

The Downsman

NEWS AND INFORMATION MAGAZINE

“Oh; how this spring of love resembleth
The uncertain glory of an April day!
Which now shows all the beauty of the sun
And by and bye a cloud takes all away.”

Two gentlemen of Verona – Shakespeare

“Soon o’er their heads blithe April airs shall sing;
A thousand wild flowers round them shall unfold;
The green buds glisten in the dew of spring,
And all be vernal rapture as of old.”

J. Keble

“The young lambs are bleating in the meadows,
The young birds are chirping in the nest,
The young fawns are playing with the shadows,
The young flowers are blowing toward the west –
Go out, children, from the mine and from the city;
Sing out, children, as the little thrushes do;
Pluck your handfuls of the meadow-cowslips pretty,
Laugh aloud to feel your fingers let them through!”

E.B.Browning

PARISH OF SIXPENNY HANDLEY WITH PENTRIDGE

April 2002

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

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	Miss E. Waller.....	552305
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	Mr. J. Porte.....	552677

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	Brian Hansford.....	552468

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	St. Andrews, Gussage St. Andrew	
Vicar	Rev. Ron. Wood.....	552608
Curate	Wendy Griffiths.....	01747 828495
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Cub Leader	Esme Isaacs.....	517203

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	Wimborne.....	01202 885233

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Treasurer	Susan Parsons.....	
Secretary	Michelle Daniels.....	01258 880145

John Curtis.....	552397
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2 - Lower Handley	Mike Comben.....	552085
3 - Upper Handley	John Clarke.....	552674
4 - Deanland & N.E.	Charles Nodder.....	552292
5 - West & South	George Tozer.....	552330

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

The Chase Nursery

Secretary	Gill Pamment.....	552159
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The Chase Nursery Link Group

Contact	Hazel Killeen.....	552980
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President	Mrs Margaret Staplehurst.	552795
Secretary	Mrs H. Eynon.....	552308

Sixpenny Handley Mother's Union

Leader	Pamela Wood.....	552608
Secretary	Sheila Smith.....	552149

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Secretary	Gill Martin.....	552297

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Sunday Secretary	Stuart Haskell.....	552498
Team Managers -Sat.	Mark Young.....	552741
-Sun	Barry Hibberd.....	01258 840198

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Secretary	Heather Eynon.....	552308

Chase Community Friends

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Secretary	Vic Hatton	01258 840671

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Secretary	Adam Macmillan-Scott....	552249
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

Louise Wolstenholme.....	552388
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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

Sixpenny Handley Allotment Holders Association

Chairman	John Curtis.....	552397
Secretary/Treasurer	Sandra Repper.....	552769

Sixpenny Handley Homewatch

Overall Co-ordinator & Police Focal Point

Welcome to the latest edition of The Downsman.

All your contributions to.....

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

Telephone – 01725 552788, Office Hours - 01722 342780

E-mail: alan@num5.freemove.co.uk

GOLDEN JUBILEE - PRESENTATION OF MUGS

It is the intention of the Parish Council to sponsor the presentation of Golden Jubilee Mugs to every child resident in the Parish of Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge who will be between the ages of 4 yrs and 13 yrs on the qualifying date of June 3rd 2002.

A quantity of mugs are being ordered, based on the number of forms returned from the February issue.

Anybody who missed the form, this is your last chance.

If your Child attends the Handley First School they will be automatically allocated a mug. However if they attend Cranborne or any other school you will need to fill in the form below and return to the Parish Clerk or the Editor of the Downsman Magazine, Alan Vincent by **RETURN**.

If you wish to purchase a Mug for yourself or any children who are outside the qualifying

Name.....

Address.....

..... Telephone Number.....

I require a free Mug for each of my children between the age of 4 and 13:-

Childs name..... Age.....

Childs name..... Age.....

Childs name..... Age.....

I wish to purchase mugs.

**CLEANER REQUIRED
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**Apply: Mr B Hansford
Sports Association Secretary
Tel: 01725 552468**



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

Call Freephone CLARENCE

Dorset at War

It had been my intention to research, and report, the supply dropping operations carried out from Tarrant Rushton in the run up to D-Day in 1944. In the event, my intended visits to Kew, where the records of 298 Squadron and 644 Squadron are held on microfilm, have gone by the board and it will be May, at the earliest, before I will be able to do so.

However, from material already in my possession, I have been able to look at some of the events that shaped the history of these two units and in respect of losses to equipment; it seems that the first serious accident occurred, at Tarrant Rushton, on 3 February 1944. The full circumstances are not recorded on the accident record card, but it appears that a glider pilot lost control of his craft while approaching to land and smashed into one of 298 Squadron's Halifaxes, parked on its dispersal pan. The impact was sufficiently severe as to cause extensive damage to the four-engine bomber (serial DK199) and, following a technical inspection, it was written off for scrap.

Six days later, F/O L N Northmore was engaged in glider towing practice when he had the misfortune to strike a pile of bricks, stacked at the end of the runway and having managed to climb away, he discovered he could not retract the port undercarriage leg of his Halifax. For the better part of four hours he circled the airfield, using up fuel and, having cast off the glider, he came into land. On touch down, the bomber ran for just a few yards before the damaged undercarriage collapsed. No one was hurt, but the Halifax (LK651) was badly damaged.

Of the four Halifaxes damaged, or as in one case written off, by the middle of March, all had belonged to 298 Squadron, but on the 16th it was the turn of 644 Squadron to be involved in a serious incident. Tasked for a five-hour cross-country, F/O J V Blake of the Royal Canadian Air Force succeeded in completing his assigned duty but while preparing to land he experienced problems with the undercarriage unit, the port leg steadfastly resisting all attempts to get it to lower. Thus, in mid- afternoon, the bomber was duly landed with its main wheels retracted; again, no one was injured but the Halifax (DK198) was in such a sorry state that it was decided to write it off for scrap.

Thus far, all accidents had been confined within the boundaries of the airfield and as such would not have attracted any attention from those living nearby. But, on 27 May 1944, a very serious crash occurred when during the course of a night exercise with a Hamilcar glider in tow, WO2 A L Wood RCAF crashed into woods roughly a mile west of the airfield killing himself and two other members of his five-man crew. Although the accident card merely states "a wood", I suspect this to be Ashley Woods, just off the main road between Blandford and Tarrant Keyneston. It was a scene of utter devastation, from which three bodies were recovered, along with the two critically injured. I am hopeful of finding fuller details in the Operations Record Book for 644 Squadron, but I suspect that Warrant Officer Arthur Lawrence Wood, who hailed from Bradwardine in Manitoba, was claimed by relatives as he is buried in Kent at Frindsbury (All Saints) Churchyard, while his two fellow Canadians who perished, Pilot Officers Thomas Murray Stewart and Waldemar Freltrik Wolf, are buried in Brookwood Military Cemetery.

The cause of the crash could not be fully ascertained but it is likely that WO2 Wood became disorientated and having stalled his aircraft (LL346) had insufficient height within which to recover before hitting the ground.

Interestingly, it seems that a number of pilots arrived at Tarrant Rushton without the benefit of a Halifax conversion course behind them and, thus, received their four-engine training locally. This was very unusual as Heavy Conversion Units had long since been established for the purpose of converting crews to heavy bomber types, such as the Halifax. Nonetheless, an accident record card raised by 644 Squadron on 7 April 1944, clearly shows

that F/S K O'Dea, an Australian, crashed while attempting his first solo flight in Halifax V LL218. As was all too easy, O'Dea got into difficulties as he commenced his take off roll, and instead of going in a straight path, the bomber commenced drifting towards the left hand side of the runway. His problems were partially self induced in that he had advanced the throttles to maximum power before easing the control forward in order to get his tail off the ground but in mitigation, his instructor had been lax in authorising the flight with the prevailing wind blowing across the runway and this would have presented any pilot with a difficult departure, let alone someone whose experience was extremely limited. One can only imagine the young Australian trying to bring his bomber back under control, but to no avail and after leaving the runway completely, he smashed into a tractor. No one was hurt and the Halifax was little damaged, but it was recommended he be given further dual instruction before making another attempt to fly solo.

Bill Chorley (to be continued)

SIXPENNY HANDLEY **ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW 2002** **17th AUGUST 2002**

Calling all floral art enthusiasts

List of classes for the show.

There will be no pedestal arrangement this year by request.

OPEN TO ALL

- 1 A FOLIAGE ARRANGEMENT (max size 24"h x 24"w x 24"d)
- 2 AN EXHIBIT - 'GOLDEN JUBILEE'
- 3 AN EXHIBIT WITH A NURSERY RHYME THEME
- 4 AN EXHIBIT INCLUDING A STATUETTE
- 5 AN EXHIBIT - 'HARVEST' (incorporating bread & corn)
- 6 A MEDIEVAL NOSEGAY (max size 12" in dia.)
- 7 A MODERN EXHIBIT IN THE STYLE OF "IKEBANA"
- 8 AN ARRANGEMENT IN A SHERRY GLASS

NOVICE CLASSES

Exhibitors in the following 3 classes must not have previously won a 1st prize in Sixpenny Handley flower show

- 9 AN EXHIBIT USING 5 FLOWERS ONLY (max size 24"h x 20"w x 20"d)
- 10 AN EXHIBIT – "HEDGEROW" (max size 24"h x 24"w x 24"d)
- 11 A MINIATURE EXHIBIT (size 4"h x 4"w x 4"d).

Classes 2-7 are to be staged in niches.

Next edition will contain cookery hints

HAY FEVER

Most people can't wait for summer to arrive so they can spend more time outdoors. But if you're one of the 20% of people in the UK who suffer from hay fever, you may have to stay indoors to avoid the pollen. The numbers of people suffering from hay fever is rising each year and this may be due to lots of factors, including air pollution, diet and lifestyle.

Also known as seasonal allergic rhinitis, hay fever is an allergic response to pollen and spores, causing inflammation and irritation of the eyes, nose and throat. The allergic response occurs when the body's immune system overreacts to a normally harmless substance - pollen. When hay fever sufferers inhale pollen, their body treats it like an invader and reacts by producing an antibody - immunoglobulin E (IgE) to fight it off. This then stimulates the release of chemicals including antihistamine to flush the pollen out of the airways causing the nose lining to become inflamed, blood vessels to dilate and mucus production to be increased resulting in itchy, watery eyes, runny nose, sneezing and an itchy throat.

The hay fever season peaks in summer when symptoms are usually worst when there is a high concentration of pollen in the atmosphere but reaction to different pollens occur at different times of the year and this can help indicate what type of pollen you are allergic to. March-May indicates a reaction to birch pollen, April to May indicates plane tree pollen, June to August indicates grass pollen and August to October indicates moulds, fungal spores and weeds.

To deal with hay fever naturally a twice daily dose of 1g of vitamin C has an antihistamine effect and helps to boost immunity. A daily supplement of vitamin A (1,700mcg) will help reduce inflammation of the mucus membranes. A daily supplement of B-complex vitamins will help the body break down histamines.

A herbal infusion of Elder flowers will reduce inflammation of the mucus membranes and is beneficial for the upper respiratory tract and hence is good for hay fever.

Eyebright, made into an infusion can be drunk three times a day to reduce inflammation and mucus production whilst toning and soothing the inflamed mucus membranes. Use the infusion as a wash for inflamed, sore, itchy eyes helping to reduce hay fever symptoms.

An infusion of Red Sage will help reduce sore throats and will also soothe the mucus membranes of the throat and chest.

Lobelia tincture (available from a herbalist) works to relax the respiratory tract whilst stimulating and expectorating catarrhal secretions. Lobelia is a truly holistic herb as it stimulates and relaxes in one!

Garlic loosens catarrh and relieves congestion as well as being powerfully antibiotic and is effective against hay fever.

Nettles possess antihistamine properties and are helpful in the treatment of allergic reactions.

Echinacea is recognised by orthodox medicine as having a beneficial role in the treatment of allergies; it is a powerful lymph cleanser as well as having antibiotic and anti-microbial properties helping to fight infection by boosting white blood cell production and so strengthens the immune system.

The above herbs should be available at Neals Yard Pharmacy in Salisbury, but it is advisable to consult a qualified Herbalist first so that the correct combination of herbs can be prescribed for your particular allergy.

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 please contact any of the Volunteer mums:-
Louise Wolstenholme 01725 552388 Kyla Scougall 01725 552437
Karen Slade 01725 552944 Jasmine Smith 01258 840416



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 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 10:15am -11:45am.

So come along and make new friends.

For any information concerning Chase Community Friends,

Please contact CCF co-ordinator, on 01725 552097.

New volunteers always most welcome.

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU AT SIXPENNY HANDLEY SURGERY

Tuesdays 9:30am – 12:00 noon Christine Pacey

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



Church Services - April & May

ST MARY'S	ST ANDREW'S	ST RUMBOLD'S
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Services in italics are from the Book of Common Prayer

There is Holy Communion every Wednesday at 10:00am at St Mary's

April 7th Second Sunday of

9:30 Morning Prayer
6:00 Holy Communion

11:15 Morning Prayer & Holy Communion
--

April 14th Third Sunday of Easter

10:30 Family Worship	9:30 Holy Communion
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April 21st Fourth Sunday of Easter

9:30 Holy Communion
6:00 Evensong

11:15 Morning Prayer

April 28th Fifth Sunday of Easter

9:30 Holy Communion	8:30 Morning Prayer	11:15 Family Service
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May 5th Sixth Sunday of Easter

9:30 Morning Prayer
6:00 Holy Communion

11:15 Morning Prayer & Holy Communion
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May 12th Sunday after Ascension Day

10:30 Family Worship	9:30 Holy Communion
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May 19th Pentecost (Whitsunday)

9:30 Holy Communion
6:00 Pentecost Praise

11:15 Morning Prayer

May 26th Trinity Sunday

9:30 Holy Communion	8:30 Holy Communion	11:15 Family Service
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June 2nd First Sunday after

9:30 Morning Prayer
6:00 Holy Communion

11:15 Morning Prayer & Holy Communion
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Mobile Library Service



Weekly on Thursdays:- Sixpenny Handley **Fortnightly on Thursdays:-**

Woodyates

3.20 - 3.40 School

3.45 - 4.05 Garage

4.10 - 4.20 Dean Lane Letterbox

Apr. 4th, 18th

May 2nd, 16th, 30th

2.30 - 2.45 Cobley Close

Rob's Column

Rural Rhymes: "April", by W H Davies

When April scatters coins of primrose gold
Among the copper leaves in thickets old,
And singing skylarks from the meadows rise,
To twinkle like black stars in sunny skies;

When I can hear the woodland brook, that could
Not drown a babe, with all his threatening mood;
Upon these banks the violets make their home,
And let a few small strawberry blossoms come:

When I can hear the small woodpecker ring
Time on a tree for all the birds that sing;
And hear the pleasant cuckoo, loud and long -
The simple bird that thinks two notes a song;

When I go forth on such a pleasant day,
One breath outdoors takes all my care away;
It goes like heavy smoke, when flames take hold
Of wood that's green, and fill a grate with gold.

-----//-----

What can you buy for 10p these days. Well, I bought a little publication called 'Evergreen' Autumn 1994 and thought I would like to share with you an item '**anagram**' or '**nag-a-ram**' (by Alan Smith). I wonder how long it took to work this one out. 10p well spent!

A funny language English is - a
source of wit and laughter,
Its quirks and twists delight the
mind, no matter what we're after.
My favourite forms are anagrams
(to them I've quite a leaning);
Just take a word - then shuffle it -
to find a brand new meaning.

So **Geraldine** is **realigned**, and
Glenda's rather **angled**;
They're **silhouettes** in **hotel suites**
(when just a little tangled).
A **forester** who looks **for trees** -
now there's another sample -
A **conifer**, a **fir cone**, or a **maple**
would be **ample**.

The waitress said "A stew, sir?" to
the cleric from Angola;
"No thank you - I'm Episcopal -
I'll have a Pepsi-Cola!"

A **misanthrope**? Then **spare him not!**
(His **glibness** is no **blessing**) -
Nine thumps sufficient **punishment**
for just a little messing

So many **longed** for **golden** wealth to
make their life more pleasant -
Cash table seen on **balance sheets**
(though more by king than peasant).
I've minerals in a **silver mine** - a
stipend so I'll **spend it**.
And if this stanza's far too long,
then **dynamite...may end it!**

Life leads us all a merry dance (a
rumba out in **Burma**?)
In **Summer, Autumn, Winter, Spring**,
"**Times running past**", we **murmur**.
Tho' **Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**
won half the New World's glory.
I'll warrant all this nonsense will be
quite another story.

-----//-----

Last column's answers: Lateral problem - **One. Two. Three. Four. Five. Six. = Seven**
'In five years time I will be 3 times as old as I was 3 years ago. How old am I?' - Answer Seven

Some more teasers:

- i) What game begins with 'T', has four letters in its name, and is played all over the world?
 - ii) There are four pairs of blue socks and three pairs of red socks in a drawer. In the dark, how many socks do I need to select to be sure of getting a matching pair?
 - iii) A man leaves hospital and begins to walk home. On his journey he passes a 'phone box which begins to ring. Instead of answering it he punches the air and runs all the way home cheering. Why?
- Rob Jesse*

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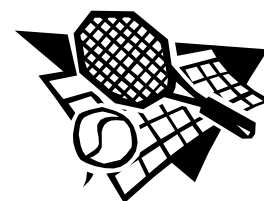


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Established 1965

Sixpenny Handley Tennis Club



Local Tennis – Open To All

With the summer fast approaching, Sixpenny Handley Tennis Club has vacancies for membership. Players of all ages and abilities are encouraged to join. The club prides itself on its friendly atmosphere and welcomes beginners and potential Wimbledon champions alike. Joining is quick and easy; low membership fees make it attractive for the occasional player as well as the regular enthusiast.

Social and Competitive Tennis

Sixpenny Handley Tennis Club gives players of all abilities the opportunity to play social or competitive tennis (or both) as they wish. In the summer there are weekly club evenings at which all are welcome, as well as regular social/fun tournaments (for both juniors and adults) through the season. Informal 'round robin' singles and doubles tournaments are held in both summer and winter. For the more competitive, the club enters a team in the Shaftesbury league; participation is open to all members.

Coaching

The club provides high class coaching for all ages and abilities but there is particular emphasis on supporting junior players. The resident coach is Roni Peck who is an LTA CCC licensed coach and has been a stalwart of the club since its inception in 1997. There is junior coaching on Monday afternoons from April onwards. There is also adult coaching on Monday evenings from May, and a Wednesday morning adult session which runs all year.

Membership

Membership of the tennis club is open to all living in Sixpenny Handley and the surrounding area. Members are welcome from all villages in the area such as Cranborne, Wimborne St Giles, the Gussages, Farnham, Bowerchalke, Broad Chalke. Both family and single (adult or junior) membership is available. Family membership is £35 per annum, adult membership £20 and juniors membership £7.50 a year.

For further information or a membership form please contact



MOTHERS' UNION

Sixpenny Handley Mothers' Union are holding two open meetings to which you are warmly invited.

The meetings will be held at 2 St. Mary's Court at 10 am.

The dates and the speakers will be:-

FRIDAY 12th APRIL Janet Bourne on Beckingsale House Salisbury Women's Refuge.

FRIDAY 3rd MAY Katherine Marr on Baptism

We look forward to seeing you

RSVP Jean Mayne 01725 552692.

THE SIXPENNY HANDLEY AND CHALKE VALLEY PRACTICE

**The Surgery, Dean Lane, Sixpenny Handley, Salisbury
Doves Meadow Surgery, Broadchalke, Salisbury**

Meningitis C Immunisation For 20-24 Year Olds

The current guidance for meningitis C immunisation has been updated to now include young people aged between 20 and 24 years old.

If you would like to receive the MenC vaccine, please phone the surgery to make an appointment. When you make the appointment please check that there is an available vaccine in stock.

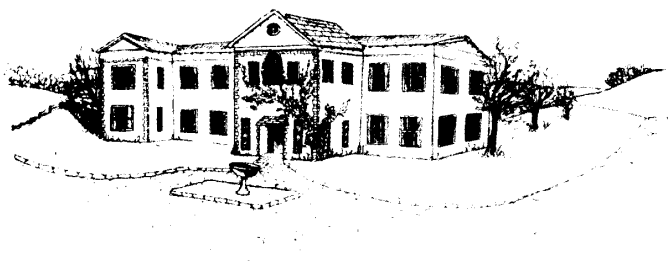
Thank you.

Sixpenny Handley 01725 552500

Broadchalke 01722 780282

~ Functions & Feasts ~

CHASE MANOR CATERING



**High Quality Hospitality
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Contact Simon or Paul
at

Unit 2 Town Workshops
Sixpenny Handley Wiltshire SP5 5PA
01725 552934



The Chase Nursery

Ian Mereweather of Paddock Close, Sixpenny Handley, will be running in **The London Marathon** this year. He has very kindly offered to donate any money raised through sponsorship to The Chase Nursery. The nursery is a registered charity and non-profit making organization; it exists to provide a high standard of pre-school care for the very young children of Sixpenny Handley, and surrounding areas. We rely on fund-raising to enable the nursery to exist. We would like to thank Ian for this kind offer, and wish him success in his training and in the actual marathon. If anyone wishes to sponsor Ian, please complete the form below, either per mile (26 miles) or for completing the marathon, and return it to Gill Hutchins; 3 Town Farm Place; 01725 552159. Thank you.

[illegible]

In February this year, the Nursery's shed at the Village Hall was broken into, and all the children's outdoor toys were stolen or damaged beyond repair. If anybody has any information about this thoughtless action, or knows of the whereabouts of any of the tricycles, ride-on toys, cars, buckets and spades, we would be very grateful to hear from you. Please contact Gill; 01725 552159, or Jackie; 01725 552808.

SCHOOL PHOTO



Did you go to Sixpenny Handley School or do you know someone who did? The school would like to arrange a reunion photograph with as many ex-pupils as possible. The photo will be available to buy and you could even have a jigsaw puzzle made from it.

If you used to be a pupil (whatever your age now) contact Angela on 01725 552140 (evenings only) or email angela@artsnarg.co.uk giving your name and address, telephone number and the year you left the school.

We're aiming for the photo to be taken towards the end of May.

Dorset Art Weeks – May 25th – June 9th

A message from the **Cranborne Chase Communities Weavers:**

This year the weavery at Unit 8, Town Farm Workshop is participating in Dorset Art

Weeks. We will be open every day between the above dates

(except May 29th and 31st, June 2nd, 5th and 7th)

from 10am till 1pm.

Entry is free and refreshments are available.

Come and see for yourselves our very able weavers at work.

Look out for the road signs!

We all look forward to welcoming you then.



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News and Information

NATIONAL
FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S
INSTITUTES

February 2002

President Mrs Maggie Staplehurst welcomed members to a well attended meeting when Mrs Barbara Last and her husband gave a delightful and very interesting talk on 'Friends and Foes in the garden' illustrated with slides of all the 'Creepy Crawlies'! They were thanked by Stella Symes.

The Group Quiz is at Melbury on February 19th. A walk over Middleton Down is being organised for May 13th and members from Lyndhurst will join us.

The Annual Jumble Sale will be on February 23rd. All help and contributions will be gratefully welcomed.

Tea hostesses were Elizabeth Brodie and Carole North.

Flower of the month winners – Jan Gibb, Doreen Leverton, Norah North, Christine Napier and Stella Symes.

There was an exhibition of old garden implements.

Next meeting is on March 11th.

March 2002

President Mrs Maggie Staplehurst welcomed members to a well attended meeting and a silence was observed in memory of Mrs Hilda Hansford, a member, who has recently passed away.

Mrs Mandy Philips was welcomed, who then gave her talk entitled 'The End is Nigh' meaning that she is nearing the end of a City and Guilds course in Embroidery. She showed and explained the many beautiful and varied types and examples of embroidery she has done and brought with her, - also amusing stories concerning the production of various items. She was thanked by Sheila Smith.

A very successful recent Jumble Sale was reported, with very warm and grateful thanks to everyone who had helped and supported it in any way, with special thanks to husbands and other gentlemen friends who had given so much help – it was greatly appreciated.

The next meeting on **April 8th** is our 80th birthday and Mr Hawkes will speak about 'Arab Costume and Jewellery'. The birthday meal out, will be on **April 23rd**, names are being taken for it.

The walk on Middleton Down will be on Monday **May 13th**, when members from Lyndhurst will join us. Lunch will be available afterwards at a local pub.

The Annual Cup Competition for November will be a Craft Item for a 'Home made Greetings Card'

Members were asked to support the Bowls Club Quiz on April 27th.

The Spring Meeting is at Iwerne Minster on **May 16th**.

There was an exhibition of photos of Nineteenth Century Costumes.

The tea hostesses were Carole North and Bobby Carter.

Flower of the month – Jan Gibb, Stella Symes, Win Judd and Norah North.

The meeting closed with Happy Easter wishes from President Maggie Staplehurst.

Win Judd 01725 552237

ROEBUCK INN

Freehouse

22 High Street, Sixpenny Handley

**Traditional Home Made Food
& Selection of Real Ales**

**Restaurant, Beer Garden, Games Room,
Bed & Breakfast, Television Room, Off Road
Parking**

Sunday Roasts, Childrens Menu

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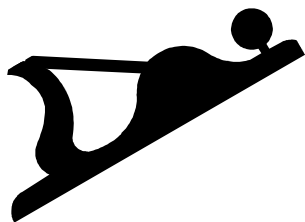
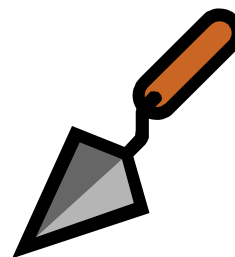
**Carpentry and Building
of Blandford**



New Houses

Extensions

Refurbishments



Call Peter Oxford



Sixpenny Handley Bowls Club

Last Sunday we held our annual pairs short-mat competition and this was won by Tony Groves and Stella Symes – the runners up were Ivor Hunt and Maxine Keech.



This Sunday we had the last competition of the short mat season – the Blackmore Vale Competition Day. This is open to all the teams that take part in the League. It lasts all day and is held at Sherborne, when all the League winners receive their trophies.

Our Division Two team in the Blackmore Vale League came out winners by a large margin and will now be promoted to Division One next season. Our second string 'The Tanners' playing in Division Four were not so consistent and will probably finish fourth. We have had friendly matches against Fordingbridge and Buckhorn Weston recently, which we won, so we are not doing too badly as a Club. Our Bowls Club manned the stalls for the recent Village Hall Jumble Sale and this was very successful.

We are still desperate for new members and our two forthcoming events are Open Day of the Outdoor Green on **21st April** and the new date for our Easter Quiz is on **27th April**. Everyone is invited to the Open Day on 21st April and we would love to see you. You can also join us on any Wednesday evening when it is Club night.

Gill Martin

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

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Sports Injuries, Spinal and Neck Pain, Arthritis, Headaches

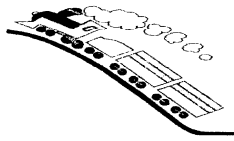
Acupuncture, Ergonomic Advice, Massage
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Telephone: 01725 552518

Sixpenny Handley Bowls Club

OPEN DAY SUNDAY APRIL 21st from 2 p.m.
Opportunity if you are interested in Playing Bowls to try it on the Green.
Excellent exercise for young and old - 12years to 90.
Join a friendly club
with plenty of Competitive and Social Bowling in the fresh air.

Bright Sparks

All aboard Bright Sparks



**Fun - new friends - new experiences.
A good start onto those stepping stones of life.**

**Your Local Nursery School
2 - 5 Year Olds.**

**Mondays and Wednesdays: 9.15am to 12.15pm (1pm optional)
Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays: 9.15 to 12.15pm - 12.15pm to 2.45pm
£5.50 per session.**

Grant registered for 3 and 4 year olds.

Holiday play schemes available.

**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 creative development.
As promoted by the DfEE for the Foundation Stage, Early Learning Goals
Stepping Stones.**

Your Child's Well Being Is Paramount.

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

**We look forward to seeing you at Ebbesbourne Wake Village Hall,
Ebbesbourne Wake.
Tel: 01722 781069.**

OFFICE SPACE AT SIXPENNY HANDLEY

**1450 sq ft available
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Sixpenny Handley Bowls Club

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Opportunity if you are interested in Playing Bowls to try it on the Green.

Excellent exercise for young and old - 12years to 90.

Join a friendly club

with plenty of Competitive and Social Bowling in the fresh air.

The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB

One of Britain's finest, but often forgotten Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, is about to become the centre of attention.

The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB is one of the most deeply rural and largely unspoilt landscapes in the country. Sheep outnumber people by nearly three to one across 380 square miles of chalk downland, wooded hills, and rolling farmland that stretch from Dorset and Hampshire, into Wiltshire and Somerset.

Now the 30,000 people who live and work within its boundaries are being asked for their views on its future.

The new Countryside and Rights of Way Act gives AONBs the same status as National Parks. And that means the biggest changes for 50 years to the way all AONBs are run. A total of 11 local councils are joining forces with business leaders, farmers, community groups, conservationists and local tourism interests. The partnership will put together a Management Plan for the area that tackles all the major issues.

One of their top priorities will be how to attract more grant money to the area to help raise its profile and sustain the quality of life.

The first step is to canvass the views of the people who actually live and work within the AONB. Over the course of the next year the AONB team will be contacting all of the 104 parishes and travelling to villages throughout the area to canvass peoples' views on the future.

Some of the major issues already identified include:

- How much and how fast changes in farming could alter the landscape.
- How rural services, such as local shops and buses, as well as job opportunities, can be maintained.
- How to provide affordable homes for local people.
- How to raise the profile of an AONB that many people, inside as well as outside the area have never heard of.

Malcolm Turnbull, chairman of one of the AONB's key working groups, said:

"The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB really is one of England's hidden gems. It includes tens of thousands of acres of stunning and - increasingly rare these days - virtually unspoilt landscape. This is an area rich in archaeological remains, unique wildlife, and truly historic landscape like the ancient royal hunting forest in Cranborne Chase. It is also blessed with a wealth of parklands and estates such as Stourhead, Kingston Lacy and Longleat.

But it is also a place where 30,000 people live and work. Our action plan for the future has no chance of success without their participation. It is essential that their voice is heard."



SIXPENNY HANDLEY GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS



PROGRAMME

SATURDAY 1st JUNE

1:30pm FUN RUN starts and finishes at the sports pavilion

(Categories for all ages, shapes and sizes, so fill in the Application Form on page 35 in this issue of the Downsman and get it, with the Entry Fee, to the Post Office Stores by the 5th May 2002.

3:00pm GAMES FOR ALL AGES on the recreation ground, including "IT'S A KNOCKOUT" for teams of four, and a **COMPETITION FOR THE BEST DRESSED FIFTIES** adult or child.

4:30pm PRESENTATION OF JUBILEE MUGS, TROPHIES AND PRIZES by Councillor Tim Palmer.

5:00pm HOG ROAST by the sports pavilion

BAR TEAS MUSIC from 3pm.

SUNDAY 2nd JUNE

9:30am JUBILEE MORNING service at St. Mary's church

11:00am onwards **JUBILEE EXHIBITION** in the church

(Exhibits by the School, the Women's Institute, and the Flower Club, as well as a Photographic Record of the village over 50 years in which you are invited to join. See the special notice opposite.)

2:00pm onwards **CREAM TEAS** in the Vicarage Garden

MONDAY 3rd JUNE

2:30pm TREASURE HUNT for all ages starting from the church where your instructions will be issued. Entry £1 adults 50p children. Refreshments available.

7:30pm JUBILEE QUIZ at Village Hall. Tickets £12 for a team of four. Supper included.

**COME ALONG AND JOIN IN ONE OR ALL OF THESE EVENTS AND MAKE THIS
A GREAT WEEKEND FOR ALL AGES IN THE VILLAGE.**

**FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ALL THE EVENTS
PLEASE PHONE 01725 552572.**

**ANY PROFITS FROM THE EVENTS WILL BE DONATED TO
THE VILLAGE HALL**



BIRTHDAYS IN 1952

Five people have had the courage to admit that they reached the great age of 50 this year. They will be rewarded with a special Jubilee Gift!



JUBILEE MUGS FOR CHILDREN

The Parish Council is arranging for the gift of Jubilee Mugs for the young people aged 4 to 13. Details are repeated in this issue of the Downsman.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

We are planning to show photographs covering the life of the village over the last 50 years. We have access to some very good sources, but we'd like to find any other photos of local events or local personalities. Have you got any material you would be prepared to lend? We propose (if possible) to scan anything that is lent to us, so that we can return the originals immediately with no risk or loss or damage. Can you help?

DO YOU HAVE A COMPUTER SCANNER? WOULD YOU LEND IT, OR HELP OUT WITH IT?

As you will see from the above paragraph, we need the use of a scanner. Would you help? Phone Ron Wood on 552608 or Norman Mansfield on 552595.

HELP NEEDED!!

To make all the planned events a success, we shall need help. Can you spare a couple of hours or more over the weekend to help on the Recreation Field, or in the Church.?

If you can, then please tell Carole on 552572 or Robert on 552340.
We really, really do need you, please!

IT'S A KNOCKOUT

This is on Saturday afternoon. So get your teams of four ready for the fun!



DECORATING THE VILLAGE

We hope the shops are going to do something on a Fifties theme in their windows.
Why don't you join in too?

Woodcutts Home and Abroad

The reader will remember, that in the February issue of the Downsman, the scarcity of water underground, resulting in a very low water table almost everywhere in the area, was mentioned. Obviously someone in a very senior position reads this magazine, as the first half of February had barely a day without rain. Unfortunately this 'person' can't be a meteorologist, as he/she sent high winds at the same time. This meant that much of the precipitation was carried away before it could reach the ground, or if it did penetrate the soil, the drying effect soon removed it. Hence the water table has barely risen, so keep planting marram grass, cacti and any succulents you can find.

Fortunately for Madge,(Meg) and I, we were away during this foul weather. Our six children were obviously fed up of seeing us about, and decided that they would send us abroad, using my sixtieth birthday as an excuse. We had the last laugh though, we came back after a fortnight. (Single tickets indeed!)

To be serious, we did appreciate the gesture, and had a wonderful fortnight on the Mediterranean coast of the Algarve. For twelve of the fourteen days we had wonderful sunshine, with temperatures reaching the Seventies. What a difference from home.

When we arrived, the almond trees were in full bloom. The blossom looking rather like very light, pink candyfloss, held up in a clear blue sky on blue/grey sticks, which had been planted in rows on an emerald green carpet. Bees, both honey and bumble were everywhere, as were butterflies of several species, including large fritilleries and what I took to be orange-tips. (I'm afraid unless they stand still for me nowadays, identification can be difficult.) Their presence was due to the numerous spring flowers already in bloom. As well as the flora, we were lucky enough to see other wild life worth recording. For example the bird life we were fortunate enough to see, while traveling 'off road' in a four wheel drive, which was intentional, included storks, egrets, eagles and hoopoes. Note the sizes, I couldn't mistake these. The storks, easily identified and easily seen since they insist on nesting on any convenient high chimney, while others spotted on marshy land next to a river, were of a different species, namely the black storks,(*Ciconia nigra*.), while the nesting ones were I believe white storks, (*Ciconia ciconia*.) The egrets were in fact little egrets,(*Egretta garzetta*.) as found now occasionally in the Chalke Valley. The difference in this case was that instead of appearing singly in moving water, these birds were in flocks following the plough, rather like sea-gulls in this country, looking for worms and insects. Perhaps this will be something for us to look forward to as a positive factor of global warming. (It isn't all bad.)

After the egrets came the eagles, somewhat in the distance, certainly not close enough to be recognised by a novice. Our guide informed us that they were Stone Eagles, but on looking the name up I met a blank; we had misheard, he had said Bone Eagle, an abbreviation of Bonelli's Eagle, (*Hieraetus fasciatus*.), an Iberian bird found quite commonly there, he had simply shortened the name.

However the best was yet to come. As a small boy, my grandmother knowing of my interest in nature, gave to me the Observers Book of British Birds, in which this wonderful bird, the Hoopoe appeared as an occasional visitor to the south of England. I had never seen one and had never met anyone claiming to have seen one here. For sixty years I had hoped to see one, this day in Portugal I was fortunate to see two; both in flight and at roost. A beautiful bird, size eleven and a half inches overall,(since it was within the E.U. it has to be 29cms. I suppose.) It's description in the Readers Digest, Book of British Birds, reads as follows:-'*with a pink-brown plumage, a crest like a Red Indians head-dress and boldly barred black and white wings*,'. I can assure you this does not do it justice. If the Hoopoe follows the Little Egret, becoming a resident rather than an occasional visitor, we are in for a great deal of pleasure. Before leaving the subject of the hoopoe, our vicar Ron Wood pointed out to me that it had a rather unusual scientific name, UPUPA EPOPS. Perhaps someone can tell us where it came from. If you can, I'm sure the editor would like to know.

Unfortunately for Meg and I, unlike the Hoopoe we are not occasional visitors to the South of England, we live here, and so we came back to the rain.

Sat. 16th. March

After a poor day yesterday, followed by several hours of poor sleep, I come to and looking at the clock note that it is 5:10am Meg decides it is better that I get up than keep her awake. So I jump out of bed, energetically wash in cold water, dress hurriedly and leap downstairs and into the kitchen. (the last sentence might not be the absolute truth but what follows is.)

Now at a more leisurely pace, I slowly fill the kettle and turn it on to boil. It is now 5:20am, and on

opening the back door, I am greeted by pigeons bellowing out, COO, COO, at the extreme of their vocal range. Since I can't see a lot, I re-enter the kitchen and await the boiling of the kettle. (I will have to have cold drinks in future, it takes far too long for me to find the 'k' on this keyboard for the 'kettle'.) While in waiting mode, I think; this is not that unusual for me, but this time I try to be constructive. Today I have to be in Southampton at 10:30am for an O.U. tutorial, so I won't have time later to go down Long Lane to see if the Cowslip bud is in flower yet. I've been watching it for several days now and don't want to miss it, so I will go now. I make tea, put on wellies, coat and cap and with mug of tea in one hand and stick in the other, you never know with these terrorists about, I venture outside at 5:30am.

Now the pigeons have woken all the other birds up for miles around. What a din! I quaff a few gulps of tea, shut the garden gate, and I'm off. The 'noise' changes into birdsong, quite melodious really. It is rather like watching early television, that is, it is all black and white, as I reach the end of the cottages and the bottom of my mug simultaneously. The former I leave behind me, the latter I put into my pocket. There is no Old Shep(Jock), to say "Where did you get that tea from" now. The Old Order Changeth. I pass on down to Champs Farm, where I look around for signs of life. Standing still under the hedge, I see song birds, rooks, pigeons, pheasants, partridge, rabbits and one hare. But I'm here to look for cowslips in bloom, so down the lane I go. The yellow of the celandines now is visible and when I come to the cowslips the paler yellow is not visible, just the pale green calyx. Never mind I'll walk to the end of the hedge, despite walking directly into the wind and rain which has just started.

Walking along the green track between the original old hedge and the beeches Sir Michael had planted some four or five years ago, there is quite a lot of protection from the weather.

These trees, when planted, barely reached the top of their protective tubes, now they are twice the height, some up to eight and a half feet tall, Sir Michael as he looks down on them now, must be very proud. Slowly as I walk southward between the trees, colours are becoming more distinct, but the overcast conditions certainly affect my vision. As I progress, pheasants see me coming and noisily move away, this is not good so I must keep closer to the hedge and travel more quietly, although the wind is blowing into my face, but my presence must be less obvious. (This is not so easy nowadays, Meg keeps on about a diet.)

Stop, what was that? I pull into the hedge to my left, some one hundred and fifty yards in front a deer appears out of the hedge and starts grazing in the lane. More follow, there are at least six. Too far away in this light, colour, sex, age or even numbers are not certain. Deciding to approach them, I edge forward along the hedge very cautiously. Despite being down wind of them, one immediately turns, head up, ears erect facing me. I stand motionless against the hedge, the others continue to graze, as does the first one after a few seconds. Cautiously moving forward, I get nearer. Stopping if a lookout lifts its head and glances in my direction, until a twig snaps under my foot, three immediately look up, but they don't run. After what seemed to be several minutes they resume grazing, moving in and out of the beech trees. There are at least eight, but they aren't very cooperative when it comes to being counted.

It is now raining quite hard, and I am within fifty yards of them but they are aware of me. They move into the open very nervously, there are clearly ten in number. Whoops! They have definately seen me, they are off across the wheat, its pouring with rain so I'm off too.

As I enter the garden gate; I remember that the chickens' nest boxes need fresh sawdust , so as I can't get much wetter, I let them out and bed them up. Now sitting in the kitchen I am trying to equalise the osmotic pressure, that is I am drinking tea as fast as possible, to equate the wetness of the inside with the outside.

Tuesday 19th. March

Already one day past copy deadline, but I must visit the cowslips again very quickly, and how glad I am that I have. There is just one in flower, and to make my day so is just one solitary bluebell. There have already been fantastic shows of primroses, white violets, dog and sweet violets, what else has nature in store for us this year? Thank God for this wonderful natural world.

Ted Cox (Woodcuts) 20.03.02



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general maintenance work

For a free estimate
please call 01725 552 651

Thank You

Arthur & Beryl would like to thank everyone in the village who sent messages and cards of sympathy plus donations to Salisbury Hospice following the sudden loss of my dear wife Alice on 13th January last.

Please accept this as a Personal acknowledgement.

God bless you all.

LEARN THE MOST WIDELY SPOKEN FIRST LANGUAGE ON THE PLANET

Mandarin lessons with a skilled, qualified and experienced tutor who speaks fluent Mandarin, and English. Very patient, with a track record of success with first-time students.



For further information please contact Anne Yin Poulter on 01725 552007, or email : dpoulter@easynet.co.uk



THE MEN'S GROUP

This is an informal group that gets together on the fourth Thursday evening of each month to talk and have a drink. Generally, we have someone to come and lead the discussion on a particular topic. Although the group meets at the Vicarage, it is a non-church group open to anyone to come along; and we are perfectly happy to talk about sex, politics, religion or money - in fact all the things you aren't supposed to bring up! The next meeting (because of the Easter holiday) is on Thursday, 11th April and then we return to the fourth Thursday on Thursday, 23rd May. Come and join in at 7.30 pm on the 11th April when Dr. Iain Geddes will lead a discussion on The Health of the Middle Aged Man.

The 2002 Summer Rota for the **Dorset Police Eastern Division Community Service Vehicles** will commence from 1st April 2002.



This year we will have on the vehicle a property marking kit which will be available for marking Tack, Mobile Phones and Cycles. There will be no charge for the marking of Tack, or cycles, unless the cycles have aluminium frames. With these we have a special marking kit which we can use at a minimal cost to the owner. With regards to the Mobile Phones, a minimal charge will be made for marking these. We will visit Sixpenny Handley High Street, between 9:30 and 11:30am on the following dates:-
27th April, 25th May, 22nd June, 20th July, 17th August, 14th September, 12th October

SPORTING CHANCE 2002
ORGANISED BY CRANBORNE CHASE COMMUNITITES
AND FUNDED BY CRANBORNE SPORTING CHANCE ASSOCIATION

VENUE: CRANBORNE COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL
and for the first time!!

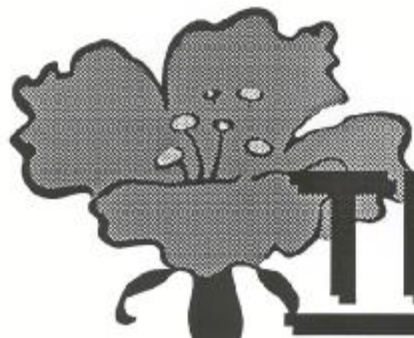
in association with England Federation of Disability Sport
Disability Sport England -south west
English Sports Association for People with Learning Disabilities

SATURDAY MAY 18th
at Cranborne County Middle School - thanks to the ongoing support of all there.

The event is for adults, 16 plus, with learning disabilities -
there is no other qualification and people in wheelchairs are welcome.

Sixpenny Handley Bowls Club

OPEN DAY SUNDAY APRIL 21st from 2 p.m.
Opportunity if you are interested in Playing Bowls to try it on the Green.
Excellent exercise for young and old - 12years to 90.
Join a friendly club
with plenty of Competitive and Social Bowling in the fresh air.



The Inn on the Chase..

has been under the new ownership of Jojo, Sally and Lenny, with the invaluable support of our happy team, Luke, Caroline and now Jo and Yogi, since November. Not been in to see us yet? Well here's a few things you can look forward to experiencing in our homely pub:

- Families welcome in our restaurant which is open every lunch time and evening, serving good home cooked food. BOOKING RECOMMENDED.*
- The public bar (serving yummy bar snacks) is open every lunch time and evening from 5pm*
- We're open all day (from 11.30am until 11pm) on Friday's, Saturday's and Sunday's.*
- Good food served all day and evening on Sunday (from 12noon until 9.30pm).*
- Daily papers at the bar.*
- We'll kept real ales, and a good selection of draught lagers, spirits and bottled drinks to suit all tastes.*
- Pool teams, darts teams, quiz nights and other interesting events organised on a regular basis.*

We look forward to meeting you!

On the A354 at Cashmoor In the dip! 01725 552230

Handley SPORTS CLUB 100 CLUB

Draw Number 11

1st	£30	No 48	Ken Jeanes, Sheasby Close
2nd	£10	No 50	J E Edwards, Gussage St Michael
3rd	£10	No 127	Charles Nodder, Deanland
4th	£10	No 107	J A Edwards Gussage St Michael
5th	£5	No 227	Sylvia Mackle, St Mary's Close

Draw Number 12

1st	£30	No 166	Mr D Jones, Sycamore Close
2nd	£10	No 157	Mrs A M Read, Deanland
3rd	£10	No 164	Mr John Carlisle, Salisbury
4th	£10	No 189	John Lennane, Waterditchampton
5th	£5	No 178	Mr J Walters, East Woodyates

Letters

With reference to the letter in the last issue of the Downsman from "anonymous, for obvious reasons"

I believe that every resident in Handley was appalled at the damage caused to the play area, and thankfully this has been recognised to be the behaviour of the minority.

Being a long standing resident of 39 years to Handley and someone who feels passionate about their home, I was at a loss to understand what 'Hanging Handley' means. Maybe I have my head in a hole but I was unaware that the reputation of Handley needed rebuilding. It has always had a community spirit, only spoilt by the size it has now become with people moving in and out never intending to make it their home.

As for the metal pillars in the field next to the play area to my knowledge they are on private property not a footpath and so could easily stay there forever.

Please don't move into this perfectly pleasant village and start looking for it's bad points; try looking for the good ones. I'm sure you will find plenty!

Julia Bishop

Dear Anon

In reply to part of your letter in the last Downsman regarding what you call dangerous ugly concrete and metal pillars by the gate to the recreation ground. As the owner of the field where these things are, and as they are not on the footpath but on private property, I feel that I can put things on my own land where and when and for as long as I like. If you had been good enough to come to me in person (whoever you are) and talked about it, the old swing frames may have been removed sooner. But I feel they may stay where they are for a while longer yet. I am not going to be told what to do by an anonymous new resident.

Another thing I find very annoying is the fact that many dog walkers from the village think this field just mentioned, plus my camping field, is public open space to let their dogs foul! It is not! Please use the footpaths not my private land.

I do agree with the statement about punishing the mindless individuals etc., though as I have lived here all my life I don't mind putting my name in this letter.

Stephen Judd.

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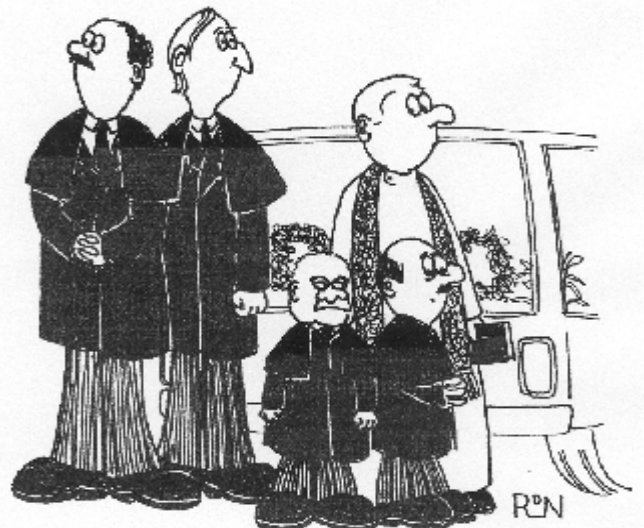


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ST MARY'S NEWS LETTER

Where to start: what has been going on and where are we going? Well, we know that Christmas is but a memory other than broken, discarded and forgotten toys/games together with many of our New Year resolutions. Spring is struggling to replace the rigours of winter, the blossom is appearing in the hedgerows and the mowers/trimmers are back in action. As I write this piece Lent is well advanced with Palm Sunday just coming, followed by Good Friday and then Easter Sunday. (Jesus' triumphal ride into Jerusalem followed by his Crucifixion and glorious Resurrection *Alleluia, Christ is Risen!*). When you read this these important events will have been celebrated by many of you, especially Easter Sunday, and the children will still be on school holidays. Easter Sunday morning service is one of those occasions in the Church calendar which is generally very well attended - a 'special' - the attendance figures have long been used to gauge the health of the Church as a whole. To resolve the problem (highlighted in the last issue) of finance, that is to move the subject down the priority list, the Church needs to translate the Easter figures to regular Sunday worship throughout the year. The questions raised of how we can achieve a significant increase here are being examined by the PCC. With this in mind initially an additional informal form of worship at a different time is to be introduced (more user/family friendly) still maintaining the existing patterns of services. Your Church's Annual General Meeting is to be held after the Family Worship on Sunday 14th April- Worship, which is very informal, starts at about 10:30am (you don't need to put on your Sunday best). Refreshments will be available sometime - maybe before, during or after. You are welcome to join us.



MARTIN DECIDED THE BEARERS WERE
NOT HIS PROBLEM

Band Concert

A wonderful evening of Military Band music provided by the Royal Signals Band from Blandford - not everybody's cup of tea but nevertheless for those that enjoy live music this was a memorable occasion. The programme was varied with arrangement for Military Band of orchestral Nimrod, from Elgar's Enigma Variation, Pomp and Circumstance march No 4 to Gershwin. Solo's included a Oboe piece which reached deep down inside one, the flautist provided a haunting rendition which was another moving experience, the breathless Post Horn duet set the blood coursing to be finally lifted by a rousing fun trombone piece. Great fun to watch the band reduce as they walked off whilst playing Haydn's Farewell Symphony until only the Conductor was left (industrial action over pay - a reminder to the patron). We look forward to next year's concert.

David Salmons

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Well, 3 months on, where has the time gone?! At last, I have had some offers of help to repair the Hall. (Thank you).

The 100 Club has picked up some more members, but we still have room for more.

Jan. winners:	1st	69	Mr Leverton	Feb. winners:	1st	14	C Miles
	2nd	108	B Hornsby		2nd	70	J Hudson
	3rd	59	G Clarke		3rd	12	Bowls Club

The Gift Aid donations are, at the moment, few and far between. We hope to be able to 'drum up' some more interest in future.

In February, the Happy Nappy group put on a Music Quiz Night (a challenge for the village). 19 teams were brave enough to have a go - and the range of music spanned many years between 1950's to 1980's. Well done to David and Jill Hutchins for all the work they put in (and what a challenge it was). The winning team was Sam Leiber-Young and friends, with the Vicar's team coming second. They all received music vouchers as prizes, and these were presented by Steve Pharo, our Chairman. Thanks to all the team of Gordon, Pat, Stella, Tony, Julie and Ian for the Draw, Food, Drink and general help. As a result we raised £347 after all expenses. With luck we may have another quiz later in the year (with some easier questions this time).

The Bowls Club organised a Jumble Sale in March, and a profit of over £400 was made. Thanks to Pat and Gordon Oxford and their many helpers.

The Youth Club will have held their Bingo night at the end of March by the time that the Downsman is printed, so "Thank you" to you all in advance for what we hope will be a very successful evening. We will give you an update on the results in the next issue.

The maintenance of the hall continues, all outstanding major bills have been paid, and we have some money in the bank (not a lot - as they say) and it is time to make good as much as we can.

The boiler has been serviced, our thanks to Mr Hannan, and it is now in as good running order as we can achieve with the existing unit. We have to think of its replacement in the not too distant future.

The fascia boards have been purchased, and we wait for the better weather to put them up. Some painting will hopefully be done at the same time. Volunteers always a help.

The new lights and ceiling panel work should soon be completed and this will be a great improvement.

We are achieving something at last, but were disappointed when, last week (Thursday) a large window was smashed. It was strange that no-one seemed to know how it was broken! Our thanks to Julie who made 'umpteens' telephone calls and managed to get it mended the next day.

The whole village has had some problems with vandalism over the past few months, so I urge

all villagers to be vigilant, and keep an eye open for any suspicious activity.

Dates for your Diary

Sunday April 14th:- Clean up and repair day. From 10 am and/or until you get bored (food provided).

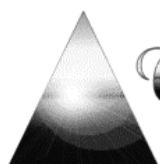
Monday April 29th:- Village Hall AGM. 7.30 pm. All are welcome, please come along and air your views, and perhaps offer some help. If you have any ideas for fund raising, let me know.

No date yet BUT SOON! a Bangers and Mash challenge night organised by the committee. Watch out for posters giving details.

Saturday June 22nd:- Auction. Items can be taken to the hall from 10 am for sale at 7 pm. More details in next issue, but meanwhile save up items for sale.

Don't forget that many organisations use the hall on a regular basis: Yoga; Dance Club; Indoor Bowls; Wednesday Club; Happy Nappy; Toddlers Group; Youth Club; Flower Club; Whist Club; W.I. If you are interested in joining any of these, let me know and I will put you in contact.

Rob Jesse.



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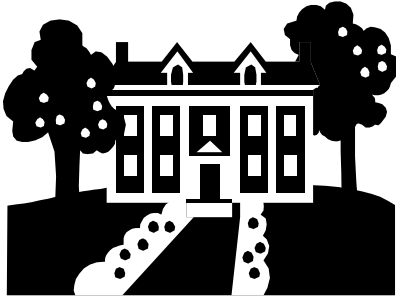
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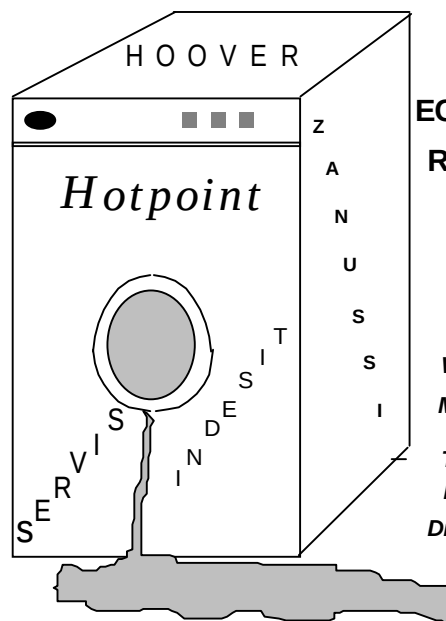
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SATURDAY 1st JUNE 2002. START 1.30 PM.

Entry Form

ENTRY FEE. Payable with application. Fee to cover the cost of administration

SURNAME												SEX	
FIRST NAME						AGE ON DAY OF RACE				DATE OF BIRTH			
POSTAL ADDRESS								DAY		MONTH		YEAR	
POSTAL ADDRESS													
COUNTY										POSTCODE			
CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER													

All runners to start and finish from the Sports Pavilion

Age 10 to 16	£1.00	Short course approximately 1.2 miles
Age 17 to 35	£2.00	}
Age 36 to 59	£2.00	} Full course approximately 4.5 miles
Age 60 & over	£1.50	}

Completed forms along with entry fee to be delivered to: -

Liz Coombs
General Stores Post Office
High Street
Sixpenny Handley

In return you will be sent an information pack, with a map of the course, your race number, and **Fun Run** rules.

All runners will receive a Jubilee Fun Run certificate on completion.

Winner of each group receives Jubilee Trophy

Additional entry forms will be available at the Post Office and Styles Newsagents.

Prizes will be presented by Councillor Tim Palmer.

Closing date for all entries 5th May 2002



The Chase Nursery pre-school playgroup received a glowing report following it's OFSTED Inspection in January 2001. Here are some quotes from the report:-

Overall quality of learning "Children are making good progress in relation towards the early learning goals in all six areas of learning" "Especially good emphasis is placed on their personal, social and emotional development"

How well the children are taught "Teaching is of a good standard" "There is a high adult to children ratio at sessions" "Good teaching methods help all children to learn and make progress effectively" "Emphasis is given to providing an interesting range of first-hand experiences. These provide good support for children's development of skills in all areas of learning."

How well the setting works in partnership with parents and carers "There is a good partnership overall with parents which effectively contributes to the children's learning" "There are good opportunities for parents to take an active part in their children's learning."

Playgroup held in Sixpenny Handley Village Hall Tuesday and Wednesday mornings 9.00 am - 12 noon (+ optional hour for lunch to 1pm), Thursday morning 9.00 am - 12 noon.

Chase Nursery "link group" sessions held twice a week in Sixpenny Handley First School allow children to experience a more formal structure of learning, in addition to familiarising them with the school and the teachers.

Please 'phone Jackie on 01735 552808 or Hazel on 01725 552980 for further information.

Extracts From the RHS Journal

Salt Tolerance Bred Into Tomato

A salt-tolerant tomato has been created at the University of Toronto, using genetic engineering techniques. Dr Eduardo Blumwald, the scientist behind the breakthrough says, *“As saline soil conditions are one of the most serious factors limiting crop production worldwide, this could have a significant effect on agriculture”* He hopes the tomatoes can be produced commercially within three years. But Friends of the Earth says, *“There are possible long-term effects on human health from the use of genetically modified foods in this context. This isn't the answer to food poverty.”*

Plants Like Stroking

Young plants grown under glass often become straggly due to low light and high temperatures. Yet when stroked for about a minute each day they develop a more sturdy habit. The technique, known as thigmomorphogenesis, is now under research at Hadlow College, Tonbridge, and a machine, which automatically brushes the plants, has been built for the project by the University of Greenwich. Those who want to practise this technique should remember to keep bare hands away from spiky, toxic and allergenic plants.

An Unusual Discovery

Hillier Nurseries has recently introduced a fascinating new foxglove called *Digitalis* 'Saltwood Summer'.

Also known as tile orchid foxglove, this cultivar has white orchid-like flowers, and four red-spotted curving petals. The lowest petal is particularly long and gives the flower its distinctive “lipped” appearance.

Digitalis 'Saltwood Summer' was discovered 10 years ago, growing in a garden at Saltwood in Kent. It was growing on the site of an old building, which the owners were in the process of reclaiming to make into a garden.

The new foxglove, which should grow to a height of 1.5m (5ft), likes well-drained soil in full sun or dappled shade.

Submitted by Ian Davies

WEDNESDAY CLUB PROGRAMME

17th April	Visit to New Zealand - Miss J. de Pledge
1st May	Blendings - About Tea Mrs. T .Pierce-Cochrane
15th May	Hanging Basket Demonstration - Mrs.E.Parker
29th May	Sandroyds School Choir

There is no need to "join" the Club, just come along at 2.30 pm on the appropriate Wednesday, pay your £1 for the speaker and tea and join in.

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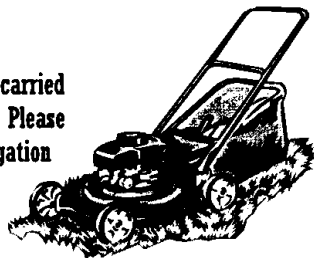
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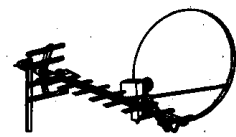
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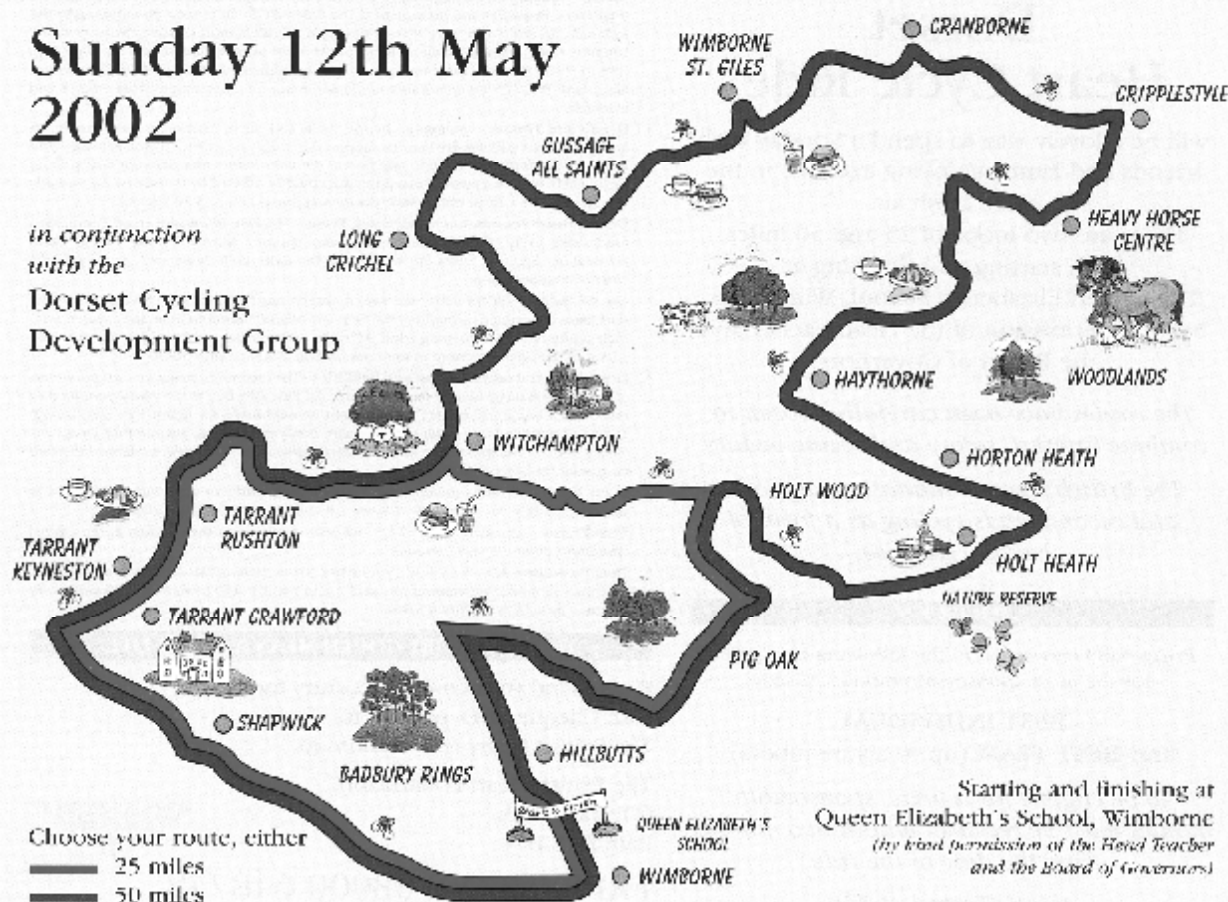
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The **Larmer Tree Gardens** re-opens on 31st March with two special events on Easter Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday included in the entry price for visiting the gardens.

Hidden Rushmore the first of a series of guided walks through Rushmore and the Cranborne Chase led by local geographer Malcolm Goodridge. Looking at the Geography, History and Wildlife of this extraordinary landscape, the walks last for about two hours and the distance covered is about five miles. Numbers are limited and so booking is advisable. Also, during both afternoons, in the beautiful Tea Pavilion, **The Chris Walker Swingtet** will be playing some special selections of their wonderful Swing Jazz.

The ticket prices for the garden including the events are:- Adults £3.75 Seniors £3.00 Children £2.50. **Throughout April** the Garden will be open daily except Saturday and the Tea Pavilion will be open every Wed, Thur, Fri and Sunday.

Traffic Calming in Sixpenny Handley

The Parish Council Planning Committee on 7th February considered plans from Dorset County Council to regulate the speed of traffic passing through Sixpenny Handley. Comments about the plans varied from totally for to totally against. Cllr. Gibb presented a paper he had written:-

A CASE FOR REGULATING THE SPEED OF TRAFFIC PASSING THROUGH SIXPENNY HANDLEY.

Background

1. The problems of the speed of traffic entering and leaving Sixpenny, Handley have been discussed for more than 15 years. The possibility of a by-pass around the High Street, using Back Lane, was entered in the Structure Plan in the mid 1980s; however it has never received adequate support. Various attempts, through East Dorset District (EDDC) and Dorset County Councillors (DCC), to have speed limit repeater signs posted throughout the village have fallen on deaf ears. In 2000 the Parish Council agreed with EDDC and DCC to jointly fund roadway signing and lining on the approach roads; this has never been implemented due to vacillations at DCC.

2. Since the mid 1980s the population of the village has increased due to the various housing developments around Sheasby Close and along

Dean Lane in particular. The type of housing has brought a marked increase in the number of children playing on the streets and also of elderly folk who retire to the village which is blessed with an excellent First School on Common Road, shops in the High Street, Doctors Surgery in Dean Lane. The village is also on the primary bus route from Blandford to Salisbury, with up to six buses in each direction daily passing through the High Street and Back Lane. There are also numerous other local bus services and those serving both the First School and taking children to Cranborne Middle School and QE at Wimborne.

DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL (DCC) 2001 Survey:

3. The DCC report issued in Dec 01 is based on the results of three speed-measuring devices located at the top, middle and bottom of the High Street. They were sited to provide justification for a reduction of the speed limit in the High Street to 20MPH. No devices were placed on the approach roads to the village. Whilst the figures confirm that some vehicles do exceed the current speed limit and thereby support a reduction of the speed limit, the measures proposed to effect this are given no justification at all. The map supplied with the proposals did not even include the latest development in Keats Meadow off Dean Lane, which has been in occupation for the last year!

4. The original proposal to 'Sign and Line' the approaches to the village, which was costed at £6K in 2000, has been dismissed in favour of road narrowing in order to create a self-restricting traffic flow. Whilst this system may operate effectively in areas where each end of the restriction is visible to the other (as in Tollard Royal), it is likely to cause severe disruption in the High Street where there are several obstructed sight lines. Scant regard has been paid to the nature of village life, the service provided to the rural community, the lack of car parking and the bus routes to name but a few items. On its own it is likely to destroy the businesses operating in the High Street.
5. The plan to narrow the road at the First School Corner would restrict the passage on the primary double-decker bus route where there is already an adverse camber on the junction and an overhanging tree. Due to the catchment area of the First School, several families have no option but to use cars to deliver and collect their infant children for 8.5 months of the year. The proposed chicane at the school exit would cause a further safety hazard in the area. This would also restrict the parking of school buses at various times of the day during term time.
6. The DCC report, whilst looking at the traffic in the High Street, is flawed in that it does not address the root cause of the problem which is, to reduce the speed of vehicles as they enter and leave the village on all roads.

The Approaches to Sixpenny Handley

B3081

7. From the both the North and South the B3081 has long straight stretches where drivers regularly exceed 60mph. Sharp corners have to be negotiated before the drivers are confronted with the 30MPH limit sign. Consequently vehicles are still slowing down as they enter Common Road from the North or the cross roads with Dean Lane from the South. The Parish Council has previously suggested that moving the limit signs away from the village so that they were visible before the corners and putting them on yellow backing boards would serve as a better warning.

Dean Lane

8. The unclassified road from the East (Broad Chalke and Deanland) enters the village along Dean Lane. This area has seen the main housing development during the last 15 years. There are long sweeping bends and on-road parking, both of which restrict visibility. In addition the majority of the young children of the village are housed in the Association properties in Mulberry Court and other side roads.
9. The Doctors Surgery is located half way along the south side of Dean Lane; whilst this has its own car park there is an increase in traffic flow of visitors as a result. Unless something is done to address these traffic issues there will be yet more vehicles taking casualties for treatment.

The High Street

10. Sixpenny Handley is blessed with excellent shops with renowned reputations; consequently, people travel to the village for their produce and services. As there is no other alternative, vehicles are left on the roadway, normally conforming to other parking. This helps to regulate the flow of traffic through the High Street but, at times, heavy lorries and buses, do have difficulty through the narrower sections. There are bus stops along the High Street and several narrow exits from lanes and properties.

Back Lane

11. Back Lane has no speed restriction on it and has become, as a result, a rat run for motorists avoiding the High Street. It is a primary bus route and used by local farmers with trailers also avoiding the High Street. It is quite narrow in places, with obscured visibility and several exits from the properties in St Mary Close. There are steep banks and hedges and no pathway, which leaves pedestrians particularly vulnerable. The Parish Council has previously requested that the 30MPH speed limit be extended to include both Back and Red Lanes in an effort to reduce the dangers.

12 Options Available

13. Signing and lining This can be divided into the following measures:

- a. The existing speed limit signs mounted on high visibility yellow boards as reinforcement.
- b. Reinforcement repeater speed signs to be fixed on lamp posts. Neither this nor (a) above are dependant on any highway improvement plans such as re-surfacing.
- c. Further restriction of the speed limit in the High Street (to 20mph), when authorised, can also be achieved using the same system. At little extra cost.
- d. The roadway marked with the speed limit and other acknowledged markings.

14. Interactive Traffic Management. Wiltshire CC has deployed Interactive traffic control measures on the A338 between Salisbury and Marlborough, which are particularly successful. This project, in conjunction with the Transport Research Laboratory, consists of post mounted speed measuring devices which then illuminate a display showing the speed limit, speed camera warning or "Slow Down". The only external requirement for this equipment is electricity, which can be taken from the nearest streetlight. The cost of each display equipment is approximately £5K.

15. Active Traffic Management. Chicanes and speed humps (sleeping policemen) are known to cause additional local noise as vehicles brake and then accelerate away. Whilst these may provide localized flow control, several combinations would be required along the village approaches, all of which are in built up areas. Use of these in the High Street would further restrict parking and impact on the economy of the village.

16. Alternate routing of traffic. There are two options:

a. A By-pass. Whilst this would divert some of the through traffic from the High Street it would have to be implemented in conjunction with signing and lining on the approaches. Due to the road width of Back Lane, considerable costs would be incurred in widening it for heavy vehicles.

b. A One-Way System. A flow system from the cross roads at Dean Lane to Back Lane, School Corner and down the High Street would improve the traffic flow although it would increase the traffic along Back Lane. Through traffic heading North into the village could be routed into the same system using Red Lane as One-way. This proposal has not been costed.

RECOMENDATIONS

17. It is recommended that:

- a. The cheapest solution, to produce effective signing and lining, should be implemented at the

earliest opportunity.

- b. The Speed limit signs on the B3081 approaches to the village should be moved to positions before the bends.
- c. That consideration should be given to placing Interactive signs on Common Road, the junction of Red Lane and the B3081, and on Dean Lane.
- d. That the speed limit of 30MPH should be extended to include Back Lane and Red Lane.
- e. That the speed limit should be reduced to 20MPH along the High Street from the Sixpenny Handley First School to Dean Lane cross roads.

This document led to a detailed discussion during which the following points were examined and felt suitable for consideration by the full Parish Council:-

a. The scheme is very expensive and should not be implemented until all cheaper options have been fully examined and, if possible, given a trial

b. The problems within the village may be easier solved by trying to reduce the speed of vehicles as they enter the village, rather than as they pass through it. Signing and lining, rumble strips, or speed activated signs on village approaches, may independently or in combination provide a cheaper solution.

c. The chicanes and pinch points may well exacerbate the parking problems within the village. This could in turn significantly increase the difficulties experienced by two HGV's trying to pass.

d. School Corner with its adverse camber, overhanging trees, turning double decker buses and parking parents should not be further encumbered by pinch points or chicanes.

At a subsequent meeting on 14th March Cllr. Gibb presented the Council's case for Traffic Calming in the Village to Mr Mackle of the County Highways Dept.

Mr Mackle discussed the pros and cons of the proposals. It was agreed that Mr Mackle should look at the possibility of taking pinch points further out on the entry roads to the village to slow incoming traffic. Mr Mackle also to look at what County Budgets could provide, look at 'Safe routes to School', try to deal with speeding traffic with signing and lining which would be cheaper and quicker to carry out and liaise with us through Cllr Gibb. Cllr Palmer said that he thought that the 20mph limit proposed for the village should not be discarded altogether.

LARMER TREE GARDENS

Jewel of the Cranborne Chase

Easter Sunday & Monday

"Hidden Rushmore" A guided walk through Rushmore Park led by Malcolm Goodridge. Starting at 11.30 am from the garden. Limited places. Booking advisable. **AND.....**

The Chris Walker Swingtet

Swing Jazz in the Tea Pavilion from 2 pm.

28th April

Bluebell Walk through Chase Woods. Guided walk starting 11.30 am from the garden, walking to Rushmore Golf Course for a snack lunch and returning to Larmer Tree for a bumper Tea. Booking advisable. A charge is made for refreshments, if required.

Garden Open daily except

Saturdays 11 am –6pm

Tea Pavilion Open

Wednesday Thursday,
Fridays and Sundays.

There is no extra charge for the above guided walks or for the musical entertainment.

Larmer Tree Gardens

3 miles S Tollard Royal

Telephone for details

01725 516228

The Downsman

DON'T FORGET WHATS ON!!!

DATE	FUNCTION	PAGE	DATE	FUNCTION	PAGE
Apr-04	Chase Community Friends	08	May-13	W.I. Walk	17
Apr-08	W.I. 80th Birthday Meeting	17	May-15	Wednesday Club	37
Apr-11	Chase Community Friends	08	May-16	Chase Community Friends	08
Apr-11	Mens Group Meeting	27	May-16	W.I. Spring Meeting	17
Apr-12	Mothers Union	13	May-18	Sporting Chance CCC	27
Apr-14	Village Hall Clean Up	33	May- Downsman Copy Deadline	03	
Apr-17	Wednesday Club	37	May-23	Chase Community Friends	08
Apr-18	Chase Community Friends	08	May-23	Mens Group Meeting	27
Apr-21	Bowls Club Open Day	19	May-25	Arts Weeks CCC Weavers	16
Apr-23	WI 80th Birthday Meal	17	May-25	Police Community Vehicle	27
Apr-25	Chase Community Friends	08	May-29	Wednesday Club	37
Apr-27	Bowls Club Quiz	19	May-30	Chase Community Friends	08
Apr-27	Police Community Vehicle	27	Jun-01	Jubilee Fun Run & Hog Roast	22
Apr-29	Village Hall AGM	33	Jun-02	Jubilee Village Exhibition	22
May-	Wednesday Club	37	Jun-03	Jubilee Treasure Hunt & Quiz	22
May-	Chase Community Friends	08	Jun-06	Chase Community Friends	08
May-	Mothers Union	13	Jun-22	Village Hall Auction	33
May-	Closing Date for Fun Run	35	Jun-22	Police Community Vehicle	27
May-	Chase Community Friends	08	Aug-17	Flower Show	05