

The Downsman

NEWS AND INFORMATION MAGAZINE



PARISH OF SIXPENNY HANDLEY WITH PENTRIDGE

December 2002

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

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Sixpenny Handley & Pentridge	Ian Davies.....	552076
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Church of England	St. Mary's, Sixpenny Handley	
	St. Rumbold's, Pentridge	
	St. Andrews, Gussage St. Andrew	
Vicar	Rev. Ron Wood.....	552608
Curate	Rev. Wendy Griffiths..	01747 828495
Roman Catholic	Church of Our Lady of Lourdes & St. Cecilia, Blandford Forum	
Priest	Fr. John Rice.....	01258 452051

1st Woodcutts Scout Group

Scout Leader	Rob Easton.....	552038
Cub Leader	Esme Isaacs.....	517203

Doctors

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

Schools

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

Sixpenny Handley Village Hall

Joint Chairmen	Pam Wood.....	552608
	Rob Jesse.....	552340
Secretary	Tony Henderson.....	552279
Bookings	Julie Richardson.....	519438

Sixpenny Handley Youth Club

Chairperson	Hazel Killeen.....	552980
Treasurer	Susan Parsons.....	
Secretary	Michelle Daniels....	01258 880145

Sixpenny Handley Allotment Holders Association

Chairman	John Curtis.....	552397
Secretary	Mrs S Curtis.....	552397
Treasurer	Stephanie Heath.....	517187

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

Other Areas (These are separate Homewatch Schemes)

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

The Chase Nursery

Chairperson	Jo Lloyd.....	01258 830712
Playgroup Leader	Mary Best.....	552390
Secretary	Gill Hutchins.....	552159

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	Jean Mayne.....	552692
Secretary	Mary Macleod	552041

Sixpenny Handley Bowls Club

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

Handley Sports Club

Chairman	Mark Young.....	552741
Secretary	Brian Hansford.....	552468
Sunday Secretary	Stuart Haskell.....	552498
Team Managers -Sat.	Mark Young.....	552741
-Sun	Barry Hibberd.....	01258 840198

The Wednesday Club

Chairman	Pamela Wood.....	552608
Secretary	Heather Eynon.....	552308

Chase Community Friends

Chairman	Dr. Geddes.....	552395
Secretary	Vic Hatton	01258 840671

Sixpenny Handley Tennis Club

Chairman	Michael Catchpole.....	552879
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
Happy Nappy Club	Louise Wolstenholme.....	552388

Kyla Scougall.....	552437
Karen Slade.....	552944

Sixpenny Handley Sports Association

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

Sixpenny Handley Flower Show

Chairman	Brian Hansford.....	552468
Joint Secretaries	Carole & Denis North.....	552955

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

The next edition of this Magazine will be published on the
1st February 2003

Copy Deadline is 20th January 2003

Front Cover - Parish Office officially opened.

Parish Councillors and Guests look on as Philip Gaussen, Chairman East Dorset District Council, accompanied by John Curtis, Chairman Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge Parish Council, officially opens Sixpenny Handley's new Parish Office at Town Farm Workshops

Seven Reasons to visit your Parish Office

1. Find out what your Parish Council does. Read the Minutes of the following Meetings :

-

Planning Committee

Finance & General Purposes Committee

Full Parish Council

2. Inspect any local plans. Plans are available for approximately 2 weeks prior to being considered by District Council. List of plans will be displayed on the notice board outside the office.
3. If you have a reason to Telephone East Dorset District Council you can use the Office phone free of charge during office hours.
4. Find out what the District Council does. Read minutes of their meetings and plans they have for Housing and the Environment etc.
5. If you are part of a charitable or voluntary organisation working within the Parish, you may be able to make use of the office photocopying and printing facilities.
6. To advertise an event within the local community. The Clerk has access to two large notice boards, much better than a tree or telegraph pole. (Maximum size of Poster A4.) The Clerk will also accept copy for the 'Downsman ' Magazine
7. The Parish Council receives a number of leaflets giving information about the local area. These are available in the office. At present there are leaflets on :-

The Vital Villages Scheme

Community Awards for 2003.

North Dorset Community Bus Scheme

Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge Parish Council

Bribery and Corruption at Woodcuts !

For the past three years, the lane known as "Between Gates", here at Woodcuts, has been visited by a gentleman on a bicycle, with a large aerosol can of white paint and to ensure that he was seen, wearing a florescent waistcoat. He has carefully sprayed the white paint around all the potentially hazardous faults in the lane's surface. This all being done without even getting off his machine, must surely indicate efficiency on his part. He has then disappeared into the mists of time, to reappear the following year. .

This year, there was a follow up to last year's visit by a second gentleman, however this time the person concerned drove a car, obviously a more senior official. He also wore a florescent jacket, (the traffic along this thoroughfare can be very hectic at times), and he carried an aerosol of white paint. Emerging from his vehicle, he proceeded to not only skillfully and artistically decorate the holes in the lane's surface but also create a much more sophisticated picture, by including numbers and arrows in his works.

The following Saturday a council lorry appeared at approximately 11.00 a.m.; it contained road repair gear in the back and three council workers in the cab. The driver was obviously well versed in the knack of driving on country lanes, proceeding at a snails pace along the road. "Goodness me" we each thought, the lane is to be repaired. Unfortunately this was not to be, having reached the end of the track the lorry was turned and off went the three musketeers, obviously their time was up and their lunches awaited them at their homes. A few days later they reappeared, this time staying for sufficient time to fill at least some of the holes but missing others, but to be fair they did create a wonderful helicopter landing pad, outside the house of the only person here who doesn't even have a car. Was this where corruption was creeping in, this resident is known for her surreptitious offers of cups of tea and coffee and believe it or not (scandalous), glasses of sherry. It is enough to make the Laird of Woodcuts turn in his grave.

However it was no helicopter that arrived yesterday, no, you've guessed it, it was the gent on the bicycle. After he had practised his magical art on the remaining holes, again without dismounting, he asked my wife, Meg or Madge, who happened to be passing, "Where am I?" She told him he was in Woodcuts, to which he seemed delighted. We hope to see him back here as a tourist in the near future.

It should be stated, that we the residents of this suburb of Woodcuts are very grateful that this work has gone ahead, despite government cut backs on other major road works throughout the country. We will all be voting for Lionel Blair at the next election!

Having finished with the main story for this edition I'm off for a coffee, before getting involved in more trivial things, such as potential war in Iraq, flooding in the U.K. and throughout the world, super tanker breaking up and creating a potential major eco-disaster and the constant threat from terrorists.

Well it is back to work but I'm afraid I've got to by-pass the trivia of the last paragraph and tell what has been happening in the countryside around us. Firstly, last Saturday lunch time Meg called me to identify a very, small bird that had found it's way into our back porch. At first I was not at all certain which, but it had to be either a goldcrest or a female firecrest but after consulting books, I was certain we were being visited by a female firecrest. This species is probably our smallest occasional visitor, as the goldcrest is our smallest resident. I was thrown at first, because there was no red 'fire' crest, but the black streak through the eye was present, therefore on finding out that the female did not have the red top knot, I could confidently say we had a visit from a female firecrest. What next are we going to see?

The answer is of course, we don't know. Even so, it is wonderful to be able to live at such a time

with the world in a state of flux. Only this morning I saw a red admiral, butterfly on the wing, just think a butterfly on the wing on the 18th of November. A few years ago it would not have been believed, but today anything can happen. Fuchsias, buddleias, pot marigolds, we could go on and on making lists of flowers and shrubs that are flowering now, contrary to what could be expected, based on previous years.

Maybe global warming is taking place because of man's interference in the natural order of things, this does not mean we can't enjoy at least some of the results. We obviously can't alter the past, we can influence the future though, so let's begin to think 'sustainability'. Perhaps we could all stop being quite so greedy, forgetting about the so called luxuries of "Our" world and returning to basics. Let's walk instead of riding, eat local produce, grow our own vegetables; go on, dig up the lawn, you will get exercise, fresh vegetables and a great satisfaction of reaping what you sow. What more could you want? It beats jogging any day.

It is time for me to quit while I'm still ahead. God bless you all.
Ted Cox (18.11.02)

**1st WOODCUTTS SCOUT GROUP
WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYBODY
FOR HELPING TO MAKE OUR
FUNDRAISING FIREWORK EVENT
SUCH A SUCCESS**

Special thanks to

Rob Jesse

John Clarke

Richard Curtis

Bronia Styles

Richard Diamant

Paul Burton

Steve Judd for the use of his field

Rev Ron Wood for judging the Guy

Simon Meaden for everything

All the Scouts for their hard work

And all of you who turned up despite the

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VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Just a quick update on the work being carried out. We did not manage to persuade any volunteers to come and help, but three committee members came along and we managed to stain the front porch, fitted the security locks on the windows, pointed some brickwork and cleaned off the masking tape from the windows. So good work was achieved. There's an old saying 'many hands make light work'; so we are going to try and have a 'works day' on a Saturday and hope that some of you will come along and help with the many small jobs that still need doing.

The new storage space at the back of the stage will, we hope, be completed by the New Year. Estimates are coming in, and a grant from East Dorset District Council will help with the cost of this work.

More of the tables have been broken or damaged recently. It has been difficult to find suitable replacements at a reasonable cost, but this is now in hand and some new tables should be delivered in the New Year.

A date has been arranged to mark out the **Badminton Court**. If you are interested in playing, please contact Ron Wood on 552608. More members will make a better club.

Chase Community Friends put on a most successful Horse Racing Evening in October with great excitement for all the punters. The gentlemen who came to run the event said it was one of the best nights they had ever had – so thanks to them. A very big thank you also to John and Sally and Don and Vic for the professional way that the dice were rolled and the horses moved; and to Chase Community Friends for the excellent food and drink. Approximately £15/£20 was paid out to the owner of the winning horse. One local lady owner had two winners! If you missed this event, then look out for it the next time around. And a big thank you to CCF for a wonderful evening and for the donation they gave to the Village Hall.

We decided to postpone the **Music Quiz**, as it was a bit too close to another quiz night. The Music Quiz will now be in February.

At the last minute we decided to put on an evening event to raise money for **Children in Need**. Not many people came, but we were able to send £77 to support the fund. Grateful thanks to the twenty people who braved the rain and had a jolly time!

December 7th is not far away now and it is time for the **Auction and Christmas Draw**. The Hall will be open at 9 am to accept donated items and items for sale. To sell items will only cost 20p in the pound, and you can put a reserve price on each item. From 1 – 5 pm is viewing. The sale starts at 6 pm prompt. During the evening, you will still be able to buy tickets for the Christmas Draw which will be drawn at the end of the evening. £200 first prize, £150 second prize, £100 third prize, and many more prizes. (If you would like to donate a prize yourself, please contact Rob Jesse – thanks). Mince pies and wine will be on sale all evening – so come along and have fun!

Hall & Woodhouse Breweries have started a scheme called Community Chest which is to support local organisations that need help with projects, and the Village Hall has been fortunate enough to receive a grant. We don't know how much yet, but four members of the Committee are going to Blandford on Saturday, 7th December to receive a cheque.

The Hall has been given a market stall 10ft. x 10ft. and this can be hired out by anybody in the Parish for a small donation. Our thanks to Sue and Tony Nowell for this gift.

FUTURE EVENTS **February –Music Quiz** **March – Jumble Sale** **April – Spring Fashion Show.**

My wrist is aching, and I expect I have already said enough.
Rob Jesse, Joint Chairman, Village Hall



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.

CCF Committee

Alec Hunt	President	Shaftsbury
Ian Geddes	Chairman	Gussage St Michael
Vick Hatton	Secretary	Gussage St Michael
Maurine Penrose	Treasurer	Sixpenny Handley
Col Gordon Beard	Transport	Tollard Royal
Patsy Geddes	Catering manager	Gussage St Michael
Bref Leavens	Advertising	
	& special interest groups.	Chettle
Alison Mead	Entertainments	Farnham
George Marskell	Roebuck Coffee mornings	Sixpenny Handley
Sheila Evans	Chaplin	Gussage All Saints
Helen Hatton	Catering	Gussage St Michael

CCF BOOK CLUB

**Meets approximately every six weeks to discuss books read
and to suggest new reading.**

Next meeting is at 5.00 P.M. on 20th November

Please contact Gordon Beard on 01725 516296

Newcomers are always very welcome.

You have been warned!!!!

On a Sear's hairdryer:
 "Do not use while sleeping."
(Gee, that's the only time I have to work on my hair.)

On a bag of Fritos:
 "You could be a winner! No purchase necessary. Details inside."
(The shoplifter special)

On a bar of Dial soap:
 "Directions: Use like regular soap."
(And that would be how ...?)

On some Swanson frozen dinners:
 "Serving suggestion: Defrost."
(But its just'a suggestion)

On Tesco's Tiramisu dessert (printed on bottom):
 "Do not turn upside down."
(Too late!)

On Marks & Spencer Bread Pudding:
 "Product will be hot after heating."
(As night follows day . . .)

On packaging for a Rowenta iron:
 "Do not iron clothes on body."
(But wouldn't this save me more time?)

On Boot's Children Cough Medicine: "Do not drive a car or operate machinery after taking this medication."
(We could do a lot to reduce the rate of construction accidents if we could just get those 5-year-olds with head-colds off those forklifts.)

On Nytol Sleep Aid:

"Warning: May cause drowsiness."
(One would hope.)

On most brands of Christmas lights:
 "For indoor or outdoor use only."
(As opposed to what?)

On a Japanese food processor:
 "Not to be used for the other use."
(I gotta admit, I'm curious.)

On Sainsbury's peanuts:
 "Warning: contains nuts."
(Talk about a news flash.)

On an American Airlines packet of nuts:
 "Instructions: Open packet, eat nuts."
(Step 3: Fly Delta.)

On a child's superman costume:
 "Wearing of this garment does not enable you to fly."
(I don't blame the company. I blame parents for this one.)

On a Swedish chainsaw:
 "Do not attempt to stop chain with your hands."
(Was there a lot of this happening somewhere? My God!)

*Submitted by Jean Lomax, Atlanta, USA
 (This magazine is read worldwide – actually this is my sister. Ed)*

Many Thanks

I would like to thank everyone for the lovely flowers, fruit, chocolates and cards sent to me when I was ill recently. Thank you all very much for your kind thoughts. I am very well now.



Mobile Library Service



Weekly on Thursdays:-

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

Fortnightly on Thursdays:-

100 Club Winners - October

1st Mrs O. Smith - 138 2nd Rev Ron Wood - 73 3rd Mr G Clarke - 59

If anyone would like to join the Club or know more about it, please contact
Carole North on 07125 552955

SIXPENNY HANDLEY SPRING FLOWER SHOW 2003

12th APRIL 2003

Show schedules now available from The Post Office Stores, Sixpenny Handley or by
telephoning Carole & Denis North on 01725 552955.

Helpers are required on the day - no experience required

JUST A SENSE OF HUMOUR!

The Poppy Appeal 2002

This year's Appeal has raised the sum total of £984.31, a quite magnificent response. First, and foremost, on behalf of The Royal British Legion, I thank you all for your generosity. Secondly, the kind words of encouragement expressed to the volunteers conducting the house-to-house collections have been very much appreciated. On several occasions, this year's calls were made in weather conditions that were inclement to the extreme (thankfully, despite a wet beginning to Remembrance Sunday, the service at the Memorial and the two minutes silence passed off in the dry). However, reflecting on the misery so often experienced by our armed services in times of conflict, it was but a small price to pay for time and effort well spent.

Although I have conveyed my personal thanks to all who volunteered to collect, and to the establishments that kindly permitted a static collection box to be displayed, I wish, through the medium of *The Downsman* to, again, say 'Thank you', for without your unstinting support the excellent sum of £984.31 would not have been forthcoming.

Bill Chorley
Honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser



RECYCLING WITH EDDC

EAST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL HOUSEHOLDS URGED TO RECYCLE OLD YELLOW PAGES IN KERBSIDE AND BANKS SCHEME

Householders across the East Dorset District Council's area are being urged to participate in a Yellow Pages recycling campaign, which starts when the new edition of the Bournemouth directory – showing sandcastles on the front cover – is delivered across the area.

The campaign is being run by East Dorset District Council and supported by The Directory Recycling Scheme, which is sponsored by Yellow Pages. The aim is to collect thousands of old Yellow Pages – featuring fluffy chicks on the front cover – and recycle them via the Council's green box kerbside scheme. There are also special Yellow Pages recycling banks situated across the district.

The campaign has been boosted by a grant from The Directory Recycling Scheme to Dorset County Council.

Councillor Mrs Comfort, Spokesperson for Waste with East Dorset District Council said: "It has never been easier to recycle your old Yellow Pages. Simply place them in your regular green kerbside box or take them to one of the special recycling banks."

The Yellow Pages recycling banks are located at:

- Allenvie Car Park, Wimborne
- Tesco Car Park, Ferndown
- Sainsbury's Car Park, Ferndown
- Co-op Car Park, Corfe Mullen
- Brook Road Civic Amenity Site, Wimborne (cardboard bank)

Adam Billiald, co-ordinator of The Directory Recycling Scheme said "Supporting local authorities to recycle directories is a major environmental strategy for Yellow Pages. I encourage everyone to do their bit for the environment and recycle their directory via the Council's kerbside scheme or in one of the banks".

Further information can be obtained by contacting Harry Cromwell, Recycling Officer, East Dorset District Council on 01202 886201.

CHILDREN LEAD THE WAY

..... with a little help from East Dorset District Council.

Local school children have introduced an inkjet and toner cartridge recycling facility. Over 10 million cartridges are sold each year in the United Kingdom, but it is estimated that only 1.5 million are recycled.

This leaves a staggering 8.5 million cartridges being disposed of in landfill

WHAT A WASTE!!

Please help the children by using this facility, a bright yellow container located at the recycling centre at the Sainsbury supermarket car park, Ferndown.

For further information contact Harry Cromwell, Recycling Officer, 01202 886201

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Extracts from the DAPTC Newsletter

Local Authorities Urged To Take Action On Rural Roads

Transport Minister Sally Keeble has urged local authorities to take action to reduce the levels of death and serious injury caused by accidents on rural roads.

In 2000 there were almost 10 times as many fatal and serious accidents on rural roads as there were on motorways. Speaking at the Institute of Highways and Transportation Seminar on Rural Speed Management, Sally Keeble said, "Speed is killing and injuring too many people in the countryside."

[Ian Davies Comment; Forgive me for being picky, but wouldn't I be right in thinking that the average speed on motorways is usually higher than the average speed on rural roads ? It is therefore not velocity which is killing people but an inappropriate rate of travel in dangerous situations that causes serious and fatal accidents. Back in 1999, the Council for the Protection of Rural England conducted a survey, which concluded that there should be new approach to tackling speeding. The CPRE wanted the speed limit on country lanes reduced to 40mph and further reduced to 20mph through villages. It also wanted the local authorities to have the power to designate some minor roads as "quiet lanes" where other road users have priority over motorists. I wonder what became of these ideas.]

County Council Spends Record Amount On Road Safety

Dorset County Council is spending a record amount on road safety. The amount allocated to schemes designed to cut the risk of death or injury on the county's roads has increased to £2.5 million.

But despite the increase councillors are telling the Government that Dorset is still not getting its fair share of funding to make the county a safer place.

As part of a current review of the Highways and Transportation Service, the Council has highlighted road safety and cutting accidents as one of its key priorities. The government has set a challenging target of reducing the number killed or seriously injured by 40% by 2010. The County Council is now spending more than £2 million a year on engineering work designed to improve road safety.

[Ian Davies Comment: A report by the UK Commission for Integrated Transport has also concluded that the majority of all road deaths are on rural roads and that the levels of traffic are increasing faster on rural roads than urban roads. If County Councillors are serious about improving road safety then let us hope they do this by using a bit of common sense. For example, improving visibility and/or changing priorities at junctions where accidents occur, instead of waiting for a certain quota of deaths before taking action.

Despite the rhetoric, recent evidence has shown that the local highways authority is still improving roads that are less dangerous than average and virtually ignoring those that are classified as high-risk.]



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! Come and join in at 7.30 pm.

EU Directive on Traditional Herbal Medicine & Food Supplements

Do you regularly buy vitamin supplements and herbal remedies?

Did you know that early next year you may not be able to obtain these natural health products any more?

In fact next year there may no longer be a health food store within reasonable distance from your home because without the income from vitamin supplements and herbal remedies many will probably not be able to continue trading.

Why is this?

The European Union has passed a new Directive on Vitamins, Minerals and Herbal Medicines, which has been fast-tracked through the EU Committees and championed by our own Medicines Control Agency, seeking to apply continental laws to Britain. This will prevent many mainstay herbs from being on sale and will only permit the sale of some vitamin and mineral supplements in such low dosages that they will be virtually useless in preventing and treating common ailments.

Many herbs that people routinely take today to prevent illness, such as Echinacea and St John's Wort and many others, or any herb that has not been available in Europe for more than 15 years, in some cases more than 30 years will be banned. This means that all the new discoveries that are used to treat today's 'modern' illnesses will not be available to anyone be they consumer or the trained complementary practitioner and there will be no new herbal products allowed on to the market.

Despite extensive articles in the national press and many leaflets and petitions in local health food stores many people are still not aware of these changes to British law.

Despite much lobbying of MPs and MEP's nationwide over the best part of 2002 it is becoming obvious that no amount of opposition will now stop this EU Directive becoming law - but there are still some limits that we might be able to impose on the powers that be.

What do I say in my letter?

If you agree that freedom of choice should prevail then please write to your MP and include in your letter the following points.

Emphasise most particularly Amendment No. 88 which would allow the necessary legislation for Member States to make specific rules for products sold within their own country.

Ask your MEP to vote to also support the following three Amendments:

- Amendment No. 32 - to get traditional herbal medicines containing non-herbal ingredients to be included in the Directive.
- Amendment No. 49 - the reduction from 15 to 10 years but still with a total of 30 years of use in the European community (this would include a 5 year transition period).
- Amendment No. 72 - aimed at more clearly defining the borderline between herbal medicine products and foods, food supplements and cosmetics.
- Make sure that you give your name, postal address & email address
- Explain why you value your freedom to choose dietary supplements and/or herbal remedies
- Point out that UK law already requires that food supplements and natural remedies are safe and appropriately labelled
- State that you are supporting the Consumers for Health Choice campaign to protect the right of consumers to have continued access to a wide range of natural health products.

If you have access to the Internet, you can look up the various MEP's and their addresses or email address or your local library should be able to give you this information.

This campaign is supported by Sir Paul McCartney, Sir Elton John, Sir Cliff Richard, Lady Annabel Goldsmith, Julia McKenzie, Dr. John Briffa and many more prominent people - your help in this campaign is vitally important so if this issue is important to you please do write. Thank you for taking the time to read this article.

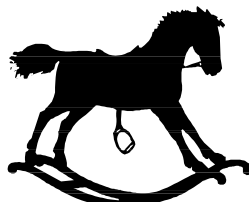
SHEILA RALPH M.H., BSYA(Irid), BSYA C.M.A, Ad C.M.A)

MASTER HERBALIST, IRIDOLOGY AND ACUPRESSURE & TUI'NA PRACTITIONER

Flintwood, 6 Keats Meadow, Sixpenny Handley, Tel: 01725 552265



HAPPY NAPPY



Happy Nappy meets every Monday at
Sixpenny Handley Village Hall at
10am.

All children below School age are
welcome.

Come and join our very friendly group,
loads of
toys and fun!

- ✓ Children make new friends.
- ✓ Adults can meet for a chat.
- ✓ Tea and coffee available.
- ✓ Children £0.50p Adults £1.00.



For more information phone.

Kyla: 01725 552437 Karen: 01725 552944 Louise: 01725 552388



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.

Church Services - December and January

ST MARY'S	ST ANDREW'S	ST RUMBOLD'S
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December 1st First Sunday of Advent

9:30 Holy Communion 6:00 Advent Carols

11:15 Morning Prayer & Holy Communion
--

December 8th Second Sunday of Advent

10:30 Family Worship	9:30 Holy Communion
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December 15th Third Sunday of Advent

9:30 Holy Communion 6:00 Evensong

11:15 Morning Prayer

December 22nd Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30 Holy Communion	4:00 Carol Service	6:00 Christingle
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December 24th Christmas Eve

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 29th Sunday after Christmas

9:00 Holy Communion 10:30 Carol Service & Drinks

January 5th Second Sunday of Christmas

9:30 Morning Prayer 6:00 Holy Communion
--

11:15 Morning Prayer & Holy Communion
--

January 12th First Sunday after Epiphany

10:30 Family Service	9:30 Holy Communion
----------------------	---------------------

January 19th Second Sunday of Epiphany

9:30 Holy Communion

11:15 Morning Prayer

January 26th Third Sunday of Epiphany

9:30 Holy Communion 6:00 Evensong

February 2nd Candlemas

9:30 Morning Prayer 6:00 Holy Communion
--

11:15 Morning Prayer & Holy Communion
--

Sixpenny Handley First School News

The Autumn term is rushing along and, in school, we are beginning to look towards Christmas and all the festivities it brings. The children have settled well into their new classes and have been working hard. It was lovely to see the expectant faces on the children, proudly showing their books and all their work on display to their family at the recent Open Day; it was a busy day for us all!

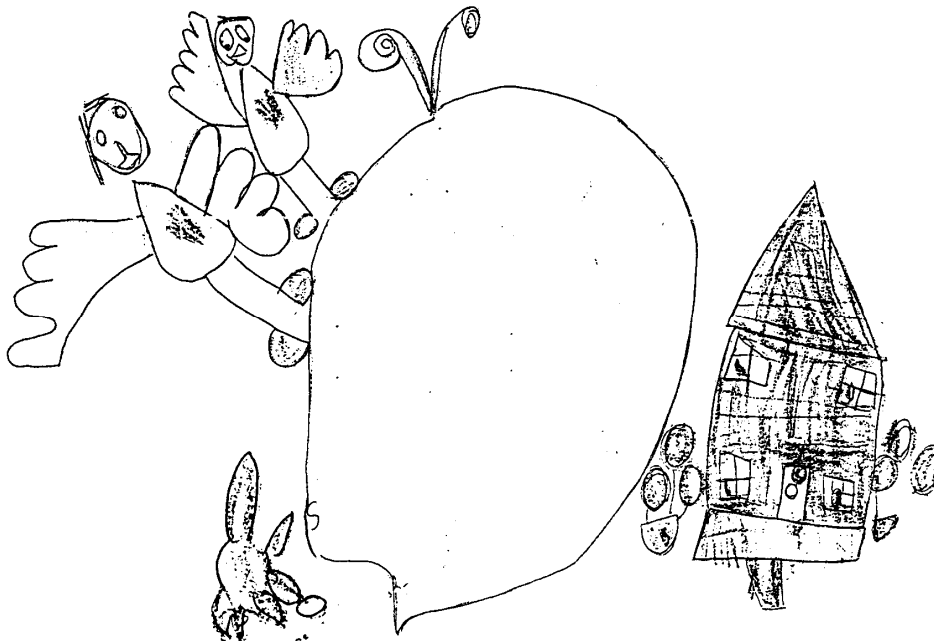
Early Years at Sixpenny Handley First School

Twenty-two 4 year old children joined the school in September this year, thirteen boys and nine girls. They are attending mornings only, until Christmas, becoming full time pupils at the beginning of January. The children have all settled happily into the day-to-day activities of school life, making new friends and enjoying a variety of new experiences. Their transition from home to school was helped by attendance at the Link Group sessions operating in school with one morning or afternoon session weekly during the Spring and Summer terms. In this way the children become familiar with the school environment within a small group of 5 or 6 children over a period of time.

In class, one of the books we have enjoyed was *The Gigantic Turnip* where finally the help from a little mouse was all that was needed to pull the vegetable from the ground.

Class 2

have



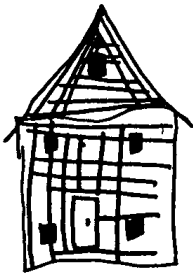
been enjoying poetry texts since the Autumn half-term. They have experimented with rhymes and sound patterns and had a lot of fun choosing their favourite poems to recite from a variety of poetry books. Following this early work they used a simple poetry structure as a model and substituted their own ideas. You are sure to spot the rhythm of the well-known rhyme "Mary had a little Lamb" - but she has acquired some strange pets!!!!

Mary has a great fat pig



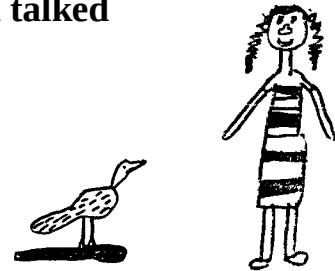
It's got a curly tail
And every day she feeds her pig
And goes to get the mail.

By Georgina, Rebecca, Matthew and Jessica



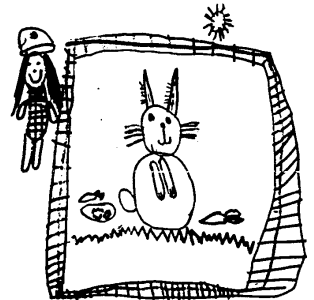
Mary had a loud parrot
Its feathers were pink and red
And every day it squawked and talked
And it lived in the shed

By Lucy, Ebony and Louis



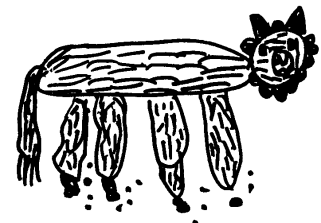
Mary had a fluffy hare
Its ears were big and long
And every night the hare escaped
And dragged its ears along

By Rupert, Terri, Laura and Burt



Mary had a fierce lion
Its tail was yellow and gold
And every time it roared at her.
She said: "You will be sold!"

By Demelza, Jake and Sarah



Mary had a hairy dog
Its tail was very long



And every day the dog would bark
And sing an awful song!

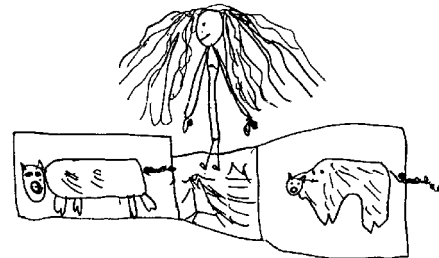
By Kaye, Lauren, Emily and
Chloe



Mary had a lazy pig
Its tail was pink and curley
And every day he lay in bed
He would not get up early!

By Mari, Josh,

Anna and Deanna



Children's Book Week in October provided us at Sixpenny Handley First School with a good reason to focus on the sheer pleasure of a good story. We enjoyed a visit from a children's book author, Susan Summers, who told us about her work, signed copies of her books and delighted the children in each class with her animated retelling of old legends.



Children's author Susan Summers in storyteller

The next day, the excitement was intense as everyone in the school dressed up as a favourite book character and came to school to celebrate our eagerly awaited Storybook Day. After an extended photo call and parade in the playground (thankfully in autumnal sunshine), at which there was a great deal of admiration expressed for the creative handiwork of Mums in particular, Little Red Riding Hood gave the signal for our various Characters, including, to name but a few, Paddington Bear, at least three

Bob the Builders, several Harry Potter associates, various Mr Men look-alikes, Batman, Mrs Tiggiwinkle, the Queen of Hearts and Alice, and a good sprinkling of fairy tale characters, to return to class and let the fun begin.



Paddington Bear
arrives at
Sixpenny



Bob the Builder's
Gang



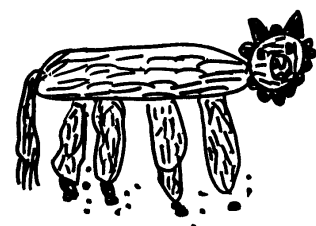
One can never have too
many princesses....

A very creative day followed, with artwork, writing and drama activities being carried out in the classrooms. Towards the end of the day, the whole school assembled again, this time to read the books in which the children's chosen characters appear, and above all to share the pleasure of reading together. Many charming scenes were witnessed, as the older children read the words to the little ones, and the youngest children 'read' the pictures, sometimes at great length, to anyone who would listen!



Sharing a good story
with a friend

The memorable day confirmed the status and continued popularity of many of the old favourites of children's literature, along with modern classics, and reminded everyone of just how much pleasure is to be found in a well-illustrated book telling a good tale.





Sixpenny Handley Bowls Club

Although the outdoor season has now come to an end, the last couple of months have been really busy.

We finished the outside season with an all-day competition fun day on 29th September which was enjoyed by everyone

who came.

On 25th October we hosted the Presentation Evening for the Westbrook Mixed Triples League and members attended from the other seven clubs in the league – Wilton, Amesbury, Tisbury, Downton, Alderbury and two of the Salisbury clubs. We laid on two quizzes as entertainment and there was an American Buffet and Raffle. Everyone said that it was a good evening which was a relief as it was our first time.

Then three days later we had our AGM which is always a busy time for the Secretary. We do not seem to have many friendly short mat matches now and so it was nice to go to Three Legged Cross on 3rd November and it was even better because we beat them.

Finally we had our Presentation Luncheon on Sunday 17th November. We had a very enjoyable time and below is a list of our prize winners.

Competition	Winners	Runners Up
Men's Singles	Gordon Martin	Ivor Hunt
Ladies Singles	Vanessa Rowe	Doris Day
Open Singles	David Rowe	Ivor Hunt
Presidents Cup	David Rowe	David Adams
Novice Singles	Clifford Miles	Malcolm Gerry
Open Mixed Pairs	David Rowe, Maxine Keech	Ivor Hunt, Ethel Crawford
Open Mixed Triples	Gordon Martin, Vanessa Rowe,	Jean Maidment, Tony Groves,
Open Mixed Fours	Gill Martin, Vanessa Rowe, Tony	Ethel Crawford, Mary Cumming,
Short Mat Singles	Tony Groves	Gordon Martin
Short Mat Pairs	Tony Groves, Stella Symes	Ivor Hunt, Maxine Keech
Over 65's Triples	Tony Groves, Graham Maidment,	Stella Symes, Derry Goddard,

Our two teams in the Blackmore Vale Short Mat League have now played nearly half their matches. The 'A' team have now played 6 matches and are currently top of Division One. The Tanners have played 7 of theirs and are third in Division Four; we have much room to improve!!

We are pleased to be able to report that Colin Chambers and Gordon Martin are again playing for Dorset County Short Mat – its amazing what a small village club can do – why don't you join us, we still need members?

Short Mat Bowls – Three Years On

True life experience of a couple on being introduced to Short Mat

Be warned - it's addictive



Three years ago our knowledge of bowling was virtually nil but we were looking for some activity we could pursue together when a friend said "Why not come along to the Village Hall and have a go at Short Mat Bowling". So eventually we took him at his word and duly rolled up to have a go. The first thing we found was how friendly and helpful everyone was. They put up with us attacking the wood, or sending more bowls on a scenic tour of the hall, than stayed on the mat until gradually we got the hang of the game.

Here I should explain that, in the village, where there is already a strong community spirit, there is quite a strong following for the Short Mat Bowls Club although not many are interested in playing competitively. The Club operates on 3 separate occasions - one evening when the emphasis is on the fun side, one afternoon when it is taken just a little more seriously and one evening when our League Team holds a practice session if they are not actually playing a match.

Here in Cornwall there are about 60-odd clubs divided into 4 league areas but there are other clubs which, not being interested competitively, still have a strong following. We spent the first year just enjoying the socialising and gradually improving our abilities.

The next year we were asked if we would like to join the League Team but, looking back, they must have been desperate since we were still not very good.

However we took part in some games and went along to many others as 'reserves' and the one thing which struck us was that, whilst still competitive, without exception the clubs we played against were always very friendly. Another surprise was that not all players were grey haired - indeed the age range seems to go from 14 upwards and of either sex.

The different venues add spice and variety too. Whilst most clubs appear to be based on Village Halls some are in more modern sports complexes, some in Church Halls and even schools. Of course there are Village Halls and Village Halls - some must be 190 years old but many others are in new buildings, frequently erected with the help of Lottery grants. This means that the floors under the mats vary considerably too and in some one would swear that a local pixie had been busy inserting peaks and troughs; a degree of local knowledge is definitely helpful here but the enthusiasm, warmth and fun seem to be there wherever the venue. But speaking of warmth, whilst the new buildings are fine, in some of the older ones the heating appears to be none existent, calling for extensive thermals under one's bowling gear. It would be interesting to survey the variety of venues that exist and indeed the extent to which short mat bowling adds to the community spirit of the location.

Returning to our own progress, whilst we started with bowls provided by the Club we fairly soon purchased our own sets; a definite necessity if one is to progress. Whilst we still do not classify ourselves as 'good' we thoroughly enjoy competing against other clubs and indeed on many occasions we play 'friendlies' i.e. non- league games against other clubs and at all events half- time is marked with a cup of tea, a light snack and plenty of chatter.

It is no different at Sixpenny Handley - come along and try it.

Cricket Club Statistics 2002 Season

Batting stats 2002

	BEL T	BRM	BSA	ROC	CV	MA	MAN	WM	HB	BSA	TG	BR M	CH	HON	ROC	WA	DEW	Game	Run	Not	Ave
Andy	46	7	13	23	70	9	13	59*	18	33	15	20	13	6	4	88*	114	17	674	2	44.93
Simon	48	34	60	11	38	75	41	-	17	-	11	10	0	106	13	0	-	14	464	0	33.14
Goody	0	-	19	1	-	39	0	DNB	-	-	-	27*	10	15	41*	-	-	10	152	2	21.71
Steve	-	4	-	0*	3*	-	-	DNB	2	33	18	-	-	-	37	7*	22	10	126	3	21.00
Danno	-	34	29	-	32*	-	1	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	6	101	1	20.20
Clive	17	17	9	16	-	43	1	-	-	36	32*	3	0	16	2	DNB	14*	14	206	2	18.72
Adam	0	13	1	-	0	13	5	6	-	-	30	9	0	8	42	DNB	17	14	144	0	11.08
Tim	0	5	0	4	-	5	0	-	1*	8	-	-	5	2*	9*	DNB	18	13	57	3	6.33
Alex	1	14	9	12	-	7	9	-	6	0	6	10	-	-	3	DNB	DNB	13	77	0	5.92
Dave	1	3	0*	14	DNB	5	5	DNB	12	12	2	1	7	3	2	DNB	DNB	17	67	1	5.58
Marty	0	1	0	4	-	-	15	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	32	0	5.33
Georg	-	3*	-	-	-	-	-	DNB	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	DNB	DNB	7	3	1	1.00

100's 2 Andy
1 Simon

50's 3 Andy
2 Simon

Ducks

3 Adam, George, Tim
2 Goody, Marty, Simon
1 Alex, Clive

Bowling Stats 2002

(*Qualification 7 Matches)

	BELT	BRM	BSA	ROC	CV	MA	MAN	WM	HB	BSA	TG	BRM	CHU M	HON	ROC	WESX ARCH	DEW	Games Bowled	Total wickets	Ave Wkts / Game
Ian	DNB	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	2	4	2.00 *
Adam	3	4	3	-	2	2	2	2	-	-	1	0	2	0	4	1	1	14	27	1.93
Danno	-	1	4	-	2	-	2	2	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	6	11	1.83
Clive	4	2	1	1	-	1	4	-	-	0	1	0	4	0	1	1	1	14	21	1.50
Steve	-	1	-	-	0	-	-	3	3	0	1	0	-	-	0	3	4	10	15	1.50
Alex	1	2	1	0	-	3	0	-	3	0	2	0	-	-	1	1	0	13	14	1.08
Dave	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	3	1	0	2	1	2	0	1	17	14	0.82
Andy	DNB	DNB	DNB	DNB	1	DNB	DNB	DNB	DNB	DNB	DNB	DNB	DNB	0	1	DNB	DNB	3	2	0.67
Simon	DNB	-	DNB	0	2	0	DNB	-	DNB	-	DNB	0	0	1	0	DNB	-	7	3	0.43
Catches (recorded)																			2	0.29

Best Bowling

Clive 4 for 12 v BELT 5/5
Clive 4 for 12 v Chulmleigh 17/8
Adam 4 for 17 v Breamore 12/5
Danno 4 for 20 v BSA 19/5
Adam 4 for 23 v Rockbourne 1/9
Clive 4 for 38 v Mandarins 30/6
Steve 4 for 45 v Dewlish 15/9

Catches

6 Adam
3 Dave
5 v Honiton 18/8
2 Danno, Alex
5 Clive, Andy
1 Tim, George, Marty
4 Goody

A BABY-CUCKOO LANDS

A downy bundle
Like a split pillow
Obese baby
Plopping down
In my bird-bath,
Clumsy, expectant,
Mouth agape,
Throat pulsing
With silent calls,
Waiting, hoping,
Assured of service.
Quick! Hasten!
I'm waiting. Waiting.

Tiny grey-brown
Red-legged
The servant hastens,
Lifting tiny wings
To level with demand,
To drop a tiny morsel
In that yellow gape,
A tiny body
Engulfed in yawning throat
Almost swallowed down,
Emerging again,
Another harassed peck
At seemingly empty ground,
Another winging up,
Another yawning throat,
Another near engulfment.
Unnatural love,
Forced to feed
An alien child.
Strange indeed
Are the ways
Of God's creation.
Stranger still
The thought that came----
I've just seen Christ
In a tiny bird.

M. S.



Sixpenny Handley Homewatch

Warning over phone scams

Police are warning people not to fall victim to telephone scams that could cost them hundreds of pounds. The scams, which have been used in the Wiltshire area, involve people being duped into ringing premium rate telephone lines or handing over personal details which have led to burglaries.

In one scenario, householders are confronted by a woman at the front door who says her car has broken down and asks to use the telephone to ring her husband. After a long conversation, she puts the phone down and leaves.

She has previously set up her own premium rate line with a telephone company and dictated that calls to the number should be charged at £50 a minute.

No offence is committed as the householder has given permission for the phone to be used.

The second scam mainly targets women who receive a phone call apparently from the Post Office asking them to confirm their postcode. When it is given they are told, they have become eligible for gift vouchers for their co-operation and are asked to provide their home address and postcode in order to receive them. Ninety percent of women who have supplied the information have been burgled.

Some people are also receiving phone calls from someone identifying themselves as an AT&T service technician who is conducting a test on the line. They ask the person to complete the test by dialling 90 and then the hash key (#), and then hang up.

In doing so the caller has been given full access to the-phone line so that they can place long distance calls, and call international and premium chat lines. These are then billed to the householder's account. People are warned not to press 90# for anyone.

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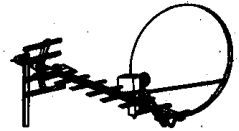
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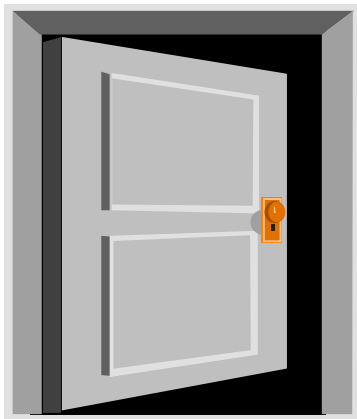
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Rob's Column

Inside every slim, beautiful girl is a fat middle aged woman waiting to get out

When I was 20, getting ready to go out took no time.

Now I'm 40, it take two hours.

If I ever get to 80, it won't be worth going out.

Middle age is when, instead of combing your hair, you start arranging it.

THE GOLDEN AGE

We older folk are worth a fortune, with silver in our hair, gold in our teeth, gas in our stomachs, stones in our kidneys and lead in our feet. Although I've aged a little since we last met, I'm still a lively old girl, with two men who never leave me alone. There's Arthur Ritus, who's with me all the time, and Will Power who gets me out of bed in the morning.

ODE TO A PILL

Little pill here in my hand
I wonder how you understand
Just what to do or where to go
To stop the ache that hurts me so.

Within your contents lies relief
You work alone in disbelief
You sink in regions there below
As down my throat you quickly go.

But what I wonder, little pill,
Is how you know where I am ill
And just how do you really know
Exactly where you have to go?

I have a headache, that is true
My broken ribs need a mention too
So how can anything so small
End my aches in no time at all?

Do you work alone or hire a crew
To do the good things that you do?
I'm counting on you mighty strong
To get to there, where you belong.

Don't let me down, please do not shirk
To do your undercover work.
So down my throat be on your way
And end my aches for another day.
Don't take a wrong turn is my plea
I can't take another till after three!

GARDENING CLUB

We are now in our second year and have another programme of talks by professional speakers. For example, Plant Associations, Flowers for Every Month, The Garden at Welcome Thatch, and Pruning Trees and Shrubs (a practical demonstration).

We meet at 7.30pm on the last Thursday of the month (not December) in a member's home so the atmosphere is relaxed, friendly and informal. As well as the talks, we chat about gardening, discuss gardening problems, swap or buy each other's plants, and visit gardens in the summer.

**If you are interested in coming along or would like to know more, please telephone
Hilaire Walden on 01725 552264**

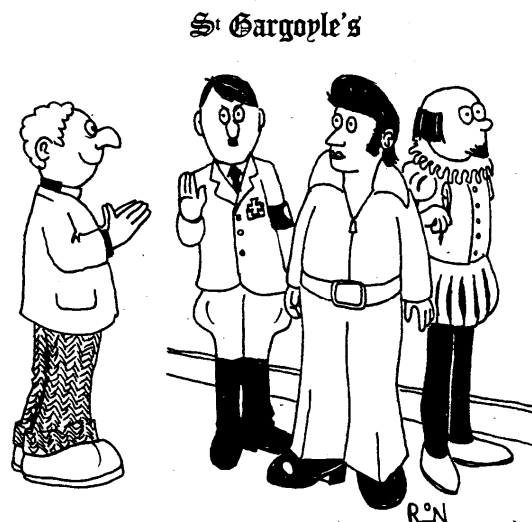
ST MARY'S NEWSLETTER

The Church's new year starts on 1st December - Advent - a time to look forward. We need to buck the trend and appear to be doing so - for it appears from press reports that Rural Churches are going the same way as rural shops, pubs and Post Offices. From a report in The Times on Monday 11th November which Ron reproduced on the back of the service sheet it seems that the forms of traditional services are irrelevant to the majority of people today. More imaginative forms of worship appear to be the order of the day - more later. Coupled with these changes is the move away from the Church (Church Commission) picking up the cost of ministry to the laity (Church Members). Ron has included an explanation in the Church Magazine "The Seeker" which is delivered in December to every house in the Parish. We have much to look forward to in the next year and of meeting the challenges that our times' present. The Church Bazaar on 16th November was a very successful event and thanks are due to so many people the end result was great afternoon for all and approximately £1300 was raised after expenses and a donation of about £140 to the Salisbury Food Project.

An analysis of our Church attendance covering the last 5 years has confirmed that the trend in your Church is similar to the nearly 1000 churches in rural communities surveyed. During the recent past a Pets service brought together a good family gathering with 23 pets ranging from Little Jess Robert Jesse's wee donkey to Suzie Nodder's wee fish in a margarine tub. The Service of Thanksgiving for our Doctors, Nurses and Surgery Staff was attended by 10% of the community (Dr Hugh Pelly's calculation) a truly wonderful expression of the communities gratitude for the wonderful caring service they provide. The Service of Remembrance was, as usual, well attended and the weather was kind during our short devotion at the Memorial. The All Souls Service was also well attended and provided a opportunity to remember those we love who are now in the arms of the Lord. The really Big occasion in our church calendar is still to come - namely Christingles on Christmas Eve when approximately 25% of the village pack St Mary's - a wonderful happy time of praise.

Events to look forward to in the new year are the Family Worship on the second Sunday of the month with a late start (1030am) and with Sunday Night Live Services on the fifth Sundays (Worship with different themes). The Band of the Royal Corps of Signals will be here to provide the Big Band experience and lift the roof off - a truly great evening on 14th March - see you there. Finally The Open Gardens Weekend is to take place on 28/29 June - some the visitors last time asked why we didn't enter the national competition - the quality of the gardens open was exceptional- a great thanks is due to those who actually open their gardens on these occasions.

David Salmons



And to think people had laughed
at Len, hoarding all his candle ends

M. G. CORDINA

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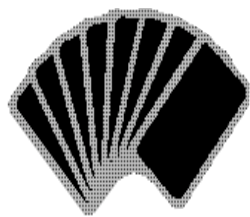
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Whist at The Village Hall

My opening paragraph of the October issue of *The Downsman* reported the deaths of two of our stalwart players. It is, with much sorrow, that I must commence this month's column with similar news, for recently Ted Gibson and George Rose passed from our midst. Both were excellent exponents of the game and, as recently as the August edition, I was remarking on the triumph of Ted (in partnership with Doris) taking all thirteen tricks in the drive held on 29 May. Since suffering a fall, George has not been able to make the journey up to Sixpenny Handley, but he regularly attended drives nearer to his home and, thus, kept in touch with events in our village. To Doris and Elsie, their respective widows, the club extends its sincerest condolences.

Already the 2002-2003 competition is one third of the way through the competitive rounds and, as at 13 November (what a night to remember~ strong winds and driving rain), leading the top table is Sam Poolman with an aggregate score of 981. In second place is last season's champion, Marge Poolman on 962, while third spot is held by Ruth Hustings at 950.

The second division is being fiercely contested and following the drive on the 13th, Kathy Sargeant displaced Doug Haskell at the top by a single point, Kathy now holding 824 points to Doug's 823. Seven points adrift of the top two places is Doris Day with an aggregate total of 816. In terms of players, the second division is the best supported and in the middle order less than twenty points separates 5th place, Peter Sargeant and Wilf Jacobs in 12th position. And, as anyone who is familiar with whist is aware, a swing of twenty points from one week's score to the next is quite common.

Heading the lower division (players who have missed two of the six rounds) is Margaret Fowgies on 628~ next, is Mary Braithwaite on 617 with Rita Austin, third, with 610.

Whist Drive programme 2002-2003

All Wednesday's apart from the Christmas Drive which, by tradition, is held on a Saturday:

December	14th Christmas Drive	January	8th	22nd
February	5th 19th	March	5th	19th
April	2nd 16th 30th	May	14th	28th

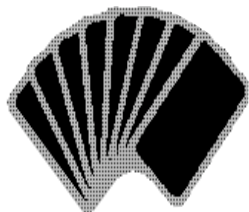
As yet, Peter Braithwaite's massive total of 192, which won him the £5 awarded to the player returning the highest individual score, has not been bettered in the current contest and the leading contender, at present, for the *five* is Sam Poolman, who carded a very creditable 179 (during round five), thus piping Doug Haskell's 178 (posted on the second round). However, with eleven competitive drives yet to go, '179' may not prove to be good enough.

On the 13th, with the rain beating down with such force that it was quite audible to the players at the tables, Ruby Jacobs emerged the winner with 175, followed closely by Peter Sargeant on 173 and Marge Poolman on 171, this being sufficient to boost her overall aggregate and take her to second place in division one (as reported above).

Finally, the annual Christmas Drive is scheduled for Saturday, 14 December. Doors open at 7 o'clock and play for the excellent prizes on display (hampers, drinks, etc, etc), will commence at 7.30 p.m. As a reminder, scores recorded at this event will not count towards the

competition.

Bridge with Bill



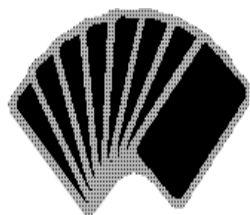
In last month's column, I presented a very brief guide to opening calls, using the ACOL system of bidding. I intended to follow this up with notes on responses, but having prepared such a table, it appears to be rather unwieldy and, so, instead of presenting the table in full, I will concentrate on suitable responses to a simple 1 NT opener.

Assuming you, and your partner, has agreed to play a weak no trump (12 to 14 points on a balanced hand, i.e. a hand that contains no voids or singletons), your responses should be:

Pass on 6 to 10 points, unless your hand is unsuited for a no trump play. The reason for passing is quite simple. Always assume your partner has opened on a minimum holding (12 points). You know the hand is 'balanced' and, even if you are holding 10 honour points, on a balanced hand you cannot arrive at the 25 points required for a game call of 3 NT. The arithmetic is simple: 12 plus 10 = 22, 13 plus 10 = 23 and even if partner has opened with a nice 14 honour points, even with your 10 you are going to be one short. With 11 to 12 honour points, balanced, respond 2 NT. You have now described, with precision, to your partner the strength of your hand and partner should react as follows: if having opened on 12 points, then a 'pass' is essential (12 plus 11 = 23, 12 plus 12 = 24, still short for a game call). The same criteria applies if partner has opened on 13, because you must always judge the response to show the minimum in high card values. However, if partner has called from 14 points, then you can expect a confident 3 NT reply - 14 plus 11 = 25; with good fortune this will result in a successful game, while 14 plus 14 should give you more than a fighting chance of landing the game.

Another very useful system, when playing the weak no trump is to use *Stayman* (you must, of course, agree this convention openly so that not only is your partner aware of what might happen, but your opponents also).

Stayman can be particularly advantageous if you are sitting with 10 to 12 points with what is referred to as a 'sharp' hand. Possibly, you have a void or a singleton, in which case your hand is unsuited for 'no trump' play. Assuming the shape is 4, 4, 4, 1 and you have four hearts and four spades. Instead of bidding your majors at the 2 level and perhaps finishing up in a contract that is unworkable, you apply *Stayman* tactics and bid 2 clubs. This merely indicates to your partner that you have four cards in one of the major suits (your opponents, of course, will realise this as well) and you are requesting partner to bid his/her best major (it must be a minimum of four, do not give a positive response holding three). However, let us assume partner's 1 NT opening is from 3 spades, 3 hearts, 3 diamonds and 4 clubs, then the reply must be 2 diamonds, signalling a denial of a four card major. This will not be good news, but you have to bid again and, in most circumstances, you will bale out in 2 NT. Agreed, your hand is not best suited for 'no trumps', but you can be certain that in the majors, at least, you have seven cards apiece and that in the suit where you have a singleton, then it is likely partner has at least a 'stop'. But, now, let us assume you obtain a positive reply, say 2 hearts, thus indicating the shape of your partner's hand as likely to be 3 spades, 4 hearts, 3 diamonds and 3 clubs, with four hearts of your own you can, with a good honour count, elect to play in 4 hearts. It is, as I say, a very useful convention and is certainly worth pursuing rather than elect to play 'weak take outs'.



Finally, another convention is to play what is known as a *transfer bid*, this being particularly useful if you are holding a weak hand but with a long suit, say, no more than six honour points but having six diamonds. Playing a 'weak take out' you would bid a natural two diamonds and provided the opposition did not interfere, then the hand would be passed out and, following the opening lead, your partner's stronger hand would be revealed in dummy. This, if possible, should be avoided as it gives your opponents the opportunity to plan a contract beating defence.

So, use the transfer bid and call 2 clubs, to which your partner will reply 2 diamonds and you will pass. 2 diamonds would tell your partner to bid 2 hearts, 2 hearts is asking for 2 spades, while 2 spades would indicate you want a 3 club response. You cannot, of course, play *Stayman* and *transfers*, unless you have worked out, and explained to the opposition, a method of how you propose using the two systems - for example, you might, if you are well skilled, use *Stayman* for calls at the two level while *transfers* would be bid at the three level.

As you will have no doubt noticed, I use the word 'convention' quite frequently and it is really important to agree 'conventions' ahead of any game. For example, are you going to use 4 NT 5 NT when exploring slams, or are you going to use 4 clubs 5 clubs for the same purpose, or you might wish to use the 4 club ladder, or, perhaps, cue bid aces and kings. Whatever your choice, do discuss it ahead of play so that your partner is in no doubt what is expected and your opponents are not left *in the dark*.



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- Issues related to Community Care



Extracts from **The Garden.**

Hedgehog Numbers Plummet.

November can be an alarming time for hedgehogs. Snuggled up tight in inviting piles of leaves and debris, many are burned alive on Bonfire Night. So advice from the Wildlife Hospital Trust and the British Hedgehog Preservation Society is always to turn over a bonfire gently before lighting it.

However, the most adverse effect on hedgehogs is the increasing intensification of farming in the UK. A nation wide survey, funded by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and the Mammals Trust UK, suggests that hedgehog numbers in East Anglia have fallen 50 percent since 1991. Other areas such as Yorkshire and the South East of England have shown a 40 percent drop. The data was collected last year by a team of volunteers who recorded the number of hedgehogs, badgers, rabbits and foxes killed on the roads.

Adult hedgehogs are useful to gardeners as they can eat almost half their body weight (1.8kgs/4lbs) of slugs, snails and caterpillars in a day.

Ian Davies

Pony & Trap

Has anyone got an elegant pony and trap that we can rent to transport the bride?

**My Daughter is getting married in August 2003 and would like to travel in style
to the Church in Sixpenny Handley and back to Star House.
i.e. from the bottom of High St to the Church and back.**

If you can help please contact Arthur Downton, Star House, 01725 552584

The Brook by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

I come from haunts of coot and hern
 I make a sudden sally
 And sparkle out among the fern,
 To bicker down a valley.

By thirty hills I hurry down,
 Or slip between the ridges,
 By twenty thorps, a little town,
 And half a hundred bridges.

Till last by Philip's farm I flow
 To join the brimming river,
 For men may come and men may go,
 But I go on for ever.

I chatter over stony ways
 In little sharps and trebles,
 I bubble into eddying bays,
 I babble on the pebbles.

With many a curve my banks I fret
 By many a field and fallow,
 And many a fairy-foreland set
 With willow-weed and mallow.

I chatter, chatter, as I flow
 To join the brimming river,
 For men may come and men may go,
 But I go on for ever

I wind about, and in and out,

With here a blossom sailing,
 And here and there a lusty trout,
 And here and there a grayling,

And here and there a foamy flake
 Upon me as I travel
 With many a silvery waterbreak
 Above the golden gravel,

And draw them all along, and flow,
 To join the brimming river,
 For men may come and men may go,
 But I go on for ever.

I steal by lawns and grassy plots
 I slide by hazel covers;
 I move the sweet forget-me-nots
 That grow for happy lovers.

I slip, I slide, I gloom, I glance,
 Among my skimming swallows;
 I make the netted sunbeam dance
 Against my sandy shallows.

I murmur under moon and stars
 In brambly wildernesses;
 I linger by my shingly bars;
 I loiter round my cresses;

And out again I curve and flow
 To join the brimming river,
 For men may come and men may go
 But I go on for ever.

WEDNESDAY CLUB PROGRAMME - JANUARY - APRIL 2003.

22nd Jan. Quiz and puzzles
 5th Feb. Thomas Hardy (part 1) with slides;
 Miss Stock and Miss Chapman.
 19th Feb. "No - not Walt Disney"-with slides.
 Carole and Dennis North.
 5th Mar. "Being a Blue Badge Guide"
 with slides. Christine McGee

19th Mar. Sandroyds School Choir
 Clive Jones and the boys.
 2nd Apr. A talk on Wessex Water
 with slides.
 16th Apr. Thomas Hardy (part 2) - with
 slides
 Miss Stock and Miss Chapman

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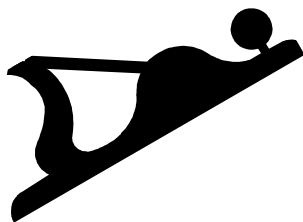
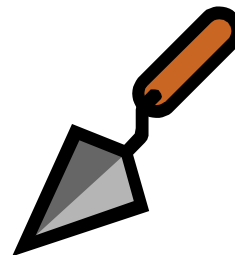
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The Wonders of Aloe Vera

Aloe Vera is becoming increasingly well known these days and we see it advertised as being an ingredient in hand and body lotions, washing liquids, foam baths and many others. Did you know however, that the medicinal qualities of Aloe Vera have been known for some 4000 years? One of the first references was found on an Egyptian Temple carving from around 2000 SC.

Aloe Vera is a plant that flourishes in hot dry climates and the inner part of the fleshy leaf (known as Aloe Vera Gel) has over 75 different nutrients. Many of the nutrients have beneficial effects when taken internally and/or topically.

Some of the most common reputed benefits of Aloe Vera are:

• Synergism	• Local Anaesthetic
• Adaptation	• Antimicrobial against certain
• Improved 'well being'	• Decreases capillary bleeding
• Antioxidant	• Anti-inflammatory
• Source of essential nutrients	• Decreases itching
• Skin cleanser and moisturiser	• Lowers temperatures
• Penetrates the dermal layer of the	• No detectable side effects
• Exfoliator	• Few contra indications
• Encourages skin cell division leading to increased wound	• Potentiates the action of some other drugs

Researchers have concluded that Aloe Vera works on the epithelial tissues and the immune system to give the beneficial effects that it does. This is why it appears to help conditions which affect a number of what seems to be unrelated bodily systems such as the skin, the digestive system and the respiratory system.

When choosing the type of Aloe Vera to use it is most important that consideration is given the whether your chosen brand is:

- Organically grown;
- Derived from plants at least 4 years old and
- Filleted and unadulterated

Aloe Vera can and is successfully used on animals.

For more information and tips on the use of Aloe Vera, please contact Julie Adams on 01212 750067 or email: julie.adams@soaringteam.com



News and Information

NATIONAL
FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S
INSTITUTES

October & November 2002

Members at Handley's well attended October meeting were welcomed by Vice President Mrs Stella Symes and a special welcome was given to new members – Beverly Allen, Bobby Carter, and Madge Cox. Diane Appleby was welcomed back after a long absence through illness.

Mr and Mrs R Cooper were welcomed and Mr Ralph Cooper gave an interesting talk about the 'Bournemouth Talking Newspaper' - a fortnightly edition which was started in 1974. All work involved with it, being done by volunteers in aid of blind and partially sighted people. He was thanked by Heather Eynon.

Nominations were taken for new committee. A Group Quiz was held recently when 10 members took part.

A group of members from the Lyndhurst Link visited Martin Greens Archaeological Museum and later joined our members for tea in the lovely garden at the Presidents house.

The Group Meeting is at Shroton on October 23rd at 7.15 pm.

The Group Carol service will be held at Handley St Mary's Church on December 6th.

Refreshments were served by Jan Gibb and Margaret Summerell.

Flower of the month won by Stella Symes and Win Judd – Joint 1st and Norah North.

The November meeting was Handley's Annual Meeting and President Mrs Maggie Staplehurst welcomed members, guests and a new member Mrs Sheila Bradley and our speaker Mrs Angela Lawes WIA.

The meeting started with the singing of Jerusalem and normal business discussed. The December meeting will be the Christmas party when members and friends from other WI's are invited. The Group Carol service will be at St Mary Church, Sixpenny Handley on December 6th and non-members are welcome. Margaret Summerell gave her report on the Autumn Council meeting at Weymouth recently.

Annual reports were given by President Maggie Staplehurst, Secretary Heather Eynon and Treasurer, Joyce Waker – a vote of thanks to them and the committee members was given by Anne Adams. A new committee was chosen and Stella Symes was elected President after Mrs Lawes had dealt with the voting papers the committee as follows; Heather Eynon - Secretary, Joyce Waker - Treasurer, Bobby Carter, Jan Gibb, Jean Maidment and Carole North.

Mrs Lawes followed that with a most interesting talk on how she became a WI member in her early married life and eventually a VCO now WIA. She was thanked by Bobby Carter.

A winning team entered the Final of the Group Quiz recently, but did not win, and some will be entering the Bowls Club Quiz on November 23rd.

Refreshments were served by Elizabeth Brodie and Margaret Quinn.

Flower of the month won by Stella Symes, Doreen Leverton and Win Judd. The Annual Cup being won by Doreen Leverton.

The competition for a Homemade Greetings card won by Bobby Carter, Nancie Raban Williams and Win Judd. The Annual Competition Cup won by Bobby Carter.

The next meeting is on December 9th – the Christmas Party.

Win Judd

[Sadly, Win has decided to retire from her role as Roving Reporter for the WI. For the last couple of years Win has reported the activities of the WI, never missing an issue and, unlike some of our other correspondents, always on time with her copy. Thanks for your efforts Win! Ed.]

YOGA

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Jubilee Mugs

I am still holding some of the Jubilee Mugs, ordered earlier in the year.

If you ordered mugs and still have not collected them please contact me here at 5 The Parsonage (01725 552788) as soon as possible to arrange collection/delivery. Any mugs still uncollected at the end of the month will be passed back to the Clerk for re-sale as there is still great demand for these future valuable antiques.

Editor.

SIXPENNY HANDLEY GARDENS OPEN WEEKEND

Following the successful weekend of "Gardens Open" in 2001, we propose to have a similar weekend in 2003. The dates will be Saturday and Sunday, 28th and 29th June.



East Dorset District Council
Community Service Awards 2003

Your name and address

Name, address, age (if under 18) and telephone number (if known) of person you wish to nominate

Please set out details of your nomination, using a second sheet if necessary. Nominations should be between 75 and 300 words.

Signed

Please complete and return to Councillor Philip Gaussen, Chairman,
East Dorset District Council, Freepost, Furzehill, Wimborne BH21 4BR

Do you know someone whose voluntary efforts deserve greater recognition? Throughout the East Dorset District, hundreds of people are working voluntarily for the benefit of others. East Dorset District Council's Community Service Awards are designed to recognise the contribution made to local life by volunteers.

Message from Phillip Gaussen, Chairman of East Dorset District Council

"It is important to give recognition to those people who are involved with community activities and who are seldom recognised. Your nominations to this very worthwhile scheme are welcomed."

There are a few guidelines to help you in your nomination

- The work must be carried out within the East Dorset district by an East Dorset resident
- No person may be nominated more than once
- Nominations must be for individuals
- Use separate nominations forms for each person
- Nomination must be between 75-300 words, these details will be used for judging, please make them as complete as possible.
- Officers and Members of East Dorset District Council may not be nominated
- Closing date for nominations is 31st December 2002.

Nomination forms are available from libraries, schools, post offices, community centres and council buildings throughout the district. An application form can also be downloaded from the Council's website www.eastdorset.gov.uk.

Local Buses

Local Bus Services to Salisbury (400) and Shaftesbury (401) run by Shaftesbury & District Motor Services are under constant scrutiny by Dorset County Council who support them financially. They have now advised the operator that, in the case of service 401, the County Council are seeking the co-operation of any interested parties in trying to significantly improve the useage, failing which the subsidisation of the service will probably cease on March 31st 2003 (*How can this happen under a Government that is always encouraging people to use public transport. Ed.*).

To ensure that everybody is aware of the services, details are given below.

The fares for the services are as follows:

Service 400. Handley to Salisbury £1.50 (single) £2.50 (return).

Service 401. Handley to Shaftesbury £1.50 (single) £2.50 (return).

Child fares are half the adult fare to the nearest five pence below (Ages 5 to 15). Below the age of five children travel free.

Service 400 to Handley & Salisbury Via Salisbury District Hospital Tuesdays & Saturdays

ASHMORE Pond	9.15	SALISBURY New Canal	12.30
TOLLARD GREEN	9.20	SALISBURY District Hospital	12.36
FARNHAM Newtown	9.23	PORTLAND AVENUE	12.40
FARNHAM Oakley View	9.24	HOMINGTON CORNER	12.41
FARNHAM Museum Hotel	9.25	COOMBE BISSETT Fox &	12.45
TOLLARD ROYAL Pond	9.31	HILLCREST KENNELS	12.47
WOODCUTTS	9.35	NEW FARM	12.48
CHASE CRESCENT	9.36	GRIMSDYKE GARAGE	12.51
NEW BARN	9.38	EAST MARTIN turning	12.53
SIXPENNY HANDLEY	9.40	MARTIN Drove End	12.55
HANDLEY Dean Lane	9.44	WOODYATES	12.59
HANDLEY CROSS	9.48	PENTRIDGE corner	1.00
PENTRIDGE corner	9.50	HANDLEY CROSS	1.02
WOODYATES	9.51	HANDLEY Dean Lane	1.06
MARTIN Drove End	9.55	SIXPENNY HANDLEY Roebuck	1.10
EAST MARTIN turning	9.57	NEW BARN	1.12
GRIMSDYKE GARAGE	9.59	CHASE CRESCENT	1.14
NEW FARM	10.02	WOODCUTTS	1.15
HILLCREST KENNELS	10.03	TOLLARD ROYAL Pond	1.19
COOMBE BISSETT Fox &	10.05	FARNHAM Museum Hotel	1.25
HOMINGTON CORNER	10.09	FARNHAM Oakley View	1.26
PORTLAND AVENUE	10.10	FARNHAM Newtown	1.27
SALISBURY District Hospital	10.14	TOLLARD GREEN	1.30
SALISBURY New Canal	10.20	ASHMORE Pond	1.35

Service 401 to Shaftesbury Thursdays

SIXPENNY HANDLEY Roebuck	9.40	SHAFTESBURY Town Hall	12.50
NEW BARN	9.43	CANN COMMON Melbury Motors	12.57
CHASE CRESCENT	9.45	MELBURY ABBAS	1.00
WOODCUTTS	9.46	ASHMORE Pond	1.20
TOLLARD ROYAL Pond	9.50	WOODLEY DOWN	1.24
WOODLEY DOWN	9.56	TOLLARD ROYAL Pond	1.30
ASHMORE Pond	10.00	WOODCUTTS	1.34
MELBURY ABBAS	10.20	CHASE CRESCENT	1.35
CANN COMMON Melbury Motors	10.23	NEW BARN	1.37
SHAFTESBURY Town Hall	10.30	SIXPENNY HANDLEY Roebuck	1.40

The Downsman

DON'T FORGET WHATS ON!!!

DATE	FUNCTION	PAGE	DATE	FUNCTION	PAGE
Dec-04	Bridge Evening	3	Jan-16	Chase Community Friends	0 8
Dec-05	Chase Community Friends	0			
Dec-07	Auction & Xmas Draw	0			
Dec-09	W I Christmas Party	3			
Dec-11	Bridge Evening	3	Jan-20	Downsman Copy Deadline	0 3
Dec-11	Wednesday Club	3			
Dec-12	Chase Community Friends	0			
Dec-14	Christmas Whist Drive	3			
Dec-18	Bridge Evening	3	Jan-22	Whist at The Village Hall	3 2
Dec-19	Chase Community Friends	0			
Jan-02	Chase Community Friends	0			
Jan-08	Whist at The Village Hall	3			
Jan-08	Bridge Evening	3	Jan-22	Bridge Evening	3 3
Jan-09	Chase Community Friends	0			
Jan-15	Bridge Evening	3			

FLOWER SHOW - DATES FOR NEXT YEAR

SPRING SHOW 12th APRIL 2003

SUMMER SHOW 16th AUGUST 2003

Details of both of these events will appear in future editions of The Downsman,
now is the time to be thinking about the Spring Show.

There will be classes for daffodils, narcissus and other bulb flowers as well as some of
the classes from the summer Show such as Flower Arranging, cookery and children's