

The Downsmen

**NEWS AND INFORMATION
MAGAZINE**



**PARISH OF SIXPENNY HANDLEY
WITH PENTRIDGE**

December 2004

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

Parish Councillors**Sixpenny Handley**

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Mrs P.K. Bailey-Wright... 552771
 Mrs E. Miles..... 552768
 Miss E. Waller..... 552305
 Mr. A. H. Gibb..... 552704
 Mr. G. Parker..... 552334
 Mr T Reynolds..... 552995
 Mrs V. Wyer..... 553031

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 Mr. R. Ferguson..... 552222
 Ian Davies..... 552076

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 Gill Martin..... 552297
 Parish Office..... 552211

Member Parliament

Robert Walter..... 020 7219 6981

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 Fax 552405

District Councillor

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Pentridge

Ian Davies..... 552076

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Alan Vincent..... 552788

Production

Brian Hansford..... 552468

Advertising

Gill Martin..... 552297

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 Griffith... 01258 840557

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Church of Our Lady of Lourdes &

St. Cecilia, Blandford Forum

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Fr. John Rice..... 01258 452051

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Group Scout Leader

Roy Warner..... 552665

Scout Leader

Rob Easton..... 552038

Cub Leader

Esme Isaacs..... 517203

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Drs. Pelly, Nodder & Morgan

Dean Lane Surgery..... 552500

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First School

Handley First School..... 552356

Middle School

Cranborne Middle School 517348

Upper School

Queen Elizabeth's School

Wimborne..... 01202 885233

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Gordon Oxford..... 552591

Secretary

Tony Henderson..... 552279

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Julie Richardson..... 519438

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Mrs S Curtis..... 552397

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Mr R Parsons.....

The Chase Nursery Link Group

Contact

Mary Best..... 552390

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2 - Lower Handley

Vacancy

3 - Upper Handley

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4 - Deanland & N.E.

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5 - West & South

George Tozer..... 552330

Other Areas (These are separate Homewatch Schemes)

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Woodyates

Roy Warner..... 552665

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Blandford Station. 01258 452101

The Chase Nursery

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Secretary

Jane Laing..... 553146

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Secretary

Mary Macleod 552041

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Patrick Taylor..... 552187

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Handley Sports Club

Chairman

Mark Young..... 552741

Secretary

Brian Hansford..... 552468

Team Manager

Mark Young..... 552741

The Wednesday Club

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Secretary

Heather Eynon..... 552308

Chase Community Friends

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Secretary

Vic Hatton 01258 840671

Sixpenny Handley Tennis Club

Chairman

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Secretary

Adam Macmillan-Scott.... 552249

Membership/Treasurer

Kay Mills..... 552727

Sixpenny Handley Cricket Club

Chairman

Simon Ellingham..... 552370

Secretary

Juli Spendley..... 01202 822244

Happy Nappy Club

Sarah Stephens..... 516232

Hazel Wright..... 553160

Cara Bullmore..... 552242

Sixpenny Handley Sports Association

Chairman

Toby Mills..... 552727

Secretary/Treasurer

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 2005

Copy Deadline is 20th January 2005

Vandalism & Anti Social Behaviour

The following incidents of vandalism and anti-social behaviour have been reported in the last few weeks:

- Theft of fire extinguishers from church – Cost: Approx £300
- Dumping of skinned rabbit remains in plastic bags on road verges
- Pelting of passing cars with fruit & eggs after dark
- Breaking of two panes of glass at sports pavilion – Cost: Approx £250
- Dumping of a dead cat in one of dog mess bins
- Theft of safety lamps from water bowsers during water exercise
- Damage to playing fields by motor or off road bikes
- Damage to trees around Town Farm Workshops
- Damage to fence around play area in the recreation ground

Unless stopped, the people doing this will continue to damage other people's property, and in some cases place people in danger of physical injury – **Just for the fun of it**

If you have information that could help identify the culprits you can let the police know using the Crimestoppers number:

0800 555111

You can do this anonymously if you wish

It is your village – Help protect it

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.

SIXPENNY HANDLEY & CHALKE VALLEY PRACTICE**CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR OPENING TIMES – 2004****SIXPENNY HANDLEY****BROAD CHALKE**

	AM	PM	AM	PM
FRI 24	Dr Nodder 10.30-13.00 Dr Morgan 10.30-13.00	Closed at 15.00	Dr Mac Kenzie 9.0-11.30	Closed at 13.00
MON 27	Bank Holiday	Bank Holiday	Bank Holiday	Bank Holiday
TUE 28	Bank Holiday	Bank Holiday	Bank Holiday	Bank Holiday
WED 29	Dr Mac Kenzie 9.0-11.30	Dr Nodder 3.45-5.45 Dr Spiers 3.30-5.30	Dr Nodder 9.0-11.30 Dr Spiers 9.0-11.30	Closed
THUR 30	Dr Spiers 9.0-11.30	Dr Morgan 3.0-5.0	Dr Morgan 9.0-11.30	Dr Spiers 3.0-5.0
FRI 31	Dr Mac Kenzie 9.0-11.30	Closed at 13.00	Dr Pelly 10.30-12.45	Closed at 13.00
MON 3	Bank Holiday	Bank Holiday	Bank Holiday	Bank Holiday
TUE 4	Dr Pelly 8.40-11.10 Dr Mac Kenzie 9.0-11.30	Closed	Dr Nodder 9.10-11.30 Dr Spiers 9.0-11.0	Dr Nodder 2.30-4.30 Dr Mac Kenzie 2.30-4.30

PLEASE NOTE

Our telephone answering service normally operates from 8.0 a.m to 6.30 p.m ,
Monday to Friday.

For Weekends, Bank Holidays and all other times, the calls will be taken by the
appropriate Out of Hours service.

Sixpenny Handley And Chalke Valley Practice

Out of Hours

Dorset Emergency Care Service began providing Out of Hours services across Dorset on 1st October. If you require URGENT medical attention or advice that cannot wait until the surgery is open please call **0845 600 10 13**.

If you are seriously ill or have had a serious accident then call **999** and ask for an ambulance

For non-urgent INFORMATION or ADVICE please phone NHS Direct on 0845 46 47

We have stayed open on a Saturday, morning for collection of pre ordered medicines. It is likely that this service will stop in December. There is no Doctor available in the surgery on a Saturday.

Hearing Aids

The surgery now holds stocks of batteries for NHS hearing aids.



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Terry Lawley & Family

would like to thank friends and neighbours, the doctors, nurses, staff, carers, and every one who helped during Catherine's long illness. Please accept this as an acknowledgement of all the condolence cards and offers of help we have received. We appreciate these very much.

Thank you

Private Hector Card (12892)

3rd Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment

Not every soldier commemorated on our War Memorial perished in the heat and confusion of battle, a fact that will now be outlined in this, my third, commemorative profile. Nine years of age at the time of the 1901 Census, Hector Card was the first war-enlisted soldier from the village to lose his life having attested, early in 1915, at Wimborne, with the 3rd Battalion of the Dorsetshire Regiment. Sadly, Hector's military career ended almost before it began for he died on the 21st of February, 1915, aged 23, possibly from pneumonia, while undergoing basic training. At the time of his death, the 3rd Battalion, had training depots centred on Dorchester and Weymouth and it seems likely that he was serving at Lodmoor Camp, which came under the aegis of the Weymouth depot, this assumption being based on the fact that his grave is located in Weymouth Cemetery.

Tragedy had already struck the Card family, who lived at 120 High Street (now 11A and the home of Peter and Joy Stainer) for on the 30th May, 1906, his sister, May, died at the awfully early age of 20. Their parents, Harry and Ellen lived on with their grief, Ellen passing away in her 76th year on the 24th November, 1936, but Harry lived to witness the suffering of the Second World War and was aged 85 when he died on the 12th of September, 1949. The three now rest in the churchyard at St. Mary's.

Returning to their son's all too brief military service, Hector would have been amongst the first to respond to Field-Marshal Lord Kitchener's call to arms (that famous poster, *Your Country Needs You*, is, I am sure familiar to you all). Needed they were for by the end of 1914, and with the war not yet six months old, the British Expeditionary Force in France had suffered 86,000 casualties, this figure representing over half of the force that had crossed to France in the August. Compared to the losses sustained by the French and German armies, '86,000' was, comparatively speaking, small; French casualties stood at around 854,000, while Germany is believed to have lost approximately 677,000. I should point out that these terrible figures do include soldiers who were wounded, or captured, but it is an unquestionable fact that the majority were dead. The slaughter, now associated with the First World War, had been set in train.

In preparing this profile, I am indebted for the help rendered from Charles Cooper, Administrator at The Keep, Dorchester, and his knowledgeable volunteer helpers; also to Rob Jesse for his expert knowledge of the re-numbering of the houses in the High Street and to Ron and Pam Wood of the vicarage for taking the time and trouble to look out the burial details of Harry, Ellen and May Card.

Bill Chorley



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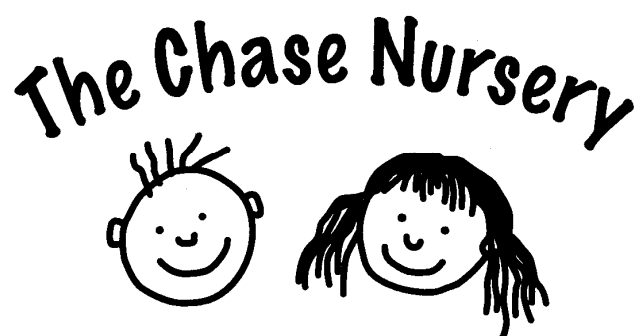
100 Club Winners – September

1st Mrs Orman 2nd Mr Poolman 3rd Mr V Fryer

100 Club Winners – October

1st Mr Poolman 2nd Mrs Bobbie Carter 3rd Mr D Goddard

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



LINK GROUP — April 2005

(September 2005 school intake)

If you would like your child to attend the
Chase Nursery Link Group,
please fill in the reply slip below.

Please reply by 15th February 2005
as places are limited.

With the aim of introducing the school setting,
sessions are held at Sixpenny Handley First School.



I would like my child to attend Link Group from April 2005

Name of child: _____

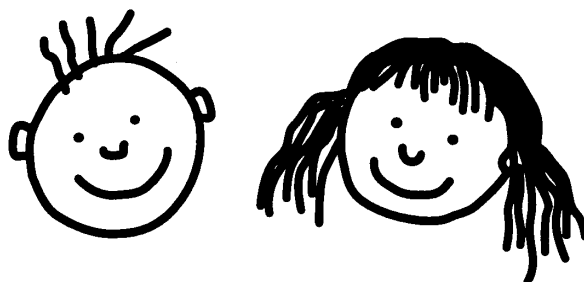
Name of parent/guardian: _____

Contact telephone number: _____

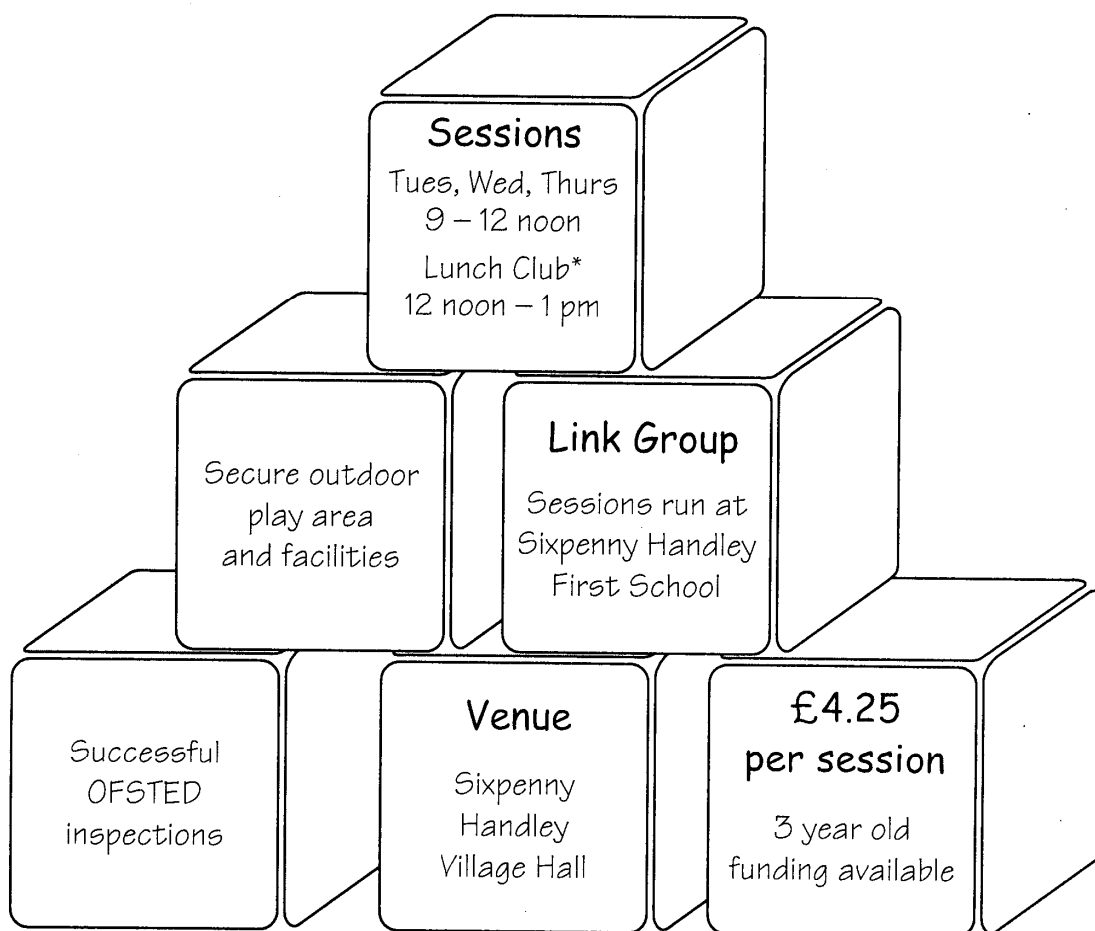


Please reply to:
Mary Best (Link Group Manager)
110 Woodcuts
Sixpenny Handley
Salisbury SP5 5RR

The Chase Nursery



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where children of 3 - 5 years of age may flourish



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

Nursery Leader: Mary Best01725 552390
Secretary: Jane Laing.....01725 553146

*Thursday Lunch Club finishes at 12:45 pm

VILLAGE HALL NEWS!

By the time you read this, the **windows** in the kitchen and committee room will have been replaced; these were in a very bad state, so we are pleased that funds have allowed for their replacement. Those using the kitchen will, we feel, be glad to be able to open a window easily at a sensible level. The big Hall windows will be next on the list, but as they will cost £1500 for each top and bottom set, we will have to keep going with the fund raising for these! One small addition to the facilities at the Hall is the provision of **soup/desert** bowls. 40 of these have been given to us and are now available for users.

As reported in the last Downsman, the completion of the full **disabled access** will be going ahead next year, and we already have the promise of some grant money. As soon as we get positive replies from other bodies we have applied to, then we can get going.

In the meantime, we not only have tickets on sale for our **GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW**, but we also have a great programme ahead of entertainment for the winter season:

FRIDAY 10th DECEMBER at 7.00 a one man show called "Christmas Country Cod Pieces" by the amazing **SID KIPPER**.

There will be lots of publicity about this one, but do get your tickets from the Post Office in good time as this will be a popular show. During the interval of the show, Sid will be drawing the winner of our **GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW**.

SATURDAY 15th JANUARY at 7.30. We thought you might need cheering up in January so we have booked **THE NEW SCORPION BAND**, and believe me they will cheer anyone up! Tickets from the Post Office as usual.

WEDNESDAY 2nd MARCH at 6.30 pm. "**The Lost World**" with **Forest Forge Theatre**. This is the all-age show we would have liked to book in the Christmas holidays, but were not successful. But when you recall how much we enjoyed last year's Cinderella by Forest Forge, I'm sure you'll agree that this will be worth waiting for.

We had a most successful **Jumble Sale** in October which raised £430 for our funds. A very big thank you to Pat Oxford and Stella Symes who organised this. .

Also in October, we organised with Artsreach Dorset the splendid concert by the Pavao String Quartet held in the church. This event was in the end so well attended that many people said "we must have another **classical concert**"! So, watch this space.

Our warmest thanks to Rob Jesse and his team for laying on a splendidly entertaining **Auction** once again; we made £550 for Hall funds.

If anyone else has any good fund raising ideas, do please speak to a member of the Committee. Once again, the thanks of the Committee to all the organisations who support the Hall, and we hope to see everyone at these events through the winter!

As you may know, Ron and I will be leaving the village early in the New Year as Ron is going to another Parish. I would like to thank you all for the support you have given me in respect of the Village, and to assure you that you have an excellent Chairman succeeding me in the person of **Gordon Oxford**.

Pam Wood

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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Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge Parish Council Requires a

Clerk to the Council

To be in post by 1 April 2005

- q Hours of work are flexible between the Parish Office / home.
- q Attendance at evening meetings essential (2+ per month).
- q Administrative, IT, Basic Accountancy skills advantageous.
- q Monthly salary based on £6 per hour plus any travelling expenses.
- q Ongoing training will be given.
- q The applicant will have the assistance of the current Assistant Parish Clerk.

**Applications, in writing, with up-to-date CV to be made to the
Chairman of the Parish Council, c/o Parish Office, Dean Lane,
Sixpenny Handley by 14 Jan 05.**

Further details may be obtained from the current Clerk.

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FOR GOD'S SAKE STOP, MAN

Sometimes I think I can see all the cries
 Rising up from the Earth's surface,
 And I ask myself, "How can God hear so many?"
 And having heard, "How can he deal with them?"
 Some are so thin and weak, no hope held
 Even as they are sent upwards in sighs of sound.
 Some are strong and vigorous, almost pushing aside
 The clouds with their demanding needs, trying to be
 heard.
 My eyes lift with them through the backdrop of trees,
 Through the shadows and the bright light,
 Through the azure air, past the low clouds,
 On and on they climb. Where is he?
 Does he hear? How can he have enough love
 To respond? How can he choose?
 Is the cry from the dying stronger than
 The cry of the living? Is the murder of war
 More urgent than the mugged victim in the alley?
 Is the innocent's cry worth more
 Than the cry of guilt from the man with a knife?
 Is the lonely desolate plea for love
 Worth more than the one from a crowded room?
 Is that of the barren woman worth more than
 The cry of the aborted baby?
 Is the politicians demand for power worth more
 Than the cries of the hungry and the homeless?
 And what of the cries from unbelievers,
 Or those from throats of unbelievers
 Who have different gods?
 What can you make of it, OUR GOD?
 I watch the cries going up, unending.
 I long to go as a passenger,
 Borne as a cry, and face you there.
 What shall I see? Will you be there?
 Will you be weeping when I come?
 Dear god, be patient with us, and listen.

M.S.

Cold or Sinusitis?

You've had a cold that's lasted longer than a week, and you're still having trouble breathing through your nose. When you lean forward you feel a throbbing pain in your face. You may not have a simple cold any more, instead you might have developed sinusitis, an infection of the lining of the sinus cavities.

The sinuses are air-filled, hollow spaces or cavities within the facial bones surrounding your nose. When the linings of your sinuses become infected, usually due to a virus or bacteria, they may swell, causing an obstruction and interfering with the normal sinus drainage. Sinusitis can cause considerable discomfort and can lead to more serious infections if left untreated.

Although sinusitis can become a chronic condition that can last for more than 12 weeks, most cases are short-lived (acute) and treatment lasts about 2 weeks.

Sinusitis occurs when respiratory tract infections block your sinuses allowing bacteria to multiply in the mucous congestion in the

sinus cavities

So what can you do to relieve sinus pain and congestion? Deep breathing exercises may help if you are able to breathe through the nose comfortably. Lie down or sit in a relaxed position or take a walk in areas where the air is clean and unpolluted, and try to breathe from the stomach using the diaphragm rather than the top of the chest to breathe in. Deep breathing exercises involve inhaling through the nose for up to 7 seconds, hold the breath for up to 28 seconds and then exhale for up to 14 seconds. Repeat this exercise up to 10

times, 3 times each day. This exercise will help to clear the nose and sinuses, strengthen your lung capacity and help cleanse your lymphatic system so that it can speed up removal of infection from the sinuses.

Herbs that are useful in the treatment of sinusitis include:

- Garlic, taken as a deodorised supplement or in its raw state (if your friends will allow!) is beneficial to the whole respiratory tract and reduces infection while loosening congested mucus so that it can be easily eliminated from the system.
- Zinc lozenges (available from a health food shop) taken every 2-4 hours for its antiviral and immune system boosting properties.
- Echinacea taken as a tea, tincture or in capsule form helps fight infection and fights viral and bacterial attack, tones and soothes the lining of the respiratory tract while boosting immunity.
- Meadowsweet herb or ginger root tea for their anti-inflammatory action and for pain relief.
- Try the following herbal formula
Mix together in a suitable container 2 parts crushed aniseeds, and 1 part each dry powdered ginger, crushed black peppercorns and dried elderflowers. To make the tea steep 1 or 2 teaspoonsful of the mixture in 2 pint of boiling water for 10-15 minutes, strain and sip as hot as you can bear 3 times a day to help soothe and relieve pain, congestion and inflammation anywhere in the respiratory tract.
- Inhale steam from hot water that has had 2 drops of peppermint essential oil and 2 drops of eucalyptus essential oil added, covering the head with a towel to trap as much steam as possible. Take care not to burn yourself if the steam is too hot. This will help loosen mucus congestion in the nose and soothe the nasal passages while relieving pain in the sinuses. Peppermint is an effective pain reliever and decongestant while eucalyptus is a specific remedy for loosening and removing catarrh from the nasal passages.

While suffering from sinusitis it is a good idea to take a good multivitamin! multi- mineral supplement and add to that vitamins A,C and E for their immune boosting properties. It is also recommended that you avoid all dairy produce, wheat products, processed sugars and potatoes as these foods all produce excessive mucus in the body and eat lots of onions, garlic and fresh ginger to boost immunity and help rid the body of mucus congestion.

Acupressure also helps to clear the sinuses and relieve pain and inflammation associated with sinusitis and a self help acupressure routine can be taught in a short time.

The Seasons Greetings to you all and a healthy and peaceful New Year.

Sheila Ralph

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

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

Sheila practices from her home in Sixpenny Handley, the Centre for Complementary Health Care in Blandford and at The Lavender Centre, Salisbury. For an appointment or for further information telephone 01725 552265.

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VICAR'S FAREWELL

On Sunday, 2nd January at 9.30 am there will be a service in St. Mary's Church which will be the last service here of the Vicar, the Rev. Ron Wood. It will be a service for all the three churches that he looks after, and he and Pam very much hope that you will be able to join them at this service and come and have a drink and a sausage roll at the Village Hall afterwards.

Both Ron and Pam have very mixed feelings about leaving so many very good friends who have supported them and loved them through thick and thin - particularly thin! - but they feel that the time is right to move on; they are praying for Wendy and the Churchwardens who will be looking after you for quite a few months of interregnum, and then for a new priest who will look after you all as well if not better than before.

We shall be keeping in touch from our new home in the forests of Surrey; the address is: The Rectory, Seale, Farnham, Surrey GU10 1JA Tel: 01252 783057; and we shall be very happy to see anyone who feels they can divert from the Hog's Back A31 for long enough to look in for a cup of coffee or a meal.

In the meantime, we send our love and good wishes to you all. Thank you for everything you have done for us, and may God bless and prosper you all.

Ron and Pam Wood.

Sixpenny Handley Spring Flower Show

will be on **Saturday 2nd April 2005.**

The schedules will hit the Post Office Stores and my office any day ~ if you would like a copy and cannot get to the stores, please telephone me

Carole 01725 5529565 and I will put one in the post.

All Children's entries are **FREE** and especially welcome in any class

Sixpenny Handley Village & Flower Show

will be on **Saturday 20th August 2005.**

Show schedules will be available at the Spring Show, most of the classes have not changed so no excuses for not planning ahead. As always helpers required on the day, lots of jobs for all talents including gazebo erecting, putting up signs and generally being available.

SHOW LOST PROPERTY SECTION

I still have a small glass vase, some items from a children's miniature garden (a collie dog & fencing) and a photograph of a stormy day in my office (well spare room really) ~ please contact Carole on 01725 552955 to arrange a reunion.



News and Information

NATIONAL
FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S
INSTITUTES

MONTHLY MEETING

Members were delighted to welcome Mr Andrew Hunt from Kingston Lacey who gave an illustrated talk on the gardens and their development since the National Trust took over the house and gardens. The slides, some of which were taken soon after the gardens were acquired, illustrated how much has been already been done and that it is an ongoing, long-term project for the 30 acres.

Andrew updated us on the progress of the latest project, which is the restoration of the Japanese garden. This involves not only the full-time gardeners but also a band of volunteers who are working towards a deadline of Easter 2005 for the gardens to be finished. Many obstacles had to be overcome including a family of badgers who fortuitously packed their bags just before their eviction notice was served.

Many of the members had visited the gardens especially to see the snowdrops and were very appreciative of all that Andrew and his fellow gardeners were doing.

He then fielded questions from the audience, which is very brave when confronted with over 20 ladies all with horticultural problems!

The Flower of the Month was won by Doreen Leverton with a chrysanthemum. Stella Symes with a tiny cyclamen won the exhibit of a miniature flower in any medium.

The Village Hall for the November meeting was a riot of colour when Roger Grier brought some of his orchids to show us and many of the members brought their orchids to show him.

He used slides to show all the different types of orchids to be found round the world and then showed us the correct way to look after them. Orchids have the most stunning and delicate blooms but they are quite tolerant and will flower time after time. As they do not need expensive composts (they prefer pebbles to give stability) or fertilisers (a feed of Tomerite sometimes will be all they need), orchids can be an ideal houseplant and if you have a scented variety will fill your room with subtle scents.

He then held a 'sick orchid' clinic that was much appreciated.

The Flower of the Month was won by Doreen Leverton with a stunning delphinium.

DATES:

The **Group Carol service** is on **Friday 3rd December** at Tarrant Gunville Church ~ please note that parking is very limited and could as many members as possible park at the Village Hall and walk to the church. Refreshments will be served in the Village Hall after the service.

Our **Christmas party** is on **Monday 13th December** and Sandy Smith and singers will provide the entertainment.

The exhibition will be a decorated gift tag.

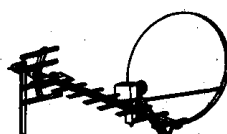
The **January meeting** is on **Monday 10th January 2005** and we will be invited by Mr W Pooley to enjoy The Adventures of the Odd Man Out.

The exhibition will be a magnifying glass.

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Sixpenny Handley Bowls Club **The Changing Scenes of the Bowls Club.**

The Successful Scene

Since the last edition of the magazine the Bowling Club's activities have come to the end of the summer season although we are still trying to get some of the internal outdoor competitions completed. The season was a good one as we did end up with two trophies and we have not done that before. This means some silverware on the shelf - if only we had a shelf.

In the Westbrook Mixed Triples League although we only came fourth in the league this was a very good effort considering the opposition from bigger clubs than ours. We did take part in

their Gala Day Tournament way back in June when our team of Jean Maidment, Malcom Gerry and Bill Steele were the winners with their immaculate triples play. The trophy was presented to them at the Annual Presentation evening. This year held at Alderbury Bowls Club. The Club will hold the trophy for a year. I have to say that this is not the first time our name has appeared on it.



The second win was in the Dorset Men's League - they were successful in the

County League Div. IV. Colin Chambers (President) and Gill Martin (Secretary) attended the Annual County Presentation Luncheon on October 31st at the Rembrandt Hotel in Weymouth and collected the trophy and the individual certificates from the President of the English Bowling Association and I understand an enjoyable time was had by all.

The Annual General Meeting

This is usually where the whole scene changes and this year was no exception. Our Secretary, Gill, was one of the founder members of the club. When a notice was put up in 1991. 'Who wants to try their hand at playing Bowls' Gill came forward and became the club's first secretary and has been doing this job ever since and has seen the club grow together with the outside Artificial Green which until recently was the only one in the country passed by the World Bowls Board for all grades of play including internationals although it has never been used for that purpose.

Gill has decided to resign and give herself a break from administration but we shall still see her playing on the green and also Short Mat.

At the Annual Meeting The President presented her with a gift from the club and wished her well.

Three other people also changed jobs or went into retirement.

President Colin Chambers ended his two years as Club President and took the role of immediate Past President. He will not be giving up bowls though but will be retaining his job as men's captain and also running the 'A' team in the short mat bowls league. Thanks were expressed for his efforts over the past two years and this was endorsed by all present.

Finally Norah North and Bess Hall, who have supported us for many years, have reluctantly decided that owing to failing health they have to give up. However we shall be pleased to see them in the summer at matches or Social Events if they are able. Members expressed their appreciation of their support and asked the secretary to write to them.

Appointments of Club Officers 2004/5

President -	Patrick Taylor
Deputy President -	Gordon Oxford
Secretary/Treasurer -	Brian Hansford
Club Captain-	Jean Maidment
Vice Captain-	Colin Chambers
Ladies Captain -	Pat Oxford
Fixture Secretary-	Jean Maidment
Fixture Secretary	
(Short Mat) -	Sarah Churchill
Village Hall Rep.-	Colin Chambers
Social Secretary-	Val Martin
Greenkeepers-	Angus Macleod & Tony Groves
	(supervising)

Committee - Angus Macleod, Tony Groves & Derek Goddard.

The Treasurer presented the accounts which showed the club in a strong financial position. The evening ended with Refreshments including mince pies.

The Social Scene

During the year we held a Bar-b-Que in July. This was a departure from the usual type of event. We invited many guests and most of them had a go on the Bowls Green. We had a raffle and plenty of food and the event turned out to be a success. The weather was not at its best though.

The Jumble Sale although not exciting for some was a good one again. A good profit was made for our funds as stated in the October magazine. We increased that a bit by attending a Car Boot Sale with some of the items left which were saleable.

Quiz Night

The Quiz Night happened on November 19th- again a successful one.

Thanks to all who attended and filled the 21 tables. Thanks to Val and Peter Martin for their efforts. Peter who sets the questions and researches the answers and Val who organised food etc. Thanks also to other members of the organising staff who helped to make it a successful evening with a slightly Christmas flavour of Carol questions and mince pies.

Presentation Luncheon

Every year the club holds a Presentation Luncheon. This year it is on December the 19th at the Crown Hotel in Blandford. I am told that this has proved popular again and is almost fully booked. Awards for Club Competitions and Certificates will be presented.

The Short Mat Scene

This is the scene which is not going so well. The 'A' team (a description which must have been taken from the TV programme as there is no 'B' team) is in the middle of the league at this

point but they must win some more matches to consolidate their position. This is Div One of the Blackmore Vale League in which they have appeared several times in the top two places since they have been competing.

The 'Tanners' who play in Div 4 of the Blackmore Vale League retained their league place last year but are struggling at the moment. Let us hope that they improve quickly. The struggle will end in March 2005. Let us wish them every success in their efforts.

Funds and Members

Non- members who read this article may wonder why we need funds and what we spend them on.

1. We have an expensive carpet which one day will need replacing and we also need machinery to help clean it.
2. Site charges as levied by the Sports Association in order to pay rates and buy heating oil, electricity etc.
3. Fees are required by the County and National Bowling Associations who are the providers of Competition Bowls which our members enjoy.
4. Other items of Equipment which improve the enjoyment of the club by its members.

The more members we have the better as it helps when having to select teams for league and friendly matches and play competitive bowls which is the aim of the club in our constitution.

The outdoor season is a short and intense one once bowling starts end of April 2005.

So if you think that you might be interested then you can always come along to our Short Mat Sessions. You can learn how to deliver and handle a bowl in the comfort of a warm village Hall and have some fun doing it.

For the benefit of Short Mat Members - Hamper day when members compete for a Christmas Hamper will take place on Sunday December 12th at 2pm.

Unification

For some years now discussions have been taking place to try and amalgamate some of the current single associations in the bowling world.

They are:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| (EBA) | The English Bowling Association – men |
| (EWBA) | The English Women's Bowling Association – women |
| (EIBA) | The English Indoor Bowling Association – men |
| (EWIBA) | The English Women's Indoor Bowling Association – women |

These associations at present plough their own furrow with separate Officers – Head Offices and Funding. The target date set for unification is October 1st 2006. When this happens Lottery Funding will be made available to Club and Associations. A programme for this has already been put into place. If the unification fails then funding will not be made available. So everything hinges on serious talks and important decisions to be made in the near future for the benefit of the sport. So it is important for Clubs and Associations to support when asked. The unification process for the good of all – in future players will be referred to as Bowlers and the sex of the bowlers will not be relevant.

Brian Hansford

Handley Sports Club 100 Club

Draw No 5

£20	159	Mr B D Ridout, Humby's Farm, Sixpenny Handley.
£10	024	Mr N Leonard, Ponds Cotts, Gussage St Michael
£10	023	Simon Wallworth, Sixpenny Handley
£10	117	K Summerell, Sheasby Close, Sixpenny Handley.
£5	157	Mrs A M Reed, Deanland, Sixpenny Handley.

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"Have we missed you", or can you suggest anyone.

If you would like to attend the Monthly Day Centre please contact us.

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Dr. Peter Atherton, Nursing in Practice September 2004

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 furnishings were a golden yellow
 What colour were her stairs?

A middle-aged friend told me that he had
 been to his Doctor for a check up after
 which the Doctor said 'You're in good
 shape' but Doctor he protested 'Why do I
 keep getting so tired?' 'Youth Deficiency'
 replied the Doctor, 'Nothing but Youth
 Deficiency'

Fall, leaves, fall, die, flowers away,
 Lengthen night and shorten day,
 Every leaf speaks bliss to me,
 Fluttering from the autumn tree
 I shall smile when wreaths of snow
 Blossom where the rose should grow
 I shall sing when nights' decay
 Ushers in a drearier day

If like me you like reading poems look out
 in the near future for a new book being
 published. It's written by a local lady. It is
 a moving, enjoyable book based on events
 in her life.

'Poetry in Motion' – the Light and Dark
 sides

A selection of poems by Hazel.

It is available from Hazel (552352).
 Donations going to the Penbrook unit for
 Cancer treatment for our area.

PROVERB FOR PEACE

If there is righteousness in the heart
 There will be beauty in the character,
 If there is beauty in the character,
 There will be harmony in the home,
 If there is harmony in the home,
 There will be order in the nation
 If there is order in the nation
 There will be peace in the world.
 If only.

If you hear of anybody or any area not receiving the Downsman please contact me or your
 local Neighbourhood Co-ordinator

Following my report in the last issue of The Downsman about my family's events - a small
 update.

Sarah rode in the Hampshire County Trials and came fourth with her horse Sixpenny Forge.

Nicky finished the season with winning Champion and Reserve Champion with her Poll
 Dorset sheep at Newbury show.

Update on the dog problem –several names have been forwarded to the Dog Warden so
 beware you are being watched.

Lastly a big thank you for all the support at the Auction – we sold over 200 lots and should
 make over £600 profit for the village hall.

Thanks again

Rob

SCHOOL REUNION – SATURDAY JULY 3rd 2005

We are planning to have a reunion for ex pupils of Sixpenny Handley school. It is for anyone who attended up to 1965.

If you know any ex pupil who have left the area perhaps you could contact them – or if you have any photographs etc concerning the school or local villages and would lend them for the day we would be grateful.

For more information call Josie on 01725 552622.
More details to follow in the next edition.

Rob

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News from the Troop



Just a quick note to tell you what we have been up to at Scouts.....

Troop Nights



Troop evenings are active as ever at the Scout Hut. A favourite was the pumpkin carving Halloween week. The hut was a complete mess with 23 Scouts carving a pumpkin each – but the results were worth it. Thank you to Simon and Denise for the pumpkins.

Night Hike

On the 30th October 9 Scouts completed a night hike. We left the Scout Hut in cars around 10.30 pm and headed to Win Green. From Win Green we hiked along the Ox Drove for about 4 miles, then Claire and Chris met us for hot soup. It was then into Chase Woods and about another 4 miles to the

Scout Hut. We arrived back at the hut at 2.30 am on Halloween morning. Some of the Scouts were tired and went straight to bed, the rest of us sat talking around the fire that Chris had lit for us. The last Scouts went to bed at about 5am.

Come the morning the smell of frying bacon and tea woke all the Scouts up and it was back home for a restful morning and perhaps a sneaky kip in the afternoon

Remembrance Day

A total of 21 Scouts attended Remembrance Day this year. This is almost double the number that attended last year and reflects the growing numbers that attend the meetings every Monday night. We had practised marching the Monday before, with the help of Tony Bishop, and definitely looked smarter for it.



Fireworks

This is now a major fund raising activity for the group and this year raised just over £1500 for the funds. This activity could not happen if it were not for the help of many people within the village, notably –

Steve Judd for the use of the field.

Chris and Bronia and everyone at the shop for selling the tickets and badgering people to sign the gift aid form. These forms allow us to claim back over £200 from the government, thank you to everyone that took the time to fill in their details.



Clarke the Butchers for selling tickets and supplying the meat for the barbecue.

There were over 35 volunteers working on the night, ranging from people taking the money on the gate, lighting the fireworks to selling food from the barbecue. On behalf of the members of the Scouts Group and the fundraising committee I would like to thank everyone that was involved with the evening and thank those that came and supported the Scouts in this fundraising activity. The money will be used to undertake vital repairs to the roof and kitchen of the Scout Hut.

Rob Easton, Scout Leader – 1st Woodcuts

WEDNESDAY CLUB

Sadly, the Wednesday Club will be holding its last meeting on Wednesday, 8th December. Our numbers have been dropping steadily over the last two years despite an excellent programme of speakers and entertainments, and so we have decided - reluctantly -- to call it a day. The door will always remain open if anyone would like to start up the Club again at a future date; indeed the present Committee would be delighted if that should happen! So, we are saying, not goodbye, but au revoir, when we meet on the 8th December for a celebratory/valedictory tea with music; very classy music actually as Phil Burbeck is coming to entertain that afternoon. Anyone who has had anything to do with the Wednesday Club in the past is warmly invited to join us at 2.30 pm on the 8th December. See you then!

Sixpenny Handley Homewatch



Police crime reports for our area continue to show sporadic criminal damage, mostly vandalism, and avoidable thefts from insecure cars, sheds and properties.

The police have reminded us all so often about locking up our homes and our cars that it seems incredible people still get caught out this way. The criminal damage is another matter - a blight on our community that we need to work on

together to wipe out. Please, if you know anything about any of the recent incidents, report the matter to the police - or anonymously to Crimestoppers if you prefer.

The Homewatch is still seeking a volunteer to look after Sheasby Close, Paddock Close and the lower end of the High Street. Please can someone volunteer for this small contribution to the safety and security of our village by contacting John Curtis (see Parish Directory).

Want to lose those extra pounds?

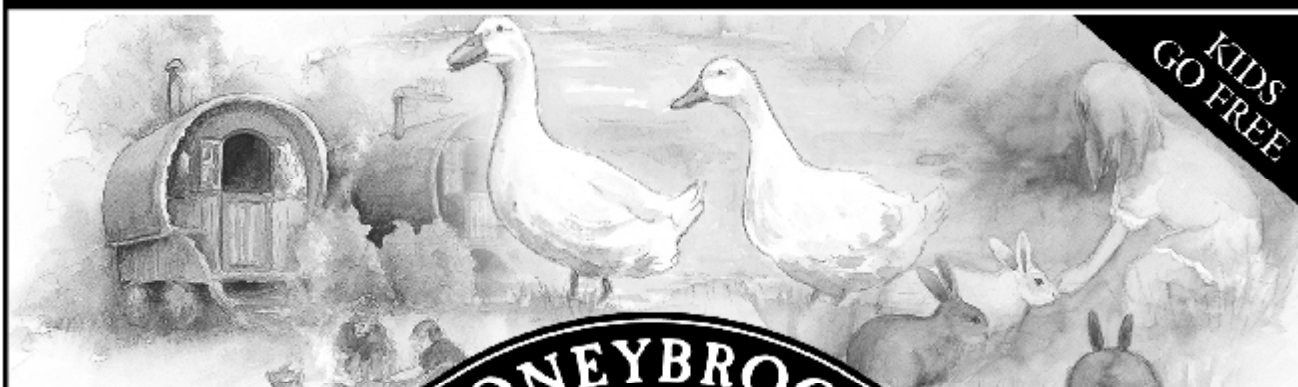


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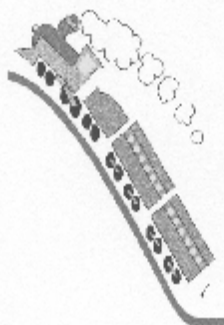
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SIXPENNY HANDLEY TENNIS CLUB

Michael Catchpole (Chairman), in his opening address paid tribute to the late Gordon Clarke, an honorary vice-president of the club, for his services in years past to tennis within the village and for the interest that Gordon took during the formative years of the present club.

Continuing, Michael reported that the past year had not been as productive as had been hoped; membership was slightly down and the club's fortunes in the third division of the Shaftesbury league had been mixed. From the eight matches played, the club had won three, lost four (some quite narrowly) and had been obliged to share the points in a match that could not be played. Despite these disappointments, the club was determined to approach the next twelve months with a positive attitude and he paid tribute to his committee, particularly to Paul Noble who was stepping down from his position of vice-chairman, while due to armed service commitments, Toby Mills formerly announced his resignation as treasurer. However, Toby will continue as a committee member and details of his successor, along with details of the 2004-2005 committee, will be reported in the next issue of *The Downsman*, as well as appearing on the village website.

Encouraging news was reported from the club's coach, Ronnie Peck, and it is well worth drawing attention to the very successful Wednesday morning coaching for adults. Two sessions are held, the first commencing at 9.30 a.m. and aimed very much at those who wish to take up the game of tennis, or who have not played for a number of years and feel that they would benefit from a series of refresher lessons. The second half of the morning gets under way at approximately 10.30 and is geared towards advancing in the technique of lessons learnt and generally making an overall improvement in individual, and partnership, aspects of the game. Both sessions usually conclude with a spirited game of doubles! Child and junior coaching continues to flourish and the presentation, to appreciative applause, of the Dr. Geddes Cup for the most improved junior was handed to Alfie Thorne of Farnham.

Before bringing the meeting to a close, the results of the men's doubles and singles competitions were announced, Paul Noble and Atilyio Loncar being victors of the former and Iain Laing emerging as winner of the latter.

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Letters

Paul and I came to the Sixpenny Handley Practice in 1948. Life was somewhat primitive in the villages then, because the war had held up improvements to amenities. There was no piped water, no sanitation or electricity and very few cars in Handley.

But there was a wonderful feeling of hope – the war was over and the Health Service had begun - people felt secure.

Our time with you gave us the great privilege of being involved in many of your family happenings and your friendship and kindnesses have been a wonderful reward for anything we did.

I am leaving Sixpenny Handley now to go into a sheltered flat near my daughter in Devon. Thank you with all my heart for your love and kindness to us and our family. We are very fortunate to have known you and to have belonged to such a village.

God bless you and keep you

Zoe Harris



To Rob, Claire and Matthew

The 1st Woodcutts Scout Group would like to thank you very much for organising a fantastic summer camp in Guernsey in August. The activities you organised for us were really great, the canoeing was a particular favourite, especially making Claire walk the canoe's. The Underground hospital was very interesting as were the museums in St Peter Port. The walk back to camp after the strawberry farm was a bit of an adventure as at times we seemed to be lost, so much for map reading hey Rob!!

Once again thanks for a great camp. Here's hoping next year's is going to be even better.

With thanks from all the Scouts on 2004 summer camp. Cheers to Rob, Claire and Matthew



I would like to, through The Downsman explain to the mindless individual, who threw an egg at my car a few evenings ago, what damage has been caused. As it is a BLACK car the paint work has been affected. Handley Garage has given me an estimate; to put it right would be between £150 to £200. I suppose I could claim from my Insurance Company, but I would probably lose my no claims bonus, is it worth it? after all my years of driving, and never claiming before.

Perhaps the Parents, if I could find who did it, would like to pay, I doubt it, as no one ever knows how these things happen. Apparently Oranges are also being thrown, can you imagine what would happen if one of them went through the windscreen, one would swerve and possibly injure a child or animal. I have informed Blandford Police, and been assured they are going to step up their patrols, in the early evening. I would like to add most of the youth of this village are polite and helpful, only a few are thoughtless.

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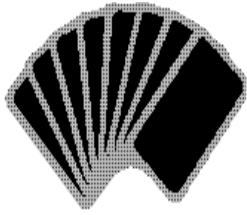
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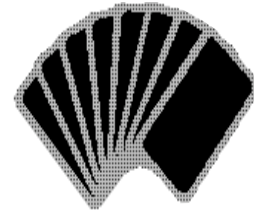


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Whist at The Village Hall

2004-2005 Competition



Betty White set a pre-fireworks night *blitz* by rocketing to the top of Division 1 with a magnificent score of 195, bettering by 10 clear points the previous best score of 185, set by Brian Trickey in round 4 of the contest (and eclipsing by 3 points Peter Braithwaite's '192' returned during the course of the 2001-2002 competition). Commencing the evening with John York, this initial partnership netted Betty (and John) 104 points and it was not until the first round (13th) of the second half that their partnership was broken. However, although John was unable to maintain the impetus of the opening 12 hands, returning 71 over the last twelve deals to end on 175, Betty continued to pick up excellent cards, scoring 91 and emerging as the clear victor of the night.

Ruby Jacobs returned a very creditable 178 to finish second, a score which takes her to the top of Division 3, 14 points clear of Julie Trickey. John York and John Davis shared third place, John Davis's 175 being reached in no small measure by taking all 13 tricks from the 13th deal (and who said '13' was unlucky), his partner for this auspicious hand being Doris Gibson. Theirs, however, was not first time that '13' had been scored in the present competition; during round 4, Arthur Austin and Sheila Steel and Brian Trickey and Julie Trickey attained a perfect score and though I have noted it in the past, I think it is worth repeating that to reach '13' at whist is, in my opinion, a far more difficult exercise than bidding to a grand slam in bridge.

Very encouragingly, rounds 4 and 5 saw 10 tables in play, thus hinting at a *mini* revival in the local fortunes of whist (Ashmore, too, I'm told has had 10 tables in play during their recent drives). Three divisions are now firmly established and, as recounted, Betty heads Division 1 with an aggregate score of 833, followed by John York on 817 and Bill Chorley at 802. Doug Haskell, the 2003-2004 champion, lies in 5th place with 787, just 4 points adrift of Daphne Killeen. At the time of submitting this report, Sylv Day tops Division 2 with 650 points, 5 better than John Davis who, in turn, is 8 points clear of Arthur Austin. However, with 11 competitive rounds remaining, a very different picture may well come about before the prize giving event scheduled for May 18th, 2005. Meanwhile, do note that the grand Christmas Drive will take place, at the Village Hall on Saturday, December 11th, when, once again, a superb range of prizes will be on offer.

Bridge

I am pleased to report that the Tuesday afternoon sessions at the Sport's Pavilion are now well established, play commencing at approximately 1.30 p.m. Coaching for beginners in basic ACOL is available at all times, while hints on how to play some of the games' many conventions are explained to those who would like to expand on their knowledge of bridge in general.

Bill Chorley

Pupils Look to the Future



Since the completion by Ashe Construction (Southampton) Ltd of their wonderful new hall, classroom and other facilities, pupils at **Sixpenny Handley First School** have been collecting everyday items to be sealed into the school time capsule. Head teacher, Mrs Alison Latchem, has been asking the pupils to consider what would interest children in the future and give a good idea of our daily lives. Finally, at a special assembly, the capsule was buried with ceremonial blessing from Rev Ron Wood and the commemorative stone, which HRH the Duchess of Gloucester unveiled at the opening of the new

building in the summer, was laid. The capsule now awaits eager investigators in future years to open it up and find out what life was really like in 2004.

Poppy Appeal 2004

The march past of the Cenotaph at this year's Service of Remembrance was led by Henry Allingham, aged 108, and thought to be the oldest of the now dwindling band of survivors from the First World War. Here, in Sixpenny Handley, Victor Fryer at 95 years of age, was the oldest person *on parade* and it is worth recording that both Henry and Victor had connections with the air services during their time spent in uniform and helping in the defence of the realm. Many of you, I know, are well aware of the magnificent welfare work carried out by The Royal British Legion and it is with this aspect of the Legion's remit in mind that I have pleasure in reporting that this year's *appeal* from Sixpenny Handley, and our surrounding hamlets, raised the magnificent sum of £1,267.04, edging ahead, slightly, over the sum collected in 2003.

On behalf of The Royal British Legion, and my very loyal band of collectors, I extend my grateful appreciation to everyone who contributed, and for your many kind words of support that were expressed as we made our rounds. I also thank the proprietors of our local shops and businesses for agreeing to act as static collection points. Such willingness to help contributes significantly to the overall collection total which, again I have to say, was '*magnificent*'.

Bill Chorley, Honorary Appeal Organiser

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Woodcutts Misses Out!

All readers will by now know, that unfortunately Mr. Bush has been re-elected to the American Presidency and therefore will not be coming to live in Woodcutts. (If you think that the above statement is rather ambiguous, it is for the reader to interpret in his or her own way.) We, the international, jet setting members of this exclusive, countryside community were a little worried that his presence and influence here could have affected “our economy”. We were also worried, that the site of oil wells and the infrastructures of the oil industry, would in fact be rather out of place here, especially as we don’t have any oil.

Having got the international news out of the way, we turn to the more pressing local news. To start with, although it has not yet been released to the general public, the area now referred to as ‘Woodcutts’ has in fact increased. From now on, the bungalow to the east of the by-pass, known as Gilly Hill, will feature in all future negotiations and official announcements including the annual census, which takes place every-so –often.

The results of the Spring Census 2004 (Completed on the first day of November 2004) is as follows:-

Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total Residents.	17	23	28	--	--	27
Adults	15	16	16	--	--	17
Schoolchildren	--	2	8	--	--	9
Pre-schoolchildren	2	5	4	--	--	1
Total Av. Age	41.84	30.56	26.40	--	--	31.30

The more observant reader will note, that there are no figures for the years 2002 and 2003, this was due purely to the lack of funding and any talk of a plague is sheer nonsense.

It can clearly be seen, that some inconsiderate bodies have up and left us, fortunately however more fresh air and country loving people have descended upon us. Although it can be seen that *anno domini* is in fact getting the better of us, in three years the average age has increased by 4.90 years. If any one can explain this please write to the Demographic Department at the appropriate Ministry, Woodcutts.

Sorry to have to go through all the above, but we must stick to a very rigorous and regular routine. However we can now proceed with the more pleasurable aspects of our refuge, in this quiet and secluded suburb of Sixpenny Handley. I am sorry but there is to be another short interlude, Emmerdale is about to start on the television and I need a coffee.....

Please note that there is only one line missing, this is because I did not take time out to watch my other favourite, Last of the Summer Wine. Again the more observant will say on what date were those two programs broadcast together, O.K. I’m late again.

.....Anyway I’m back, nose to the grindstone, with dates from the Woodcutts’ natural history diary:- (Or I would be if I could find it. My filing system appears to have failed again, I hope it was not included in the last heap of recycled paper, but that is another issue which I hope to cover later in this article.)

Found at last:--

23rd October. The 'last' Brimstone, butterfly of the year appeared in the garden. In pristine condition, as if just hatched.

4th November. The 'last' Red Admiral, butterfly on yellow, buddleia bush, which is still producing fresh, new flowers. This butterfly too was in first class condition.

10th November. Beech leaves in a hedge in Tollard Royal appear to have just burst from new buds.

12th November. Willow in the garden has freshly produced leaves.

13th November. A slow-worm found in the middle of the lane, appeared to have died from the cold, but what was it doing out and about in mid Nov. Later in the day Meg found a cobwebbed, common lizard crossing the kitchen floor. In may have come from the cellar, but why at this time of year.

14th November. An old shoot of a elderberry bush cut to about six inches of the ground in August, now has two fresh shoots with five new leaves.

November. Other non-seasonal occurrences - rhubarb bolting in the vegetable garden, marigolds and nasturtiums in flower in middle of month, lesser periwinkle flowering far more abundantly, despite the fact that it often flowers the whole year round. Copious numbers of white deadnettle and herb Robert still flowering. Picking tomatoes in an unheated greenhouse during past week, ripe and ready to eat. The list could go on and on. Surely this indicates that there is a definite change in our weather pattern.

This brings us to the reason for this quite dramatic change in our seasonal fortunes, "Global Warming". If you don't believe in it, you could regret it later, because global warming generally, could actually create new cold ocean currents of melt water from the Arctic, which in the short term of possibly several hundred years, (a mere pittance when the age of the world is concerned) would make our climate similar to Alaska's. Don't be fooled by those who 'know', this is a definite possibility.

With this in mind, we come to the important matter of what to do with our garden waste and organic matter generally. All gardeners can help ensure that this material does not go to the land-fill sites, where not only does it take up space, but on decomposing creates the gas methane. Methane will escape into the atmosphere and is a very serious greenhouse gas, possibly the worst after water vapour and carbon dioxide, which are the two gases produced when methane burns in air.

Not only is methane production something that needs to be controlled, but so is the carbon monoxide and dioxide, together with the carcinogenic particulates produced when private vehicles are used to cart garden waste to council collection points, and the heavy goods vehicles used to collect from these points and transfer your gardens fertility to Hurn, where it is converted to compost, mulch, chippings etc. for you to buy back in very expensive non-biodegradable bags, after spending more money driving to the garden centre to get your garden's fertility back. At the same time burning fossil fuels and producing more greenhouse gases and harmful particulates.

What can we do about it?

There isn't one a simple answer! However the village can help by starting its own. community composting site. How, I hear you ask? Here are a list of topics already looked at:-

Site, one has already been offered to the village by a local landowner.

Advice, who from? Both the East Dorset District Council (EDDC) and Dorset County Council (DCC) are only too eager to help, as are the National Community Composting Network, DEFRA, Health and Safety, and the Government Funding Organisation.

What the village has to do is form an official group or committee, who then as representatives of the village, produce a plan with the help from the DCC, EDDC and the National Composting Network and apply for grants. It is then up to volunteers to get the site up and working. Eventually it is hoped that some local, employment could result for local people, particularly those who are in good health but have other disabilities and to whom finding a job presents a problem.

Are You Interested?

If you would like to be part of the Sixpenny Handley Village Community Composting Group, as a volunteer, a supplier of raw products for composting, a buyer of the resulting organic products or a member of the "BOARD", I would appreciate your phone call, on 552801.

Ring now, help save the World. If you want to know more, there is a paper on the subject, nine pages on "Sixpenny Handley, Garden Waste, Composting & Alternatives". If that doesn't satisfy your curiosity, there are a number of names, addresses and web pages listed on the back page, enough I am sure to satisfy everyone. Please if you have any interest at all, if you believe you are a conservationist, if you buy organic foods, if you believe in the natural world give me a ring, your help is vital. No matter how little, even just a name on the list as a sympathiser would be a bonus, go on help the world become a better place for your children, your grandchildren etc. etc.. "Oak trees from little acorns grow."

To finish off this article, I must tell you a story about roast chestnuts. At the beginning of October Meg and I were fortunate to be offered, by very kind relatives, the use of their house in the Dordogne region of France. We accepted gladly and made our way in borrowed car to Poole, where we caught the ferry. In France all went well until on approaching Rennes, we joined a convoy of vehicles all driving as near to the maximum speed limit as possible. Then we noticed a car of the Gendarmerie in the convoy, and immediately realised why everyone was staying within the speed limit. Then another police car appeared, then another all at the rear of our convoy, it was then we noticed three more cars at the front, and then police cars at every junction passed. They were even on the bridges we passed under, whatever was happening we wondered. Then police motorcyclists appeared, one rode up alongside us, switched on his blue flashing light and gestured in no uncertain way that I should accelerate and pass the remainder of the convoy. To exceed the speed limit on a French dual-carriageway is not difficult but to do so at the insistence of a Gendarme seemed rather bizarre, but I did as I was told and shot out into the fast lane, then we saw that two lorries in the convoy, unsign-written, had notices on their tail gates, "Radioactive Materials". We had been travelling with Plutonium imported from the USA, much to the consternation of many French people. The moral of this story is, "You can't escape from Mr. Bush, not even in France.

Since I am well overdue, I must finish now but may I say once again if you are interested in the composting system, please give me a ring, "Your Countryside Needs You." Thank you for reading to the end. God Bless You All.

Ted Cox (November 2004)

P.S. Sorry I didn't get around to the roast chestnuts.

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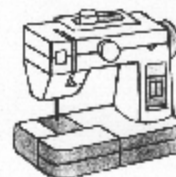
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The Children's ' Own

Christmas, the time to celebrate the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem 2004 years ago.

R	A	T	S	L	E	A	R	S	I
R	C	D	E	L	P	F	J	N	J
B	X	H	L	O	J	C	A	S	J
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B	N	B	E	S	S	B	B	V	C
A	A	T	E	X	K	A	I	Y	S
T	H	R	Y	O	B	B	R	O	O
S	P	Y	R	A	M	Y	C	J	J

The Christmas word search consists of words which are all related to the birth of Jesus.

The words to find are:- **Stable; Angel; Israel; Joseph; Jesus; Nazareth; Joy; Presents; Crib; Bible; Baby; Mary; Love; Birth; Star; Boy.**

As most of you know, Mr. Wood is moving to a new church in Surrey and I'm sure you all "Wish him well" in his new post. His leaving means a lot of additional work has to be done before someone takes his place. Obviously Wendy (curate) is very much involved. Unfortunately she has not had the time to write a message and a prayer for you this time. I am sure you won't mind, and wish her all the best for the future and

maybe a little prayer for her could be arranged, couldn't it? Perhaps, "Please God be with Wendy and our church wardens to keep our church and school on the path Jesus trod for US."

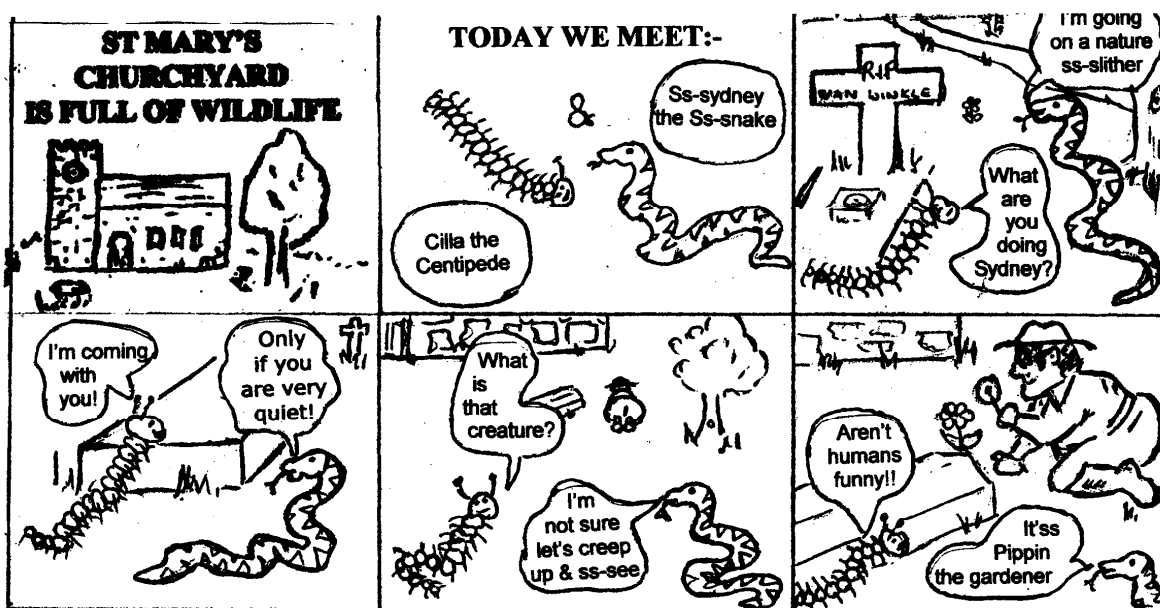
One of our church wardens, Mr David Salmons has supplied a short verse for you.

Loving Father, on this day
Make us happy in our play,
Kind and helpful, playing fair,

Letting others have a share.

We would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas, with the presents you want and plenty of wonderful food. But remember Mum and Dad, it's their holiday too, so a little help tidying up and with the washing up too, won't go astray. Please remember too, all those children in the world, who won't be getting toys and when your eating the rich, traditional food that comes with Christmas, say a little prayer for all of those children who won't be having a Christmas meal and in some cases no food at all.

In fact some won't even have clean water to drink, so please give them a thought on Christmas Day. God Bless you all, and a very Happy Christmas from St. Mary's Church



Fellowship.

A Mysterious Happening!

Hello Children, I want to tell you about the chestnuts Mrs. Pippin and I collected when we were in France in October. We were amazed and delighted to see so many chestnuts underneath the trees in the wood where we were staying. So before coming home we collected a big bagful about 10kgs. (24lbs.) So pleased were we with our harvest we bought a chestnut roaster for the princely sum of three and a half euros, and dreamt of roasted chestnuts for Christmas. As it had been raining before we picked them up, it was necessary to dry them when we arrived home. So they were spread out on a bench in the greenhouse to dry.

Two days later when I went to turn them over, of the original 10kgs, most had disappeared leaving just under half a kg., most of which were bad or very small. Where did they go, do you think? Our neighbour told us he had seen a squirrel in our garden. What ever happened to them, we won't be using our chestnut roaster this Christmas.

A Very Happy Christmas to You All. Mr. Pippin

Recollections of a wonderful village doctor.

Dr. Zoe Harris writes:

"The Health Service had just started when my husband Dr Paul and I came to our scattered Dorset practice.

It was a time of great goodwill: patients knew they could now afford to call a doctor, and for doctors there was the satisfaction of being able to treat patients without money coming into the equation.

The Cranborne Chase was still recovering from wartime shortages. There were very few cars, which meant that most patients had to be visited at home - 49 calls in one day was our record - and there were many night calls too.

Sixpenny Handley had no electricity, no mains water and no sewers. Later we made our own electricity with a generator, but it was evening surgery by lamplight before that.

We did our own dispensing for the whole practice, making up large jars of stock medicines. Antibiotics were new and very precious. To help outlying patients, medicines were left in Post Offices, village shops and friendly porches. None ever went astray.

The district nurse was also the midwife. Normal confinements took place at home.

The older patients were still wary of hospitals. One old lady with a broken femur flatly refused to go, and was treated with traction provided by the weight from our grandfather clock. She made a complete recovery.

Our practice was very much a cottage industry, but it was a very happy one with undemanding goodwill on both sides."

Post script from Roger Watkins.

Drs. Paul and Zoe Harris had not long retired and Dr Geddes had taken over as village GP when we moved to Sixpenny Handley in 1978. For all those years we knew Zoe first as a trusted locum doctor, and later as a friend.

Zoe has now left the village and gone to her new home in Devon. After she and Paul retired and moved to St Mary's Court she became a Trustee and then Chairman of the Residents Association, always giving calm reassurance and help, in all sorts of ways, to anyone in need including me the secretary.

She also faithfully attended and took part in the Monday Prayertime and Search housegroup. Her deep faith and calm presence helped all who shared these times and were inspired by her prayers and advice. We shall miss her, and wish her well in the future.

The New Scorpion Band

The New Scorpion Band performs the traditional music of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. The group's repertoire covers five hundred years of popular music making, and features solo songs, rich vocal harmonies and dance tunes played on a spectacular variety of traditional and historical instruments.

Saturday 15th January 2005
7:30pm at Sixpenny Handley Village Hall
Tickets £6.00 – Tel: 01725 552827

THE VICARS LEAVING

All of you are no doubt aware that Ron Wood is leaving and undoubtedly many of you will be wondering about the future, when and who will replace him, and when. All sorts of information have been circulating so I hope I shall be able in as few words as possible to put your minds at rest.

Firstly facts; Ron's last service will be at St Mary's at 11am on 2nd January 2005 and he and Pam will vacate the Vicarage that week. His replacement has not been appointed nor have we a date and because of the Church's rules advertising the vacancy cannot take place until after he has left. So who takes over? What qualities do you want his successor to have? Please think about - his/her tradition? married/single? old/middle/young? male/female? etc - and talk to us or any Church member. Church life continues and during the vacancy the Curate and Churchwardens with the Rural Dean take charge of the Parishes (Sixpenny Handley and Pentridge).

Since Ron announced his move we, that is Ron, Wendy, Graham and I have been meeting to arrange the transition as smoothly as possible. Filling the gap he leaves is not easy as it is in these circumstances that one begins to realise how much he has done as he served his parish. His pastoral visiting to the elderly, the sick, and the lonely took up a considerable amount of his time. This need will still exist and will be shared by the Curate, Churchwardens and Lay Pastoral Assistants. Both Wendy and Graham are in full time employment so therefore the initial point of contact will be me (David Salmons) 552721. This detail will be included in the Church Section (Centrefold Pullout of this edition of the Downsman) as will be the adjusted (altered) pattern of Sunday Services.

The Parish, the community and church, have been served continuously by Ron and Pam for many years and the contribution they have made has been tremendous but now it is time to hand over the baton. In the New Testament we are told of the importance of an all member ministry - the time has now come for this to happen here in this place. Training has been taking place under Ron and Wendy's teaching to enable members to fill some of the gaps created by this change. Sunday Services as published are to be led by a mixture of the Curate, members, visiting priests and preachers. Life we hope will go on as usual, it always does, but both Ron and Pam will be sadly missed - a new chapter opens up and with God's help and your understanding we should continue forwarded together in Faith and Love.

Many of you have expressed a wish to contribute to a leaving gift as an expression of your thanks for their untiring service. To this end collection boxes have been placed in our four shops, the Pub and the Surgery to enable you to say thank you materially. Should you wish to make your contribution by cheque please make it out to "**Sixpenny Handley PCC**" (please endorse the back with RON).

A farewell get together has been arranged in the Village Hall on 2nd January after the 11 am morning service. Love to see you in St Mary's to hear Ron's final Sermon and what thoughts or message he leaves us with after 16 years and join in the Praise and Thanks to God for his ministry here. Then eats, drinks, presentations, hugs and kisses and fond farewells. See you there - no individual invitations have been sent out - please come to one or both. All are welcome.

David Salmons

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