session for children aged 2 years +
Contact - Julia Stokes Tel:- 01725 552314

HAPPY NAPPY CLUB

Come and enjoy a friendly, fun-packed morning at the Village Hall.
Babies, toddlers and children under school age are welcome
- with their mothers and carers.
We always provide refreshments and sometimes special events.
Mondays 10.00am - 11.30am Term time
Contact - Penny Morrison Tel:- 01725 552024

NEW BABY CLINIC - POST NATAL SUPPORT GROUP

A chance to share concerns and meet new friends with similar needs.
Contact - Mary Marsh Tel:- 01725 552792

Get Your Child Headed in
the Right Direction!

