

The Downsman

NEWS AND INFORMATION
MAGAZINE

**Parish Plan Questionnaire
repeated in this issue for
those that missed it last
time - just complete the
pull out section and
send it in**

And also included - a
separate questionnaire
for the **youth** of the Parish.
Come on, tell them what is
really needed.

**PARISH OF SIXPENNY HANDLEY
WITH PENTRIDGE**

April 2006

**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

Vice-Chairman	Dr. Judith Gillespie Smith	552576
	Mr. R. Ferguson.....	552222
	Ian Davies.....	552076
	Christopher Snape.....	553001
	Gill Martin.....	552297
	Parish Office.....	552211

Clerk**Assistant Clerk****Member Parliament****County Councillor**

	Robert Walter.....	020 7219 6981
	Mr. T. Palmer.....	552321
		Fax 552405

District Councillor**Rights of Way Liaison Officers**

Sixpenny Handley		
Pentridge	Ian Davies.....	552076

The Downsman Team

Editor	Kathryn Radclyffe.....	552829
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	Rev. Wendy Griffith...	01258
Curate		
840557		
Roman Catholic	Church of Our Lady of Lourdes & St. Cecilia, Blandford Forum	
Priest	Rev. Fr. Ciaran McGuinness, W.F. The Prestbury, Whitecliff Mill St.	
		01258 452051

1st Woodcutts Scout Group

Group Scout Leader	John Curtis.....	552397
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	Tess Reith.....	

The Chase Nursery Link Group

Contact	Jane Laing.....	553146
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Sixpenny Handley Homewatch

Overall Co-ordinator & Police Focal Point

	John Curtis.....	552397
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Co-ordinators

Area 1 - Dean Lane	Don Penrose.....	552022
2 - Lower Handley	Chris Stokes	
3 - Upper Handley	John Clarke.....	552674
4 - Deanland & N.E.	Charles Nodder.....	552292
5 - West & South	Simon Meaden.....	552715

Other Areas (These are separate Homewatch**Schemes)**

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

The Chase Nursery

Chairperson	Ciona Nicholson.....	553040
Secretary	Jane Laing.....	553146

Sixpenny Handley W.I. (Formed in 1922)

President	Mrs Jan Gibb.....	552704
Secretary	Mrs H. Eynon.....	552308

Sixpenny Handley Mother's Union

Leader	Jean Mayne.....	552692
Secretary	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

Handley Sports Under 9s

Manager	Adam Day.....	01258 452481
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Chase Community Friends

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

Sixpenny Handley Tennis Club

Chairman	Michael Catchpole.....	552879
Secretary	Adam Macmillan-Scott....	552249
Membership/Treasurer	Laura Loncar.....	552651

Sixpenny Handley Cricket Club

Treasurer	Ian Davies.....	552076
Secretary	Juli Spendley.....	01202 822818

Happy Nappy Club

	Hilary.....	552866
	Becky.....	552545
	Jill.....	552159
	Maureen.....	552561

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
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Welcome to the latest edition of The Downsman.

All your contributions to.....

Kathryn Radclyffe, Parish Office, Unit 5B, Town Farm Workshops, Sixpenny Handley
Telephone – 01725 552829

E-mail: downsman@sixpennyhandley.org

The end of an era

After 9 years and 54 issues, this is my last effort as the Editor of The Downsman. It has been a great experience, with both highs and lows, bright ideas and spelling mistakes.

When I was asked in 1997 to take on the magazine I did not realize that I was letting myself in for such a long haul. However I have really enjoyed being involved.

Editing the magazine has led myself and Geraldine to meet and become friends with lots of people within the Parish and I am proud to have been associated with what, I think, has become a very successful magazine.

Success though, is not just about the Editor, the magazine needs support from the community and the number of people who have contributed over the years is amazing, too many to list all the names, but I would particularly like to mention Bill Chorley and Ted Cox who have hardly missed an issue since they first sent in an article.

The magazine also needs to be printed and put together. Brian Hansford has printed every issue and led a team of volunteers who have collated and put together 54 issues, upwards of 680 copies each time with 40 to 50 pages on average – more than 1.5 million pages – and hardly any upside down!!

Finally, the work described above would all come to nought if the magazine never reached its readers and therefore enormous thanks must go to the members of the Home Watch and the other people who have delivered The Downsman in all sorts of weathers.

And behind all this is Gill Martin chasing our advertisers for their money.

The production of The Downsman has been a true team effort and I would like to express my sincere thanks to all those involved that have supported me over the years.

Going forward, I am sure that the team will support our new Editor, Kathryn Radclyffe, and help her quickly get into the swing of things.

Kathryn can be contacted on 552829, by e-mail on downsman@sixpennyhandley.org or by dropping any printed or hand written contributions off at the Parish Office.

Having lived in the village since 1988 Geraldine and I are going to miss you all when we do leave, but our memories will be wonderful.

In those classic words – **So long, and thanks for all the fish!**

Alan Vincent

Ps - If anybody wants to read some of the early articles then go to www.thedownsman.org.uk



The next edition of this Magazine will be published on the
1st June 2006

Copy Deadline is 20th May 2006

Views expressed in this magazine are those of our correspondents and do not necessarily reflect the opinions held by the Editor or Members of The Parish Council.

ROBS COLUMN

Sockets and Sinews

I get the feel now-a-days,
 Me bones they don't agree,
 That all me joints and sinews,
 Have had enough of me.

For they seem to fight each other,
 And sometimes cause me pain,
 Which often makes me wonder?
 Will they ever work again?

For work is what I've made them do
 To bend and lift and run,
 An exercise that's good for them,
 When the body's young.

So even if the mind stays keen
 And full of gaiety
 The poor old joints and sinews
 Cry out for sympathy.

It's the hippies that won't let me bend
 Although they're on me side
 I'll need some artificial ones
 Like other folks have tried.

But the weight can be a worry
 With that ever lasting band
 That plays around me middle
 As it gradually expands.

And the feet that we all tread on,
 There's a harvest always there,
 For the corns will need some cutting
 Or it's agony we bear.

Still all these things may come to us,
 As the years go by
 If only we could oil our joints
 To stop them going dry.

**Did you hear about the sudden
 industrial action by weather
 forecasters?**

(It was a lightning strike)

Why do milking stools have three legs?

Because the cows got the udder.

Chocolate Delight

Did you hear about the bust-up in a
 biscuit tin?

The *Bandit* hit the *Penguin* over the head
 with a *Club*, tied him to a *Wagon Wheel*
 with a *Blue Ribbon* and made his
Breakaway in a *Taxi*.

It's ok to kiss a fool
 It's ok to let a fool kiss you
 But never let a kiss fool you!

One of Jims stories

Work boys work
 And be contented
 It's only lazy folk
 That stay in bed
 If you work with all your might
 Early morn till late at night
 You'll be happy
 But it won't be until your dead.

THE ORIGINAL COMPUTER

Memory was something you lost with age
 An Application was for employment
 A Programme was a TV show
 A Cursor was a profanity
 A Keyboard was a piano
 A Web was a spider's home
 A Virus was the flu
 A Hard Drive was a long trip on the road
 A Mouse Pad was where a mouse lived
 And if you had a 3 inch floppy
 ... you just hoped nobody ever found out!

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN

- Food was judged by taste, not by looks.
- Beds were good if they were soft not hard.
- Dogger Bank was 'Foreign' not Maastricht.
- You cycled to get somewhere not for exercise.
- You used a pen dipped in ink not a word processor.
- Lights and fires were lit not switched on.
- Dinner was prepared, not heated from the freezer.
- Radio Luxembourg was carefully tuned in. –Not Radio 2 turned on.
- You waited for football results not lottery numbers.

MY DAD

My Dad, he was a gardener
 I remember him with pride
 In his bib and brace
 A smiling face
 And cap cocked on one side
 From early morn till evening
 The garden had his care
 He'd weed a bit
 When it needed it
 Then dig a patch over there.

The plants they grow in Spring
 And flowers bloomed in Summer
 He'd spray the buds
 And dig the spuds
 And then 'Knock Off' for supper.

DOUG LUCAS
01725 552636

Logs, lighting wood,
 wood chip and mulch,
 stakes, posts, rails, wattle hurdles, panels
 and all types of fencing
 supplied and erected.
 Also gardens cleared, gravel paths and
 driveways



News and Information

NATIONAL
FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S
INSTITUTES

The past two months have been rather hectic. Besides holding W I monthly meetings and the Annual Jumble Sale in February, the added delight of 'Into Spring with the Live WIres' raised funds for the Village Hall. Both of these events were a great success and we thank you all for your support.

At the February meeting Mr. A. Wilson showed slides of many Dorset landmarks, some of which the members didn't know existed. A very interesting and informative evening.

In March we met Mr. Nigel Brooks from Dorset Wildlife Trust, the Assistant Warden at Upton Heath. He explained, with the aid of some excellent slides, how the heathland was being managed to protect the plants and wildlife.

Flower of the Month:

February: Stella Symes - Pink Camellia

March: Bobbie Carter - 'Black' Hellebore

Competition:

February: Win Judd - photo taken in Dorset

March: Beverley Allen - limerick about wildlife

Annual Cup Competition: 'A photo taken in the village'

Dates for Diaries

Monday 10th April: Annual Meeting followed by a talk on 'Working with the Handicapped'

Tuesday 25th April: Spring Council Meeting - Weymouth

Wednesday 26th April: Birthday Supper

Monday 8th May: Resolutions Meeting and Quiz.

Wednesday 24th May: Spring Group Meeting - Sixpenny Handley

Tuesday 30th May: Group Outing to Longstock Water Gardens

Wednesday 7th June: Outing to Hawk Conservancy

Monday 12th June: Garden meeting at Middle Chase

Institute meetings are held in the Village Hall on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7.30pm

Mobile Library Schedule - Visits on Thursday Fortnightly

Woodyates – Cobley Close	2.25 – 2.40	Handley – School	3.00 – 3.20
Handley – Roebuck Inn	3.25 – 3.45	Handley – Dean Lane	3.50 – 4.05
Handley - Sheasby Close	4.10 – 4.30		

April 6th & 20th; May 4th & 18th



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**The United Benefice of
Sixpenny Handley with Gussage St Andrew
and Pentridge**

**Notice of
Parochial Parish Annual General Meetings
and Vestry Meetings
to Elect Churchwardens in each Parish**

**The Parish of Pentridge is to meet
at the The Barn, Manor Farmhouse, Woodyates
at 7.00pm on Monday 24th April 2006**

and

**The Parish of Sixpenny Handley with Gussage St Andrew
is to meet in St Mary's Church at 7.30pm
on Thursday 27th April 2006**

**Nominations for the Office of Churchwarden together with
A Seconder and the signed agreement of the Proposed
Person should be made in writing to be received
At the Vicarage 60 High Street
Sixpenny Handley Salisbury SP5 5ND
Endorsed "Churchwarden Nomination (parish....)
To be received two days before the appropriate meeting.**

**Qualifications for the Office and the nomination forms are available from
Parish Parochial Church Council Hon. Secretary's
Details in the Downsman centre Church Section of this issue
"THE SEEKER"**

Eligibility to vote?

***Anyone on the electoral roll of the parish (Church)
Anyone who lives in the parish and whose name is on the register of
Local Government electors***

Lance Corporal Thomas Latta (10522)
5th Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment

Approximately 1,663,000* British servicemen, the overwhelming majority from the army, were classified as wounded in the Great War. A precise figure will never be known, neither is it possible to break this total down into categories of critically wounded, severely or slightly wounded. What may be said with a degree of accuracy is that the majority sustained their wounds while serving on the Western Front. Another uncertainty that needs to be identified concerns those who were wounded in action and died from their injuries before being recovered from the battlefield. I have not seen any statistics indicating how many soldiers succumbed under these terrible circumstances and, I can only surmise, their numbers were included in the totals deemed to have been killed in action. Numerous accounts touching on the awful suffering endured by those who were struck down during the course of an advance litter the pages of history and many a veteran was haunted to the end of his life with memories of pitiful cries coming from the wounded as life slowly ebbed from their broken bodies.

Thus, I now come to a brief account relating to the death of Lance Corporal Thomas Latta, serving with the 5th Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment, and who died from his wounds on the 7th of October, 1916. It is almost certain that he was engaged in actions similar to that which claimed the life of Private Lionel Thorne, profiled in the previous issue of *The Downsman*, but though most severely wounded he did survive sufficiently long enough to be evacuated to one of the large military hospital at Etaples and I will now present an interpretation as to how he reached his final destination in life.

It is almost certain that he was first taken to a Regimental Aid Post and thence to an Advanced Dressing Station. As to how he reached the former can only be a matter of conjecture; he may have been recovered from the battlefield by a stretcher party, or he may even have reached the Post by himself, or supported by less badly wounded colleagues. On arrival at the Advanced Dressing Station a more detailed examination of his injuries would have taken place and it was at such stations that, quite literally, life or death decisions were made as to whether further evacuation to a Casualty Clearing Station would be beneficial or not. The hard pressed Medical Officers working in the Regimental Aid Posts and at the Advanced Dressing Stations rendered as much aid as possible, sometimes undertaking major surgical procedures that in some cases involved the amputation of shattered limbs. For those who were considered beyond reasonable help, Morphine to ease their pain was about the best that could be done and, surely, these temporary posts must have witnessed countless scenes of great emotion as nurses and padres moved amongst the dying, rendering as much succour and comfort as humanly possible to those in their final hours of life. And, it is worth emphasising, that due to their proximity to the front line neither the Regimental Aid Post or the Advanced Dressing Station were havens of safety.

But, for Lance Corporal Latta, the decision was made to send him by ambulance (frequently horse drawn) to a Casualty Clearing Station and it would have been from one such station that he was transported to Etaples, probably in the reasonable comfort of one of the many special ambulance trains. Lying 27 kilometres south of Boulogne, Etaples and its environs was the scene of huge concentrations of reinforcement camps and a myriad of depots serving the forces needs, some of which gained a terrible notoriety for their hard and punishing discipline. It was an area, however, sufficiently far from the fighting to leave the camps impervious to attack, other than from the air while the town was well served by excellent road and rail facilities which linked it to the main battle fronts. During 1915, the first of at least six large hospitals was established in and around Etaples; the forerunner being No. 23 General Hospital which opened its wards in the June. I have, as yet, not identified the hospital where Thomas Latta died, but at the time of his admittance No. 6 British Red Cross, No. 7 British Red Cross, No. 28 General and No. 46 Stationary hospitals were in operation.

Although huge strides were made in the treatment of wounded servicemen, bacterial infections claimed the lives of thousands before they were able to progress towards a full, or partial recovery. Sir Alexander Fleming's pioneering work in the development of penicillin was still over a decade

away and it would be well into the Second World War before its full potential would be realised in the prevention of wound infections.

To close this profile, I suggest that Thomas Latta must have been a soldier of above average qualities as promotion from the ranks of private was not overly common. Born, according to his service records, in the village his parents lived at 91 Dean, Woodcutts and I much suspect neither was able to visit his grave in Etaples Military Cemetery. Today this cemetery, which was laid out to the design of the renowned architect Sir Edwin Lutyens, is the largest Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery in France with serried rows of graves contained the dead from both world wars. Naturally, the majority of headstones name those whose lives were lost in the Great War and when the last interments from this conflict came about in September 1919, no less than 11,409 servicemen, including 656 Germans, had been laid to rest.

By comparison burials of those killed in the Second World War are few; 122 in total but of which only 81 could be identified. Situated in the Pas de Calais, the cemetery lies some three kilometres north-north-west of the town and on the western side of the main road leading to Boulogne, Thomas's grave being located in plot XVI, row E, grave 10A.

* This figure has been taken from *The Longman Companion to the First World War* written by Colin Nicholson and published by Longman in 2001. As indicated in my text, it is not a definitive total and I have seen other statistics for the period showing over 2,000,000 being categorised as wounded.

Bill Chorley

Postscript. I am extremely conscious of the fact that when preparing these profiles I am not able to comment greatly on contemporary life in the village. However, I have been given sight of the *Parish Of Handley – Vestry Book 1848* which has an account of the Easter Vestry Meeting of May 1st, 1916, held at the Old School. Proceedings commenced at 7.30 p.m. under the direction of the vicar, the Reverend Ernest Hasluck (see the *Downsman* of June 2005 for a profile of his son, Lieutenant Sidney Hasluck killed the previous year at Gallipoli) with his curate the Reverend A.R. Turing Bruce, Messrs E. Crocker (churchwarden), F. Adams, M. F. Coombes, Charles Sheasby (sidemen) and Hammett present. Quoting directly from the records, the meeting was summed up as follows; *'Mr. Crocker presented the accounts which were passed as correct. It was decided that the deficit on the year of £5 14s 10p should be liquidated by Special Contributions. Thanks were given to the Church Wardens and the Sidesmen for their service during the year, also to the Choir, Mrs Cartwright, Miss Adams for their voluntary work for the church.'*

2. *The outgoing Church Wardens, Colonel Cartwright and Mr. Crocker were re-elected and Messrs Adams, Coombes, Sheasby and Widgery were elected Sidemen.*

3. *Mr. Crocker was appointed to keep the churchyard in order.*

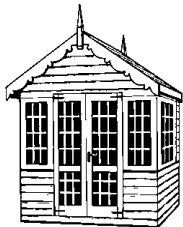
4. *It was decided to publish the collections each Sunday by means of Offertory Sheets attached to the notice board.*

5. *Mr. Hammett undertook to raise money to pay the Organ Blower for the choir practices and if possible to defray the expenses arising from the purchase of new choir books and church music.*

6. *It was pointed out by Mr. Adams that certain stones in the tower required replacement. Any repairs necessary were postponed for 6 months. The vestry door was to be oiled.'*

These minutes were approved at the next Vestry meeting, held on 16th of April, 1917.

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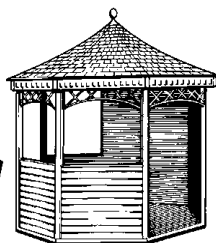
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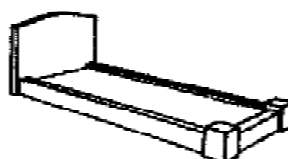
RICHARD ADLEM In Person



To speak to Richard himself about funeral arrangements or memorial stones, please telephone him at any time on 01725 552 496 only, or visit him at his home near St Mary's Church, opposite the village school.

Richard has no association at all with IN Newman Limited, trading as "Richard T. Adlem Funeral Director", and should not be confused with them.

Park Cottage
Sixpenny Handley
SP5 5NJ
Tel. 01725 552 496



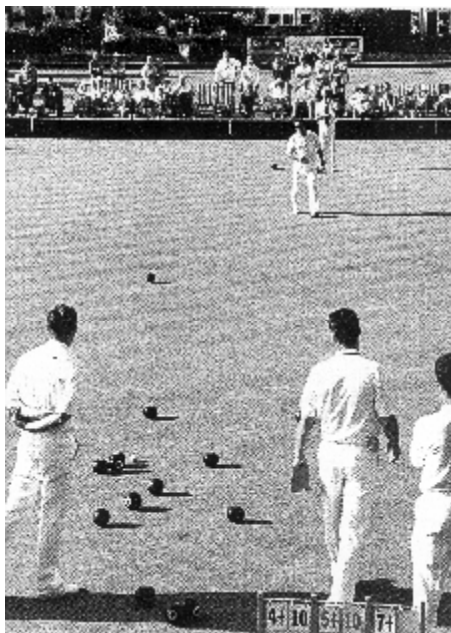
The Chapel of Rest
Brushy Bush Lane
Sixpenny Handley
SP5 5PJ

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WANT TO TRY A NEW SPORT?
THAT'S NOT TOO ENERGETIC,
BUT ENJOYABLE,
IN A SOCIABLE FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE,
FROM AGED 12 AND UP.
A SPORT THAT'S EASY TO LEARN

Bowls is a clean, healthy, competitive family sport with excellent social and recreational facilities that can and is played by people of all ages. This image is important if we are to sell the game to others for the concept that it is only a game for the old is wrong. It is game that can be played at all levels by all ages.



- It is a clean and healthy family sport.
 - It is not divisive by age.
 - It can be enjoyed by all able and many disabled people on a competitive basis.
 - Males and Females can compete on an equal basis.
 - Indoor and outdoor facilities mean that it can be played all year round.
 - It is a social game and most clubs have a good social side to the club.
 - The game is played in a disciplined environment with a constitution and proper rules,
 - which ensures good levels of behaviour.
 - The sport is played at all standards be it a roll-up, Club match, League, County, Regional, National or International level.
 - It has good standards of dress and behaviour.
- Clubs have a good spirit and social contact.

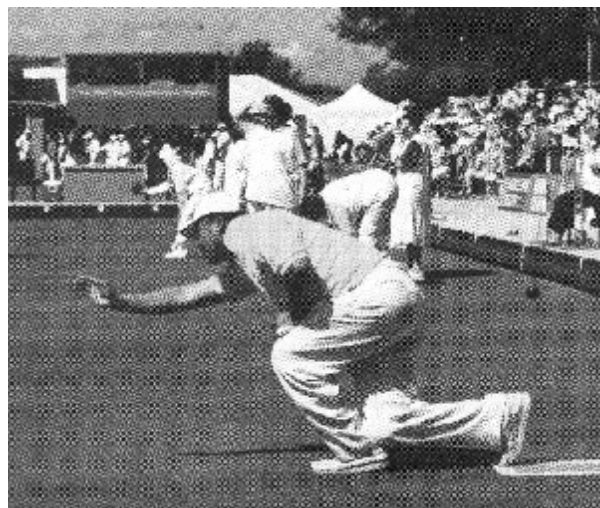
Bowls is more than you think

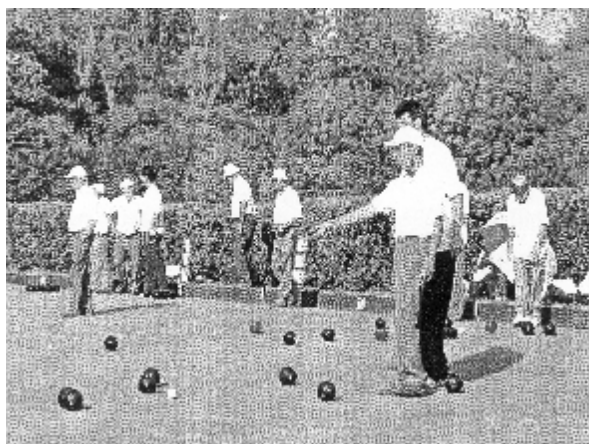
Bowls is a sport for life, just try it!

It has been medically proven that Bowls improves your general health and helps to strengthen your immune system.

Bowls is not only a sport, you can also have a varied and very active social life.

Bowls is the ideal sport for meeting new people, socialising and meeting new challenges head-on.





Sixpenny Handley Bowls Club

Not at all to report at the moment as it is between the finishing of the Short Mat season and the start of the outdoor season.

Short Mat

Overall we can report a good winter's bowling. The Division Two side which were relegated last year from the Div. I of the Blackmore Vale Bowls League have won Division Two and will bounce back next year into Division One. A very good result. The Tanners - the name we give to our second string who

were relegated last year from Division Four finished in 4th place in Div. 5 and will remain in Div. 5 next season.

We shall take part in two Tournaments before the season actually closes - the Kingfisher event at Ringwood on the 2nd April and the Blackmore Vale League Cup at Sherborne on the 9th of April.

The Outdoor Season

The outdoor season begins officially with a home match against Cranborne on April 30th but before then I am sure our members will be getting in some practice on the green and anyone who would like to come and have a go at it will be welcome. Members can play at any time. Club days for social bowling will as before be on Sunday afternoons at 2.30pm and Wednesday evenings starting at 6pm when there is not a match taking place.

DO NOT BE SHY TO COME AND JOIN US. I HAVE BEEN BOWLING SINCE 1991 AND HAVE ALWAYS FOUND MEMBERS ARE GOOD COMPANY WITHOUT EXCEPTION.

I have also found the opposition good fun with some amusing banter which jollies the afternoon along very nicely. Much better than watching an American film on the television and you get some fresh air and exercise.

Fixture cards and internal competition entry forms will be distributed soon. The EBA are sending us a free DVD telling us all about playing Bowls and this can be viewed by those with a DVD Player. Some dates for social events have also been arranged. They will be on the fixture cards.

We will be running a big programme by taking part in the Dorset County Men's League Division 3 which we finished second in last year. The new North Dorset Women's League on Monday afternoons- if you are available come along we can soon train you. The Westbrook Mixed Triples League which we won last year. A varied programme of friendly matches, some touring sides will come and of course our Internal Championship. So plenty to do. The season is short. The weather can be variable - we do play in the rain and the sun. We play Home and Away games so that you will not get bored. Everyone can play. You do not get this in every bowls club -interested? Ring the Secretary on 01725 552468 or the Club Captain, Tony Groves on 01725 552236.

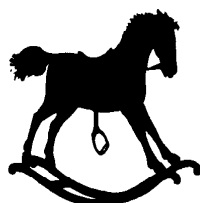
You can also e-mail - brianjohnhansford@yahoo.co.uk

To every bowler - have an enjoyable season

Brian Hansford, Club Secretary



HAPPY NAPPY

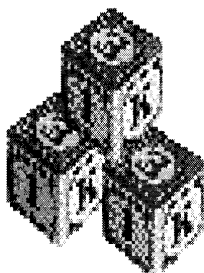


Happy Nappy meets every Monday at
Sixpenny Handley Village Hall at
10am.

New Born Babies to School Age Children are welcome

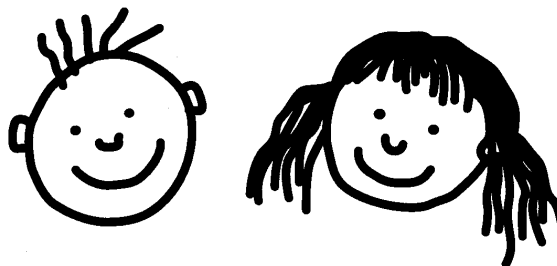
Come and join our very friendly group,
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- ❖ Adults can meet for a chat.
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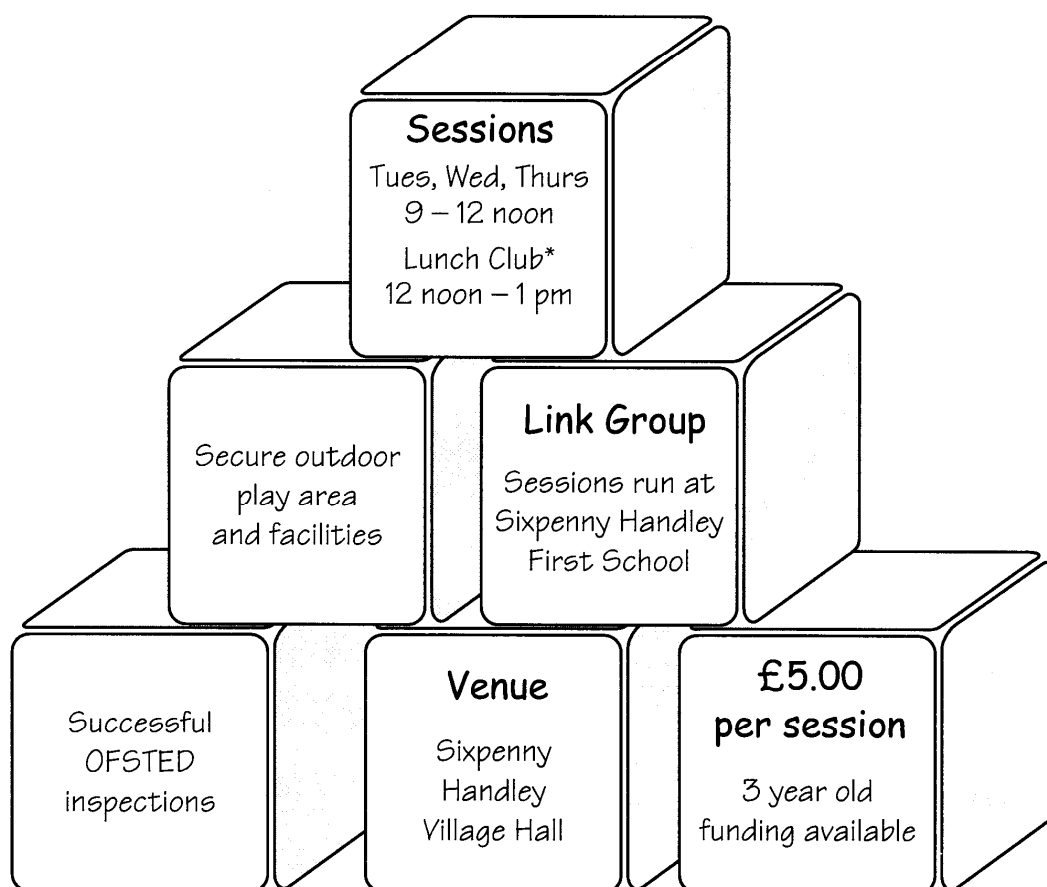


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Hilary 01725 552866 Becky 01725 552545
Jill 01725 552159 or Maureen 01725 552561

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Secretary: Jane Laing.....01725 553146

*Thursday Lunch Club finishes at 12:45 pm

GORILLAS IN THE CHASE

Saturday 18th March 2006

Linda Nunn of Gussage St Andrews is deep in the Congo rainforest. She is attending a passing out parade for more than 100 park rangers who have been learning survival and self-defence skills for the last 10 months. She has gone to represent the International Rangers Federation (IRF), the British Government and Gearing up for Gorillas (G4G).



Picture by kind permission of Robin Dudson

G4G is a registered charity which supports and provides for the people who protect mountain gorillas in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

G4G began with a chance meeting at the 3rd World Congress of the IRF held in the Kruger International Park in September 2000. It was there that Linda first met Jean Pierre Jobogo Mirindi, head ranger Eastern DRC. He told her of the work his rangers did looking after mountain gorillas; of the hardship and danger they lived with and the equipment they so desperately needed. Linda was determined to help and G4G was born.

Today there are about 700 mountain gorillas in the world and they all live in the Virungi volcanic range which straddles the borders of DRC with Uganda and Rwanda. They don't survive anywhere else on earth; all mountain gorillas taken for zoos or illegally poached for collectors have died.

And so they are bound to this mountainous Eden which has for the past 30 years been the centre of civil war, guerrilla warfare, poaching, illegal logging and mining and gradual intrusion by people who are hungry and escaping from genocide.

Gorillas die as a result but, thankfully, not as many as you might imagine. In fact more rangers die than gorillas and we have lost over 100 in the last 10 years. Every newborn gorilla is named after a ranger who has been killed in the Virungi.

Linda, Peter Miles and I will be travelling to the Congo again in June/July this year. With the help of the RAF, we will fly equipment out to Nairobi in Kenya and then overland it through Uganda and into DRC.

We desperately need your help. We have already received a lot of the equipment we need and our thanks go out to everyone who has donated. But this is a truly unique opportunity to take supplies out and if you can help we would be most grateful.

In particular, we need binoculars and mountain bikes for the rangers. Our widows and wives project has collected sewing machines, fabrics and notions, but could use more. The children and orphans project desperately need books in French and writing, drawing and classroom equipment.

We have one Toyota Hilux to take out and spares, filters, tyres and wheels would be very useful. If anyone can provide it, we have space for a second Hilux.

Finally we are desperately short of dry secure storage space needed now until the end of June, can you help?

Most of the 15 trustees are local and apart from raising funds and equipment we hope to raise awareness. If you would like us to give a PowerPoint illustrated presentation to your school, organisation or group, we would be very pleased to do so. Please contact Linda on 01725 553149 or go to the website for further details.



Thank you
Kim Ford, Vice Chair
Gearing up for Gorillas. Registered Charity No: 1111663

PLANT SALE

In Aid of St Laurence Church, Farnham, Tower Repairs

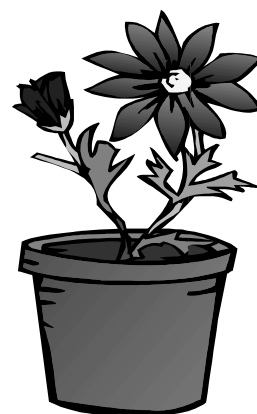
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PARISH STEERING GROUP Questionnaire Replies So Far....

Introduction

A big THANK YOU to all the households who replied, approaching 100, representing over several hundred people of all ages. Forms are still being dropped in at the collection points. These represent a wide range of years living here, from a lifetime to recent arrivals.

It is **NOT TOO LATE** to complete the Questionnaire, another copy of which is in this April edition of The Downsman. It takes only a few minutes! The more views we receive, the more significant the conclusions will be and the more influence they will have on future decisions. Let us have your replies by Easter and no later than 18th April 2006.

Regrettably, for those who ideally want no change to our Parish, history and current events prove that changes are inevitable, so let us try to ensure that we can steer them in our chosen positive direction!

Highlights of answers so far received reveal the following trends, in no particular order:

- Generally speaking, the Parish and the villages are a very good place in which to live. The natural rural environment and its beauty are appreciated, but to varying extents harmed by rubbish in the streets, vandalism, traffic, summer flies, and unsuitable architecture in new developments.
- A significant number complimented the existing variety of shops and services in the community. A large number requested varying types of food outlet e.g. coffee shop, café, fish & chips and in addition a taxi service and another petrol station.
- A clear majority are satisfied with the Health facilities. Mention was made of a bigger Clinic, possibly incorporating scheduled dental treatments, opticians, a larger pharmacy, a bigger car park, and weekend doctors on call.
- Many use the Church Farm recycling site, also sites in Blandford, Salisbury & Verwood. Kerbside recycling appears to be confined to those roads wide enough to avoid traffic inconvenience but more and better recycling facilities would be appreciated.
- Over half are satisfied with existing housing, but a significant number are not, with mention of affordable housing for local people, for first time buyers and single flats.
- Almost unanimous support for sheltered accommodation for the elderly and more help for them to stay in their own homes.
- A majority favour keeping the population steady, although there is support for controlled growth but looking carefully at water, drainage, flooding, sewage, roads, parking and street lighting.
- Strong feelings were expressed about more police presence in the parish, ideally a PC living in the parish or increased patrol presence to reduce petty crime and traffic speeding.
- Traffic is generally perceived as a problem. Various forms of calming are suggested: one-way circuits; rumble strips; cameras; widened Back Lane with white lines for through and especially heavy 7.5ton vehicles; mini roundabouts, while VMS

signage received the most support. Two contrary factors were mentioned: any re-routing might reduce visiting shop customers though shop signage before Sixpenny Handley could help; also parked traffic in the High Street helps reduce speed. A central car-park and additional parking was suggested by some. Also better street lighting especially around the war memorial and church gate; and litterbins.

- There is a strong and recognised support for more amenities for youth, eg bus services to local night life with later return schedules; a club house specifically for and controlled by the young; a skate/bike park, and swimming pool for all ages.
- Support for more use to be made of the church, updated parish hall and sports centre/fields for more activities, exhibitions, concerts and drop in centres. Request for use of the excellent primary school facilities for evening classes for computers and adult learning.
- In Sixpenny Handley, strong support for a vandal proof all-weather bus shelter, centrally located.
- Request for improved bus timetable so that services connect with trains for day commuters
- A number commented on the value in the Farm Workshop facilities in providing real local small businesses, jobs and services and felt it would enhance the community to have further similar facilities.

Those who have not yet replied, please do let us have your views. We need more input in particular from the outlying villages and communities in the Parish.

The next stage for the Parish Plan development is for meetings to be held by the Chairpersons of the Sub-Committees (eg Transport, Environment, Youth as listed in The Downsman) with members of the community or those people who have signed up, to discuss and put forward views and report back to us, so that we can report back to you in the forthcoming Downsman.

Leonard Holihan, Chairman, Parish Steering Group

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Did you miss it last time – don't worry – the questionnaire is repeated again in this issue – return by 18th April

Parish Plan for Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge

THIS IS YOUR VILLAGE* IN YOUR PARISH

*includes Sixpenny Handley, Dean, Deanland, Gussage St Andrew, Minchington, Pentridge, Woodcutts, Woodyates.

Would you like to see a comprehensive Parish Plan which will:

RETAIN ALL THAT IS GOOD?

IMPROVE WHAT CAN BE BETTER?

INFLUENCE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT?

A Parish Steering Group (PSG) has been formed with these aims. It is independent of, but sponsored by, the Parish and District Councils. Unless we produce our own local plan, one will be imposed on us and we may not like it. This is URGENT. Action is required NOW.

We want this plan to reflect what you want. We cannot know this unless you tell us. The members of the PSG with their areas of responsibility are shown below.

FUNDS are available. Let us ensure they are well spent on what we want and need for the community.

Please complete the pull-out Questionnaire in the centre of this magazine by Tuesday 18th April (or as soon as possible thereafter) and return to one of the following locations in Sixpenny Handley:

Styles Newsagent/Shop Post Office

Parish Office

(or post to Parish Office, Unit 5B, Town Farm Workshops, Dean Lane, Sixpenny Handley, Salisbury SP5 5PA.)

PSG

Chairman	Leonard Holihan	Tel:552491	Vice-Chairman	Michael Palmer	Tel:553138
Treasurer	Rosalie Adams	Tel:553032	Secretary	Cynthia Dawkins	Tel:552786
Environment	Ted Cox	Tel:552801	Transport	Chris Stokes	Tel:552672
Youth	Alistair Broadway	Tel:552973	Church	Graham Smith	Tel:552149
Health	Mark Morgan				

REMEMBER THIS IS YOUR PARISH.

WE NEED YOUR VIEWS.

There is a review of the questionnaires already returned on page 20

100 Club Winners – January

1st Mrs J Salmons

2nd Mrs W Judd

3rd Mrs W Judd

100 Club Winners – February

1st Mr W Chorley

2nd Mrs M Phibbs

3rd Mrs J Mayne

The 100 Club is in aid of the Village Hall - if anyone would like to join the Club or know more about it, please contact
Carole Wyatt on 01725 552572

Registered Charity No
1102105



Supported by Dorset County Council Social Services Committee.
The CCF offer voluntary support to those who need it,
within the Cranborne Chase villages.

In the form of :-

- Transport to the Surgery, Dentist, etc, with an appropriate contribution from the user of 50p per mile, to cover petrol costs.
- Collection of prescriptions - local shopping for the house bound.
- Dog walking.
- We hold regular Social Day Centres, at Sixpenny Handley Village Hall.

"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

Recent events at Sixpenny Handley First School

During our current 'Spring' term, a number of visitors have been welcomed into school to talk to the children on a variety of themes.

In January, we were glad to get to know our new community police officer, PC Collins, who introduced himself to the children during a school assembly, answering the many questions from children of all ages, and demystifying some items from the array of equipment the modern policeman carries. PC Collins returned a few weeks later, to talk to the older children, on the theme of 'Stranger Danger'. He plans to make regular visits to all classes in turn, with age-appropriate messages for each, over the next weeks, and we look forward to establishing, in this way, a longer-term liaison with our local police.



PC Collins at the school.

More recently, on 7th March, we enjoyed a surprise visit from Captain Claire Brown, who had come to thank the children for the many clothing items which had been donated by some of our school families in response to a personal request put to the school by her mother. Claire, who is currently serving with the British Army in Afghanistan, described how many of the poorest children of Kabul live and explained how the clothes would be given to children, many of them orphans, who are living in the harsh winter conditions



Captain Claire Brown with Sixpenny Handley pupils

without proper warm clothing. She was able to answer the enquiries of even the youngest pupils about the climate, landscape and people in Afghanistan, and about her duties ('repairing the tanks and other vehicles when they break down') and life while on tour there. She left promising to distribute the clothes personally with the greetings of the Handley pupils, who were also very keen to donate other items in the future, if arrangements could be made for their collection.



Our visitors on 9th March were planned and long awaited — the children's authors David and Helen Orme came to give the whole school an insight into the life of an author, to answer the children's questions and to lead all-day 'writing workshops' within the classes.

David and Helen Orme introduced themselves to the children through their books, stories and poetry readings.

With extensive experience of children's story and poetry writing, David was able to make the process seem effortless, so that everyone was willing to have a go at a 'naughty Joshua' story. Helen, widely published author of non-fiction information books on many topics relevant to the school curriculum, is also particularly fond of dinosaurs, and this was the theme of her workshop. The features of non-fiction writing were explored by looking at examples, and the children then started a topic page themselves, on their favourite species of dinosaur, which they first researched through information books on dinosaurs and on the Internet. All in all, a highly enjoyable day aimed at helping our children acquire those all-important writing skills.

Elizabeth Moreland
(Class 3 teacher)

David Orme presenting
his well-known story
poem 'Joshua's Junk'



David Orme assisting young Sixpenny Handley writers with their story plans



Dave & M. Swift Plant

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25th March	24th June	23rd September	23rd December

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for further information call: 01258 881274

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Village Hall News

Hello Again

Helena Torpy (violin) and Steve Turner (accordion) entertained us in the Church on Feb 10th. 45 people listened to about 2 hours of music played without a sign of any sheet music. My chief critic from north of the border said the acoustics were good the timing was spot on and it was a joy to watch every note being played. At times it was a job to tell which instrument was being played. Ian Scott who is the big white chief at Artsreach was in the audience to appraise the show. It was Helena and Steve first show in Dorset.

Ian was well impressed you may get the chance to see them somewhere in Dorset next year. Thanks to Jean and her helpers for the wine and coffee. David Miller was also in the audience. David and I went to the same school, I have not seen him since 1950 there was a lot of "do you remember this or that" going on. It was a very enjoyable evening.

Our next show was "The Country Wife" presented by Forest Forge. Another excellent production by this very professional theatre company. 60 people watched the plot unfold amid giggles and laughter. In the audience were both the Salisbury Journal and Blackmore Vale critics to report on the show. Fanny Charles of the BVM loved the show. Two reporters on one night must be a first for the VH Thanks to Pat Julie and Rob for their help

Live WIers supper and cabaret on Friday 17th March. Over 100 people were entertained with some very funny sketch's (calendar girls, cows and pussy cats) to name but a few. The standard of the singing and music was excellent. The whole show was written and produced by Bobbie Carter with a cast of 17 with 10 behind the scenes. It was a very excellent performance and I am already looking forward to the next show. Thanks to everyone for all the tremendous amount of time and hard work

The film show on March 31st will most probably be the last show as Moviola seems to have saturated the area with shows, sometimes the same film is shown just a few days before ours. We really need 80-90 people to make the show economically viable. Sorry to all the regulars

The sudden death of Ken Summerell shocked everyone that knew him. Ken was a workmate and a friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with Margaret and her family. Margaret said she would like the £358 donated in memory of Ken to go towards the Village Hall. I have given this a lot of thought and I would like the money spent on something special rather than go into the general funds. Two things come to mind at the moment one is two new doors just inside the main hall and the other is some portable spot lights for use in the hall. Has anybody got any other ideas? Thank you very much Margaret for your generosity.

At the last meeting it was decided to get a quote to replace the remaining windows. We shall be looking to the parish, district and county council's for a grant to pay for this.

The next Ex committee meeting is on Monday 3rd April

The A.G.M. is on Monday 24th April at 7.30 pm. This is an open meeting and everyone is welcome. My name will not go forward for re-election to the position of chairman. Pat will be giving up her job as entertainment secretary

Gordon Oxford, Chairman

HERBAL HRT

by Sheila Ralph, Naturopath, Master Herbalist and Nutrition Practitioner

Herbal HRT is a programme that can be tailored to your hormonal needs and is a bona-fide alternative to orthodox HRT. Side effects such as mood swings, hot flushes, night sweats, heavy or scanty periods and irregular cycles, breast tenderness can all be dealt with effectively by herbs. Osteoporosis and weight gain can be prevented with the correct diet, supplements and the use of progesterone creams. The real benefit is that you don't have to put yourself at risk from dangerous and life-threatening conditions that may result from taking orthodox HRT over a long period of time.

With herbal HRT it is important to supplement your diet with the correct foods that will give you a good balance of phytoestrogens, isoflavones and lignans and these can all be found in the following:

Soya products. Sea weeds. Green, range, red and yellow fruits and vegetables and Green leafy vegetables. Berry fruits. Whole grains. Nuts, seeds and pulses. Oily fish (mackerel, herring, salmon, tuna) Fat free milk, low fat dairy produce, some herbal teas. Adrenal gland support is essential and involves eating plenty of whole grains, mushrooms, salmon and peanuts as well as vitamin supplementation.

The following are foods that you should avoid when following a herbal HRT programme:

- Butter, cream, cheese and whole milk and it's products
- Hydrogenated fats
- Trans fatty acids
- Margarines
- Coconut oil
- Palm oil (often in commercially baked goods).
- Grapefruit and grapefruit juice - interferes with the liver's ability to metabolise hormones, they also elevate blood levels

Useful supplements for a herbal HRT programme

SHS Femarone 40+ formula - an extremely beneficial, all-encompassing herbal formula that replaces orthodox HRT, provides natural plant phytoestrogens and isoflavones and is a good support for the whole person during the menopause.

Femarone 40+ includes the herbs Donq Quai, Agnus Castus, Blessed Thistle, Squaw Vine, Black Cohosh, Siberian Ginseng, Barberry, Cayenne Pepper, Cramp Bark, Ginger, Red Raspberry Leaf, Uva Ursi, Sarsaparilla and Licorice. There are no side effects and no problems with taking this formula long-term.

Other herbs that support oestrogen levels and help menopausal symptoms include Black Cohosh, Motherwort, Red Sage, Siberian Ginseng, Agnus Castus, Ginko Biloba, and St. John's Wort and many others including some Bach Flower Remedies.

Supplements of vitamin E, vitamin B complex, calcium and Magnesium are all beneficial.

Progesterone cream helps with menopausal symptoms and helps prevent osteoporosis. Saunas and steam baths will help, over a period of time, to eliminate hot flushes and night sweats by removing toxins from the body.

Acupressure treatment of specific acupuncture points can help with emotional problems and heavy menstrual bleeding.

Pelvic floor exercises ensure that the pelvic floor muscles remain strong to prevent prolapses and urinary incontinence as the effectiveness of the pelvic floor muscles often reduces after the menopause-

Yoga helps to relax and to keep the body supple and toned.

Regular exercise both aerobic and weight bearing to help keep healthy and to maintain weight as well as protect the bones from osteoporosis.

Affirmations can help with the emotional stresses of the menopause and form a very important part of a Herbal HRT Programme.

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

Sheila also practices Iridology, Acupressure & Tui'na and Indian Head Massage and has clinics at The Centre for Complementary Health Care in Blandford Forum and at Sixpenny Handley. Contact 01725 552265 or 01258 458120 or www.bcch.co.uk for further information.

"For Hope Turn the Handle"

The Times annual Christmas charity appeal for 2005 was in aid of the Salvation Army, renowned for its social care work in Britain, and Freeplay Foundation, which works in Africa giving vital radio support to children affected by war and Aids. Aids has not only made them orphans but also in many parts made them teacherless, for every teacher trained two die of aids.

Our carol singing round the village and the retiring collection at the Nine Lessons and Carols Service raised the sum of £140 which enabled 4 clockwork radios to be purchased on your behalf. These radios have been sent to community schools, along with hundreds of others (the distribution was witnessed by **Jonathan Clayton The Times** correspondent) on the outskirts of Lusaka in Zambia. These radios will give these children the opportunity to educate themselves so that they will be employable and thereby obtain a better way of life and a future. Hope! The money was sent direct to Freeplay Foundation who have forwarded a copy of The Times article which is on the table, in the kitchen area, at the back of the Church for you to read. Thank you indeed for your generosity which will make a real difference to these kids lives.

David Salmons

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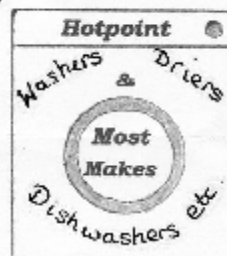
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Woodcutts Twinned with Peru

Go ahead or what? Some places are quite satisfied to twin with villages in France, not so for Woodcutts! No indeed, we believe that if something is worth doing, it is worth doing well. We don't need George Bush, we don't even need American oil. How would he cope in the Andes anyway. He does have a ranch, but the house I was brought up in had a range, so what. If you are wondering what this is all about, I will divulge, 'Alpacas', not to be confused with 'backpackers'. Most of the latter have two legs, while the former have four. If you have never seen one, they are like long necked, overgrown sheep with a distinct similarity to poodles (the dogs) that have been partially trimmed for the show ring. This is where the similarity stops, because when an alpaca is trimmed or rather shorn, it yields a fleece of very high quality wool, far more valuable than even the very best sheep's wool. What has this to do with Woodcutts? I hear you ask. The answer is that our latest immigrant from Australia (Tim by name) has brought some of these creatures with him. He lives in one of the cottages here, while his livestock occupy the grass fields in front of his home. If you want to see what an alpaca looks like, it is anticipated that a coach service will be laid on daily from the village of Sixpenny Handley and it is rumoured that the cost will be within most peoples pockets.

The Alpaca, a relation of the llama and a native of South America and of the Andes must find it strange here as we don't have many mountains in Woodcutts, but they seem to have settled in all right. It is possible the natives (of Woodcutts) find them strange, and I can't help wondering what the late 'Laird' would have said about them. Although being the shepherd that he was, a canny Scot as well, I am sure he would have been quite satisfied when he realised how many 'wee drams' could be purchased for each fleece.

Whatever, we the inhabitants of Woodcutts welcome Tim and his alpacas and wish him well.

Now we must turn to the more indigenous subjects of our ecological niche. Firstly the snowdrops, what a magnificent display this year, we had to wait nearly a month longer for them than in the last few years but haven't they done us proud? From the start of the new millennium we have seen a number of them in flower for Christmas and the New Year, but not this year. In fact the end of January to the beginning of February was the real start, but they have made up for the lateness by there longevity.

Primroses in the wild are much later too, but they also seem to be making amends by their colour and numbers of flower heads. Celandines were six weeks later this year and much fewer in number, but there is still plenty of time for them. The lack of early flowering has of course been matched by the lateness of the insects arrivals. For the last years, we have seen butterflies in January and February, obviously in small numbers but they have been there, mainly in the form of rather grubby, overwintered red admirals, with the occasional freshly painted non vintage brimstone, followed by the odd peacock. This year I saw my first butterfly outdoors, it was a solitary peacock, yesterday, Wednesday 15th March. Within minutes I then saw my first bumble bee, followed by some honey bees, but I am sure that they would not have had much luck looking for nectar. The day had been the hottest day of the year so far, with a temperature some 4°C above the previous few days, but it has reverted again today, with the warm sunshine giving way to dark, threatening clouds which continually trying to send snow flurries over us.

Insects are not the only members of the animal kingdom affected, frogs and toads have been seen about, but the amount of spawn to be seen is fairly limited overall. Of the larger animals, deer, hares and rabbits in our neck of the woods seem to be still increasing in numbers. The rabbit numbers are still high despite myxomatosis being obviously about.

Bird numbers seem to be high too especially the rooks. When a buzzard gets too close don't they make a shindig. Yesterday, while in the back garden I heard one heck of a noise from them, on looking up I saw them wheeling around in huge numbers just above roof height, in vain I looked for the buzzard that I assumed they were seeing off. The only foreign member of the pack was a magpie, what he was doing there I have no idea, but the noise wasn't for him. I believe he just had a identity problem.

After a few minutes the racket stopped and I walked to the front of the house. To my amazement I found the reason for the outcry on the front lawn. A single rook remained, but in the clutches of a bird of prey.

I could not believe my eyes. The rook was fighting valiantly for its life, while what I think was a



'goshawk' was hanging on for all its worth with its talons to its opponents legs. Its tail was fanned and its wings spread, as if to cover and weigh down its opponent, moving occasionally to hammer the rook's back with its beak. This was something I had to photograph, I ran in for my camera and on my return the two were still in the same place. I moved to within eight strides of them. They both obviously saw me but it was stalemate. I quickly took photos and then noticed our cat, Bic moving towards the fight. I am sure he was not wanting to take part, simply wanting to be a front row spectator. As he approached, the goshawk, completely oblivious to my presence, became agitated and the rook took advantage and catching its opponent off guard pulled free and winged into the trees nearby. The original chase must have been very exhausting for the goshawk, which then flew

laboriously away, to disappear behind the trees.

Rooks are of course regular visitors as are a great number of tits. From where I sit at the computer, next to an upstairs window, I am in sight of the next-door neighbours garden, bird table. Regular visitors there include great, blue, long tailed and coal tits together with chaffinch, greenfinch, sparrows, the occasional robin and on the lawn beneath, picking up what the smaller birds drop blackbirds and thrushes. The best I have left to last, these are a pair of greater, spotted woodpeckers, who arrive mid to late afternoon every day. They don't stay long but they are very busy while there.

Also from where I am sitting, I can see clearly a grand old ash tree of perhaps one hundred and eighty summers. The three main branches to the south west have now parted company with the mother tree. Presumably this aspect encouraged more growth and eventually this told and to balance the tree these very large limbs broke off.

At some earlier stage of life, a much smaller branch had detached itself from the main bole, just over half way up. Over the years new bark has grown around the wound (see photograph) but leaving the centre to rot. This must have made the ideal nest site for woodpeckers and was presumably excavated by them. However last week the local rooks were paying particular interest to this tree, in so much that considerable



numbers visited it, taking turns to investigate the hole. What they were finding there I know not, perhaps hibernating insects or some form of caterpillar or maggot.

While on the subject of trees, I have great pleasure in reporting the felling of some forty eight Leylandii. Normally I would not enthuse over tree felling, but these, planted in 1976 as a garden

hedge had never been trimmed and had simply grown. That is, they had continued until they reached a height of eighty feet.

Being on the southern side of the vegetable garden, they not only kept sun and warmth from the vegetables but also provided nesting sites and cover for most of the wood pigeons in the area. They in turn helped in the consumption of the crops grown there. Even country lovers have their limits, these trees had to go and will be replaced with something much more appropriate.

Hopefully by the time you read this, we will be enjoying much more spring like weather and flowers will be blooming, trees will be in leaf, birds nesting and butterflies on the wing and we will be back to the springs of the end of the last millennium.

Until the next time, goodbye and God bless.

Ted Cox (17.03.2006)

Handley Sports Club '100 Club' Draw Number two

1 st	£20	051	Dan Day. 4 Chaltonsborough House, Blandford
2 nd	£15	088	T Day Spetisbury, Blandford . Dorset
3 rd	£10	189	N Blachford. 18 Tournay Rd. Bearwood. B'mouth
4 th	£5	072	Clair Dickens. 123 North Rd. Parkstone, Dorset

Number three

1 st	£20	185	Mr S. Wallworth . 31 Dean Lane. Sixpenny Handley
2 nd	£15	188	Mrs R.J. Prince. 17 Salisbury St Cranborne. Dorset
3 rd	£10	108	Mrs Middlebrook. 6 Elfin Drive. Ferndown. Dorset
4 th	£5	190 J	ohn Box. 2 The Warren, Bunnies Lane. Rowde. Wilts.

THE CHASE GARDEN CLUB

The Chase Garden Club meets on the last Thursday of each month at 8 pm
lectures, slides, garden visits etc.

For more information phone
Peter and Sue Evans 01725 552270
or Gill Carter on 01725 552030.

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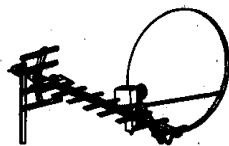


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value in reaching your local
customers

we currently deliver

The Downsman
to approximately
680 households within the parish.

1st WOODCUTTS SCOUT GROUP 1957-2007

2007 heralds the centenary of the scout movement, locally it is a very special year for us, as it will be our 50th anniversary I have been asked to write a lead up history of the early years.

In September 1954 whilst at choir practice at St James Church Alderholt members were discussing the formation of a scout troop, which was meeting for the first time that evening. Six members of our choir had been invited to form the initial patrol. I asked them if I would be allowed to join them but was told that I would have to wait to a later date. I thought blow that for a game of soldiers so when they left the church I followed but at a distance so that they couldn't see me. I watched them all file into Mr Arthur Kings house and after they had been inside for 5 minutes or so I banged on the door and Mr King appeared. I said I want to join your scouts, thankfully he said "come on in". There began my so far lifelong membership of the Scout association. In 1956 I moved home to live at Woodcutts and it wasn't long before I was enrolled at Sixpenny Handley School. After the first day I had got to know some of the lads and I started to ask around where the local scout troop met for their meetings. To my horror I discovered that there wasn't one, after a few days deliberation, being young and naïve I thought heck the only thing to do is to start a troop myself. Over the next few days I invited the boys at school to come and join me, eventually I ended up with a list of five. Ray Churchill, Chris Bagg, Chris Day, Ian Adlem and Michael Maidment. Next I wrote to my old scout master Mr Raison at Alderholt, to enquire if he would help me, he wrote back that if I held weekly meetings he would come over once a month to test us on what we had learnt (this must have been quite difficult for him as he only had an old auto cycle (sadly Sid is no longer with us). So was born the 1st Woodcutts Boy Scout Group although for a year we were to remain a subsidiary of 1st Alderholt. Our first meeting was held on a Friday night in my stepfather's very large coal shed, as we got to the longer and warmer evenings we erected a flag pole on Woodcutts Common still meeting there on a Friday evening.

TO BE CONTINUED.

John Curtis

Mrs Beryl Pierotti - Beryl asked me to pass on her thanks to all her friends and neighbours that sent her get-well cards and best wishes when she was in hospital recently. Unfortunately, she has now passed away but her family would also like to pass on their thanks to everyone. Gill Martin

On behalf of my family and myself I would like to express our thanks for all the cards, letters, money and loving support so kindly given on the death of Ken. So sadly missed.

Margaret, Trevor and Joanne Summerell

Activity Day for Easter from 10am to 3pm on Thursday 6th April

for children up to the age of 11 years
(under 5's must be accompanied by an adult)

Hear the Easter story, sing and make lots of fun things.
Help prepare for Palm Sunday

at
St Mary's Church, Sixpenny Handley

Due to the success of the Christmas Activity Day we need numbers ahead.

To book a place please call

Wendy 01258 840551 or Wendie 552843 or Suzie 553062

Lunch will be provided

We do not make a charge but a donation would be appreciated

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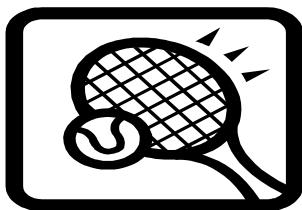


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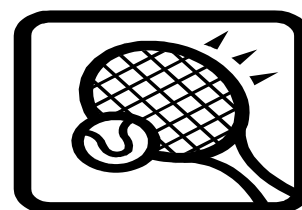
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SIXPENNY HANDLEY TENNIS CLUB



With spring upon us and Wimbledon not far distant, the tennis club is looking forward to a summer of both friendly competition between club members and in the matches scheduled to be played in the Shaftesbury League. In respect of *friendly* competitions a match has been arranged, away, with nearby Broadchalke Tennis Club, this being scheduled for the evening of Monday the 29th of May, with a reciprocal match, at home, pencilled in for Sunday the 10th of September, play commencing at 2 p.m. followed by tea. Furthermore, as the days lengthen and the March chill gives way to what we hope will be a warmer spring than that experienced so far, the opportunity to develop your tennis skills, either as a rank beginner, or the more competent, is already in train under the guidance of Roni Peck at her Wednesday morning training sessions. For full details of these sessions and for information concerning possible junior and youth coaching over the Easter holidays, I suggest you contact Roni either on 01258 840505 or by calling her mobile, 07747 842700.

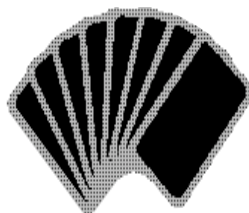
From a recent set of notes, kindly sent to me from the Chairman, Michael Catchpole, I note with pleasure that the recent Reels Night, held at the village hall, was a great success, a success in no little measure being due to the hard work put in by Bridget Hornsby plus some very helpful aid in the technical area by Atilio Loncar.

Finally, a reminder of events scheduled for the months covered by this issue of *The Downsman* are as follows; Sunday the 7th of May, a season opener for both members and non-members (the ideal opportunity for anyone wavering with possible thoughts on joining the tennis club to go along and meet members of the committee and take part, if so inclined, in the play). Although no time is shown in the notes provided it is likely that a mid-morning start is on the cards, though a quick telephone call to either Michael Catchpole (552879) or Roni (see above) might be useful. As recounted above, a friendly match with Broadchalke Tennis Club will take place on the 29th of May, while looking ahead to Sunday the 25th of June, this date has been earmarked for the Club's Summer Tournament for doubles matches featuring both adult and junior club members. And, very finally, membership renewal is now imminent, details being contained in the recent club newsletter, while anyone considering joining ahead of the open day (Sunday, 7th of May) should contact Laura Loncar, either by writing to her at 2 Blackgate Cottages, Woodyates, Salisbury SP5 5QT (please enclose a SAE) or by telephoning Laura on 01725 552651.

Bill Chorley

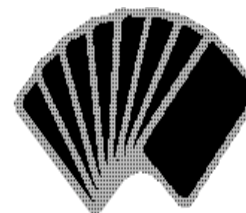
Your District Councillor Pauline Bailey-Wright will be holding her surgeries from 6.30 p.m. until 7.30 p.m. at the Parish Office, before the Full Parish Council Meeting.

Please come along and meet her.
Watch notice boards for dates of next meetings.



Whist at The Village Hall

2005-2006 Competition



Since submitting my last report, four more rounds have been played during which time the highest individual score of 177 (then held by Sylvia Thorne) has been surpassed on no less than three occasions! Stuart Haskill began the climb when at the close of round 10 his card was marked with 178. This new *top* was immediately broken one round later by Chris Napier, scoring 179, only to be followed fourteen days hence with Christine Haskell hitting a new high of 183, this being accomplished by recording 91 over the first 12 deals and improving to a remarkable 92 for the second half. Furthermore, her score elevated her from 4th to 2nd overall in the competition, a mere two points behind the leader Gerald Trickey (1930) who in turn had scored a 176 which was sufficient to drop John York from his previously held position at the head of the table. John suffered a miserable run of cards, finishing the night on 139 and an overall aggregate of 1914 points which dropped him to 4th overall, equal on points with Marge Poolman who landed a 174, her second 170 plus score in succession. Meanwhile, Ruth Hastings lost one place to 3rd, despite carding a very respectable 167. Doris Day, who has been persistent in returning good, though not spectacular scores, holds 6th overall on 1884 points, followed by Sylvia Thorne one point adrift, Mary Braithwaite, 8th with 1878, two points better than Doreen Leverton, 9th, who has netted 1876 despite having to take two mandatory 141s for non-attendance and Brian Tickey entering the top ten places for the first time on 1871, this being a particularly fine showing as he has missed three rounds of the competition. In fact, only 13 of the 51 contestants have been able to attend every round so far, thus illustrating the need to obtain as a high a score as possible when at the tables.

In closing the whist section, special mention must be made of the very welcome reappearance for the commencement of round 11 of Ted Meaden after an enforced absence through ill-health. At one time it was thought that Ted might never be able to play his favourite game at Sixpenny Handley ever again but, lo and behold, there he was at the end of February, jovial as ever and, I am even more pleased to report, he is off the bottom of the table and in 46th place overall with 1736 points, a mere 13 points in arrears of Sylvia and John Cox sharing 1749.

Bridge

Sustained attendance since the turn of the year has ensured that on average three tables are always in play throughout the session and the likelihood of this continuing to be the norm increased in mid-March when Peter Braithwaite (mentioned from time to time in the whist column) joined us for the first time. His appearance coincided with a pairs competition, the results of which are as follows:

North/South	Gerald Trickey and George Marskell	2310 points
	John Davis and Bill Chorley	1450 points
	Julie Trickey and Chris Napier	1250 points
East/West	Nora Davis and Sylvia Marskell	3840 points
	Peter Martin and Eric Turner	2280 points
	Peter Braithwaite and Tim Stevens	1700 points

Bill Chorley

Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge Parish Council

Parish Office Unit 5B Town Farm Workshops	Opening Hours: Tuesday 10am – 12noon Thursday 6pm – 7-30pm	Phone – 552211/553001 Email – office@sixpennyhandley.org
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Clerk's Corner

At the Downsman there is a new editor, currently under final training. The Parish Council is most grateful for the efforts of Alan Vincent who has edited more than fifty issues of this very popular magazine. Please encourage and support Kathryn Radclyffe, who has stepped into the breach, and supply her with advertisements and copy so that she can maintain the high standard that Alan has achieved.

SHRed requested a grant from the Parish Council. The Council supports a compost recycling initiative, but an appropriate site must first be approved, a Business Plan presented and, initially at least, the project should be restricted to compost. The Parish Council would like to be kept fully informed of negotiations and progress.

The Pavilion, having suffered a burst pipe due to frost, is about to be redecorated. The Parish Council is keen that it be well-used. However it is important that it be left clean and in good order. It will be administered by the Sports Association, but the Council will still be responsible for any damage. It is a super facility; it belongs to you and the Parish Council tries extremely hard to spend YOUR money wisely. Please help to look after the pavilion and our other assets.

Speeding through the village. The Parish Council has received several complaints. The culprits are probably not local. It is hoped that a Speed Indicator Device will soon be temporarily deployed in the High Street. We are ripe for an accident. Please take care.

The Parish Plan Steering Group has received only 100 completed forms, representing 14% of the Parish. Pimperne achieved over 90% and, if we cannot do better, then our Plan will be meaningless and all efforts by the Steering Group will have been in vain. I understand that Leonard Holihan is arranging a re-run of the form in the Downsman. Please give five minutes of your time to complete it.

Christopher Snape
Clerk to the Parish Council

The following planning applications have recently been examined by the Council

1. 3/06/0085 Church Farm, High street - extend touring caravan site and conversion of barn for reception/toilets/cafe.
2. 3/06/0215 Rushay House, Pentridge - single storey glazed link extension between house and barn.

Strengthening Communities in Dorset for the Future

(A report on a consultation exercise for the Active Communities Theme Group of the Dorset Strategic Partnership)

The following is an extract from the above report:

Key Recommendations and Priorities

There are some key recommendations and priorities that arise out of this consultation process that are interlinked. Thus, it is important not to lose sight of how these priorities are interrelated. The recommendations, whilst still under headings are in order of priority, are drawn from questionnaire data, comments and focus group discussion.

Developing 21st Century Communications

This theme is given priority because it is evident that the role of Broadband (wi-fi) Internet and web-based information is essential in engaging with both geographic and interest-based communities. This is the means by which other strategic actions can be both publicised and implemented. It is also important to recognise the role of knowledge in the empowerment process. Therefore it is recommended that:

- further attention should be paid to developing a hub and spoke model.
- village web-pages and electronic forms of consultation, grant applications and the sharing of news and information will facilitate greater consultation, participation and the engagement of communities in decision-making activities are part of the above.
- attention should be paid to ensuring that the appropriate resources are put in place to facilitate and maintaining an accessible and robust system.

Enabling Community Action

Facilitation of community involvement in the planning process and community action requires a strong underpinning infrastructure. Within this theme, the recommendations are to:

- develop a strategy for the support of and investment in community workers
- investigate a means of simplifying the access to small grants, aimed at getting community projects started.
- develop a Dorsetwide network for community workers.

Improving the Town, Neighbourhood and Parish Planning process

This theme links with that above however specifically some attention should be paid to improving the relationship between Local Government Officers and representatives of fora and other community groups and organisations. In order to do this it is recommended that:

- the partnership organises joint capacity building exercises and training events.
- a more simplified means by which communities and organisations might access grants for local consultation processes is developed.
- further attention is paid to developing ways of offering support for those carrying out actions at local level or linking with other service providers.

Increasing the number of people who regularly give their time by volunteering

Work within this theme needs to be undertaken with the recognition that in order to support volunteers resources are essential. Attention should be paid to developing a countywide approach. The recommendations are that:

- there is a need to address infrastructure issues within both individual organisations and support agencies, to ensure best practice and quality.

- further publicity is given to volunteering needs,
- work is undertaken with statutory authorities to promote volunteering to young people.

Assisting voluntary organisations and Social Enterprises to prepare for and undertake additional delivery of public services

This theme again has strong links to the others but the specific recommendations are that:

- a scoping exercise on the voluntary agencies within Dorset be conducted.
- Local Authority procedures and processes related to the commissioning of goods and services from the Voluntary Sector should be re structured so that they are understandable and relevant.
- funding should be longer term and include an element to permit the development of organisational capacity.

Frozen squirrels pose car threat

The next time you go for a drive, as well as the usual dangers on the road, make sure you watch out for frozen squirrels, kebabs and stray potatoes.

As silly as it sounds, you can never be too careful with food or animals, according to UK insurer Norwich Union.

The company has put together a list of its strangest car insurance claims it received over the past twelve months.

They may sound outlandish but Norwich Union said that all the claims have all been verified and paid out.

Some of its strangest claims have included:

- "A frozen squirrel fell out of a tree and crashed through the windscreen on to the passenger seat."
- "The car was parked when a reindeer fell on the bonnet of my car."
- "As I was driving round a bend, when one of the doors opened and a frozen kebab flew out, hitting and damaging a passing car."
- "A herd of cows licked my car and caused damage to the paintwork."
- "A zebra collided with my car when I was at a safari park."
- "While I was waiting at traffic lights, a wasp went down my trouser leg which made me hit the accelerator and prang the car in front."
- "I couldn't brake because a potato was lodged behind the brake."
- "My parked car was hit by a bull which had escaped from an agricultural show."
- "A cow jumped on my quad bike."
- "As I came over a hill, I hit a cow in the middle of the road, which then hit the bonnet and shattered the windscreen with its rear end."

"We see a lot of strange claims but we were surprised at how many involved animals and food of all things," said Sally Leeman, a spokeswoman for Norwich Union.

"This shows how important it is to be aware of what's going on around you at all times," she said.

Reproduced from the BBC news website, dated 6th Feb 2006

STOP PRESS

You will all be pleased to read, if you haven't already heard, that the vacancy in the Benefice, for a new Vicar is to be re-advertised. The advert is to appear in the Church Times on April 28 and May 5; with the closing date for applications set for May 23, shortlisting on May 26 and interviews on June 19 (this follows the Celebration of Father's Day in St Mary's during the weekend 17 & 18 June). We pray that many will be attracted by the profile and called by God to apply to come and lead us - please include in your prayers for an early end to this interregnum.

David, Graham. Jane & Mary
Benefice Churchwardens

SNIPPET FROM THE PRESS

By David Salmons

THE TIMES SATURDAY MARCH 11 2006. Smoke clears.....and their eyes meet "FROM the instant she saw him across the smoke free bar, an eyebrow slightly raised and his dark eyes full of mystery, she felt her whole body quiver with desire. He motioned to the door and she followed him outside. "Well?" he said, his voice dropping to a delicious whisper. She stared into his hazel-brown eyes, her pulse quickening as she took in the manly contours of his chest and shoulders. "I'm Tandy," she stammered as he pulled the cigarette packet from his pocket. "I'm Jake," he said, moving closer as he offered a light. "So, er, what do you make of this smoking ban?" So is coined "smirting" a combination of flirting and smoking that has taken place in the wake of the ban on smoking in the Irish Republic and will no doubt follow here. Smirters are young and old, gay and straight and some had never smoked before....." A wonderful piece by **David Lister**. The full piece is amusing to say the least and is accompanied with a '**A SMIRTING GUIDE**' a list of '**DO's & DON'Ts**'. If you haven't a copy I'm sure you can download it on the Internet.

Dates for your Diary

Father's Festival Weekend

17th & 18th June

Weekend of fun for Dad and the children in and around St. Mary's Church and of course, Mums are very welcome too. To make this weekend a great success we need children and their parents willing to participate in making music. Can you sing or play an instrument? Would you like the opportunity to share your talent with the rest of us? This is your big chance! Perhaps you are good at photography or art, so don't keep it to yourself. We're inviting children up to 10 years to draw or paint a picture of their Dad for Father's Day - so with pens and pencils at the ready why not get drawing? Alternatively a photograph of 'Me and my Dad' with no age limit could be fun.

We need Mums, especially those who have a flair for flower arranging and those who just want to help.

There will be other activities for the children and of course there will be cream teas to enjoy.

Calling all Mums and Dads who are full of fun and ideas and want to spend the weekend with their children.

**Grand finale Songs of Praise at 6pm.
Everyone welcome.**

Donations will be gratefully received

Photographs and paintings to be submitted by Wednesday 14th June, to one of the Committee listed below.

(although some paintings can be accepted on the day.)

For more information please contact: - Bobbie Carter 01725 552042

Sheila Smith	01725	552149
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Maureen Lockyer 01725 552492

Rita Taylor	01725	552885
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Please return the slip below if you are interested in singing or playing an instrument to Bobbie Carter, 5 The Orchard, as soon as possible. Guest performances will be 1.30 - 2.30pm each day.

Name	
Tel. No	
Would like to sing	
Would like to play an instrument	

The Downsman

DON'T FORGET WHAT'S ON!!!

DATE	FUNCTION	PAGE	DATE	FUNCTION	PAGE
Apr-03	Chase Community Friends	24	May-11	Chase Community Friends	24
Apr-05	Whist at the Village Hall	42	May-17	Whist at the Village Hall	42
Apr-06	Mobile Library	06	May-18	Mobile Library	06
Apr-06	Activity Day for Easter	39	May-18	Chase Community Friends	24
Apr-09	Chase Community Friends	24	May-20 Downsman Copy Deadline	03	
Apr-10	WI Annual Meeting	06	May-24	W I Spring Group Meeting	06
Apr-15	Chase Community Friends	24	May-25	Chase Community Friends	24
Apr-18 Questionnaire Return Deadline	23		May-25	Chase Garden Club	35
Apr-19	Whist at the Village Hall	42	May-27	Plant Sale Farnham Church	19
Apr-20	Mobile Library	06	May-30	W I Outing to Longstock	06
Apr-21	Chase Community Friends	24	May-31	Whist Prize Giving	42
Apr-24	Pentridge PCC AGM	09	Jun-01	Chase Community Friends	24
Apr-25	WI Spring Council Meeting	06	Jun-07	W I to Hawk Conservancy	06
Apr-26	W I Birthday Supper	06	Jun-08	Chase Community Friends	24
Apr-27	Chase Community Friends	24	Jun-12	W I Garden Meeting	06
Apr-27	Handley PCC AGM	09	Jun-15	Chase Community Friends	24
Apr-27	Chase Garden Club	35	Jun-17	Fathers Festival	47
May-03	Whist at the Village Hall	42	Jun-18	Fathers Festival	47
May-04	Mobile Library	06	Jun-22	Chase Community Friends	24
May-04	Chase Community Friends	24	Jun-25	Tennis Summer Tournament	41
May-07	Tennis Club Season Opener	41	Jun-29	Chase Community Friends	24
May-09	W I Meeting & Quiz	06	Jul-06	Chase Community Friends	24