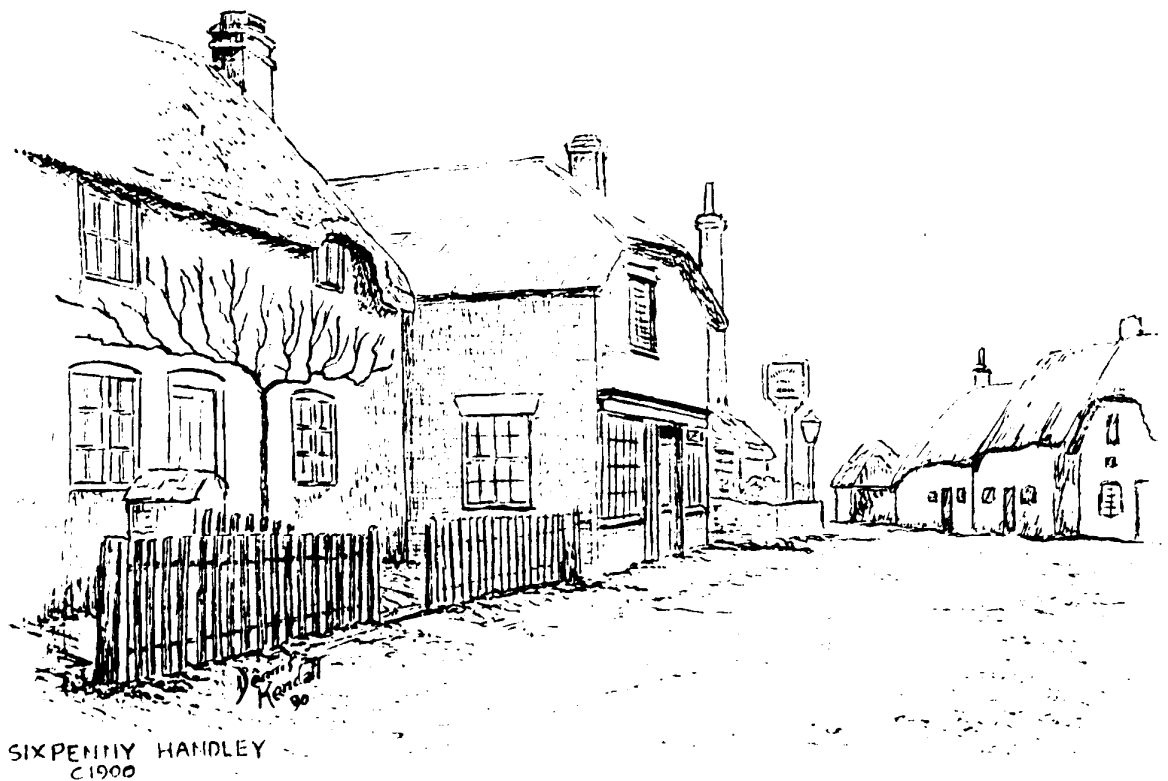


The Downsmen

NEWS AND INFORMATION
MAGAZINE



PARISH OF SIXPENNY HANDLEY WITH
PENTRIDGE

August 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

	Mrs P.K. Bailey-Wright...	552771
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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 840557
Curate		
Roman Catholic	Church of Our Lady of Lourdes & St. Cecilia, Blandford Forum	
Priest	Rev. Fr. Ciaran McGuinness, W.F. The Prestbury, 55 Salisbury Street, Shaftesbury.....	01747 852125

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

	Jaqui.....	552306
	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.**Please send all your contributions to.....**

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

E-mail: downsman@sixpennyhandley.org

It's that time again... after a peaceful seven and a half weeks since the last issue I was happy at the weekend when the skies broke and the rain poured down. It made spending a weekend in an office staring at a computer slightly more enjoyable in the knowledge that everyone else was also inside craving for the sun and a thirst-quenching drink.

In my relief at finishing the magazine I forgot, last time, to thank all those regular contributors out there. So a huge **THANK YOU** must be sent out to you all. Without your articles, adverts and pieces of news the magazine would be little more than a collection of pages with the odd pretty picture that I discovered on Clip Art.

Please complete the 'SHReD' leaflet in the centre of this magazine as soon as possible. If you have any children aged 6-8 then make sure to read page 37 as John Curtis is hoping to start a Beaver Scout Colony.

Below is a letter sent to me from the Parish Council which I thought you might all like to read:



Dear Alan

For nearly a decade you have selflessly and tirelessly given of your time and expertise to create and produce a very fine publication. The Downsman is an excellent source of information, communication and education within the Parish and we should all be the poorer without it.

Your successor has made a brilliant start at maintaining the very high standard that you have set and this will be partly due to your patient and thorough handover and to your tutelage. She is the right person for the task and we are most fortunate that she has volunteered.

May I add the Clerks' thanks for all your help and tolerance, to the gratitude of the parish Council

Chris Snape

Keep those contributions coming.... Kathryn

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

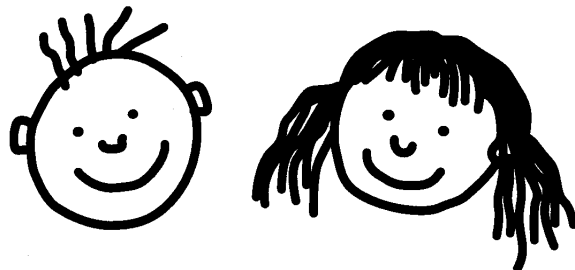


The next edition of this Magazine will be published on the
1st August 2006

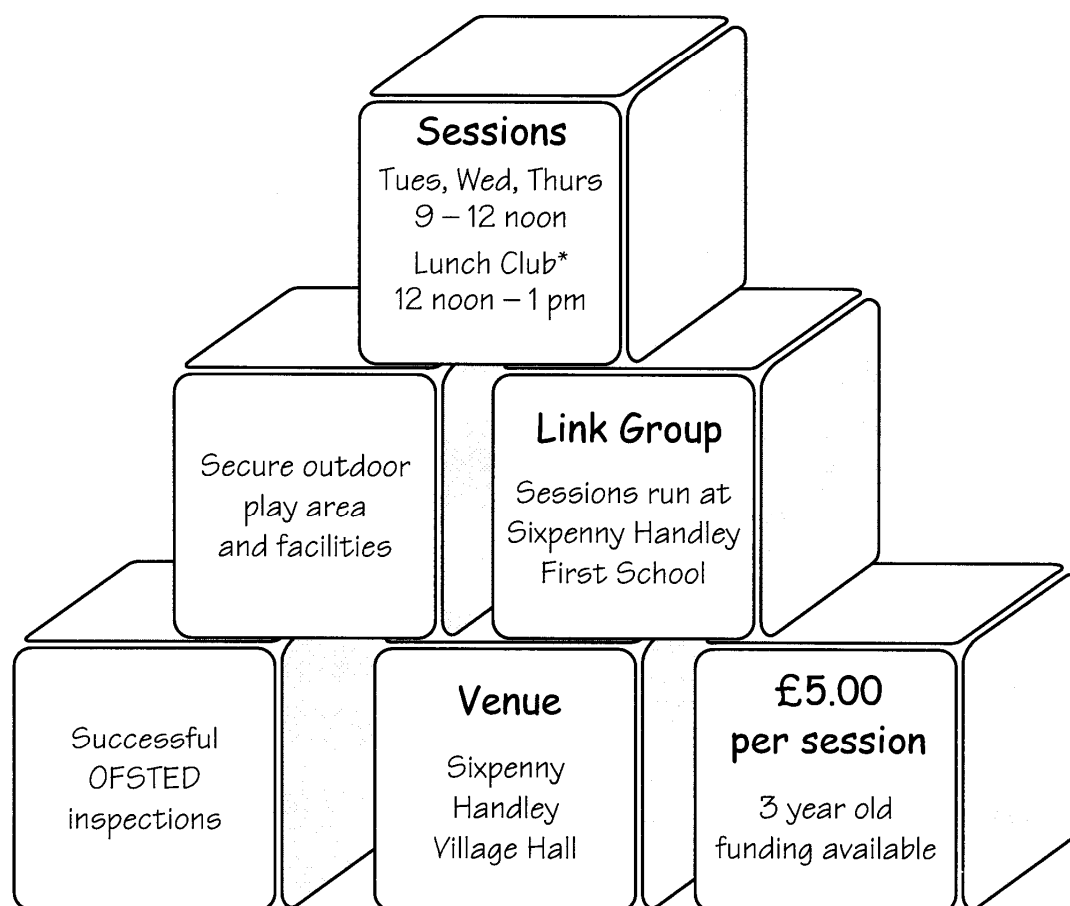
Copy Deadline is 20th September 2006

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.

The Chase Nursery



We aim to provide a safe happy caring environment
where children of 3 - 5 years of age may flourish



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

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

Secretary: Jane Laing.....01725 553146

*Thursday Lunch Club finishes at 12:45 pm



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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

Parish Maintenance Units are operated by Dorset County Council. Our Unit visits every six months. It is primarily responsible for highway surfaces, verges, drainage into Wessex Water's system, traffic signs etc. If you feel that there are outstanding items within the Parish, please put them in writing, deliver notes to the Parish office by 1st September and I will pass them on.

Speeding through the village continues. SID is preoccupied at the moment, but he is coming. Meanwhile please take care.

The Parish Plan Steering Group. Leonard Holihan has been on holiday taking a well-earned rest. He has now returned refreshed and full of vigour and vitality - watch this space!

Vandalism and Malicious Damage continues; the latest being the wrecking of guttering at the pavilion. The Parish Council has arranged for the replacement of smashed window units and will then replace the guttering and have the pavilion redecorated. The District Councillor will investigate options to provide additional support for the youth of the Parish in order that vandalism can be eliminated. We have super facilities and, given the chance, the Parish Council might be persuaded to provide more.

SHReD has enclosed a flyer with this copy of The Downsman. Please try to support this composting initiative.

Christopher Snape
Clerk to the Parish Council

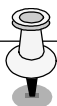
The following planning application has recently been examined by the Council

- 3/06/0571 - 10 East Woodyates - Extension of bedroom and conservatory for the health and comfort of a disabled person.

R.N.L.I. (Lifeboats)

Stalls of 'Lifeboat' souvenirs, gifts, etc, will be held on Sheila Bradley's front path on Saturday 9th September and Sunday, 10th September.

The event is taking place a little later than it has in the past few years, so please don't rush to buy your Christmas cards before seeing our excellent selection! The event will take place whether it is raining or not, (we hope it will be fine!). We have raised such valuable amounts of money each year for the RNLI so it would be good to keep up our contributions.



East Dorset Housing Association Summer Roadshow

The road show will be visiting Sixpenny Handley on Tuesday 15th August

The venue has been changed from that published in "Your HOME"
from Common Road to **SHEASBY CLOSE** adjacent to the Post Box

The show should be set up by 9.30am and will be open until 10.30am

This an opportunity for Tenants to pop in and meet the

Managing Director

New Housing Officer

Resident Involvement Officer

Chair of the Tenants Forum and Vice Chair of the Board,

Other Forum and EDHA staff members and

A representative from **Knightstone Housing** Association

Bring the children along so that they can enter the Balloon Race.

ALL are welcome to pop in for a chat, would like to know more about the activities
and opportunities that the **EAST DORSET HOUSING ASSOCIATION** has to offer to meet the
needs of the local community that could make a difference to your life.

. Have a chat about your and the area's housing needs.

A Meeting of the Parochial Church Council of St Mary's Sixpenny Handley with Gussage St Andrew's was held on Thursday 6th July 2006

Summary of the Agenda items

- Tony Gibb has been given copies of the histories of both St Mary's and St Andrew's churches to provide a depth of interest to the website.
- Priests have been booked to cover services up to 13th August. The Churchwardens will plan from then up to the second week in October. Harvest Festival is on 8th October at 9.30am.
- Our new vicar is Rev. Melvin (Mel) Durrant - wife Margaret. The service of Licensing will take place in October. Rev Wendy Griffiths will take any funeral service in the meantime.
- Some work will need to be done to the vicarage prior to occupation.
- A vote was carried to agree to an interim payment of £5000 to be paid now towards "The Share", the rest to be paid in December.
- The cost of the water supply to the Church will be about £10K to bring the water up from the road and about £5-6K to come from the vicarage, with an intercepting meter. A meeting with the Archdeaconry Property Committee is on 29th July at which this will be discussed.
- A parishioner has asked, by letter, if the portion of the church wall which bounds part of his garden can be mended. Mr Alee Hunt (our building consultant) will investigate.
- The Harvest Supper is on 7th October 2006. The Church Christmas Bazaar is on 2nd December.
- Mrs Wendie Everall and helpers are to organise 2 activity days for children on 4th and 18th August. If financial help is needed, the PCC will contribute up to £100.

Sheila Bradley (Secretary)

Private William Rose (26748)
2nd Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment

By mid-November, 1916, the Battle of the Somme had run its course, ending in a manner very much in keeping with the opening day of this awful struggle in that it rained heavily. Truly, and I cannot over emphasise this point during the preparation of these tributes to our village servicemen who lost their lives on the Western Front, the conditions in which they had to fight and exist were almost beyond human imagination for, in the main, the trench systems, particularly those in the forward areas, were hellholes of mud and slime with an ever pervaded stench of damp and decay. And, due to the proximity of the enemy lines, casualties from the frequent raiding parties (an exercise in which both sides participated with vigour in near equal measure) often had to be left where they fell thus, consequently, several weeks might elapse before bodies could be brought in for possible identification and burial. Sadly, many tens of thousands were never recovered and to this day remains of soldiers are found in just about every area of where the fighting took place.

So, it was in such conditions that Private William Rose spent the last few months of his life. Initially, William, who had been born in nearby Fordingbridge, had joined the army at Blandford where he enlisted with the 5th Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment and was given the service number '18755' but at a date not specified he had transferred to the 2nd Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment. Neither can I say with certainty when he arrived with the 2nd Battalion but by late March, 1917, and with the Battle of Arras pending he found himself ensconced with his fellow soldiers in some quarries just to the west of Blairville, a small village south-southwest of Arras, and waiting to move into trenches in the Mercatel sector of the front.

As was common practice, a reserve of officers and men were left behind when the battalion filed into the trenches during the evening of Wednesday the 28th of March, 1917, relieving the 2nd Battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers in the process. The battalion's *War Diary* shows that D company took up positions on the right with C company to their left, leaving A company in support and B company in reserve. It is further noted that 2nd Lieutenant L P F Mackintosh reported for duty from the depot at Rouen.

The following night, after a quiet day spent resting, working parties were assembled for the task of preparing a new trench line 400 yards ahead of the positions vacated by the fusiliers. A good start was made and the men of A company set to work to dig out a communication trench linking the old to the new, this task being completed 24 hours later. Saturday was peaceable until the evening when shells began to fall along the line, and though described as being of brief duration 2nd Lieutenant A. Wilson and four soldiers were wounded, though it is not indicated as to how severe their injuries were. Spasmodic artillery fire continued for what remained of the weekend but as the battalion neared the end of their tour of trench duty, 21st Brigade went into action with the 2nd Battalion, Yorkshire Regiment aided by two companies drawn from the 19th Manchester Regiment attacking the village of Henin-sur-Cojeul.

This action was met with fierce opposition and despite getting into the village the assault was held up and at 9 a.m. the battalion's B company was called upon to move up in support coming under the direct command of Colonel Edwards, commanding the 2nd Battalion, Yorkshire Regiment.

Throughout the remainder of the day the fighting raged and it was not until dusk that the last remnants of the enemy were ousted. Amazingly, considering the stiff resistance put up by the

German infantry, B company came out of the line (all units having been relieved by the 90th Brigade) having suffered just one fatality, that being Private William Rose.

Today, his grave is just one of over 1,800 Allied servicemen buried in Bucquoy Road Cemetery near the village of Ficheux. Looking at my map of the area, I would hazard a guess and say that Ficheux might be the same size of Sixpenny Handley and it almost beggars belief that a cemetery of the magnitude just described can be found in what remains very open countryside. And yet, in France, numerous cemeteries of this kind can be found; silent sentinels to a time of great sacrifice that brought so much anguish to families living in the towns and cities and to practically every village across the breadth of the United Kingdom.

For anyone wishing to visit William Rose's grave, located in plot VI, row H, grave 22, and tended with great care by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, will need to drive south from Arras along the D.919 in the direction of Alette and after about 9 kilometres look to the right hand side as you approach the crossroads with the D.36 twixt Ficheux and Boisleux-au-Mont.

From the maelstrom of war to the relative quiet of our own village in 1917 (though for the families with sons or husbands serving with our armed forces a time of great anxiety as well), I will close by reflecting upon some of the advertising carried on the front page of the *Salisbury and Winchester Journal* for Saturday, the 7th of April, 1917. A whole host of services was on offer from jobs to the procurement of goods while two major shipping companies placed adverts for passages to Australia and onward sailing to New Zealand and Tasmania (Orient Line), while the Union Castle Line was touting for business heading for the Cape, all major East Africa ports and Mauritius. Any mention of the possible risk from submarine attack was wisely omitted! Another that caught my eye had been placed by The Amesbury Building Estate which was offering for sale freehold building plots with frontages of 25-feet and upwards and running to a depth of 200-feet and, as the compiler put it, '*good openings for any class of Business in connection with the large Military Camps in the District.*'

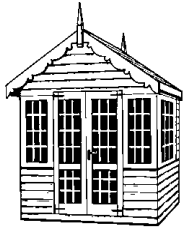
More adverts appear throughout the eight pages of the paper, one being aimed by the National Service for female recruitment of 10,000 women wanted at once to grow and harvest the victory crops. In addition, 5,000 women were needed to fill milking vacancies, 4,000 field workers and 1,000 carters, the advert ending with the words '*DON'T DELAY! Enrol at once in the Women's Land Army.*'

Bill Chorley

Postscript. In the postscript to my profile on Private Henry Edward Harrison, reported in the last issue of *The Downsman*, I indicated I would report the names of those who fell in the action on Jebel Hamran ridge on the 27th of March, 1917. Thus far I have found amongst the 40,688 entries on the Basra Memorial:

3923	Sepoy	ABA MORE	105 th Mahratta Light Infantry
MTCD/235	Driver	ABDUL GHAFUR	Supply and Transport Company
1901	Lance Naik	ABDUL JABAR KHAN	116 th Mahrattas
2754	Sepoy	ABDUL LATIF	116 th Mahrattas
37017	Private	ACTON Herbert H.	1 st Bn Manchesters

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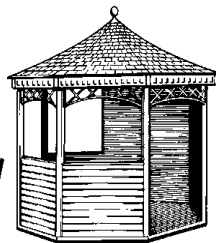
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Fordingbridge**



ANYONE FOR TENNIS?



Did you know that Sixpenny Handley has two fantastic tennis courts? And that they're **free** to use whenever you want to once you pay a competitively priced joining fee?

Annual membership costs just £30 for one adult, £45 for a family of 2 adults and 2 children, and £12.50 for students

With membership you also get access to excellent coaching programmes

The tennis courts can be found at the Recreation Ground near the Village Hall. Come and take a look or, even better, 'phone Iain on (01725) 553146 to book your **FREE ONE HOUR SESSION***

Interested in joining? Please call Laura on (01725) 552651 for a membership application form

* Conditions apply

Sixpenny Handley Tennis Club - Shaftesbury League Update

With a squad full of promising young talent and fresh faces, confidence and optimism was high. And rightly so. With three wins out of the first four matches the team were entertaining thoughts of trophies and guest appearances at Wimbledon.

Sadly, as the season unfolded, our hitherto sparkling form started to unravel as we endured a string of narrow defeats (one match ended on a count back of games which we lost 40-41!).

Nevertheless the enthusiasm and commitment from the players remains second to none. To me they are all winners by helping to put Sixpenny Handley Tennis Club on the Dorset map. It surprises me each time I hear compliments on the excellent facilities we have at our disposal, as we often take these for granted as they are right on our doorstep.

Should you have a free evening and wish to cheer on your local tennis team, our remaining fixtures for this season are:

Mon 24th July	Away	Shillingstone B
Tues 1 st August	Away	Templecombe
Tues 8 th August	Home	Marnhull A

We are always looking out for new players – if you are interested in joining the team next season then please call Iain on 01725 553146



News and Information

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

The June meeting was held at 'Middle Chase', the home of member Mrs Elizabeth Brodie. The evening was fine and we took delight at looking at the garden and the spectacular view to the coast. Members sat down to a very tasty meal provided by our hostess and the Committee. The evening closed with musical entertainment 'Two's Company' from Dorchester. On leaving the venue at dusk one could not help but wonder at the vista; a myriad of twinkling lights as far the eye could see.

Mrs Cosgrove, an avid collector of all kinds of lace, paid us a visit in July. She explained the intricacies of lace making by hand and pointed out the tell-tale signs which indicate machine-made lace. Samples of old lace were passed around and we marvelled at the neatness and minute stitchery - all worked pre-gas and electric light.

The July competition was won by Heather Eyman - Bedford lace on a hankie.

Flower of the Month:

June: Diane Appleby - a posy

July: Doreen Leverton - orange lily

Dates for Diaries:

Monday August 14th	Social evening / American Supper at The Old Forge
Monday September 11th	Talk by Mr Cowley—Native woods and the joy of English furniture
Friday September 15th	Group skittles at Tarrant Gunville
Tuesday September 26th	Group outing to Stourhead
Wednesday October 4th	D.7.W.I quiz at The Old Forge
Monday October 9th	Stunt artiste, Mrs D. Edwards
Wednesday October 25th	Autumn council meeting in Weymouth

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

Handley Sports Club '100 Club' Draw Number six

1 st	£20	009	Styles/Potter & Holden
2 nd	£15	101	Mrs S.N. Tough, 12 Paddock Close, Sixpenny Handley
3 rd	£10	114	Mr G. Burke, 1 Littlefield Lane, Sixpenny Handley
4 th	£5	031	Mat Gale, 37 Pinewood Road, Ferndown, Dorset

Date for your Diary

St. Mary's Church
invites you to
a

Harvest
Supper

Saturday 7th October

A social evening with
entertainment

Further details to come

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The Downsman are:

Full page - £16;

Half page - £10;

Quarter page - £5

Our book 6 and pay for only 5
insertions offer continues with
the annual rates (6 issues) being
£80, £50 and £25 respectively.

The magazine offers excellent
value in reaching your local
customers

we currently deliver

The Downsman
to approximately
680 households within the parish.

Sixpenny Handley Homewatch

Let's start with two pieces of encouraging news from Dorset Police: All 2006 crime figures for the Blandford Section are down on 2005, while the current crime detection rate for our area has risen to 30%, which is considered good. Well done to the local police and thank you for supporting them both directly and through Homewatch.



Even more important, long term, is the apparent abandonment by Government of attempts to merge Police Forces into massive regional units. Dorset could have gone in with the rest of the South West, leaving us on the very edge of a two hundred mile territory with probably even less police resources than we have currently. It now seems that is most unlikely to happen. Hooray!

Less encouraging has been a return during the warm summer evenings to local vandalism and criminal damage. The cricket pitch has been deliberately driven over; a High Street window smashed, and a vehicle damaged at the bottom of the village. Culprits are known to be local and the police are stepping up surveillance to deter and/or catch these antisocial individuals red-handed.

A reminder that if you want to report anything suspicious to the Police, the best number to use is the easily remembered **01202 222 222**. If an incident requires immediate attendance by the Police, have no hesitation in using **999**.

The Dorset Steam Fair looms and is always associated with a rise in local crime, so please be vigilant and make arrangements for a neighbour to keep an eye on your property if you are going away. Farmers are already reporting more thefts of red diesel, so it looks as if this year the problems may be starting early.

Finally, a big thank you to the Parish Council for paying for the new Homewatch signs that have recently gone up in the area. Many of the original ones were faded or cracked and in need of replacement. Don Penrose made a great job of coordinating the task and the actual sign fitting was carried out by the County Council.

100 Club Winners – May

1st Mr R Jesse

2nd Mrs D Broadway

3rd Mr T Henderson

100 Club Winners – June

1st Mrs Poolman

2nd Miss M North

3rd Mrs D Leverton

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

Village Hall News

Hello again,

Time seems to fly by these days. It seems only a few days ago that I wrote the June report. Since then we have had two meetings, the Ex. on 12th June and the Man. on 4th July. A few people were missing at both meetings—holidays and football were offered as excuses.

At the Ex. Meeting Mrs New (Parish Local Plan) wrote to ask if they could hire the V.H. to use as a drop-in centre for the teenagers of the parish. We were unable to agree on this issue. What we did agree on was that Mrs New should be invited to address the Man. Meeting and to answer some of the many questions that were asked. This was done and two members of the P.L.P. came and discussed their requirements after a long and thorough debate it was unanimously agreed to allow the P.L.P. to proceed on a trial basis that will be monitored by the V.H. committee.

Now for some good news. There will be NO increase in the hire charges from September 1st this year. The committee felt that the finances were in good order and no increase was necessary. This can not be allowed to continue and CCTV may help—I will make some enquiries.

Someone broke a window in the V.H. on 3rd July. It looks like a football did the damage this time. I bet Ronaldo would not play football in the car park for he would hurt himself taking too many dives. A couple of nights later the plastic on one window was badly scorched.

Box office has given me the following dates for your diary:

Friday September 29th - Moviola presents 'Junebug' (15)

Set in North Carolina. Staring Embeth Davidtz, Alessandro Nivola and Amy Adams.

"A wise, bitter-sweet, beautifully acted comedy." The New York Times.

Doors open 7pm, tickets £4.50

Saturday October 21st - Rob's Auction

The usual format. Bring your goodies in the morning, view in the afternoon, selling early evening. Book Stall and Bric-a-Brac available all day. Refreshments and Draw.

Friday November 3rd - Moviola presents 'The Clandestine Marriage' (15)

Staring Nigel Hawthorne, Timothy Spall, Joan Collins, Paul Nicholls and that girl from the Vicar of Dibley.

Doors open 7pm, tickets £4.50

Sunday 3rd December - Artsreach Shows, The Mellstock Band presents 'The Leaves of Life'. Christmas music from the English Tradition, from Carols to Revels and from Alehouse to Church gallery. Looks good.

Doors open 7.30pm, tickets £6.50

Friday 30th March 2007 - Forest Forge Theatre presents 'The Game Keeper'

There is a lot more to come so for more details ring Pat on 01725 552591

Gordon Oxford (Chairman)

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		

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Nuclear Energy at Woodcutts

A few years ago, we the people of Woodcutts were preparing for the anticipated arrival of Mr. What'shisname? You know, the man who became the president of the U.S.A. after nearly winning the election. We were sure he was going to lose, so we offered him a house here, thinking he would bring some cheap oil wells with him. Unfortunately he became president anyway and therefore did not need us or the house. Sadly there was to be no cheap oil.

Instead it looks as if Mr. Blair is going to be looking for accommodation soon. We are as yet, very undecided about offering him a house as we are not sure that we want an atomic power station built here. (Please see reference to NIMBYISM in the last edition of the Downsman.)

Do we have much choice, we ask? We don't get the wind much here, we certainly don't have tidal systems and the sun is no stronger than it is anywhere else. With oil and natural gas running out possibly in thirty years, do we have any option, even if Mr. Blair finds accommodation elsewhere? The answer at the moment would appear to be no, we have got to rely on nuclear power. Does the area below the pub and in front of the telephone exchange appeal, or if that doesn't what about at New Buildings, or even behind the Vicarage where the recycling skips are? A nuclear power station will probably be a lot less noisy than the bottle bank, for the new vicar. The bottle bank is of course environmentally friendly, there seems to be doubts about nuclear energy. If you disagree with nuclear power because you are 'green', a trip to the surgery might help.

While thinking green, the subject of gardening comes to mind. What a peculiar year? To ensure the picking of early tomatoes I planted seed in trays, in the last week of February, which I then put into a propagator. The seed germinated and the plants grew well, I thought that I was going to have fruit by early June at the absolute latest. Now on the 12th July I will pick my first tomatoes tomorrow. No, I was not waiting for Mr. Blair to come, so that he could pick the first ones, they simply have not grown. On the other hand, cucumbers are cropping extremely well and everyone in the family whether they like them or not, are eating them.

Out in the vegetable garden, the carrots, first sown at the end of March, to supposedly supply us with nice young bunching carrots in early June, are after being resown are just coming through now. Parsnips sown at the same time are few and far between. Cabbage plants of all varieties were sown in the greenhouse and planted out in one mammoth session. This was to the delight of all the rabbits and pigeons for miles. The second planting was all put under fleece. To stop the slugs I put numerous beer traps under the fleece with the plants, as yet I am undecided whether it would have been better to have drunk the beer and not bothered about planting Brassicas. Wire netting now surrounds the area, and I still don't understand what is grazing the carrot tops and the fennel. Perhaps since this is Woodcutts there are flying rabbits or hares. All I can say is "O deer".

There is one crop that is doing well, the early potatoes. They were planted at the beginning of March, and were ready to be lifted the first week of June. The variety, Rocket, crops well but is not the best for that 'new flavour'. The main crop has suddenly taken off as well, now the haulm is almost four feet high. This is a new pink variety, Sarpo Mira, released for the first time last year by Thompson and Morgan. I grew them last year and was delighted with the resistance to blight, and apparent rejection by slugs. They yielded well and ate extremely well, in all a variety to be watched in the future. I will certainly continue with it.

Now let's go to a more interesting topic, butterflies. Today, Weds. 12th July we have had the best butterfly day of the year, particularly with browns. I have not seen so many meadow browns together for years. In the paddock opposite the house there were so many I didn't try to count them.

I must apologise but it is getting dark now, and according to my clock here in the summerhouse where I am working, it is fourteen minutes past eight. That of course is GMT, as I haven't changed it from last winter. This is not a problem when I remember, but it can create problems when I forget and am an hour late for something important, like mealtimes. Anyway it is getting difficult to see well now unless I turn the light on, then I will be pestered by every nocturnal flying insect in the area. A sudden thought, are flying rabbits night flying creatures? What worries me more, is that I am reading Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, for the first time and although it's not Christmas I don't want to meet any of Ebenezer Scrooge's friends either.

Sorry for the delay, I am back to normal or as normal as it is possible for me to be. My apologies if you got up early on 13th expecting me to finish this article then. I am going to complete it now so if you wait for a few moments you can read it to the end. Let us return to the last sensible thing I wrote was on Weds. 12th July 1954, no I am only joking it was 2006, and the topic was butterflies. What a change in the last few days, still plenty of meadow browns along with gatekeepers, speckled wood and fritillaries, plus the more colourful red admirals, painted ladies and a single lesser tortoiseshell. So instead of where have all the butterflies gone? It is where have all the tortoiseshells gone? In fact we can also ask where have all the whites gone? Also where have all the brimstones gone? Apart from a good sighting of marbled whites in woodland, or more exactly at the wood side, whites have been conspicuous by their absence. The same applies to brimstones, which normally start the butterfly year for us. This year the normal early flight was almost non-existent, with the second June flight a non-event as well.

It is quite amazing how the year's natural weather variations effect the fecundity of so many species. This year we have mentioned the butterflies, we could also include the elder flowers, as any cordial maker can tell you. There was a marvellous late show of flowers, but the flowering period was late and very short, if cordial makers weren't up to scratch they didn't get any of the bumper crop. Both the oak and the ash were late producing leaves this year, but there seemed to be no pattern to it. Some gardeners have also had very indifferent years so far, even in their greenhouses, with good cucumber crops but very poor tomatoes, that simply didn't get going, rather like me.

What we can say is no two years are alike, and that has been and certainly will be for the future. With man manipulating the environment as he does and with a 50% increase in population by the year 2050, what are we to expect in the coming years?

There is an old saying :-

"You have made your bed, now you must lie on it."

Unfortunately for all those who come after us, they are the ones who will notice the biggest changes, that is those living after 2040 or perhaps 2050. Land going in to set aside today will be a thing of the past then. Every acre that can grow food then will be needed. The thought of growing fuel crops will be a thing of the past, there simply won't be enough acres for food, with all marginal land being used for leisure, which will be considered far more important than it is today.

So we arrive back where we started, nuclear power, perhaps we should consider asking Mr. Blair to retire here and bring us an atomic reactor with him after all.

Ted Cox
16.07.2006

STOP PRESS 18.07.2006

Today the hottest day of the summer so far and butterflies are appearing from everywhere.

I am not sure whether the 'STOP PRESS' is used today in our papers, but it did bring back memories of the distant past when I typed it. With computers I don't suppose it is necessary any more. That's progress I suppose.

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JOBS JOBS JOBS JOBS

RABBIT HOLE FILLERS urgent need for volunteers to undertake filling rabbit holes on the recreation ground and the children's play area. Hopefully remedial action will remove the risk of a broken ankle. Can help please contact the Parish Office on 552211.

YOUTH LEADERS urgently required to help meet the needs being expressed by the youngsters in the Village. Can you spare a few hours per week working with them. Yes? It's challenging but extremely rewarding. Then please contact Rob Easton on 552038.

FLAG STATION OFFICER fit person with head for heights required to raise and lower the Flags on St Mary's Church Tower. Wonderful unsurpassed view but a bit draughty at times. It is a steep climb but the view is worth it. Details of dates and which flag are available. Interested—then please phone 552721 or 552149.

FLOWER ARRANGERS would you like to join a team that undertake to do the floral decorations in St Mary's Church. Should you have a flare for flower arranging then Sue Pillans would love to hear from you. Please call 552112.

CLOCK WINDER another opportunity to rise above the rest of us. The clock at St Mary's is a 7 day movement and therefore needs regular winding. The bells of St Mary's is part of village life so this is an important position. Training will be given and you will understudy Chris who has been doing it for years call him on 552455.

CHURCH CLEANING can you spare 1 to 2 hours every couple of months? That would be your commitment on joining the team of two's who regularly clean St Mary's normally on Fridays or Saturdays. The more on the list the less often it comes round. If you can fit this into your already busy life please give Joyce a call on 552772.

CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE the team that have achieved awards and accolades for this well managed area seek some younger help before it is too late to pass on the knowledge that has achieved such results. Ted Cox would love to hear from you please phone him on 552801.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER required to examine Annual Accounts of Sixpenny Handley PCC. Accounts presented for AGM March/April each year. Being treated as a Charity there is a requirement under the Charities Act 1993 and Church Accounting Regulations for a person with appropriate qualities and knowledge to report on the accounts. Should you be able to take on this role please contact either Churchwarden on 552149/552721.

COMING

NEW VICAR APPOINTED

At long last an appointment has been made and the Rev Melvyn (Mel) Durrant and his wife Margaret will be joining us shortly. Work needs to be done on the Vicarage the main task being to sort out the plumbing, heating and upgrading the kitchen. Hopefully the work will have started by the time you read this which will enable the interior decorating to go ahead. The whole place needs redecorating so if you are able to give some time I'm sure you wouldn't be turned away. They can't wait to get here and are planning to move in on 11 September so a lot of work needs to be done. Should you wish to help please contact Rev Mel who will be popping between here and his present area which encompasses the Benefices of Watercombe and Moreton, Tincleton, Woodsford and Crossways all near Dorchester. Telephone 01305 853338 or Graham and David here on usual numbers. The Licensing Service is to take place on 2 October at 7.30 pm in St Mary's by the Bishop of Sherborne. Rev Mel's first Service will be Harvest Festival with Holy Communion on Sunday 8 October. More details later when arrangements have been worked out.

GONE

CURATES DEPARTURE

Rev Wendy Griffith left after presiding at her last service on Sunday 2 July which was also the 5th anniversary of her Ordination. The service was moving and afterwards many took the opportunity to say a personal farewell. For many the short notice and the rapid departure came as a surprise but quite often this really is the best way. We presented her with a personal visiting Communion Set contained in a black leather handbag. Her later remark was "had she been asked, that is what she would have asked for". The set goes with her with our love and every time she uses it we will be present in spirit to share in the administration of the Sacrament to the sick and housebound.. She has left us in good heart after serving here for eight years, and leaves to join and work with the team at Wimborne Minster which will give her the opportunity to explore where her ministry goes from here. We thank Wendy for her Ministry here and as we look forward the future looks good.

DS



News from the Troop

Just a quick note again to let you know what we have been getting up to at Scouts.....



Yeovilton Air Day

10 of us went to the Air Show at RNAS Yeovilton. We arrived early and grabbed a great spot right at the front. The day was spent looking around the static displays, jumping into helicopters and watching the air show. Undoubtedly the favourite of the day was the display by the Red Arrows, closely followed by the full Commando Assault at the end. This involved 15 helicopters, Tornado jets, Chinooks carrying Landrovers and pyrotechnics.

The challenge of the day was for the Scouts to collect as many free stickers as possible. The photograph shows Hadleigh and Andrew displaying their efforts.



Off -Roading

As a surprise activity the Scouts spent an evening off-roading. They had not been told before what was happening and arrived at the Scout Hut to find 5 off-road vehicles waiting to take them on a 2 hour drive cross country.

After an hour of driving (and 2 break downs!) the group stopped for hot dogs, drinks and a bit of a stretch. It was noted that the older Land Rovers were not quite as comfortable as first thought! We continued our journey on the Ridgeway and then back into

Handley. Thank you to Nick for organising the evening and to Steve and Tracey for lending, and driving, their vehicles. It was a great night and the Scouts are now thinking how they could off-road for a whole weekend and include a nights camping.

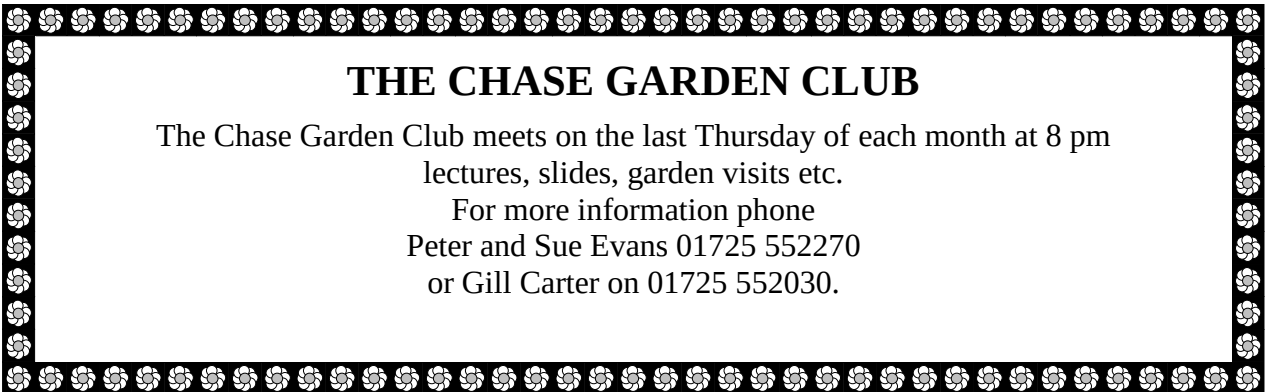
Larmer Tree Festival

This year the Scouts and friends of the Scout Group picked litter at the Larmer Tree Festival. Thank you to James and Julia for asking the Scouts to be involved in the event. Big thanks also to Simon, Andy, Hutch, and Mark for getting there at 6am every day to clear the site before it opened to the public. This was a great fundraiser for the Scouts but could only happen with volunteers giving their time.

Summer Camp

We look forward to telling you all about our Summer Camp in Guernsey in the next edition of the Downsman.

Rob



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.

**Bristol University is continuing its Lifelong Learning programme
at Broadchalke Village Hall
with a course on English fiction of the 1960's called 'Worlds Apart'.**

This will examine eight novels in the context of this rebellious period of history –
plenty to read but without homework!

It begins on Wednesday 27 September at 10am and continues for 10 weeks with a
half-term break on 25 October.

To enrol or gain further information contact the course administrator, Hilary Betts –
0117 928 8924 of the Tutor, Martin Lloyd – 01725 552105.



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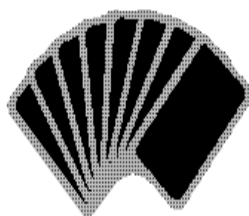
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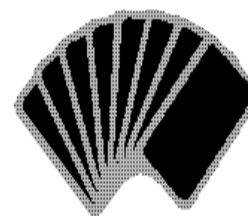
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CARDS



The final drive of the 2005-2006 Whist Competition was held in very sombre mood at the Village Hall on the last day of May, 2006, for just 24-hours earlier one of our stalwarts and most popular players, Tony Groves, had collapsed and died whilst playing golf at Sherborne. Tony's death was a terrible shock to us all and in the silence held before the commencement of play I know that the prayers of everyone present were with Stella.

As a measure of the great affection felt for Tony his Memorial Service, held in brilliant sunshine on the 7th of June, at St. Mary The Virgin, witnessed a church so packed that long before the service began it was *standing room* only. It was, truly, a joyful occasion during which five members of the congregation, invited by Stella, gave an address in respect of Tony's many interests ranging from his days as a farmer through to his passion for the sports that he loved and in which he participated to the full. It was my great privilege to speak on behalf of the whist and bridge clubs and my task was certainly buoyed by the knowledge that so many of our members were present to support Stella and say their farewells to Tony.

* * *

Readers of this column will, perhaps, notice a change in the title for it is my aim to provide equal coverage of both the whist and bridge sessions held here in the village and, from time to time, events of a like nature held further a field. Thus, concerning the whist meetings, the 2006-2007 competition will commence on Wednesday the 6th of September, 2006, at the Village Hall with play commencing at 7.30 p.m. The format will be the same as the previous contest, that is to say prize money will be awarded down to and including 10th place, plus an extra cash prize for the player carding the highest individual score over the 17 competitive rounds. Competitors who have the misfortune to miss any of the 17 drives, or who participate for the first time after the commencement of the competition, will automatically be granted a score equal to that of the lowest returned at the conclusion of the first round.

The dates for the new contest are: September 6th and 20th, October 4th and 18th, November 1st, 15th and 29th, January 10th and 24th, February 7th and 21st, March 7th and 21st, April 4th and 18th, May 2nd and 16th, with May 30th being the occasion for the awarding of prizes. The Christmas Drive will be held on Saturday the 9th of December and scores from this event will not be included in the competition.

Bridge. A mini-competition was held over several weeks during the months of April, May and June, at the end of which your scribe came out top with 13,480 points with Eric Turner second on 10,060 points. Third was John Davis (10,020) followed by Tim Stevens (9,780), Gillian Wadge (9,680), Gerald Trickey (8,850), Nora Davis (8,800), Julie Trickey (8,680), Trish Chorley (7,290), Sheila Bradley (6,890), Peter Martin (5,860), Sylvia Marskell (5,060), George Marskell (4,370), Maxine Keech (3,680), Chris Napier (3,360) and Peter Braithwaite (2,910).

Although whist and bridge enjoy a reasonable amount of support, new players are always welcome and if you are just wondering if either might be the game for you, then why not come along to the Sports Pavilion at 1.30 p.m. on Tuesday the 15th of August, or the following Tuesday, when I will be holding an introductory course in respect of both games.

Bill Chorley

Parish Plan Highways and Transport Group

A meeting was held by the Parish Plan Highways and Transport Group in June to discuss issues highlighted in the questionnaire. These can be conveniently broken down into the following headings: Road Safety, Public Transport, Traffic Calming and Parking.

Road Safety

To start the ball rolling the meeting had a power point presentation entitled 'A walk up the High Street' which comprised a set of photographs following three parents walking with children from the Crossroads to the school. It highlighted the danger spots for children at pinch points along the route. One mother described the walk to school as a "nightmare".

It was agreed that there was little incentive for parents to walk children to school either along back lane or the High Street in view of lack of footways. Since the school had a wide catchment there would always be a certain number of children arriving by car, more so during the winter months.

It was agreed that the group investigate provision of a parking drop/off area near the school; and the provision of a safe route to school be discussed with the County Council.

Public Transport

A number of respondents to the questionnaire had complained of the reduction in evening bus services, particularly to and from Salisbury. Others requested better links to Shaftesbury and Verwood and Wimborne.

There were a number of suggestions to improve the level and quality of service to the Parish. The first was to take up the concerns with Wilts and Dorset, to see if better services could be provided. The second, to progress discussions with Nordcat dial-a bus to extend the Wimborne service to the Parish. The third was to have a community bus.

A letter had been sent to the group by the Youth Group requesting provision of a mini-bus to transport young people out of the village at evenings and weekends.

Nordcat have said they would need to discuss the extension of the Wimborne service with representatives of the Group. However they are prepared to hire 15-20 seater buses (at very reasonable rates) if volunteer drivers are available in the village. The buses would be mainly available for hire at weekends.

Would other people in the village, particularly the elderly and those without a car, be interested? If people are interested please let us know. Anyone who is prepared to be a volunteer driver also let us know (details of registration can be provided).

In response to the letter from the Youth Group a mini-bus outing will be arranged in the near future.

Conclusion

It was agreed it would be naive to think there were easy solutions to traffic problems in the village, not least because there were such divergent views on each topic (such as car parking; suggestions ranged from a ban on all car parking in the High Street, to encouraging car parking to slow down traffic).

Speeding and Traffic calming (VMS, sleeping policemen, roundabouts) or a one way system would be the topics for the next meeting. The Group agreed that someone from the Highway Authority should come to a meeting to discuss the technical feasibility, safety and cost of traffic calming measures.

The next meeting of the transport group will be on Wednesday 6th September at the Parish Council offices, Town Farm Workshops. If anyone is interested in discussing the issues or wishes to attend please come along/ or contact me on 552672.

Chris Stokes

15th / 16th / 17th September

'Autumn Glory'

Flower Festival

10am – 5pm

Tarrant Keynston

with Tarrant Rushton and Tarrant Crawford

All three churches decorated

Refreshments and displays in Tarrant Keynston village hall

For further information contact Mary Anderson on 01258 456714

Saturday 16th September

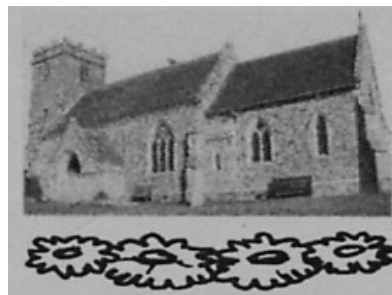
All Saints Church, Tarrant Keynston

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An evening of light classical music

The Stringendo Quartet in Concert

Tickets £8.00



There will be a welcoming glass of wine sponsored by Symonds & Sampson at 7.30pm

RICHARD ADLEM

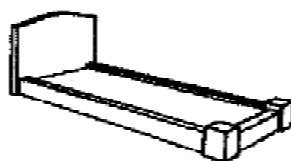
In Person



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.

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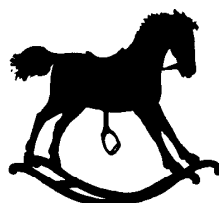
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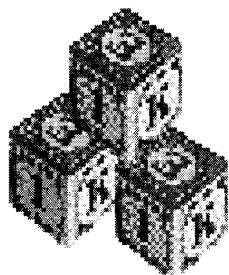


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ROB'S COLUMN

The Country Road

Give me the peaceful life, the quiet life.
Amid the fields of green;
Where I can listen to the birds,
Or meander by a stream.
Lead me from the highways, to the
byways,
Where sweet-scented hedgerows grow.
And the tall trees softly whisper,
As their leafy branches blow.
I love these simple things,
These special things,
That nature has bestowed
Upon us all who seek to find
Along the country road

Tongue Twister

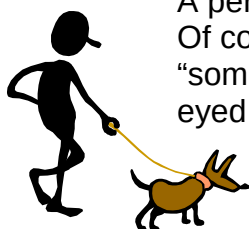
A flea and a fly in a flue.
Were imprisoned, so what could they do?
"Let us fly" said the flea.
"Let us flee" said the fly.
So they flew through a flaw in the flue.

Faithful Friend

There's someone who is sure you're right,
Whatever others think.
There's someone who will stand by you,
However deep you sink.
There's someone who won't care a bit
About your worldly store.
Indeed in poverty, I guess,
That friend will love you more.

There's someone watching for your smile;
Rejoicing in your gladness.
There's someone who will droop his head
And sympathise in sadness.
There's someone who, without a word,

A perfect faith assures.
Of course you'll guess who
"someone" is – That brown-
eyed dog of yours.



Nonsense Verse

One fine day, in the middle of the night,
Two dead men got up to fight.
Two blind men to see fair play,
Two dumb men to shout "hooray".
Along came a donkey and passed them
by.
Kicked the blind man in the eye.
Knocked him through a nine inch wall.
Into a dry ditch, and drowned them all.

Did you try my challenge word?

One more to try as I hope it entertained
you for a little time...

How many four letter words or more can
you make from the word **ENTERTAIN**?

An item to think about...

In the 1970s most houses had 17 electric
items in the house (including lights).
How many have you got now?
(I bet it's over 60)

What do you give a woman who has everything?

Penicillin

What's got one wheel, two legs and flies?

A barrow loads of manure

Success is just a matter of luck.
Just ask any failure.

Got up this morning and there was a tap
on the window...
I won't be using that plumber again!

Dr. Mr Johnson, I'm afraid your wife has lost her mind.
Patient That doesn't surprise me doctor. She's been giving me a piece of her mind every day since we got married.

Lastly, little **Jess the Donkey** had a 2nd, 3rd and 5th at Fordingbridge show. What a star!



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SCHOOL VISITS

The children at Sixpenny Handley First School make visits to places which are connected to the term's curriculum to enrich their learning and put it into a real life context.



What dangers lurk in a garden shed?

As part of the PSHCE curriculum, **Class 2** visited the Streetwise Safety Centre in Bournemouth. This award-winning Centre offers many different scenarios for pupils to learn in safety about the dangers they may come across in various situations such as in the park, on the road or at the beach, amongst many.

The guides explained potential problems and the children were encouraged to point out the dangers they could see. The Centre provides an environment where children can try out crossing the road independently using the crossing and strap themselves into a car with seatbelts.

They also learnt how to travel safely by bus and experienced a "stranger" approaching them. It was a very important part of the children's education which will hopefully help them to manage situations as they grow up to become independent adults.

An enjoyable lunch was eaten in the shade of the trees in Upton Country Park followed by a walk to the harbour side. We were all entranced by the peacocks' displays, marvelling at the symmetry and colours in their plumage.



Where should young children and babies sit in a car?



Cooling off

Brownsea Island was the destination for the Reception children in **class 1**.

As part of the Local Area topic they had been looking at their own village and following Barnaby Bear's footsteps to the contrasting area of Poole and Brownsea. Class based activities had included a number of geography tasks carried out on the computer as well as a video showing Barnaby's journey and adventures. The day dawned bright and sunny as the excited children set off from school.

From Sandbanks they boarded the boat for Brownsea. On the island the children were disappointed not to see Barnaby but found a number of interesting creatures. Friendly peacocks and chickens came to see them as they took their morning snacks, hoping for a tasty morsel.

National Trust volunteers John and Barbara told the children about the exploits of Sammy (the red) Squirrel before showing them the evidence of squirrel activity beneath the tall pine trees.



Searching for nibbled pine cones

Like Barnaby, Sammy remained elusive although one or two children were sure they spotted a bushy tail disappearing in the tree tops. After a picnic lunch on the shore line, where passing ferry traffic was observed and a quick paddle enjoyed, the children returned to school tired but happy after a very enjoyable day.

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1ST WOODCUTTS SCOUT GROUP 1957-2007

2ND INSTALMENT



After 2 or 3 months of running our troop I decided after discussions with Skip Raison that it was time to start up a second patrol of six lads. As it happened all of these lads were to come from the Farnham area: Jeff White, Anthony Frampton, Micky Moores, John Durbridge, Jimmy Joyce and Chris Abrams. Having named our first patrol 'Wolf' we decided to call our second one 'Stag'. By now the first six had passed their tenderfoot badge, had been invested and were all on their second class badge. Within a few weeks it was time to invest the second patrol of six, all of them having passed their tenderfoot badge. Skip Raison said that a man in Alderholt who had been at the first scout camp held by Baden Powell on Brownsea Island (I believe his name was Mr Maitland) wanted to come to our investiture and present the troop with a union flag and a prayer book - what an honour to meet one of the first scouts to come into being. We all met around the flag pole on Woodcutts Common, had our investiture, had our presentation and having been invited, Mr Maitland said prayers. At our next meeting Skip Raison informed us all that Alderholt Troop were going to camp at Tiptoe in the New Forest would any of us like to join them, I cannot remember how many of us took advantage but we all had a good time.

By this time the head of the Wimborne District Scouts had heard of our exploits and had decided to call a public meeting at Sixpenny Handley School. I think in the Nov. of 1956. Local people and scout parents were invited. The idea was to form a Group Committee so as to Launch an official 1st Woodcutts Scout Group. George Tozer was elected as Chairman, Miss Blythe as Secretary (a distant relative of Blythe of the Bounty) and also elected was her companion Miss Hooper. Others elected were Mrs Churchill, Mrs Maidment and Jean Woods. Mr Les Bagg volunteered to be Treasurer.

George remained with the Group until his untimely death last year, 47 years as Chairman and 2 years as President. The National Scout Association recognised his devotion to duty by awarding him the Medal of Merit. How I miss him, he helped me such a lot. I owe him a debt I can never repay.

TO BE CONTINUED...

* As one of the celebrations of our 50 years we would like to start a **Beaver Scout Colony**. If you have any youngsters of 6-8 years of age who would like to join please write to me at 25 St Marys Close, Sixpenny Handley, Salisbury, Wilts. SP5 5NH, ring me on 01725 552397 or email me at bmjcurtis@aol.com. If we have enough interest then I will call a meeting in Sept. either at the Scout HQ or the Sports Pavillion. The Scout movement is open to both boys and girls. *John Curtis GSL*

Cholesterol - its benefits and disadvantages

Cholesterol is a fat-like substance that is present in the blood and most body tissues, here it is an important factor in the make up of the cell membranes where it can be used by the body to make useful steroid based hormones and bile salts. Cholesterol is synthesised in the liver mainly and blood concentrations should be at a level between 3.6 and 5.0 mmol/l. In the UK, average adult concentrations are currently 5.2 mmol/l.

There are two types of cholesterol stored in the body, good cholesterol (high-density cholesterol or HDL) and bad cholesterol (lipoprotein cholesterol or LDL). Another type of fat present in the body are triglycerides which are formed during the digestion of dietary fats and make up the form in which fats are stored in the body. Concentrations of good cholesterol in the blood should be less than 1 mmol/l for men and less than 1 mmol/l for women; bad cholesterol levels should be less than 3 mmol/l for both men and women with a total concentration of good and bad cholesterol of less than 5 mmol/l. Triglyceride levels should be less than 1.7 mmol/l.

While cholesterol is essential to life and performs a number of vital functions in the body, high levels of cholesterol in the blood are toxic to our blood vessels and are linked with hardening and narrowing of the artery walls, a condition called atherosclerosis which leads to the main cause of cardiovascular disease. Elevated levels of triglycerides are also now linked to cardiovascular disease and are now part of routine cholesterol testing in many cases.

Cholesterol is a very misunderstood substance with many people believing that a diet high in cholesterol containing foods such as saturated fats, meats, dairy produce and eggs (150-250mg per egg) are to blame, but, for many of us, whose cholesterol intake daily is somewhere in the region of 200-300mg this is not so. Cholesterol is mainly produced in the liver which is responsible for most of the cholesterol found in our blood with the exception of a minority of people who either consume high levels (over 800mg/day) of high cholesterol containing foods or are hyper-sensitive to dietary cholesterol due to their genetic inheritance. It therefore makes sense, if you know that there are family members with high cholesterol recordings then it is a good idea to know what your cholesterol level is, especially if there are high incidences of heart and circulatory disorders in the family!

What are the options?

Your GP may wish to prescribe cholesterol lowering drugs such as statins (about 2.5 million individuals in the UK are currently on statin therapy.) If this is your choice of treatment, OK, but please be aware that your absorption of Co-enzyme Q10 in the body will be blocked by statin therapy. So what? you may say. Acetyl-Co-enzyme Q10 forms two important substances that make up ATP (adenosine triphosphate) a compound that is needed by muscle cells for contraction so that energy is released.

This is obviously a serious condition, supplementation of Co-enzyme Q10 will replenish your levels in the short term but will also be eventually wiped out leading to a deficiency of this much needed substance. You must make draw your own conclusions from this information.

So what can you do to avoid high cholesterol levels?

Drastically reduce your intake of high cholesterol foods and saturated (animal) fats. Reduce your intake of salt to less than 6g/day and cut out all refined sugar and its products, and consume sensible amounts of unrefined sugars (sugars eventually become excess fat in the body), concentrating mainly on getting your sugar intake from fruits. Read the labels on every item of food that you buy looking for high salt, sugar and saturated fat levels. Take moderate, regular exercise, starting off gently to avoid overstrain on muscles and the heart, and build up your exercise levels slowly. A brisk 30 minute walk, low impact aerobics, or light jogging are all useful. Consult your GP first if you haven't exercised for some time or if you have serious health conditions.

Consume plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables daily, freshly pressed fruit and vegetable juices are a good way of getting nutrients into the body quickly. Ensure that the fats that you do consume are good fats such as monounsaturated oils such as cold pressed extra virgin olive oil or rapeseed oil, include oily

fish in your diet up to 3 times a week if you can and take a supplement of Omega-3 oils such as flaxseed oil and pumpkin seed oil, and include flaxseeds (linseeds), pumpkin and sunflower seeds in your daily diet.

On the supplement side, one of the best is Guggul lipid extract (available from a company called Metabolics in Devizes). Guggul lipid extract effectively lowers bad cholesterol and triglyceride levels by breaking down lipid levels in the body by its powerful isolates, known as Guggulsterones which will also reduce the stickiness of blood platelets helping to lower your risk of cardiovascular and coronary artery disease and strokes.

Vitamin B3 (Niacin) is a natural cholesterol-lowering agent that has been shown to outperform statins in mild and moderate cases. Niacin helps your body to work more effectively at a cellular level and increases the health of the digestive system, improves blood circulation, promotes healthy skin and good nervous system function. But there is a warning here as too much niacin can lead to flushing of the skin due to its vasodilatory function – the safest form of niacin is in a supplement called NISAFE (also from metabolics).

Another good supplement to consider are plant sterols, now readily available in most good health food shops. Plant sterols are natural compounds, derived from plants, an intake of 1,500mg-2,500mg a day can reduce bad cholesterol levels by up to 15 regardless of your starting cholesterol levels. Plant sterols are also effective in individuals on cholesterol-lowering medication. Plant sterols work by competing with cholesterol for absorption thereby reducing the levels of cholesterol in the blood.

Finally, cholesterol can be retained in the artery walls if it is oxidised so ensure that you consume plenty of antioxidant foods such as those containing carotenoids, flavonoids and vitamins C and E (red, yellow and orange fruits and vegetables) to prevent this from happening.

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

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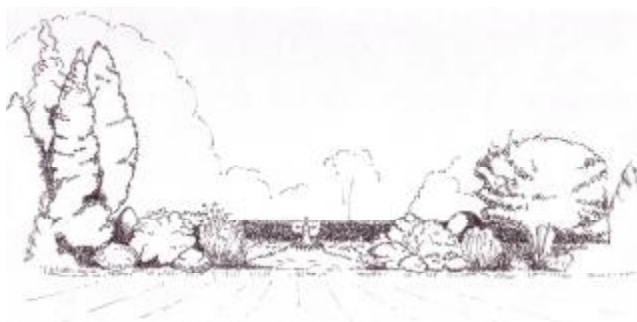
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Sixpenny Handley Bowls Club



Since the last edition of the magazine we have been saddened by the untimely death of our club captain - Tony Groves, very popular with all who new him both in the bowling world and that of golf the sport he was doing at the time of his death. The Church was packed for his service and his life was recalled by his farming friends and also friends from Cricket, Golf, Football, Bowls and card games which he enjoyed. Socially he will be greatly missed and especially the Quiz Nights and his methods of working out some of the answers. Our sympathies are with his family at this sad time.

We have now reached about half way through the season. No great successes to report and no real prophecies for them in the future.

However in the men's league the league position is going up and down from week to week but we will have to produce phenomenal form in the last three games to win it but it is possible if other results go our way.

In the Ladies league it is their first year and up to now they are doing quite well and should finish mid table. This is good as there are not many of them. **(More ladies required)**

North Dorset Triples Ladies' League - League table for first half of season 22nd May - 17th July inclusive

TEAMS	Played	Games	Games Re	Points
DORCHESTER	5	0	1	23
SIXPENNY	5	0	1	20
SHERBORNE	4	2	0	17
BLANDFORD	4	1	1	15
CRANBORNE	3	3	0	15
GILLINGHAM	3	2	1	6

Although we won the Westbrook Mixed Triples League last season we are not doing so well this year- we shall probably finish about halfway. The Club has played friendlies and are getting ahead with their internal Competitions.

Short Mat Bowls

The Short Mat Bowls Season will soon be with us. Social Bowling will be at the Village Hall on Sunday afternoons (2.30.p.m.) and Tuesday Evenings. (7.30 p.m.) Sessions will start from the second half of September when the evenings are too short to play outdoors. We shall be competing in the Blackmore Vale League Divisions 1 & 4. League Matches start in October. More players are always required and even if you do not wish to play in the Leagues you will be welcome to the practice sessions. If interested you can call Pat Oxford on 01725 552591 for more details.

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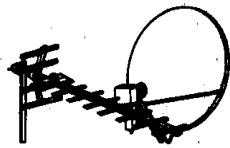
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Dear Downsman

Great to see Lauren lifting the profile of the younger members of the community (back page of the June Edition). They are to be encouraged and discouraged. The rest of us have been

not

around longer (some much longer), have been where they are, got many 'tee-shirts', now is the time to draw on our experience and make things happen to help them achieve their goals. Their needs are on the agenda so hopefully we older ones can get the thing moving in a proper and business like manner. I think we should put our heads together and do better than organise a sleep-over in the Church which is a human resource hungry exercise. What about a higher profile sort of event that will benefit the community and raise money at the same time? Ideas please!

David Salmons



If all has gone to plan then when you come to read this Geraldine and I will no longer be living in the village, we are due to move on the 31st July. We will miss all the friends we have made over the last 18 years in the village but are looking forward to the challenge of a new life in North Wales, specifically the village of Tal-y-bont between Barmouth and Harlech. This may be a surprise to those of you who thought we were moving to Cornwall, but for a number of reasons, we changed plans and decided to move closer to my family. I was bought up in Chester and spent many a happy holiday in this area so I am going back to my roots. For Geraldine it will all be new but she has been up there a few times in the last couple of years and really loves the place. Hopefully then we will settle down quickly, learn the language (my mother says she will teach me Welsh - if she can remember it from her childhood) and enjoy, for Geraldine retirement, and me for semi-retirement, as I am still going to be doing a bit of remote consultancy for the guys in Cornwall.

As a final connection with The Downsman, I was invited this week, under the guise of a "Computer Problem" to the Parish Office. There I was presented with a certificate of appreciation of my work on The Downsman, together with some book tokens. My thanks go to all the Councillors, those that were there on Wednesday night and particularly to Tim Palmer, who had come along to make the presentation. In addition Geraldine was presented with some flowers and chocolates, also in recognition of her efforts on The Downsman – for those who did not know, Geraldine did most of the typing and was the "official" proof reader.

I would also like to express my thanks to the School Governors for their card and memento presented at my final Governors meeting. Again my involvement in the school has been something that I have enjoyed enormously and something I will miss. I wish Alison and all her team all the best for the future.

I am sure that Geraldine and I will occasionally be back to meet up again with old friends, and anyone who is in the area is welcome to knock on our new door and say hello. My e-mail address is HYPERLINK "<mailto:alan@t4alv.com>" alan@t4alv.com and mobile number is 07985 774201 if you want directions.

Finally I will continue to have a small involvement in the village managing the web site at HYPERLINK "<http://www.thedownsman.org.uk>" www.thedownsman.org.uk so will not totally lose touch, but in the meantime best wishes to you all.

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.

Alan & Geraldine Vincent

Thank You

Father's Festival Weekend

St. Mary's Church Social Committee would like to thank everyone who helped and supported them over the Father's Festival Weekend. The weather was kind to us, the Church was beautifully decorated, the musical interludes were appreciated, the children enjoyed the activities, adults and children took part in the nature trail with Mr. Pippin, the cake stall sold out, and last but not least the cream teas were scrumptious. Overall the event was a great success and enjoyed by us all and we also made a profit of £645 towards the upkeep of the Church.

Bobbie Carter, Sheila Smith, Maureen Lockyer and Rita Taylor



Dear Family and Friends,

I would like to thank everyone who helped celebrate my 90th birthday recently. A special 'Thank You' to Stephen, Lee, Louisa, Debbie and Richard for organising such a lovely party and to everyone for coming and making it such a successful evening. Thank you too for the lovely flowers, gifts, the many cards messages and generous donations to the Dorset Ambulance, which has raised 175.00.

It was a lovely and memorable evening, so thank you all again for your generosity.

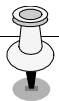
With all good wishes,
Win Judd

P.S. Did anyone lose a camera? If so, I have it. Please contact me at 25 High St. or phone 01725 552237.



Tony Groves,

Stella and Tony's daughters, Mandy and Sarah, wish to thank everyone for their help and kind messages of sympathy on Tony's death and also for the generous donations in his memory for the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance, a cheque for £1543 has been sent.



Sixpenny Handley Youth Group

Well done to Lauren Tyson for her contributions in the June issue of The Downsman. As you can hopefully see in this issue, she has certainly stirred up a lot of support from various members of the Parish.

Lauren has informed me that she and her friends are currently putting together designs for a skate park - hopefully these will be ready to view in the next issue of The Downsman.



At the last Annual Parish Assembly I sounded off rather passionately about the state of affairs of "Community Life" here in this Parish. Unfortunately the attendance was extremely poor hence my going into print. In the last 18 years of which I have knowledge there has been a steady decline in community activities, the latest casualty being the "Handley Show". If we're not careful everything will go the same way resulting in desert dormitory. I wonder why? Apathy? Too much bother or I'm too busy, maybe, I couldn't care less or what?

I find it odd when one considers the sacrifices that are made to move here, in the first place, because of the perceived gentler pace of life, a nice rural location away from the noise and bustle of townie life, the quaint name with historic significance, clean air you name it. Maybe its that wonderful description of being in the middle of nowhere and miles from anywhere that has attracted them. Who knows? The whole concept is attractive and yet when it comes to integrating and being part of this idyllic way of life what happens? You've got it, they actually can't shake off their urban ways, it is too difficult to change, to engage with your neighbour or anyone else. To share and be part of something other than oneself appears to be quite alien to them, which is not really surprising when considering what they have left behind. The unfortunate thing is that what they moved to leave behind they have actually, because of their non involvement, brought with them.

The youngsters are looking for and seeking a place in this community, they can't do it on their own, they need help and a commitment from their elders, You and ME. Rob Easton our Scout Leader tells me that with as little as two more 'Grown ups' they would be able to engage with maybe 40 more youngsters. What a return 2 for 40, wow! What about it?

David Salmons

Would you like to contribute to the new youth page?

If so, get in touch. *Kathryn*



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at

St Mary's Church, Sixpenny Handley

Bring a packed lunch

To book a place or for more information please ring:

**Kate Harris 01725-552353 or
Wendie Everall 01725-552843**



The Downsman

DON'T FORGET WHAT'S ON!!!

DATE	FUNCTION	PAGE	DATE	FUNCTION	PAGE
Aug-03	Chase Community Friends	17	Sep-14	Mobile Library	17
Aug-04	Kids Club, St Mary's Church	47	Sep-15	W I skittles at Tarrant Gunville	12
Aug-10	Chase Community Friends	17	Sep- 15		
Aug-10	Mobile Library	17	-17	Tarrant Keynston Flower Festival	29
Aug-14	W I American Supper	12	Sep-16	Stringendo Quartet in Concert	29
Aug-15	Housing Association Roadshow	07	Mid-Sep	Short Mat Bowls Season starts	41
Aug-15	Introductory whist/bridge course	27	Sep-20	Copy Deadline	03
Aug-17	Chase Community Friends	17	Sep-21	Chase Community Friends	17
Aug-18	Kids Club, St Mary's Church	47	Sep-26	W I outing to Stourhead	12
Aug-22	Introductory whist/bridge course	27	Sep-27	Lifelong Learning programme	25
Aug-24	Chase Community Friends	17	Sep-28	Chase Community Friends	17
Aug-24	Mobile Library	17	Sep-28	Mobile Library	17
Aug-28	The Chase Garden Club	25	Sep-29	Moviola Film, Village Hall	16
Aug-31	Chase Community Friends	17	Oct-02	Licensing Service	23
Aug-31	The Chase Garden Club	25	Oct-04	D 7 W I quiz at The Old Forge	12
Sep-06	2006-2007 whist competition	27	Oct-07	Harvest Supper	13
Sep-06	Transport Group meeting	29	Oct-08	Harvest Festival	07
Sep-07	Chase Community Friends	17	Oct-09	W I stunt artiste	12
Sep-09/10	RNLI stall	06	Oct-21	Rob's auction, Village Hall	16
Sep-11	W I talk by Mr Cowley	12	Oct-25	W I autumn council meeting	12
Sep-11	Rev. Melvyn Durrant and Margaret arrive	23	Nov-03	Moviola Film, Village Hall	16
Sep-14	Chase Community Friends	17	Dec-02	Church Christmas Bazaar	07
			Dec-03	The Mellstock Band, Village Hall	16