

The Downsman

**NEWS AND INFORMATION
MAGAZINE**



**PARISH OF SIXPENNY HANDLEY
WITH PENTRIDGE**

February 2003

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

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St. Rumbold's, Pentridge
St. Andrews, Gussage St.Andrew
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Upper School Queen Elizabeth's School
Wimborne..... 01202 885233

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4 - Deanland & N.E. Charles Nodder..... 552292
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Woodyates Roy Warner..... 552665
Police Blandford Station. 01258 452101

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Joint Sam Leiber-Young.....552600
Chairpersons Louise Wolstenholme..... 552388
Playgroup Leader Mary Best..... 552390
Secretary Gill Hutchins..... 552159

The Chase Nursery Link Group

Contact Hazel Killeen..... 552980

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Secretary Mrs H. Eynon..... 552308

Sixpenny Handley Mother's Union

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

Sixpenny Handley Bowls Club

President Colin Chambers..... 552796
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 Hatton01258 840671

Sixpenny Handley Tennis Club

Chairman Michael Catchpole..... 552879
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Membership/Treasurer Kay Mills.....552727

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

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Secretary Brian Hansford..... 552468

Sixpenny Handley Flower Show

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

Sixpenny Handley Homewatch

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 342781

E-mail: downsman@sixpennyhandley.org

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

Copy Deadline is 20th March 2003

The Parish Council needs *YOUR* help after the flooding

In an effort to provide a coordinated response to the statutory authorities following the recent flooding the Parish Council would welcome any points that parishioners might have. These will then be collated and passed to the Environment Agency, County Council, District Council and Wessex Water. If necessary a public meeting will be organised.

Written comments can be put in the letter box of the
Parish Office, Unit 5B, Town Farm Workshops. (by the cross roads)

Send them by e-mail to Office@sixpennyhandley.org

Fax to: 01725 552211

The office is open every Tues and Fri 10am – 12noon

Photographs will also be most welcome, they will be returned as soon as they have been scanned.

Cllr A H Gibb

The residents of Dean Lane would like to thank those drivers who were prepared to slow down when passing through the recent floods.

Those drivers who happily sprayed people and property were actually ***driving without due care and attention*** and could have been reported to the Police. At least three people were completely soaked from head to toe by thoughtlessness !

You have been warned.

A County and District Council Surgery

Sixpenny Handley's County Councillor **Tim Palmer**,
and our local District Councillor **Alan Humphries**

have joined together to hold two surgeries in the Parish Office

On Saturday 15th of February and on Saturday 15th March, between 10:00am and 12 noon.

Tim Palmer is the leader of Dorset County Council and is currently fighting a strong campaign against the cuts in funding Dorset is facing at present. Cuts that will inevitably mean increases in your Council Tax.

Alan Humphries is an independent member of East Dorset District Council whose long career in local politics has given him a wide knowledge of local matters, and lots of experience in finding the correct solutions to local problems.

Have you any questions you wish to ask them? Any problems you think they may be able to help with? If so, come along and talk to them – they represent **you** – make sure they represent what **you** think is right.



Sixpenny Handley Bowls Club

Our Club is having a quieter time now, giving us the opportunity of concentrating on our short mat league matches.

The 'A' Team are still at the top of Division One, after playing 9 matches, they have 34 points. However the second team are Templecombe Wasps with 30 points, also after 9 matches.

The Tanners are lying second in Division 4 after 10 matches and have 29 points. Top are the Sturfries with 37 points after 9 matches.

We have just purchased some new short mats which are taking us some time in getting used to, but our opponents have problems as well when they come here, so hopefully we will benefit in the long run.

Watching the colourful bowls on television again recently, tempted me and I have just purchased a new set of red bowls. I am hoping then will help me to play better, but it is not working yet!!

For our regular quiz goers, we have recently pencilled in the following dates for our 2003 Quizzes- **12th April** and **29th November**.

Another date to bear in mind if you have been planning to come up to the Bowling Green is our Open Day on **27th April** – How about it? This day will also open the New Season.

Sixpenny Handley Homewatch



The year has started fairly quietly on the crime front but we must not be complacent. An arson incident in a barn near the village and an after-dark burglary from a van in the High Street during December were reminders that we must always be vigilant.

The best news is that Dorset Police have caught one team of thieves who had been operating in our area. This lot had been involved in distraction thefts. There are others still out there, however, because very recently there have been men posing as water board officials trying to gain access to homes in Wimborne St Giles.

Other cover stories used in the area recently include posing as Council workers or Housing Association officials and, in one case, even a nurse. If you don't know your caller, always ask for identification and if anything does not fit, just don't let them in. Call the police instead.

Volunteers from the village Homewatch scheme will be putting up more Homewatch signs in early February. These will mostly be replacements for some that have become damaged or faded. We would like to thank the Parish Council for assisting with the purchase of the new signs.

Handley remains an area of remarkably low crime. In large measure this is due to our being a close-knit community, good at keeping our eyes and ears open and passing on information of value to our neighbours, the Homewatch co-ordinators and the police. So thank you, and keep up the good work everybody.



HAPPY NAPPY

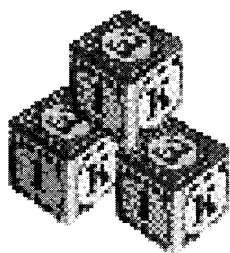


Happy Nappy meets every Monday at
Sixpenny Handley Village Hall at
10am.

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

Postscript to a Wild Goose Chase

In an earlier issue of 'The Downsman' I recorded my efforts to track down some explanation of the notorious gaol (now closed) on the outskirts of Melbourne, having the name of a village in North Dorset - i.e. Pentridge.

It all came to a full stop when the Victoria State Public Records Office told me that the gaol took its name from the village where it was built; and that 'The Place Names of Victoria', by a Les Blake, stated that the village in turn took its name from an Irishman called Joseph Pentridge, who was the developer or local land-owner. I was unable to establish how plausible an explanation this might be since the name 'Pentridge' seemed not to crop up in any Irish context that I could trace.

Since then, however, I happened one day to have the radio on, and suddenly realised that the chap being interviewed on a news programme was an Irishman, a certain Dr Pantridge. So on my next visit to Salisbury Reference Library it was back to the phone books for the Republic of Ireland – only to be met again with the sort of disappointment so often experienced by amateur researchers. There was no trace of the name 'Pantridge' any more than there had been of the name 'Pentridge'. But to cheerfully mix a metaphor – when on a wild goose chase you can afford to leave no stone unturned, so before leaving I checked out the phone book for Northern Ireland, and there they were, as large as life, half a dozen folks by the name of 'Pantridge'.

This doesn't prove anything, I have to allow. However, bearing in mind how flexible spellings were in days gone by, and taking into account how easily an Irish accent could turn 'Pentridge' into 'Pantridge', or vice versa, it seems safe to conclude that the man who gave his name first to that Australian village, then subsequently to the goal built there, could well have been an Irishman, of whom indeed there were and are many in Australia.

Anthony J Lane

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU AT SIXPENNY HANDLEY SURGERY

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ST.MARY'S CHURCH, SIXPENNY HANDLEY
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IN CONCERT
THE BAND OF THE
ROYAL CORPS OF
 SIGNALS
FRIDAY, 14TH MARCH
AT ST.MARY'S CHURCH
SIXPENNY HANDLEY
 7.30 PM

**SIXPENNY HANDLEY IS ON THE A 354 BETWEEN BLANDFORD AND
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 On a bed of mixed leaves
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DEEP FRIED BRIE £3.50
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FILLET OF COD £7.50
 With cheese & vino sauce
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 Served on a bed of tagliatelle, bread & butter

DISHES +
 PRICES MAY
 VARY

SUPPORT YOUR RURAL PUB
CAN WE HELP YOU !

Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge Parish Council

Planning Applications

Parish Office
Unit 5B

Opening Hours: Phone - 01725 552211
Tuesday 10am – 12noon Email - office@sixpennyhandley.org

The Parish Council is asked to comment on all Planning Applications within the parish. They are allowed approximately three weeks to study the plans, and during this period the plans are available in the Parish Office for anyone else to look at if they have an interest in the application. A list of the plans held in the office is normally promulgated on the notice board outside the office, and on the notice board outside the Post Office

The following applications have recently been examined by the Council

If you would like to know more about any of these applications call into the parish office. Normally the Parish Council have to return plans after the three weeks period given to study

Old Thorney Down Single & 2 storey extension & new garage	adj 4 Littlefield Lane Demolish block barn & Construct 1 pair semi
41 High St	11 High St
Little Bredy, Manor Farm	23 High St
71 High St Erect House	Handley School Remove toilets & Erect new toilets, library,
Orchard House, Pentridge	Yew Tree Cottage Pentridge

them. However, the Parish Council have managed to retain copies of the plans for the extension to the school, and these will be held in the parish office for the foreseeable future. If you would like to have a look at these plans please contact the deputy clerk, or call at the office during opening hours.

SIXPENNY HANDLEY SPEED LIMITS

The new speed limits on the approaches to the village have been in force for 4 months and are due for review before Phase 2 of the Traffic Management Scheme is implemented. The County Council has made money available for this scheme during the next year thanks to the efforts of our County Councillor, Tim Palmer.

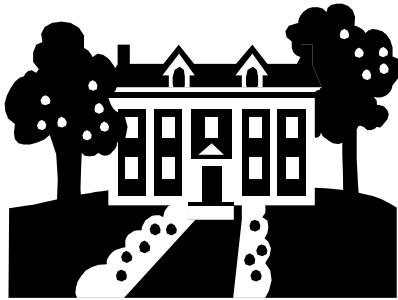
The Parish Council would like to hear from members of the Parish who might have thoughts on the matter. Please leave them in the post box at the Parish Office or e-mail them to Office@sixpennyhandley.org

We are determined to create a safer environment within our village through speed reduction.

Cllr A H Gibb

M. G. CORDINA

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VILLAGE HALL NEWS

It is the start of a new year and after last years success with fund raising and working parties I hope we can continue again this year.

At the end of last year we had an auction at which participants could sell items and receive money back. I paid over £400 to the sellers and we still managed to make a handsome profit of just under £500. Thank you for all your support and donations.

Also that evening we held a Christmas Draw – we managed to sell a great number of tickets and with prizes donated again we raised £500.

In the last edition of 'The Downsman' I stated we were receiving a donation from Hall and Woodhouse Brewers. This event, at the brewery in Blandford, was attended by Pam and Steve from the Committee and two members from the groups. We were awarded £700 to help finance the storage work planned for the hall. The estimates for the work have been received from three companies and the work is planned for January.

Adrian Penny and helpers took only a short time to erect the storage units on the stage and an excellent job was done.

My thanks must also go to the groups who were disrupted by the work and hopefully the units will make it better for all.

We also had the door into the committee room made larger, enabling the square tables to fit through better. Thanks to Pam for the suggestion.

Extra items in the Hall. There is the purchase of a chair transporter and a table transporter. So as soon as we work out where some items will be relocated it should make life easier.

The Hall has been marked out for the start of the Badminton. Still more members are required. So let's get going to form a Club. Contact Ron Wood.

Amongst fund raising for the future will be both a Jumble Sale and a Fashion Show, dates yet to be agreed. Any items or help for the Jumble Sale please contact Stella, Rob or Julie.

Rob Jesse

BUS SHELTER BY TELEPHONE EXCHANGE
HANDLEY HIGH STREET

Is it driving you insane
Whilst standing in the rain
Time & time again?
Do you feel waterlogged
When you're waiting in your clogs?
Or would you rather look a nellie
And stand there in your wellies.
Are you really not amused
When it squishes out your shoes?
So how about a roof
to keep us waterproofed!!
If you agree
then please contact me.

HEATHER - TEL:- 01725-552513.

A couple of 'clicks' away

There can be few readers of *'The Downsmen'* that are not familiar with the *internet* and the myriad of web sites offering everything from *'on-line'* shopping and banking facilities to *'chat rooms'* and all manner of persuasive sites. My 'work', as many of you are aware, is the compilation of all aircraft losses and crew casualties pertaining to Bomber Command's activities of the Second World War and, I have to say, that in recent months various sites have come *'on-line'* that aid my research immeasurably.

One site that I have used over several years is that sponsored by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (www.cwgc.org) while within the last couple of months, I have been advised of the existence of a site that provides copies of the Supplements to the London Gazette and its associate publications, the Belfast Gazette and Edinburgh Gazette (www.gazettes-online.co.uk)

The former allows me to verify the correct names and places of burial of airmen that became casualties in Bomber Command (the official figure is 55,500 killed, the majority, 47,268, in action or dying of wounds, illness, etc while held as prisoners of war). In respect of those who lost their lives on the operational squadrons, the need to access the web site is not overly important as I hold copies of the Commission's cemetery registers which, in the main, show a person's squadron identity (the exceptions being those who died in the service of the Royal Australian Air Force and, in a handful of cases, the Royal New Zealand Air Force). However, for those airmen who perished in air accidents at training establishments, although their names and aircrew trades are duly reported, the identity of their unit is, invariably, omitted and this is where the web site becomes an invaluable asset. For the past three years, I have been researching the losses sustained by the Operational Training Units and Heavy Conversion Units that supported Bomber Command. Work on the former category saw *'light of day'*, through the medium of Volume 7 in the series (published in May 2002), while work on the latter progresses towards the target date, for delivery of a completed manuscript, of October 2003. Well over 8,000 airmen died whilst training for air operations with Bomber Command and it is important for me to know where they are buried within the United Kingdom. Thus, once I have established the names of a crew, or an individual, that perished in a training accident, I enter his name and initials into the appropriate boxes and the *'search engine'* does the rest, literally in seconds, providing me with the name of the cemetery where he is buried, or in the case of cremation, the identity of the crematorium. In over ninety percent of cases, details of next of kin are shown and though this data is superfluous to my needs, I occasionally pick up on some detail that is worth recording in the summary dealing with the crash and its consequences. For example, the airman in question may have lost a brother (or, less commonly, a sister) on active service and in such cases I will follow this through for more often than not, the brother will have died in the service of the Royal Air Force and if he was a Bomber Command casualty, then I can cross-refer the reader to where his name appears in the series. Other items worthy of note are decorations held by a next of kin, or the loss in service of a parent - again, I can quite easily delve into such matters. Academic and sporting achievements attained by the deceased are frequently noted; against an entry on the 'Runnmede Memorial' (over 20,000 airmen, the vast majority being Bomber Command, have no known grave) for an Australian airman who was reported missing from air operations of Germany in 1943 was the fact that he had toured with the Australian test cricket team in the 1930s and a quick telephone call

to The Oval (a Test was in progress at the time and the team of commentators were taking questions for answer in the tea interval) enabled me to establish that he toured in the capacity of 'reserve wicket keeper'.

Now, as mentioned, I have another site that is proving to be most useful, for although awards were not common place, thousands of airmen were decorated for gallantry and by accessing '*gazettes-online*' I am, in the majority of cases, able to establish the date of publication in the Supplement to the London Gazette for the person concerned. A word of caution; for reasons that I cannot explain, the '*search engine*' is not always successful. For instance, by typing in 'Guy Penrose Gibson' (he led 617 Squadron on the Dams raid in 1943 and gained a Victoria Cross for his outstanding courage in circling the target area and providing a running commentary as Lancaster after Lancaster swept in low across the waters of the Mohne Dam and into the face of a hail of anti-aircraft fire from the ground defences - eight crews from the nineteen despatched failed to return and of the fifty-six aircrew posted as missing, fifty-three were dead) I was able to establish most of the Gazette entries for his many awards, except that publishing the citation for his Victoria Cross. Similarly, I can identify the Supplement reporting the Victoria Cross awarded to one of the Command's outstanding pilots, Leonard Cheshire, but, as yet, the '*search engine*' has not found the Gazette carrying details of his Distinguished Service Order, gained in the autumn of 1940 during a raid on Cologne.

Nonetheless, it is an extremely important site for anyone who is carrying out research into family affairs, for not only do the Supplements report details of military decorations, etc, but legal matters and matters of state also appear. And, as with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission site, the time that can be saved is immeasurable. In the case of the awards, it would take me the better part of a day (and likely more in the instances where I wish to ascertain an airman's commissioning date) if I had to look for this detail in the Public Record Office, Kew (PRO Kew has an excellent web site that enables you to identify documents, but not their content) where the Supplements are available for public inspection (some of the Supplements run to over a hundred pages) but they have to be requested '*on-line*' through Kew's '*in-house*' computer system and the maximum number of documents permitted at any one time is 'three'.

Thus, 'two clicks away' can, in seconds, give me access to data which prior to the advent of the '*internet*' would cost me hours in time, plus the expense of a journey to London.

Just in case you think all my problems are over, unfortunately, this is not so for the 'raw data' in respect of names, aircraft identities, etc, are, as yet, not available on the '*net*' though some of the dedicated Bomber Command sites carry information in respect of specific squadrons (some of these, as I have discovered, bear an uncanny resemblance to the material that has taken me ten years or more to gather and publish (through Midland Counties) in my series of books devoted to Bomber Command). Visits to London will continue for some while.

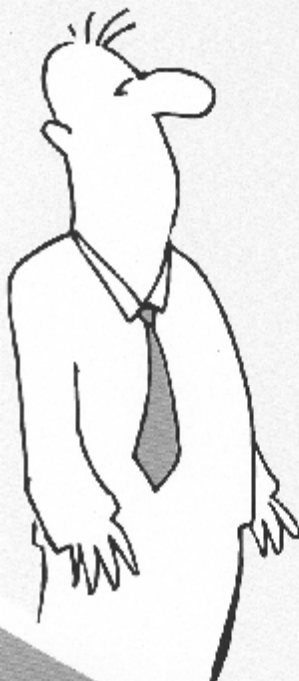
Bill Chorley

Ever thought of becoming a Councillor?

Have you ever considered standing as a Councillor but have not been sure what is involved or what would be expected of you?

If the answer is yes or even maybe - then make a date in your diary for either 25th or 26th February 2003 at 7pm when all will be revealed.

East Dorset District Council is running a seminar aimed at prospective candidates for both district and parish/town council elections. The seminar will be held in the Council Chamber, East Dorset Council's Offices, Furzehill, Wimborne.



On the evening Councillors and Officers will:

- *Explain the roles of both district and parish/town councillors.*
- *Hold workshops sessions on the nomination procedures and committee functions.*
- *Give you the opportunity to meet existing Councillors and Political Agents during the refreshment break.*

All those attending will receive a detailed Candidate's Pack.

**East Dorset
District Council**



So much to offer

If you are interested in attending or would like further information, please contact either the Head of Committee Services, Sandra Griggs on (01202) 639017 or the Electoral Registration Assistant, Julia Duncan on (01202) 886201

**East Dorset
District Council**

Telephone: 01202 883822
www.eastdorset.gov.uk



01202 883822

ROBS COLUMN

How nice it was to see that other people are beginning to send in little bits of poetry or stories to help make 'The Downsman' even more interesting to read.

How to know you're growing old.

Everything hurts and what doesn't hurt doesn't work
 The gleam in your eyes is from the sun hitting your bifocals.
 You feel like the night before and haven't been anywhere.
 You get winded playing chess.
 Your children begin to look middle aged.
 You finally reach the top of the ladder and find its leaning against the wrong wall.
 You join a health club and don't go.
 You know all the answers but nobody asks you the questions.
 You look forward to a dull evening.
 You sit in a rocking chair and can't get it going.
 Your knees buckle but your belt won't.
 You're 17 around the neck, 44 around the waist and 105 around the golf course.
 You just can't stand people who are intolerant.
 Your back goes out more often than you do.
 You stop looking forward to your next birthday.
 You burn the midnight oil after 9 pm.
 You sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there.
 You regret all those temptations you resisted.
 The little old grey haired lady you help across the street is you wife.
 You get all your exercise from being pall bearer for your friends who exercised.
 You remembered today that yesterday was your Wedding Anniversary.
 You start a sentence but forget what you

A POEM

(Taken from Evergreen Magazine, Autumn 1994)

The great grey hills with their misty shroud
 The rays of the rising sun
 That fire and colour each fleecy cloud
 With tints from the rainbow spun;

The deep green banks by the rippling rill
 The purple of autumn moor,
 The snow-white crown of the mirrored hill
 In the lakes blue shimmering floor;

The cream strewn banks where the
 primrose slakes,
 Her thirst in morning dew,
 The woodland shade where the Bluebell
 wakes
 In clouds of cobalt hue;

The brown earth etched by the

ploughman's skill,
 The gold of the ripened sheaf,
 The yellow gorse of the sun-kissed hill,
 The bronze of the falling leaf;

All painted by the faultless art of natures'
 lavish hand
 No place on earth can hold my heart
 As the glory of this dear land.



Extracts from The Garden.

Remembering A Friend

The RHS is launching a new centralised "in memoriam" scheme to enable people to leave a gift to the Society in memory of a friend or relative.

Each RHS garden is choosing a project that can be funded by in memoriam donations in 2003. For example, the curator at RHS Garden Hyde Hall, has chosen a gazebo as the centrepiece for the Queen Mother's Garden.

Donations of £2000 or more will be recorded on a brass plaque while smaller donations will be recorded in a book, which will be available for inspection at the relevant garden.

Leaflets about the scheme will shortly be available at RHS gardens.

Invaders spreading from Surrey to Scotland

Alien species of vine weevil have spread as far as Scotland and Wales and look set to cause severe damage to British gardens.

Serious garden pests in southern Europe, *Otiorhynchus armadillo* and *O. salicicola* are now well established in London and *O. armadillo* has also been recorded in Surrey, Cardiff and Edinburgh. Max Barclay, Curator of Beetles at the National History Museum, said, 'It is likely that these weevils have been introduced to Britain through imported ornamental plants from Italy. Females can produce more than 100 eggs per year and the weevils seem to be thriving, despite the colder British climate, possibly assisted by a lack of predators and parasites.'

Max first found *O. armadillo* in 1998 on the window of a London department store. Many more were found in 2001 and a survey in 2002 shows that they are now the most common species of vine weevil in southwest London.

Andrew Halstead, Senior Entomologist at RHS Garden Wisley said, 'The two weevils are similar in appearance to native vine weevil, *O. sulcatus*. The same is true of the root-feeding larvae and there is no simple means by which gardeners can tell them apart. It is likely that these new weevils will become more widespread in Britain. The adult weevils eat notches in the leaf margins of many plants, especially evergreens such as ivy, bay trees, pyracantha and *Viburnum tinus*. It is not yet known whether the grub stage will be as damaging as those of our native vine weevil.'

'The new weevils are likely to be susceptible to the same control measures as are available for use against the native vine weevil. The most widely used is the systemic insecticide imidacloprid for container-grown ornamental plants. In late summer, the pathogenic nematode *Heterorhabditis megidis* can be used on all types of plant as a biological control against the larvae.'

Ian Davies



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:-

CALL YOUR LOCAL EXPERT FOR

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design and practical advice.**

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from garden to farm in all types of material.**

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**From garden to woodland, tree work, pruning and
reclamation. Exterior maintenance and renovation of
your home, barns, stables and buildings.**

GROUNDWORKS

**From site clearance, preparation,
drainage footings and concreting.**

Many references available

Call Tom Penny – 01725 552383

Many Thanks

Sixpenny Handley Village Hall Christmas Draw

After taking the cost of prizes and expenses into account the Village Hall Christmas Draw made a profit of £517-00. This was an excellent achievement, but could not have been done without the help of all those organizations who donated prizes, and all those marvellous people who sold tickets. Thank you all very much indeed.

The other people who need thanking are all those who bought tickets, especially those who turned up to support the Auction and the Draw on night of the 7th December. It was nice to see that the majority of the prizes went to local people. The money raised will go to help improve the facilities in the Village Hall.

List of Winners: -

<u>Prize</u>	<u>Ticket No</u>	<u>Name</u>
£200-00	520	Stella Symes
£100-00	1259	Pat Birch
£50-00	252	D Orman
£30-00 M&S Voucher	157	Mr Rowe
Bottle of J&B Whisky	75	Ethel Crawford
£20-00 Smiths Voucher	260	Mrs E Barrett
Bottle of Gin	981	Mr C Nodder
Food Hamper	412	Mr & Mrs Watkins
Bottle of Whisky	1288	Mr Hattan
Box Heroes Chocolates	1044	Hannah Scriven
Bottle of Vodka	341	John Curtis
Box of Chocolates	140	R Cornish
Box of Beer	71	J Waker
2 Bottles of Wine	904	Mrs Wadge
Christmas Pudding	999	M Cox
Bottle of Wine	728	Hannah Scriven
Rag Doll	639	Noel
Box Stationery	342	S Curtis
Box Biscuits	231	K Richardson
Bottle of Wine	581	Mrs E Brodie
Selection Box	355	David Birch
Tin of Biscuits	175	Ian Davies
Aromatherapy Kit	897	Ben Coombs

FLOWERS AT ST .MARY'S CHURCH

Are you a dab hand at flower arranging?

Have you never done any but would like to have a go? Visitors to St. Mary's often comment on how nice it is to see a well kept church with beautiful flowers. Would you be prepared to take a turn at helping with the flowers? New people are always welcome.

Ring The Vicarage on 552608.



News and Information

NATIONAL
FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S
INSTITUTES

Sixpenny Handley WI started their Christmas celebrations in style with a party and David Andrews who, with the help of some unsuspecting ladies from the audience, gave a lively performance of songs and jokes by way of entertainment. The President was pleased to welcome visitors from neighbouring institutes as well as guests from our twinned institute of Lyndhurst.

The Club also hosted the Beacon Group Advent Carol Service at St Mary's Church on 6th December and the collection was donated to the Julia Perks Hospice Appeal.

The January meeting was enlivened by a talk about 'Tourists' given by Mr Cross who has been a tour guide for 'more years than he can remember'. The flower of the month was a daffodil grown by Doreen Leverton and the most interesting tourist exhibit was won by Sheila Bradley with a Finnish reindeer calling bird.

The WI meets in the Village Hall on the 2nd Monday of every month except August at 7.30pm.

The Speaker at the February meeting will be Mrs B Last (from Middleton Down Nature Reserve) - the talk is entitled Wiltshire's Chalk Streams.

Date for the diary: Jumble Sale 22nd February

SIXPENNY HANDLEY **SPRING FLOWER SHOW 2003** **12th APRIL 2003**

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

Entries Close on Wednesday 9th April at 7.30pm

Classes include

jar of marmalade, jar of pickles, a simnel cake

4 classes for flower arranging.

Children's classes range

from a picture any medium showing Spring Flowers

to a decorated chocolate Easter Egg.

Something for everyone.

Show Opens at 2.30pm in The Village Hall

100 Club Winners – November

1st S H Flower Arranging Club - 66 2nd Mrs Pierson - 50 3rd Mrs Gibson – 31

100 Club Winners – December

1st R Jermyn - 107 2nd J Stainer - 139 3rd K Wort - 79

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

WEDNESDAY CLUB PROGRAMME

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.

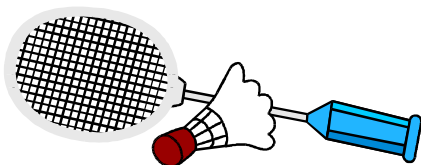
2nd Apr. A talk on Wessex Water
with slides.

16th Apr. Thomas Hardy (part 2) - with
slides
Miss Stock and Miss Chapman

EASTER BREAK

Start again 30th April 2003.

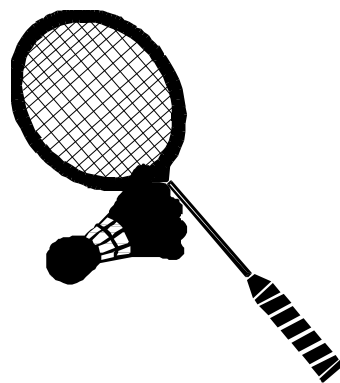
BADMINTON AT THE VILLAGE HALL



The court has now been marked out, and we have the loan of posts from the Youth Club for which we are most grateful. If you are interested in playing please come along

on Friday, 7th February with your racquet at 7 pm. We'll just have to see who comes, but you will certainly get a game. I have a net and shuttlecocks. Please spread the word to anyone who might be interested.

RON WOOD 552608.



LEADEN HALL SCHOOL

LEADEN HALL SCHOOL is having a grand reunion this summer to celebrate the opening of its new building project. We are keen to invite as many former pupils as possible.

Please contact Jane Petrarca at Leaden Hall School, The Close, Salisbury SP1 2EP
or leaden.hall@virgin.net

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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.**

We are always looking for new volunteer drivers in all areas
that the CCF covers - please phone to find out more.

Will people who want to use the volunteer car drivers
please give as much notice as possible

Handley Sports Club 100 Club Draws.

Draw Number One

£20	006	S.M. Tucker, c/o Salisbury Police Station
£10	201	Ruth Edwards. 4 Town Farm Place, Sixpenny Handley.
£10	110	R.M. Edwards. Town Farm Place, Sixpenny Handley
£10	063	Chris Haskell, Common Road, Sixpenny Handley.

Draw Number Two

£20	080	Mr Snape, The White House, Sixpenny Handley
£10	117	K. Summerell, 20a Sheasby Close, Sixpenny Handley
£10	016	P .L. Coombes, 20 Dean Lane, Sixpenny Handley
£10	166	D.C. Jones, Sycamore Close, Sixpenny Handley.

IS YOUR BODY CRYING OUT FOR WATER?

After all the rain and flooding of the past few weeks I'm sure for most people the answer would be most definitely NO!

But have you ever stopped to think about how much good water can do for you? Many people, if asked if they drink water each day would say 'no' but would say that they drink lots of tea and coffee and soft drinks. Because they are made with water a lot of people think it is OK to drink these beverages in large quantities, but, these drinks contain diuretic substances that cause the body to lose more water than has been consumed.

If you do not drink much water each day or you drink a lot of tea, coffee, soft drinks etc. then over a period of time your body will become dehydrated; quenching your thirst with water will re-hydrate your body - quenching your thirst with more tea, coffee, soft drinks etc. will cause your body to become even more dehydrated.

Our bodies are 75% water, if we drop by just 2% then we are dehydrated and the body systems will give out signals to alert us to this condition and our bodily functions will slow down causing them to operate inefficiently. If we drop by 10% then we will be increasing our chance of suffering chronic illness. Most of us drink when we feel dry in the mouth but the signs of dehydration are much more than that. Listed below are some of the signals the body gives if it is dehydrated

Tiredness, bad circulation, high blood pressure, headaches, dizziness, aching joints, dry/wrinkled skin, back pain, urinary tract infections, slow metabolism leading to weight gain, low immunity to illness, build-up of toxins, cellulite, slow thought processes, indigestion. Do you have any of these signs regularly? If you do then it is likely that you are dehydrated on a daily basis and your bodily functions are adversely affected.

Many of these signals can be effectively prevented, maybe even cured, merely by drinking water - 2 to 3 litres a day! By water I mean bottled mineral water or filtered tap water. There is no danger in drinking this quantity of water on a daily basis, and if drinking water is carried out correctly, it will not, as you might think have you dashing off to the toilet every few minutes and it will not add to water retention problems in the body.

The first rule of correctly drinking water is not to start drinking the full 2-3 litres straight off on day one - build up to it over a few weeks so as not to overstress the kidneys and bladder.

The second rule to correctly drinking water is - Take 5 - 6 sips of water at a time.

The third rule is - drink 2 glasses of water before breakfast; 2 more glasses between breakfast and lunch (but not until 2 hours after the meal) with 1 extra glass ½ hour before lunch; a further 2 glasses between lunch and dinner, (but not until 2 hours after the meal) and 1 further glass ½ hour before dinner.

So that means that you have already drunk 8 glasses of water!

Drink 2 more glasses between dinner and going to bed (but not until 2 hours after the meal)

If you use an 8 fl oz glass you have now drunk 80 fl oz of water in one day!. This means you have drunk 2¼ litres! Not too difficult if you break the total down in this way.

If you then drink a further glass of water on going to bed you are well on your way to

drinking 2½ litres!

Water, if it is to be beneficial to your body needs to be pure; the purest form of water you can take into your body is the water found in organic fresh fruits and vegetables. If you introduce these into your daily diet making sure you eat a large salad and 5 pieces of fruit such as apples, oranges, pears, grapes, melon, kiwis etc. then you increase again the amount of water taken into your body each day. Herbal teas also contribute to good water but not tea, coffee or soft drinks or bottles or cartons of fruit Juice.

There is a school of thought that believes that drinking 2-3 litres of water a day can prevent or help many chronic illnesses including heart problems and cancers - so it's worth a try don't you think?

I tried this and after just one month most of my dehydration signals have disappeared - find out what drinking 2-3 litres of water a day can do for you.

Sheila Ralph, M.H., BSY A (Irid), BSY A (C.M.A., Ad. C.M.A.)

Master Herbalist, Iridology, Acupressure and Chinese Massage Practitioner.

Sheila practices from her home in Keats Meadow and The Centre for Complementary Health Care, Blandford Forum. To make an appointment telephone 01725 552265.

If you are interested to learn more about the benefits of water then call me for information about a workshop at the end of February in Blandford Forum (date to be arranged) or look for the posters that will be dotted around the village.

Bed and *Breakfast*

**Traditional thatched cottage
in centre of Sixpenny Handley**

£29.95 single per night

£44.95 double per night

Telephone

01725 552739 or 07711 137474



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.

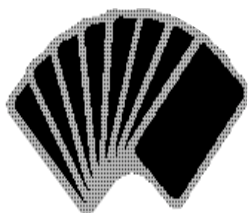
Please 'phone Jackie on 01735 552808 or Hazel on 01725 552980 for further information.

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



Whist at The Village Hall

Although our numbers were much down from previous years (fifty, as opposed to seventy-one in 2001), the enjoyment and the array of prizes (many donated from our loyal participants) were quite equal to any of the Christmas drives held in the past.

Furthermore, the fortunes of the 'top players' swayed continuously over the twenty-four hands with Ray Parsons well in the ascendancy at the end of the first half with a magnificent score of ninety-seven with John Bateman next in line with ninety. However, quoting from one of football's managerial legends, namely Mr. Brian Clough, *'it is a game of two halves'* those who were not in 'ascendancy' after twelve came good in the second half and Doug Haskell ran out a very popular winner with an aggregate total of '174', followed by Ray Parsons, who eventually carded '172'. Third spot was taken by Mrs Ruby Jacobs with a very creditable '171' while Betty White also returned '171' but had to be content with fourth on the rule of the highest score for hand twelve (Ruby came out with eleven to Betty's eight). Likewise, John Bateman who returned a six on hand twelve, and finished with '171' was deemed to be fifth.

Peter Lane

With much sadness I have to report the sudden death of Peter Lane. His health had prevented Peter, and Jean, from attending our whist drives for some while, though both had been able to play at the Heavy Horse Centre where Stuart Coombs is a genial 'Mine Host'. From all their many friends at Sixpenny Handley Whist, very sincere condolences to Jean at this time of understandable sorrow.

As remarked upon in my opening paragraph, the prizes on offer were, truly, outstanding and as is the custom at Sixpenny Handley, what was on offer for those making the best whist scores was reciprocated for those whose draw tickets might stand them in good stead (a 'mini' draw also attracted good sales for, again, some very high value prizes were on display). Thus, everyone who carded '160' and over were guaranteed a whist prize and, eventually, the winners list went down to around the '156' mark.

As has been noted in the past, scores from the Christmas drive did not count towards the annual competition where, more-or-less, at the halfway point the leading contenders are:

Division One		Division Two		Division Three	
Sam Poolman	1141	Doug Haskell	984	Margaret Fowgies	793
Ruth Hustings	1117	Kathy Sargeant	976	Mary Braithwaite	790
Marge Poolman	1115	Peter Sargeant	970	Peter Braithwaite	760
Stuart Coombs	1094	Dora Scammel	957	Brenda Griffiths	745
Len Diggins	1092	Doris Day	956	Rite Austin	741

Highest individual score: Sam Poolman 179

With ten competitive rounds yet to be played, the situation is by no means won (or lost) and in my next column I will be reporting the 'state of play' as at the end of March 2003.

Finally, on behalf of Doug and Chris Haskell, Fred Denham (our 'Master of Ceremonies') and myself, Bill Chorley, a Very Happy New Year to our whist playing readers and to all who participate in card games, of whatever nature.



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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,**



Learn the ancient
Chinese exercises of

TAI – CHI



With Mrs Bao who is a Chinese “Master of Sport” and is also a registered coach of the “British Council for Chinese Martial Arts Association”. She has been teaching Tai-Chi in England for more than 15 years.

Tai-Chi exercises are beneficial for all ages to promote health, flexibility and general vitality.

Here is your opportunity to learn TAI-CHI; Mrs Bao is teaching classes in Sixpenny Handley, every Monday, 1:30pm to 2:30pm at the Village Hall.

Very convenient for Mothers picking their children up from school
You are all welcome to try the gentle exercises for health and it is fun!

For further information

phone 01747 852804 or visit www.baostaichi.co.uk



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"It wasn't my Fault!!!"

(Below are actual insurance claim form gaffs)

"I started to slow down but the traffic was more stationary than I thought."

"A car drove away at speed catching our client who went up in the air and his head went through the windscreen and then rolled off at the traffic lights a good few feet away. The car then sped off and miraculously our client remained conscious and managed to cross the road."

"I am responsible for the accident as I was miles away at the time."

"I pulled into a lay-by with smoke coming from under the bonnet. I realised the car was on fire so took my dog and smothered it with a blanket."

Q: Could either driver have done anything to avoid the accident?

A: Travelled by bus?

"I had one eye on a parked car, another on approaching lorries, and another on the woman behind".

"I started to turn and it was at this point I noticed a camel and an elephant tethered at the verge. This distraction caused me to lose concentration and hit a bollard."

"On the M6 I moved from the centre lane to the fast lane but the other car didn't give way."

"On approach to the traffic lights the car in front suddenly broke."

"Three men approached me from the minibus. I thought they were coming to apologise. Two of the men grabbed hold of me by my arms and the first slapped me several times across the face. I kneed the man in the groin but didn't connect properly so I kicked him in the shin."

A customer collided with a cow. The

February

One month is past, another is begun,
Since merry bells rang out the dying year,
And buds of rarest green began to peer,
As if impatient for a warmer sun;
And though the distant hills are bleak and dun;
The virgin snowdrop, like a lambent fire,
Pierces the cold earth with its green-streaked spire
And in dark woods, the wandering little one
May find a primrose.

Hartley Coleridge

March

The stormy March is come at last
With wind, and cloud, and changing skies;
I hear the rushing of the blast
That through the snowy valley flies.

Ah! passing few are they who speak
Wild stormy month in praise of thee;
Yet though thy winds are loud and bleak
Thou art a welcome month to me

For thou, to northern land again
The glad and glorious sun dost bring
And thou hast joined the gentle train,
And wear'st the gentle name of spring.

And in thy region of blast and storm
Smiles many a long, bright summer day
When the changed winds are soft and warm
And heaven puts on the blue of May
Bryant

questions and answers on the claim form were:

Q - What warning was given by you?

A - Horn

Q - What warning was given by the other party?

A - Moo

"I was going at about 70 or 80 mph when my girlfriend on the pillion reached over and grabbed my testicles so I lost control."

"I didn't think the speed limit applied after midnight"

"I was on my way to see an unconscious patient who had convulsions and was blocked by a tanker."

"Mr. X is in hospital and says I can use his car and

take his wife while he is there. What shall I do about it?"

"No witnesses would admit having seen the mishap until after it happened."

"I knew the dog was possessive about the car but I would not have asked her to drive it if I had thought there was any risk."

"While proceeding through 'Monkey Jungle', the vehicle was enveloped by small fat brown grinning monkeys. Number three fat brown monkey (with buck teeth) proceeded to swing in an anticlockwise direction on the radio aerial. Repeated requests to desist were ignored. Approximately 2 minutes and 43 seconds later, small fat brown monkey disappeared in 'Monkey Jungle' clutching radio aerial."

Q: Do you engage in motorcycling, hunting or any other pastimes of a hazardous nature?

A: Watch the Marty Caine Show and listen to Terry Wogan.

"First car stopped suddenly, second car hit first car and a haggis ran into the rear of second car."

"Windscreen broken. Cause unknown.

Probably voodoo."

"The car in front hit the pedestrian but he got up so I hit him again."

"We had completed the turn and had just straightened the car when Miss X put her foot down hard and headed for the ladies' loo."

"I pulled away from the side of the road, glanced at my mother-in-law and headed over the embankment."

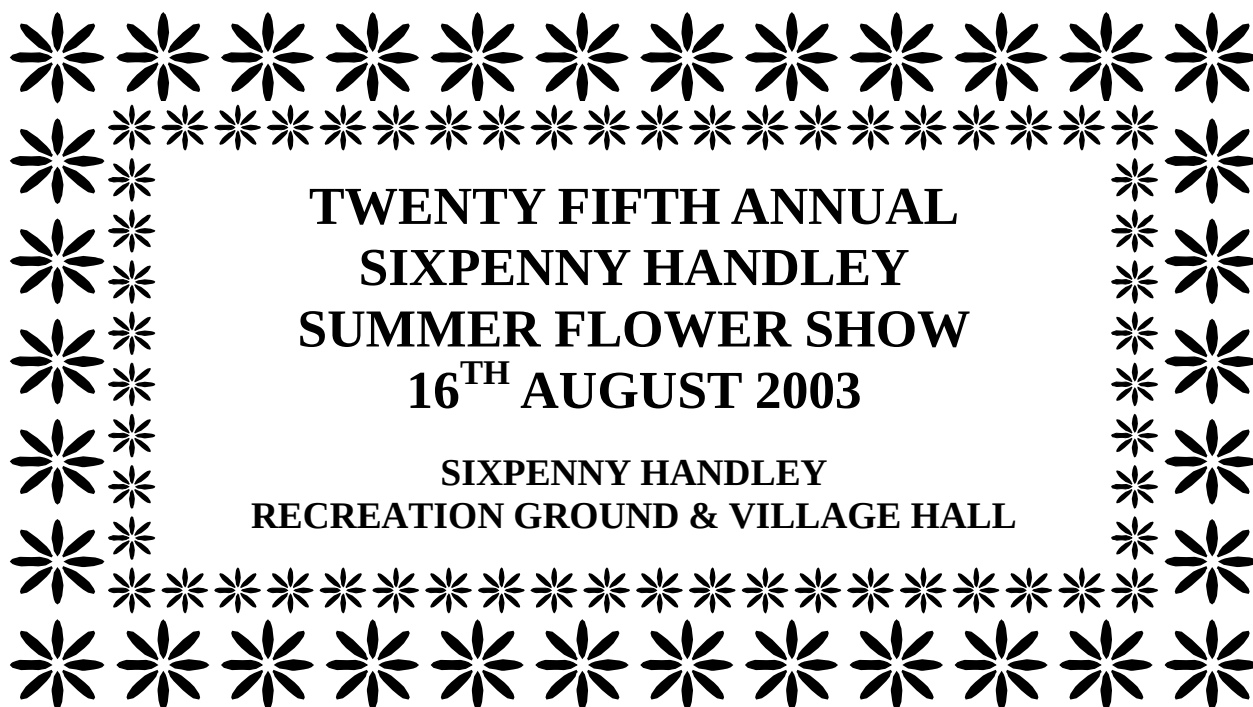
"The other car collided with mine without giving warning of its intention."

"I was on my way to the doctor with rear end trouble when my universal joint gave way causing me to have an accident.

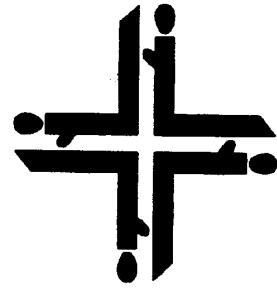
"To avoid hitting the bumper of the car in front I struck the pedestrian."

"My car was legally parked as it backed into the other vehicle."

"I was thrown from the car as it left the road. I was later found in a ditch by some stray cows."



WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



Friday 7th March 2003

Holy Spirit, Fill Us

(Prepared by Christian Women of the Lebanon)

SPEAKER: The Rev. Kate Rosslyn Smith

7.30 pm

**ST.MARY'S CHURCH
SIXPENNY HANDLEY**

***ALL WELCOME (Men, Women and
Young People)***

**REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER
THE SERVICE**

So why is my Council Tax going up?

Why indeed! The overall rise (which includes County, Police, Fire and District) is likely to be many times the current rate of inflation. How can this be justified? These are exactly the questions we have been asking central government on your behalf. Tim Palmer, leader of Dorset County Council, says, "This year, the Government has introduced a new nation-wide formula for the way in which money is allocated to local authorities like Dorset County Council. "Two problems have arisen: first the pot of money that the Government has set aside is simply not big enough to meet local people's expectations. "Second, the formula they have chosen favours areas in Britain that are perceived as more 'deprived' than Dorset, despite the fact that Dorset has areas of deprivation of its own. "As a consequence, the money made available by the Government to Dorset County Council falls far short of that needed to maintain services at their current level. "Despite having carried out a detailed examination of the way in which we provide services – and improving efficiency - we will still have to raise a greater share of the essential money from local taxpayers.

"These are services that the Audit Commission has rated as 'excellent' and the latest MORI survey shows you value."

Tim Palmer is angry about the way Dorset has been treated by the latest settlement. "We are one of the lowest spending counties per head of population and have proved ourselves to be effective and efficient through the Audit Commission's assessment.

Because we have high house prices, we are now expected to penalise our local residents to make up for a shortfall in Government funding. Yet our incomes are 14% below the national average. We cannot let up on our campaign for a fairer deal for Dorset".

East Dorset library to set up video link with trading standards office

People in East Dorset will no longer need to travel all the way to Dorchester to show faulty goods to trading standards officers – thanks to a new library facility.

Verwood Library has set up a video conferencing link with officers at County Hall which will allow residents to talk to an expert via the computer.

The link, the first of its kind in the county, means officers will be able to see items on-screen and a special camera will allow documents to be sent down the line too.

Paul Carter from Trading Standards said: "Generally, people have to send things to us by post or bring them in. We can visit people who are unable to travel to us but that's only in special cases. "This facility gives us the chance to be more accessible to people in rural or outlying areas. This is an exciting opportunity which we see as a trial – if it's successful we could link other areas."

Roger Dale from the Library Service added: "The equipment is easy to use and library staff will set up the connection and explain how it works. It should certainly save time and travel, both for consumers and officers."

The facility, set up in a private room, could potentially be used by local businesses in future to communicate with their contacts.

The equipment has been provided thanks to the Government's Lottery funded People's Network Scheme, which is connecting every library in the country to the Internet.

For more information call (01202) 822972 or (01305) 224012.

Both articles reproduced from the County Council publication "Your Dorset" (Winter 2003)

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SIXPENNY HANDLEY GARDENS OPEN WEEKEND OF JUNE 28/29TH 2003

IF ANYONE ELSE WOULD LIKE TO JOIN IN AND OPEN THEIR
GARDEN – SMALL, LARGE, FABULOUS or ORDINARY

—

Woodcutts --- The Future?

Over the past few years, there have been many recordings of crop circles throughout the countryside; here in Woodcutts we have not seen a single one. No, our mysterious objects would appear to be helicopter landing pads. Since the last edition of the Downsman, a second pad has appeared here. As with the crop circles, the two are of different designs, appearing mysteriously with their purpose being completely unknown. The manifestation occurring on the third of January of this year, 2003. Unlike its predecessor, this one is not in the open; in fact it is hidden by trees, the branches of which will make landing somewhat precarious.

Why we ask ourselves is the pad so situated? We can only assume that something sinister is about to occur. Is it something to do with Mr. Bush wanting to rule the world, does he intend to infiltrate the Government of Woodcutts and thereby use these pads in his plans concerning the Middle East?

Should we in fact be learning to speak American, so that visiting G.I.Ns. will feel at home here? We are sure this would be a great tonic to our potential visitors.

If the people of Woodcutts are to be involved in Mr. Bush's plans, I personally hope that if he is to try bribery, then his sherry is as good as that already used here. (Of course the writer is beyond corruption.)

Time will tell, but meanwhile our intelligence agency will be on constant watch for helicopters landing surreptitiously, or in fact in any way at Woodcutts. In fact an airport tax is to be implemented; we must take advantage of what resources we have.

Enough of international news, now to the local happenings, ones that we have no immediate control over. What has been happening in the countryside, since the last Downsman appeared? Each year is different from all those that have gone before, but there should by now be a system of forecasting, which can give us some ideas of what might occur. Unfortunately this is not the case, for instance, dating occurrences in nature and predicting them accurately, is practically impossible. Examples of the unexpected in this area in the past two months are as follows:-

3rd Dec. A Red Admiral butterfly was flying around the garden here, visiting Buddleia that were still blooming.

.....

.....Also in flower are the hydrangeas, the first flower bud opening today. It looks as if some ice-plants, (sedum sps.) will also flower shortly. Early potatoes, (Maris bard.), which have not been lifted have grown green shoots at least a foot high.

10th Dec. After four days of cold N. and N.E. winds snow flurries have reached here at last. Despite the cold both hazel and elder bushes retain some of their green leaves, this applies even more so to the Wimborne area just to the South.

12th Dec. Two more cold windy days, but now things are warming again and of course its getting wetter too. Blackbirds have at last decided to utilise the cotoneaster berries on the cordon type plants in our front fence line. Unfortunately for them, there are no convenient perches to feed from, so they are attempting to harvest the berries while in flight. They look as if they are trying to emulate humming birds, but they will shortly find a more convenient way I'm sure. Today a female Goldcrest has honoured us with a visit.

While out in the garden waiting for chicken to go in, so that I could shut them up for the night, bats were flying. The time was 4.20 pm, and it started to rain so I moved under the Leylandii hedge to stay as dry as possible. In doing so, much to my surprise I walked into a swarm of gnats. No wonder the bats were out and about.

23rd Dec. Today we travelled to Fetcham, just north of Guildford, to return two grandsons we had borrowed for the past four days. South of the Hog's Back, there were still many, green hazel and elder leaves to be seen and north of Guildford, on the sands there were even more green leaves, but this time they were on birch trees.

24th Dec. Here at Woodcutts, Lavatera are producing fresh flowers on a daily basis.

28th Dec. At 12.05 pm a Red Admiral butterfly is fluttering about the front garden, in beautifully warm sunshine.

1st Jan. 2003 the first Snowdrops with flowers fully open seen today. Ground now saturated, any more rain can only mean 100% runoff.

11th Jan. Two blackbirds, obviously paired off, performing in the back garden. Bats flying again this evening.

17th Jan. A single celandine (*Rununculus ficaria*.) in flower beside the lane, in front of the house. In the vegetable patch, a creeping buttercup (*Rununculus repens*) with a flower bud just opening is showing itself. It is an exceptionally warm and sunny day, snowdrops are really showing well.

All the above notes are from a diary that I keep, concerning what I personally have seen. This enables me to tell, that despite a warm wet run up to Christmas, snowdrops in this particular area are later this year than they have been in the past two, and of course similar information about other wildlife here.

By the way, all the early potatoes were lifted by 28th Dec. the last ones were eaten 17th Jan; these were the only ones that were peeled instead of scraped. Now of course the main crop will be used directly from the garden. It may seem risky because of frost or slug damage, but I can't have it all ways. Last year from February onwards maincrop potatoes stored in the cellar, sprouted so badly that they were useless, but of course they were not slug damaged. This year, left in the ground, if warm the slugs will enjoy them, but they won't lose too much condition if they sprout. If it freezes hard the slugs will perish and providing the potatoes are deep enough they won't be harmed and sprouting should be minimal, hopefully.

With global warming surely with us, we must experiment and change our lives accordingly. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

Before finishing I must apologise for a long delay in the middle of this article, I hope it didn't keep anyone up, but the computer told me I had committed an illegal act. After many minutes of research, plus several phone calls to people, whom I thought might know what to do, or at least provide bail, I decided to plough on. In case I am not at liberty to write in the next edition, I will say cheerio now. Thank you for reading thus far. God bless you all.

Ted Cox 20. 01 03

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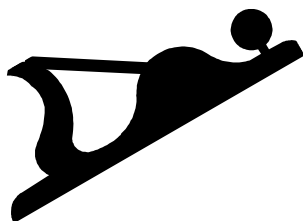
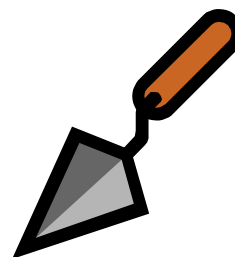
**Carpentry and Building
of Blandford**



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Sixpenny Handley First School News

Christmas – the very word inspires excitement in our children! They begin to think of all the presents, special food preparations, family gatherings and decorating that will happen at the merest mention of the festive season. At school we started to feel slightly festive at the end of November when we held our Christmas Fair in the Village Hall. Parents and friends had spent many weeks making wonderful decorations and items for stalls which were rapidly purchased to adorn Christmas trees and homes. It was a great success.

The children were invited to enter the fancy dress competition and looked splendid in their highly imaginative costumes ranging from angels and



Christmas trees to parcels and snowmen. The winning entrant, complete with the largest carrot nose any snowman could wish for, received an enormous teddy to cuddle!

Our carol service in the

Church was warmly received by parents and friends who enjoyed some traditional carols, as well as modern ones, telling the story of the birth of a special Child in a stable long ago.

We entertained the Chase Community of Friends the following day with our carol singing as well as brass and recorder renditions of traditional seasonal songs.

It was a wonderful opportunity for young and old in the community to get together for a chat afterwards.



Each year our Christmas lunch in school is made possible by a band of willing helpers who work together to produce an amazing traditional Christmas meal



which the entire school sits down to eat together – complete with crackers and silly hats, of course. This year was no exception, it was a truly magnificent feat! Thank you to all those involved.

Following the meal we were all entertained by Graham Rogers who performed the story of the Magic Castle to the delight of children and adults alike. He kept us all spellbound with his story-telling and shadow puppets.

With all this to look forward to, is it any wonder that the children get excited when *Christmas* is mentioned?

***THANK YOU FROM THE
TRUSTY POSTIES OF HANDLEY***

**SHEEPY ROB - QUIET CHRIS
YOUNG SARAH - OLD TIMER J.G.**

**WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THOSE DELIGHTFUL CUSTOMERS WHO
WERE SO GENEROUS AT CHRISTMAS
AND WISH EVERYONE
A VERY HAPPY, PEACEFUL AND SUCCESSFUL NEW YEAR**



Adam Styles and Christopher Masson
(with help from their friends and family)
will be holding a
Bring & Buy Sale
as soon as we have enough things to sell

SO.....

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PLEASE

PLEASE

Bring anything you have
to the Newsagents or Hardware Shops

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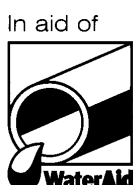
Plants

etc etc

Please help us to help the boys make this a great sale.

All profits go to Uganda and Tanzania to provide
safe drinking water

Every fifteen seconds a child dies caused by unsafe water



Any offers of help would be lovely!!



The Downsman

DON'T FORGET WHATS ON!!!

DATE	FUNCTION	PAGE	DATE	FUNCTION	PAGE
Feb-05	Bridge Evening	26	Mar-12	Bridge Evening	26
Feb-05	Wednesday Club	20	Mar-13	Chase Community Friends	22
Feb-05	Whist at The Village Hall	26	Mar-14	Royal Corps of Signals Band	07
Feb-06	Chase Community Friends	22	Mar-15	County/District Council Surgery	03
Feb-07	Badminton at the Village Hall	20	Mar-19	Wednesday Club	20
Feb-10	W I Meeting	19	Mar-19	Bridge Evening	26
Feb-12	Bridge Evening	26	Mar-20 Downsman Copy Deadline	03	
Feb-13	Chase Community Friends	22	Mar-20	Chase Community Friends	22
Feb-15	County/District Council Surgery	03	Mar-26	Bridge Evening	26
Feb-19	Bridge Evening	26	Mar-27	Gardening Club	27
Feb-19	Wednesday Club	20	Mar-27	Chase Community Friends	22
Feb-19	Whist at The Village Hall	26	Apr-02	Wednesday Club	20
Feb-20	Chase Community Friends	22	Apr-02	Bridge Evening	26
Feb-22	W I Jumble Sale	19	Apr-03	Chase Community Friends	22
Feb-25	EDDC Councillor Seminar	14	Apr-09	Bridge Evening	26
Feb-26	Bridge Evening	26	Apr-10	Chase Community Friends	22
Feb-26	EDDC Councillor Seminar	14	Apr-12 Spring Flower Show	19	
Feb-27	Chase Community Friends	22	Apr-12	Bowls Club Quiz Night	04
Feb-27	Gardening Club	27	Apr-14	W I Meeting	19
Mar-05	Bridge Evening	26	Apr-16	Wednesday Club	20
Mar-05	Wednesday Club	20	Apr-16	Bridge Evening	26
Mar-06	Chase Community Friends	22	Apr-23	Bridge Evening	26
Mar-07	Womens World Day of Prayer	31	Apr-27	Bowls Club Open Day	04
Mar-10	W I Meeting	19	May-12	W I Meeting	19