

The Downsman

**NEWS AND INFORMATION
MAGAZINE**



**PARISH OF SIXPENNY HANDLEY
WITH PENTRIDGE**

February 2005

**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. G. Parker..... 552334
 Mr T Reynolds..... 552995
 Mrs V. Wyer..... 553031

Pentridge

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 Mr. R. Ferguson..... 552222
 Ian Davies..... 552076
 Tony Henderson..... 552279

Clerk**Assistant Clerk**

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

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

County Councillor

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

District Councillor

Mrs P.K. Bailey-Wright... 552771

Rights of Way Liaison Officers

Sixpenny Handley

Pentridge

Ian Davies..... 552076

The Downsman Team

Editor

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

..... 552608

Vicarage

Curate

Rev. Wendy Griffith... 01258 840557

Roman Catholic

Church of Our Lady of Lourdes &
 St. Cecilia, Blandford Forum

Priest

Fr. John Rice.....01258 452051

1st Woodcutts Scout Group

Group Scout Leader

Roy Warner..... 552665

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

Chairman

Gordon Oxford..... 552591

Secretary

Paul Skinner..... 552785

Treasurer

Ian Davies..... 552076

Bookings

Julie Richardson..... 519438

Sixpenny Handley Allotment Holders Association

Chairman

John Curtis..... 552397

Secretary

Mrs S Curtis..... 552397

The Chase Nursery Link Group

Contact

Mary Best..... 552390

Overall Co-ordinator & Police Focal Point

John Curtis..... 552397

Co-ordinators

Area 1 - Dean Lane

Don Penrose..... 552022

2 - Lower Handley

Vacancy

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)

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Roy Elford..... 552296

Woodyates

Roy Warner..... 552665

Police

Blandford Station. 01258 452101

The Chase Nursery

Nursery Leader

Mary Best..... 552390

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Jane Laing..... 553146

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President

Mrs Jan Gibb..... 552704

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Mrs H. Eynon..... 552308

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Leader

Jean Mayne..... 552692

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Mary Macleod 552041

Sixpenny Handley Bowls Club

President

Patrick Taylor..... 552187

Secretary/Treasurer

Brian Hansford..... 552468

Handley Sports Club

Chairman

Mark Young..... 552741

Secretary

Brian Hansford..... 552468

Team Manager

Mark Young..... 552741

Chase Community Friends

Chairman

Dr. Geddes..... 552395

Secretary

Vic Hatton01258 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

Happy Nappy Club

Alison Goodfellow..01258830143

Tracey Hartles..... 516212

Christina Reynolds..... 552240

Sixpenny Handley Sports Association

Chairman

Toby Mills..... 552727

Vice Chairman

Tim Reynolds..... 552995

Secretary/Treasurer

Brian Hansford..... 552468

Sixpenny Handley Flower Show

Chairman

Brian Hansford..... 552468

Sixpenny Handley Homewatch

Welcome to the latest edition of The Downsman.**All your contributions to.....**

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

Telephone – 01725 552788

E-mail: downsman@sixpennyhandley.org


The next edition of this Magazine will be published on the
1st April 2005

Copy Deadline is 20th March 2005

Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge Parish Parish Council

Parish Office Unit 5B	Opening Hours: Tuesday 10am – 12noon	Phone – 552211/552279 Email –
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The following planning applications have recently been examined by the Council

1. Judd, Church Farm, Change of use of land to provide additional 40 pitches (summer only), and erect reception building.
2. Williams, Methodist Chapel, Woodyates, Change of use to permanent dwelling and erection of garage.
3. Stevenson, 25 Handley Park, erect rear porch

If you would like to know more about these applications call into the parish office, or contact the clerk.

Many Thanks

The Parish Council would like to thank:-

Angus and George for repairs to the play area fence.

&

The Scouts for work around the War Memorial and the parish office

All help is very much appreciated

Parish Maintenance Units

A Parish Maintenance Unit (PMU) is a small group of workmen employed by the County Council to carry out routine works on the roads of the county. There are several of them, and one PMU visits each parish twice a year. In Sixpenny Handley they come in April and October, but we need to forward a list of jobs we think need doing by the beginning of the previous month ie, the 1st March & 1st September. The sorts of things they do are:

- Unblocking drains and gullies, or clearing culverts, pipes and grips.
- Repairing and clearing signs
- Minor repairs to footpaths, verges and kerbs
- Removing a build up of stones, grit or gravel from junctions
- Clearing broken branches
- Repairing or replacing broken and damaged covers

If you know of any of the above that need attention, or any other highway job that might fall within their scope, please let the Clerk to the Parish Council know before the end of February.

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.**
Further details may be obtained from the current Clerk.

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.

To You All

We have now arrived at Seale Rectory, surrounded by trees, with squirrels staring malevolently in through the kitchen window, and it is all feeling a bit strange and uncertain after so many years in Sixpenny Handley. What is **not** uncertain, however, is the warmth of the send off you all gave us. It was wonderful to see so many of you at our last service in the benefice and the party afterwards was a great way to say goodbye; so our very grateful thanks to the Churchwardens for suggesting it and to Jean, Carole and Bobbie for actually making it happen!

Then there are the magnificent presents you have given us - the CDs and the chain saw - to say nothing of the boots, helmet and what not. (Now it can be revealed- I am Luke Skywalker's father!) Thank you all so very much for your generosity, for your friendship, and for just being the people you are. We shall miss you, but we'll keep in touch and there will **always** be a warm welcome for you here at Seale.

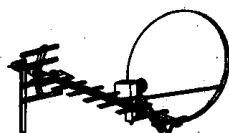
With all our love and best wishes,

Ron and Pam Wood

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News and Information

NATIONAL
FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S
INSTITUTES

Our Christmas celebrations began on December 3rd when some members attended the Group carol Service at Tarrant Gunville, followed eight days later by the County Carol Service in Wimborne Minster.

We held our party on December 13th where we welcomed guests from Institutes within our Group, our WI Advisor and four members from Lyndhurst (our twin). It was a miserable evening for travelling, patchy thick fog, but on arrival our visitors were quick to say that they had been determined to attend as "Sixpenny", apparently, has a reputation for great food and good company. Happily no one was disappointed. Members had excelled with the spread – not a jam tart in sight!

The evening's entertainment was provided by Sandy Smith and singers - 6 ladies from the Dorchester area – who gave us their interpretations of well-known hits of yesteryear. These were followed by seasonal songs and carols. Everyone was smiling.

The daytime rain and gales abated in time for our January meeting on the 10th when Mr. Pooley from Wimborne was the speaker. He told us about his days in the Army during the war having been called up on leaving school in the early forties. He then spent the next thirty years in the Kent Police Force. Mr. Pooley related his stories of military daring-do and fiendish cunning catching felons to the title of his talk "The Adventures of the Odd Man Out".

Yes! Doreen "Greenfingers" Leverton won the flower of the month and Mr Pooley judged Win Judd's magnifying glass the best exhibit.

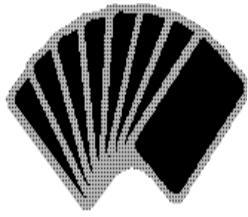
Institute Meetings: 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Feb 14 th .	Mrs Creighton – "22 years on the road with Sooty".
Mar 14 th	Two magistrates - A Presentation on The Magistracy.

Dates for your diary:

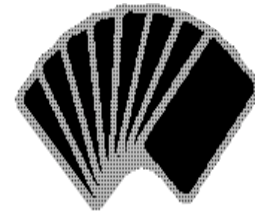
February 26 th	Jumble Sale in The Village Hall at 2.30. (See ad)
April 19 th	Spring Council Meeting at Weymouth. Main Speaker: Kate Adie.
April 26 th or 27 th	Birthday meal

Jan Gibb



Whist at The Village Hall

2004-2005 Competition



In my last column, published in the December 2004 issue of *The Downsman*, I reported on the magnificent score of 195 returned by Betty White in the 5th round of the present competition. Before bringing you up to date with the present state of play (8 competitive rounds completed), I thought it worth while in setting out the sequence of scores which Betty made in achieving her final total of 195. In the first half of the round, where she partnered John York throughout, her scores were: 10, 8, 11, 7, 7, 7, 10, 9, 9, 7, 8 and 11. The 13th deal, which proved to be their undoing, produced a 5 and a splitting of the partnership. However, while John faltered to record a total of 175, Betty went on to return 11, 7, 8, 7, 7 before a 5 and 6 saw two enforced moves, followed by 12, 8, 6 (and another move) and 9. A quite remarkable performance.

Coming up to date with the news following round 8, it is very heartening to report that for the first drive of 2005, 11 tables were in play and at the end of the evening, Dora Scammell had emerged as the highest scorer with 172, this total lifting her clear from 13th and bottom of the 1st division to 10th place and a mere 5 points adrift of Doris Gibson. In fact, the battle for supremacy in this division is far from being clear cut. Your scribe, who went into 2005 in the lead, returned 144 and as a consequence has given ground by 7 points to Doug Haskell who made 159 to give him an overall total of 1268. Edie Langley, meanwhile, has ousted David Green from 3rd place, their respective totals being 1260 and 1259. However, with less than 10 points covering the first four places, and with a relatively small (in whist terms) total of 50 points separating 1st from 13th (Daphne Killeen), I predict this seesaw battle continuing over the remaining rounds.

In Division 2, Sylvia Thorne is the new leader with an aggregate score of 1126, four points clear of John Davis who, by the same margin, leads John York. Since making her 195, Betty White has not enjoyed the best of fortune and scores of 144 and 130 have relegated her to 6th. Nonetheless, with 1107 points to her credit, it is not an insurmountable ladder to climb in order to head the 2nd division. Presently, 16 players are vying for the honours in this division and round 8 saw a number of changes in the middle order with Brenda Inness climbing and Mary Braithwaite slipping.

Julie Trickey has replaced Ruby Jacobs at the top of the 3rd division, their respective aggregate totals being 966 and 961. Bill Peach (945) remains in 3rd place, 25 points clear of Gerald Trickey who, in turn, is being very closely shadowed by Stuart Coombs. Stuart, who started the competition with a wretched 126 (Gerald began with a hefty 172), has improved steadily with scores of 154, 167, 159, 153 and 159 to reach 918, while Gerald's star has declined with returns of 152, 152, 147, 150 and 147. Sixth and seventh places are held by Tony Groves (912) and Mary Penny (884).

Finally, a very well supported Christmas drive witnessed a victorious Ray Parsons returning the highest score, 182. To all who contributed to this event, and it is unanimously agreed that the prizes were magnificent, a very heartfelt *thank you* from Doug and Chris.

Bill Chorley

The Chase Nursery



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EASTER OPEN DAY



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SIXPENNY HANDLEY VILLAGE HALL

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PARENTS AND CHILDREN COME & LOOK
AROUND AND JOIN IN THE FUN!

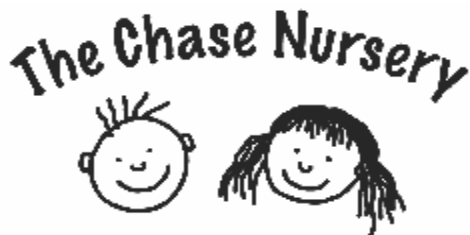


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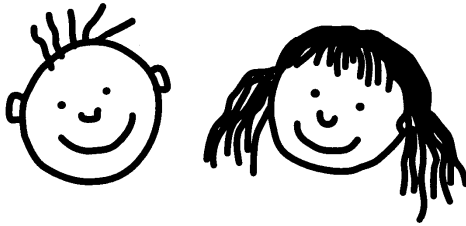


START COLLECTING THOSE
UNWANTED ITEMS NOW!

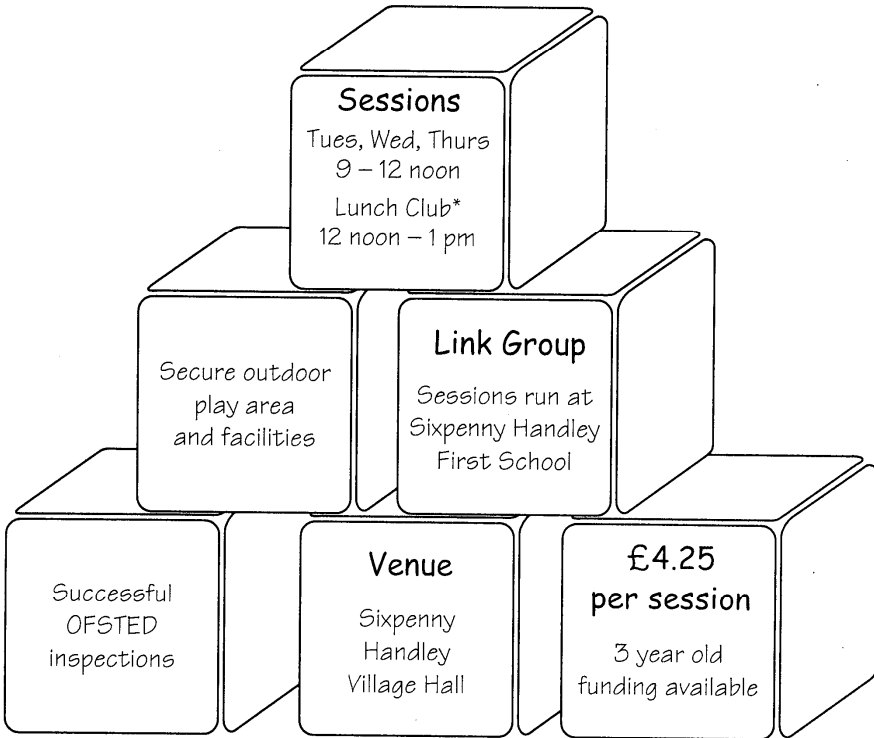
GRAND **CAR BOOT SALE** COMING TO
SIXPENNY HANDLEY IN MAY

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Secretary: Jane Laing.....01725 553146

*Thursday Lunch Club finishes at 12:45 pm

Village Hall News

WOW what a way to start a NEW YEAR. First Joint Chairman Pam left us on Jan 5th to join Ron in their new ministry near Guildford. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Pam for the work she did for the Village Hall and to wish them good luck. Second blow was Treasurer Carole left us on Jan 14th to move closer to her Grandchildren near London. Thank you Carole for your efficient and hard work. Good luck with the baby-sitting. Thirdly Secretary Tony has retired. He and his wife are going to travel abroad. Thanks for your help Tony. Do not forget to take a map, as we would love to see you back at work again. Although I hope you are going to keep an eye on us for a few weeks yet.

My thanks go to Ian Davies and Paul Skinner who have taken over as treasurer (Ian) and secretary (Paul). I am looking forward to working with both of them. Ian can be reached on Handley -552076 and Paul on Handley- 552785.

Carole Wyatt has taken over the **100 Club**. If anyone is interested in subscribing to the club Carole can be reached on Handley -552572.

We told you in the last DOWNSMAN about three shows coming up. We have had two. The attendance of over 100 people enjoyed Sid Kipper with his jokes, music and tales of Christmas past. My thanks to everyone that helped make the evening a big success.

The NEW SCORPION BAND was quite a different evening, very good and listened to by 85 people. Thanks again all who helped Julie in the kitchen. Heather and Peggy with the draw made £50.

We are now busy with the publicity for the next show. The FOREST FORGE theatre company presents the play **THE LOST WORLD** by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and from the hand out it looks as if we are in for a good evening. It is on **WEDNESDAY 2nd MARCH at 7.30pm.** Because of the size of the stage there will not be so many tickets so please book early if you want to come.

At the Sid Kipper show we held the Village Hall Christmas Draw which raised over £260. The money will go towards replacing the rest of the hall windows with double glazed units. The main prizewinners were:

£200	Pam Wood
£100	Jo Weston
£50	Diana Jones
Bottle of Whisky	Mr Williams
Bottle of Gin	Mr Bolland
Bottle of Whisky	Jenny Waddon

There were another 10 minor prizewinners. Thanks to everyone that bought tickets. Thanks also to Tony Henderson who organised and ran the draw on the night and the weeks beforehand.

By the time you read this we should have decorated the inside of the hall. I hope to report a start by the next Downsman of the disabled access and window replacement. On Sunday 9th Jan we had a morning work party. Thanks to the people that took part.

A NEW DRAMA Club starts soon on Saturday mornings look out for details.
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Melt away stress with Indian Head Massage

Indian head massage is a touch therapy which itself creates a bond and provides comfort for most people, especially those starved of physical touch who may simply find human contact very therapeutic. The simple act of sitting still with someone's healing hands on your head will disperse your stress straight away. Through touch, Indian head massage brings about a feeling of inner peace.

Massage to the head, neck and shoulders form traditional Indian head massage. Working on the major muscle groups in this part of the body can bring immediate relief as tensions are eased and fibrous knots and nodules melt away. The efficiency of the nervous, circulatory and lymphatic systems improves, toxins are dispersed from tense muscles and flexibility and fluidity of movement is restored.

As the head massage proceeds, the recipient finds that their breathing becomes deeper and relaxed supplying more oxygen to the body- the brain needs plenty of oxygenated blood to perform efficiently. As the treatment continues, a deeper sense of relaxation is induced improving energy levels. Towards the end of a head massage session it is very common to feel a tremendous sense of peace. The life-force has been balanced and the body's systems have received healing, the stress is gone together with the harm that stress may have caused to the body. It is not uncommon to find that you can solve a pressing problem whilst having a head massage. Sleep patterns improve, energy levels are boosted, niggling headaches disappear, thinking becomes clearer and you feel good all over!

Indian head massage includes the use of essential oils such as lavender, clary sage, sandalwood or citrus oils, which, after being mixed with a suitable carrier oil such as almond oil, olive oil or coconut oil which are gently massaged into the hair and scalp to increase the beneficial effects of the massage. The essential oil selected will be beneficial for particular conditions and this is an optional extra - you do not need to have the oils but it enhances the treatment if you do. The use of oils also helps to keep hair and scalp healthy and strengthens the hair.

There are some cases where head massage should not be performed and so it is important to inform the therapist of any current medical conditions or of any current prescribed medicines. It is normal practice to take a short medical history before giving Indian head massage to ensure that it is safe for the individual and that it will not aggravate any present conditions.

If we all had half an hour of Indian head massage regularly than we could do a lot to improve our health and relaxation - I am convinced that life would seem sunnier.

Why not take advantage of my special offer for February and March only! £15 for initial treatment lasting 1 hour (normally £20) and £10 for subsequent treatments lasting 45 minutes (normally £15)

Sheila Ralph

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

Master Herbalist, Iridology, Nutrition, Acupressure & Tui'na, Indian Head Massage.

Sheila has clinics at Salisbury, Blandford Forum and Sixpenny Handley, call 01725 552265 to book an appointment or for further information.

THE VICAR HAS LEFT

Ron and Pam left on the 5th January, they will be missed by many people for many reasons. The final party on Sunday the 2nd was a tremendous and happy occasion as mentioned by Wendy in The Seeker insert. Ron had expressed a wish for a chainsaw as a going away present which was not so surprising as his new patch has half an acre or more of woodland some of which needs removing to create light and more to the point somewhere for Pam to exercise her creative garden skills.

We were able to fulfil his wishes and bought him a manly Husqvana 55 Chainsaw (18inch bar) petrol machine which should be up to the job he has in mind. The thought of a Vicar being let loose with such a lethal machine made one tremble with fear for his safety so it was necessary to kit him up with safety boots, leggings, gloves and helmet (including visor and earmuffs). The necessity of providing the safety kit put us over budget and therefore if anyone missed the collection the pot is still open. All your contributions will be gratefully received - thank you (Graham or David will gladly accept your gift). The Parish Council represented by Pauline Bailey-Wright presented Ron with a montage of some of the favourite spots he passed through and admired on his frequent runs in our beautiful countryside. Both he and Pam miss us and if want to get in touch their phone number and address were given in the last issue of this magazine - they'd love to hear from you.

Where are we now? In Interregnum - 'in between reigns' the time between one leaving and another coming. The current position is that the PCCs of both parishes await a meeting with the Diocesan Pastoral Committee, Archdeacon and Rural Dean which takes place on 7th February when it is hoped that we will have a better idea of what is in the minds of the hierarchy. The possibility, as there is a need to reduce the number of stipendiary clergy within the Milton and Blandford Deanery of which we are part, that some reorganisation will be necessary for the number of parishes to be cared for to increase from two (as at present) to a larger number. We are indeed fortunate that we have a curate Revd Wendy Griffiths and this reduces the need to invite visiting clergy to maintain the patterns of worship but it does, as explained last time, mean that some services will be lead by church members - this has already been happening during January.

The next step is a meeting of the Archdeacon, Rural Dean and the four Churchwardens on 23rd February - this is to work through the legal aspects of what has been revealed in the earlier meeting on the 7th. From what has been decided or revealed it will hopefully give us the opportunity to set about advertising the vacancy. However, in the last issue I asked about an idea of the sort of replacement, I haven't heard a word and cloning Ron is not allowed. Please speak!

The community bush telegraph has gone quiet, please do let us know who needs a call, visit, transport to church, home communion. Who has been admitted to hospital so that a visit can be made, and a call please in the event of a death. Let us show the love we have for one another. **The vicarage phone has been reconnected 552608 and 'call minder' facility is available - please leave a message with your number. The phone is checked morning and afternoon and also with 'Call Minder'. Wendy, Graham and I can access the messages from our own home phones. Should you not like speaking to an answer phone then please ring David on 552721 -** mind you I might be out and therefore you will get my answer phone - it is difficult to avoid them.

A crowd of us are going up to attend Ron's Induction at Puttenham on 3rd February, more about that next time and also an update of the position on Ron's replacement.
Until then, God Bless.

David Salmons

Want to lose those extra pounds?

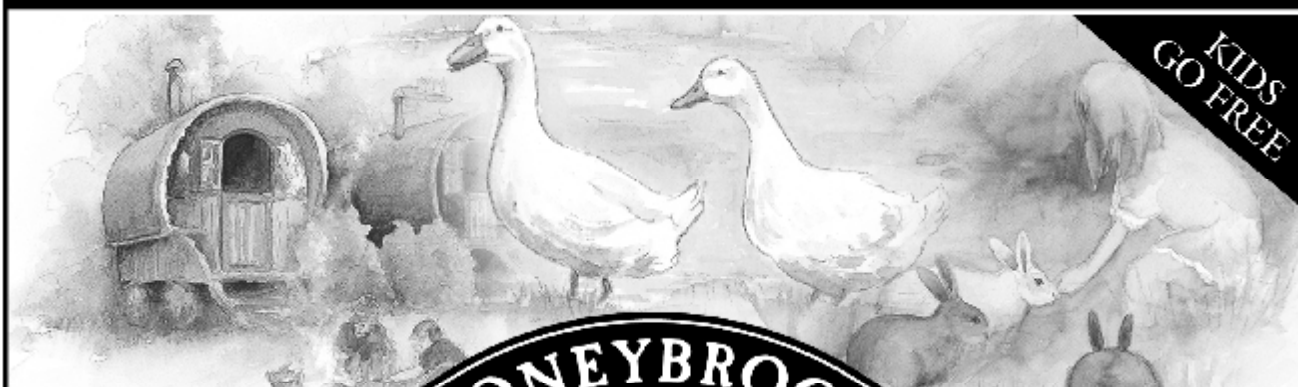


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100 Club Winners – November

1st Steve Pharo 2nd D Goddard 3rd Mrs Chandler

100 Club Winners – December

1st K Waddon 2nd David Salmons 3rd Mrs B Hornsby

If anyone would like to join the Club or know more about it, please contact
Carole Wyatt on 01725 552572

Woodcutts ----- A Prophecy

Would you like to have the standing of a prophet, as in the Old Testament? Certainly I am not in the same class as men such as Elijah or Elisha, nor yet that of Job, but I think a similarity to that of the latter would be the most appropriate. It is because of the recent tsunami, which together with the floods at Boscastle in Cornwall last year, (I had visited there a few weeks previous to the flood.) and to the floods in the Lyn Valley and the tragic happenings at Lynton and Lynmouth in 1953, on the edge of Exmoor, where I had walked in the summer of 2003, that I am thinking of the future

This has got me to thinking what could happen here? Unlike the prophets I don't have a direct line to God, although I regularly communicate with him. I don't have their same close affiliation with him as the above, named gentlemen had. However, I do have one advantage that they did not have. I am able to use the information and understanding of modern science, in its many forms.

For example tectonics and volcanology, I know about the tectonic plates that the earth's crust consists of. Anyone today can read up about them and understand that at their edges, where they meet up with others, there is more likelihood of volcanic action than there is elsewhere. For example the epicentre of the cause of the recent Asian Tsunami was one such place. Another was the island of Krakatoa in Indonesia, which almost completely disintegrated in the great, volcanic eruption of 1883. At that time, tsunamis of 120 feet were recorded, with one actually reaching the English Channel. The volcanic dust distributed in the atmosphere had serious effects on global weather for several years, cutting out the light and energy from the sun.

Meteorology is another modern science, which is far superior today, compared with biblical times, even if they did know, "Red sky at night is shepherds delight."

(See. St. Mathew's Gospel 16.2-3). Today with the help of computer models weather forecasters can forecast far more accurately than ever before and much further into the future.

While using the bible as a reference, it is a good idea to mention earthquakes forecast or described therein. Firstly the Lord mentioned earthquakes, winds and fire (eruptions) to Elijah as a punishment. (1 Kings 19.11) In the New Testament, Mathew 24.7, Jesus said, "Countries will fight, kingdoms will attack each other, there will be famine and earthquakes everywhere." In Mathew 28.2, it tells of an earthquake happening before the angel moved the stone from the entrance of Jesus's tomb. In Acts 16.26 it tells of a violent earthquake before the chains fell off Saint Paul and his prison doors opened, freeing him. So it is not all bad news from earthquakes and tsunamis. Even the last happening on Boxing Day was not completely in vain, although many Natives of Indonesia lost their lives, along with their many, foreign visitors, they did not die in vain. The result has been an immense relief effort worldwide, with G8 countries even going so far as to partially take on national debts of the worst, effected countries. The Lord moves in mysterious ways.

Maybe you will be thinking what has this to do with Woodcutts and prophecies? The answer is an immense amount. If you are a believer in Lovelock's Gaia Theory or not, you must realise that "No man is an Island". (John Donne) The one great thing that this disaster has done, is to get people from many nations, many beliefs, from many different ways of life and vastly different ideas of worldly wealth to give to others less fortunate than themselves. We in Woodcutts are no different than any other group of people, and if any member of our community had perished I am certain that we would not be seeing what "good" that has come out of this tragedy as yet.

What we must see, is that nobody is alone in this world. Even though it is highly unlikely that we are to be directly affected by volcanic action in the U.K., we could be by changing weather patterns due to atmospheric, volcanic dust from future distant quakes, as from Krakatoa in 1883. However what is almost certain is that we will experience changing weather patterns due

to global warming and the global dimming. I don't see huge floods here at Woodcutts, but the effects of torrential rain and high winds, could create crop damage; buildings and trees could be blown over and temporary floods occur, especially where man has created impervious 'bowls', as on the road to Cashmore immediately after turning off the Handley/Tollard road. This has been created because of man's thirst for more land. Until recent times, a pond could be found inside the field to the east, which took all the road drainage. Over the years this has become filled in and taken into the arable field. The rain-water can no longer permeate into the soil and subsoil, hence localised flooding. Other places in the area such as the bottom of Handley village, the road to the south of Tollard and the road south to Wimborne St Giles already flood and will do so in the future, again much of which is due to man. The amount of land claimed from natural woodland, scrubland, and downland grazing, ponds and wetlands have together with the building of more homes in inappropriate places, the extra infrastructure of roads, driveways, footpaths, concreted gardens etc. all have to be partly responsible for all the future flooding.

This flooding is unstoppable in the present climate, while up here in Woodcutts during the summer particularly, the reverse may be the case, drought. Over the years, natural downland, scrubland and woodland have made way for arable fields. The function of the previous vegetation was to supply an anchor for soil moisture. Not only did it shade much of the ground against the sun's rays, it actually prevented water from moving in the soil, keeping the water table up.

In the future, drought, particularly on higher ground around us could be a severe summer problem effecting not only arable farming, but wildlife as well. The wild flora will be affected, reducing leaf and seed growth, most of which is used as a food source by much of the fauna, which will be in dire straights, feedwise. The seed eating finches, the insect eating partridges, the slug and worm eating thrushes and blackbirds will all be searching and competing for food. A grim picture, so why don't we wake up to the facts. Let us act now, 'from little acorns oak trees grow'.

I guess that is the prophecy from Woodcutts. We have seen how the world can react to a natural catastrophe; now let us see how WE can react to a MAN MADE CATASTROPHE!! Even helping set up a community composting system and using it, will help.

For those who read the Woodcutts articles regularly, I make no apologies for the seriousness of this article. For those who are interested in anything mentioned above or related topics and want to discuss them, why doesn't the village start up its own environmental group?

To finish I feel justified in showing some of the good of global warming.

11/12/2004 Red Admiral in buddleia flowers.

15/12/2004 In garden, honeysuckle buds bursting into leaf.

18/12/2004 Wild primroses flowering in S/H Churchyard.

In the first half of December, 2004, wild, freshly hatched ducklings shown on Southern TV, and reported on in BVM magazine.

4/01/2005 Huge bumble bee visiting garden and paying particular attention to the beautiful yellow florets of the Mahonia.

Please remember that it is not our world and that God has no grandchildren, we are all equal in his eyes, in responsibility and love. May He bless us all.

Thank you for reading this article, and remember I am open to criticism. Why don't you put forward your ideas to the editor?

Ted Cox January 2005 (Woodcutts)

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- Issues related to Community Care



ROBS COLUMN

PRECIOUS TIME

I have only just a minute.
Only sixty seconds in it.
Forced upon me, can't refuse it.
Didn't seek it, didn't choose it.
But it's up to me to use it.
I must suffer if I lose it.
Just a tiny little minute.
But – Eternity is in it.

FOULING BY FARMERS?

We have to admit that agriculture is practically the only economic sector which intentionally releases massive quantities of chemical substances directly into the environment!

MARGARET QUINN'S POETRY

Another poem book to read written by Margaret Quinn a local lady. On sale at Liz's shop - about the experience in life - enjoyable, interesting, and fun to read, with money being donated to the tsunami appeal.

Look out for Quintessence Two.

JESS THE DONKEY

Over the Christmas period I took Jess the donkey to two Nativity plays at Farnham and Sutton Walden. It was nice to attend a traditional Christmas play; - he behaved wonderfully as part of the stable scenes in both churches and made the Front Cover!

NEVER GIVE UP

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will
 When the roads you're trudging seem all up hill
 When the funds are low, and the debts are high
 And you want to smile, but you have to sigh
 When care is pressing you down a bit
 Rest if you must, but don't you quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns,
 As every one of us always learns
 And many a failure turns about
 When he might have won had he stuck it out
 Don't give up, though the pace is slow,
 You might succeed with another go.

Often the goal is nearer than
 It seems to a faint and faltering man,
 Often the struggler has given up
 When he might have captured the victor's cup
 And he learned too late when the night slipped down
 How close he was to the golden crown.

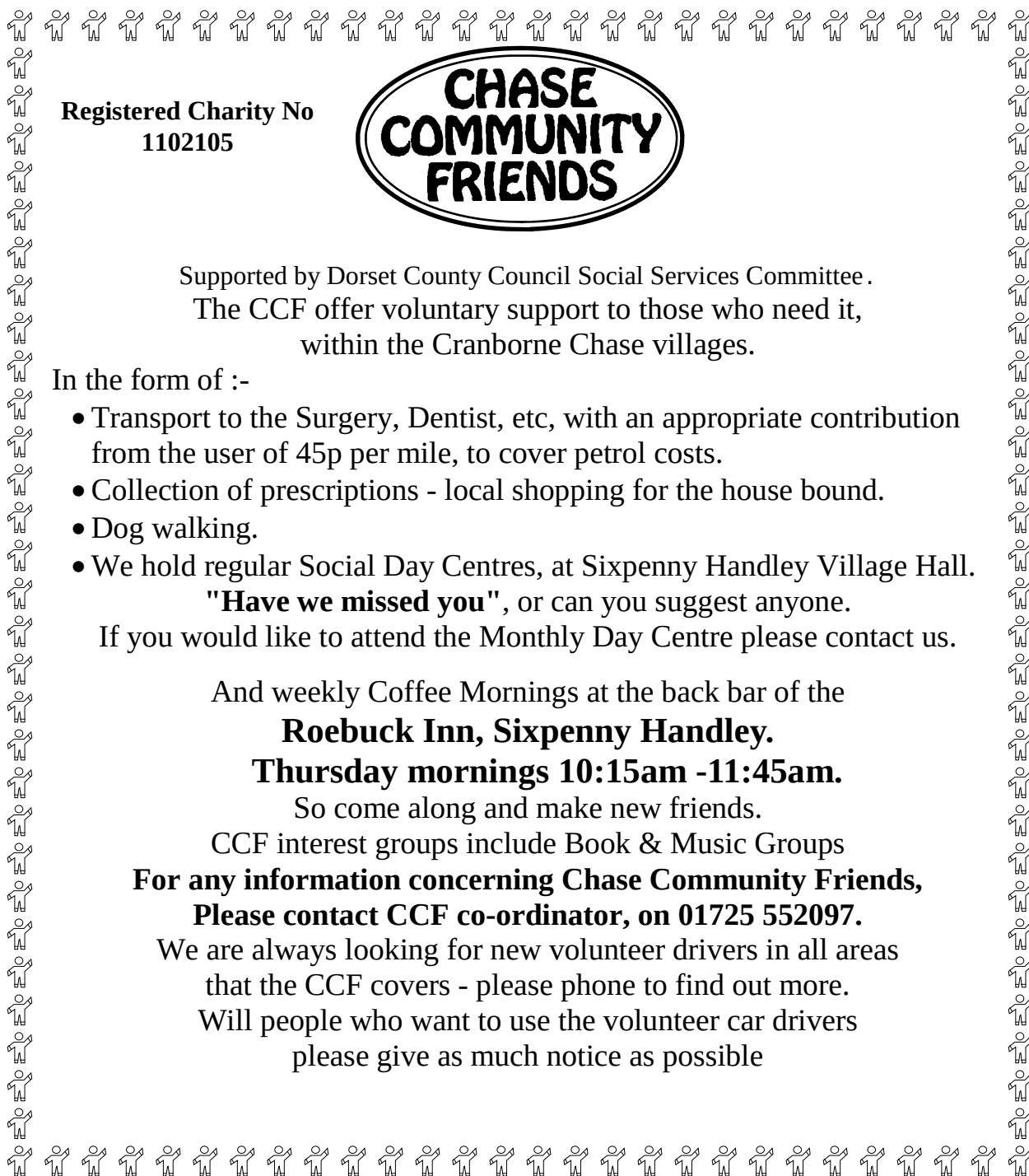
Success is failure turned inside out
 The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
 And you never can tell how close you are,
 It may be near when it seems afar,
 So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit
 It's when things seem worst that you must not quit.

BE PROUD TO BE BRITISH BECAUSE

Only in Britain – can a Pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance.
 Only in Britain - do we leave cars worth thousands of pounds on the drive and lock our
 junk and cheap lawn mowers in the garage.
 Only in Britain – do Supermarkets make sick people walk all the way to the back of the
 shop to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.
 Only in Britain – do banks leave both doors open and chain the pens to the counters.
 Only in Britain – do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries and a Diet Coke.

Handley Sports Club 100 Club**Draw No 6**

£20	201	R.M. Edwards, Town Farm Place, Sixpenny Handley
£10	175	H.D.Bartlett, Oakley Farm, Sixpenny Handley, Salisbury
£10	35	Dave Morgan
£10	156	R. Jesse, Manor Farm, West Woodyates, Salisbury
£5	93	L Burroughs, St. Mary's Close, Sixpenny Handley



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- Collection of prescriptions - local shopping for the house bound.
- Dog walking.
- We hold regular Social Day Centres, at Sixpenny Handley Village Hall.

"Have we missed you", or can you suggest anyone.
If you would like to attend the Monthly Day Centre please contact us.

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
that the CCF covers - please phone to find out more.
Will people who want to use the volunteer car drivers
please give as much notice as possible

Handley Sports Club 100 Club

Draw No 7

£20	227	Steve Green, Southfields, Gussage St. Michael, Wimborne
£10	94	Peter Stainer, High Street, Sixpenny Handley,
£10	48	Ken Jeanes Sheasby Close, Sixpenny Handley
£10	110	R.M. Edwards Town Farm Place, Sixpenny Handley
£5	189	Neil Blachford

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2005**

**on
SATURDAY 2nd APRIL**

**OPENS 2.30pm in
VILLAGE HALL**

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SCHOOL REUNION

Saturday July 23rd – Village
Hall
OPEN TO ALL

An error was made in the last issue of the Downsman – correct date for the School Reunion on Saturday 23rd July 2005.

2 pm through until late

On show will be photographs of the village, village events, school days.

5 pm – Cream Teas on sale

7.30pm – BBQ

Raffle

Music as requested

We urgently require any photographs, videos, cine films etc.

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Ben – the four legged pal ‘Cairn Terrior’ who was a friend to many in the village.

We wish to thank you all for the kindness shown to him on his walks.

He was such a character

D Rowe, B Bradbear

Sixpenny Handley Flower Show

**WANTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY**

Owing to the departure from the Village of Carole & Dennis North who were Joint Secretaries and Pam Wood who organised the entertainment at our Summer Show, the resignation of the Treasurer who is now doing a similar job at the Village Hall and also Joyce Waker from the Committee we need **five** people to join our management team. You do not necessarily need to do the same jobs as those who have left but if you are able then it would be wonderful. If you have an interest in helping to run our Spring Show on April 2nd and our Summer Show on August 20th then please contact

Thank You

We would like to thank everyone for the warmth, love and support that we have been given since our break-in on Tuesday 18th January.

It's at times like this when almost the whole village feels like a large extended family.

Please bear with us while we get things back to normal, with the building work and opening hour etc. We will try our very best not to cause any more inconvenience than is absolutely necessary.

Thank You

Chris and Bronia



Sixpenny Handley Bowls Club

Annual Presentation Luncheon

The Club held its Annual Presentation Luncheon at the Crown Hotel, Blandford on December 19th when the Certificates for the Club Competitions for the year were presented by the President, Patrick Taylor to the Winners and Runners Up as follows:-

Club Singles Champion -	Colin Chambers
Runner Up -	David Adams
Novice Singles Champion -	Graham Maidment
Runner Up -	Bill Steele
Ladies Singles Champion -	Vanessa Rowe
Runner Up -	Phyllis Chown
Mixed Pairs Championship -	Brian Hansford & Phyllis Chown
Triples Championship -	Vanessa Rowe, Colin Mardlin & Brian Hansford(Skip)
Runners Up -	Jean Maidment, Gill Martin & Colin Chambers (Skip)
Fours Championship-	Phyllis Chown, Malcolm Gerry, Geoffrey Toomer & Brian Hansford (Skip)
Runners Up -	Sarah Churchill, Doris Day, Donald Gray & David Adams (Skip)
Short Mat Singles Champion-	Tony Groves
Runner Up -	Phyllis Chown
Short Mat Pairs Champions-	Gordon Martin & Phyllis Chown
Runners Up -	Clifford Miles & Patricia Oxford

Short Mat Leagues

Both Teams are still struggling in Div. 1 and Div 4. Although some points have been obtained it is not looking very promising that they will not be relegated this year. There are still a few games to go and we hope that they will just manage to survive.



Future dates for the diary

Skittles at the Langton Arms -	18th February
Bowls Club Quiz Nights -	9th April and 26th November
Opening of the Season -	24th April
Open Day -	Sunday 22nd May
Annual Bar-B-Que -	16th July
Presidents Day -	7th August
Annual Jumble Sale -	10th September
Annual Luncheon - at the Crown Hotel -	11th December

Brian Hansford

Thank You

New. Nellie

The family of Nellie would like to thank everyone who attended her funeral, for flowers, lovely cards, letters and very generous donations to Marie Curie. Also to friends and neighbours for their kindness and support.

Angela Gray



A very quick 'News from the Troop'.

We are all now back after the Christmas break and looking forward to the coming year.

The following activities have been planned for 2005 and we are now busy arranging for the coming year;-

Visit to London. This will be during the last weekend of February. The Scouts are deciding what sites they would like to go and see. It is a close runner between the London Eye, The Tower, The Science Museum and The London Dungeons. We will be able to tell you about this day out in the next issue of the Downsman.

Easter Camp. The Easter Camp will be on the Isle of Wight at the Little Canada Adventure Centre. Activities to be confirmed, but have in the past included quad biking, climbing, air rifles, archery, trampolining to name a few.

Summer Camp. This year we will be off to Wales for a week. The camp will combine adventurous activities in and around the Brecon Beacons and the challenge of camping under canvas and cooking on real fires.



Further to the main activities of the year we are planning days out to the Historic Ships at Portsmouth, Yeovilton Airshow and a 'back woods' camp for the older Scouts. This back woods camp will involve building and sleeping in shelters and cooking over fires without using any utensils – watch out Ray Mears!

District Air Rifle Competition.

In January 13 Scouts visited West Moors for an evening of air rifle shooting. The two highest scoring Scouts under the age of 14 years and three months have progressed to the District final. Good luck to our sharp shooters Chris Masson and Martin Cullen in the final.

Rob Easton, Scout Leader - 1st Woodcutts



Be Warned

A respectable lady comes to your door saying her car has broken down just down the road, and asks to use your telephone to call her husband. You watch as she dials up and has a conversation with, for example, a secretary who is asked to get the husband out of a meeting. After about 5 minutes she hangs up, thanks you and offers £1.00 for the call. She then leaves and you think no more about it until you get your phone bill.

In fact, she has called up her own premium number phone line (only costs £150 to set one up) and the charges are set at £50.00 per minute, so you get a bill for £250.00 for the 5-minute call. And it is all quite legal, because she asked your permission to use your phone. Be warned!

Submitted by Pam Cooper

“Tom Swifties” by Ben Schott

Reproduced from The Daily Telegraph 20/11/04

“England should join the Euro”, Tom expounded.
 “Germany should leave the Euro,” Tom remarked.
 “The Royal Mail is simply dreadful,” Tom reposted.
 “Can we have legislation regarding demons?” Tom Implored
 “That horse will definitely win, “ Tom asserted.
 “I think I will have another glass of Fonseca,” Tom reported.
 “It's the breach of a duty imposed by law, whereby some person acquires a right of action
 for damages,” Tom retorted.
 “He's a hardened criminal,” Tom confirmed.
 “It's the finest Belgian ferry port,” said Tom ostentatiously.
 “I'll have to change my shoes now,” Tom muttered.
 “You can hear the soprano part in the headphones,” said Tom incandescently.
 “Let's have a debate about cows,” Tom mooted.
 “I'm glad we scrapped grammar schools,” said Tom incomprehensibly.
 “Make sure *all* the seeds are planted,” said Tom sorrowfully.
 “He's swimming to the Isle of Wight,” said Tom insolently.
 “He's always shouting at the food shop,” deliberated Tom.
 “He's borrowed money from the police,” said Tom copiously.
 “Genetic screening is a positive development,” Tom protested.
 “I've lost *all* of your John Thaw DVDs,” said Tom remorsefully.
 “I can't tell you how much it resembles a table,” said Tom veritably.
 “Show no mercy killing the vampire,” said Tom painstakingly.
 “It's Eric Morecambe,” said Ernie wisely.
 “I used to like old fashioned glasses,” said Tom retrospectively.
 “Parsley, rosemary and thyme,” said Tom sagely.
 “This package holiday is terrible,” Tom reprimanded.
 “It keeps my hair in place,” said Alice with abandon.
 “Nothing will come of nothing,” the king leered,
 “I do own a glove made of animal skin,” said Tom affirmatively.
 “I have exhausted my magical powers,” the witch spelled out.
 “I've omitted one of the books from the Bible,” said Tom ruthlessly.
 “I've come about the kitchen on the QEII,” said Tom regally.
 “I've told them what time supper is served,” said Tom sedately.
 “The Conservatives will never take Sedgefield,” said Tony notoriously.
 “I shall get the barber-shop singers” said Tom menacingly.
 “I hate camping,” said Tom with intent.
 “The Young Conservatives are throwing a party,” said Tom meritoriously.
 “And they have the nerve to call it Unemployment Benefit,” said Tom dolefully.
 “I wrote the New York Trilogy,” said Paul austerey.
 “Don't work the dough so hard,” said Tom needlessly.
 “I'm one of the Beatles,” said Ringo affably.
 “This bacon has spots,” said Tom rashly.
 “I hate nouns and adjectives,” said Tom proverbially.
 “We'll never harvest all this hay,” said Tom balefully.
 “This sea-spray will ruin all the metal-work,” said Tom mistrustfully.

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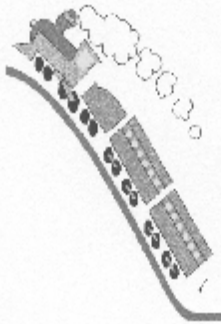
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Or Email brightsparksare@aol.com



The Childrens' Own

A Message From the Church

Wendy your curate, sends her love to you all, and we have written a prayer for you on her behalf, to say at bedtime each night. She is now very busy, as she works to earn a living, works in the church as our minister and has granddaughters to look after.

Dear Lord Jesus, please look after us, keep us safe and happy.
Please look after our friends and family, and all those children
in the world, less fortunate than ourselves. Especially be with those
children who have suffered as a result of the tsunami in Asia.
Thank you Lord Jesus. Amen.

Hello again to you all, we hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and got all those presents you wanted. Now you are back to school and waiting for the Easter holidays. In the meantime we will have the Spring to look forward to. When green leaves come back on our trees and shrubs, grass starts growing again and spring flowers start opening their buds, starting with the wild primroses, closely followed by the celandines, the violets, the bluebells and many, many more of many different shapes, sizes and colours. Mr. Pippin loves the countryside in Spring and he hopes you do too. If you don't, look around you at the trees, flowers, birds, butterflies and wild animals, stop, look, listen to and at them all, from the biggest animals, the deer, to the smallest birds the wrens. If you watch you will learn to love them too. Go out look for wild primroses, daffodils, dark blue, sweet violets, light blue, dog violets and of course the white violets. Now Mr. Pippin has made up a short quiz about the countryside for you.

- 1.) Can you name three common trees that each have only three letters in their names? (Fir is not counted.)
- 2.) Which is the largest bird seen around Sixpenny Handley? (Clue. Found mostly near water.)
- 3.) How did the *prim(e)*rose get its name?
- 4.) What do wild deer feed on?
- 5.) Nuts are always eaten more at Christmas, can you name one that grows in our country hedgerows?
- 6.) Do you know how the hedgehog spends his Christmas?
- 7.) Where would you expect to find a pheasant's nest? (Clue. It isn't up a tree.)
- 8.) Do you know what colour the mother blackbird's feathers are. (Clue. They aren't black.)
- 9.) What is a bluebottle? (Clue. It isn't a policeman.)
- 10.) What colour is the Brimstone butterfly, which is often the first to be seen in spring?

The answers to this quiz will be in the next Downsman. This gives you plenty of time to find them. Mr. Pippin says that he will give a book about the countryside, (natural history), to the first person to give the correct answers to him. Get Mum to leave it at the Church for him. If you win, Mr Pippin will put your name in the April Downsman. Good luck.

Mr. Pippin's Apology!

Because of the cold, wet weather we have had recently, Mr. Pippin has not been able to stand about long enough for our artist to draw him in the churchyard. He apologises profusely and promises he will be in the next Downsman with his churchyard friends.

In the meantime, he has sent two short poems about his family home and land he owns.

Now we will have an old rhyme about the weather.

King Pippin's Hall

King Pippin he built a fine new hall,
 Pastry and piecrust that was the wall;
 The windows were made of black
 pudding and white,
 Slated with pancakes, you never saw
 like.

Pippin Hill

As I went up Pippin Hill,
 Pippin Hill was dirty,
 Then I met a pretty miss,
 And she dropped me a curtsey.
 Little miss, pretty miss,
 Blessings light upon you!
 If I had half-a-crown a day

January brings the snow,
 Makes our feet and fingers glow.
 February brings the rain,
 Thaws the frozen lakes again.
 March brings breezes loud and shrill,
 Stirs the dancing daffodil.
 April brings the primrose sweet,
 Scatters daises at our feet.
 May brings flocks of pretty lambs,
 Skipping by their fleecy dams.
 June brings tulips, lilies, roses,
 Fills the children's hands with posies.
 Hot July brings cooling showers,
 Apricots and gillyflowers.
 August brings the sheaves of corn,
 Then the harvest home is borne.
 Warm September brings the fruit,
 Sportsmen then begin to shoot.
 Fresh October brings the pheasant,
 Then to gather nuts is pleasant.
 Dull November brings the blast,
 Then the leaves are whirling fast.
 Chill December brings the sleet,
 Blazing fire, and Christmas treat.

This poem was written by a lady called Sara Coleridge, who died in 1852, aged 50. She probably wrote this before 1834, when she published a book for children.

That means it first appeared over 200 years ago. Do you think the weather has changed since then?

She says March brings the daffodils, if you go to Bowerchalke now, the middle of January, you will see daffodils in flower at the side of the road. She mentions primroses in April and they have been in flower since mid-December in the churchyard.

What does she mean by "August brings the sheaves of corn, then the harvest home is borne."? What are sheaves? Where were the combines? Why is harvest finished by the end of August? How about finding out and telling us all about these matters in the next Downsman.

This is your page, please write to us about it. We will make sure there is a post-box in the Church for your entry and possibly one in the village, we will let you know.

Forever Living Products



"Forever Living Products is an established cash rich international company, which recently gained the 'Investors in People' award. It has an extensive range of health, nutrition and skincare products. Multi-Level-Marketing (MLM) is not a selling business, as most people assume. Rather, it is a teaching/coaching business and is based on bringing together groups of like-minded individuals who

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Dr. Peter Atherton, Nursing in Practice September 2004

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By recycling these potential landfill polluters, money can be raised to fund vital research to improve treatment of Chronic Granulomatous Disorder (CGD), a rare genetic condition which entails the malfunction of certain white " blood cells. All recycled phones are sold to developing countries after refurbishments.

The project is organised by Community Fonebak in conjunction with The Link and Shields Environmental.

Phones can be handed in to Liz Coombs at Sixpenny-Handley Post Office.

Alice Lovell

For more information on the Community Fonebak project go to: www.comunityfonebak.com
On CGD: www.cgd.org.uk

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Sixpenny Handley Homewatch



The night-time raid on Half-a-Sixpence on 17 January, during which thieves made off with the cash dispenser, was the most serious crime in our community since the Post Office robbery last year. The shop was entered after being rammed by a stolen vehicle. The crime had clearly been well-planned as two other get-away cars were involved.

Police responded well when the alarm was raised, providing telephone advice during the raid while the Dorset Police helicopter was immediately scrambled. By the time it was over the village minutes later, however, the raiders had escaped. Fortunately, no-one was hurt during the raid. Forensic evidence has been recovered, however, and the police investigation continues.

In connection with this crime, the police have advised that owners of 4x4 vehicles should be aware that this sort of vehicle is favoured by ram raiders. There had been an attempt to steal a Range Rover from Cranborne earlier that evening, which police think may be linked to the Handley shop raid. A series of ram raids a few years ago was thwarted when offenders were detected whilst stealing such a vehicle. They were subsequently imprisoned.

Other reported crimes include an attempted burglary in Sheasby Close (18th January), theft of some unsecured items in the vicinity of the church and, late last year, criminal damage to several vehicles parked in the village.

PC Graham Collins, our Detached Beat Officer comments, "In the area as a whole crime continues to be low but if we could remove from the list of reported crimes those that were committed via insecure buildings, etc. we could reduce the figures by a further 50%." In this respect, the ball is firmly in our court.

Finally, we have had reports of a number of jobbing 'gardeners' and 'handymen' offering to undertake maintenance jobs around homes in the Parish and then charging huge sums for the work. Whilst not necessarily a criminal act, this sort of exploitation can likewise be defeated by a more cautious and less casual approach.

The reality these days, whether we like it or not, is that everything needs to be secured and no-body should be trusted unless they are known. Please make this the year you make the criminals' lives more difficult in our Parish.

GARDENS OPEN

Our Third Open Gardens weekend will be held on Saturday and Sunday 25th and 26th June. Anyone who would like to have their garden open during that weekend please let either Jean Mayne on 552692 or Carole Wyatt on 553572 know by the end of February.

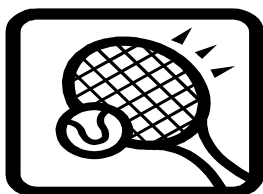
Sixpenny Handley And Chalke Valley Practice

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



SIXPENNY HANDLEY TENNIS CLUB

After the disappointment of a *false start* earlier in the year, the Club held a hugely successful *quiz evening* on Saturday, November 27th, at the village hall. A total of 11 teams contested for the honours, and following 20 rounds of teasing questions, set by Paul and Annie Noble, 'The Swan Sizzlers' emerged the victors with 71 points, five clear of 'The Syddall Sensations'. Third and fourth places were taken by 'The Taylor Tornados' and 'BASH' with final scores of 64 and 62 points respectively. A very hard working committee ensured that excellent refreshments appeared at the halfway stage of the contest, and following the prize giving, at which our Honorary Vice-President, Victor Fryer, officiated, the evening closed with a draw and a 'Heads and Tails' knockout, with a bottle of whiskey going to the lucky winner.

Such was the overall appreciation of those present, I am confident that the Club will receive more than 11 entries for their next *quiz evening*. In similar vein to the well established and immensely popular Bowls Club *quiz nights*, the various categories of questions (each round comprised of five questions) were of a general knowledge nature, thus allowing everyone a pretty even opportunity to shine. Well done, indeed, and a heartfelt 'thank you' to all concerned with making the evening so enjoyable.

Since reporting the outcome of the Club's Annual General Meeting (see the December issue of *The Downsman*), a new committee has been formed. Michael Catchpole continues as Chairman and Adam Scott-Macmillan has agreed to continue as the Club's secretary. The vacant posts of Vice-Chairman and Honorary Treasurer have been filled by Toby Mills and Laura Loncar respectively, while the committee now comprises of Bridget Hornsby, Maureen Swan and Iain Laing. Coaching will be under the experienced hand of Ronnie Peck.

Although several months of winter chill lies ahead, with the *all weather* playing surfaces of the two courts there is absolutely no reason whatsoever why members should not continue to enjoy their tennis. Apart from the break for the Christmas holiday, the usual Wednesday morning coaching sessions will take place at the allotted times of 0930 to 1030 and 1030 to noon. For further details of Club activities, please visit the Sixpenny Handley village website, www.sixpennyhandley.com and after entering, click on 'clubs'.

Bill Chorley

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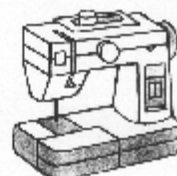
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Sapper Arthur New (12918)
12th Field Company, Royal Engineers

An intimate background history of Sapper Arthur New remains, for the time being, a mystery. There are no next of kin details appended against his name in the register for Houplines Communal Cemetery Extension, while a search of the 1901 Census for a possible steer in the direction of his parents has proven inconclusive; neither have I been able to pick up on the surname 'New' from the '*Kelly's Directory 1907*', a copy of which was very kindly loaned to me by Robert Jesse. Therefore, the construction of Arthur New's profile has to be of a general nature.

Fortunately, there are a number of very helpful sources which enable me to build up a reasonably accurate assessment of the events that led to his death on the 23rd of March, 1915, the first of these being a chronological diary for the 12th Field Company, Royal Engineers. Compiled circa 1925 by M R Caldwell, writer of the history of the 12th Field Company, Royal Engineers, the chronological table shows the '12th' arriving at Queenstown from their long established base at Fermoy in the south of Ireland on the 19th of August (the Great War had been in progress for a shade over a fortnight) from whence it departed for Liverpool aboard the *S.S Maian* on the 21st.

Over the next 24-hours, a flurry of movement orders were issued, the '12th' having been assigned to the 6th Division, and early in September 1914, the entire division commenced moving to France, the '12th' disembarking from the *S.S Oxonian* at St. Nazaire on September 10th, a Thursday. Two days later, and with barely time to become acquainted with service in '*foreign fields*' the 6th Division was embroiled in the *Battle of the Aisne* (referred to, historically, as the First Battle) which was directed against the right wing of the German First and Second armies, now falling back after their initial successes at Mons and subsequent advance towards Paris (see my profiles on Privates Weeks and Phillips of the 1st Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment).

Although the Great War was still in its embryo stages, this hard fought battle provided a portent for future fighting on the Western Front. Massive frontal attacks by the French and the British, which enabled the assaulting troops to establish a bridgehead on the north bank of the river by the 14th, were eventually repulsed by well directed defensive tactics employed by the enemy, particularly in respect of their use of the machine gun. By the 28th of September, the heaviest of the fighting was over and now began a series of manoeuvres by both sides as each tried to outflank the other in what has become known as '*the race to the sea*'. In this ploy neither side gained ascendancy and, as is now widely recognised, the Western Front became a scene of unimaginable deprivation for those whose lot it was to live, fight and die, often up against the barbed wire that was a dominant feature of the elaborately constructed trench defences.

It is not possible for me to say what part Sapper Arthur New played in this dark scenario of fighting that marks the first months of the Great War. A cursory examination of his unit's *War Diary* shows that he was probably involved throughout most of February 1915, in trench construction and general maintenance, these mundane (though not without the ever present danger from enemy shelling) tasks continuing into March. Then, on the 10th of March, the '12th' was ordered to link up with two companies of the 1st Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment, for a series actions around L'EpINETTE and I strongly suspect that it was during this phase of localised fighting that Arthur New was either killed, or mortally wounded. Whatever the circumstances, another life had been lost and for his next of kin, relatives and friends, Tuesday the 23rd of March 1915, would for ever be in their thoughts.

As recounted, he rests in France at Houplines Communal Cemetery Extension, his mortal remains being placed in plot III, row C, grave 15.

For anyone wishing to pay their respects at his graveside, then it is not too difficult a journey to make, particular with the excellent *Euro Star* train service from Waterloo to Lille. From Lille there are frequent train services to Armentieres, after which it is a mere couple of kilometres or so from the centre of Armentieres to the cemetery at Houplines.

Bill Chorley

**THE BRITISH RED CROSS
ASIA EARTHQUAKE AND FLOODS APPEAL**

The coffee morning, held at 10 Sycamore Close, on Saturday, 15th January, raised a magnificent total of £342.00, after which a further £5 was given in the form of a donation, thus making a total of £347.00, which was duly taken to, and most gratefully received by the society's Salisbury branch.

To all contributed, either through attendance, or by generously giving raffle prizes and items for the *bring and buy* stall, and to Heather, Joyce and Sheila for helping to *man the door*, oversee the raffle and to help with the *bring and buy*, 'thank you'.

M A D M A R C H R E E L I N G

SATURDAY 12th MARCH, 2005

At The Barn, Woodyates

7.30 p.m.

Reeling from 8.45 p.m.

Hot supper with a glass of mulled wine
BYOB – no licence

Tickets £12.50
Children under 12 £6.00

Raffle

Tickets from Jane King 01725 552231

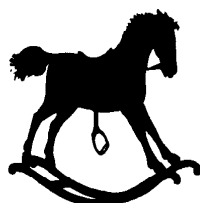
THE POSTIES OF SIXPENNY HANDLEY

**WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS THEIR THANKS FOR ALL THE GENEROUS
GRATUITIES RECEIVED OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD**

**AND WISH ALL OUR CUSTOMERS
A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR**



HAPPY NAPPY

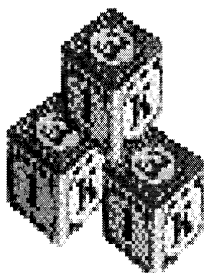


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CHASE YOUTH THEATRE

**Drama group starting in February
At
Sixpenny Handley Village Hall
Saturday mornings**

Aged 8 and over

**For more information or to register,
please phone**

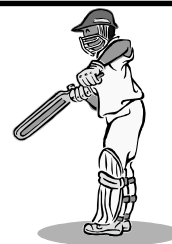
Gail Blues on

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Promoting Sport for All in Sixpenny Handley

A new and revitalised



Sixpenny Handley Sports Association

has been formed!

Newly elected on 15 Nov 04, your officers are:

Chairman: Toby Mills Tel. 552727

Vice Chairman: Tim Reynolds Tel. 552995

Secretary & Treasurer: Brian Hansford Tel. 552468

Watch out for future announcements!



News and Information

NATIONAL
FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S
INSTITUTES

Womens' Institute Jumble Sale

Saturday 26th February at 2.30pm in the Village Hall.

Jumble, Cakes, Plants, Bric-a-brac, Toys, Books, & much more

Admission 20p.

We would be happy to collect or you may leave at the Village Hall on the day
from 9 am.

ST .MARY'S CHURCH, SIXPENNY HANDLEY
PROUDLY PRESENTS
IN CONCERT
**THE BAND OF THE
ROYAL CORPS OF
SIGNALS**

FRIDAY, 18th MARCH
AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH
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7.30pm

INTERVAL REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

TICKETS £6 ADULTS £3 CHILDREN

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David Brent's

OFFICE WISDOM

- Eagles may soar high, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.
- Lack of planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part.
- There may be no 'I' in team, but there's a 'ME' if you look hard enough.
- Process and Procedure are the last hiding place of people without the wit and wisdom to do their job properly.
- Remember that age and treachery will always triumph over youth and ability.
- Never do today that which will become someone else's responsibility tomorrow.
- Every time you open your mouth you have this wonderful ability to continually confirm what I think.
- Show me a good loser and I'll show you a LOSER!
- Put the key of despair into the lock of apathy. Turn the knob of mediocrity slowly and open the gates of despondency - welcome to a day in the average office.
- It's the team that matters. Where would The Beatles be without Ringo? If John got Yoko to play drums the history of music would be completely different.
- What does a squirrel do in the summer? It buries nuts. Why? Cos then in winter time he's got something to eat and he won't die. So, collecting nuts in the summer is worthwhile work. Every task you do at work think, would a squirrel do that? Think squirrels. Think nuts.
- When confronted by a difficult problem, you can solve it more easily by reducing it to the question, "How would the Lone Ranger handle this?"
- Accept that some days you are the pigeon, and some days you are the statue.
- If your boss is getting you down, look at him through the prongs of a fork and imagine him in jail.
- If you can keep your head when all around you have lost theirs, then you probably haven't understood the seriousness of the situation.
- You don't have to be mad to work here! In fact we ask you to complete a medical questionnaire to ensure that you are not.
- If you treat the people around you with love and respect, they will never guess that you're trying to get them sacked.
- If at first you don't succeed, remove all evidence you ever tried.
- You have to be 100% behind someone, before you can stab them in the back.
- If work was so good, the rich would have kept more of it for themselves.
- Those of you who think you know everything are annoying to those of us who do.
- There's no 'I' in 'team'. But then there's no 'I' in 'useless smug colleague', either. And there's four in 'platitude-quoting idiot'. Go figure.
- Know your limitations and be content with them. Too much ambition results in promotion to a job you can't do.
- Make good use of your cylindrical filing unit, the one you mainly keep under your desk.
- Quitters never win, winners never quit. But those who never win and never quit are idiots.
- If you're gonna be late, then be late and not just 2 minutes - make it an hour and enjoy your breakfast.
- Remember the 3 golden rules: 1. It was like that when I got here. 2. I didn't do it. 3. (To your Boss) I like your style.
- The office is like an army, and I'm the field general. You're my footsoldiers and customer quality is the WAR!!!
- Set out to leave the first vapour trail in the blue-sky scenario.
- Statistics are like a lamp-post to a drunken man - more for leaning on than illumination.
- A problem shared is a problem halved, so is your problem really yours or just half of someone else's?
- Is your work done? Are all pigs fed, watered and ready to fly?....
- You don't have to be mad to work here, but you do have to be on time, well presented, a team player, customer service focused and sober!!
- I thought I could see the light at the end of the tunnel, but it was just some b*stard with a torch, bringing me more work.
- Avoid employing unlucky people - throw half of the pile of CVs in the bin without reading them.

By Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Adapted by Nobby Dimon
Directed by Sean Aita

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Sixpenny Handley Village Hall

Wed 2nd March 7-30 pm

Price Adults £6 Under 18s £4

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The Downsman

DON'T FORGET WHATS ON!!!

DATE	FUNCTION	PAGE	DATE	FUNCTION	PAGE
Feb-03	Chase Community Friends	23	Mar-23	Whist at The Village Hall	08
			Mar-23	Chase Nursery Open Day	09
			Mar-24	Chase Community Friends	23
Feb-09	Whist at The Village Hall	08	Mar-31	Chase Community Friends	23
			Apr-02	Spring Flower Show	24
			Apr-06	Whist at The Village Hall	08
Feb-10	Chase Community Friends	23	Apr-07	Chase Community Friends	23
			Apr-09	Bowls Club Quiz Night	27
			Apr-14	Chase Community Friends	23
			Apr-20	Whist at The Village Hall	08
Feb-14	W I Meeting	07	Apr-24	Bowls Club Season Opens	27
			May-	Whist at The Village Hall	08
			May-	Whist Prize Presentation	08
Feb-17	Chase Community Friends	23	May-	Bowls Club Open Day	27
			Jun-25	Gardens Open Weekend	36
			Jun-26	Gardens Open Weekend	36
Feb-18	Bowls Club Skittles	27	Jul-16	Bowls Club Bar-B-Que	27
			Jul-23	School Reunion	25