

# The *DOWNSMAN*

April 2007



**The Parish of Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge**

**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 |
|  | Mr. T. Palmer..... | 552321        |
|  |                    | Fax 552405    |

**District Councillor****Rights of Way Liaison Officers**

|                  |                  |        |
|------------------|------------------|--------|
| Sixpenny Handley | Guy Parker ..... | 552334 |
| Pentridge        | Ian Davies.....  | 552076 |

**The Downsman Team**

|             |                        |        |
|-------------|------------------------|--------|
| Editor      | Kathryn Radclyffe..... | 552829 |
| Asst Editor | Tony Gibb .....        | 552704 |
| 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 |
| Beaver Leader      | Denise Turner..... | 552735 |

**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.....  |        |

**Sixpenny Handley Homewatch****Overall Co-ordinator & Police Focal Point**

|                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| John Curtis.....  | 552397 |
| Chris Stokes..... | 552672 |

**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 |
| <b><u>Police</u></b> | Blandford Station. 01258 | 452101 |

**The Chase Pre-School**

|             |                     |        |
|-------------|---------------------|--------|
| Chairperson | Jane Laing.....     | 553146 |
| Secretary   | Jill Hutchins ..... | 552159 |

**The Chase Pre-School Link Group**

|         |                 |        |
|---------|-----------------|--------|
| Contact | 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           | Gordon Oxford.....  | 552591 |
| Secretary/Treasurer | Brian Hansford..... | 552468 |

**Handley Sports Club**

|                    |                       |              |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Chairman           | Mark Young.....       | 552741       |
| Secretary          | Brian Hansford.....   | 552468       |
| Team Manager Div 2 | Mark Young.....       | 552741       |
| Team Manager Div 4 | Drystan Gatrell ..... | 07810 571887 |

**Handley Sports Under 10s**

|         |               |              |
|---------|---------------|--------------|
| Manager | Adam Day..... | 01258 452481 |
|---------|---------------|--------------|

**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 Blake.....   | 552306 |
| Emma Gothard.....  | 552412 |
| Elaine Pover ..... | 553161 |
| Maureen Swann..... | 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 |
| Secretary | Carole Wyatt.....   | 552572 |

***Welcome to the latest edition of The Downsman.***

**Please send all your contributions, preferably by email, to  
[downsman@sixpennyhandley.org](mailto:downsman@sixpennyhandley.org)**

Editor: Kathryn Radclyffe, Parish Office, Unit 5B, Town Farm Workshops, Sixpenny Handley

Lately people have been asking when I am available to collect contributions for *The Downsman*. Like all the others involved in putting together and delivering the magazine I am a volunteer and therefore fit this in around my day job (I am currently back at university training to be a primary school teacher).

If you would like to get in touch then it is always best to email me as either Tony or myself will get back to you as soon as we have a chance. Many thanks to all of you that contribute and if you have an article, advertisement or even a filler then we would love to hear from you.

**Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge Parish Council**

|                                                 |                                                                  |                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Parish Office<br>Unit 5B<br>Town Farm Workshops | Opening Hours:<br>Tuesday 10am – 12noon<br>Thursday 6pm – 7-30pm | Phone – 552211/553001<br>Email –<br><u><a href="mailto:office@sixpennyhandley.org">office@sixpennyhandley.org</a></u> |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## News and Articles...

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

**Copy Deadline is Friday 18th May 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 Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge Parish Council.

## Clerks' Corner

**PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS** will take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Seven seats are to be contested for the ward of Sixpenny Handley and three for Pentridge (including Woodyates). Following the briefings at Furzehill on 13<sup>th</sup> February and 1<sup>st</sup> March and that in the Village Hall on 5<sup>th</sup> March, most of those who wish to stand for election already have their Nomination Papers. Nomination Papers are still available from the Parish office, but time is of the essence. The Downsman should be circulated on 1<sup>st</sup> April and the deadline for submission of Nomination Papers at East Dorset District Council offices at Furzehill is noon on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April.

The polling station will be in the Village Hall, which will be open from **7am to 10pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2007**.

**THE PARISH COUNCIL IS YOUR INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE; PLEASE VOTE.**

**THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY** will take place in the Village Hall on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2007 at 7.30 pm. Please come along, meet your new Parish Council and your Member of Parliament, Mr Robert Walter and find out what is going on.

**ACTIVITIES FOR THE YOUNG.** The skateboard unit and shelter are presently under construction and should be completed before you receive this issue. Please look after this new facility, keep it tidy and be conscious of those around you when using it. Your Parish Council hopes to maintain the momentum generated by the Youth Group. Suggestions have included a week of canal boating, a day of gliding, flying lessons and tandem (with an instructor!) parachute jumping. If there is sufficient interest in these ideas the Parish Council may be prepared to consider putting the matter to the Youth Group and subsidising the costs. It is to be hoped that the young people of the Parish will undertake fund-raising projects in support. A list of those interested in these ideas should find its way to the Parish office. Parental consent will be required.

### **THE FOLLOWING PLANS HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED. BY THE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

- 3/06/1484. Bodenham Cottage – demolish and replace, construct double garage and alter access. Refused.
- 3/06/1469. Incewood, Deanland – single storey extension and two storey rear extension. Permitted.
- 3/06/1492. Land behind The Roebuck Inn, 22 High Street – erect three new dwellings. Permitted.
- 3/06/1521. Kims Cottage, Woodcutts – erect stables. Permitted.
- 3/06/1573. Adjacent to 12 Littlefield Lane – erect new dwelling. Permitted.

*Christopher Snape*  
*Clerk to the Parish Council*



## Thinking of submitting a **PLANNING APPLICATION?**

### **Have You Used The Planning Portal?**

A new government website has been launched at  
**[www.planningportal.gov.uk](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk)**

It has all the regulations in one place.  
It includes maps that can be used with applications and  
the ability to submit applications to your local District Council on-line.

### **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.

## **Climate Change Hits Sixpenny Handley**

In an effort to meet government targets to reduce the carbon footprint,  
the Parish Council has agreed that the precept should include a charge for  
the amount of CO<sup>2</sup> produced by the electorate.

Further rises are inevitable.





## Beaver Scouts Report



We are fast approaching the end of our first full term for Beavers. This has been an exciting time for us all, getting to know each other, playing games, learning new skills and making new friends even to the extent that the Beavers now have their very own Stone Pets! We have also enjoyed making something each week such as Paper Crows, Sugar Mice, 3D Cards, Origami Frogs, Valentines Biscuits, moving figures, Paper Planes and Mothers Day gifts.

We are now looking forward to our investiture into the Scouting Family which will take place on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March. This is always a special event for a Scout, but even more so as this is Sixpenny Handley's first Beaver Colony and it has also been established in the 1<sup>st</sup> Woodcuts 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year!

With lighter evenings now upon us, we are looking forward to more outdoor activities as well as spending some time at the Scout Headquarters.

My thanks go to all of the regular Beaver helpers who work so hard to make each meeting run smoothly, but especially to all of the Beavers who make the evening so much fun for everyone!

*Willow*



**Yet more vandalism in the village?**  
If you know who did it ring 552211

## PARISH ASSEMBLY THURSDAY 24th MAY

**Village Hall at 7.30PM**

Robert Walter MP for North Dorset will be attending.

Any member of the Parish who wishes to put a question to Mr Walter is to submit it in writing to the Parish Clerk by:

**Thursday 10th May**

Formal notices of the Assembly will be published on Parish Notice Boards.



## News from the troop



Just a quick note to let you know what we have been up to at Scouts in the last couple of weeks.

The theme for this term was map reading. Over the weeks the Scouts have learnt to read six figure grid references, how to orientate a map, understand Ordnance Survey symbols and writing route cards for hikes.

In order for the Scouts to practise their new found skills the Young Leaders (Chris, Chris and Si) organised a hike along the Jurassic Coastline. The Scouts left Sixpenny Handley early on the Sunday morning and started hiking by 9 o'clock. Along the route all Scouts had to read the map and take it in turns to lead the group. The walk finished 5 hours and 10 miles later at the Smugglers Inn at Osmington where we all enjoyed a well earned drink.



Over the coming weeks the Scouts will be attending the District Camp at Wareham and will be testing their survival skills during a backwoods weekend.

This term the troop was also visited by the District Scout Leader and District Adult Support Coordinator. The visit was part of country wide inspection of all Scout Groups to assess the programme and activities that are provided for the young people. The feedback that 1<sup>st</sup> Woodcutts Scouts received was that 'it was the most enjoyable Scout meeting I have ever been to' and that 'we observed a lot of "best practice" which I hope you will allow us to share'. Wow.

### **Congratulations to Andy**

Congratulations to Andy Turner, Assistant Scout Leader, for passing the Mountain Leader Course. A weekend of assessment on Dartmoor now means Andy is qualified to lead groups of young people on mountainous terrain. This will allow us to provide even more adventurous activities to the members of the Scout Group. The leaders will be attending a climbing leaders course during April. This will allow us to take Scouts on indoor and outdoor climbing walls.

### **50 Year Celebrations**

The plan for the 50 Year Celebrations in June are going well. The Scouts are planning to design a special badge to be worn on the uniform by all members of the group. This badge will have to be approved by the Scout Association and it is hoped that it will be ready for our week-end of celebrations.



## The Next 50 Years



This year First Woodcutts Scout Group will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Back in 1956, a young man called John Curtis decided that he would like to participate in scouting and through single-minded and persuasive determination he brought about the start of the group, which was officially recognized in 1957. From that day to this the group has been providing a community service to the young people of our village through Scouting activities.

As of today, we have a vibrant and enthusiastic group of 50 uniformed members. During this, our 50<sup>th</sup> year, we have established a Beavers group and can now provide Scouting to boys and girls of all ages from 6 to 20. We have recently had an assessment of our groups, and they were highly commended for the truly excellent quality of work. This is all due to the hard work of all our Scout, Cub and Beaver leaders, ably spearheaded by the very same John Curtis who is now our Group Scout Leader. They all give up their own free time, for no financial reward, to spend time with the young people of our village. Special mention should also be made of the role played by our young leaders who have all benefited from the Scouting movement and are now committed to putting something back by assisting and leading the next generation of Scouts.

We are also fortunate that through the efforts of the Committee and a small number of parents and friends, we have been able to raise funds for the group. Most of you will be familiar with our regular fund-raising activities, especially the Fireworks Display, which we believe are also focussed on the community and not just the Scout Group. Through the hard work of our fund-raisers we are able to provide for the year on year needs of the group and its activities, purchasing equipment and performing basic maintenance for the Scout Hut.

Which now brings me to the true purpose of this message. We have a superb site for our

Scout Hut which was purchased from the County Council by the Scout District. The hut that stands on the site is a combination of two agricultural buildings which were donated. One of which was donated by Flight Refuelling and was transported to the site by tractor and trailer, loaned by Mr George Tozer in recognition of the assistance provided to him by the young people of the area when one of his barns caught fire. But the hut is nearing the end of its useful life having gone beyond the point of useful repair. We need to start work now on replacing it in order to guarantee the continued success of our group. This is no small enterprise and requires a funding effort far in excess of what we are able to achieve through our normal yearly efforts. We will need to cast our net far and wide and call on all the efforts and combined resources of the group, the committee and the parents of the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers to ensure that we are successful.

We have completed a proposed design for the new hut and are ready to submit this for outline planning approval. We would like to share these plans and our thoughts for the future with all of you at our Annual General Meeting which will be on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May at the Scout Hut.

At that time we will be looking for all parents to come forward and offer any assistance, no matter how small. Also, anyone with experience of major fund-raising efforts should make themselves known to a member of the committee or one of the Group Leaders. There are many ways that people will be able to help so please volunteer. It is our sincere hope that by working together and involving as many people as possible we will be able to provide the best possible environment for the young people of our community. We look forward to seeing you on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May.

*Toby Cullen, Chairman, First Woodcutts Scout Committee.*



# WANTED!



## Scouts of all ages

**1957-2007 50 years of Scouting in Woodcutts**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

*First Woodcutts Scouts group is 50 years old. In order to celebrate there will be a number of activities on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2007. We would like as many current and previous Scouts to attend as possible. If you have ever been a member of our group, please come along. If you know someone who has been a member, please pass on this message.*

### Events

|              |                                                                                       |                     |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 10:30        | Parade of Scouts, Cubs & Beavers                                                      | Handley High Street |
| 11:00        | Service<br>Blessing of Flags                                                          | St. Mary's Church   |
| 12:00 – 2:00 | Lunch<br>Formal Buffet for Guests of Honour<br>BarBQ for Scouts, families and friends | Scout Hut           |
| 2:30         | Speeches<br>Blessing of Hut                                                           | Scout Hut           |
| 3:00 – 5:00  | Scouting Demonstrations<br>Cream Teas<br>Memories of Scouting in Woodcutts            | Scout Hut           |

*Bring along old photos. We will scan and create a History of Scouting in Woodcutts to be made available after the event. Any photos that you can send in advance will be used for display purposes on the day. All photos will be returned.*

*Come along and meet old friends.*

*Tell us about your time in the group by writing your name, a memory or an anecdote in the First Woodcutts Book of Scouting Memories.*

To find out more about the day or check any details:  
visit our web-site at [www.firstwoodcutts.org.uk](http://www.firstwoodcutts.org.uk)  
send an email to [info@firstwoodcutts.org.uk](mailto:info@firstwoodcutts.org.uk)  
phone Toby Cullen on 01725 552770.



## News and

## NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S

### February

It was with great sadness that we remembered a past President, Norah North who died in early February.

Our thanks to everyone who helped to make the Jumble Sale a great success.

Miss Newman, an Art teacher, gave an interesting talk on Easter Island; one of the most isolated places on earth. Her visit to this island formed part of an Arts Scholarship and took her down the west side of South America and across the South Pacific to a tiny barren island the size of Jersey. We were shown slides of much of Easter island and the giant stone monoliths which dot the coastline. Speculation still remains as to how and why the early inhabitants carved and then transported these massive statues down to the shore. This thriving, advanced ancient culture was finally destroyed through over population, scarcity of resources, civil war and cannibalism.

Miss Newton brought some of her paintings of the scenery, inhabitants and, of course, the monoliths! The present day inhabitants live in a small corner of the island and rely on supply ships for many of their day to day requirements.

### March

Where did Dorset people go in the 1800's? This was the question that historian and teacher Mrs Jane Firentzi-Sheppard had researched. Very low wages and extremely poor housing led to unrest in the mainly rural areas of the country and as the population of the UK was also rising rapidly assisted passages were made available by the Government to Australia, New Zealand, Canada and America. Records show that many men from Dorset went alone to seek their fortune overseas, later returning to England to marry childhood sweethearts and persuading family and friends to follow their example.

The Rev. West from Cranborne Chase was one of these early emigrants and between 1837 and 1849 he had persuaded 236 folk to join him. Many familiar Dorset names are on the passenger lists of those early sailings. The building of the railways in the mid 1800's also helped to disperse the population of Dorset to as far afield as Wiltshire! This is an interesting research exercise. 'Where did my forebears go?' Our speaker says she is only too pleased to help.

Sixpenny Handley WI have been asked to perform a short item for the Dorset Federations 90th birthday celebration at Bryanston School on 1st August. Rehearsal dates are being booked.

We celebrate our 85th birthday in April. Plans have been made to write a scrapbook for this year and coffee mornings will be held to raise money for village amenities

### DATES FOR THE DIARY

|            |                                                                         |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2nd April  | Annual Meeting                                                          |
| 21st April | Coffee morning. Bring and Buy at 12 St Mary's Close 10-30 'til 12 noon. |
| 24th April | Spring Council Meeting, Weymouth                                        |
| 25th April | 85th Birthday meal                                                      |
| 2nd May    | Group Walk. 2pm Garston Wood. Cream tea in Sports Pavilion .            |
| 14th May   | Institute Meeting. 7-30pm                                               |
| 23rd May   | Group Meeting Ewerne Minster                                            |
| 26th May   | Plant and Cake / Produce Stall. Win's Yard                              |
| 11th June  | Institute Meeting. 7-30pm                                               |

We welcome most warmly anyone interested in joining our very active sociable group. We meet on the second Monday in the month in the Village Hall at 7-30pm.

Enquiries to our President, Jan Gibb tel. 01725 552704

## DAIRY HOUSE PLANTS

FIFIELD BAVANT  
(Chalke Valley).

OPEN NOW FOR SALES OF  
PERENNIALS,  
ANNUALS, VEGETABLES and  
PLANTS.

FOR DETAILS PLEASE RING  
01722 780839  
weekends or evenings  
or e-mail [adrian@brine007.freeseve.co.uk](mailto:adrian@brine007.freeseve.co.uk)

**LOCALLY GROWN PLANTS AT  
LOW PRICES.**

## Mobile Library Schedule

- Visits on Thursday Fortnightly

|                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Woodyates – Cobley 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 |

**April 5th, 19th,  
May 3rd, 17th, 31st**

COME AND FIND A BARGAIN AT THE  
HAPPY NAPPY CLUB

## TABLE TOP SALE

12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2007

10am – 12noon

SIXPENNY HANDLEY VILLAGE HALL  
*£8 per table*

**For more information or to book a table call  
JAQUI ON 01725 552306 OR ELAINE ON 01725 553161**

REFRESHMENTS

RAFFLE





## **SIXPENNY HANDLEY TENNIS CLUB**



### **Key dates for 2007**

#### **Easter Junior Coaching Sessions**

Tuesday 10 April and Thursday 12 April 9.30-11am  
Contact Roni Peck on 01258 840505

#### **Saturday 5 May – Season Opener**

Morning tennis tournament starting 10.30 – Adults and Juniors  
coffee and cakes provided

#### **May to July – Shaftesbury League**

Home and away matches against other clubs in the area.  
To take part contact Susie Whyatt on 01725 553 062 email  
susiewhyatt@hotmail.com

#### **May to June – Adult and Junior coaching**

Juniors on Monday afternoons  
Seniors on Wednesday mornings and Monday evenings  
Contact Roni Peck on 01258 840505

#### **End of May Bank Holiday Weekend – Broadchalke Friendly Match**

12.30 at Broadchalke Tennis Club – All members welcome  
Contact Michael Catchpole on 01725 552 879 for details

#### **Saturday 30 June – Summer Tournament**

Morning tennis tournament starting 10.30 – Adults and Juniors  
coffee and cakes provided

#### **Summer Holidays – Tennis fun day for Juniors date tbc**

#### **Saturday 15 September – Broadchalke Friendly Match**

12.30 – At Sixpenny Handley Tennis Club lunch and tennis – all  
members welcome. For further information contact Michael Catchpole on  
01725 552879

#### **Thursday 27 September – AGM**

7.30pm at The Pavilion, Sixpenny Handley

#### **Saturday 17 November – Tennis Club Quiz Night**

## SIXPENNY HANDLEY TENNIS CLUB

### Membership Application / Renewal Form

Subscriptions are due by 1st April 2007. Please return the completed form to the Honorary Treasurer: Laura Loncar, 2 Blackgate Cottages, Woodyates, Salisbury SP5 5Q. Email [lauraloncar@supanet.com](mailto:lauraloncar@supanet.com)  
**Please write clearly.**

From: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to renew/apply (delete as appropriate) for membership of the Sixpenny Handley Tennis Club and agree to abide by the Rules of the Club and the Club's Constitution. Please indicate your requirements in the table below. The lock on the courts will be changed on 15th April. If you have a key please return it with this form (and tick this box ☐) and a new one will be issued to you. If you do not have a key (or have lost it) but would like one please enclose a refundable £5 deposit (payable only once). Note: Keys will only be issued to Student members who are 15 years old or over.

| Membership Category                              | Annual Subscription | Quantity | Amount Enclosed |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Adult                                            | £35                 |          |                 |
| Student 10 years and under                       | £10                 |          |                 |
| Student Over 10 years and in full time education | £15                 |          |                 |
| Family                                           | £70                 |          |                 |
| Key Deposit (refundable)                         | £5                  |          |                 |
| <b>TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED:</b>                   |                     |          |                 |

#### FAMILY MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

|         | Name | Age |
|---------|------|-----|
| Partner |      | N/A |
| Child 1 |      |     |
| Child 2 |      |     |

|         | Name | Age |
|---------|------|-----|
| Child 3 |      |     |
| Child 4 |      |     |
| Child 5 |      |     |

#### TENNIS POOL (see newsletter for details)

I would like to be part of the tennis pool and am happy for my telephone and email details to be circulated to other tennis pool members.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### SHAFTESBURY LEAGUE (see newsletter for details)

I am interested in taking part in the Shaftesbury League

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

#### COACHING (see newsletter for details)

I am interested in: Junior Coaching \_\_\_\_\_ Adult Coaching \_\_\_\_\_

**Pte Douglas Lucas (675118)**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Canadian Infantry**  
**(Eastern Ontario Regiment)**

During the afternoon of the 7<sup>th</sup> of June, 1917, a Thursday, the family and friends of the late Private Douglas Lucas gathered at St. Mary's for his funeral service, the solemn occasion being overseen by the Reverend Ernest Hasluck whose own son, Sidney, had been killed in the summer of 1915 at Gallipoli.

Three days previous life had ebbed from Douglas as he lay in a Red Cross hospital in Glasgow but the circumstances that had led to his arrival in this establishment are not known and, therefore, it can only be conjecture on my part to surmise that he died from wounds received in action on the Western Front. In the time between his death and burial his body was borne by train from Glasgow to (I assume) Salisbury, confirming the heartfelt desire of his family for their son to be laid to rest close to home and not be interred in a far off cemetery in Scotland.

What is not in doubt is that he was born in the village and at the time of the 1901 Census he was working as a hurdle maker after which, and prior to the outbreak of the Great War, he decided to pursue his fortune in the vast lands of Canada, probably settling in Quebec. I say this as the battalion in which he was to serve came into being at Valcartier, the formation process extending over the months of August and September 1914, with the majority of the men coming from Eastern Canada and their officers being drawn from the Militia units then in existence around Ottawa.

Thus, on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1914, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Canadian Infantry (Eastern Ontario Regiment) bade farewell to Quebec City, embarking on the *S.S. Cassandra*. Sailing in convoy the *Cassandra* arrived in *The Sound* off Plymouth in mid-October but

due to the high level of activity in this Devonshire port disembarkation was held back until the 25<sup>th</sup> when instructions were received directing the battalion to Bustard Camp on Salisbury Plain.

I am not able to say whether Douglas Lucas was now back in England and less than 30 miles from his birthplace (though I believe it to be unlikely), but if he was then the winter of 1914-1915 would have been very familiar; cold and very wet with his training taking place in conditions that were not dissimilar to those being endured by the armies on the Western Front.

At the end of the first week in February 1915, the battalion entrained for Bristol and from the docks at Avonmouth boarded transports bound for St. Nazaire.

By the 17<sup>th</sup> of February, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion were in billets west of Armentieres ready to occupy the line in this very critical sector of the front. The men had not long to wait; on the 19<sup>th</sup> they moved into the forward trenches and within 24-hours had suffered their first casualty when Private Richard Thomas Cardew was killed by shellfire. At 48, Private Cardew, even by the standards of the time, was well beyond the average age of men serving in the immediate battle area.

The next few years passed with the battalion's fate being a mirror image of what befell so many of the fighting units bogged down in their trenches and being called upon to fight the strength sapping campaigns that are now the history of the Great War. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> battle of Ypres fought in the most ghastly of conditions during April 1915, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion lost over half its original strength and as the years passed so the numbers who joined in those innocent days of August and September 1914, dwindled away.

In several of my most recent profiles I have touched upon the outstanding courage of the Canadians during the Battle of Arras (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> April, 1917) and their part in expelling the Germans from the strategically important Vimy Ridge. As events turned out the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion's involvement was mainly confined to a supporting role having been withdrawn from the forward trenches three days before the commencement of the battle though on the first day of the offensive the battalion was ordered to leave their rest area of Camblain l'Abbe, west of Vimy, and take up a holding position south of village of Thelus. Just forward of the village the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion was engaged in fierce fighting, as were elements of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> battalions and it was in general support of these units that the 2<sup>nd</sup> was to see out what remained of the battle. Towards the closing stages of the fight, the 2<sup>nd</sup> moved into woods near Farbus where it was expected the Germans might try to counter-attack but nothing came of this and on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April, the battalion retired to Mont-St-Eloy, a village west-south-west of Vimy.

As a measure of the ferocity of the actions in taking the ridge, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion even in its reserve capacity had sustained well over a hundred casualties, 28 being fatal. Again, I cannot say if Douglas Lucas was a participant but if he was, and if he was amongst the 84 who were wounded, then his injuries were of a nature that at least gave rise to some hope for survival in that he was evacuated to a hospital in England, the procedures for which I outlined in my profile of Lance Corporal Thomas Latta, published in the April 2006 edition of *The Downsman*.

*Bill Chorley*

### Postscript

In reporting the formation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Canadian Infantry (Eastern Ontario Regiment) and a resume of its fortunes up to and including the Battle of Arras I acknowledge the work of Tom Arnold and his subsequent website titled, '*Soldier 214384 – France and Flanders*'.

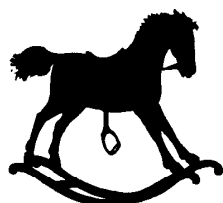
Private Richard Thomas Cardew, mentioned above, is buried in Ferme Buterne Military Cemetery, Houplines (Nord), France, some 2 kilometres east from the centre of Armentieres.

Concerning my profile, published in August 2006, in respect of Private William Rose of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment, I am now able to report, through the courtesy of Adrian Weeks who contacted *The Downsman's* assistant editor Tony Gibb, additional information. William hailed from a large family headed by William Rose (born circa 1841 at Speen in Berkshire) and his wife Martha (nee Bull), their children being Phoebe, Martha, Beatrice, John, Edith and, lastly, William, their years of birth being 1872, 1874, 1879, 1883, 1885 and 1887 respectively. William, so Adrian reports, had a second Christian name 'Frank' and he was born in the village of Redlynch, Hampshire. However, by 1901, the family were living in Dean and it was to Edith Jane Weeks, also of Dean, that William Frank married in 1910. Their union produced a son, Samson, who was later to adopt his mother's maiden name, 'Weeks'.

Tony Gibb has also been contacted by Andrew Perkis who reports that he has in his possession a very tattered copy of the Reverend Turing Bruce's book, '*Scourge of the Moors*' (see August 2005 profile for Lance Sergeant Jack Fitz-Roy Waters). I am attempting to discover more about this publication and, if successful, will report my findings via the medium of these postscripts to profiles.



# HAPPY NAPPY

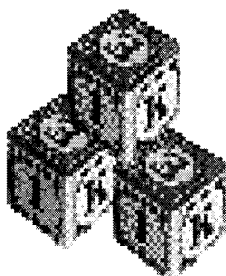


Happy Nappy meets every Monday at  
Sixpenny Handley Village Hall at  
10am.

**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:

Maureen Swan 552561, Jaqui Blake 552306,  
Emma Gothard 552412 Elaine Pover 553161

A  
CONCERT IN AID OF ST RUMBOLDS CHURCH  
PENTRIDGE

ON

FRIDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2007

AT

THE BARN  
MANOR FARM HOUSE  
WOODYATES

**JAMIE WALTON**  
CELEBRATED CELLIST

WILL BE GIVING A CONCERT OF WORKS BY  
BACH AND BRITTEN. THERE WILL BE  
READINGS OF POEMS BY THOMAS HARDY

TICKETS £25 TO INCLUDE  
6.30PM DRINKS  
7PM CONCERT AND READINGS  
8.15PM SUPPER

R.S.V.P.  
JANE KING  
01725 552231  
MARY FERGUSON  
01725 552222

# Dear Downsman

Jenny, Sarah and Glynn Churchill would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for letters, cards and messages of sympathy on the sad loss of Ken.

---

Mistleberry Cottage  
Newtown  
Sixpenny Handley  
01725 552843

As many of you know we are leaving Sixpenny Handley to take up a joint management position at a Christian holiday and retreat centre for Torch Trust for the Blind in Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex. We leave on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April with very mixed feelings. Both of us are immensely sad at leaving so many of our friends and neighbours, yet we feel we have been called by God and we are very excited at the new challenge which awaits us.

Over the last 18 yrs we have shared with many of you the ups and downs of life, during which we have received much love and support for which we have been so grateful.

We hope to see many of you before we leave, or perhaps we will catch up with you at our last church service on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April (a date which some say is very appropriate!). Sixpenny Handley is a very special village and memories of its very special people will remain with us forever.

God bless you all.

*Haydn and Wendie Overall*

From 15<sup>th</sup> April 2007 our address will be:  
Torch Holiday and Retreat Centre, 4 Hassocks Road Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex BN6 9QN.  
[www.torchtrust.org](http://www.torchtrust.org)

P.S. For those who are worried about your washing machine repairs...worry not.  
My son Neil has taken over and can be contacted on 01258 455093

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'COFFE MORNING'

Thank you to all those who helped, and attended, the coffee morning held at 10 Sycamore Close, Sixpenny Handley, on February 17th, 2007. A total of £205 was raised for 'Hope & Homes For Children' and Farnham Church Tower Appeal.

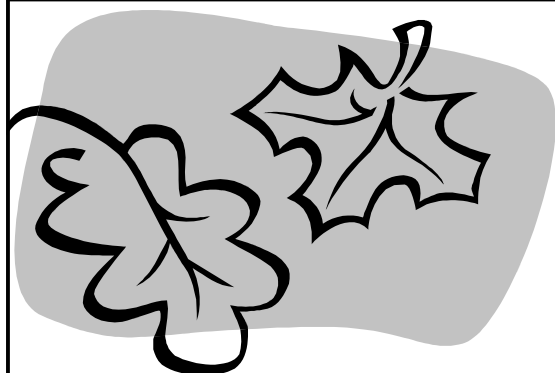
*Trish Chorley*

## **Are you on line?**

**Visit the renewed Village Website at  
<http://www.sixpennyhandley.org>**

For details of:  
Parish Council meetings  
Parish Plan progress reports  
What's On in the Community  
Links to: Business in the Village  
Organisations within the District  
County Church Services  
Information about the churches  
Sports Fixtures  
The History of the area  
Photographs

**Information always welcome**



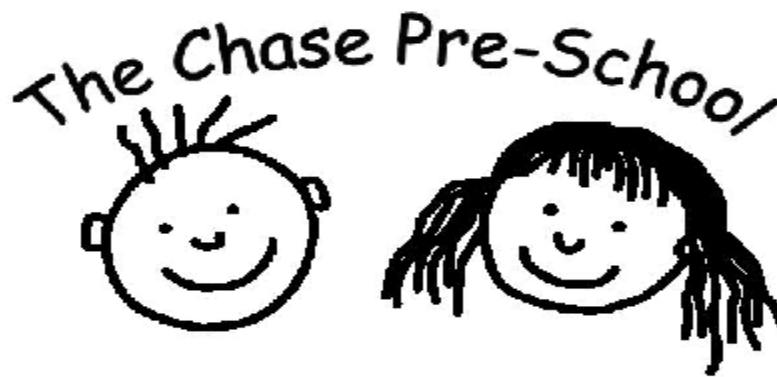
# **SHReD**

## **Update**

For all those budding gardeners out there who want this scheme to succeed, there is light at the end of the tunnel. Hopefully come May planning permission will have been granted. At this point you may buy the champagne, but refrain from putting it on ice, as there is still hard work ahead. The Company will need to be set up, legal contracts obtained and funding applied for in order that this project can go ahead. Please don't give up on us – the wheels of democracy move slowly, very slowly, but do not despair, as I said last time, it will happen, it just needs your patience.

*Rita Taylor (Sec)*

# OPEN DAY



## Wed 25th April

The Chase Pre-School would like to invite current and prospective parents and children to come along and join us for a fun morning.

Activities, crafts, games and more – come and see what we do in our calm and relaxed setting. Good OFSTED inspections to support us.

**Sixpenny Handley Village Hall**

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April**

**Drop in between 9.30am – 11.30am**

**REFRESHMENTS – RAFFLE – CAKE SALE**

**CHILDREN'S BOOK SALE**

(Contact Jane on 553146 for information)



## **The Bull Inn**

Coach Road, Wimborne St Giles

Wimborne BH21 5NF

**Telephone: 01725 517284**

Allan & Mollie and their daughter Lucy  
look forward to greeting you  
and  
providing you with a warm and friendly atmosphere  
in which to enjoy  
excellent wines and real ale.  
and  
fantastic food cooked fresh to order  
by  
The Bull Inn's renowned chef John



One of the most common problems of pregnancy is insomnia. Maybe you can't get comfortable in bed, or the baby's movements wake you during the night or even hunger during the night can lead to insomnia.

Use extra pillows to support areas of the body that are uncomfortable, maybe lying in a different position may reduce the baby's movements.

Keep a protein-carbohydrate snack handy beside the bed as a little bit of carbohydrate and a little bit of protein helps to send you back to sleep. Choose a healthy option such as a banana or a handful of almonds or fruit yogurt. Taking a nutritional supplement of 500mg of calcium (either calcium lactate or citrate are best) and 250mg of magnesium at bedtime can calm the nerves and muscles helping pregnant women to sleep.

Chamomile tea is a relaxing herbal tea to drink either just before bedtime or during the night if you are experiencing insomnia.

Sometimes the growing baby puts more pressure on the circulatory system, so blood sometimes pools in the legs causing varicose veins. Horse Chestnut can help prevent or reduce varicose veins but should not be taken during the first trimester. Take 5-15 drops of Horse Chestnut tincture in a little water two or three times a day. Pelvic tilts, done quite vigorously during the second and third trimester can help improve the blood flow from the legs to the upper body and back to the heart; also swing your hips backwards and forwards or make figure of eight movements with your hips. Do these exercises for 5-10 minutes each day.

Pelvic tilts can also help if you are experiencing back pain, this helps elongate the lower back and help any trapped or nipped nerves to untrap. Do pelvic tilts for back pain whilst on your hands and knees on the floor, tighten the abdominal muscles and hold for a count of ten (keep breathing during this hold), then release the muscles taking care not to make your back concave. Repeat 12 times. This exercise is beneficial to continue after childbirth if the backaches continue.

Constipation is often a common condition in pregnancy, and it is best if this can be remedied quickly as naturally as possible. Increase your intake of water up to 2-3 litres a day, even more in hot weather, often dehydration is the cause of constipation. Increase your intake of fruits and vegetables, raw or lightly steamed vegetables are best to retain all their vitamins and minerals. Try

dried fruits also as these also help to increase fibre and bulk to the intestines. Gentle exercise or walking should help, but if all the above fail then try taking powdered psyllium husks with plenty of water or fruit juice. This is a gentle and natural remedy and works effectively because the psyllium husks swell up when taken with lots of water and help to prevent constipation and also sweep the lining of the intestines clean without scratching. If even this fails then consider the herb Cascara Sagrada as it is an extremely mild purgative, other remedies may be too aggressive during pregnancy and following the delivery. This mild herb encourages the peristaltic waves of the intestines whilst toning the muscles of the colon. 1-2ml of Cascara Sagrada tincture at bedtime is sufficient or you may wish to take a herbal formula that includes Cascara Sagrada. Beware of Senna formulations as these are too aggressive and also the colon learns to depend on it lessening the chances of returning to a normal bowel habit in the future.

After the birth you may find it difficult to either commence milk production or to maintain a high enough level of production when breastfeeding. There are several herbs that are beneficial here but the most invaluable is Goat's Rue which can be safely drunk three times a day as a tea made by adding 1-2 tablespoonsful to a cup of boiling water. Leave to infuse for ten minutes, strain and drink. Do not confuse Goat's Rue with Rue.

Also very pleasant to drink to help milk production is a tea made from crushed Caraway, Fennel and Aniseeds or Fenugreek and Aniseeds. Add two tablespoonsful to a cup of water and bring to a simmer in a saucepan, then turn off the heat and leave to stand covered for 10 minutes to prevent loss of volatile oils. Drink three times a day.

If there is too much milk production then either Red Sage or Garden Sage are both effective. Make an infusion using 1-2 teaspoons to a cup of boiling water, infuse for 10 minutes, strain and drink three times a day until milk production is reduced. Sage should never be taken during pregnancy.

Never take any other herbs during pregnancy unless advised by a Qualified Herbalist.

*Sheila Ralph M.H., BSYA(Natur.), Irid.), N.Th.), Ad.C.M.A.) (I.H.) Master Herbalist, Naturopath, Iridology, Nutrition, Acupressure & Tui'na and Indian Head Massage practitioner. Clinics available at The Centre for Complementary Health Care in Blandford Forum and at Sixpenny Handley. Contact 01258*

# 1<sup>st</sup> WOODCUTTS SCOUT GROUP 1957-2007

## 4<sup>th</sup> INSTALMENT

Jan 1960 was to see a giant step forward in 1st Woodcutts fortunes. It was during our after Christmas party (attended by Skip James our then District Commissioner) that John Curd our Scoutmaster suddenly announced his resignation. You can imagine that just about killed our party spirit. Looking across the room Skip James spotted Gilbert Hardiman father of one of our scouts (Gilbert had been one of Skip James' scouts in Wimborne before the second world war). Recognising him, with a loud roar, he announced, "Gilbert I have a job for you".

During the evening after much discussion Bert was persuaded to take on the role recently vacated by Mr Curd. So was to begin a very happy and successful period not only for the group but for me also. Bert and I became firm friends and had a good working relationship without too many disagreements.

It was decided that year to hold our Summer camp in the Bridport area. Bert and myself set off on his motorbike and sidecar and eventually ended up at the end of a very narrow lane at a farm called Downhouse (owned by the National Trust). The tenant farmer took us across several fields eventually arriving at a field which sloped on either side with a nice flat area in the middle. The only source of water was from a concrete surrounded spring which had a liberal amount of cow dung around it - imagine what health & safety would say today. It was decided that this would be alright providing that we boiled all our water. On further exploration of the site imagine our delight when we discovered that we were adjacent to the cliff edge over which we would be able, with cut steps and ropes, to have direct access to the beach - health & safety. What health & safety? It was decided that this camp site would be ideal, so the beginning of the summer holidays saw us loading all our camping gear and ourselves onto Moreys gravel lorry.

On arrival at the farm we all disembarked and unloaded the camping gear off of the lorry and onto a trailer which the farmer then transported across to the camp site. We had one further problem Bert had been unwell for several days before our departure and so we had had to set

off without him. I had to manage for three days on my own. Not a problem in itself, my camping skills being pretty good, but my cooking was lousy. Imagine my relief when on the Tuesday lunchtime Colin Card exclaimed, "Here comes Skipper!" All the lads rushed over to help him carry his camping gear - he had been pretty poorly losing about a stone in weight.

What a wonderful week's camp we had. The weather was warm and sunny, lots of visits to the beach, a jolly good hike along the coastal path to Charmouth and along the beach to Lyme Regis, where we spent the rest of the day. We were all pretty tired by the time that it was decided to return to camp. Bert managed to persuade a couple of fishermen to take us by boat across to Charmouth where we caught a service bus to take us pretty much to the end of our journey. We all slept well that night and all too soon it was time to load everything onto the lorry again for our return home.

The rest of the year progressed as usual studying for and receiving our badges. In January of 1961 I received my Assistant Scout Masters Permit, in the spring of this year Mrs Hardiman (Akela) and Miss Cook (Baloo) started a cub pack which was very successful. I could go on and on about our adventures but I'm sure that it would soon become boring.

In 1964 I was made up to Scout Master and Bert became Group Scout Master and Chris Bagg became Assistant Scout Master. During our tenure the troop went from strength to strength winning the district Tent Pitching Competition, The District Camping Competition 6 times and in the county equivalent came second twice. The group committee beavered away raising funds which enabled us to do all of these things, I have to say a big thank you to all the local people who have always come up trumps in supporting all that we have done.

The next instalment will be the last before our day of celebrations.

TO BE CONTINUED...

**VILLAGE CHURCH FLAG FLIES AGAIN**

Wonderful news, thanks to 1<sup>st</sup> Woodcutts Scout Group the flag on the tower of St Mary's Church is to be raised again. The Senior Scouters are to take on this task as one of the Youths service to the community. Each time you see the flag flying it will be a reminder of how important our younger members are to the well being of the whole community. Our Prayers have been answered and it is yet another sign of each generation working together.

**SIXPENNY HANDLEY VILLAGE HALL****Charity No: 276132**

Common Road, Sixpenny Handley, Salisbury, SP5 5PH

**A.G.M.**

On

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April**

At

**7.30 P .M.****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.

## **Sixpenny Handley & Pentridge Parish Plan Public Open Event**

Sunday 22nd April 2007  
Village Hall, 10am - 1pm

### **We asked your views.....**

During February 2006 we asked about your views and future aspirations for our Villages. This consultation included Dean, Deanland, Gussage St Andrew, Minchington, Newtown, Woodcutts and Woodyates.

### **We have responded.....**

The Parish Plan Group (made up of local Parishioners and representatives from the Parish Council), listened to what you had to say, and read your responses to a number of key areas. In response to that we have drafted together a plan of action to ensure that the future needs of the village are met.

### **Now take a look.....**

Before the Parish Plan goes to print, and we start to involve the service providers and other organisations in implementing the actions contained within the plan, we want to ensure that we've got it right.

So please come along to see the plan and meet the team who put it together, and let them know what you think.

**Everyone is welcome to drop-in**

**Refreshments will be provided**

Supported by East Dorset Community Partnership

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

**Notice of  
Parochial Parish Annual Meetings  
And Vestry Meetings  
To Elect Churchwardens in each Parish**

The Parish of Pentridge is to meet  
in St Rumbold's Church  
**at 7.00pm on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2007**

and

The Parish of Sixpenny Handley with Gussage St Andrew  
is to meet in St Mary's Church  
after the 9.30 am service (approx 10.45 am)  
**on Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2007**

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

Qualifications for the Office and the nomination forms are available from  
Parish's Parochial Church Council Hon Secretary:  
For Pentridge, from Maureen Swann (552561)  
For Sixpenny Handley, from Sheila Bradley (553133)

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

**ERIC STONE**

*Eric Stone who lived with his wife Jean at Sunnyside, East Woodyates, died on Ash Wednesday at the age of 76. He was a renowned champion gardener. At his funeral in Pentridge on March 6<sup>th</sup>, the address was given by Tim Palmer and it is printed here with Jean Stone's permission.*

We are each here this morning as friend, relative, son, daughter or beloved wife to say our farewells and pay our respects to Eric Stone. Eric died on Ash Wednesday having spent most of the last seven years of his life crippled with arthritis, lovingly supported by his children and grandchildren and by his wife Jean who sat with him for every one of his last days in hospital. To be laid low for so long must have been a bitter pill for a man who had worked outdoors all his life, on the farm, in the garden or among his stocks of bees, a life marked by exceptional achievement, but he put up with it. More than that, he remained cheerful. Death will have held no terrors for Eric. He was a God-fearing man and, as he used to say, "We've all got to go sometime, it's nature's way".

But of course it isn't the chairbound Eric that we remember; it's the Eric of old, the strong, thickset man, not very tall, with dark hair, with eyes that sparkled and creased up when he laughed and with a grin that stretched quite literally from ear to ear.

Eric was an independent minded man who didn't feel beholden to anybody. He was open-hearted, generous, honest and straight-dealing and was disappointed if he didn't always find the same qualities in others. He gave respect where respect was due, not for what a man said or for his position or his dress but for what he did. He would look you in the eye and say what he thought and if something needed saying he would say it. But whatever it was, light-hearted or serious, that grin and that laugh would soon be back.

Eric's highest form of praise for anybody, man or woman, was that he or she was a 'Worker'. He meant this in its simplest sense. For Eric, work was what life was about. It was what came between a job needing to be done and its

being completed to his satisfaction. Each job was undertaken at a pace suitable to the task in hand, no rush but no slacking either and the result was an output second to none. It was in part his capacity for work that was responsible for his success as a champion gardener and nothing was allowed to break his rhythm except of course his meals or a nice, well-deserved cup of tea.

Like many people who work in the fresh air, Eric had a splendid appetite. He adored a good square meal, meat, potatoes and plenty of veg, especially onions. Pies and puddings were popular but not so the new-fangled stuff that people tend to cook up nowadays. On the farm, the mid-morning break for 'Nammet' as he called it was conducted with all the ceremony of a state banquet. He would find himself a quiet corner, arrange an old garden chair or move a few corn sacks to make himself comfortable, settle down and reach into his haversack. Out would come a large sandwich box, full, a thermos and a handful of raw onions and the next half-hour would be spent happily alternating between sandwich and onion, tea and plum cake before with a sigh, he would pack everything away as carefully as before, stand up and go back to work. Towards the end of his working life when he was slowing up a bit, the doctor decided that he needed to go on a diet. Next morning the usual sandwich box was produced and opened to reveal, squatting mournfully in the corner, one boiled egg and a dry ryvita. It was a miserable moment and I don't think that diet lasted much longer.

Eric lived and worked on the land all his life. He was born almost 77 years ago, the youngest of five children, to a family in Broughton in the Test Valley. His mother appears to have had her fill of little Stones by the time he arrived and it seems that if it hadn't been for his sister Olive scooping up baby Eric, we might not have been gathered here today. The Stones were a family of farmers, shepherds and gardeners to the point that it must have soaked into their DNA because Eric was a prime example. Talking about his father, uncles and brothers, it was clear that they were all, in Eric's sense of the word 'Workers'.

Eric and school didn't see eye to eye, at least not to begin with. On his first day he ran home while his mother was registering him – that independent streak again – and after that he was strapped into a push chair for the duration of the trip. Luckily the headmaster who must have been a wise man, soon understood what it was that made young Eric tick. Along with a friend, Eric was allowed to get away with the bare minimum of bookwork before being sent outside each day to dig and mind the school garden.

Some time later and now a grown man, Eric came to work for the Herrington family at East Woodyates. While some great love matches may be born amid the romance of May apple blossom or summer starlight, that wasn't really Eric's style. Jean was working at the dentist's in Bowerchalke and he spotted her when he went down to have his teeth out. Shortly afterwards, when she and her family had moved up to Cobley, Jean went down to post a letter in the Woodyates pillar box. He spotted her again and in two shakes he was up at Cobley and asking her father for permission to take her out.

Before long they were engaged. It was the summer of 1960 and Eric, now working for my grandfather at West Woodyates, still lodged with the Herringtons but Jean and her family had moved to Cranborne. Every night without fail, after a long, hot day in the harvest fields, he sat down and wrote her a love letter, not only showing that great personal discipline that made his gardening career but that he was a bit of a romantic too. They were finally married on the 17<sup>th</sup> September and after a week's honeymoon, they moved into Sunnyside where they lived together ever since.

Like many born gardeners, Eric was also a beekeeper. He had a natural affinity for them and when he was working in the gardens 'down West' we seemed to be visited by swarms on an almost weekly basis. If a swarm flew over he would toss a scoop of dry dirt at them, according to him so that they would think it was raining, and sure enough they would settle in a nearby bush where they could be collected and put into a hive. On one occasion, years ago, he and a friend were driving a truckload of hives through Salisbury when one was upset. Neither of them noticed and they carried on through the market-day traffic, blissfully unaware that half the

population were running for their lives.

But gardening was Eric's great passion. From early on the garden at Sunnyside was turned into an immaculate nursery for his beloved vegetables where no effort was spared and to whom no comfort was denied. It started slowly of course. The routines and disciplines of good gardening he had already learnt from his father and older brother and these were diligently applied.

Eric wasn't just interested in growing for the pot, for Jean and their three small children. He could do that one handed. What he was really interested in was growing for competition and winning would mean putting in something extra. Quite early on he spotted what he thought would be a goldmine. The park at West Woodyates was covered with molehills but Eric didn't see molehills, he saw virgin soil, untouched by the hand of man since the dark ages and beyond. Thinking of all the countless centuries of fertility built up in that soil, he got the necessary permission and night after night he carried it on his back in sacks the near-mile to Sunnyside. Now those sacks would have been heavy enough if they were filled with dry goods but with fresh, moist soil they must have weighed a ton. It didn't matter, his garden needed it and that was that. With the beds prepared, his best seeds and seedlings were planted and lovingly watered in. He waited and he waited but nothing happened. That lovely virgin soil turned out to be, he said, "as poor as a crow". Nothing germinated and nothing grew. It was a bad joke for Eric (though a good one for the rest of us) but he wasn't put off. He just carried on on another tack.

Over the years he became more and more successful. His application and hard work were unending. He put in a hard day on the farm, came home, had his tea and then put in a hard night in the garden, under lights, until 2.00 in the morning when he went to bed. At 6.30 he was up and off to the farm for another day. He discovered a plethora of tricks and wheezes to persuade his vegetables to grow that bit better or fatter or smoother than the others. Long hours were spent with Jean preparing the perfect competition display of different varieties. A particularly tough rival, a Welshman, moved into an overlooking property to spy on Eric's nocturnal gardening activities, so he had to turn

the lights off and work in the dark instead. He continued winning shows and with a growing reputation was called upon to judge in others too.

At last he had won so much and so consistently, he felt he needed a new challenge so he turned to growing giant vegetables for the record book. Of course he succeeded. Onions the size of footballs and cabbages big enough to fill a wheelbarrow were proudly displayed. I well remember the thrill of opening the pages of the Guinness Book of Records to find the name of Eric Stone, Woodyates, Dorset in line after line, against variety after variety. In 1984 he grew the world record carrot, a monstrous creation with multiple legs like an extra from the film 'Alien' and in 1985 he grew the world record stick of rhubarb, a record which, at 5 ft long and 5lbs in weight, still stands today.

When one considers the magnitude of his achievements and the unstinting effort he put in,

the crippling of his final years seems doubly cruel and the largely uncomplaining way he coped with his condition the more remarkable.

Eric was a man of enormous dedication who liked to do things, as he said, 'Nature's way'. A conversation with him would swing from stories of his childhood to the fecklessness of the modern world to the vagaries of the weather and back again but it would always come back to 'Nature'. "You can't beat Nature" was a favourite saying, applied equally to gardening success or farming disaster. So when the wind roars and the rain comes down in torrents and the crops are flattened and spoilt or when the sun shines and load after load of grain comes pouring in, we may recall those words and remember Eric Stone.

We will all miss him. May he rest in peace.



## Wimborne St Giles Pre School

In the beautiful village of Wimborne St Giles within the grounds of Wimborne St Giles First School

**OPEN: MONDAY to FRIDAY 9 a.m. to 12 noon  
for children from age 2 years**

**£6.50 per session**

**Nursery Education Grants available for children aged 3 plus**

**WARM FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT WHERE LEARNING IS FUN!**

Children are encouraged to reach their full potential and enjoy hands on activities which are carefully planned by our experienced, friendly and welcoming staff. There is plenty of opportunity to develop in the six areas of learning.

Parental involvement is very important – activities are displayed in the pre-school room, allowing parents to reinforce their children's learning at home, parents are invited to join the pre-school committee (if they can spare the time) and a weekly news sheet keeps parents informed.

**Telephone: 01725 517347 to discuss your child's pre-school needs – asking for Jane Scott pre-school leader**

## THE CHASE GARDEN CLUB

AND

### HOW IT GREW

The Chase Garden Club was formed in 2001. In the June of that year, for the first time, gardens in Sixpenny Handley and Deanland were opened to the public in aid of Church funds. Volunteers opened their gardens on a Saturday and a Sunday afternoon and teas were provided in the village. The event was a great success and this motivated some of the garden owners and local gardeners to start 'The Chase Garden Club'. Hilaire Walden kindly undertook the onerous task of arranging for speakers and garden visits. In September 2003 Hilaire stepped down and was ably replaced by Peter and Sue Evans.

The Club is a small club with just over twenty members but with visitors also welcome. Informal and friendly meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month, normally at 8.00 p.m. During the colder months visiting speakers give talks on a wide variety of subjects, often accompanied by excellent slide shows. In the summer months members visit gardens in the locality.

One member – and her husband – Christine and Tim Reynolds, in 2006, bravely offered to open their garden under the National Gardens Scheme, where monies raised are donated to charity. Their garden looked absolutely wonderful and their 'opening' was a great success. Christine is a great propagator and many and varied plants were for sale. The garden opening days for future years will be found in the N.G.S. yellow book.

The Chase Garden Club members have a range of garden sizes and varied expertise; it is a club for ANYONE who is at all interested in gardens.

Details of contact telephone numbers are available in each edition of 'The Downsman'.

### **100 Club Winners — January**

**1st Mr G Marskell 2nd Mr D Penrose 3rd Mrs P Chown**

### **100 Club Winners — February**

**1st Mrs Davidson 2nd Mrs P Oxford 3rd Mrs J Weston**

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



## Sixpenny Handley Bowls Club

Telephone  
01725 552468 or 01725- 552591.



### **A Short piece of early Club History** **by Brian Hansford**

Some people have asked me, "Why was a Bowls Club started?" The answer is not in the soil as someone thought but the poor state of cash flow at the Village Hall. In other words, they need more bookings to pay their way.

In 1991 when Pauline Bailey-Wright was doing one of her stints as a District Councillor and also Village Hall Secretary and I was Parish Clerk she enquired from the District Council about ways in which other Village Halls were surviving. SHORT MAT BOWLS was suggested and the District Council Sports Division were able to loan us some equipment in order to give it a try. Equipment was duly delivered to us and we put up a notice - anyone who would like to give it a try, come along to the Village Hall on a certain day and have a go.

At that time only one lady had had experience and she was Gill Martin before she had come to Sixpenny Handley to live and she was very keen. Her husband had played but she was not sure if he would be as interested as she was. I had made contact with Gill one day when giving her a lift into work. I casually mentioned what we were going to do and she could not wait for the day to come. More than twenty people, both sexes, attended our first session. Some seemed keen and we decided to have another go the following week. After that some were hooked, including myself - in any case I would be interested if there was a ball involved. We formed a committee, without a steering group, and appointed officers - Secretary: Gill Martin, Treasurer: Brian Hansford (because I could count). Robert

Jesse was asked to become Chairman as he had some outside experience with Cranborne. We asked Dr. Geddes to become our President. Committee Members were also appointed and we made efforts to raise some funds for the club. Extra mats were purchased with the help of a loan from the Parish Council and a grant from the District Council - Revenue Account and also the Dorset County Playing Fields Association.

The point is that the majority of the new bowlers had no experience and many of them are still bowling now and enjoying it. The result has been that since we started the Bowling Club it has put in excess of fifteen thousand pounds into the Village Hall cash flow system. Yes! We would have been better off as a club if we had put that money into our own club house as other Bowls Clubs do.

In 1995 we were able to go outside and play in the summer months when, with help from the lottery and others, we were able to install an outside artificial carpet, playable to world bowls standards. This the same members have enjoyed and are still doing so.

We run social events, we meet new people and enjoy the sunshine and forget many problems when we are enjoying the bowling.

**So come along and join us on the Opening Day of the season on April 22nd at The Green on the Recreation Ground at 2.30pm.**

Do not forget we were new to the game when we started - YOU WILL LEARN SOON. A pair of flat shoes is all you need.

## **Sixpenny Handley Bowls Club**

### **Opening Day of the Season**

**Sunday April 22nd  
2.30.p.m.**

**ALL INTERESTED \_ WELCOME**

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### **Friendly Fixture**

**Sixpenny Handley v's Cranborne  
Sunday April 29th  
2.30p.m**

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### **Friendly Fixture**

**Sixpenny Handley v's Dorset County Patrons**

**Sunday May 6th  
2.30.p.m.**

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### **Friendly Fixture**

**Sixpenny Handley v's Lyndhurst Bowls Club  
Wednesday 16th May  
3.p.m.**

# Horticultural & Home Craft Show

The return of the FLOWER SHOW will take place this year as promised in the form of an Autumn Event incorporating Vegetables, Flowers, Fruit, Art and Photography, Floral Art, Cookery & Crafts. There will also be some Children's Classes.

All these items will be represented but not so many classes as in previous years. There will be Prizes and a Schedule will be distributed very shortly.

The Event will take place on the 15th September in the Village Hall and Surrounding Area. At this time of the year Veg. Flowers & Fruit should be in mature condition and be fairly plentiful. Art & Photography should be good especially in this digital age. Not too warm to display cookery either. Entries should be OK with all the Television cooking programmes available.

*For more information contact Carole Wyatt on 01725-552572*

## Village Hall News

Hello Again,

Hurray the windows are finished. Yes they look good - fingers crossed they don't get damaged. The boiler is playing up - I can't make up my mind which is giving me the biggest headache the boiler or the firm doing the job. New parts for the boiler have to come from America (the first lot were damaged in transit I haven't heard what happened to the second lot). The firm doing the repairs seem to have more excuses than Tony Blair. It's a bit of a nightmare. I would like to apologise to those who have had to suffer with out heat - I will try and sort it.

What a lovely evening we had on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February when Trilith presented "Dorset history on film". About 100 people enjoyed short films of Salisbury, Blandford, Shaftsbury and Wimbome and others. All the films were shot between 1917 and 1960. My cousin Richard, who was in the audience, said afterwards that he knew the headmistress and the carnival queen shown on the Shaftsbury film. Several other people said they recognised people and places that they knew. The presenters Trevor Bailey and John Holman (who did a wonderful job with their introductions) told me that they are always on the look out for new films of the area - they only want to borrow them so that the films can be copied. Surly there were films made of Sixpenny Handley and the surrounding villages? If only the films could be found then we could all enjoy them.

By the time you read this we shall have completed the winter entertainment programme. I do hope that you have enjoyed them. I have not yet seen the offerings for next winter but watch this space.

### Tables

Although we have got £500 in the kitty set aside for this we can't seem to find the right tables. Carole bought one but it was not robust enough. What I want is a table that is 2ft 6ins-3ft square that is light-weight, easy to fold and with a flat top that will stand up to the wear and tare of the V.H. Please can anyone help with this?

Well-done Rob for sorting out the urinal. The next job is the rainwater down pipe. These jobs seem to go on and on - I'm still thinking up the next one.

The Village Hall **A.G.M.** will take place on **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 pm.** This is an open meeting - I do need more help in running the hall. This coming year looks like being quite interesting. Please come along and you will find out what I am talking about.

Thanks for reading this,

*Gordon Oxford*  
Chairman

## ROB'S COLUMN

### Nap's Lore

"You ask me how I've lived so long,  
And hearty... well, don't get me wrong,  
There is no secret way I've known,  
I treated life as if on loan,  
Sometimes I sits and thinks a while,  
And then, perhaps, you're going to smile.

I try to save my fading wits,  
Beside the door I simply sits!  
I simply sits, it does me good,  
The world goes by, they chew their cud,  
With very little pause for rest,  
I've found the calmer way is best.

Take time to spend your time, it goes,  
As swiftly as the river flows,  
And once it's gone, it's gone for aye,  
Stretch out each moment of your day,  
And measure twice, cut once, don't shirk,  
Take all you're needing to your work.  
And if you have a cause to weep,  
Let not your troubles spoil your sleep,  
There are three things I'd recommend,  
Don't covet more than you can spend,  
Be kind, but bless your dear one first,  
And drink pure water for your thirst."

### Brain teasers

1. ECNALG

2. TOUCH

3. CHAIR

4. WEAR  
LONG

5. CYCLE  
CYCLE  
CYCLE

### What is it?

It costs nothing but creates much. It enriches those who receive without impoverishing those who give. It happens in a flash and the memory of it sometimes lasts forever. None are so rich that they can get along without it, and none so poor but are richer for its benefits. It is rest to the weary, daylight to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad and nature's best antidote for trouble. Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed or stolen. For it is something that is no earthly good to anybody until it is given away.

### 5 simple mind games

1. Take 1000 and add 40. Add 1000. Add 30 and then add 1000, add 20, add 1000 and then add 10.
2. How many 'F's can you count? Finished files are the result of years of scientific study combined with the experience of years.
3. Solve this anagram in less than 30 seconds: GTGADE
4. True or false? Rodger's grandfather's son could be Rodger's daughter's grandfather?
5. True or false? Two of the following numbers add up to 13.

I get enough exercise pushing my luck.

Why do they say alarms go "off" when they obviously come on?

The chicken crossed the road.  
It was poultry in motion.

I was gonna send in a joke about a rubbish bin.  
But it's rubbish.

Why are things typed up but written down?

If money doesn't grow on trees then why do banks have branches?

---

Two elderly gentlemen are sitting on a bench under a tree when one turns to the other and says, "I'm 83 years old now and I'm just full of aches and pains. I know you're about my age, how do you feel?"

His friends says, "I feel like a new born baby".

The first man replies, "Really? Like a new born baby?"

"Yep - no hair, no teeth and I think I've just wet my pants."

---

Sometimes I wake up grumpy but most times I let her sleep.

### **Thought**

It's so simple to be wise...  
Just think of something stupid to say and then don't say it.

---

I went into a shop and I said, "Can someone sell me a kettle?"

The bloke said, "Kenwood".

I said, "Where is he?"

---

Did you invent tippex?

Correct me if I'm wrong.

A woman brought a limp duck into the vet. As she lay her duck on the table the vet pulled out his stethoscope. After a moment, the vet shook his head and said, "I'm so sorry. Cuddles has passed away".

The distressed owner wailed, "Are you sure?" "Yes. The duck is dead," he replied. "How can you be sure?" she protested. "I mean, you haven't done any testing on him or anything. He might just be in a coma or something." The vet rolled his eyes, turned around and left the room and returned a few minutes later with a black Labrador retriever. As the duck's owner looked on in amazement the dog stood on his hind legs, put out his front paws on the exam table and sniffed the duck from top to bottom. He then looked at the vet with sad eyes and shook his head. The vet patted the dog and took it out, returning a few minutes later with a beautiful cat. The cat jumped up on the table and also sniffed the duck. The cat sat back on its haunches, shook it's head, meowed softly and strolled out of the room. The vet looked at the woman and said, "I'm sorry, this is most definitely, 100% certifiably, a dead duck."

Then the vet turned and produced a bill, which he handed to the woman. The duck's owner, still in shock, took the bill. "£150 just to tell me my duck is dead?!" The vet shrugged, "I'm sorry. If you'd taken my word for it the bill would have been £20 but with the lab report and the cat scan..."

|                       |                    |           |  |  |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------|--|--|
| Answers:              |                    |           |  |  |
| <b>Brain teasers.</b> |                    |           |  |  |
| 1. Backwards glance.  | 2. Touch down.     |           |  |  |
| 3. High chair.        | 4. Long underwear. |           |  |  |
| 5. Tri-cycle.         |                    |           |  |  |
| <b>What is it?</b>    |                    |           |  |  |
| A smile.              |                    |           |  |  |
| <b>Mind games.</b>    |                    |           |  |  |
| 1. 5000               | 2. 6               | 3. Gadget |  |  |
| 4. True               | 5. False           |           |  |  |

## Traffic Chaos Prediction at Woodcutts!

When there is a major incident here at Woodcutts, the whole of the national environmental plan is at risk. In case the reader is not conversant with what is happening, in our green and pleasant land; (please note the semi-colon, the reader of the last edition of the Downsman will understand.) the subject of this article is milk deliveries. For the last few years, Phil has delivered our milk on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and at a civilized time of day, around mid morning. Now he has retired, our new supplier has changed to Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and before daylight at that. Doesn't he know that the dustman comes on a Tuesday? If he is late goodness knows what will happen, especially if the four people driving out to work and the postman are early. Total chaos is what we can expect! It makes one think whether we should drink black tea, eat cereals without milk or even have black decaffeinated tea and coffee. The system must be detoxed before it gets out of hand and boils over. Whatever will happen, if that nice man, Lionel Blair does decide to move here when he finishes as the manager of the national football squad? Supposedly, because of his green, environmental background, he and his family will ride bicycles anyway, and move up onto the grass verge when there is any volume of traffic. You see, we do have traffic problems, don't we? The summer rush is yet to come as well. If anyone has a solution to our problem could they write to No.10 Downing Street, we need to go right to the top. No, not the attics, the hierarchy of government.

Having got that off my chest, I must report that I am writing this before the January edition of the Downsman is out. (Please note the keenness Editor, it must be worth some Brownie points, mustn't it?)

20.01.07 A special date to mention, when a rather bedraggled Red Admiral was taking advantage of a bright sunny day and flew around the garden.

25.01.07 Another date to remember, a second Red Admiral on the wing, during a sunny spell but with temperatures close to freezing. The main difference being, that this one was very colourful and not at all tatty.

29.01.07 During the evening, after a much warmer day than of late, although still overcast, a Lesser Tortoiseshell butterfly made its way indoors, after being seen outdoors several hours before.

02.02.07 At 9.30am. On bright, sunny morning a Red Admiral in bright livery, flying actively around the front garden.

- 12.50 pm. A very bright Red Admiral sunning itself on a sheet of corrugated iron.

- 3.40 pm. Another smaller Red Admiral in flight. Colours were very pristine.

04.02.07 Yet another sighting of Red Admiral at Woodcutts, and a report of a sighting in village.

19.02.07 Bumble bees again on the Mahonia. But more exciting is that my sister, living in Westbury, phoned to say that she had celandines in flower, in her garden

The past two weeks have been cloudy almost all the time, but with only a small amount of rain. Temperatures have been average to high for the time of year. This lack of sunshine seems to have stopped the activities of the Red Admirals, although bumble bees continue to visit the Mahonia in the front garden.

From these observations, it can be assumed that the changing traffic conditions do not seem to affect the bumble bee, but that they do the Red Admiral.

21.02.07 Another Red Admiral on the wing in the garden on a lovely, warm, sunny day. The butterflies seen over the past few weeks, have varied in size and condition, of this I am absolutely sure, which suggests I have seen several different Red Admirals rather than the same one over and over again.

26.02.07 Beautiful warm, sunny day, Red Admiral on the wing. In the last two days the hedgerows have become covered in celandines and white daisies.

03.03.07 Yet another sunny, mild day and yet another Red Admiral seen on the wing in the garden. Gooseberry bushes are in leaf, despite the traffic problems. One can only assume, that they are thriving on all the excess carbon dioxide that is the product of all the new traffic arrangements!

I apologise that I ended the last sentence with an exclamation mark; but you will have noticed, that so far I have omitted to use my ration of semi-colons. (Please see the article in the February edition of the Downsman for a fuller explanation, or not as the case may be.)

03.03.07 At last there is light at the end of the

tunnel, with spring just around the corner. Evenings are drawing out, and we awaken to the dawn chorus once more. Flower beds and leaf buds are opening, while the slightly more than two month dominance of the snowdrops are over. They now have opposition from the glossy, yellow celandines, seen on so many places on the roadside, as well as the small white heads of the daisy, with the rather lordly heads of the dandelion showing above them.

A herd of deer almost thirty in number, pass by here each day in late afternoon, some quarter of a mile north-west of the house. They appear to be in no hurry, and love the winter cereals which are



extremely forward this year; both to lie on and graze. Will the advancement of the crop and the promised wet and warm weather, create the ideal conditions for disease in these crops? I am glad that I no longer make decisions about the use

of agrochemicals. It could create more and more difficulties for the organic farmers, who don't practice chemical control of disease.

Moving on to the end of the weekend generally, the days have been the warmest yet this year and grass is growing rampantly, many of the Sixpenny Handley villagers have had their lawnmowers out. This is not the case in our suburb of Woodcuts, presumably because we are that much further north, and therefore farther from the sun, hence the grass cutting is not so urgent. Or it may even be due to the greater altitude here. (Or should this mean we are nearer the sun in this case?) Whatever, we have not got our mowers out yet. It could be, that we just aren't as keen as the people to the south, or could it be pure idleness?

After church on Sunday I perambulated around the churchyard in wonderful sunshine, around mid-day. I was privileged to see four red admirals and two brimstone butterflies enjoying the early spring. Back at home I saw the first of the wild, white violets flowering under the hedge in the vegetable garden. These delicate little flowers do better here in Woodcuts, than anywhere else I know in the south of England. Later in the day I saw dark blue ones were in flower also.

Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. While leaning on the garden

fence making important gardening, management decisions, I was attracted by grass movements under the hedge. I stayed quietly looking at the spot, still making management decisions, when a stoat appeared. He didn't seem worried about me, so I wasn't worried by his presence. He had a jolly good nose around, then started to climb up the wire netting barrier I use to keep the rabbits off the garden. He was so agile, so obviously in fine form; from the black tip of his tail, along his stretched, lithe, shiny hairy body to the finely shaped head and white teeth, which he showed as he appeared to grin at me. His coat was immaculate, brown above and uncharacteristically perfectly white underneath, as they are they are usually yellowish-white. He jumped down, investigated the bonfire and the heap of unsplit logs about six feet from me, then almost ran over my toes to cross to the other side of the garden. He appeared unhurried, very gentlemanly, in perfect condition and so, I there and then made a spontaneous, management decision that he could visit my garden as often as he liked, especially if he was to help with rabbit, rat and mole control. (How's that for organic gardening?)

Finally, to show that I don't spend all my time in my garden and that I am extremely well travelled, I must mention the work on the main Sixpenny Handley/Tollard Royal arterial road. For travellers along this road during the past few weeks, there has been the delightful sight of the thorn hedge, on the southern side of the thoroughfare, just beyond the centre of Woodcuts, undergoing a very professional makeover of hedge-laying.



It is great to see that the Rushmore Estate still believes in such activities and that there are craftsmen about who can still successfully complete such work. In this case it has been Don Taylor of Edmondsham. (Tel. no. 01725 517508).

Apart from including photographs of the above hedge, it is time for me to finish, or I will lose the Brownie points I gained by starting early, by being late.

God bless you all. *Ted Cox*

## *Warm Weekly Welcome at School for Mr Durant*

The children at Sixpenny Handley First School are delighted to have the Vicar of St Mary's at their Wednesday assemblies again. Mr Mel Durant has continued the tradition firmly established by Mr Wood and has rapidly become a very popular visitor. After sharing the significance of Advent and the true message of Christmas, this term the children look forward every week to traditional Bible stories following the theme of *Journeys*, retold simply in modern language, and not least to a rousing action song (with a religious theme)!



*Sharing precious Baptism items with Mr Durant.*



*Mr Durant chatting to pupils after Assembly on a recent Wednesday visit.*

At the end of January, Mr Durant also ventured into the classroom, giving the 7-9 year old pupils a great insight into the meaning and symbolism of Christian baptism. Who better to explain what happens when a baby is "christened" (ie given the sign of Christ) and what better way to bring this home to children than by demonstrating on a 'baby' who just happened to emerge from Mr Durant's bag?

The children for their part had a great number of lively questions to ask (at times veering dramatically off the theme, eg "who is God?", "what caused the Big Bang?") and were encouraged to understand the act of baptism in its Biblical and historical context, and as the start of the Christian "journey of life".

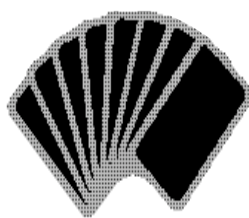
The children had also been invited to bring in many treasured items received at the time of their (or sometimes their parents') baptism to show to each other, and everyone enjoyed looking at the precious objects such as jewellery, crosses, tiny baby bracelets, traditional tankards and silverware, baptismal candles and a beautiful Christening robe.

Mr Durant has agreed to join us again in the future to talk about other aspects of Christianity, as part of our Religious Education studies curriculum. In the meantime, we will continue to enjoy his Assembly visits and appreciate his involvement with the school.

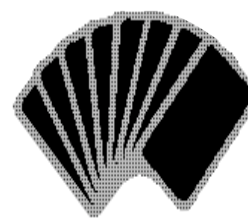
*Elizabeth Moreland*  
(Year 4 Class teacher)



*Mr Durant explaining the meaning of Christian baptism to the Year 3/Year 4 children at the school.*



## CARDS



**Whist.** Both competitions covered by this column are nearing completion and their results be reported in the next issue of *The Downsman*. The whist contest remains a very open affair with no single player building up an unassailable lead; in fact, in the rounds played since the start of the year the lead has changed hands several times and at the end of round 12, Doug Haskell had returned to first place with an aggregate score of 1931 points, just 3 points clear of Sam Poolman who had headed the table with 11 rounds played. Ruth Hastings, another of the recent leaders, is still well in contention with 1917 points *in the bag* but Peter Braithwaite is currently enjoying a run of high scores and, thereby, putting considerable pressure on the three players that are presently ahead of him.

Behind Peter (1912 points) are John Davis, Chris Napier, Mary Braithwaite, Nora Davis and Arthur Alabaster and this quintet are separated by a mere 8 points, John having notched up 1907 points to Arthur's 1900.

Presently holding 10<sup>th</sup>, the final position in respect of prize money, is John York on 1885 points but as seasoned whist players will know, a seemingly good cushion of 15 points can be wiped out in a single round.

Regarding the play in round 12, Stuart Haskell must have thought that after 12 of the 24 deals he was not only in a strong position to move into the top ten but well on track to improve on the highest individual score (184) that was returned by Brian Trickey during the 4<sup>th</sup> round of the contest. Partnering John Davis for 8 deals of the first half, Stuart's card was marked with 94 points, their high scoring partnership being

broken on the 11<sup>th</sup> hand. But whereas John went on to return the evening's second highest total, 171 (Brenda Innes being top with 183), Stuart's fortunes went into meltdown and the next 14 deals resulted in a miserly 68 points which left him on 154 overall, thus placing him 14<sup>th</sup> with 1865 points.

Thus far in the competition 53 players have competed, though a handful have been present for just a single round and are well out of the running. However, those placed in the middle order still have sufficient time to make their mark and the final five rounds promises to be keenly contested.

**Bridge.** Not only is Nora Davis well placed to advance her position in the whist table but on present form victory in the January to March competition seems almost assured for at the close of the 12 competitive deals on March 13<sup>th</sup>, Nora had scored 1420 points, taking her aggregate score to 16620, nearly 2000 points clear of your scribe who is clinging on to 2<sup>nd</sup> overall with a slender margin of 510 points advantage over Tim Stevens (14260).

John Davis, too, is presenting a strong challenge and at the time of going to press he is lying 4<sup>th</sup> with 14090 points. However, similar to the fortunes enjoyed at whist swings at bridge are all too common and with two rounds remaining anyone in the top nine might present a serious challenge to Nora as they have all racked up totals in excess of 10000 points. In order of merit these places are held by Peter Braithwaite (12500), Peter Martin (12270), Eric Turner (11860), Sheila Bradley (11570) and Chris Napier (10190).

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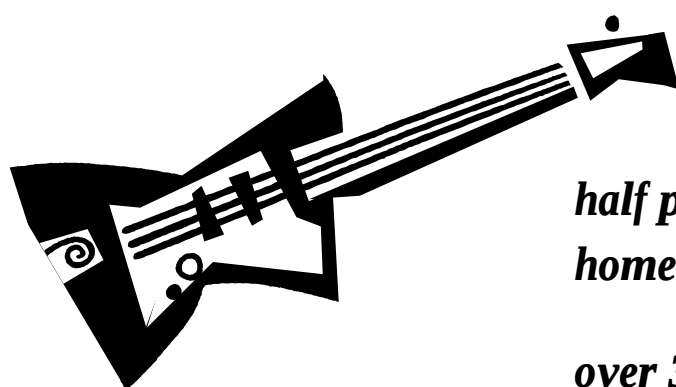
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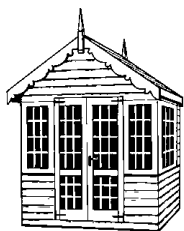
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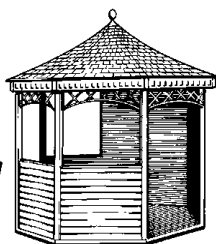
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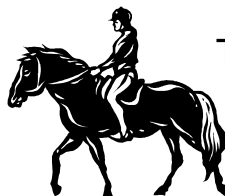
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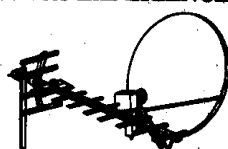


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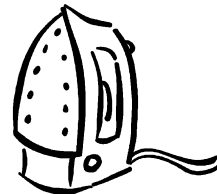
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# The Downsman

## DON'T FORGET WHAT'S ON!!!

| DATE   | FUNCTION                       | PAGE | DATE   | FUNCTION                       | PAGE |
|--------|--------------------------------|------|--------|--------------------------------|------|
| Apr-02 | W.I. AGM                       | 10   | May-04 | Jamie Walton - Cello concert   | 17   |
| Apr-04 | Council nomination deadline    | 4    | May-05 | Tennis season opener           | 12   |
| Apr-05 | Mobile Library                 | 11   | May-10 | Questions for Mr Robert Walter | 6    |
| Apr-18 | PPC AGM - St Rumbold's Church  | 27   | May-12 | Happy Nappy table top sale     | 11   |
| Apr-19 | Mobile Library                 | 11   | May-14 | Scouts' AGM                    | 8    |
| Apr-21 | W.I. Bring and Buy             | 10   | May-14 | W.I. Institute meeting         | 10   |
| Apr-22 | Parish Plan Open Meeting       | 26   | May-17 | Mobile Library                 | 11   |
| Apr-22 | Bowls Club season commences    | 32-3 | May-18 | <b>Copy Deadline</b>           | 2    |
| Apr-24 | W.I. Spring Council meeting    | 10   | May-23 | W.I. Group meeting             | 10   |
| Apr-25 | W.I. 85th birthday meal        | 10   | May-24 | Annual Parish Assembly         | 4    |
| Apr-25 | Chase Pre-School open day      | 20   | May-26 | W.I. Plant and cake stall      | 10   |
| Apr-29 | PPC AGM - St Mary's Church     | 27   | May-31 | Mobile Library                 | 11   |
| Apr-30 | Village Hall AGM               | 25   | Jun-01 | Next edition                   | 2    |
| May-02 | W.I. Group Walk - Garston Wood | 10   | Jun-09 | 50 year Scouts celebrations    | 9    |
| May-03 | Mobile Library                 | 11   | Jun-11 | W.I. Institute meeting         | 10   |
| May-03 | Parish Council elections       | 1    |        |                                |      |