

The Downsman



NEWS AND INFORMATION
MAGAZINE



*A wrinkled crabb'd man they picture thee,
Old Winter, with a rugged beard as grey
As the long moss upon the apple tree;
Blue-lipt, an ice drop at thy sharp blue nose,
Close muffled up, and on thy dreary way
Plodding alone through sleet and drifting snows.
They should have drawn thee by the high-heap't hearth,
Old Winter! seated in thy great armed chair;
Watching the children at their Christmas mirth;
Or circled by them as thy lips declare
Some merry jest, or tale of murder dire
Or troubled spirit that disturbs the night;
Pausing at times to rouse the smouldering fire,
Or taste the old October brown and bright.*

R. Southey

PARISH OF SIXPENNY HANDLEY
WITH PENTRIDGE



December 2000



Including: Woodyates, Deanland and Minchington
Published by Sixpenny Handley Parish Council
Delivered by Sixpenny Handley Homewatch

PARISH DIRECTORY

Parish Councillors

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Chairman	Mr. B.M.J. Curtis.....	552397
	Mrs E. Miles.....	552768
	Miss E. Waller.....	552305
	Mr. P.G. Chick.....	552256
	Mr. S.Judd.....	552563
	Mr. A.H. Gibb.....	552704
	Mr. P.J. Kellock.....	552849

Pentridge

Vice-Chairman	Mr. R.R.Riddle.....	552659
	Mr. R. Warner.....	552665
	Mr. J. Porte.....	552677

Clerk

	Mr. B.J.Hansford.....	552468
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<u>Assistant Clerk</u>	Mr. Tony Henderson.....	552279
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<u>County Councillor</u>	Mr. T. Palmer.....	552321
	Fax	552405

<u>District Councillor</u>	Mr. A. Humphries.....	517365
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Sixpenny Handley	Mr. P.J. Kellock.....	552849
Pentridge	Ian Davies.....	552076

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Editor	Alan Vincent.....	552788
	Ian Davies.....	552076
	Brian Hansford.....	552468

Churches

Church of England	St. Mary's, Sixpenny Handley	
	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 Rice.....01258	452051

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Group Scout Leader	Mr. Barry Howes.....	552583
Scout Leader	Bob Lewis.....	517465
Cub Leader	Esme Isaacs.....	517203

Doctors

	Drs. Pelly, Nodder & Morgan	
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	Dean Lane Surgery.....	552500
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<u>Schools</u>		
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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	Mr. A.H. Gibb.....	552704
Bookings	Julie Richardson.....	519438

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Chairman	Brian Hansford.....	552468
Secretary		

For The Kidz

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

Sixpenny Handley Homewatch

Overall Co-ordinator & Police Focal Point

	John Curtis.....	552397
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Co-ordinators

Area 1 - Dean Lane	Don Penrose.....	552022
2 - Deanland & N.E.	Barry Howes.....	552583
3 - Handley Central	Charles Nodder.....	552292
4 - West & South	George Tozer.....	552330

Other Areas (These are separate Homewatch Schemes)

Pentridge	Roy Elford.....	552296
Woodyates	Roy Warner.....	552665
<u>Police</u>	Blandford Station. 01258	452101

The Chase Nursery and "Chasers"

Chairman	Tracey Pain.....	552787
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The Chase Nursery 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	Sheila Smith.....	552149

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	Heather Eynon.....	552308

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	Jon Carlisle.....	552271

Sixpenny Handley Cricket Club

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

Sixpenny Handley Flower Arranging Club

Chairman / Secretary	Maggie Staplehurst.....	552795
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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 Sports Association

Chairman	Colin Chambers.....	552796
Secretary	Brian Hansford.....	552468

Welcome to the latest edition of *The Downsman*.

All your contributions to.....

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

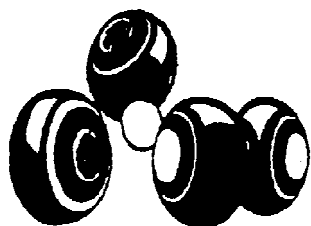
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The next edition of this
Magazine
will be published on the

1st February 2001
Copy Deadline is
19th January 2001



Sixpenny Handley Bowls Club

It's time for our Christmas Quiz again - 2nd December. I'm not sure whether you will received this beforehand but we do have a few empty tables at the moment, complete with mince pies, etc. Hope you were able to take part - thank you for your support if you did or do.

The Short Mat Bowls season started with two friendly matches - at Wool and Three Legged Cross. We won both of them.

The two Blackmore Vale league teams are still being very successful - the A team have now played six matches, which they have won - out of a possible 36 points they have gained 33, so we are hoping they are top of Division 3, although we haven't yet seen a League Table. The second team 'the Tanners' have played five matches and have won four of them having lost to Wincanton 'B' who were a very strong team. Out of a possible 30 points they have won 24 points, so again we are eagerly awaiting sight of the League Table for Division 5.

The outdoor green will be getting some use this winter, weather permitting of course. Not only have we more winter members from Fordingbridge, but also a few from Cranborne now as well. We hope the weather is kind to them.

Gill Martin

STOP PRESS Short Mat League: **Division 3 - Top, unbeaten; Division 5 Top, lost one match.**

As with other games, **bowls** should provide a great source of enjoyment as well as the opportunity for each player to perform to the best of his potential. It appears to be a game that can be played in quiet and calm, needs to be methodical and measured, disciplined and deliberate, requires great skill, and yet seems not to place any great physical demand on any player.

However, the game of bowls can arouse a wide range of emotions. There will be moments of deep disappointment or great joy, despair or euphoria. It can demand courage, control, concentration and caution, as well as delicacy and decisiveness.

Players should demonstrate determination while still recognising an opponent's skill in the manner of true sportsmanship.

Mental application must be strict in erasing any negative thoughts and ignoring any form of

distraction.

Bowls requires total involvement from its players. It seeks compatibility between players as well as trust and confidence in decision making.

It provides friendship and comradeship. It offers contacts across a wide age range and helps to promote a greater acceptance and understanding of others, regardless of age.

It can provide a form of gentle relaxation or intense rivalry and the challenge of pitting skill against skill. Such skills may cover a wide range of ability, but there is plenty of scope for even the most ambitious bowler to demonstrate his mastery of the game.

**So why not join us!!
Interested Phone 01725 55227**

NOTES FROM RSPB GARSTON WOOD



Once again it is impossible to write about the past two months without commenting on the weather. Although the wood has no natural water, the ground is extremely wet and you may wish to take wellies on a walk. With working parties starting coppicing and the Alternative Technology Centre bringing in their school children to help, the ground is being cut up very badly already. This year work will be at the very top and bottom of the wood, with a further piece in the centre of the plantation being cleared and replanted. I can only apologise in advance for the muddy conditions.

It is really upsetting to record yet more vandalism in the wood. Around the beginning of October the fencing in the Car Park was destroyed, as were the signs and leaflets. A few days later the new compartmented leaflet box was stolen. If anyone can provide any information on this wilful damage, the Blandford Police would like to hear from you.

Dormouse and Bat monitoring has finished for the year with some good news and some bad. A female Bechstein's Bat was found this year, the first ever, while the male ringed three years ago is still returning to the same box each year. Dormice were nowhere to be seen for much of the summer, only single animals were found until July. However, by studying the fur colour of the few individuals monitored, we were able to say that breeding had occurred outside the boxes in natural surroundings. It now seems likely that the Dormice will nest in natural settings where the conditions are suitable and will only use boxes when they are the best alternative. This is contrary to existing theories but seems quite logical. In any case, in Garston Wood nearly half the boxes have birds in them until June. By September, pregnant females appeared in nests and young ones were recorded in five different areas of the wood. One box held six young and their mother, quite difficult to catch, sex and weigh without losing them. Overall the numbers were less than last year and more importantly the weights of adult dormice are much lower than would be expected at this time of year. The largest was 26 grams, up to 10 grams lower than might be found in November. A litter of three young of only 8 grams were found asleep in torpor in November, one of which had a large section of fur missing from the back. This weight would not normally be enough to survive the winter and we are therefore monitoring this family into December. It seems that food has not been plentiful, despite the rain and good nut crop. In total, one third of the boxes were eventually found to have dormouse nests in them by the end of November, the birds early occupancy seems to make little difference.

There is still time for volunteers to help with coppicing. If you can spare a few hours or a day, on specific Sundays or Wednesdays, we should be grateful for any help you can offer. Tools and training are provided and an explanatory leaflet is available in the box near the Car Park. All ages welcome and it rarely rains on coppicing days!

Dates are Wednesdays: Jan. 10th, Jan. 31st, Feb. 21, and March. 14th.

Sundays: Dec. 3rd, Friday Dec 29th, Jan. 14th, Feb. 4th, Feb. 25th, and March 18th when there is a barbecue for the volunteers.

Happy (and dry) Christmas and New Year.
David Tucker



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News and Information

NATIONAL
FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S
INSTITUTES

October Report

Handley members enjoyed a most interesting talk - 'Discovering Dorset through Churches and Pubs around the Shaftesbury area' - given by Mr S Hamilton from Enmore Green and illustrated with photographs. He was thanked by Sheila Smith. He also judged the competition - a photograph of an old building, the winners being; Heather Eynon, Win Judd and Stella Symes. Refreshments were then served by Nancy Raban-Williams and Sheila Shelley and normal business resumed.

Nominations were taken for the next Committee. Members were reminded of the forthcoming Council Meeting at Weymouth on October 31st and also the Group Meeting at Iwerne Minster on October 23rd and also reminders of other forthcoming Group events. Mrs Stella Symes was congratulated on the recent safe arrival of a new Grandson.

The flower of the month competition winners were Stella Symes 1st and Joint 2nd were Edith Taylor, Win Judd and Jan Gibb.

The next meeting was confirmed for November 13th. The competition is for an Apple cake.

November Report

It was the Annual Meeting at Handley and it started with the singing of Jerusalem and there were several apologies for absence.

Group News - The Carol Service is on Friday December 8th at 7pm at West Orchard Church.

There is to be a meeting to discuss resolutions at the Abingdon Hall, Iwerne Minster on January 9th at 2.30 pm, several members have agreed to attend. The schedules for the Triennial Show to be held next year were given out.

Christmas gifts have been sent to all Handley residents who now are living in Homes or in Hospital and also a Christmas gift has been sent to our New Zealand link.

The Financial Statement was then presented by the Treasurer, Joyce Waher, and adopted and seconded. The Annual Report was given by Heather Eynon, 'Secretary' who then gave her report of the Half Yearly Council Meeting at Weymouth last month. Our President, Maggie Staplehurst, then gave her report on the years activities and names for the New Committee were announced. A Ballot for President took place and Maggie Staplehurst was re-elected. The competition for an Apple cake was won by Stella Symes and she was awarded the Competition Cup.

The flower of the month was won by Doreen Leverton, Norah North and Peggy Holland but the Annual Cup was won by Stella Symes. Hilda Hansford was awarded the Cup for the monthly competitions.

The business finished, refreshments were then served by Edith Taylor and Sylvia Marskell. The evening finished with some 'Crafty' fun organised by Nancy Raban-Williams when she showed members how to make Christmas cards and fancy gift boxes.

The next meeting is on December 11th when friends will be invited from other WI's and when Mr Tim Inchley will entertain. The competition is 'A Verse for Christmas'.

Dates for Diaries: January 10th 2001 Mr D Tomlin, 'A Queen's BodyGuard.'

February 12th 2001 Mrs A Martin, 'An armchair walk, with slides, around Dorchester.'

Win Judd (01725 552237)

Remembrance Day, November 12th. 2000

After a very wet and windy Friday and Saturday, Sixpenny Handley awoke on Sunday morning to bright sunshine and an almost cloudless sky. The temperature, low at first rose quickly, until by 11.30 a.m. it was comfortably warm. This meant, that the part of the service to take place at the War Memorial could proceed without any problems. Arriving at 10:45am outside the church, there were only a few members of the congregation waiting on the neatly mown grass around the memorial. The vicar, the Rev. Ron Wood was there talking to a few of his flock, regaled in his clerical vestments and wearing his university's hood, standing just outside the lynch gate, while the church warden, Graham Smith, handed out service sheets to all new arrivals, saying as he did so, that he had been assured that there was one for everybody.

At first, it seemed that this meant that only a small congregation was anticipated, but the next five minutes was to prove this wrong. A constant stream of villagers trooped up the High Street, swelling the ranks of worshipers. Everybody was obviously enjoying the respite from the bad weather, revelling in the sunshine and springlike atmosphere. This, despite the solemnity of the occasion, created a feeling of communal togetherness amongst a gathering of people, met to say thank you that they had had the chance to enjoy this wonderful day, at the expense of those who had died all those years ago. With the arrival of the public, came two on duty policemen, who proceeded to stop all traffic from driving past the church. Next, a contingent of the village's boy scouts proudly marched up, banners carried aloft. Then the choir, in their blue and white robes walked silently from the church, behind the cross bearer Sally Clark, positioning themselves by the gate. The service began with Ron reading out the names as they appear on the memorial, of all the local men who fought and died in the two world wars.

This was followed by the two minutes silence. During this period of time, there was no noise, no cars, no aeroplanes, no noisy radios, no children playing, just peaceful quietness, all apart from some small songbirds, who obviously thought spring had arrived very early. It was very easy to say thank you to all those who had suffered and died for us, we had so much to say thank you for. Then it was time to enter the church for the main part of the service. How pleasing it was to see the pews on the central aisle filling up, so much so that pews on the south side of the nave had to be occupied. The service itself was very simple, led by the ever enthusiastic Ron, who was at his best, especially in his address. The feeling in the church seemed extremely friendly, united and community centred, which was maintained at the dispersal, helped by a beautiful sunny day. It is to be hoped that any memories evoked that day were happy ones.

Talking to Marie Sanders, a long term and very staunch member of the congregation afterwards, about the very satisfactory size of the gathering, she said that she believed that recent happenings locally, nationally and internationally had created a need for people to be together. Long may this need last! She also said that many people present were regular church goers in the past, who no longer came regularly for one reason or another. Let us hope those reasons can be overcome in the future.

A general feeling of thanksgiving and hope prevailed; this was very obvious, even to a newcomer. Thank you Sixpenny Handley past and present.

Ted Cox

December 2000 & January 2001

ST MARY'S	ST ANDREW'S	ST RUMBOLD'S
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December 3rd Advent Sunday

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

December 10th Second Sunday of Advent

10:30 Morning Prayer	9:30 Holy Communion
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December 17th Third Sunday of Advent

9:30 Holy Communion 6:00 Evensong

11:15 Morning Prayer

December 22nd Friday

7:00 Lessons & Carols

December 23rd Saturday

4:00 Lessons & Carols	6:00 Lessons & Carols
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December 24th Christmas Eve

9:30 Holy Communion 5:00 Christingle 11:30pm Holy Communion

December 25th Christmas Day

9:30 Holy Communion	8:30 Holy Communion	11:15 Holy Communion
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December 31st Sunday after Christmas

9:30 Holy Communion

January 7th Sunday after Epiphany

9:30 Family Worship 6:00 Holy Communion
--

11:15 Morning Prayer & Holy Communion
--

January 14th Second Sunday of Epiphany

10:30 Morning Prayer	9:30 Holy Communion
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January 21st Third Sunday of Epiphany

9:30 Holy Communion 6:00 Evensong

11:15 Morning Prayer

January 28th Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

9:30 Holy Communion	11:15 Holy Communion
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YELLOW PAGE and TELEPHONE DIRECTORY RECYCLING

FOR EAST DORSET DISTRICT
COUNCIL RESIDENTS

Yes, it's that time of year again!

New Yellow Pages and Telephone Directories will be delivered in the East Dorset District Council soon. Between 10 November and 15 December residents can recycle their Yellow Pages and Telephone Directories by depositing them in specially marked banks at the following locations:-

1. Leo (Pioneer) car park, Corfe Mullen.
2. Tesco car park, Ferndown.
3. Allenvie car park, Wimborne
4. Safeway car park, Verwood

**Look out for the yellow stickers
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Sixpenny Handley

Full details in the February issue of *The Downsman*

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Dorset Village Of The Year Award 2000 Judges Comments

In Best Kept Village the children's play area was excluded from judging, as requested.

The judges were of the opinion that apart from quite a large amount of litter in the main street on which you dropped most marks, and the need for maintenance of doors / windows at village hall, there was a general air of being well cared-for. I am sure if these could be attended to Sixpenny Handley would be among the main prizewinners. (I know Peter Gutteridge, Chairman EDDC, is taking-up the possibility of more litterbins).

As regards Best Community Village, 2nd place in the Large Village Class was a most creditable performance. The judges were most impressed with the care taken over preparation and the putting over, albeit by a

ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD

The growing season in the churchyard seems to be over, and apart from a bit of tidying up over the winter, the hard work is probably over until the spring. Not that I've done any hard work, mind - Ted Cox has been out there doing his stuff, and Les Perrett and Bill Adlam have been keeping the paths neatly mown. Ken Jeanes gets out there as well, and we extend a warm thank you to everyone who keeps individual graves looking tidy.

All this is part of a plan. The cutting is done in particular areas at particular times, so in co-operation with the Dorset Wildlife Trust, we try to keep the churchyard friendly to all the wildlife there. We certainly don't want to see a manicured effect like a town cemetery, but a natural looking country churchyard.

Could I put in a plea? A couple of times, I've found people with strimmers in the churchyard, cutting areas that aren't due yet. Please, no strimmers in the churchyard unless you've consulted Ted the foreman or Graham Smith the Churchwarden. We're grateful for the help, but please remember what we're trying to do.

COFFEE MORNING AT TFW

A very successful Coffee Morning was held on Thursday November 16th at Unit 8, Town Farm Workshops, where residents and day service users from Cranborne Chase Communities are learning weaving and printing skills.

Sixteen weavers and printers proudly showed off their work to a large number of visitors who enjoyed a hot drink and a chat and a chance to purchase Christmas cards and hand-woven items.

We would like to thank everyone who supported us and to remind you that visitors are welcome in the Unit at any time between 10 and 3 o'clock on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Also, offers of voluntary help will be very gratefully received. The phone number is 552992.

Helen English

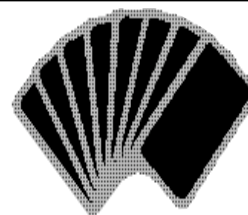
THE WEDNESDAY CLUB

Wednesday Club held a successful Christmas Lunch. The original group of entertainers who had been booked for the afternoon suddenly cancelled; happily our good friends Elizabeth and John Gradwell stepped into the breach, with a little assistance from the Wednesday Club Committee! and so a good time was had by all.

There will be a Christmas and New Year break, and then Wednesday Club starts again on the **24th January**.

If anyone needs a lift at any time to get to the Village Hall, please phone 552608 or 552278.

Whist at The Village Hall



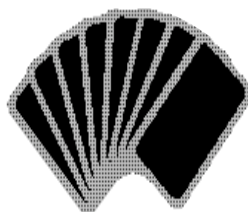
Scoring thirteen tricks in Whist is the equivalent to making a grand slam at Bridge and, in my opinion, is equally as difficult, if not more so as the lie of the cards is not so readily apparent. Thus, the frequency of such scores is comparatively rare and, therefore, congratulations are in order for Jean Lane and John York who attained "thirteen" on the first deal of the second half at The Village Hall on 15 November. Their unfortunate opponents were Mary Braithwaite and Ron H.

Although support has not been as good as in previous years, this has not detracted from the quality of play and with six competitive rounds played, the top ten positions are as follows:

1.	Joan Gocher	172	151	158	164	178	148	971
2.	Fred Denham	161	153	163	157	162	167	963
3.	Myrtle Fox	163	151	152	161	175	148	950
4.	Len Diggins	147	143	156	163	168	170	947
5.	Marge Poolman	145	149	171	164	146	164	939
6.	Ted Meaden	161	161	162	161	148	138	931
7.	Sam Poolman	150	159	157	148	154	158	926
8.	Doris Day	158	159	155	151	156	143	917
9.	Edie Langley	146	173	155	147	138	158	917
10.	Arthur Austin	160	134	159	146	156	155	910

The customary Christmas Drive takes place on Saturday 9th of December, after which there will be a break until Wednesday, 10th of January 2001, followed by drives on a fortnightly basis until the 23rd of May.

Bridge at The Roebuck



In Bridge, one of the best methods for achieving a game score of 100 points is for the partnership to arrive at 3 no trumps. This was well demonstrated at The Roebuck on 27 September when Eric Turner (West) and Bill Chorley (East) mopped up an uncontested rubber (2 games) in just three deals against Sylvia and George Marskell, sitting South and North respectively. Rather surprisingly, "no trumps" contracts are not popular with some players and I can only surmise it is the thought of having to keep control of all four suits that is the main concern. And yet, oft as not, 3 no trumps is the natural contract, especially if a partnership has been able to bid three of the four suits but without being able to establish strong trump support between the two hands. I particularly favour going for 3 no trumps when partner has opened at the one level in one of the majors (spades or hearts) and I have around 10 to 11 honour points and a five card minor (diamonds or clubs) but with relatively weak support for partner's first preference suit. So, assuming there is no intervention from the opposition, a typical bidding sequence may be 1 heart, 2 clubs (holding 5), 2 diamonds (this would likely signal that partner was not holding five hearts) and provided I had at least one stop in spades, then I would have no hesitation in bidding 3 no trumps. Do give it a try and remember the golden rule, lose your losers and only take control once you are satisfied that the opposition can no longer establish a suit.

Spirited play is another feature of bridge that I thoroughly recommend and two shining examples were forthcoming on 25 October. George Marskell sitting West and partnering Eric Turner East opened with 4 spades, thus signalling a strong holding in spades and with good outside support. I, and my partner Robin Radclyffe, fully expected George to be holding in the region of at least eight spades, but when dummy was tabled it was patently obvious that he was likely holding seven. Furthermore, as the play continued it was obvious that his outside suit holdings were not as strong as I expected but by taking

his chances and maintaining excellent communication between hand and dummy, George sailed home in triumph. A few hands later, Robin rounded off an excellent evenings play with a well judged and executed 4 hearts (earlier he made 7 diamonds but as the bidding had ceased at the two level, a slam had been missed).

At the other table, it was good to see Christopher Dibben in attendance while the week previous Jon and Jill Carlisle made a welcome return to the tables. Finally, on 1 November, Sally David (West), partnering Helen Goodwin (East), was declarer in a well bid 6 diamonds and despite a good defence from George and Silvia Marskell a small slam was duly delivered.

Bill Chorley

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New Years' Eve PARTY

at

SIXPENNY HANDLEY
Village Hall

with

“Lightning Mike Disco”

Family Fun

Games - Music - Dancing

prizes

Supper Supplied

Bring Own Drinks & Glasses

adults-£7.50 children £2.50

tickets can be obtained from:-

Liz at “The Post office”

Bron at “The Newsagents”

Starts 7.30pm til ?????

Parish Council Meeting Thursday November 16th, 2000

Public Questions

Concern was expressed regarding the lack of debate by the Parish Council over the issues raised at the Pentridge Annual Assembly in May. The Vice-Chairman responded by acknowledging that no progress had been made on the issue of the bollards opposite Chestnut Cottage; this was re-affirmed by both District and County Councillors. No further progress had been made regarding the bus shelter at Woodyates, although the County Councillor confirmed that some funds were available from the County. The responsibility for grasscutting in Pentridge had now been passed to the Chairman of the Pentridge Village Hall Committee who would also provide a statement of Village Hall accounts in due course. No progress had been made regarding the ploughing of footpaths/bridleways in Pentridge parish, and the County Councillor asked for a full list of those public rights of way that were affected.

Committee Reports

The Chairman of the Planning Committee confirmed that the trees at the Common Road pond would be felled in the near future. He stated that he had received an apology from the District Council regarding the fact that the Parish Council had not seen the amended plan for one house in Keats Meadow. Reports of other planning decisions were in front of the parish councillors, but no queries or objections were raised.

County Councillor's Report

The County Councillor started by showing a copy of the new "Dorset" free paper, which he hoped everyone in the both parishes had received. This was all part of central government policy and would be used as a vehicle for consultations with the public from time to time. He said that feedback from members of the public was very important, and he expressed a hope that parish councillors would respond. The first consultation exercise was due to take place soon – again as part of government policy – and it would try to discover the public's view regarding the way decisions are made within the County Council. Since not many people outside the County Council understand this process, he did not express much hope for a successful response. The initial cost of producing the paper was put at £80,000, but it was hoped that, with advertising, the future costs would be greatly reduced; however, multi-consultations were very expensive, and the additional costs would undoubtedly fall on the council taxpayer.

He raised the matter of lighting in St. Mary's Court and shocked councillors by indicating that the County Council was not prepared to provide extra lights. Apparently the existing lighting was adequate, and increasing lighting levels would put them way above those acceptable in rural areas.

He said that he had pursued the application for Green Close to be adopted by the County Council. This was, however, rejected on the grounds that the path was essentially a private garden path, physically substandard, and its adoption would not be in the public interest. There was no further progress regarding the light at the Hollow that still remains on.

The County Councillor touched on the Public Enquiry Inspector's Report on the Local District Plan, specifically in connection with the Sixpenny Handley by-pass (which is included in the "road improvements" part of the Plan) and its link to any future housing development.

Parish Councillors raised issues of reflector lights and Church parking.

District Councillor's Report

The District Councillor reported that the members of the District Planning Committee came to see Sixpenny Handley and were generally happy with the progress of recent developments in the village.

He also mentioned the Inspector's Report on the District Plan, highlighting those parts specifically concerned with the parishes of Sixpenny Handley and Pentridge. (*Ed. More on this in future editions.*)

Councillors expressed concern that the Inspector's Report was not more widely available and raised

Play Areas

Parish Appraisal

Parish Office

Millennium Tree Planting

Finance

A Christmas Tree for Handley was available and would be erected.

Ian Davies

THE IMPS & GUESTS

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CHRISTMAS CONCERT

AT HANDLEY VILLAGE HALL
ON FRIDAY DECEMBER 8TH. 7.30PM.

ENTRANCE £1.50. CHILDREN FREE

RAFFLE **REFRESHMENTS**

Dorset at War

For several decades past, the popular conception of the Home Guard has been largely formed on the quite hilarious situations confronting the defenders of Walmington-on-Sea led by their commander, the doughty Captain Mainwaring, “ably” supported by his very laid-back second-in-command Sergeant Wilson, Corporal Jones and an incorrigible collection of mainly elderly volunteers (with the exception of a very naive Private Pike). I am, of course, referring to BBC Television’s hugely popular comedy series, “Dads Army”.

In reality, the picture as presented in this comedy drama could not have been more different. The German forces, projected in the series as being no match for the men of Walmington-on-Sea, were in fact highly professional, well trained and had a proven record of success in subduing every country that they had invaded and by the end of June 1940, their control of Western Europe was absolute from the lower regions of the Arctic Circle to the border with Spain. Thus, the thousands of men from reserved occupations, veterans of the First World War and youngsters not yet of an age to be called into the armed forces who had come forward in the autumn of 1939 to join what would soon be known as the “Home Guard” would, had an invasion occurred, have been in the very thick of battle. The consequences would have been horrendous, given the inadequate equipment afforded to the volunteer forces in those early months of the war.

Every town and practically every village in the land formed Home Guard units and Sixpenny Handley was no exception. By the autumn of 1940, the local unit (which came under the aegis of 6th Dorset (Wimborne) Battalion Home Guard) was well established under the command of Captain Cyril Adams with Tommy Allen, an ex-Coldstream Guardsman, as his Company Sergeant. Lieutenant Ernest Roper was appointed Second in Command and with men drawn from the village and its immediate surrounds, including nearby Farnham, the Sixpenny Handley Home Guard was soon immersed in all aspects of military training and discipline.

Common to all units, the volunteers came from all walks of life, though the mainstay of the village forces were predominantly agricultural workers. One of the early recruits to the Handley contingent was a very young Bill Adlem (his namesake, but no relation, Richard Adlem was one of several Sergeants appointed) and in time he was made the platoon’s sniper. First aid was in the capable hands of Dr. Forge, an ex-army doctor of quite senior years but who, nonetheless, was determined to play his part in defending his country. Indeed, it was this gritty determination to overcome the seemingly impossible odds of 1940 that made the Home Guard such a success.

Within the limitations expected of them, the Home Guard had to absorb a great deal of military knowledge and, it is remembered, Sergeant Tommy Allen soon instilled his, guardsman qualities upon the local force. Not only were his skills apparent at a local level, but higher authority too recognised that A Company (this being the Company to which Sixpenny Handley was assigned) under his tutelage was performing well.

Parades were held each Sunday morning by the Victory Tours garage and frequent use was made of the firing ranges that had been established on Martin Down. Amongst the early tasks was the preparation of defensive positions and it was not long before the roads leading into the village could, if necessary, be defended from a series of well constructed dugouts. One such post was placed on the hill leading out of the village towards what today is the roundabout but in 1940 was still a cross-roads.

Those who manned this particular position (it was in the field on the right hand side of the road and more or less adjacent to the left hand bend above the present day 30 m.p.h. sign) recall that it was devoid of withdrawal cover back towards the village. Much patrolling had to be done and any incident of note usually resulted in the Home Guard being called upon to attend. One particular crash, attended by Bill Adlem, concerned an enemy bomber shot down by one of our night-fighter’s. Set on fire and pursued at low altitude over the village, Bill (who had had witnessed the final stages of the engagement), along with other members of the Home Guard, had the task of making an armed search for survivors. It seems likely that the bomber broke up in the air as part of its tail assembly was found suspended in trees near Maybury’s bus garage, while the force of the explosion as the main part of the debris smashed into the ground close to Handley Cross threw one of the engines the better part of a mile to finish up near Endless Pit. No one from the crew survived and a guard was mounted at the crash site until their remains could be

recovered.

As recounted, training skills were tested against elements of the regular army, with live ammunition used from time to time with all its attendant risks (Sam Poolman, who served with the Ashmoor Home Guard and thus spent many a night on guard duty in the pill-box positioned in the fields looking towards Win Green and the nearby cross-roads, recalls at least one fatality occurring during manoeuvres involving the Americans). The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery register for Dorset indicates that eight Home Guard personnel lost their lives within the county, though it is not thought that any Handley personnel became casualties. However, local exercises against neighbouring Home Guard units were, of course, hotly contested affairs and many a sore head was suffered on both sides!. Held, usually, on a Sunday, Walter Rixon, then a member of the Wimborne St. Giles contingent, remembers well the high spirits of the Handley platoon as they advanced towards their defence posts. Pre-exercise celebrations in The Star or The Roebuck likely had some bearing on the outcome of these encounters!

In addition to the Home Guard, the Royal Observer Corps set up a reporting post (linked to Yeovil) in the corner of what is now Steve Judd's caravan site. It is believed that Robert Hayman was the first Chief Observer. Cyril and Edwin Froud were very much involved and Gordon Clarke, who later became the Chief Observer, recalls that Edwin, later to be a generous benefactor in respect of the present Tennis Club, was extremely skilful in all aspects of aircraft recognition.

Charles Sheasby, landlord of The Star, was in charge of the local fire service, a Coventry tender being sent down from London while an Armstrong Siddeley car was forthcoming to act as a towing vehicle for the tender. When not in use, the tender was "garaged" at what is now Chris Styles shop. Meanwhile, the law was very much present with Police Constables Fudge, Manuel and Bagge being associated at one time or the other with the maintenance of order throughout the war years.

In common with so much that happened in these grim years of war, much of the work performed by these mainly voluntary forces went unrecognised, so it is gratifying to report that in 1944 Sergeant Tommy Allen was awarded the British Empire Medal, bestowed upon him by his Majesty King George VIth at a Buckingham Palace investiture.

Two years later, he was one of only four Dorset Home Guard chosen to represent the County in the Victory Parade held in London on Saturday June the 8th, 1946. This honour reflected not only well upon himself, but also embraced due recognition for all the men of Sixpenny Handley in the defence of their country.

The leadership of Captain Cyril Adams, too, was marked by the award of the MBE, for not only did he head A Company but he also undertook the command of the local Army Cadet Corps and for many years after the war acted as their Sports Officer at county level.

Finally, I extend my most grateful thanks to Phil Adams, Bill Adlem (who, as recounted in this article served in A Company (as did his brother, Frank)), Keith and Thomas Allen, sons of the late Sergeant Tommy Allen BEM and Gordon Clarke.

Bill Chorley (to be continued)

Footnote: The names of the Home Guard personnel who died in the service of their County and who are commemorated in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission register for Dorset are:

Captain Frederick Joseph WILLY, 3rd Dorset (Poole) Battalion, Home Guard. Aged 55, 13 April 1942. Buried Branksome (St. Clement) Churchyard.

Corporal John BARBER, 2nd Dorset (Dorchester) Battalion, Home Guard. Aged 56, 20 March 1942. Buried Dorchester (Fordington) Cemetery.

Volunteer Alfred BULL, 6th Dorset (Wimborne) Battalion, Home Guard. Aged 57, 17 August 1941. Buried Hampreston (All Saints) Churchyard.

Private C R NORMAN, 1st Dorset (Bridport) Battalion, Home Guard. 6 June 1943. Buried Powerstock (St. Mary) Churchyard.

Volunteer Harold Edward SWEET, 4th Dorset (Sherborne) Battalion, Home Guard. 12 September 1941. Buried Sherborne Cemetery.

Volunteer William FELTHAM, 7th Dorset (Wareham) Battalion, Home Guard. Aged 66, 5 January 1941. Buried Wareham Cemetery.

Captain James Roland WEST MC, 5th Dorset (Weymouth) Battalion, Home Guard. Aged 47, 13 April 1942. Cremated Weymouth Crematorium.

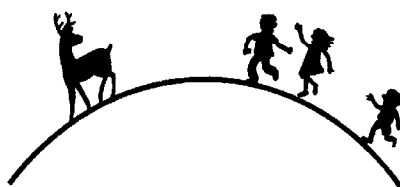
Major Alfred Frank JOLLY MC, 5th Dorset (Weymouth) Battalion, Home Guard. Aged 47, 3 April 1942. Buried Wyke Regis New Burial Ground.

A ninth Home Guard member is recorded in the register:

Volunteer Derrick John PARKINGTON, 12th Hampshire (Southampton) Battalion, Home Guard. Aged 20, 22 December 1940. Buried Poole (Parkstone) Cemetery.

The Chase Nursery

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

**Telephone Tracey Pain (our Chairman) for further information
01725 552787**

SCHOOL NEWS

Early Years at Sixpenny Handley

Twelve 4 year old children joined the school in September attending mornings only until the beginning of January when they will become full time pupils. During the first six weeks of their time in school the children were assessed in accordance with Dorset County's approved Baseline scheme. This has enabled teaching staff to have a general overview of each child's prior learning and skills as well as providing a base against which to monitor their progress in school. The children have all settled happily into the day to day activities of school life. Their transition from home to school has been helped by their attendance at the Link group sessions.

These operate in school once a week during the previous Spring and Summer terms. In this way the children become familiar with the school environment and make friends within a small group of 5/6 children over a period of time.

The Autumn term is an exciting and busy time leading up to our Christmas festivities. The children have begun practising songs for their Christmas production, which they will perform together with the twenty one children in year 1.

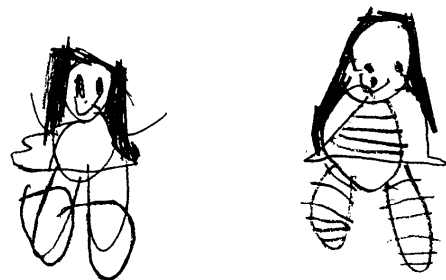




The three bears in the home corner



Sharing books



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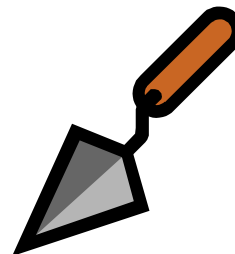
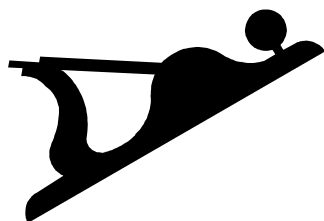
Carpentry and Building of Blandford



New Houses

Extensions

Refurbishments



Call Peter Oxford

Sixpenny Handley First School

Bingo

Tuesday 5th December

7.30 pm

(Doors open at 7.00pm)

To be held in the Village Hall

Sixpenny Handley Flower Arranging Club

December 4th

'A Sixpenny Handley Christmas' followed by a buffet supper
Competition: 'Decorated Candlestick' (any medium)



Mobile Library Service

Weekly on Thursdays:-

Sixpenny Handley	3.20 - 3.40	School
	3.45 - 4.05	Garage
	4.10 - 4.20	Dean Lane - Letter Box
	4.25 - 4.45	Sheasby Close

Fortnightly on Thursdays

		Dec 14th, 28th
		Jan 11th, 25th
		Feb 8th, 22nd
Pentridge	2.05 - 2.20	The Old Post Office
Woodyates	2.30 - 2.45	Cobley Close
Deanland	2.55 - 3.10	Barley Corn House



The CCF offer voluntary support to those who need it,
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In the form of :-

- Transport to the Surgery, Dentist, etc, with an appropriate contribution from the user of 45p 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, on 01725 552097.**

SCHOOL NEWS

Links with The National Gallery, London

Take One Picture is a countrywide project involving The National Gallery and the nation's primary schools. Each year teachers on a one-day course at the Gallery are given a print of a painting chosen for its potential to stimulate work in different curriculum areas (the painting this year is the 1742 portrait of **The Graham Children**, by William Hogarth). Teachers are asked to contact the Gallery if interesting work arises as a result of the classroom activities. National Gallery Education puts on an exhibition of work from one or two participating schools.

Lace-making in Class 2



We have studied the Graham Children in Hogarth's portrait.



We admired the lace around the girls' dresses and thought it would be really good fun to try it ourselves.



A lace maker called Cynthia Lambert came and helped us to make our very own lace. We needed to concentrate hard but we discovered that it followed a simple pattern of numbers using just four bobbins at a time.

Paper sculpture in Class 3

*The difficult but enthralling task of reproducing **The Graham Children** in life-size papier m-ch¾ models has fallen to the Year 3 and 4 children. With the help of the expert paper sculptor Peter Rush, who has shared his techniques with us over several weeks, the models have been structured in wire and the details of the portrait faithfully reproduced in papier m-ch¾.*



Once completed, and with the addition of the necessary props, the tableau will re-create the portrait painted by Hogarth in 1742. In the meantime, the pale and silent figures at the back of the classroom have become our familiar “classmates”.



Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Readers may be interested that the Countryside Alliance is planning a huge march through the streets of London on Sunday 18 March 2001. The aim is to show that rural people have a voice and are concerned about a whole range of issues, including threats to country sports, transport problems, fuel prices, falling farm incomes, redundancies and the decline in rural shops.

A similar march in 1999 attracted quarter of a million people into London. This time the aim is to get near to one million and to make a real impact.

I feel very strongly that rural people should support the Countryside Alliance's efforts to give us a fair hearing. I will therefore be arranging for a coach to go from Sixpenny Handley so that anyone who wants to can join in the march. The cost per person will be £10 a head. If you would like to book seats, please telephone me on 01725 552292. If it is anything like the last march, it should be a fun day out as well as an important expression of democracy.

Charles Nodder, The White



Are you thinking of selling your home?

We'd like to move to Sixpenny Handley to be near our family and friends

If you are thinking of selling and have a home with at least four bedrooms, a medium sized garden and lovely neighbours, or a piece of land we could build on, we'd like to hear from you!

Please telephone Julian or Sue Demetriadi on 020 7722 4851 or 020 7722 0728 or email us at svdemetriadi@dial.pipex.com

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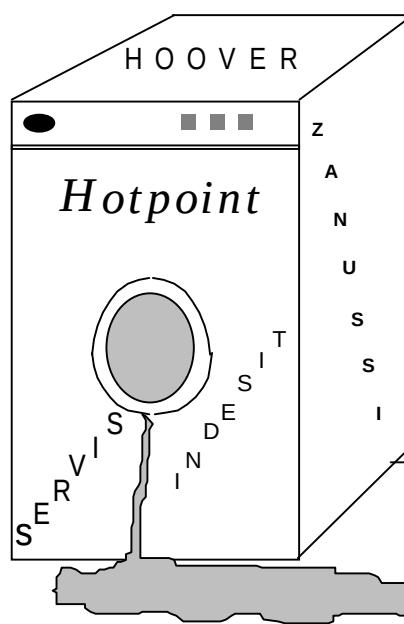
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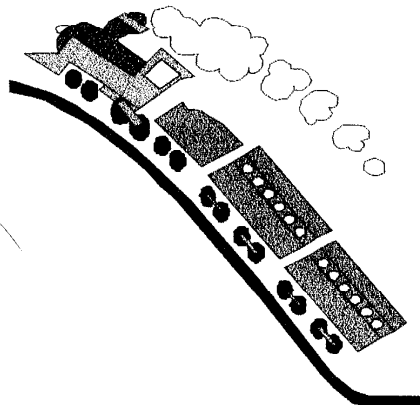
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Your Local Nursery School.

2 - 5 year olds

Mondays to Fridays: 9.15am to 12.15pm.

£5 per session.

Tuesday and Fridays; all day sessions -9.15am to 2.45pm

4 year olds grant registered.

**Our friendly qualified and well experienced team welcomes you to
our homely, stimulating and secure environment.**

**Every child is an individual with differing needs, abilities and
potential. We are sensitive in responding to those needs.**

**Our well planned and structured activities can enhance your child's
full social, intellectual, emotional,
physical and creativity development.**

**For a prospectus or to arrange a visit,
please call us during opening times.**

Your Child's Well Being Is Paramount.

We look forward to seeing you.

Holiday Play Schemes Also Available.

IN THE PAST

Salisbury & Winchester Journal December 30 1899

HANDLEY Bazaar & Jumble Sale

The comfort of the members of the congregation has recently been greatly added to by the provision of a new and improved heating apparatus in the church. To help defray the cost of this improvement, a very successful and largely attended bazaar and jumble sale was held in the Board Schoolroom on Wednesday. Thanks to the energy of a willing band of helpers, a great deal of useful and ornamental goods was collected. The Revs. E E Hasluck & J H Smyth, Mrs Bell, Mrs Cartwright, Mrs Gibbons, Mrs Hasluck, Mrs Langley, Miss Langley, Mrs & Misses Palmer, Miss Phillips, Miss Martin, Misses Waters, Miss Simms, Mrs J White, Mr Lloyd and Mr J White assisted at different stalls etc. An entertainment given during the afternoon was well patronised. Tea and refreshments were provided, and the gratifying total of 25L. was realised.

Researched by: Trish Chorley.

“CATS AND CONTEMPLATIONS” the collected poems of Marie Sanders of 3 St Mary's Close, is being published and should be available for Christmas. They are being sold in aid of Church Funds and Yvonne Mitchell's Cat Sanctuary in Sixpenny Handley, for £2 each. They may well be attractive Christmas presents for cat lovers and for those who like verse; the cat ones are amusing and the contemplation ones cover many ideas. They will be available from The Sixpenny Handley Stores or direct from Marie.

Jogging Partner Required

I took part in the *raceforlife* in June this year to raise money for Cancer Research, and had just 6 weeks to prepare for the race - having never run in my life! I was so pleased to actually run the whole 5kms without stopping for a rest - and was even more pleased with my finish time of 32 minutes! (well not bad for a complete beginner!)

I stopped running shortly after the race, as I lost my Mum to cancer, and my heart wasn't in it any more. But I've now decided to start running again, as I'd like to get fit, and I'm finding it hard to get going - just getting out of the door is the first hurdle! I find it easier when I have someone to run with, as it's more of a challenge and I'm less inclined to stop for a little 'rest' every so often!

I live in Sixpenny Handley, but I work full-time so can only run either early mornings or in the evenings.

If anyone is interested in a running partner (more like a steady jog actually), can you please give me a ring on 01725 552479 and ask for Jackie.

Sixpenny Handley Cricket Club Review

Ranston Evening League 2000; Final Division 1 Positions

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn/ Rained	Points
Blandford	7	7	0	3	17
Stalbridge	7	6	1	3	15
Gillingham	9	5	4	1	11
Sixpenny Handley	9	4	5	1	9
Shillingstone	8	1	7	2	4
Tarrant Gunville	8	1	7	2	4

Tarrant Gunville finished bottom of Division 1 having lost more wickets than Shillingstone over the season.

The top batsman and the top bowler in the Division both came from Sixpenny Handley. Congratulations are due therefore to **Andy Wright (309 runs)** and **Alan Bennett (19 wickets)**

Match Analysis

Shillingstone 1st Match

Sixpenny Handley 109 runs for 5 wickets:
Alan Bennett (33 not out); Dan Newman (19);
Andy Wright (18).

Shillingstone 90 runs for 6 wickets; Alan
Bennett (3 for 17); Clive Spendley (2 for 23).

Gillingham 1st Match

Gillingham 160 runs for 5 wickets: Jake
Keen (2 for 39).

Sixpenny Handley 132 runs for 5 wickets:
Alan Bennett (37 not out); Dan Newman (27
not out); Nick Emm (26).

Tarrant Gunville 1st Match

Tarrant Gunville 122 runs for 9 wickets:
Alan Bennett (4 for 19); Dan Newman (3 for
33).

Sixpenny Handley 125 runs for 6 wickets:
Andy Wright (30); Clive Spendley (29 not
out); Ivor Potter (20).

Stalbridge 1st Match

Stalbridge 135 runs for 2 wickets: Alan
Bennett (2 for 27).
Sixpenny Handley 67 runs for 10 wickets:
Clive Spendley (25 not out).

Tarrant Gunville 2nd Match

Tarrant Gunville 64 runs for 10 wickets:
Jake Keen (3 for 13); Alan Bennett (4 for 20);

Sixpenny Handley 68 runs for 4 wickets:
Trevor Edwards (26); Tom Blacklock (17 not
out).

Gillingham 2nd Match

Gillingham 157 runs for 6 wickets: Jake
Keen (3 for 33); Alan Bennett (2 for 53).

Sixpenny Handley 94 runs for 8 wickets:
Andy Wright (25); Jon Cray (19)

Blandford 1st Match

Blandford 202 runs for 5 wickets: Adam
Fradgley (3 for 47).
Sixpenny Handley 146 runs for 7 wickets:
Andy Wright (64); Jon Cray (22).

Shillingstone 2nd Match

Sixpenny Handley 185 runs for 4 wickets:
Andy Wright (82); Simon Ellingham (54);
Trevor Edwards (25 not out).
Shillingstone 128 runs for 9 wickets: Clive
Spendley (3 for 34); Alan Bennett (2 for 26).

Stalbridge 2nd Match

Sixpenny Handley 117 runs for 8 wickets:
Dan Newman (30); Andy Wright (26); Jon
Cray (25).
Stalbridge 118 runs for 6 wickets: Jake Keen
(3 for 26); Clive Spendley (2 for 22).

*The Handley Hair Shop
would like to wish a Merry
Christmas to all existing and
future clients.*

*Opening hours are:
Monday 10am - 5pm
Tuesday 10am - 5.30pm
Wednesday - CLOSED
Thursday 10am - 5.30pm
Friday 9.30am - 5.30pm
Saturday 9.30am - 5pm*

*Rachel is able to offer - Unisex
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'Tea Time' at Woodcuts!

31st October 2000. 5:25 a.m. Woodcuts.

With mug of steaming tea, I don my cap, quilted waistcoat and wellingtons. I had thought about not bothering with the boots and wearing my slippers, but due to the inclement weather of the past few days, there might be puddles. It is still very dark despite the clear sky, but with the absence of the moon and streetlights here in Woodcuts, we are very much in the dark. (Despite this we are still very worldly here, we all side with Nixon in the presidential election.) As I leave the lights of the house, I look up, realising how ignorant I am of the heavens, although I do recognise the Plough and in doing so thank God, that there is no light pollution here. The clear sky at this time of year means a fairly low temperature, but it is a strong westerly breeze, with its wind chill effect, that is the major problem. This of course, calls for a mouthful of hot tea and causes me to pull the zip of my waistcoat higher. Apart from the wind in the trees the world is silent, until a barn owl calls, followed by a bird I would like to think was a woodcock, although its hardly the right place. Nothing else, not even the distant roar of a heavy goods vehicle, whose driver has made an early start, can be heard. In fact looking in all directions, something I can now do, since most of the surrounding trees have lost enough of their leaves to give a clear view, there is no sign of headlights shining on nearby or distant roads.

This is somewhat unusual, but I assume it is because of the weather pattern of the past few days. Drivers are obviously waiting for daylight before venturing out, when it will be easier to avoid fallen branches and trees, floods, masses of fallen leaves and whatever else in the way of storm debris that nature has thrown at us. Looking skywards again, the lights of only one aeroplane are visible, heading towards Bournemouth International Airport. This is also unusual; normally there is a procession of them, even at this time of day. Perhaps it's windier up there than it would appear, surely there can't be any fallen trees on the flight paths. Pausing for more tea and feeling refreshed, I move on, with only the wind for company, walking across the stubbles, which are spotlessly clean, 'sterile' might be a better description. Even in this poor light, I can safely walk without looking down, I am sure there are no wild plants here to trip me.

Wandering on, I muse about what I saw in the vegetable patch yesterday, namely two butterflies. Sunshine was the order of the day, for the first time for ages we saw the sun, this alone was uplifting but to see a immaculate, yellow Brimstone flitting around the garden on the last day of October was beyond belief. This beautiful insect was then joined by a Red Admiral, a poor discoloured specimen, rather moth eaten and had obviously seen better days. The two of them spent some time exploring the garden, before flying off over the hedge. After the worst storm for ten years, the sight of these two beautiful creatures was very cheering indeed.

Back to today, the wind is blowing quite strongly as I move out into the stubble, away from the protection of the hedge and my asthmatic chest says, 'Go back you fool'. I have run out of tea, so having no alternative, I put my empty mug in my pocket and head for the protection of the tree lined lane, which leads homewards. I have seen little, heard little and found little during my short excursion, but I feel exhilarated, having got out, to enjoy the peace of the 'ravaged' countryside. In the lane it is considerably darker - luckily for me at some time in the past my family inherited some catlike characteristics, namely to see in the dark and to move easily through bushes - so I move forward confidently, towards the barn. Immediately in front of me, I make out a fallen branch about 10ft long and 4-5" in girth, across my path. Picking it up, I put it over my shoulder and think of 'Old Bob' and what he would have said about my find, "Ah boy, you'll get two warm's out on that, one when you

cuts it up, t'other when you burns it". It is too dark to identify what it is, but from its weight and the prevailing trees it could be oak, well worth taking home. Now in front of me, another piece, slightly smaller in circumference and six feet long, perfect to carry in my left hand to counter-balance the piece on my right shoulder. It has been a worthwhile ramble. Moving on, I come to a darker part of the lane, here in the shadows something has blocked my way. This time it is a complete tree, probably about 30 to 40 years old, with plenty of brush and leaves still on it. In the dark I assess it to be an elm, an obvious choice since at this size they are very susceptible to Dutch Elm disease. I make my way past it, making a mental note to come back with a saw before someone else does. Then I notice a much larger tree, this time it can be identified clearly as a sycamore, its large leaves being silhouetted against the sky. It has fallen parallel to the track, not blocking it at present as it is still partly supported by its standing neighbours. "It's an ill wind that blows nobody any good."

With my spoils, I make my way home; in the garden I drop my plunder and in doing so realise that it isn't oak but ash, even better! There are certainly advantages living in the country. Indoors again, my mug replenished, I begin to write, it is 6.15 a.m. As a young man, I would never have thought that I would be writing for pleasure, as I do now. But is it simply for pleasure, I ask myself? On more careful consideration, it occurs to me that it is much more than that, it is my crusade to encourage more people to get to know, understand and love the countryside and truly appreciate the wonders of our environment. In so doing, understanding the heartbeat of all things natural and what we as a species, must do to keep that heartbeat regular and sustained.

Maybe in our insularity, we feel that the flooding, following high winds and rain has nothing to do with us; up at this height without a river in sight, does it have any relevance to us? Remember, if we are experiencing global warming, not only will there be very wet times, there will be also very dry times, what wouldn't many of us give then to be living on a nice, damp flood plain? "Horses for courses?"

7.05 a.m. I've just been outside to let the chicken out, no chance of the fox now I hope, it is daylight with practically clear sky, maybe there is five percent cloud cover. Unfortunately there is a good deal of redness there, created by sunlight being refracted by the presence of dispersed water droplets. As it is written in Mathew's Gospel, chapter 16 verses 2-5, "But Jesus answered, "When the sun is setting, you say, 'We are going to have fine weather, because the sky is red'. And early in the morning, you say, 'It is going to rain, because the sky is red and dark.'"

9th November, 2000 My intention was to finish, but today I have seen six Red Admirals circling the Buddlia bushes simultaneously and since my outdoor thermometer registered 0° C last night, I think it well worth mentioning the above. Four days ago Madge cut the last of the courgettes and grass is still growing at an alarming rate for the time of year. The English conversationalist is coming into his or her own; the weather is indeed worth discussing! With the wettest October for a very long time, it must appear that we could have trouble ahead. What are we going to do about it? If it is any consolation, we still have a long way to go to catch up with the peoples of the Amazonian Rain Forests, where they have annual falls of up to 6 metres, (an amazing 240 inches.), this does not include melting snow from the Andes. "Thank God for Woodcuts".

P.S. There is one thing that worries me about living here, have we more native tribes yet to be discovered?

Ted Cox Woodcuts.

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

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

Christmas -The Rules:

Christmas is a game for any number of players, but must include at least three who would much rather be watching *The Guns of Navarone* and two who would prefer a nice walk, after all it's only a bit of drizzle and we could all do with some fresh air.

Contents: One fuggy sitting-room; one television set; one remote control (confiscated); one complete boxed set of "Grievances", including Huffs, Chips, Grudges, Injuries and Insults; a disgruntlement of relations.

Preparations: Preparations may begin on Boxing Day of the previous year ("Never again"), but must begin no later than August or early September. Players should allow three months to manoeuvre into one of the four correct starting positions. These are:

i) *The Stand-off Position:* "But we came to you last year: it's your turn to come to us."

ii) *The Feet-up Position:* "Of course we'd love to have you; it's just that we're a shorter drive from you than you are from us."

iii) *The Hands-off Position:* "Actually, we were thinking of going abroad this year. No, it's not that we didn't enjoy it last year".

iv) *The Hands-up Position:* "Would you mind if we also brought her sister from Wales? The one with bulimia? You see, she's terribly depressed at the moment."

Playing the Guilt card: Early playing of the Guilt card, followed by the Huff, is essential. Any change to the Christmas schedule beyond mid-October may be opposed by the Home Captain by accompanying the Guilt Card with the exasperated sigh: "I suppose we'll have to make do, though as usual it's very last minute."

Objective: To cause the maximum number of players to depart the room slamming the door before close of play. Each exit must be accompanied by the question: "Was it something I said?" To which the players left in the game must reply: "So what do you think?"

How to play: Each player of Christmas must invade another player's space by asking a series of Personal Questions. These are drawn from one of five categories:

i) *History:* eg, "Was it in 1978 or 1979 that you forgot my birthday? No, it doesn't matter. I've

forgotten all about it. It's just that I don't suppose I'll ever really get over it."

ii) *Sport:* eg, "Who told your children they could play French cricket in the kitchen?"

iii) *Hobbies and Interests:* eg, "But what makes you think I didn't like the shoeshine kit you gave me the year before last?"

iv) *Guess the Weight:* eg, "Is it just me or have you put on weight?"

v) *Politics:* eg, "How can you possibly say that when it comes to third-world debt they've only got themselves to blame? I can't believe I'm hearing this!"

If the answer is *either* incorrect or unrepeatable, the Chip then passes to the original player, who now holds an all-important Grudge. Remember: If one of your ploys is sunk, you may add Insult to Injury to form a complete set of Grievances.

How to start: Players from the ages eight to 80 sit around the table staring at one another. Players aged seven and under proceed to screech at one another either a) "Give it", or b) "But I had it first".

Players aged 81 and over must now raise their eyebrows and mumble either: a) "In my day we were perfectly happy to make do with a cardboard box and a bit of string", or b) "They've lost all sense of respect".

First move: The Home Captain makes the first move by reading the following instructions in monotone: "The score is doubled when the square landed on is either less than the total number indicated by the spaces moved by the previous player or the route taken by the green player is indicated by the square landed on by the player with the highest score at the beginning of the round, but only if the sum of the aggregate is the same as or less than the score of all the remaining pieces combined (a challenge may not be called unless the challenger is at right angles to the player with the lowest number of cards)."

Second move: The second player then looks vexed and replies: "I'm sorry, but that's not how we've always played." Subsequent disputes about the rules then continue in a clockwise direction until that point when one or more players insist that the original rulebook states that the correct direction of disputes is anti-clockwise.

The role of non-players: At least once every five minutes each non-player must call out either, "But *The Guns of Navarone* is about to start", or, "If we don't go for that walk, it'll be

dark in half an hour". Non-players over the age of 81 are allowed to repeat, "It's a time for the kiddies" over and over again. Extra points may be gained by leaning over a player's shoulder for three minutes and breathing noisily before exclaiming: "You shouldn't have done that!"

Scoring: The winner is the first player to find himself in a deserted room. On hearing one or more of the following sounds drifting through the slammed door, the winner may add, these points to his total:

- i) *Mutual recrimination* (one point).
- ii) *Indiscriminate sobbing* (two).
- iii) *Tyres screeching* (four).

An extra five points are awarded for each

melted strawberry creme discovered beneath a cushion.

Warning: The game of Christmas should be played no more than once a year. No, that's not what I said. Prove it. You're putting words into my mouth. I've just about had enough of this.

Reproduced from the Daily Telegraph, Saturday 18th November 2000. Written by Craig Brown.



Sixpenny Handley Homewatch

Rural Crime Survey

Dorset Police are conducting a survey throughout Dorset into rural crime levels and resident's views. Sixpenny Handley Homewatch has been asked to help by distributing questionnaires to a random sample of

residents. If your Homewatch Co-ordinator asks you to complete one of these, please help by doing so promptly. Policing in rural Dorset can only benefit from a better understanding of the problems and needs.

Walk -in Thefts

There have been several thefts in North East Dorset recently where thieves have simply walked in through unlocked back doors to help themselves to cash and valuables. Minchington and Farnham have both been hit. Please make sure you lock up whenever you are out or out of earshot. This area is safer than most, but do not assume that it will not happen to you. Others have found that it can.

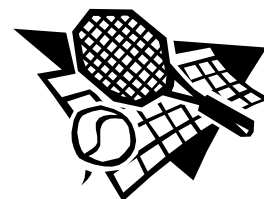
Christmas Care

Our usual advice at Christmas time applies once more:

- Tell a neighbour and/or Homewatch if you are going away
- Be aware that thieves do not take a Christmas break
- Do not leave valuable gifts where they can be seen
- Support charity carol singers but beware of hoaxers

Have a happy and crime-free Christmas.

Sixpenny Handley Tennis Club



On Monday the 30th of October, Sixpenny Handley Tennis Club held their AGM at the pavilion and with sufficient members present to form a quorum all necessary business was passed. In his Chairman's address, Michael Catchpole reported that the Club had enjoyed an excellent year, both on the courts (as reported in October's Downsman, the Club had triumphed in the Shaftesbury District tennis league) in the form of the "Play Tennis 2000" initiative and in various Club competitions. Membership, too, had borne up well and for 2001 the subscription would remain at the rate set at the inaugural meeting of the Club, way back in 1996! At £25 for a family membership, £15 for an adult and £5 for a junior, this represents superb value for money and, certainly, cannot be challenged by any of the surrounding clubs. New members are always welcome and enquiries should be directed to Jon Carlisle on 01725 552271.

The past year has also witnessed good support for the various coaching sessions, efficiently overseen by Roni Peck, which are tailored to suit all age groups and abilities. With the "all weather" nature of the courts, coaching will continue through the winter months and details of programmes, times, etc, can be obtained from Roni on 01725 516350.

In closing, and prior to the presentation of awards, Michael thanked his committee for their support throughout the past year and paid tribute to the two retiring members, Elizabeth Legg and James Reed. James has represented the junior members interests and for several years past has attended to the courts booking and the odd maintenance task. Deserved words of appreciation were also extended to Annie Cadge for her work in coordinating the Club competitions (Hilary Brown has now taken on this responsibility) and Annie Noble for similar work in liaising with the Shaftesbury League.

Elected to the committee for 2001 are Jon Carlisle, Michael Catchpole, Bill Chorley, Sally David, Rosemary Dike, Helen Goodwin, Paul Noble and Roni Peck.

Summer competitions; trophies and winners and runners up:

Ladies Doubles	Gordon Clarke Trophy	Jill Carlisle & Annie Noble Julie McRoberts & Hilary Brown
Mens Doubles	Victor Fryer Trophy	Charles Nodder & Peter Hornsby Jon Carlisle & Ollie Carlisle
Mixed Doubles	Shield	Ellie Carlisle & Ollie Carlisle Jill Carlisle & Jon Carlisle
Ladies Singles	Mrs John Ashley- Cooper Trophy	Jill Carlisle
Most Improved Junior	Dr Ian Geddes Trophy	Adam McGuinness

The Club has now commenced its winter tournament; entries for the summer contests were well up on the previous year and it is to be hoped that the present round of competitions will be equally well supported.

Bill Chorley

Get Your Child Headed in the Right Direction!

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

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 2¾ - 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 - Tracey Pain
Tel:- 01725 552787

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

The Downsman

DON'T FORGET WHATS ON!!!

DATE	FUNCTION	PAGE	DATE	FUNCTION	PAGE
Dec-02	Bowls Club Christmas Quiz	03	Jan-10	Whist at The Village Hall	12
Dec-03	RSPB Working Party	04	Jan-10	Bridge at The Roebuck	12
Dec-03	Arthritis Research Concert	10	Jan-11	Chase Community Friends	23
Dec-04	Flower Arranging Club	23	Jan-14	RSPB Working Party	04
Dec-05	Handley School BINGO	22	Jan-17	Bridge at The Roebuck	12
Dec-06	Bridge at The Roebuck	12	Jan-18	Chase Community Friends	23
Dec-07	Chase Community Friends	23	Jan-19	Downsman Copy Deadline	03
Dec-08	WI Carol Festival	07	Jan-24	Wednesday Club	11
Dec-08	Imps Christmas Concert	16	Jan-24	Whist at The Village Hall	12
Dec-09	Christmas Whist Drive	12	Jan-24	Bridge at The Roebuck	12
Dec-11	WI Meeting	07	Jan-25	Chase Community Friends	23
Dec-13	Bridge at The Roebuck	12	Jan-31	RSPB Working Party	04
Dec-14	Chase Community Friends	23	Jan-31	Bridge at The Roebuck	12
Dec-20	Bridge at The Roebuck	12	Feb-01	Chase Community Friends	23
Dec-21	Chase Community Friends	23	Feb-04	RSPB Working Party	04
Dec-24	Christmas Eve Services	09	Feb-07	Wednesday Club	11
Dec-25	Christmas Day Services	09	Feb-07	Whist at The Village Hall	12
Dec-27	Bridge at The Roebuck	12	Feb-07	Bridge at The Roebuck	12
Dec-28	Chase Community Friends	23	Feb-08	Chase Community Friends	23
Dec-29	RSPB Working Party	04	Feb-12	WI Meeting	07
Dec-31	New Years Eve Party	14	Feb-14	Bridge at The Roebuck	12
Jan-03	Bridge at The Roebuck	12	Feb-15	Chase Community Friends	23
Jan-04	Chase Community Friends	23	Feb-21	RSPB Working Party	04
Jan-09	WI Resolution Meeting	07	Feb-21	Wednesday Club	11
Jan-10	RSPB Working Party	04	Feb-21	Whist at The Village Hall	12
Jan-10	WI Meeting	07	Feb-21	Bridge at The Roebuck	12