

The *Downsman*

December 2006

Village News

Signed book by

T.S. Eliot raises

£127

for the R.N.L.I.

The licensing of

Rev. Mel Durrant

Enduro Team raise

£1900

for Dorset & Somerset

Air Ambulance

PARISH OF SIXPENNY HANDLEY WITH PENTRIDGE

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

Clerk**Assistant Clerk**

	Christopher Snape.....	553001
	Gill Martin.....	552297
	Parish Office.....	552211

Member Parliament**County Councillor**

	Robert Walter.....	020 7219 6981
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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	
Vicar	Rev Mel Durrant, The Vicarage	
	60 High Street, Sixpenny Handley	
		552608
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
Claire.....	516265
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**](mailto:downsman@sixpennyhandley.org)

Now that it is December I feel that I can finally start thinking about Christmas.

So, **HAPPY CHRISTMAS** to everyone who helped give up their time to contribute in creating The Downsman and to all of you who are reading it. I hope you all have a lovely December and a very happy new year.

If you would like to contribute to the magazine then please get in touch. Additionally, if possible, please email your contributions to me as this would save lots of time in typing and scanning.

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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Front Cover Articles...

Signed book by T.S. Eliot raises £127 for the R.N.L.I	p8	Kids Club, action packed fun- filled day	p47
Processional services at Salisbury Cathedral	p6	Seasonal Poems	p28
New Year's Eve Dance	p31	Dear Downsman	p29
The licensing of Rev. Mel Durrant	p25	Enduro Team raise £1900 for Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance	p35
Christmas music by the Melstock Band	p15 & 30	SHReD news	p14

The next edition of this Magazine will be published on the
1st February 2007

Copy Deadline is 20th January 2007

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.



News and Information

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

The Institute was represented at the Memorial Service in Tisbury for Pat Birch, a loyal member for many years.

Meetings held since the last report:-

OCTOBER: We had great pleasure in welcoming Margaret Durrant the wife of our new Priest -in-Charge. The speaker was Denise Edwards who, as a young medal winning swimmer and diver, decided in her late teens that she wanted to be a stunt artist. During a two year training course Denise learnt to ride, fall from a horse, buildings, down stairs, rocks, cliffs etc., 'die' when shot, stabbed, burnt, throttled, fight/self defend, however' drowning was second nature! Denise divulged many tricks of the trade, (which will not be enlarged upon here for fear of spoiling your future viewing). After many years acting as a double for stars and lesser-known folk, she now acts as an agent for her fellow stunt artists. She knows a man / woman who can

NOVEMBER: At the beginning of the month the Beacon Group meeting was held at Melbury. The speaker being Diana Guy from Witchampton, the BBC gardener of the Year 2004. She took us through the many stages of this competition and with the aid of photos, plans, planting guides and slides her winning garden materialised. Diana admitted to having missed out in the preliminary rounds of this competition on several previous occasions but was determined She has now given up teaching and works full-time on all things horticultural.

At the Institute meeting members welcomed Mr Steve Oakes, a volunteer RSPB worker, who showed slides of birds we could expect to see in our gardens. He advised on the upkeep of bird tables, feeders, baths and nest boxes - THEY MUST BE KEPT CLEAN. This year berries, seeds and fruits in the fields and woods are abundant and with the weather so mild, many birds have yet to return to gardens - don't panic.

A report on the Dorset Federation Autumn Council Meeting in Weymouth was given by the delegate. The principal speaker in the morning being Chief Superintendent Colin Searle of Wessex Police and in the afternoon Cynthia Payne (Miss Whiplash) a very controversial choice. CS Searle's talk centred around the findings of a ten-year study, which concluded that women make the best leaders and that it was high time that the powers that be accepted this when making top job appointments in the police force.

With the help of a scrapbook, Cynthia recalled the story of her life, (so far) – a job description of which she is proud!

Next year is the Dorset Federations' 90th birthday. We have submitted an application to take part in the county celebration concert at Bryanston School in August. If chosen we plan to perform a short excerpt from 'The Live Wires' show 2006.

DATES for DIARIES

Dec 8th	Group Carols West Orchard
Dec 10th	D.F.W.I. Carols Wimborne Minster
Dec 11th	Christmas Party
Jan 8th	Tony Davies - The original 'Flying Gardener'
Feb 12th	Miss Newman - The mystery of Easter Island
Feb 24th	Jumble Sale

We wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a peaceful, healthy New Year

We are a busy Institute, very friendly and welcoming to all
Further information from Jan Gibb, President
01725-552704

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

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 the noticeboards for dates of the next meetings.

Handley Sports Club '100 Club' Draw - Number nine

1 st	£20	126	Mr D.A. Neave, 4 Cashmoor, Wimborne, Dorset
2 nd	£15	163	Mr Henderson, Sans Souci, Newtown, Sixpenny Handley, Salisbury
3 rd	£10	108	Mrs Middlebrook, 6 Elfin Drive, Ferndown, Dorset
4 th	£5	038	Mr and Mrs Martin, 40 Sheasby Close, Sixpenny Handley, Salisbury

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AAH! FACTOR SALISBURY CATHEDRAL

This year's three great processional services to mark Advent, Christmas and Epiphany are expected to attract many hundreds to join in the worship at the Cathedral at this special time of the year. All the family would enjoy these services which would hopefully put the Ah! Factor into Christmas this year.

The Advent Procession: *From Darkness to Light* on Sat and Sun 2/3 December begins at 7pm in total darkness and silence as the Advent Candle is lit at the West End of the Cathedral. The service is a mix of music and readings during which two great processions move around the entire Cathedral which is, by the end, illuminated by almost 1,300 candles.

The Christmas Procession: On Wed and Thu 20/21 Dec at 7pm. The focus of the procession is the Christmas Crib which portrays the story of the birth of Jesus. This is the Cathedrals own Carol Service.

The Epiphany Procession: On Sun 14 Jan at 7pm commemorates the journey of the Magi coming from the East to worship Jesus and also follows Jesus through his early life into manhood.

These are wonderful occasions that really bring into focus the Christmas Story and to be part of such large gatherings makes the experience rather special and well worth the trip into Salisbury. Those who arrive early are able to queue in the Cloisters where seasonal refreshments are available before the Advent and Christmas services. Doors open at 6pm. The North Porch is opened at about 6.30pm after the Cloisters queue has dispersed. Tickets are not but there can be no admission once all the seats have been taken.

There is no public parking in the Close, however parking will be made available for Disabled Blue Badge holders.

Mobile Library Schedule - Visits on Thursday Fortnightly

Woodyates – Copley Close	2.25 – 2.40	First School	3.00 – 3.20
Roebuck Inn	3.25 – 3.45	Dean Lane	3.50 – 4.05
Sheasby Close	4.10 – 4.30		

December 14th, 28th, January 11th, 25th

Update on RNLI events

I am delighted to report that the Blandford Branch of the RNLI (of which I am a member) has received the Annual Branch Award. This took the form of an elegant gavel presented to us at the Lifeboat College (HQ) in Poole. It enables our Chairman to cut through our chatter at branch meetings!

Thank you to everyone who has supported us so generously. Thank you to such a lot of people who have been interested to enquire how we have got on with 'the book'. This was a signed copy of 'Murder in the Cathedral' by T.S.Eliot. It was entered into an international auction in October and raised £127.

Sheila Bradley

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Parochial Church Council of St Mary's Sixpenny Handley with Gussage St Andrew's was held on Thursday 9th November 2006.

Summary of the Agenda Items

Rev Mel Durrant had compiled a list of items on which he wanted to make comment to the PCC, this being his first meeting since his appointment. They included:-

- The need for early decisions on the water supply to the Church, the installation of a toilet and the heating system.

The importance of making the Church as welcoming and friendly as possible and implementing certain improvements e.g. extra notice boards, welcome notices in the pews, addressing the difficulties of access to the Church for the disabled and the less mobile. (A letter had already been sent to the Parish Council requesting a hand-rail alongside the steep path up to the Church. We are awaiting developments.)

The simplifying of the Service patterns so that the times of the services are easy to remember and do not change every week.

A discussion about our payment of 'The Share' was lively. The amount we are asked to pay next year is higher than this year partly to cover clergy's pensions. The parish will be asked, in the New Year to help meet the cost.

A good deal of expense will also be incurred in the future for repairs to the bell-tower and the roof. We will apply for grants but, even if successful, they will not cover the total cost.

Chairman, Graham Smith (Churchwarden), thanked everyone most sincerely who had helped with so many tasks during the interregnum. Both Graham and David Salmons (Churchwarden) were themselves thanked for their immense contribution to the smooth running of the Parish during that difficult time when we were without a vicar. We are delighted that we have an enthusiastic and fully committed new vicar to take us forward

Sheila Bradley (Secretary to the PCC)



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SCATS
COUNTRYSTORES

Lace Making Revival at Woodcutts

Some time ago, I wrote about the art of lace making here at Woodcutts, extolling the amazing abilities of our practitioners. At the time of that previous article, I was very innocent of the art of photography, especially when using a digital camera. I am still very green, as you will be able to see from the shots taken recently. You will find these, of both the completed work and of the lace makers themselves at their labours, on the next page.

Since our lace makers, like their works, are rather frail, we expect them to take the late autumn and winter off. After all, this delicate work requires deftness, suppleness of joints (which has nothing whatever to do with unprescribed drug taking) and a good supply of the requisite materials. Balmy, summer afternoons in the garden are the most prolific times from the older lace makers, while younger ones just fit it in whenever possible. Ours of course are all very young as you will remember from the last article. If you didn't read it, all will become plainer in the end. In case you are having trouble keeping up, it is time for me to feed the dogs and have a cup of tea. So why don't you do the same? Have a cup of tea I mean, not feed our dogs. Gosh, you must try to concentrate.

Now back to the grindstone. At this stage I must tell you that my expertise in the art of publishing is not that very professional, hence the pictures are at the end rather than inserted here. Now let's move on and talk of more natural subjects.

The natural world with reference to global warming is becoming a subject which always seems to be in the headlines nowadays. Currently red admiral butterflies are still on the wing when the sun shines.



A battered red admiral on a yellow buddleia

In our case here, they are visiting our yellow buddleia, where there are still many flower-buds waiting to open. While the ivy flowers are hosting gatherings of all sorts of bees, wasps, flies and the occasional colourblind red admiral.

Red Admirals were recorded here later in November and again on December 14th, in 2004, but what has not been recorded by myself at this time before, in any year, are actively feeding, live caterpillars. These have been subjected to eight frosts in a row during the past two weeks and they are still 'at it', on Brassicas in my vegetable garden. Even if the cold did not kill them off, why haven't they been eaten by hungry song birds? Perhaps it is because there aren't any hungry birds of any sort. Where have the blackbirds and thrushes gone? Why aren't they eating the snails and slugs, still so active in amongst the vegetables? The answer is presumably that there is a glut of food for them. Everything, or nearly everything, that comes under autumn flora is still living despite those frosts. We still have dahlias in flower in sheltered parts of the garden. How much further can we expect the climate to change, with pigeons building nests in December?

The unexpected is always happening in nature. Two weeks ago I came downstairs in the morning, to find our three border terriers

closely watching a very young frog crossing the kitchen floor. I immediately thought, have I slept right through the winter and who left the back door open that long? In case you think that I am joking, I assure you I am not. What will happen next?

The whole of the countryside is still a vivid green, flowers are blooming and spring plants such as the wild primroses are already producing new leaves, while our white violets have simply not stopped growing. Can we expect snowdrops and daffodils flowering in time for Christmas, that is if we allowed to have a Christmas this year.

I am sure that if certain members of our parish council had to vote on a motion, "Should Christmas be abolished?" they would be in favour. Enough of this, we must get back to reality, please let me continue without side tracking me.

My apologies again for the delay, but a lot has happened since I typed the line immediately above. For instance, I have been out to lunch, been to a funeral and swept the sitting room chimney. (I also had a shower afterwards to get rid of the soot.) So you see living here in Woodcutts is very demanding.



A red admiral on the pampas grass

As promised see in the above picture some genuine Woodcutts lace, as made by the cabbage white caterpillars. Who needs silk worms? Now to ensure I make the deadline, I must end now. So shoulder to the wheel, but ensure it is going the same way as you are, we don't want you to get run over.

God bless you all, and thank you for reading to the end.

Ted Cox 17th. November 2006

DORSET VILLAGE OF THE YEAR 2006 JUDGE'S COMMENTS:

SIXPENNY HANDLEY

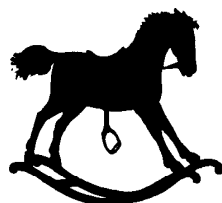
Gained a very good mark, pushing for the Runner Up place in the Large Village category. The churchyard and exterior of the church gained exceptional marks losing only half a mark on each section. Village Facilities also marked well as did the Recreation and Play Areas. A wonderful Recreation Area spoilt by litter and vandalism to the Pavilion windows. The Play Area lost marks for some missing planks in the fence, which allowed dogs to enter and one gate had a missing closing spring.

PENTRIDGE

Small Village Section. Gained some good marking in the section covering Village Facilities, most marks were lost with the exterior of the Church and Village Hall (8's) where it was felt that a little TLC would go a long way.



HAPPY NAPPY

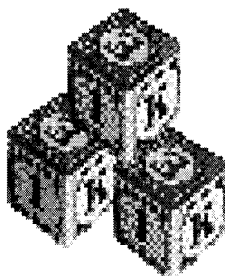


Happy Nappy meets every Monday at
Sixpenny Handley Village Hall at
10am.

New Born Babies to School Age Children are welcome

Come and join our very friendly group,
loads of
toys and fun!

- ❖ Children make new friends.
- ❖ Adults can meet for a chat.
- ❖ Tea and coffee available.
- ❖ Children £0.50p Adults £1.00.



For more information phone:

Jaqui Blake 01725 552306

Claire Youngman 01725 516265 or Maureen Swan 01725 552561

Sixpenny Handley Homewatch



Halloween night again saw some unpleasant threatening behaviour and vandalism in the village on the slim pretext of 'trick or treat'. This sort of thing has become commonplace nationally, of course, but it is very disappointing that a quiet rural community such as ours appears to be joining the national trend rather than bucking it. Elderly people and those living alone can feel very threatened on and around Halloween, even if nothing actually happens to them or their property. It is unacceptable that trick or treat is being used by some youths resident in our parish as an excuse for antisocial behaviour and even crime.

Sadly, the events of Halloween are representative of an ongoing antisocial problem in our community. Since the last issue of the Downsman there have been several instances of vandalism, not least at the Village Hall and Sports Pavilion, where windows and ventilators have again been smashed. Some of the offenders, if not all, are known to be local. Both they and their parents have a responsibility to the rest of us to stop acting in this harmful, unfair and not least illegal way.

Repairing the criminal damage to these buildings ultimately has to be paid for by us, whether out of the Council Tax or fundraising, so we are all victims. The Homewatch and Dorset Police are determined to press charges when the offenders are caught in the act - and sooner or later they will be. To the parents of these few antisocial youths we say, 'Do you really want your child to have a criminal record?' Take your responsibility for your dependents seriously and stop them from harming the place in which they live and the people who are your neighbours, perhaps even your friends.

Some years ago a community initiative within this parish was largely successful in addressing a growing problem related to drug abuse. Working together in the same way we could solve the current problem of vandalism too but it is the parents and guardians of the offenders who must take the lead. The rest of us can help by reporting damage and criminality to Dorset Police or, if we prefer anonymity, to Crimestoppers the moment we see it.

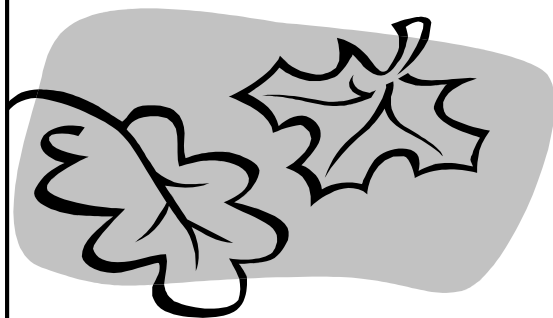
Other than that depressingly home-made problem of vandalism, we continue to be a remarkably crime free community. Reported crimes are still right at the bottom of the county and national statistics. A caravan was stolen during the Autumn and occasional thefts of oil from farm diesel and domestic oil tanks have occurred, but little else has been notified.

This really emphasises the point that if, by working together, we could just crack to the nut of local antisocial behaviour, Sixpenny Handley and its surroundings could once again become a most peaceful and pleasant place in which to live. Please think about this and, if you can help, in any way you can.

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.



SHReD

Many thanks to all those in the Village, who completed the flyer in the August Downsman asking if the local Community would be interested in and use a garden waste collection scheme. We were delighted with the response, but feel now that you should be aware of the background and current position of the project.

It was two years ago that our Chairman, Ted Cox, who has been involved in farming all his life and has a degree in environmental studies chatted with a few like-minded friends about his ideas for this scheme. And so it was that a steering Committee was formed to discuss the feasibility of setting up a composting site for our Village to cope with its green garden waste.

Considerable research was involved and visits made to other composting sites in other areas of the country. There have been many problems along the way, but as you are no doubt aware nationally and locally the environmental policy dictates that household waste going to landfill should be reduced. With this in mind, we have been in constant touch with the waste management representatives of both Dorset County and East Dorset District Council throughout and they have been enthusiastic and very supportive. They have suggested a suitable site and we are striving to obtain the necessary planning permission through the Parish Council.

Once this is acquired we can go ahead and set up the Company and apply for funding grants to set the wheels in motion.

So please be patient, we are still working on it and hopefully come the Spring when work starts in our gardens once more, our very own composting site will be up and running.

WATCH THIS SPACE

Rita Taylor (Sec)

Village Hall News

Hello Again,

Moviola

Two films have been shown since the last report the first one "Junebug" needed a lot of thought to help understand the plot. It was the sort of film that you either loved or hated. The dialect made it hard to follow not one of my best efforts but the hymn singing was good. The second film "The Clandestine Marriage" was quite different elaborate costumes no bad language very little sex, you loved it. Very relaxing and pleasant to watch. Perhaps that is something we all need in the busy lives we all lead. Moviola are to increase the price that they charge for screening the films from January. I have not yet booked any more shows for the New Year, I might slip a film in around the end of April.

Artsreach

Sunday 3rd December

Artsreach presents The "Melstock Band" on at 7.30pm looks like being a sell-out the show is called "The Leaves of Life" Christmas music from the English tradition, from carols to revels and from Alehouse to Church Gallery. Looks good usual Box Office 01725552591

Fridav 23rd February 2007

Trillith presents "An Evening of Dorset Film Archive" starts 7.30pm tickets £5. I hope to show you some local clips to reveal the changes in this part of Dorset during the last 100 years. This is an Artsreach presentation. Same Box Office

Fridav 30th March 2007

Forest Forge Theatre presents "The Game Keeper" A powerful new drama written by Josephine Carter.

For more details ring Pat on 01725 552591(Box Office)

Now for some good news Awards for All (Lottery Grant) has awarded the V H £1000 towards the double glazing programme, it is hoped to complete this programme in the near future

Robs Auction on Oct 21st was another great success many thanks to all who helped on the day. Thanks also to the large number of people who attended in the evening.

On October 1st we had a clean up day at the V H twelve volunteers set about cleaning the cupboards and anything that moved in the kitchen and all the windows in the hall received the same treatment. The day was marred by the discovery of five broken windows when we arrived. This meant we had to board up and clean up before we could start. As a result not much decorating could take place. Many thanks to the volunteers it really does make a lot of difference to the place.

Thanks for reading this I hope you all have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year thanks for all your support during the past year.

Gordon Oxford Chairman

Private Charles Scott (9698)
6th Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment

All Quiet on the Western Front, so proclaimed the title of the classic 1930 film adapted from the novel by Erich Maria Remarque, a German who served in the Great War, and starring Lew Ayres. The title, of course, is deliberately ironic as in reality it was seldom quiet along the mile upon mile of trenches that traced the Western Front from the North Sea to the Swiss border. Even when billeted in the rest areas soldiers of both sides were for ever aware that death could overtake them at anytime for the near constant rumble of artillery fire provided a chilling backdrop to their few days of respite away from the front. And, as the first signs of spring began to blossom in the sparse patches of vegetation that remained in their shell torn surroundings, only the most unimaginative could fail to perceive that an offensive push was imminent.

Thus, it came as no surprise for the men of the 6th Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment, to find themselves marching out of Ivergny on the 5th of April, and heading in a north-easterly direction to a holding position west-north-west of Arras near the village of Averdoingt. The weather tended to be inclement and on the 9th, having threaded their way through the throng of military traffic moving eastwards towards Arras, they bivouacked in fields in the midst of a snowstorm. Early the next morning, and now fully equipped for battle, the battalion entered Arras and were directed to the cellars beneath the *Grande Palace* and placed on immediate readiness to move out at a minute's notice. However, as it transpired, it was the next day before the battalion began the protracted task of relieving elements of the 44th Infantry Brigade holding trenches bordering a sunken road south of Fampoux. As the unit diarist records the relief was a miserable affair with frequent snow showers chilling all and sundry and, owing to the haphazard geography of the trench system that

they were

occupying, it took a considerable time to get all the companies into their assigned positions.

The Battle of Arras had now been in progress for three days and though at first a degree of success had been achieved, particularly in the epic action by the Canadians as they advanced through murderous machine-gun fire to take and hold on to the ridge at Vimy, the offensive was now settling into an all too familiar battle of attrition as the Wehrmacht vigorously defended their key positions.

Throughout the morning of the 12th the men remained in their trenches, keyed up and at a high state of alert and it was not until mid-afternoon that Lieutenant-Colonel A. L. Moulton-Barrett, their commanding officer, received his first orders that would commit his soldiers to battle. What happened over the next desperate hours is best told from the report written in the battalion's war diary:

'At 3.30 p.m. verbal orders were issued for Attack to Officer Commanding 6th Dorset Regiment by Brigadier-General 50th Infantry Brigade.

'On return from Brigade Headquarters the Officer Commanding 6th Dorsets immediately summoned Company Commanders, who reported at Battalion Headquarters about 4.30 p.m.

'About 4.45 p.m. written orders for the attack were received from 50th Infantry Brigade. Instructions were immediately issued to Company Commanders. They returned to their Coy. Headquarters through the barrage put up by the German guns.

'Battalion Headquarters removed to their Battle Headquarters about 5.10 p.m.

'The instructions issued to the 6th Dorsets were, "To occupy the SPUR H.36 central

to I.25.a.4.1 by ZERO plus 1 hour 30 minutes and then to push patrols to finish objective, line of road MONCHY to road junction I.25.d.6.9, and establish touch with Left about BRIDGE I.19.d.” This necessitated a change of front quarter right during the advance to the first objective – This manoeuvre was carried out with great skill by all three companies concerned.

‘The 10th WEST YORKSHIRE REGIMENT and 50th MACHINE GUN COY were ordered to cover operations with Machine-Gun, Lewis Gun and Rifle fire. The Artillery also had received instructions to co-operate.

‘To carry out the instructions received three companies of the 6th DORSET REGT. ‘A’ on Right, ‘C’ in Centre, ‘D’ on Left – were detailed to the first objective, ‘B’ Coy being held in Battalion reserve about H.23.d.6.4.

‘At 6.20 p.m. the three companies allotted to the attack left their trenches H.29.b & d, and H.36.a. for the first objective.’

For the soldiers involved this was their moment of truth. Perhaps fleeting memories of the recent Holy Communion services taken at Mortenscourt on the 8th and the words of the padres were recalled as, laden down with the necessary requites for action, they hoisted themselves up the ladders and out of the reasonable protection afforded by their trenches and into the deadly ground that separated friend from foe. The knowledge that their officers were in the van of the attack likely gave heart to most while all along the tangle of wire and earthworks that constituted their front shouts of encouragement and the familiar sound of whistles being blown provided an added urgency for what they were about to face.

‘From the start ‘C’ and ‘D’ Coys LEFT & CENTRE Coys respectively were sub-

jected to heavy hostile Machine-Gun fire from about I.19.e. and I.25.a. The three companies all reached their objectives but ‘D’ and ‘C’ Companies suffered heavy casualties, all the officers of both Companies being either killed, wounded or missing, with the exception of one.

‘These heavy casualties are attributed to the lack of Artillery preparation. The area from which the Hostile Machine-Guns fired had been almost entirely missed by the Artillery fire. To the S of the RIVER SCARPE the Artillery fire was observed to be extremely erratic. No regular barrage was apparent; the ground for a depth of 2,000 yards being bespattered with shells.

‘At 6.40 p.m. a message was received from 50th Infantry Brigade informing the Officer Commanding 6th DORSET REGT. that the 9th Division had failed to reach the first objective and therefore the attack on the second objective was to be delayed.

‘Instructions were accordingly issued to Company Commanders. At 7.25 p.m. about 300 troops (identity unknown) were seen moving Eastwards through the Southern portion of I.19.c. This was immediately telephoned to 50th Brigade Headquarters.

‘On receiving information that ‘D’ Coy had suffered severe casualties, two Platoons were sent from Battalion Reserve to reinforce at 8.10 p.m.

‘At 8.40 p.m. upon receiving a report from ‘C’ Coy in the centre of the line that assistance was required, one platoon was sent to reinforce and Brigade Headquarters informed that only one Platoon remained in Battalion Reserve.

‘The position gained was consolidated and patrols pushed forward towards the enemy.

‘The enemy’s advanced posts were encountered about 200 yards EAST of the position

gained. Soon after 11 p.m. orders were received to return to the original lines which would be occupied by the 7th EAST YORKSHIRE REGIMENT – The 6th DORSETS to withdraw through the 7th EAST YORKSHIRE REGIMENT as soon as the latter were in position.

‘At 3.15 a.m. the 7th EAST YORKSHIRE REGIMENT were reported to have taken up the positions originally held by the 6th DORSETS.

‘The withdrawal from the advanced position was then carried out by the 6th DORSETS and the operation completed as daylight was breaking.’

As it would later be written it had been ‘a melancholy waste’ though many individual acts of great courage had been witnessed in those desperate hours of fighting. As the officers from ‘C’ and ‘D’ companies became casualties, Sergeant Wood showed great initiative in taking over the lead of ‘C’ company, his coolness in the face of sustained hostile fire doing much to steady the nerves of the soldiers around him. Also seen to be leading by example were 2nd Lieutenant Eric George Goodman, enthusiastically waving his walking stick as if out for a late evening stroll, and Sergeant John Briers, both being sighted through the smoke from bursting shells encouraging their men to hold to their advance. Then, as they reached the skyline the earth around them erupted and neither were seen again.

Two days later, the Arras offensive was scaled down. By Western Front standards it had been a relatively short, but highly concentrated, campaign and sharp fighting would continue in the sector for months to come.

April 1917, was proving to be a most tragic month for the community of Sixpenny Handley and its environs whose sons were serving on the Western Front. Telegrams bearing the

worst news possible had already been delivered to the parents of William Rose and Maurice Jesse and now it was the turn of William and Anne Scott to be engulfed in grief as it was confirmed that their son, Charles, had been killed during the action on the 12th. What is commonly acknowledged as one of the best months of the year, heralding the end of winter and the promise of long balmy days of summer just around the corner, was for these three families etching for ever in their souls the bleakest time of their lives.

Bill Chorley

Postscript.

I am indebted to Charles Cooper. Administrator of The Keep, Dorchester for allowing me access to the records of the various Dorset Regimental records and to his learned custodian, John Murphy who so kindly looked out the relevant sections of the war diaries pertaining to the 6th Battalion. The quotation ‘a melancholy waste’ is taken from the history of the 6th Battalion, The Dorsetshire Regiment, written circa 1930 by Captain G. O’Hanlon MC and incorporated in the massive tome that was prepared by various authors and published in 1932 by Henry Ling Limited of Dorchester and Simpson Marshall Limited of London under the title, *History of the Dorsetshire Regiment 1914 – 1919*.

To draw a line under this profile, Private Charles Scott who was born in 1896 at Branksome is buried in Level Crossing Cemetery, Fampoux, while 2nd Lieutenant Goodman and Sergeant Briers are commemorated on the Arras Memorial. Concerning the disposition of the trenches, identified by coded references, I suspect that The National Archives at Kew may well hold maps showing precisely the positions that were the objectives of the 6th Battalion on the 12th of April, 1917.

Finally, a correction to the profile in respect of Private Maurice Jesse; page 16, column two, third line from the bottom should read,

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and
Chalke Valley Practice**

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RECEPTIONIST**

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20 hours per week plus holiday and sickness
cover.

Candidates must be computer literate, methodical
and flexible.

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For further details and job description please
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Closing date 8th December 2006

Michael Beck & Wally the Wheelbarrow

Raising funds for Salisbury District Hospital since 2003

Having survived cancer, I decided I wanted to do something for Salisbury District Hospital, who helped me so much during my battle. In the Summer of 2003, I began collecting money with the aid of my trusty wheelbarrow, Wally.

Since then, I have managed to raise over **£28,000!** which has been used to help many different projects including:



The £1 million Cardiac Suite



The Pembroke Unit for Cancer Patients



Diabetes and Elderly Care Equipment



The Special Care Baby Unit

*Please support us today and help
us reach our next Target!*

Thank you!



1ST WOODCUTTS SCOUT GROUP
1957-2007
3rd INSTALMENT



The troop continued to enjoy the activities passing badges along the way, John Curd, became our Scout Master in Jan 1957, during the spring of that year the District were holding elections to find four scouts from our District to become part of the Dorset County Contingent to go to the World Jamboree at Sutton Coldfield, I was fortunate enough to be one of these four, I enjoyed 3 fabulous weeks at this event (although wet most of the time).

This was held at the beginning of August 1957. I took part in many activities and met other scouts from all over the world, meanwhile the district were holding their own Jamboree nearby at a place called Packington Park, amongst them were some of my old mates from Alderholt and more importantly four of the lads from 1st Woodcutts, during their camp they were able to visit the world jamboree and I was able to meet up with them.

Scouting continued in the Troop throughout the autumn, winter and spring of 57-58, it was decided to hold our next summer camp at Brockenhurst in the New Forest, Skip Raison agreed to accompany us as John Curd was inexperienced at organising a camp of this magnitude, we set off with all our kit and ourselves in the back of Morley's gravel lorry (good job it was dry).

During our camps we always received a visit from our host district's District Commissioner (DC), Whilst the leaders and myself (having now been elevated to troop leader) were having a programme pow wow in Sid's tent and Sid whilst in conference always liked to have a beer to loosen the brain, or so he said (we others of course were forced to join him in a glass) when suddenly a lad burst into the tent and exclaimed "the DC is coming", panic set in beer was very hurriedly consumed, bottles pushed out of site, or so we thought, in our haste one was still on full display, we all went out to meet the DC and conduct him around the camp whilst he did his site inspection, afterwards he was invited into Sid's tent for a cup of tea and catching site of the offending beer bottle he said "I would rather have a beer" (all I can say the beer must have done the trick, as we had an excellent camp report that year) needless to say we learnt our lesson and never had an alcoholic drink during the hours of daylight again.

TO BE CONTINUED...

FOOTNOTE

On the 14th Oct we held our initial meeting of the Beaver colony, there were 7 youngsters and their parents present plus some other adults; Jacquie our ADC Beavers and my wife held a mock colony meeting in the village hall, whilst Rob Easton and myself held a meeting with the adults in the pavilion, I am very grateful to Denise Turner who volunteered to be the Leader and is to be assisted by other helpers.

The 1st meeting will be at the village hall on weds **13th Dec 5-6pm**, there will be 12 members for the initial meeting and we already have a waiting list, as we don't want to run before we can walk. The waiting list will be incorporated into the colony as soon as possible. Any enquiries to **Denise on 01725 552735**.

Date for your 2007 Diary, 1st Woodcutts will be holding their 50 year celebrations at the Scout HQ, on the **9th June** if you are an ex member or know of any one who has been involved including ex committee members then please contact the group chairman **Toby Cullen on 01725 552770**, everyone from the community is invited, more details will be published at a later date, watch this space.

Parish Plan Update

Work on The Parish Plan is progressing through The Steering Group and the various Committees. Thank you to All who are helping with time, energy and ideas.

Of particular excellent progress is work by The Youth Group (Alistair Broadway and Karen McMillan) on raising significant financial support for skate equipment/shelter and The History Group (inspired by Rob Jesse) and some moving results follow below. Also remember Rob's call for a Parish Plan/Village Book Meeting Friday 29th November 7.30pm at the Parish Pavilion Sixpenny Handley.

We also have received the following from John Shave to help The Traffic Group (Chris Stokes) and Sixpenny Handley.

In my role as Chair of the Community Safety Action Group (a TAG within the East Dorset Community Partnership), I am keen to do what I can to help with your Parish Plan in respect of community safety (including speeding traffic). On behalf of the East Dorset Community Partnership, we have developed a Community Safety questionnaire which we are currently trialing in Wimborne which you may find useful. I was also a member of the Holt Parish Plan Group where I took the lead on traffic, so I have a number of suggestions from that experience that I can share with you. I am happy to meet with you or one of your group if this would be helpful.

As always special thanks to Christopher Snape, Parish Clerk, for all his help, and the continued support of The Parish Council.

Leonard Holihan (Chairman)

Early Memories of the Parish of Sixpenny Handley

There are four entry routes to the village of Sixpenny Handley so, for this particular memory, we will enter from the Tollard Royal way. One would travel up Minchington Hill, leaving Wiltshire on our left hand side. Now in Dorset, we pass the first shop in the Parish selling groceries etc. owned and run by Mr. Read.

We find ourselves on Woodcutts Common, which was cleared and ploughed during the war under the scheme "Dig for Victory". All the machinery used was provided by the United States of America "Lease Lend" scheme and done by "War Ag". Still in Woodcutts, we would pass Mooreys Sand & Gravel Merchants, petrol pumps, and the village post office, owned and run by Mr. Baggs, who was also the village policeman. and the fastest man on a bike in the west! Alongside the Methodist Chapel, which was always very well attended, one could see the British village excavated by the late General Fox Lane Pitt Rivers many years ago.

Passing through Stone Copse and Stock Corner one would pass Sixpenny Handley Common, which was cleared and ploughed up as Woodcutts Common. We enter Sixpenny Handley by Common Road, with the village school on the left, and are now in

"The Hollow". This is the original site of the timber yard, where the devastating fire of Sixpenny Handley started. It has been said that all gentlemen of Handley were easily recognised because they usually wore two waistcoats given by a charity following the fire! A housing development called "Wheelwrights Close" now exists on the site.

The post office was opposite St. Mary's Church, and was owned and run by the Adams sisters. Across the way one could see the old school building, where the new vicarage now stands. We enter the High Street, passing by Church Farm on our left hand side, which was farmed by Mr. Herbie Bailey, and Kittles Sweet Shop opposite Handley House, which is now St. Mary's Court.

The White House was the residence of Dr. McCall, when he lived and practiced in the village. Still in the High Street we would find Clarkes the butcher, (best faggots in the world! we used to say) and opposite was Mr. Clement's second hand clothes shop, in a converted chicken house. Next door was Mr. Froud's bakery and grocery store and a little further down was Leonard Adams, the Funeral Director and Builder. Almost opposite one would find L.P. Goddard's cycle and hardware shop. Alongside was the Roebuck Hotel, the landlord being Mr. Brown. There was a very sad occasion on the premises, when his son Ken shot himself rather than join the Army during the Second World War.

H W Dibben, the builder, was nearby, and then the next premises was Adams Bus Garage and Filling Station, now a housing site known as Adams Close. My grandad, Harry Card, was the local preacher at the Methodist Chapel, now a private dwelling. He lived in Star Cottage opposite the Star Inn, and always thought it to be a very wicked place. The landlord of The Star was a Mr. Sheasby, whose name was taken for Sheasby Close.

Behind the pub was the Sixpenny Handley Village Hall, built from Army huts obtained from Blandford Camp. There was the British Legion, with a snooker table etc. cadet hut, garden allotments, tennis courts, children's playing equipment, where Handley Park now stands. There was also a fire station, with one hand pump appliance; on the site which is now a newsagent and general store.

We had two bakers and grocers in the village. One being Mr. Saunders, and on that building can be read the date of the fire in Sixpenny Handley. Mr. & Mrs. Budden carried on the bakery until closure, and still live in the property. At the bottom of the High Street could be found a clothes and shoe shop, owned and run by Harry Cooke. Opposite was another clothes and haberdashery shop, run by Mrs. Iris Day - a wonderful lady! Next door to Harry Cooke was the policeman's cottage, and opposite the fish and chip shop locally known as "Fishy Day's".

Leaving the High Street at the crossroads one would pass the vicarage, the village blacksmith and farrier. Mr. Keats was a very pleasant man just as long as you held the horse he was shoeing very firmly! Turning left at the crossroads, and into Dean Lane, you would pass the British Road Transport site, which is now The Parsonage, and Ellis Day's coal dump. If you continued along that lane you would end up at Deanland, passing the Hops Barley Corn Inn. the Methodist Chapel and a Gospel Hall called the Four Square Religion.

ALEC HUNT (November 2006)

A Woodcutts Goodbye

It is with both sorrow and happiness, that I report the death of the Matriarch of Woodcutts, Mrs. Win Kirby of 108 Woodcutts. Win had lived here for her entire life of eighty-seven years, in the same cottage. The cottage her grandfather moved into when it was built, the place where her father was born in and where all three died. Both her father and grandfather worked on the Rushmore Estate, her father was the head forester for many years. The Ryman family, her maiden name, had been residents of Woodcutts, for at least one hundred and fifty years this accounted for Win's great knowledge of the area and the countryside in general. She loved the natural world and was renowned for her Herculean tasks in her huge garden.

Up until two years ago, she could be found working away in amongst her vegetables, her numerous flowerbeds and shrubbery, on a clear summer evening until compelled to stop at the onset of darkness. Even then she could be found for a natter, tending her bonfire, burning the day's weeds and prunings. Despite her late evenings, Win was no stick-in-the-bed; she was always up in time to give the postman an early cup of tea. Not for herself though as her breakfast beverage was cocoa.

Her affinity for postmen was due in part because she herself had been a postlady for many years. In her time it was bicycles instead of vans, and she must have cycled many miles to the outposts of Sixpenny Handley, in her official capacity. She had many stories to tell of her life as a postie, as she did of her time as a seller and collector of insurance in the locality.

Her long working hours meant she had no time to watch television and would not have one in the house. On her eightieth birthday, her daughter, Veronica gave her a brand new, up to date model, but only to be told to take it away, as she, Win had no use for it. She just did not want a television; she was always busy, despite having lived alone since her husband, Mick, died some years before. She loved her home and her garden, but always had time for a chat; especially about the countryside she had known all her life. Her memory was astonishing. She knew the names of all the tracks, meadows and woodlands for miles, the names of cottages and the history of their inhabitants. She did not like to be quoted and I must ask her forgiveness for this article. (This is not an obituary, Win would have hated that.) Often I asked if she would allow me to write down what she had told me, although she did not say no, she certainly didn't say yes. A lot of local information has passed away with her. Perhaps she did not always want to think of the past, and if asked by others about their family histories in the area she would often prefer not to answer.

As mentioned earlier she did not want a television, but she loved the radio, as she would listen as she worked. Her favourite on the radio was cricket. She loved listening to test matches. She knew all the test teams and many of the county players, certainly she knew more than me, (I class myself as a cricket fan.) It was not many years ago that she wrote to the selectors, telling them that they did an appalling job. Her favourite player was Geoffrey Boycott, and on his retirement cricket was never the same for her. During the time after Mick's retirement from the army and his death, they often went to county matches. When the England team left for Australia recently, I am afraid she had little confidence in them.

So you can see Win lived a very full life, before dieing in her beloved home, in her own time. She was ready for her wicket to fall, and she is surely looking down on 'Freddie' Flintoff and his team as they do battle for the Ashes.

Now she can see all without the worry of the garden, her cat, her family and neighbours. All of whom are pleased that she has been spared any more pain, discomfort or hospitalization.

Win, in your passing we loose a great friend and a wonderful source of memories, but we are so glad that you are at peace.

(Does anyone deliver the Downsman to your new address? Let us know if you don't receive a copy.)

THE END AND A BEGINNING

The end of a 21 month interregnum and the beginning of a new and exciting ministry was celebrated at St Mary's Sixpenny Handley on 2 October when 323 members of congregations from the Benefices of Watercombe and Moreton, Tincleton, Woodsford and Crossways joined those of Sixpenny Handley with Gussage St Andrew and Pentridge, clergy colleagues and friends for the Licensing and Installation of the Rev Mel Durrant as Priest in Charge of Sixpenny Handley with Gussage St Andrew and Pentridge by the Bishop of Sherborne, Rt Rev Tim Thornton.

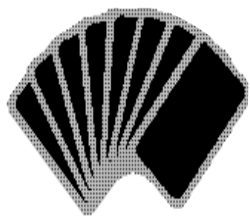
This celebration of new ministry was very special in that in the Bishop's words it was an occasion of "three for the price of two" in that Mel was also licensed as Assistant Curate to the Rev. Dr Michael Foster, Rector of the Chase Benefice and to complete the deal, Michael was licensed as Assistant Curate to Mel. Complicated, maybe, though not really, for it opens up new ways of working together with opportunities in abundance and everything to look forward to now and in the future.

The past 21 months have been a time when "Gifts" have been discovered that brought about greater participation with an "all member ministry". With these gifts, Mel and his wife Margaret, as an advert goes "the future looks bright....." it really does. The worship was followed by a tremendous time of fellowship and wonderful refreshments after a trek to the Village Hall.

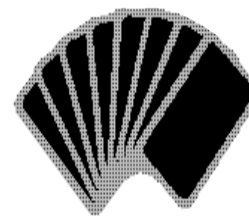


A huge thank you for the generosity of those present which enabled the sum of £867.65 (including Gift Aid addition) to be forwarded to our link diocese in the Sudan.

Photograph by AWD Photographs
(l to r Rev. Dr Michael Foster, Rt. Rev. Tim Thornton and Rev. Mel Durrant)



CARDS



Whist

With nearly a third of the competitive rounds now played in the 2006-2007 competition, I am struck by the absence of players scoring consistently high, the sole exception being Doris Gibson who has returned scores of 165, 163, 165 and 172 and had it not been for an enforced absence from round 4 when she had to take an automatic '138', it is highly likely she would have been heading the table. This honour, however, goes to Chris Napier with an aggregate total of 825, one point ahead of Arthur Alabaster who, in turn, is ten points ahead of Doug Haskell. Fourth, one point in arrears of Doug is the defending champion, Ruth Hustings, with Doris Gibson (803) a not too distant 5th.

My observation concerning the dearth of high scoring is reflected in that three players already occupy places in the top ten after taking a mandatory '138'. Doris I have already mentioned, while her companions, presently, are Gerald Trickey (787) in 9th place and Peter Braithwaite (785) holding 10th, five points clear of Sam Poolman and Stuart Haskell, both on 780.

Chris Napier's opening round score of 179 was bettered on the 4th round by Brian Trickey who carded 184 to put himself in a reasonably good position to pick up the *fiver* for the highest individual score while combinations of pairs taking all 13 tricks have, so far, fallen in favour of Sam Poolman/Sheila Steel (1st round), Doreen Leverton/Audrey Alabaster and Doug Haskell/Brian Trickey (4th round).

So far, a total of 47 players have competed but more support is needed as the average *tables in play* number has fallen to between 8 and 9, so, if you have played whist in the past and would like to return to the tables, then do join us at our Wednesday evening sessions, at The Village Hall, play commencing promptly at 7.30 p.m. (check out the back cover of *The Downsmen* for dates of play) which will include notice of our special Christmas Drive on Saturday the 9th of December.

Bridge.

Bridge continues to flourish at The Sport's Pavilion each Tuesday afternoon (play getting under way by about 1.45 p.m. as it is a very relaxed atmosphere!) and I begin my column by congratulating Tim Stevens on winning the September/October competition with a final score of 19,720 points, 40 clear of *your scribe* who, in turn, was followed by Gerald Trickey (17,240). In total, 17 players competed though for the final round, held on the 31st of October, John and Nora Davis brought along four members of their family that were visiting from Amiens. All quickly blended in with Elaine returning a very creditable 1,840 points which, on the day, was the 7th highest score. Over the 9 rounds, four players (Tim, Gerald, Sheila Bradley (11th overall after missing 3 rounds) and myself) passed the 3,000 mark over the 16 deals that go to make up each round, while 10 players all exceeded the 2,000 mark, notable being Peter Martin (2,870) who finished 4th overall with an aggregate of 16,290 points, despite missing 3 rounds. Eric Turner, winner of the August/September competition, finished 5th with 15,620 points, while the next five places were taken by George Marskell (14,780), Nora Davis (14,180), Julie Trickey (13,820), Sylvia Marskell (13,580) and John Davis (13,400).

Finally, well played Gerald and Julie Trickey who won the East/West combination at a recent Shaftesbury Bridge Club duplicate event, 14 tables being in play.

Bill Chorley

Sixpenny Handley Stores and Post Office

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Seasonal poems by Margaret Quinn



Autumn

Leaves in my garden
Leaves on the grass
Leaves on the pathways
Wherever I pass.....

Leaves in my garden
Yellow and brown
Make the steps slippery
As I walk down.

Leaves in my garden
In huge crunchy mounds
Shine in the sunshine
As I look around.

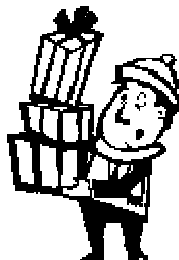
Leaves in my garden
Trees now are bare.....
A colourful patchwork
Everywhere !

Leaves in my garden
Make nice winter homes
For creepies and crawlies
Until the spring comes !

Leaves in my garden
Fell from the trees
Don't blow so and scatter
Please - please - please !

Eternally

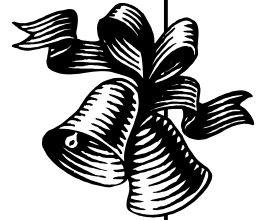
Winter white
Winter drear
Bravely
snowdrops
Do appear.
Buds unfolding
Emerald green
Dancing daffodils
Now are seen.
Woodland wonder
Bluebell haze
Perfumed beauty
As I gaze.
Golden sunsets
Ripening corn
Early morning
Hunting horn.
Azure skies
Shady glades
Harvest gathered
Summer fades.
Misty mornings
Mellow days
Softer views
Autumn blaze.
Silver leaves
Frosted grass
Moonlit magic
Where I pass.
Snowflakes falling
Darkening sky
Wild winds moaning
Winter's nigh ?



A Verse for Christmas

Christmas joy
Christmas cheer

Decorations
Now appear
Kitchen cosy
Scrumptious smells
Puddings - cakes
Sweets and 'jells'
Mother busy
Cards posted
Gifts bought
Lists noted -
Wrapping paper
Silver string
Baubles shining
Church bells ring -
Christmas Eve
Starlit night
Church is filling
Flowers bright
Christingle candles
Shining eyes
Children singing
To the skies -
Christmas morning
Children's chatter
Kitchen busy
Saucepans clatter
Loaded table
Christmas fayre -
Happy faces
Everywhere
Christmas joy
Christmas cheer
Over for
Another year !



Dear Downsman

RESPECT FOR ALL!

It was with a mixture of anger, puzzlement and great sadness that I learned this week (3rdOct) that yet more windows have been broken in the village hall.

Having passed the anger stage ...I felt sad, firstly for the many stalwart supporters of the village hall who work and raise funds to maintain this wonderful resource which most of the community use and appreciate. My second reason for feeling sad was for those who carry out the mindless and incomprehensible destruction.

Inevitably we look to the young people within the community for no other reason than in the past where proven it has found to be young people responsible. There is a puzzle here! Why is it that the young people I know and talk to regularly, come across as basically good kids, what is it that gets into them, that changes them into unthinking, uncaring vandals? I don't know the answer to this.

I commend those of our community who are trying to communicate and work with the youth of the village not just to provide facilities for them but to open up dialogue with them. In doing so we might learn from them the answers to some of the questions which many of us from another generation fail to understand. Perhaps we may also be able to convey to them the consequences of their actions. As a result of which all sections of our community are adversely affected.

It may be interesting to ponder a few words written about 3000 years ago in a book of the Bible called Deuteronomy, where we find Moses giving again the basic principles of God's way of living.

These are all about one thing ...respect! Respect God, respect His name, respect His day, respect your parents, respect marriage, respect property, respect peoples reputation.

The quickest way to destroy society or shall we say community (that's you, me and our neighbours) is to destroy respect.

Haydn Everall

DAMAGE TO SURGERY PROPERTY

During the recent heavy rain, water found its way into the surgery buildings as a result of broken roof tiles. The damage was caused by stones being thrown onto the roof and children climbing over it.

We have also noticed gaps appearing in the perimeter hedge caused by young people crawling through it.

Please help us by stopping anyone involved in such activities not only in order that the surgery can continue to serve the locality but also to protect young people from harm. We cannot accept any liability for injuries sustained within the boundary of the surgery from such activities.

If these problems persist we will have to involve the local police.

Yours faithfully
W A Carter (Practice Manager)



Sixpenny Handley Bowls Club

Short Mat Bowls



The season has started well for what we call the 'A' Team. Although they are not top of the league at the beginning of November they are in a good position over the leaders with a game in hand.

The Tanners however, who play in Division five, are not in such a good position but they also have a game in hand in which six points are at stake. In both Divisions the Stalbridge Club are doing very well at the moment. The league table follows:

<u>DIVISION ONE</u>	Played	Points	Shot Difference
STALBRIDGE FALCONS	4	14	+8
HAZELBERRIES	3	12	+26
SIXPENNY HANDLEY	3	10	+11
TEMPLECOMBE BEES	3	8	+13
SHROTON	3	8	-9
CAUNDLES	3	8	-34
HAZELNUTS	2	4	-9
TEMPLECOMBE WASPS	1	2	-6
<u>DIVISION FIVE</u>			
STALBRIDGE EAGLES	4	22	+73
BUCKHORN BUCKS	3	14	+40
HILLTOP BLUES	3	12	+11
MILBORNE WILLOWS	3	10	+24
TANNERS	3	8	-14
BISHOPS	5	8	-36
THORNFORD SWALLOWS	3	6	-23
BUCKHORN STAGS	4	4	-75

Club Annual General Meeting

The club held their AGM on November 6th 2006 when the following officers were elected for the year 2006/7:

President	Gordon Oxford	Vice- President	Brian Staplehurst
Club Captain	Geoffrey Toomer	Vice – Captain	Gordon Martin
Ladies Captain	Patricia Oxford	Secretary	Brian Hansford
Treasurer	Brian Hansford	Fixture Secretary	Jean Maidment
Indoor Fixtures	Sarah Churchill	Social Secretary	Valerie Martin

Sports Association	Gordon Oxford & Pat Taylor
Committee	Deny Goddard, Angus Macleod & Colin Chambers.
Village Hall Representative	Colin Chambers
Groundsman (Supervising)	Angus Macleod & Pat Taylor

The next important event on the calendar is the Annual Luncheon, which will be at the Crown Hotel in Blandford on **Sunday December 17th, 12.30, for 1p.m.** If you are interested then

Dyslexia Fact Sheet will help Dorset parents

One of the UK's foremost authorities on Dyslexia, Dr Peter Gardner, has launched a Fact Sheet on Dyslexia, aimed at Dorset parents. People who have the condition can have problems with reading, writing or spelling. It is believed that one in 10 children have some form of Dyslexia, which is Greek for 'difficulty with words'.

Dr Peter Gardner is founder of Appleford School, in South Wiltshire, which is one of the country's leading schools for children with dyslexia.

WHAT IS DYSLEXIA? There are many definitions of dyslexia. Among these are the following:

Dyslexia is best described as a combination of abilities and difficulties that affect the learning process in one or more of reading, spelling and writing. Accompanying weaknesses may be identified in areas of speed of processing, short term memory, sequencing and organisation, auditory and/or visual perception, spoken language and motor skills. It is particularly related to mastering and using written language, which may include alphabetic, numeric and musical notation. *British Dyslexia Association*

Dyslexia is evident when accurate and fluent word reading and/or spelling develops very incompletely or with great difficulty. *British Psychological Society*

HOW CAN I TELL IF MY CHILD IS DYSLEXIC? There are many symptoms including the following:

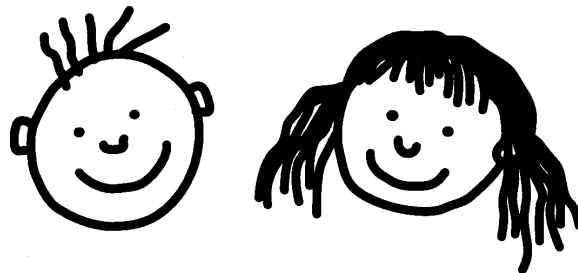
- He seems more intelligent than his reading suggests (both boys and girls can be dyslexic, but boys tend to outnumber girls by approximately 3 or 4:1, so the term 'he' is used throughout).
- Typical dyslexia reading errors include:
 - Reads very slowly and hesitantly.
 - Reads words backwards – 'on' for 'no', 'was' for 'saw', etc.
 - Reads letters in the wrong order – 'left' for 'felt', 'act' for 'cat', etc.
- He seems more intelligent than his written work suggests.
- Typical dyslexia writing errors include:
 - Reverses letters – 'b' for 'd', 'p' for 'q', etc.
 - Turns letters upside down – 'n' for 'u', 'm' for 'w', etc.
 - Writes letters in the wrong order – 'chidl' for 'child'.
- He has difficulty with rhyme.
- He may have been a late or poor talker and may still have immature speech.
- He may have been a late walker and may still not be well coordinated.
- He may have difficulty with short-term memory.
- He may have been late learning to tell the time or tie his shoelaces.
- He may have difficulty putting things in the right order.
- He may have difficulty knowing left from right.
- He may not be able to concentrate well.
- He may be poor at copying from the board.
- He may be poorly organised.
- There may be a family history of late reading or poor spelling.

The full Fact Sheet is available from:

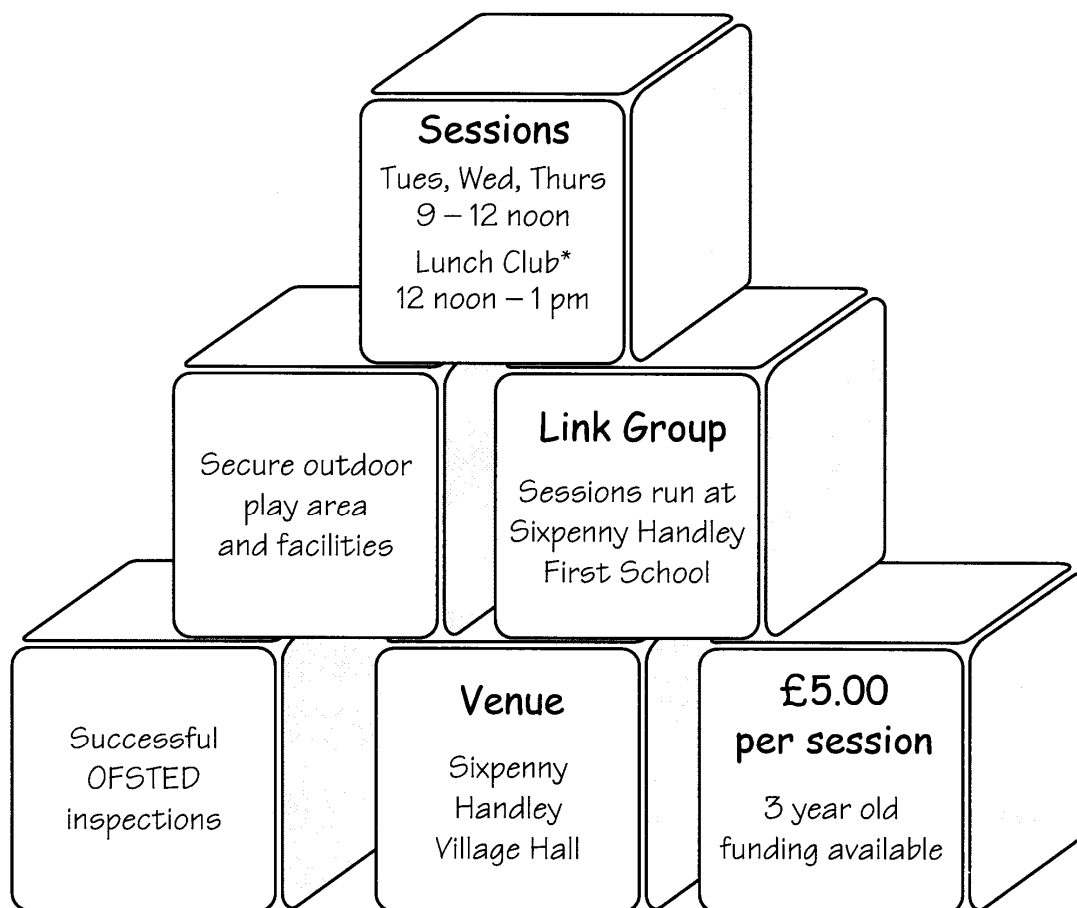
Dyslexia Awareness Fact Sheet, 4a Wilton Business Centre, Wilton, Salisbury, SP2 0AH. For a free copy, call: 01722 744033 or e-mail to: factsheet@appleford.wilts.sch.uk

To arrange an interview with Dr Peter Gardner, please call him on 01275 472598.

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”

Early Years Advisory Teacher 28/1/2003

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

Secretary: Jane Laing.....01725 553146

*Thursday Lunch Club finishes at 12:45 pm

Mr & Mrs R Medcalf wish all their friends and tenants on Handley Park,
also many friends...

A Very Happy Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year

**SIXPENNY HANDLEY ENDURO TEAM
RAISE £1900
FOR DORSET AND SOMERSET AIR AMBULANCE**

On the 27th August 2006 Adrian Harris, Russell Harris, Jason Coombes and Barry Mitchell took part in the Dawn to Dusk Enduro at Glyneath, South Wales, set in a 4000-acre open cast coalmine.

Twelve hours of endurance, reliability, strength or lack of it! With 18.5 miles per lap that had everything a good enduro circuit should have; from steep rock climbs and descents, grassland with bogs, wood sections with fast flowing fire roads; it was all there.

A good time was had by all, raising £1,900 for the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance. Thanks for everyone that sponsored us with special thanks to Phil Harris, Richard Jesse @Sixpenny Forge, Grant @ Blandford Tools and Michael and Tim Brewer for all their help on the day.





Summer Camp, Guernsey 2006

Thursday

Finally, the time had arrived for our Summer Camp. We had been getting the tents and camping kit ready for weeks, and we were now ready to go.

It was an early start for all of us, having to leave Sixpenny Handley at 4 in the morning ready to catch the ferry from Weymouth at 6am. We left Weymouth just as the sun was rising, it was an early start but meant that we would be in Guernsey before most of us would normally be waking up!

There was a minibus waiting for us at the Ferry terminal, once all our luggage was loaded up we made the short journey to Les Maingy Scout Camp. No time to stand around, we may have been up for 6 hours already but we had a camp site still to build. The tents which all the scouts would be sleeping in went up first. Rob and Andy told us to take our time and make sure that they were perfect. They told us that there can be strong winds in Guernsey and it was best that we put them up right. After the Scout tents it was time to set up the kitchen, the dining shelter, the leaders' tents and finally the flag pole. By lunchtime we had the whole campsite set up and ready for the week. As we had worked so hard it was decided that after lunch we would spend the afternoon on the beach.

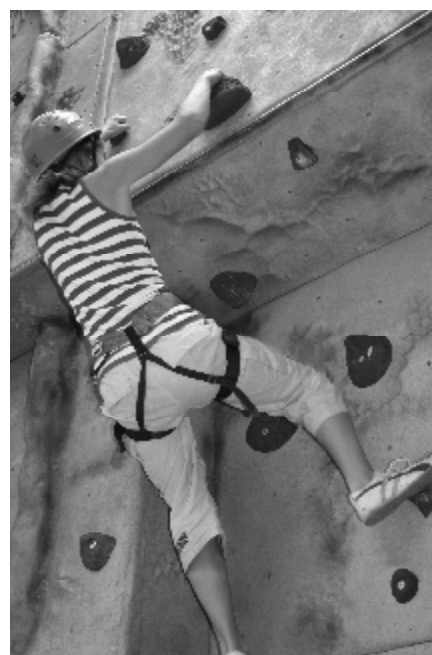
When we arrived at the beach the sea was nowhere to be seen, next time we must check when low tide is! The afternoon was spent playing on the beach, building sand castles and swimming (once we could find the sea!). Not bad for an afternoon when we should have been putting tents up.

That evening we were all in bed by ten o'clock, tired, but ready for the week ahead.

Friday

Not surprisingly it was hard work waking up this morning. Again, no time to waste as we had a day of activities to get ready for. The morning session was climbing on the indoor climbing wall with an afternoon of archery.

Before we were allowed on the climbing wall Fred, the climbing instructor, showed us how to put the harness and safety helmet on. Fred also showed the group how to climb safely and how to use the karabiner. We split into four groups, with Fred, Andy, Rob and Chris belaying on different routes up the climbing wall. Jess was the first up the wall and showed the skills that she had learnt when we were last in Guernsey. All the



Scouts had one or two goes on the easier training routes, then if we were ready we could move on to the harder routes. The trickiest climb was the one in the middle. This had two overhanging ledges and really small grips for your hands. Both Jess and Nick managed the route. There was also a wire ladder hanging from the ceiling of the climbing wall. Andrew was the first to climb it and once at the top he had to let go and be lowered from the roof on a rope. Only the really brave had a go at this! The climbing was good practise for later on in the week when we would be climbing outdoors on real rock faces.



After a quick lunch we were back into the hall ready to try our hand at archery. We were split into four teams and shown how to hold the bow and aim at the target at the other end of the hall. Once we had a practise go, it was into the competition proper. We scored 1 point for the outer ring up to 5 points for the bullseye. After round one Chris's team was leading, but only just. In round two the outer ring no longer counted, meaning the target was smaller and harder to hit. Round two over and the lead had changed to Hadleigh, Andrew and Sam's team. Round three and only the bullseye counted, it was getting really hard now but some still managed to score. Onto round four and five and any team could win. This time balloons were pinned to the target and it was 20 points if you burst one. After the fifth round the scores were totalled up and Hadleigh, Andrew and Sam's team just managed to win, the others were very close behind.

Back to the campsite and a quick game of rounders, just in case any of us had any energy left! Tea for the night was fish and chips at Cobo beach. It was about a mile and a half walk to the beach. The chips were ordered and we ate them leaning against the sea wall and watching the waves break on the beach. It was a slower walk back to camp as we were full up with fish and chips. A couple of games of cards in the mess tent and it was off to bed, ready for another day of activities tomorrow.

Saturday

Today was our first chance to go into town and buy presents for our family and friends at home. First it was a tour of Castle Cornet, this is the large Castle that guards the entrance to the harbour of St Peter Port. When in the Castle we split into groups and looked around the museums, with information on the Castle, life on the island and about Guernsey's RAF squadron.



We all met back at the large cannon in the middle of the Castle. At midday the cannon is fired. We all waited with our cameras for the moment that the cannon fires and a

large cloud of smoke comes from the barrel. As the cannon fired we all jumped and managed to get great photographs of the sky.

After lunch, we were left to wander round the town by ourselves and look for postcards to send home. After an hour we met back up and jumped on a bus to Beau Sejour leisure centre for a swim and a play on the large flumes.

It was back to camp and time to light the fire ready for a barbecue. Once we had eaten and done all the washing up we piled more wood on the fire and sat there until gone midnight, telling jokes and stories and watching out for shooting stars. Kate won as she saw 15 shooting stars.

Sunday

After the late night last night we were allowed a lie in. We woke to the smell of sizzling bacon and sausages. Nick R had woken up early and cooked us all breakfast. Sunday was meant to be a lazy day, resting around the camp and recharging our batteries for the coming days. However, the Leaders had organised a surprise activity for after lunch. They would not tell us what it was, not even a slight hint. We walked for about two miles until we arrived at the Guernsey Candle Centre. Nick M had walked all the way to the centre in his wetsuit, you will have to ask one of the Scouts why, as it is a very long story!

The activity was to carve candles for friends or family at home. To make the candle you had to dip the wick in hot wax and then cold water. This was repeated 30-45 times until the candle was large enough to carve. The wax was still warm and could be carved and twisted into loads of shapes. Once finished the candle was left to cool and set fully.

When we had finished the candle carving we headed back to the site. Rob went to the ferry terminal to pick up Denise and Burt who were joining us for the rest of the camp.



The rest of the day was very relaxing, reading newspapers, playing Frisbee and generally chilling. Tomorrow was going to be a day of being tourists and seeing some of the attractions of Guernsey

Monday

After breakfast we made our way to the bus stop and jumped on the Island Tour bus, this was going to take us around the coast of the island and to parts that we had not yet seen. It then headed inland toward the airport. This is where we got off and started our walk towards the Occupation Museum. The museum tells the history of when Guernsey was occupied during the Second World War and the life of the islanders whilst living under German rule. The museum had exhibits from around the island and a full size street, complete with war time fire engine. It was really interesting seeing photographs of parts of the island that we had visited and the



beaches that we had played on, but with soldiers and fortifications on them.

From the Occupation Museum we walked a short distance to the Little Chapel. The Little Chapel was covered in small pieces of broken plates and shell and only about ten of us could fit into it at anytime. After eating lunch at the Chapel we moved onto the clock makers and watched them making Grand Father Clocks. We made sure that we did not touch anything as it was all very expensive.

We then walked on to the Under Ground Hospital to continue discovering about Guernsey in World War Two. The hospital was built to treat wounded soldiers and we walked around rooms that were built as operating theatres and wards. It was slightly eerie seeing imprints of soldier's boots in the concrete floor that had been there for over 60 years. In one of the tunnels there were cuttings from newspapers. One

article instructed all children on the Island to prepare for evacuation to England and listed the few items that they were allowed to take with them. This was weird as the children were the same age as us.

After a day of exploring it was back to camp and time for an early night, tomorrow was going to be our most adventurous yet.

Tuesday

We woke to the first rain and strong wind of the week. This was a real shame as we were meant to be canoeing and climbing today.

A quick check of the weather forecast confirmed that there would be no canoeing today as the wind was just too strong and the waves would have been too big. Not to worry, we were up early and whilst having breakfast Andy and Rob came up with a plan for the day to make sure that we did not miss anything.

It was back on the bus and into town. Firstly we visited the aquarium in St Peter Port. The aquarium had many tropical fish as well as fish, crabs and lobsters that could be found around the coast of Guernsey. It was then a short walk back into town and a chance to buy the pressies we had seen earlier in the week.

After lunch we made our way through town and the parks and to the Victoria Tower. This tower overlooks the whole of St Peter Port and when we made it to the top (after a very large spiral staircase) we could see across to the other side of the island. After looking really hard Lauren found the campsite.

From the tower it was a short walk to the leisure centre. As we enjoyed the swimming so much last time we decided to go again and for those that had not washed all week it was a second chance for them to have a shower.

Back to the campsite, and time for tea. Tonight Kelly cooked us all vegetarian stir fry, some Scouts said this was their favourite meal for the whole week. Off to bed – hoping that the weather was better in the morning.

Wednesday

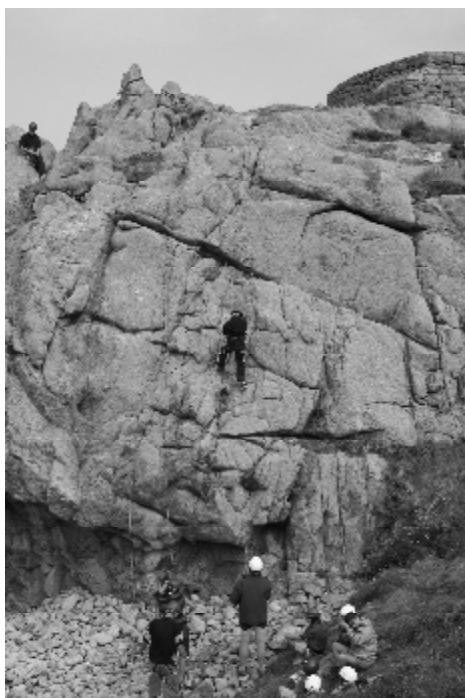
We all woke to see that the sun was shining and there was a slight breeze, perfect for climbing and canoeing. No time to hang about, it was shower, breakfast, make the pack lunches and out by 8.30.

Once at the beach we split into two groups, those that had canoed before and those that had never held a paddle. The ones that had not canoed went in the water first, after a quick lesson on how to get in and out of the canoe, how to hold the paddle and what to do if you capsized. Once in we were shown how to paddle forward, then in a straight line and finally how to go backward. We then paddled as a group across the bay and around two fishing boats. We then had to form a raft and hold tightly onto one another's canoe. This is when it got interesting! The instructor told Andrew to get out of his canoe, and walk along the other canoes and back round to his place. Andrew got about three quarters of the way round and then fell in the sea. A couple more of us had a go, but before we knew it was time to paddle back to shore and let the second group have a go.



The second group were more experienced, so there was no need to show them the basics. After checking that everyone was confident and safe in the canoes (and after Jess falling in twice) the group headed off around the edge of the bay and into open water. The first challenge was to paddle over the harbour wall. The tide was dropping and you had to catch the wave just right to carry you over the wall. Rob and Andy both got stuck, we reckon it was because they had eaten too much all week. The group then paddled to two rocks that forced the

waves together, you had to paddle fast between the rocks and if judged right you would be picked up by a wave and surf the canoe for about 15 metres. This was probably the best part of the whole canoeing. Nick M was then asked to lead part of the group around the rocky islands. The waves were getting a bit choppy now and those without spray decks were finding their boats filling with water. Nick decided to try the surfing again and quickly paddled straight into a rock and capsized the boat. Just as Nick was rescued Jess and Jessy then decided to sink their



canoes. Once everyone was back in their canoes it was time to head back to the beach and pack up, ready for the afternoon of climbing.

The climbing was on another beach on the east side of the island. When we arrived we saw the rock face that we would be climbing and decided that it was about 40 foot tall. We sat and ate our lunch at the base of the cliff, trying to work out which route would be the easiest or hardest to climb.

After lunch it was on with the harness and helmet and a quick reminder of the things we had learnt on the indoor climbing wall. This was a bit different because the hand holds weren't colour coded to show us where to go. Andy and Chris belayed on one side of the rock face, and Fred was at the top allowing us to abseil down the other side. Most of us found the climbing easier than we thought and this was probably due to the practise we had earlier in the week. The abseiling was harder because near the bottom there was an overhang.

This meant that as we abseiled we had to jump at the bottom and make sure that we were clear of the overhang.

The view from the top of the climb was amazing, looking out over two beaches and watching the waves crashing on the rocks below.

No time to rest though. This was our last night at camp and there was too much to do. The weather had been really good all day so the leaders decided that we would take all the tents down whilst they were dry and sleep under the stars. The older Scouts that had been on the survival camp a couple of months ago went into the woods and made bivouacs for us. These are low shelters made from tarpaulin and army coats. Whilst in the woods the leaders also built a giant hammock from a huge cargo net slung from four trees.

Our last night was spent cooking fresh fish and steak kebabs on the camp fire, chatting about our week in Guernsey and what we wanted to do when we got home back to Handley. The award for best Scout was presented to Jimmer. The leaders talked through the Scout Law and said that James had demonstrated commitment to it during the week, being the most helpful and considerate to all on Camp. After such an active day we thought that we would have been in bed early, but there were too many stories to be told around the camp fire and before we knew it it was 1.30 in the morning.

Thursday

We woke to the sun coming up over the hedgerow and the dew shining on the grass. We had worked really hard the day before taking our tents down, this meant that we had a spare day. The shelters were very quick to take down, two knots and four pegs and that was it.

After breakfast we cleared the kitchen and dining shelter and packed all our kit away. With our spare day we decided to be tourists. We caught the bus to the Strawberry Farm. At the

Strawberry Farm we split into two groups. One group played pitch and putt, whilst the other had a bounce on the trampolines. We then swapped over activities. We also looked in the wood carvers next door and watched them making table legs on the lathe.

The Strawberry Farm was an extra activity because we had pulled together as a team and cleared camp so quickly. It was back on the bus to the campsite for the final litter pick of the site and to wait for our minibus to take us to the ferry terminal.



We had to check in early for the ferry. Once we had checked in Nick and Chris walked into town and bought fish and chips. We sat on the harbour wall, watching the sun set over St Peter Port and Castle Cornet whilst eating our fish and chips. What a great way to say goodbye to Guernsey.

Firework Spectacular 2006

This year's event was undoubtedly the best yet! Thank you to Bronia and Chris, John and all at the butchers and Steve at the Post Office for selling so many tickets in advance. As always, thank you to Steve at Church Farm for allowing us to invade the camp site for the weekend. We counted just over 700 people through the gate. Next year will be an extra special display as it will be part of the Scout Groups 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Beavers come to Handley

Well, we found the leaders and helpers and it means the Beaver Colony will be starting up shortly. The first meeting will be on 13th December at the Village Hall. All 12 available places have been taken and a waiting list has already started. If your son or daughter is aged between 6-8 years and they would like to join Beavers, please call Denise on 552735. We look forward to keep you updated about the fun activities that we will be involved in.

Endorse it in Dorset

and finally..... thank you to the organisers of Endorse it in Dorset. This year the event donated a considerable amount to the Scouts. This money will help us reach our goal of building a new hut at Woodcutts. Endorse it in Dorset have supported the Scout Group for three years and their contribution is greatly appreciated. It was great to see some of our Scouts and other young people from the area helping at the festival. We hope that we can be involved with the event next year.

We have run out of space this month, so you will have to wait until the next Downsman to hear about this terms activities!

Yours in Scouting

Rob Easton (Scout Leader)



Dave & M. Swift Plant

MACHINE HIRE FOR DRIVEWAYS AND PATHS

SELF DRIVE OR OPERATED

ALSO UNDERTAKEN – BULK EXCAVATION, DEMOLITION,
DRAINAGE, DITCH AND TRENCH WORK, SITE
CLEARANCE, DEROOTING TREE STUMPS, LANDSCAPING,
PONDS/LAKES/LAGOONS

MACHINE SIZE RANGE FROM (1.5, 5 TO 22 TONS)

CONTACT DAVE OR MANDY ON:-

TEL: 01725 552364
MOB: 07766 733530
FAX: 01725 552553

ROB'S COLUMN

Parish Plan

The Parish Plan is taking shape and as a result so much information is coming in that it has been suggested that we try to put together a Village Book.

If you have any articles or stories and photos past or present that you would like to share with the village or if you are good at writing.

Contact Rob Jesses 552 340

We have signed up with the A.O.N.B. at Cranborne Parish Archive

Get your pencils and paper out. You're the winner if you know about who the, what the, where and why and when, which and wherefore and how, now.

I started out with nothing and I still have most of it.

An egg and a sausage are sizzling in a pan in a monastery. The sausage turns to the egg and says "this is bad luck on us out of the frying pan into the friar".

Missing Sign Featured in October Edition of the Downsman Turns Up

Two days after the Downsman came out I was approached by a villager who knew of its whereabouts. It had been given to him for safe keeping after it was found thrown in a hedge over 8 years ago. He had put it in his shed and forgotten about it until my article reminded him. With the permission of the Parish Council Steve and Chris offered to display it in the village Post Office after its full restoration.

Newspaper Seller "Extra, extra, read all about it. 49 people swindled. Read all about it."

Customer "Look here – I've just read your paper and there is no mention of any swindle."

Paper Seller "Read all about it. 50 people swindled. Read all about it."

What did the microbiologist buy from the department store?

Answer: Designer Genes.

What did the dustman say when his mate asked him how business was going?

Answer: It's picking up.

No Cat!

What is this life if, all the day

We have no cat to pounce and play?

No cat to leap and dash around

All with a joyful purring sound

No cat to scamper in and out

And teach what cats are all about

No cat to rummage round the house

Bringing an end to every mouse

No cat to scratch and snoop and roam

Making a lonely house a home

No cat to posture, all sedate

Solemn as any magistrate

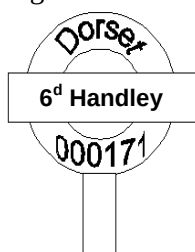
No cat to snuggle near at night

As soon as one puts out the light

A poor life this if, all the day

There is no cat to pounce and play.

Ray Inman, with apologies to W.H.Auden



Grandad's Clock

You're up on the wall

Ticking away

The hours and minutes of every day.

You've sent people to work

And children to play.

While up on the wall

Ticking away

When all else is silent

You're ticking away

And you make our room cosy.

While your part you play

You tell me of loved ones

Who just couldn't stay.

While you're up on the wall

Ticking away

Xmas Time

One Christmas the fairy on top of a retired couples festive tree suddenly comes to life and grants each of them a wish. The wife says "I want to travel around the world with my beloved husband." The fairy waves her wand and a pair of tickets for a luxury cruise appears by magic in her hand. The husband says "Hold on a minute. Sorry love, but my wish is to have a wife 30 years younger than me. The fairy waves her wand and the husband becomes 95.

The moral of this story?
Men should remember; all
fairies are female.



Why in a country of free speech are there phone bills?

What is a solicitor's favourite dessert?
Answer: Sue it Pudding.

When I met my husband he promised me the earth. He was right - now I do the gardening.

Lastly many, many thanks to all the helpers at the auction. 300 lots were sold to 50 buyers. Thank you to all who donated in some way. A profit of £1,500 was the result. Thanks, Rob

P.S. I enjoyed the Salsa evening run by the Chase Nursery, well done, good crowd, fun time, when's the next?

SERVICEMEN OF THE VILLAGE

Appearing in the October 1999 issue of *The Downsman* was an account of the unveiling of the Sixpenny Handley War Memorial. Unfortunately, the report of this event was undated, though I suspect it may have been at some time in 1921, a year in which numerous memorials commemorating those who fell in the Great War were dedicated throughout the country. The service was conducted by the Reverend Ernest Edward Hasluck and, therefore, the date must have been prior to 1925, for this was the year of Edward Hasluck's retirement from the church and his departure to Caversham in Berkshire.

It is also noted that a '*guard of four 'Old Contemptibles' was mounted at the cross during the service*' and though it is not specifically stated, I assume this guard was made up by ex-servicemen from the village who had crossed to France with the British Expeditionary Force in August 1914.

In its conclusion, the report mentions that in addition to the 23 names inscribed on the memorial, a Roll naming approximately 140 men from the village who served in the Great War was placed inside the church. Sadly, this Roll (to the best of my knowledge) no longer exists and I would, therefore, deem it a very great favour if the more senior members of our community, and who may be able to recall the names of these veterans, contact me with as many details as possible. Similarly, I would welcome such details in respect of the men and women from the village who served in the Second World War.

Finally, something of a mystery. In the church on the right hand wall, by the altar rail, is a small plaque which indicates that the rails were presented in memory of Jim McCoull who died on active service in July 1945. A search on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website for 'McCoull J' drew a blank but by beginning with the initial 'A' and working my way through the alphabet, I have identified 5252891 Private Stanley Thompson McCoull, age 30, who died on the 9th of July, 1945, while serving with the Gloucestershire Regiment in Italy and is now buried in Naples War Cemetery. His next of kin is given as Stanley and Florence McCoull of Seascale in Cumberland. Brian Hansford thinks, though he cannot be certain, that a McCoull was connected with either the Roebuck or the Star inns but I would be fascinated to learn further information, particularly as he is not recorded on our war memorial (though Murial Monk in her dedication to the 10,000 fallen remembered on Dorset's war memorials lists him under Sixpenny Handley) and, as far as I can tell, he was the only Allied serviceman with the surname 'McCoull' to die in the Second World War.

Bill Chorley (01725 552776)



Handley Sport Men's Football



Results have not been the best of late and we are at the moment languishing at the foot of both the Division two and Division four tables. We are hoping for better results in the coming weeks. Both teams have been coming up against strong opposition but they are both young sides generally and are beginning to settle and results should improve. The Division two side did have success in the second round of the Intermediate Cup and now go into Round 3 and come up against a strong West Moors side. The current Leagues tables are shown below.

LEAGUE TABLE		DIVISION TWO					
POS		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Poundbury	11	8	1	2	23	25
2	Swanage Town & Herston	10	8	0	2	18	24
3	Piddletrenthide United	11	7	2	2	10	23
4	Stalbridge	9	6	1	2	12	19
5	Stourpaine	9	5	3	1	10	18
6	Barwick & Stoford	9	5	1	3	8	16
7	Linthorpe	8	3	2	3	-7	11
8	The Balt House	11	3	1	7	-1	10
9	Sturminster Marshall	11	2	4	5	-8	10
10	Gillingham Town	10	3	1	6	9	10
11	Orild Okeford	10	3	1	6	-12	10
12	Wyke Regis Social Club	11	3	1	7	-17	10
13	Handley Sports	10	2	1	7	-9	7
14	Winfrith	10	2	1	7	-16	7

LEAGUE TABLE		DIVISION FOUR					
POS		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Swanage Town & Herston	11	9	1	1	18	28
2	Harbour View Developments	10	8	0	2	54	24
3	Kingston Lacy	8	7	1	0	57	22
4	Sturminster Newton United	10	6	1	3	14	19
5	FC Windowman	8	6	0	2	16	18
6	Okeford United	8	4	1	3	7	13
7	Quayside	8	3	0	5	-3	9
8	Purbeck Panthers	9	3	0	6	-32	8
9	Gravelly Rovers	10	2	1	7	-22	7
10	Handley Sports	9	2	1	6	-29	7
11	Milborne St Andrew	10	2	0	8	-34	6
12	Athletico Chickereif	9	0	0	9	-46	0

* adjustment made

LEAGUE TABLE		MINI SOCCER					
POS		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Corfe Mullen Juniors	3	7	1	0	27	22
2	Broadstone Colts	3	6	0	2	20	18
3	Handley Sports	3	6	0	2	9	18
4	Poole Town Colts	7	5	0	2	5	15
5	Piddle Valley Pumas	3	4	1	1	11	13
6	Poole Town Youth FC	7	3	0	4	4	9
7	Dorchester Town Rangers	6	3	0	3	-13	9
8	Sturminster Marshall	7	2	0	5	0	6
9	Sherborne Town Youth	7	1	0	6	-12	3
10	Weymouth Cougars Sports	7	1	0	6	-22	3
11	Chickereif Sonics	7	0	0	7	-29	0

Presentation

Man of the Match

Recently we presented last year's Awards The Man of the Match an Award decided by the players and the Referee - was **Ben King**.

Leading Goalscorer was presented to **Erkan Mete**.



Kids Club



**For 5 – 11 year olds
(under 5's welcome with accompanying adult)**

**An action packed fun filled day
Something for everyone – based
on the Christmas Story**

Saturday 16th December



10 a m – 3 p m



**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 Overall 01725-552843**

The Downsman

DON'T FORGET WHAT'S ON!!!

DATE	FUNCTION	PAGE	DATE	FUNCTION	PAGE
Dec-02/03	Advent Procession	06	Jan-04	Chase Community Friends	54
Dec-03	Melstock Band - The Leaves of Life	30	Jan-08	W.I. The Original 'Flying Gardener'	05
Dec-07	Chase Community Friends	54	Jan-10	Whist Drive	26
Dec-08	W.I. Group Carol Service, W. Orchard	15	Jan-11	Chase Community Friends	54
Dec-09	Christmas Whist Drive	26	Jan-11	Mobile Library	06
Dec-10	D.F.W.I. Carol Service, Wimborne Minster	15	Jan-14	Epiphany Procession	06
Dec-11	W.I. Christmas Party	05	Jan-18	Chase Community Friends	54
Dec-13	Beavers Meeting	21	Jan-20	Copy Deadline	03
Dec-14	Chase Community Friends	54	Jan-24	Whist Drive	26
Dec-14	Mobile Library	06	Jan-25	Chase Community Friends	54
Dec-16	Kids Club	43	Jan-25	Mobile Library	06
Dec-17	Bowls Club Luncheon	32	Feb-12	W.I. The Mystery of Easter Island	05
Dec-20/21	Christmas Procession	06	Feb-24	W.I. Jumble Sale	05
Dec-21	Chase Community Friends	54	Feb-23	An Evening of Dorset Film Archive	15
Dec-28	Chase Community Friends	54	Mar-30	Forest Forge - The Game Keeper	15
Dec-28	Mobile Library	06	Jun-09	50 year Scout celebrations	21
Dec-31	New Year's Eve Dance	29			