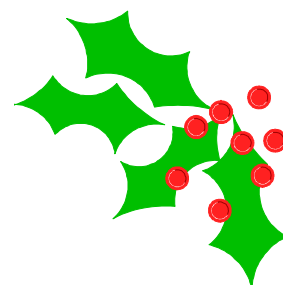
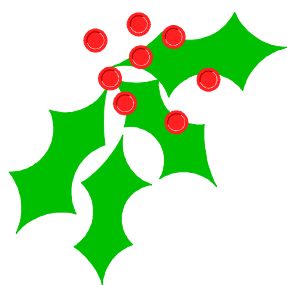


The Downsmen

NEWS AND INFORMATION
MAGAZINE



PARISH OF SIXPENNY HANDLEY
WITH PENTRIDGE

December 2003

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

Parish Councillors**Sixpenny Handley**

Chairman	Mrs P.K. Bailey-Wright...	552771
	Mrs E. Miles.....	552768
	Miss E. Waller.....	552305
	Mr. A. H. Gibb.....	552704
	Mr P Gallon.....	553063
	Mr T Reynolds.....	552995
	Vacancy.....	

Pentridge

Vice-Chairman	Dr. Judith Gillespie Smith	552576
	Mr. R. Ferguson.....	552222
	Ian Davies.....	552076
	Mr. Tony Henderson.....	552279
	Parish Office.....	552211

Clerk

Member Parliament	Robert Walter.....	020 7219 6981
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County Councillor

	Mr. T. Palmer.....	552321
		Fax 552405

District Councillor

	Mrs P.K. Bailey-Wright...	552771
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Rights of Way Officer

Sixpenny Handley & Pentridge	Ian Davies.....	552076
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Downsman Editorial Team

Editor	Alan Vincent.....	552788
	Brian Hansford.....	552468
Advertising	David Bailey-Wright.....	552771

Churches

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 Allotment Holders Association

Chairman	John Curtis.....	552397
Secretary	Mrs S Curtis.....	552397
Treasurer	Mr R Parsons.....	

The Chase Nursery Link Group

Contact	Hazel Killeen.....	552980
---------	--------------------	--------

Sixpenny Handley Homewatch

Overall Co-ordinator & Police Focal Point

John Curtis..... 552397

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
	Blandford Station. 01258	452101

Police**The Chase Nursery**

Chairperson	Louise Wolstenholme.....	552388
Nursery Leader	Mary Best.....	552390
Secretary	Jane Laing.....	553146

Sixpenny Handley W.I. (Formed in 1922)

President	Mrs Stella Symes.....	552236
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 Hatton	01258 840671

Sixpenny Handley Tennis Club

Chairman	Michael Catchpole.....	552879
Secretary	Adam Macmillan-Scott....	552249
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
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Happy Nappy Club

	Louise Wolstenholme.....	552388
	Hazel Wright.....	553160
	Cara Bullmore.....	552242

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

Telephone – 01725 552788

E-mail: downsman@sixpennyhandley.org

The next edition of this Magazine will be published on the
1st February 2004

Copy Deadline is 20th January 2004

Your District Councillor Pauline Bailey-Wright will be holding her surgeries from
6.30 p.m. until 7.30 p.m. at the Parish Office, before the Full Parish Council Meeting.

Please come along and meet her.

Watch notice boards for dates of next meetings.

**115
registrations
to date!**

Fast Internet Access for Sixpenny Handley Final Push Needed!! Register Now!!

The ADSL campaign has reached a new milestone: We are at last more than three quarters of the way towards our target of 150 registrations. It would be nice to be able to complete the campaign before Christmas. That means that we need just 35 more people to register.

BT is helping; they have printed brightly coloured leaflets and car stickers headed "Get on with it Sixpenny Handley" for us, which can be seen around the village. All anyone has to do is to register by logging on to the village website (www.sixpennyhandley.com) and clicking on the ADSL link. Remember, there is absolutely no commitment; it is just an expression of interest.

So here is a message for anyone who has a computer or uses email: Please help others in the village to get Broadband just by registering yourself now; it will cost you nothing, but should you want it in the future, it will only be there if we can find those elusive 35 people who have not yet

The Poppy Appeal 2003

This year's Appeal has brought in the superb total of £1,181.83, an increase of nearly £200 over that raised in 2002. First, and foremost, on behalf of the Royal British Legion, *'thank you'* for your outstanding generosity, and for the many cheering words with which you, invariably, greeted my team of house- to-house collectors.

Unlike last year, when the heavens seemed to open for most of the collecting fortnight, we were blessed with remarkably fine weather, and though rain made an appearance on Remembrance Sunday, this was not until after the 'two minutes' silence which, at St. Mary's, is kept in the open, ahead of the service.

Although I have sent my personal thanks to those who assist me, either by way of house-to-house collecting, or by agreeing to have a collecting tin and box at their establishment, through the medium of *The Downsman* I, again, say *'thank you'* for your loyal support.

Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge Parish Parish Council

Parish Office Unit 5B Town Farm Workshops	Opening Hours: Tuesday 10am – 12noon Thursday 6pm – 7-30pm	Phone – 552211/552279 Email – office@sixpennyhandley.org
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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.

Darrington, 73 High St Add Dormer windows, Porches & Conservatory	Ferguson, Manor Farm House, Woodyates Internal alts & new porch Listed Building
James, Kims Cott., Dean Vehicular access to field (retrospective)	Bao-Smith, 15 Sycamore Conservatory to Rear of House
Butcher, 49 High Street Alteration to doors & windows to front	Winby, Yew Tree Cottage, Pentridge Two Storey extension & new access

Dorset Best Kept Village Competition

Sixpenny Handley was awarded a 'Very Highly Commended'
Pentridge was awarded a 'Highly Commended'

Many thanks to all the people who helped to keep both villages neat and tidy by picking up
litter and removing out of date notices.

East Dorset Community Police Van

The Community Police Van will visit Sixpenny Handley on the following dates:
Wed 17th Dec, Wed 14th Jan, Wed 11th Feb, Wed 10th March

Bus Services

There have been some slight changes to the times of the 325 Damory Service.
Details are displayed at bus stops and on the parish notice board

Downsman Publication

The Downsman is a much respected and professionally produced parish magazine. The Parish Council are well aware of the time and effort given by many of the community to help get this magazine through your door. They would like to express their gratitude to the following for a job very well done

Alan Vincent – Editor/Producer

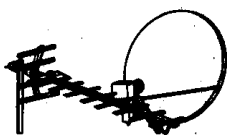
Brian Hansford – Printer & Organiser

Ena & Derry Goddard, Pat & Gordon Oxford – Compilers in Chief & Distributors

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FASCIAS ETC
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VEGETARIAN DISHES
GRANDMA'S FRITTERS £6.95
 Fries & salad
HOMEMADE CHILLI £7.95
 Served with peppered rice

WINTER WARMERS
CASSEROLED RUMP IN RED WINE... £7.95
 With a medley of root vegetables
 Served with chef's mash, croquettes & 3 fresh vegetables
3 BUTCHERS BANGERS + MASH... £6.95
 Venison-guinness-pork+leek
 In our red+white onion gravy

TO START

CHEF'S SOUP OF THE DAY £3

Roll & butter
SARDINES ON TOAST £3.50
 Pan-fried in rosemary
ROLL MOP HERRINGS £3.50
 On a bed of mixed leaves
KIPPERS EN CROUTE £3.50
 Grilled with butter
BUBBLE & SQUEAK FRITTER £3.50
 With a mango dip
DEEP FRIED BRIE £3.50
 Served with cranberry
AVOCADO PRAWN £3.50
 With a seafood dressing
DEVILLED WHITEBAIT £3.50
 Sprinkled with paprika
GARLIC MUSHROOMS AU GRATIN £3.50
 With red onion

FROM THE GRILL

16oz T-BONE £9.95
8oz GAMMON £7.95
10 oz RUMP £8.95
 Served with all the trimmings !
 SAUCES AVAILABLE

FROM THE SEA

LEMON BATTERED SCAMPI £8.50
 Served with fries & salad
POACHED HAKE & HOKI £8.50
 Served with spinach & prawn cream
FILLET OF COD £7.50
 With cheese & vino sauce
SALMON STEAK £8.50
 Pan fried with balsamic vinegar and spring onion
SMOKED HADDOCK & SPRING ONION FISH CAKES £7.50
 Served with a blue cheese dip
KING PRAWN & MUSHROOM THERMIDOR £9.50



SNACK MENU AVAILABLE

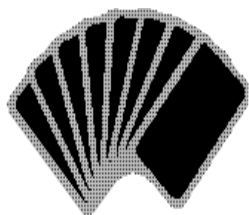
**** ALSO OFFERING A SELECTION OF DESSERTS *****
GREAT SUNDAY ROAST ***
**** REAL ALES OF THE MONTH 6X—RINGWOOD ****
***** BED + BREAKFAST *****
PARTIES CATERED FOR

SPECIALS

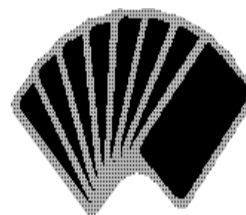
TRIO OF PAN FRIED LAMB CHOPS £8.50
 In rosemary, mint, & garlic
 Mash crouquettes vegetables
CHICKEN & BACON CARBONARA £7.95
 Served on a bed of tagliatelle, bread & butter

SUPPORT YOUR RURAL PUB
CAN WE HELP YOU !

DISHES +
 PRICES MAY
 VARY



Whist at The Village Hall



Six rounds have now been played in the 2003-2004 competition, and three divisions have been firmly established. Heading the top division with an aggregate score of 989 is Doug Haskell, followed on 971 by Rita Austin and Ted Meaden with 966. Division two is topped, presently, by Mary Braithwaite with 856, having scored in excess of 170 points in four of her five scoring rounds. Ruby Jacobs, is for the time being, a rather distant second with 807, a fifth round total of 152 being a slight blip from her previous four scores which were all above 160. Equal second with Ruby is Sylvia Thorne, while a mere three points adrift in fourth place is Peter Braithwaite who returned 166, in round six, a total which owed much to his last hand partnership with Sylvia Thorne culminating with thirteen tricks in spades.

Seven competitors challenge in the third division, Ruth Hustings holding the slenderest of leads with 635 over Edie Langley on 632, and Tony Groves on 630. In fact, only fifteen points separates first from sixth (presently occupied by Fred Denham).

Meanwhile, Arthur Austin holds the overall highest score in the competition, so far, with 179, which he achieved in round five. Close challengers to date, all having returned scores of 170 plus, are Doug Haskell with 174 and 177; Rita Austin 171; Geoff Peach 174; Bill Chorley 175; Christine Haskell 171; Mary Braithwaite 174, 176 (twice) and 173; Sylvia Thorne 170; Peter Braithwaite 174; Len Diggins 176; Sylv Day 171 and Tony Groves 171.

Finally, a very important reminder, and a correction to the diary section published in the October issue of 'The Downsman', the **Christmas whist drive** will be held at the Village Hall on **Saturday the 13th of December**, 'doors open' soon after 6.30 p.m. with play commencing at 7.30, and a warm welcome is extended to all who wish to take part. As in the past, there will be a magnitude of excellent prizes, both for the whist and for the draw. Scores returned on the 13th will not count towards the competition, which will resume in January 2004, commencing on the 14th and then continuing on the usual fortnightly basis until the final round on the 5th of May, followed by prize giving two weeks later on the 19th.

Bill Chorley

100 Club Winners – September

1st Mrs Collins 2nd Mrs Dibben 3rd Mrs Johnson

100 Club Winners – October

1st Don Penrose 2nd Mrs Sally Clarke 3rd George Jackson

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



News and Information

NATIONAL
FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S
INSTITUTES

WI AUTUMN COUNCIL MEETING

Two cars full of Sixpenny Handley members joined hundreds of other eager WI ladies all converging on Weymouth on 29th October for the Autumn Council Meeting.

Why the eager anticipation? The speaker was to be Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, well known to most people from his television series based on his self-sufficiency endeavours at River Cottage. His cookery books based on his experiences of trying to become a smallholder in deepest Dorset.

He gave a brief resume of the food-related incidents in his life that led him to pursue what is now his whole life, having now persuaded his wife Maria and his two sons Oscar & Freddie to enjoy 'The Good Life'. He then invited questions from the audience. There was no shortage and a member from Sixpenny Handley (who may prefer to remain anonymous but I can name her if paid enough) asked if he really ate squirrel, of course he did, more than once.

The audience of some 2000 ladies also heard from speakers from the DCC on Dorset Strategic Partnerships, 'Learning Action Dorset' and the projects being run by St Johns Ambulance to provide help and information for all the carers who look after relatives and friends in their own home. The initiative is now gaining momentum and more groups are being formed.

WI BEACON GROUP AUTUMN MEETING

The Autumn meeting was held at Melbury Abbas village hall on October 22nd and the speaker was Mark Ching on the Dorset Weather. He has already given a similar talk to Sixpenny Handley WI and included some new slides, which were very interesting. Was the weather really so much worse when we were children? Judging by some of slides definitely, many of the snowdrifts were over 10ft high and Blandford had some serious flooding on more than one occasion.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

The October meeting was given an excellent talk entitled 'Your Family History in Photographs', illustrated by slides, from Mrs Jean Williams who runs a photographic shop in New Milton. She told us the story of how the shop was given over a hundred glass photographic plates and how she and her family set-about identifying the places. These were all taken by one man, who was believed to be a commercial traveller and took the plates as his hobby.

We were delighted that she was able to bring so many slides of Sixpenny Handley and the surrounding areas including Sandroyd House and some of the members were able to help name and date some of the slides.

Meg Cox won the winning exhibition of 'my favourite cup & saucer' and flower of the month was won by a hollyhock grown by Doreen Leverton.

Mrs Heather Moldrum, ably assisted by her husband working the slide projector, gave a talk on the History of Dorset Buttons. This was most interesting and hearing that Sixpenny Handley acted as a depot added to our knowledge of the village.

Win Judd won the annual cup competition for a poem entitled 'Friends'. This was chosen by the speaker Mrs Moldrom. Doreen 'Green Fingers' Leverton again won the flower of the month.

The December meeting on the 8th is our Annual Christmas party; members are reminded that they should let secretary Heather Eynon know if they are bringing a personal guest. Members are also reminded that they should bring a wrapped gift for the raffle. The entertainment is being provided by Charity folk and the exhibition is a homemade cracker.

The meeting in January is on Monday 12th January 2004 (yes 2004 already!) and is a talk by Mr K Lawson on A Miscellany of Wildlife. Exhibition will be an animal ornament.

**The WI meets in the Village Hall on the 2nd Monday of every month
except July and August at 7.30pm, visitors very welcome.**

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

19th March 2004

**MAD MARCH HARE EVENING
fundraising for the village hall**

Watch this space!

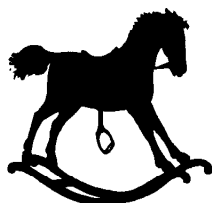
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HAPPY NAPPY

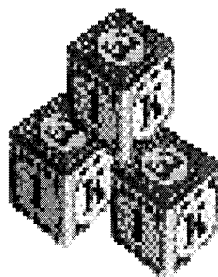


Happy Nappy meets every Monday at
Sixpenny Handley Village Hall at
10am.

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.



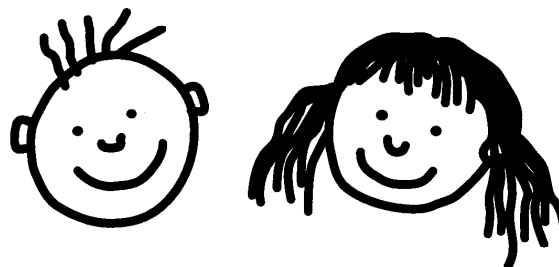
For more information phone

Louise 01725 552388

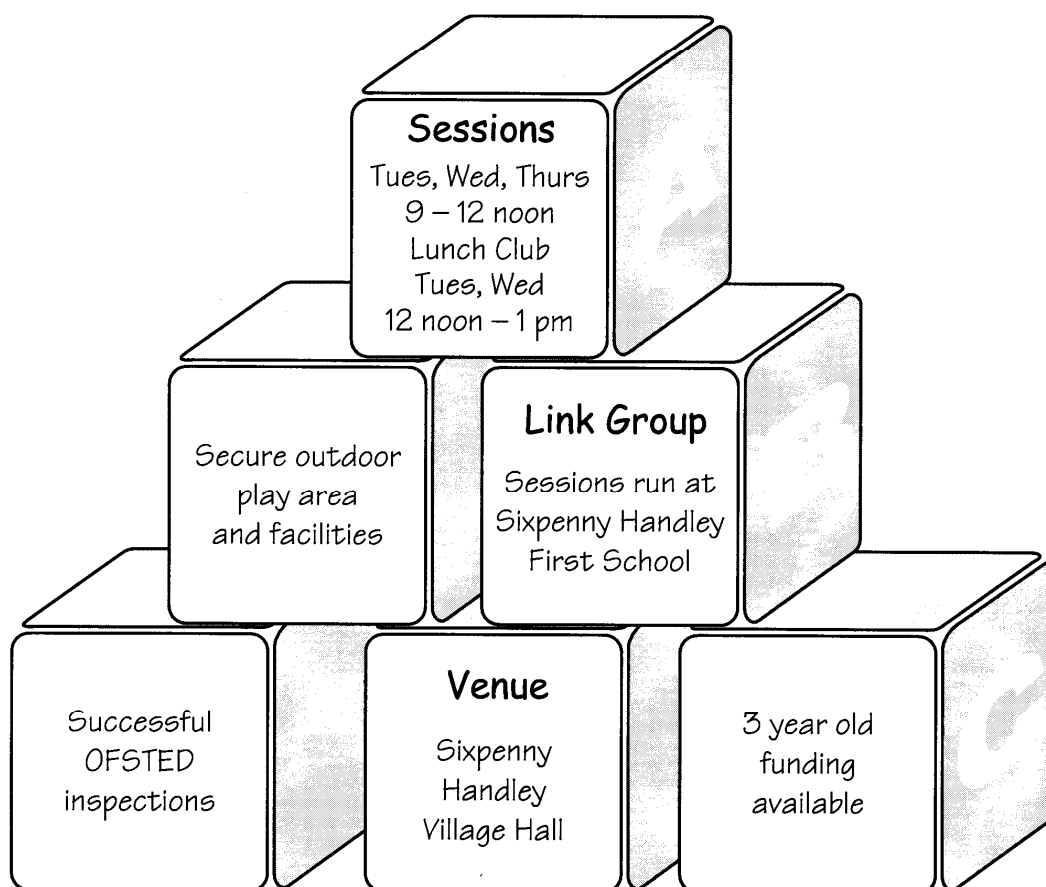
Hazel 01725 553160

Cara 01725 552242

The Chase Nursery



We aim to provide a safe happy caring environment where children of 2 years 9 months - 5 years of age may flourish



"A welcoming setting with cheerful, confident children all enjoying a good range of activities"

Early Years Advisory Teacher 28/1/2003

Pre-school Learning Alliance member 3780
Registered Charity no. 1033941

Chairperson: Louise Wolstenholme.....01725 552388
Nursery Leader: Mary Best01725 552390

Extracts from The Garden.

Search For The Pink Ballerina.

This autumn, gardeners are asked to look out for pink waxcaps (the so-called ballerina) on lawns, woodland edges and grassy meadows. This distinctive white-stemmed fungus, with a pointed pink cap, is listed in the UK Biodiversity Plan and is part of the plant conservation charity Plantlife's Back From The Brink programme. Plantlife is also asking people to look for yellow-green parrot waxcaps and blackening waxcaps, which turns from red to black when damaged. The survey closes on 31st of December.

Sage Advice.

Scientists from the University of Northumbria have found that sage oil can improve memory.

Volunteers who received sage oil capsules consistently performed better than those who took a sunflower placebo when put through a series of word-recall tests. The sage oil seems to enhance short-term memory but was found to have little effect on delayed memory. It was often included in old herbal remedies, being "singularly good for the head and brain and quickeneth the nerves and memory".

MOBILE PHONE FRAUD

If you receive a text message on your mobile phone from the number 15477, indicating that you have won a two-night stay at the Druid's Mariott in Wicklow and asking you to reply with the text "#90" or "#09", DELETE the text immediately and do not respond. The message is from a fraudster, who uses a device that, once you key in #90 or #09, enables the caller to access your "SIM" card and use it to make calls at your expense.

Mothers Union Programme 2003 – 2004

11 th December	Christmas Meeting
8 th January	A. G. M.
12 th February	'Dorset Historic Churches' R D Allen
11 th March	'Miscellany of Motherhood' Brenda Smith
1 st April	'Lent – Words and Music' Graham Martin
13 th May	'Mombasa' Mary Fisher
10 th June	Quiet Day – Grove Farm
July	Half Day Outing

Meetings are at 2.45pm at No. 2 St. Mary's Court unless advised differently.
If you need a lift please contact either Jean Mayne on 552692 or Mary Macleod on 552041.
All are welcome to come to any of these meetings – visitors are always welcome.

Dear Editor

As an enthusiastic supporter of Mr and Mrs Meaden's proposals for an archaeology study centre on their land, I was alarmed and angered by the report from East Dorset District Council in the last Downsman.

Many of the grounds for refusal, by the Planning Committee, of the recommendation of the District Planning Officer, were at best disingenuous.

For example, references to policy sections in the East Dorset Plan were misleading:

1. Policy **CSIDE1** states that 'new buildings... including car parking will... be permitted in the open countryside ... where they are required for ... farm diversification ... which cannot be accommodated in existing buildings'. The Meadens have no such buildings.

2. Policy **LSCON1** states that 'within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty development which would harm the natural beauty of the landscape will not be permitted'.

This requires a highly subjective judgement. The Meadens have consistently consulted the Planning Officers regarding all aspects of the proposed development. They consequently changed the location, design, appearance and detailed specifications many times to comply with the advice provided.

3. Policy **DES8** addresses the same issue of compatibility as LSCON1, (above), providing a list of factors to be considered in proposals. All these were addressed by the applicants in consultations with Planning Officers. Any changes required were made by the Meadens.

Regarding archaeological investigation, the applicants approached the Senior County Archaeologist direct. A site meeting with him was held and the applicants were advised that planning permission, if granted, would be subject to archaeological investigation. The Meadens, of course, had to accept this condition, but were naturally reluctant to incur the expenditure in advance of approval of the application. This is normal. The situation was explained clearly by the District Planning Officer at the Planning Committee in the Council Chambers on 16 September, which I witnessed. The Committee chose to completely disregard this information.

The comments relating to traffic movements also appear subjective. The report refers to generating 'a material increase'. What does 'material' mean? Whilst there would undoubtedly be an increase in traffic movements over a yearly cycle, it is unlikely that more vehicles would access and leave the site on a daily basis than did during the excavations on the Farm, between 1996 and 2001.

It is instructive that during the recent 3-day Time Team excavation on the Farm, a much greater traffic flow occurred without any known difficulties or problems. Furthermore, it was remarkable that, on the second day, traffic was diverted onto these same access roads, in order to bypass a road traffic accident

Finally, I was disturbed to note that of the sixteen councillors who attended the site meeting on 16th September, at which I was present, only six turned up to the debate in the Council Chambers to vote unanimously to reject the recommendation of the District Planning Officer. Incidentally, at the site meeting, objectors to the application were allowed three representations, including the last one, whereas proponents were allowed only two.

I was amazed to discover that East Dorset District Council does not allow the general public to peruse objections to a planning application until the application is on the agenda for a Planning Committee Meeting. Supporting applications, on the other hand, may be viewed any time after receipt. The result, of course, is that objectors have the maximum potential opportunity to prepare their cases, whereas supporters are fortunate to see objections, let alone have time to respond to them. This is, quite plainly, undemocratic. Incidentally, my District (Purbeck) makes all documentation available to the general public as soon as it is received.

*P J H Roberts
West Lulworth*

News from the Troop

It has been a very busy two months for the Scouts, here are just some of the things we have been up to.....



1st Woodcutts on TV?

The troop was invited to Myncen Farm to watch and appear in the filming of the Channel Four television programme Time Team. The Scouts were taken around the dig and shown a number of the many archaeological finds including; three plunge pools; a roman graveyard and the Romans version of central heating! The presenters of the show took time to explain the significance of the artefacts and talked through the importance of the site. Tony Robinson explained how the programme is made and gave the Scouts some tips on how to stand when the cameras are rolling!!! When the show is aired in the New Year you may just see the red and green scarves of 1st Woodcutts in the background. We will also be writing an article for Scouting Magazine, the world-wide publication for Scouting, about the visit – a good opportunity to show that Scouting is active in Sixpenny Handley.



Tony Robinson giving some tips on acting.
pool



Filming in front of the plunge

The Scouts would like to thank Mr & Mrs Meaden for arranging the visit with the producers of the programme and we hope that others will soon be able to benefit from this valuable site and learn as much as the Scouts have.

Thorpe Park

On Sunday 19th October at 7.15 am 12 Scouts left Sixpenny Handley for a day out at Thorpe Park. We got to the park 20 minutes before opening and were third in the queue. The park was quiet and we didn't have to wait more than five minutes for any of the rides. The record goes to Dean, Ben and Chris for the most rides with 13 goes on Colossus and 17 on Nemesis Inferno each.



Thankyou to Shane's mum for driving to the park.



Fireworks Display.

A big thank you to all those who helped and supported the fireworks display. We were very lucky with the weather and raised a good sum that will help maintain the Cub and Scout funds. It was good to see a lot of people from Sixpenny Handley and the surrounding villages and we hope that you enjoyed this community event. Thank-you to Bronia and all the shops for selling the tickets and Steve Judd for allowing us to use the field (again).

Remembrance Day Parade

There was a good attendance of both Cubs and Scouts at this years' Remembrance Parade. All those on parade looked very smart. We think that this must have been one of the largest attendances of Cubs and Scouts in recent years.

We are now looking forward to many more exciting events in the coming months, watch this space.....



Supported by Dorset County Council Social Services Committee.
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.
- 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.

CCF interest groups include Book & Music Groups

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
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For many years during my time in the business world I yearned for a way to be of better service to people, understanding the stress of day to day life, in the home and the in office, and the effects that this can have on our health. Now having entered the world of Natural Health I have never looked back, one of my great interests has always been in healing. This took me to Yoga Studies, and I am now a teacher of Relaxation and Meditation.

I feel honoured to do my work, and to help the people that come to me.

I look forward to meeting you.

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In recent months I have purchased, or had sent to me as complimentary copies, a number of aviation books and with Christmas fast approaching, what I have found to be rewarding, others might find the same.

'Footprints On The Sands Of Time', by Oliver Clutton Brock, is a remarkably well researched, and written, account of the 10,999 airmen from the United Kingdom, Dominions and Commonwealth, plus a scattering of French, Polish and Czechoslovak airmen that became prisoners of war during the course of their service with Bomber Command. Oliver's title is taken from the last line in a verse by the poet Longfellow, which in full reads, *'Lives of great men all remind us, We can make our lives sublime, And, departing, leave behind us, Footprints on the sands of time'*. Divided into two parts, the first, eighteen chapters in all, outlines, in some detail, the chronological opening of the numerous camps necessary to house an ever increasing band of airmen, whose tours of operations ended abruptly in the skies over Germany, or the occupied countries. This same section also deals with repatriations of prisoners who were medically boarded and deemed unfit, either physically or mentally, to be held in captivity, the role of the Red Cross, escapes, and the myriad of events that encroached upon the day to day life of a prisoner. Many anecdotes are included from the men who endured years of enforced idleness in conditions, though not so horrific as that bestowed on servicemen captured by the Japanese, were, nonetheless, far from easy. As Oliver sombrely points out, approximately one in every twenty airmen captured never returned home.

The second part of this absorbing book lists, in alphabetical sequence, the names of the 10,999 airmen, along with notes, where considered appropriate. Published by Grubb Street, priced £35, it should be considered an absolutely *'must have'* for any serious reader of modern history.

'The Bristol Blenheim, A Complete History', by Graham Warner explains in full detail the development and subsequent operational history of this twin-engine light bomber, which, in its many roles, served not only Bomber Command but was obliged to make up the numbers both in Fighter and Coastal Commands, as well, in its later years, serve as advanced trainer. Originally commissioned in 1934, as a personal aircraft for Lord Rothermere, and, subsequently, presented to the Air Ministry, the Blenheim was, in the late 1930s, one of the fastest monoplanes in service with the Royal Air Force.

Sadly, as so many of its crews were to discover, by the outbreak of war its superiority in the air was over and the casualties sustained, particularly by the squadrons of No. 2 Group, Bomber Command, in the early years of the war were near catastrophic.

Copiously illustrated, including nine colour plates, two of which were taken in 1941, when colour photography was a rarity, the book contains a wealth of information in respect of operations and every aspect of usage of this remarkable aeroplane, of which nearly 5,500 were manufactured by the British aviation industry, plus a further 771 built under licence, mainly in Canada.

The dominant force in the restoration of two Blenheims in the 1980s and '90s, Graham Warner is well suited to tell this *story* and he does it with skill, packing his extensive knowledge into a shade over 620 pages. Published by Crecy Publishing at £34.99, this book is highly recommended.

For those who wish to read about the Royal Air Force in the post-war years, and particularly if you have a yearning to know more about operations from the earliest days of occupation

in Germany, through to the collapse of communism and the demolition of the *wall* that divided the two Germanys, then Bill Taylor's '*Royal Air Force Germany Since 1945*' is the book for you. Lavishly illustrated, this respected author takes the reader through the numerous trials and tribulations that befell the Royal Air Force as it adapted to the many tasks that it has been called upon to play over the past half century. Of particular merit is his telling of the RAF's role during the *Cold War* and the influence of NATO on air operations in this area of Europe. Photographs of just about every type of aircraft, operated by the RAF from its German bases, are shown, including an extremely rare shot of one of the three Balliol trainers detached from Cranwell in the autumn of 1952, for participation in *Exercise Hold Fast*. For any reader who perhaps served during the golden years of the early jet age, the book will evoke a host of memories for pictures of Vampires and Venoms, Hunters and Canberras abound. Obtainable direct from Midland Publishing, 4 Watling Drive, Hinckley, LE10 3EY, at £35, this book will, surely, be one of the standard works in respect of the post war air force.

'*Finals Three Greens, A Life In Aviation*', written with a lightness of touch by Wing Commander G.W. (Johnnie) Johnson, has provided me with some of the best bedtime reading for many a year. Joining the Royal Air Force in the early months of 1941, Johnnie Johnson trained as a pilot in the United States, but it was not until January 1944, that he joined 158 Squadron, at Lissett, to commence his first tour of operations. Flying Halifax Mk. IIIs, Johnson and his crew took part in the closing stages of the *Battle of Berlin* and then were posted for Pathfinder training and, eventually, 635 Squadron, completing their tour of duty by the end of October 1944.

This aspect of his service flying is covered in a mere thirty-one pages, and the remainder of this quite delightful book, a further 244 pages, is taken up with his post war flying, his intermittent stints at staff colleges, and his long contribution to the aviation industry, in particular with Hawker Siddeley Aviation.

My three previous reviews concern well established publishers, and the books reviewed are, of course, in hard cover with dust jackets. '*Finals Three Greens*' comes with a semi-stiff card cover and has four inserts of photographs, all of the *black and white* variety, but Cirrus Associates of Kington Magna, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 5EU are to be congratulated for producing such an excellent book, and at a price of just £12.95. My copy was purchased direct from the author, but I expect any good bookshop, or a letter to the address shown above, should achieve the desired results.

Finally, still available from the reviewer at 10 Sycamore Close (552776) are signed copies of '*In Brave Company*' which, incidentally, reports in detail the events that shaped the history of 158 Squadron (see the last review), at £15.95, hardback with dust jacket (£18.60 should you wish a copy to be posted within the United Kingdom), and Volumes 1, 2, 5, and 7 of my series of Bomber Command Losses from the Second World War. Volume 5 (1944) is now, so I am reliably informed, becoming a *collectors piece*, and I have just two copies left at £19.95 each. Volume 8 in the series will be available in time for Christmas, but, as yet, I do not have a firm price.

Bill Chorley

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Sixpenny Handley Practice Broad Chalke Practice

Mon	22 Dec	2003	Normal daily sessions
Tue	23 Dec	2003	Normal daily sessions
Wed	24 Dec	2003	Normal am / 2.00 - 3.00 pm. Emergencies only
Thu	25 Dec	2003	Closed
Fri	26 Dec	2003	Closed
Sat	27 Dec	2003	9.30 - 10.30 am Emergencies only
Mon	22 Dec	2003	Normal daily sessions
Tue	23 Dec	2003	Normal daily sessions
Wed	24 Dec	2003	Normal am sessions only
Thu	25 Dec	2003	Closed
Fri	26 Dec	2003	Closed

WEDNESDAY CLUB

The last meeting of 2003 will be the Christmas Lunch on Wednesday, 10th December, and we start again on Wednesday, 21st January when Mr. Ted Cox will be talking on "My Countryside", followed on 4th February by a slide show by Mr. Angus Macleod on Railway Holidays.

Please do come and join us at either on either of these dates.

Just come along at 2.30 pm and join in.

Mon	29 Dec	2003	Normal daily sessions
Tue	30 Dec	2003	Normal daily sessions

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The Old Rope String Band - who would want to leave a warm home on a cold night to attend a performance given by "The Old Rope String Band"? Well, those who did, and filled Sixpenny Handley's Village Hall on 23rd October, had a wonderful evening full of laughter at the antics - hilarious sketches, acrobatics and music from these multi-talented and very funny performers.

A quick glance around the hall during the evening revealed friends and families shaking with laughter, almost begging the threesome to stop, to allow the audience to recover and catch

breath.

A typical piece of stage nonsense involved the accordionist being turned upside down and his head being lowered into a bucket of water, while he continued to play. As he was wearing an apology for a kilt, much was revealed, and Scottish members of the audience turned white!

When this skilled musical trio - performing on violin, banjo, trumpet, accordion, harmonica, and even 'tuned tubes' - settled down to some serious playing, their talents were impressive and we were afforded a chance to catch breath between the crazier items.

Sixpenny Handley looks forward to a return performance by the Band, not to be missed if you would like an evening packed with laughter and enjoyment.

The Old Rope String Band came to the village from the Artsreach Group, with support from E. Dorset District Council, Dorset County Council, and the Arts Council S.W., at the invitation of our Village Hall Committee. The next events will be the pantomime

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drawers and the
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Huw by Amy



I can make
models With
Mobilo.

Joseph by Amy



NEWS FROM SIXPENNY HANDLEY FIRST SCHOOL

In September a group of ten four year olds joined class 1 to work alongside what was the reception group of last year. The younger children attend school mornings only during the Autumn term, moving to full time at the start of the new year. They are becoming accustomed to the routines of school life and are enjoying the topic of Ourselves, currently looking at the ways their senses inform them of their surroundings. They have been communicating their thoughts of school life to the year 1 children who have then recorded their ideas to share with you.

I Can count all
the way up to
22.



Tom by Emma

I Like
drawing
Rittens

Ben ch. by

Hannah

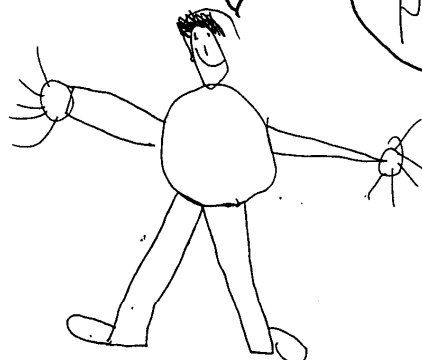


I like painting
at the easels.

I like listening
to stories and
playing in the
hospital.



Alex by Emma



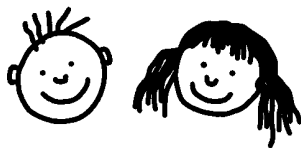
Ben B. by George.

I can make long
snakes with
play dough



Amber by
Niamh

The Chase Nursery



A plea from Chase Nursery

We have been searching for a kind volunteer, willing to audit our accounts, once a year.

If you are a qualified accountant and willing to take on this voluntary role for us, we would like very much to hear from you.

Please telephone our chairperson on 01725 552388 (Mrs Louise Wolstenholme).

Many thanks.

Sixpenny Handley Bowls Club

Congratulations to our President, Colin Chambers for winning the Shortmat County Pairs with his normal County partner, on the 16th November. This was a wonderful result and may we see more of them.

Unfortunately, due to changes in our Blackmore Vale League teams this season, our results are not as successful as we normally are. Our A Team has now settled down with their new players and are beginning to obtain maximum points - they have played five matches and won their last three with a total of 16 points. The Tanners are yet to win a match after playing four but have managed to get 2 points after winning on one mat in their last game. We can only improve, hopefully.

By the time you have read this article, we will have held our Christmas Quiz and can I thank everyone for their support and work involved. I am sure it will have been a success as normal!

On 7th December we are having our Christmas Presentation Lunch at the Crown, Blandford which should be very enjoyable. However, there are two finals yet to be played and so I hope that the members involved manage to get these played beforehand. I will list the winners in my next article.



I expect you have noticed the lovely colourful flower displays that we have surrounding the outside green each year. These have been provided and looked after by Brian and Maureen Moss who come all the way from Pimperne to do these. Sadly, because of Brian's poor health, Brian and Maureen are unable to continue with these after this year and so we are hoping that all our other members will take on one/two pots each to keep these displays going. Our sincere thanks go to Brian and Maureen for doing these for the past five years - I hope we can keep your standards up!

The mild weather is still encouraging the outdoor stalwarts, which is lovely to see. As we are able to use our green all the year round, this does attract players from other Clubs to use it during the winter at times and for this reason we offer a special Winter Membership.

Gill Martin

The Sixpenny Handley Website **www.sixpennyhandley.com**

The Sixpenny Handley website continues to prove popular with well in excess of 20000 hits so far. New items and links are being regularly added, and in particular minutes of Parish Council meetings are included on a regular basis. The website is also useful for publicising local events, no matter what they are. If you know of an event which might be of interest to people in the villages, then please send us details and we will publish it.

The same applies to village societies and organisations. We can provide your own dedicated web page, so members can keep up to date on club affairs. There is also a bulletin board where things can be offered for sale, or other announcements made. But we do depend on input from the villagers to provide a really useful service.

We are particularly short of content about Pentridge and would really welcome some input. Our library of photographs is very bare, so please consider submitting photographs about the villages for inclusion.

We want to include an "Opinion forum" page. So if you hold any opinions about the village which you would like to share publicly, then send them to forum@sixpennyhandley.com and we will start a page.

And finally, if there are any suggestions about what else might be included, let us know. We already have links to bus and train timetables, a village calendar, doctors' surgeries, church services, village hall events, parish council meetings and even past issues of the Downsman! But if we have missed something, we would be pleased to include it.

THE GREAT ST RUMBOLD'S MYSTERY (II)

In the last Downsman, the Rev Tony Lane questioned whether St Rumbold's Church was really dedicated to a three-day old infant, or to another Rumbold, St Rumbold of Mecklin. Now the man who designed the East Window in our church, at the turn of the last century, obviously agreed with him. Saints in stained glass can often be identified by the symbols they carry, or wear. The East Window in Pentridge Church is an example.

The Crucifixion is in the centre, with St Mary, St Mary Magdalene, (who has a jar of oil at her feet, in memory of the time she anointed Jesus with precious oil) St John, and a soldier saint with a lion's head on his shield.

In the left panel is a group of saints, including St Thomas of Canterbury (with a large sword rather improbably stuck through his mitre) and St Luke, identified by his symbol, an ox, at his feet. Two other saints are shown, and the artist obviously thought we would know who they were by the symbols they carry. Unfortunately, I don't. The female saint carrying a model church is probably an Abbess, but I can't put a name to her.

On the right hand panel of the window is another group of saints. St Catherine has her wheel, and others have assorted staves and things. (Strangely, at their feet there is a corpse. You can see his head and his left arm. Who is he?) Only one of all these saints has a name, presumably because the artist thought we wouldn't recognise him any other way. He is a grown man with a moustache, and in black letters around his blue halo, it says he is St Rumbold.

This doesn't prove that the church was dedicated to him, of course; only that the designer thought he would have trouble getting a baby into his window, and went for an adult instead.

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Visit by Inspector Cregg – 18th September.

A summary of Inspector Cregg's response to the areas he was questioned about during his visit is below. The question of Special Constables patrolling with Homewatch members is still being investigated.

Special Constable and Patrols

Inspector Cregg stated that Special Constable Yogi Patel had carried out some patrols in the past, and that he thought patrolling with a member of the Homewatch or Parish Council was a possibility, but that he would need to confirm this with the Specials Line Authority. He did say there might be some safety issues that would need addressing.

He also said that volunteers to become Special Constables would always be very welcome. He outlined some of the advantages and said any one who was interested could contact him directly, or via the parish clerk.

Community Police Officer

Inspector Cregg said he was aware that PC Fen Luckam had done a very good job as the community police officer, and had been missed when she was used elsewhere. It was her efficiency that had caused her redeployment. Her replacement, PC Graham Collins had been nominated and hopefully his turnover would take place soon, and we would see him around the village shortly.

Off Road Bikes

It was sometimes difficult to establish where it was legal for these bikes to go, and where they were breaking the law. It is an offence for any motorised vehicle to use a footpath, and in some cases this was clear, but on other byways, bridleways and footpaths used as roads it was not so easy. Policing was the responsibility of Road Policing, who had a specially designated unit for off road problems. This unit has responded to requests from neighbouring areas where the problem was greater. As in all cases action can only be taken if a definite ID is obtained and this can be difficult with bikers in crash helmets that are travelling at speed and have muddy number plates. The more information the police have, the better the chance of catching them.

Vandalism

In comparison to other areas vandalism reported in Sixpenny Handley is low, possibly because people feel it is not worthwhile. Minor vandalism like throwing stones onto roofs can escalate if left unchecked, and should be reported. As with bikers the more information on patterns etc that is available the better the chance of doing something positive. This does not always involve prosecution, and in many cases does not. Talking to parents, finding out why, or identifying ringleaders who are leading other astray is often more effective.

Play Area Vandalism

Vandalism by children is a difficult issue with education being the best way to combat. Community Safety team are responsible for 11 upwards but for primary the liaison is with the Community Police Officer. This has lapsed but will start again when PC Collins gets into his job properly. Identification is again the key. Communities can tackle with own security using cameras or locally employed security officers, but both of these are expensive. Patrols by local people can be labelled as vigilantism, and this is not such a good idea. Once identified then decision on how to stop can also be difficult, and should be a community one with the parents police, parish council and church and all involved. Progress towards making parents legally responsible for child's action is very slow, and at present a moral responsibility is the best hope. If there is underage drinking then trading standards can be involved if any specific premises are suspected of breaking the law by selling to under age people.

Speeding

This is not only an offence but can frighten pedestrians especially where there are no pavements. Patrols with speed guns will visit as and when possible. Cameras and speed initiated warning signs can help, but are expensive. Measures to try and reduce speed have been taken in the village by DCC

highways, and more are being considered for the future. If speeding by heavy goods vehicles is a problem then limiting the weight of vehicles through the village could be an answer, but could take time.

Crime Statistics

Sixpenny Handley is a comparatively crime free area, but police accept that even one crime is one too many for the victims. There have been 16 crimes in last four months and while there have been some theft from cars and sheds etc, there have been no burglaries of domestic residences. The Blandford area is below national average.

While there is no evidence of drugs in locality at present this does not mean there are none or that the police are not continually looking for them.

Crime levels do rise during the Steam Fair, but again considering the extra 10,000's of people in the area the increase is lower than might be expected. The number of disturbances caused by drink is also surprising low.

Police Response to Calls

The police accept that it can take too long to answer non-emergency calls when Blandford Police Station is closed, and there have been cases of no response at all. For this they apologise. This is caused by a greater than expected volume of calls to the new 'Call Handling Centre' and queues being created. Police are looking at ways to alleviate this problem. They have considered answering machines, but feel a personal response is what people want, and is the best way.

Police Budget

Inspector Cregg was asked when rural areas such as Sixpenny Handley would see the effect of their share of the large increases in police budget.

In response Insp Cregg stated that some of the increase in budgeting at local government level was to compensate for the removal of central government funding, and the overall increases were not as large as quoted in some sources. Funding was used in areas deemed most appropriate, with new types of units being set up to tackle specific crimes in high crime rate areas. The low crime rate in many rural areas meant that most funding was directed in other areas.

Hunting

Inspector Cregg was asked if the need to police any ban on hunting would cause problems in rural areas.

Inspector Cregg replied that it was always difficult to deal with people who were not 'criminals' in the accepted sense of the word. A large element of the hunting fraternity support the police at present, and some of that support would be lost, but he hoped not too much. Also the need to divert resources to this area was something the police could do without. He hoped the majority of people would realise the police had to enforce the law and the need to preserve peace sometimes put the police in the middle.

COFFEE MORNING
SATURDAY, 14TH FEBRUARY
10.30 - 12.30

AT No. 40 HIGH STREET
By kind invitation of Sally and John Clarke

BRING & BUY RAFFLE CAKES
To raise funds for a Flower Festival at the end of May 2004.

SIXPENNY HANDLEY SPRING FLOWER SHOW

April 3rd 2004

The show schedules will be available shortly, please contact Carole 01725 552955 if you have not been able to get to the PO Stores to collect a copy.

On August 16 of this year our daughter, Natasha, got married here at St Mary's, below is a photograph of her on the day.

This was taken in Joy and Peter's garden, and we would like to thank them very much for use of their garden, and for their work in re - arranging their garden furniture to help in the pictures. The photographer had everything but the trees moved, and Peter's patience was much appreciated. Also a big thank you to Wendy and Ron for a beautiful service which was enjoyed by all our family and friends, and thank you Wendy for saying Grace at the reception. Finally, thanks Steve for the use of your field for parking, it kept all our guests off the streets.



*Sincere regards,
Linda and Arthur Downton.*

Photo by Matthew Beresford, Abbey Photographic

The Chase Nursery



10/11/03

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED THE CHASE NURSERY'S
MUSIC QUIZ NIGHT.

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS RAISED A TOTAL OF £146.38 FOR THE VILLAGE
HALL.

WE DO HOPE YOU ENJOYED YOUR EVENING.

The Chase Nursery Committee.

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



Changes to the Planning Procedures!

At the last meeting of the Planning Committee of the Parish Council, it was disclosed that the Government is proposing a fundamental change to the Planning procedures which, if implemented by East Dorset District Council, would seriously emasculate our own Parish Council. The proposal is that objections made by the Parish Council to a planning application would no longer be considered by the Planning Committee of East Dorset District Council, but would be decided by the Planning Officer alone, unless he receives three letters of objection from members of the public as well. The justification is that consideration of an application by East Dorset District Council Planning Committee "simply because a Parish Council objects to the proposal, delays the decision and increases processing costs"!

No doubt the Parish Council will be making suitable comments about this proposal to the District Council, but it is an issue which threatens to seriously undermine local democracy. Scrutiny of parish planning matters is one of the most important contributions which the Parish Council makes to village life. If the Parish Council is no longer to be allowed to be the guardian of parish planning interests, but to be reduced to just a debating society, what is the point of electing a Parish Council at all? The Parish Council is elected by the village to seek our views and to represent us democratically. Why should Wimborne insist that, in order for decisions to be made by the District Planning Committee, villagers must effectively by-pass the Parish Council, and put their objections in writing? It would make the consultative role of our Parish Council irrelevant, and would inevitably lead to unacceptable planning applications being passed by Wimborne "on the nod", just because the requisite three letters had not been received.

Not everyone has the time to put pen to paper, which is why we have a Parish Council to listen to our views, whether it is in the pub, on the doorstep, on the telephone or at public meetings. But if this proposal is allowed to go through, it will mean that we will in future have to go to the trouble of writing a formal letter of objection, because the Parish Council will no longer have the authority to represent our views to a democratically elected planning committee. Remember, the Planning Officer is not elected. He is not publicly accountable at all, but is just an employee on an index linked pension paid for by us.

No wonder the turn out at elections is so low; democracy has been privatised in the interests of what Wimborne calls "Best Value Performance Indicators"!

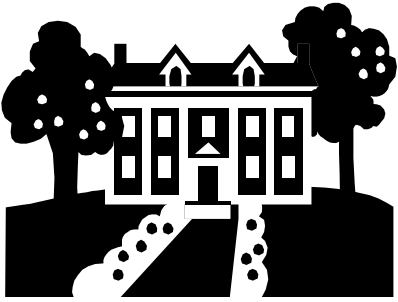
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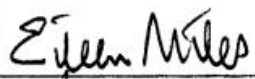
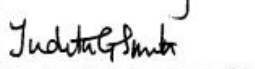
www.isitfair.co.uk

Fighting unfair government grants across the country

Following on from the article about Council Tax in the last edition of the Downsman, the Is It Fair national campaign has started to achieve some real results at last, with the Government recognising that increases have reached a "level of acceptability". The campaign is endorsed by Help the Aged and the Royal British Legion among others, and there is to be a protest march on 17th January to Downing Street to present a petition to the Prime Minister. The Dorset branch of Is It Fair is arranging a coach to take supporters to London to participate in the march, and reservations on the coach can be made by going to the website www.moneysburning.com.

In the meantime, the entire Parish Council has signed the petition to the Prime Minister, supporting the basic objectives of the Is It Fair campaign to replace Council Tax with a tax system which reflects the ability to pay. Everyone is invited to sign the petition, details of which can be found on the Dorset Is It Fair website at www.moneysburning.com. Alternatively you can fill in the petition on the opposite page and hand it in at the Parish Office at Town Farm Workshops. This campaign has nothing to do with party politics, and really is an issue which hits Dorset tax payers harder than most other counties - a band D house in Bowerchalke is £200 cheaper than the same house in Sixpenny Handley.

Further information about the Is It Fair campaign can be obtained by visiting the national website at www.isitfair.co.uk or the Dorset website at www.moneysburning.com

Name	Signature	Address
P. GALLON		12 TOWN FARM PLACE, SIXPENNY HANDLEY, SALISBURY SP5 5QJ
ELIZABETH WALLER		MINCHINGTIDE FARMHAM-BANDFORD DORSET DT11 8JH
T. R. REYNOLDS	T. R. REYNOLDS	CHALK COTTAGE BERNLAND HANDLEY SP5 5PB
KILEEN MILES		11, Common Road, Sixpenny Handley SP5 5NJ
IAN JAVIES		7 East Woodgates, SP5 5QY
P. BARNET-WRIGHT		FERNHEIGH WOODCUTTS SP5 5RP
A H GIBB		THE OLD FORGE, SIXPENNY HANDLEY SALISBURY SP5 5PA
R. FERGUSON		Manor Farm House, Woodgates Salisbury SP5 5QY
J. GILLESPIE SMITH		Chestnut Cottage, Penhidge, Salisbury, Wilt SP5 5QX

Rt. Hon. Tony Blair
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA



Date: October 2003

The Petition of the **Isitfair** Council Tax Campaign
Supported by The Royal British Legion
A Campaign for the Reform of Council Tax

The Petition of the **Isitfair** Council Tax Campaign declares that:

The redistribution of Government grants is grossly unfair. This redistribution in conjunction with the Government's requirement for Councils to increase their spending on education and social services has resulted in Councils having to increase the council tax charges by an exorbitant amount in order to fulfil their legal obligations.

The resultant increase in council tax, typically 15% - 20%, causes hardship to the many, but particularly those on low or fixed incomes. With council tax being based on property values, it takes no account of people's ability to pay.

The above is a flagrant misuse of the council tax system.

We ask that the Formula Spending Share and Resource Equalisation are replaced with a method that ensures that:

- Council tax in its current format be ABOLISHED and replaced by a system of taxation which reflects the individual's ability to pay.
- All Councils are treated equally and fairly
- No council tax payer is stealthily overtaxed in one area in order to subsidise the tax costs of council tax payers in another area

Name	Signature	Address

Woodcutts Is this the End of the World?

18th Nov. It is 9.00am., outside the sky is mainly covered with ominous, black clouds and away to the south there is a slight parting of the ways, where some rays of sunlight are actually penetrating the dense foreboding mass. The air pressure is rising but the weather forecast predicts more rain. Despite the high pressure, more rain bearing clouds are moving in off the Atlantic where the pressure is still higher. Nature in her permanent quest for stability, is moving air from high to low pressure systems. In doing so she moves hot air from the Gulf Stream, over the sea where it collects water from the Atlantic, which is released over the U.K. as rain when the lower temperatures cool the air, reducing its water holding potential. This of course means moisture, which nature intends should help to restore the considerable deficit of soil water throughout the country.

At least it is warm rain, the outside temperature here at this moment is... .. (sorry for the delay I just nipped outside to read my thermometer), 12 degrees centigrade. (53 degrees Fahrenheit in old money) Now you can see why I started with the date, for the time of year this is beyond belief, a temperature just above freezing would be much more normal. Nevertheless it means I can potter; my grandfather used to do that when I was a boy, so now I am a grandfather I reserve the right to 'potter', I just hope that I do it as well as he did, around the garden. Please excuse me I am not sure whether it is right or rite, at least I'm sure it is not write, if you see what I mean. To continue, with reference to temperatures again, perhaps some of you watched Horizon on the 'box', sorry about the colloquium, but I am not sure how to spell television. This was a program concerning "The North Atlantic Conveyor"; the tidal and deep water systems that maintain our temperatures so much higher than other places in the world at the same latitude, for example The Hudson Bay and British Columbia.

It appears, that because of man induced, global warming, the extremely cold water from the thawing Arctic ice fields will cause the conveyor system to stop working. It is suggested that it is extremely likely that we will then be as cold as Alaska. It would appear that Mother Nature has been pipped at the post by man. It is hard to believe this, when outside dahlias are still blooming, rose buds appear in abundance, the fuchsia bushes have a plentiful supply of purple and red blossoms still on show. What does it all mean?

The answer could be here at Woodcutts. Very often, when I describe to those few people who don't know this celebrated, cosmopolitan, world renowned backwater, I tell them that once past the cottages they must turn and retrace their steps or they will falloff the edge of the world. It was always intended as a joke in the past but not any longer. No indeed, but you will of course be wondering why the change.

Well, I will explain what has happened. Sometime during the last couple of months a signpost has appeared at the western end of our lane; that is at the end where the world stops. "So what?", I hear you say. Now the great mystery, this signpost of untreated oak, actually appeared overnight, and everybody knows that the oak is extremely hardy because of its very slow growth rate. How on earth did a signpost, in excess of six feet tall manage to appear overnight? Very weird, you will agree, but that is the half of it. This sign post has three finger boards, the one pointing back up the lane to the east has the name Woodcutts carved on it, the one pointing south down Long Lane is carved with the name of a place called Minchington, while the direction to the north end of Long Lane is B3081.

Even more mysterious is the inscription on the upright pointing skywards, this says, Champs Farm, the original name of the farm that once stood here. Under this name the number 967167 appears, what is this, is it suggesting that the farm is now in orbit, is it now a celestial body, some 967167 miles up? Discounting this later unfathomable mystery, the sign post could be of

great use to anybody wanting to go to Woodcutts, Minchington or the B3081, but perhaps not everyone wants to start their journey from Champs Farm. Putting this to one side, the biggest mystery is the absence of a finger post pointing west. This is the direction which I have jokingly suggested was the end of the world in the past. The question is the future. Is there to be one for everything to the West of Woodcutts? At this point I will leave you to ponder over it in your own good time.

I hope you have enjoyed reading this, if you have any views on this matter please write to the editor A.S.A.P., some of us are not only puzzled but also puggled. This is another word used by my Grandfather and I reserve the right to use it, as he was Dorchester born and bred, therefore it must be correct.

Thank you reading to the finish, I nearly said the end. Whatever, may God bless you all.

Ted Cox Nov. 2003

Handley Sports Club 100 Club Draws.

Draw Number Eleven

£20	No. 75	S M Small, The Parsonage, Sixpenny Handley
£10	No. 193	Kevin Prince, High View Close, Tisbury
£10	No. 20	Norman Dunford, Dean Lane, Sixpenny Handley
£10	No. 227	Sylvia Mackle, St Marys Close, Sixpenny Handley

Draw Number Twelve

£20	No. 90	Mr A Burrett
£10	No. 136	Mr Phibbs, St Marys Court, Sixpenny Handley
£10	No. 38	Mr & Mrs G Martin, Sheasby Close, Sixpenny Handley
£10	No. 163	Mr A Henderson, Sans Souci, Newtown

SATURDAY, 28TH FEBRUARY

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Reproduced from The Oldie"magazine October 2003

Village Hall News

O dear, I'm afraid I have to eat my words and apologise about the boilers – yes they are in and working but we still have a few teething problems and it is not as hot as we had hoped. Please bear with us till it's sorted.

Our thanks go to J/G for donating his time putting in the new back doors; they are hard wood and should last for many years to come.

The hall roof is nearly finished and looks good – just before the bad weather starts.

The youth club has been in contact with other clubs and are hoping to restart next year. I would like to thank the organisers of the youth club for allowing the hall to make use of their PA system and this will be in action in the near future.

Thanks to all the teams who attended the Music Quiz run by Chase Nursery. The evening was again a real challenge for some but the overall winners were David Wood – Team name The Four Becquins and runner up was Ron Wood – a bit of a family battle but everybody had a great evening with a fish and chip supper and a profit was donated to the Village Hall. Thanks again Chase Nursery.

About 100 people came to the Old Rope String Band which was a great turnout for an event that nobody really knew what to expect, but what a fun evening for all ages – skilled musicians with plenty of talent using welly boots, pieces of pipes, empty bottles etc to make a musical tune and it was a sad time when it had to end but hopefully they will come back again next year because people were talking about it for days after.

Remember 6th December - Auction and Christmas Draw.

10 am – 1 pm items accepted at the hall

1 pm – 6 pm viewing

6pm – sale to start

If you would like to donate any item big or small contact a committee member.

Christmas Draw tickets are on sale now.

1st prize - £200

2nd prize - £100

3rd prize - £50 and many other excellent prizes.

We hope to make this a really good evening as it is the hall's 25th anniversary. It opened on 2nd December 1978. So please come along and have a glass of wine with us for a small charge and support your Village Hall.

The Committee welcomes Mrs North who has taken over from Roger as the new treasurer. We wish Roger good health and happiness in the future after his illness this year.

7th January – Forest Edge Pantomime 'Cinderella'

Tickets are being booked already so give me a ring early so you don't miss out.

Rob

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In loving memory of Jim Hudson

My heartfelt thanks go out to all those dear friends who attended Jim's Cremation and Memorial services, also to those who supported me with loving thoughts via the touching cards and very important prayers. I know these prayers sustained me in a very special way, as well as the fact that Jim and I spent fifty-seven happy years together – one cannot ask for more.

A collection at the Memorial service enabled me to send a cheque for £250 to the Ace of Hearts Appeal, which was gratefully acknowledged by the hospital fund raising committee.

Thank You

Thank You

Thank You

God Bless you all

Enid

Robs Column

A palindrome is a word or phrase that reads the same backwards as it does forwards.

E.G. Madam I'm Adam or Able was I ere I saw Elba

Can you work these out?

- a. A feat or exploit
- b. Mid-day
- c. Holy woman
- d. Males and Females
- e. Musical compositions for a single instrument
- f. Not sloping
- g. Heroic tales
- h. Take a look
- i. Former rulers of Iran
- j. Addressing the Queen
- k. Blushing even more
- l. It goes round and round
- m. It gives strength to your arms

October's puzzles

The Paradox

The four men were musicians and played their instruments for payment.

Mutilated Poem

When I was young and in my prime
I could eat a muffin any time
But now I'm old and going grey,
It takes me nearly half a day.

*Hewn I saw young Dan in my ripem,
I dolve tea a finfum nay item,
Tob won I'm dol dan noggi regy
It skate me learny fahl a ady*

Makes me Laugh

Two rather deaf gentlemen were travelling on the underground
'Is this Wembley?' One shouted as the train drew into the station
'No' replied the other 'It's Thursday'
'What did you say?'
'Thursday – Thursday'
'Yes so am I shall we get off here and have a drink?'

Are you suffering the effects of Seasonal Affective Disorder?

During the long dark days of winter many people enter a depressed state which is commonly known as Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). The theory is that light deprivation alters brain chemistry in biologically susceptible individuals. 2% of the UK population are regular SAD sufferers each winter and at least ¼ of sufferers will contemplate suicide during winter. In terms of dietary intake, SAD sufferers tend to crave sweet foods and carbohydrates and these foods trigger the release of serotonin in the brain. Serotonin is a chemical brain neurotransmitter that triggers mood altering chemicals similar to those released when there are high levels of sunlight and bright light. This helps to promote a relaxed and happy state of mind and thus provides a temporary improvement in the sufferer's condition.

Usually carbohydrates will have a sedative effect on individuals, however, in the case of those with SAD, carbohydrate foods have the opposite effect i.e. they lift the mood and energy levels. One possible explanation of this is that depressed individuals have an unusual brain chemistry involving metabolism of the antidepressant serotonin and eating carbohydrates helps to overcome this problem by boosting serotonin levels and activity.

In order to relieve the symptoms of SAD it is advisable to eat complex carbohydrates such as pasta, bread, beans and grains rather than go for the quick sugar fix of sweets and chocolates. Complex carbohydrates may take a little longer to be absorbed into the system but their effects are more prolonged and they do not promote the rapid rise in blood sugar levels (and equally rapid fall) which results in the consumption of high sugar simple carbohydrates. .

What are the symptoms of SAD?

The symptoms may include:

- severe depression that only happens in winter, in summer the individual is quite happy and active
- sleep deprivation - sufferers often require 12 hours or more sleep on a daily basis and will still feel tired, exhausted, withdrawn and irritable even after 12 hours sleep
- over-sleeping and difficulty staying awake during the day
- a tendency to over-eat and the sufferer may crave large amounts of sweet foods and starchy carbohydrate foods and will continue to eat these foods even when they are not hungry.

Research has shown that, in countries that have long periods of darkness such as Alaska, there

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is no evidence of Seasonal Affective Disorder. Why is this? Eskimos, do not have exposure to large amounts' of sunshine but they do consume large amounts of fish in their daily diet. Research has proved that significant amounts of fish oils in the body helps the body to store high levels of UV rays from sunshine and bright light. Essential fatty acids, such as those in sunflower and pumpkin seeds and flax seeds also have the same effect.

What can be done to relieve the symptoms of SAD?

- Try to be outdoors

as much as possible, even if the sun is not shining there are still good levels of natural light to be had.

- Try to keep as active as possible and take some form of exercise daily preferably outdoors
- Ensure that your work space is situated near to a window to obtain optimum levels of natural light during the working day - artificial lighting does not have the same effect no matter how similar it is to natural light.
- Avoid a diet high in protein
- Eat complex carbohydrates such as pasta, fresh vegetables, bean, grains and bread on a regular basis as they are slowly absorbed into the blood avoiding rapidly raised blood sugar levels that lead to cravings for 'quick-fix' sugary foods.
- Take a winter sun holiday if you can
- Try light therapy -specialists provide 'light boxes' which emit a bright light that simulates natural daylight. Treatment involves sitting in front of the light box for an hour each day.
- Depression can be helped by the herb St. John's Wort, though you must check with your GP before taking this herb as it can interfere with the action of some prescribed drugs.
- Try Bach Flower remedies to help lift: your mood and perspective. Flower remedies such as Gentian, Mustard or Gorse may help
- Try visualisation techniques and imagine yourself to be in a brightly lit, sunny environment.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year in 2004.

Sheila Ralph, M.H., BSYA(Irid.), BSYA(N.Th.), BSYA(Ad. C.M.A.)

Master Herbalist, Iridology, Nutrition, Acupressure & Tui'na Practitioner

Sheila practices from her home in Keats Meadow and also at The Centre for Complementary Health Care, Blandford Forum and at Harpurs Fitness at Salisbury Leisure Centre. To make an appointment call Sheila on 01725 552265.

Thank You

I would like to say a very special thank you to friends, neighbours and all members of the Sixpenny Handley Bowls Club for your kindness, support and donations following the sad loss of my dear husband, Mike.

My very best wishes to you all - **Chris Fry**

David and Heather Eynon  wish to thank all friends and neighbours who have expressed such kind concern during our illnesses, and wish everyone a very Happy Christmas.

We would like to thank ~~everyone for all the cards, flowers, and good~~  wishes we received on our Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

Les and Ivy Perrett

Hypochondriac Conjugations

Craig Brown

Reproduced from The Daily Telegraph 1st Nov. 2003

I am suffering depression You are down in the dumps He is cheesed off	You are thin She should see a doctor
I have a migraine You have a headache He drank too much	I take sleeping pills You are on sleeping pills He is addicted to sleeping pills
I have a chronic spinal disorder You have a bad back He won't lift anything	I am active You are hyperactive What's he on?
I suffer from insomnia You had a bad night Someone got out the wrong side of their bed	I have appendicitis You have indigestion He has tummy ache
I have flu You have a cold Will he never stop sniffing?	I have a rash You have spots He has acne
I am well covered You are overweight He is clinically obese	I have an abscess You have toothache He should lay off the sweets
I have post-traumatic stress disorder You are stressy He is a bag of nerves	I have indigestion You wolf it down He can't stop burping
I am hyper-sensitive You are touchy He is paranoid I am well toned	I suffer a gastric disorder You are a martyr to wind What's that awful smell?



Sixpenny Handley Homewatch

There have been a number of road accidents, some major, some minor, in our locality lately. With icy roads and winter fogs about, it seems a good time to pass on the following recent reminder issued by Dorset Police:

Obligations of a Driver at a Traffic Accident

Under the Road Traffic Act 1988, section 170(2) the driver of a motor vehicle must stop and, if required by a person having reasonable grounds for so requiring, give certain information.

'**Stop**' means stop and remain for such a period of time to enable certain information to be obtained by those who require it.

A '**person having reasonable grounds**' to require the information is one such as the driver of another vehicle involved, a person that is injured or the owner of a property or an animal etc.

'**Certain information**' is:

1. The driver's name and address
2. The name and address of the owner of the vehicle
3. The registration number of the vehicle

Duty to report to the Police:

If for any reason the driver does not give his name and address (to a person having reasonable grounds for so requiring) the driver must report the accident to the police.

'Report' means in person at a police station or to a police constable on duty. It must be done as soon as reasonably practical and in any case within 24 hours of its occurrence.

The Homewatch Co-ordinators would like to add that people should be aware because sometimes those involved in accidents these days give false details of name, address,



DOG FOULING

The problem of dog fouling was raised in the last edition of the Downsman. All dog owners should be aware that the penalty for not clearing up any mess that their dog makes is **up to £1000** within East Dorset. New signs have recently been erected on the Recreation Ground in particular. Dogs must be kept under effective control at all times. The Dog Warden **will be** informed of offenders who may then be liable to prosecution, as recently happened in Alderholt.

Bag it and bin it

HANDLEY GARAGE

Telephone – 01725 552134



WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH
EVERYONE A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

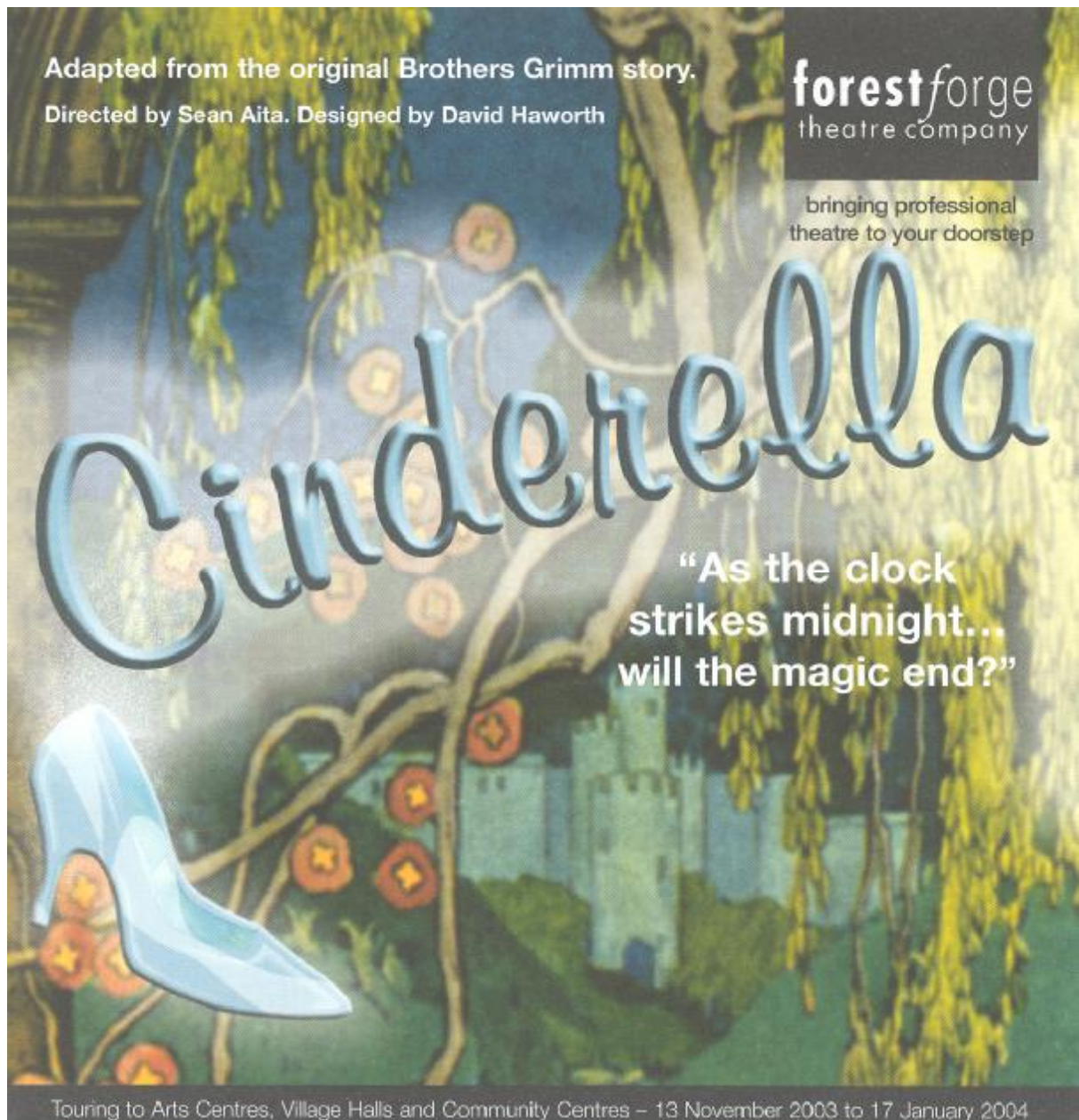
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Wednesday 7th January at 7pm
Sixpenny Handley Village Hall

Tickets £6 adults, £4 children
£16 family ticket – 2 adults, 2 children
from Parish Office or Post Office Stores

The Downsman

DON'T FORGET WHATS ON!!!

DATE	FUNCTION	PAGE	DATE	FUNCTION	PAGE
Dec-04	Chase Community Friends	15	Feb-05	Chase Community Friends	15
Dec-06	Christmas Draw & Auction	36	Feb-09	W I Meeting	08
Dec-07	Bowls Club Xmas Lunch	24	Feb-11	Community Police Van Visit	04
Dec-08	W I Meeting	08	Feb-11	Whist at The Village Hall	07
Dec-10	Wednesday Club	20	Feb-12	Mothers Union	12
Dec-11	Mothers Union	12	Feb-12	Chase Community Friends	15
Dec-11	Chase Community Friends	15	Feb-14	Coffee Morning	28
Dec-13	Whist Christmas Drive	07	Feb-18	Wednesday Club	20
Dec-17	Community Police Van Visit	04	Feb-19	Chase Community Friends	15
Dec-18	Chase Community Friends	15	Feb-25	Whist at The Village Hall	07
Jan-07	Pantomime - Cinderella	43	Feb-26	Chase Community Friends	15
Jan-08	Mothers Union	12	Feb-28	Ukulele Orchestra	35
Jan-08	Chase Community Friends	15	Mar-03	Wednesday Club	20
Jan-12	W I Meeting	08	Mar-08	W I Meeting	08
Jan-14	Community Police Van Visit	04	Mar-10	Community Police Van Visit	04
Jan-14	Whist at The Village Hall	07	Mar-10	Whist at The Village Hall	07
Jan-15	Chase Community Friends	15	Mar-11	Mothers Union	12
Jan-20	Downsman Copy Deadline	03	Mar-17	Wednesday Club	20
Jan-21	Wednesday Club	20	Mar-19	Mad March Hare Evening	09
Jan-22	Chase Community Friends	15	Mar-24	Whist at The Village Hall	07
Jan-28	Whist at The Village Hall	07	Mar-31	Wednesday Club	20
Jan-29	Chase Community Friends	15	Apr-01	Mothers Union	12
Feb-04	Wednesday Club	20	Apr-03	Spring Flower Show	29