

The Downsmen

February 2009



The Parish of Sixpenny Handley
with Pentridge

Including: Woodyates, Deanland and Minchington
Published by Sixpenny Handley Parish Council
Delivered by Sixpenny Handley Homewatch

Parish Councillors Sixpenny Handley

Chairman	Mrs P.K. Bailey-Wright....	552771
	Mrs R Adams.....	553032
	Mr D Chick	552557
	Mr. A. Gibb	552704
	Mr. D Lockyer.....	552492
	Mr S Meaden.....	552715
	Mr T Reynolds.....	552995
	Mr. R. Ferguson.....	552222

Pentridge

Vice Chairman	Dr. Judith Gillespie Smith	552576
	Mrs M New.....	552539

Clerk

Assistant Clerk	Christopher Snape.....	553001
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	Gill Martin.....	552297
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	Parish Office.....	552211
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District Councillor	Cllr S Tong	01258-840061
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County Councillor	Cllr T. Palmer.....	552321
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Fax 552405

Member Parliament	Robert Walter.....	020 7219 6981
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Rights of Way Liaison Officers

Sixpenny Handley	Mrs M New.....	552539
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Pentridge	Dr J Gillespie -Smith . . .	552576
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The Downsman Team

Editor	Margaret Thorne.....	553199
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Production	Brian Hansford.....	552468
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Advertising	Gill Martin.....	552297
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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
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Roman Catholic	Church of Our Lady of Lourdes & St. Cecilia, Blandford Forum	
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Priest	Rev. Father Dylan James	
	The Prestbury, 55 Salisbury Street, Shaftesbury.....	01747 852125

1st Woodcutts Scout Group

Group Scout Leader	John Curtis.....	552397
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Scout Leader	Rob Easton.....	552038
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Cub Leader	Andy Young.....	553166
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Beaver Leader	Denise Turner.....	552735
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1st Sixpenny Handley Rainbows

Unit Guider	Hazel Wright.....	553160
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Asst Guider	Jacqui Tarran.....	552008
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Schools

First School	Handley First School.....	552356
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Middle School	Cranborne Middle School	517348
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Upper School	Queen Elizabeth's School	
	Wimborne.....	01202 885233

Sixpenny Handley Village Hall

Chairman	Gordon Oxford.....	552591
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Secretary	Tony Gibb	552704
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Treasurer	Paul Skinner.....	552785
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Bookings	Carole Wyatt.....	552572
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Sixpenny Handley Allotment Holders Association

Chairman	John Curtis.....	552397
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Secretary	Jane Lang	
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Doctors

	Drs. Pelly, Nodder & Morgan	
	Dean Lane Surgery.....	552500

Sixpenny Handley Homewatch

Overall Co-ordinator & Police Focal Point		
	John Curtis.....	552397

Co-ordinators

Area 1 - Dean Lane	Don Penrose.....	552022
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2 - Lower Handley	Chris Stokes.....	552672
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3 - Upper Handley	John Clarke.....	552674
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4 - Deanland & N.E.	Charles Nodder.....	552292
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5 - West & South	Simon Meaden.....	552715
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Other Areas (These are separate Homewatch**Schemes)**

Pentridge	Roy Elford.....	552911
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Woodyates	Mrs A Adams.....	552675
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Police	Wimborne Station..	01202 222222/ 07825 521735
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The Chase Pre-School

Chairperson	Tilly Stevens.....	552046
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Secretary	Luci Phillips.....	552098
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The Chase Pre-School Link Group

Contact	Tilly Stevens.....	552046
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Sixpenny Handley W.I. (Formed in 1922)

President	Mrs Jan Gibb.....	552704
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Secretary	Mrs Bobby Carter.....	552042
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Sixpenny Handley Mother's Union

Leader	Jean Mayne.....	552692
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Secretary	Mary Macleod	552041
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Sixpenny Handley Bowls Club

President	Brian Hansford.....	552468
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Secretary	Bea Boyland.....	552805
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Treasurer	Patrick Taylor.....	552187
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Handley Sports Club

Chairman	Mark Young.....	552741
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Secretary	Brian Hansford.....	552468
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Team Manager Div 2	Mark Young.....	552741
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Asst. Team Manager	Stuart Haskell.....	
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Handley Sports U11s and U12s

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

Chairman	Dr. Geddes.....	552395
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Secretary	Vic Hatton	01258 840671
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Sixpenny Handley Tennis Club

Chairman	Tracey Lownds.....	552414
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Membership/Treasurer	Sue Smith.....	552225
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Sixpenny Handley Cricket Club

Evening Captain	David Cross.....	552640
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Sunday Captain	Simon Chapman.....	552294
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Secretary	Frances Churchill.....	552868
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Happy Nappy Club	Jaqui Blake.....	552306
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	Emma Gothard.....	552412
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	Jo Clarke.....	07702 813115
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	Maureen Swann.....	552561
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Sixpenny Handley Sports Association

Chairman	David Cross.....	552640
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Vice Chairman	Patrick Taylor	552187
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Secretary/Treasurer	Tracey Lownds.....	552414
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Sixpenny Handley Horticultural Show

Chairman	Brian Hansford.....	552468
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Secretary	Carole Wyatt.....	552572
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Welcome to the latest edition of *The Downsman*.

Editor: Margaret Thorne, Parish Office, Unit 5B, Town Farm Workshops, Sixpenny Handley
Email: editor@thedownsman.org.uk

Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge Parish Council

Parish Office: Unit 5B Town Farm Workshops	Opening Hours: Tuesday 10am – 12 noon Thursday 6pm – 7-30pm	Phone: 552211 / 553001 Email : office@sixpennyhandley.co.uk
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Make a note of our new address
editor@thedownsman.org.uk
 to ensure your articles and news reach us

Advertising Costs

The rates to advertise in **The Downsman** are:

Full page - £16

Half page - £10

Quarter page - £5

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

The magazine offers excellent value in reaching your local customers.

We currently deliver **The Downsman** to approximately 700 households within the parish.

The next edition of this Magazine will be published on the
1st April 2009
Copy Deadline is Friday 13th March 2009

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.
 This publication does not endorse the products or services advertised within.

Clerk's Corner

Senior Citizens: your bus passes are now valid **without time restriction.**

Lighting Trial: the Parish Council has agreed with Dorset County Council to take part in a trial whereby all street lights in Sixpenny Handley and Woodyates will be switched off between midnight and 5.30 am. DCC is trying to reduce light pollution, its carbon footprint and to save money.

Icy Roads: a series of accidents before Christmas on the B3081, on the bend between the High Street and the roundabout, occurred despite salt/gritting. It is possible that, in dry conditions, the salted grit can be dissipated by traffic before it is require to become effective. **Please take care.**

The Model Publication Scheme: The Parish Council has adopted the scheme. Under the Freedom of Information Act, all detail held by the Parish Council is held in the Parish Office and is available to the public. The Parish Office is open from 10.00 am until noon on Tuesdays and between 6.00 pm and 7.30 pm on Thursdays. I spend many more hours each week in the office and, if I am there, callers and enquiries are welcome. My telephone number is 01725 553001 and I can open the office, produce documents and answer questions by appointment. The Parish Council retains copies of agenda, minutes of meetings, accounts, the Parish Plan, Planning Envelope, the Electoral Register and much more. The Parish Council will endeavour, through The Downsman and other means, to let you know what information it holds and, in the meantime, if you think the Parish Council may hold information that you would like to see, please visit the Parish Office, or call me at home.

The 2009 High Street Fayre will take place on Saturday 23rd May. The Parish Council is seeking volunteers to help plan the event, many more volunteers to run stalls, games etc., and sincerely hopes that attendance will be such as to guarantee another success this year. It is proposed to widen the beneficiary list and, hopefully, all Parish volunteer organisations which produce a stall and donate the proceeds to the fund will receive a share of the fund. **Please annotate the enclosed flyer to include your suggestions, requests and, of course, tell us what you are prepared to do, donate, or otherwise how you will assist.**

Dog Mess: there has been a noticeable increase, particularly in the High Street and the recreation ground. The recreation ground attracts children; hygiene is a serious matter to us all and, when there, dogs should be on leads, or under close control. Failing to clear up after your dog is now an offence, punishable by a fine of up to £1,000. **The Parish Council does not want to be forced to take action. Cooperation is simpler. Please help.**

Christopher Snape
(Clerk to the Parish Council)

From the Assistant Clerk

My little lending library is now open at the Parish Office - this will be open on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon and Thursday evenings from 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm.

STOP PRESS:

I have been informed that the Over 60 Bus Passes can be used on Park and Ride sites. I have not had a chance to check this out, but if you would like to try using them, perhaps you could let me know the outcome.

Gill Martin

The following planning applications have been considered by the Parish Council

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 3/08/1271 | - Dean Cross Cottage, Woodcutts - demolition of existing garage/store; extend on two levels to include new bedroom, utility, entrance and carport. Insulate and overclad existing single storey extension. |
| 3/08/1301 | - Garston Bungalow - front, side and rear extensions, raise roof to provide accommodation in roof space. Erect detached carport / store |
| 3/08/1369 | - Cobley Farm, East Woodyates - replacement of six existing antennae with six new antennae; installation of equipment cabinet at ground level measuring less than 2.5 cubic metres. |

Approvals

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 3/08/1101 | - Orchard House, Pentridge - two storey rear extension and rear conservatory. Permitted. |
|-----------|---|

MAY TRICKETT

May passed away peacefully at her home in early November. It was her wish to remain at home.

My heartfelt thanks for the wonderful care and support from the doctors, nurses, carers and all at the Handley surgery who helped make this possible. Also, many thanks for the cards and support received from everyone and for the donations for Marie Curie which were very much appreciated. Thanks again.

Monica and family

Thank You

Ron and Sheila would like to thank all friends and neighbours for the kind messages of condolence following the death of our mother on 26th December last at the grand old age of 101 years and 8months.

CAN ANYONE HELP?**BUDDEN**

My great grandparents, Harry and Lizzie Budden, lived in Dean in the early 1900s. Their son, Reg, was my grandfather. I'm trying to find out a little about their lives when they lived in Dean and I wondered if these names mean anything to anyone who could possibly help me with my research?

As far as I know, the family lived in Honeysuckle Cottage, Dean from about 1912 to the mid/late 1940s, so I'm assuming that Harry and Lizzie's children, Clement, Margaret (Mags), Win, Gladys, Bert, Reg, Hilda, Rene and Alma would have attended school in Sixpenny Handley.

Reg and Bert owned a bakery based at Honeysuckle Cottage from approximately 1923 and when Reg left Handley in 1926/7, Bert continued with the bakery until he moved the business to Handley after WW2.

Any information of any sort would be gratefully received.

Karan Miller (Mrs) email: kandr@millhome.co.uk or telephone 01553 679319

THANK YOU

Handley Sports Football Club would like to thank Chris Styles at Handley Newsagents and Hardware for providing and displaying a Christmas Hamper for much needed fundraising.

We would like to thank his staff for meeting a target of £150 by raffle day, exceeding it and achieving a final great result of £157.

Thank you all very much indeed.

Congratulations to the winner—Jane Laing.

**Brian Hansford
Hon. Secretary**

A meeting of the Parochial Church Council of St Mary's, Sixpenny Handley with Gussage St Andrew's was held on Wednesday, 14th January, 2009.

Summary of Agenda items:

- A survey of the electrics at Gussage St Andrew's showed that no new sockets were needed and new heaters could be plugged in safely. Advice on heating, which will not damage the Mediaeval wall paintings, will be obtained from the conservator, who is coming on 15th January to look at the paintings and their condition.
- The Property Board of the Salisbury diocese have approved the linking of drainage from St Mary's with the sewage pipes from the Vicarage – subject to faculty.
- A lively discussion took place about how the Christmas services went and points were made about other services as well – their merits and demerits.
- The 'Share' has now been paid in full. Thanks were given to David Lockyer (Treasurer) and David Salmons for their painstaking work.
- A meeting is scheduled for 16th January with a heating advisor to discuss the improvements to the heating of St Mary's.
- Future fundraising events under consideration are: a 'Pamper Day' on 14th February, a concert on 28th March and 'Open Gardens' in early Summer.

Sheila Bradley (Secretary to the PCC)

PARISH 2009 EVENTS DIARY

For Sixpenny Handley and surrounding area

By kind permission of Steve and Chris Preedy

**There will be at
The Post Office, High Street, Sixpenny Handley**

**The Parish 2009 Events Diary
For all clubs and organisations to list events
for the coming year 2009**

(Just ask Steve or Chris for diary)

It is hoped that clubs and organisations can give details of their arranged events well in advance and perhaps avoid too many "happenings" on the same date or period!

Village Hall News

Hello again!

“Mamma Mia”, the film shown on 5th December, was better attended than the previous film shows. I was not able to see the film because of a prior engagement - however, people that did go were thrilled with it. I think the all-round sound helped. In the next edition, I will let you know about the film **“Best in Show”** to be screened on 23rd January. There is a film show on **February 20th**, but I have no details as yet.

Striding Edge on 11th December started off a bit disappointing. The music was good, but the singing with a strong Durham accent was hard to follow. After the interval, we moved the chairs to the side of the hall, the players came on the floor and we barn danced. They sang while we got our breath back and no-one wanted to stop. It turned out to be an excellent evening.

Forest Forge’s Pantomime on 5th January was another winner. This theatre company really have got their act together producing once again an over-the-top performance. It was funny, scary, lively, well acted, good singing - in fact, all the ingredients for good, clean entertainment. The comments I received as people were leaving: “Great show! Better than Wimborne.”

Forest Forge will be back on **Thursday 5th March** with their Spring production of a powerful story set in the New Forest. **“A Clearing”** is written by Dan Allum, who is Artistic Director of the Romany Theatre Company, London. As usual, the play is directed by Sean Aita. It’s a powerful traditional romantic drama set in the 1960s against the backdrop of the last Romany encampment in the New Forest. The story is based on a true event at Shave Green. The play starts at 7.30 pm. Age range is 12+. Tickets are £7 from the Box Office (01725 552591). This looks good and I hope you will enjoy it.

The new chairs and tables have been well received, with lots of favourable comments. However, the chair trolleys were not quite fit for purpose. Thanks to Richard Jesse, they have now been modified and the result should be no more pinched fingers or hands. Please do not put more than six chairs in one stack.

Richard has made a good job of protecting the gas tank, which looks good. Thanks for that. The white lines on the hall floor show up well. My thanks to Patrick Rose for giving up his weekend. My thanks, also, to Simon Wallworth for his help with some electrical repairs.

Thanks for reading this.

Gordon Oxford (Chairman)

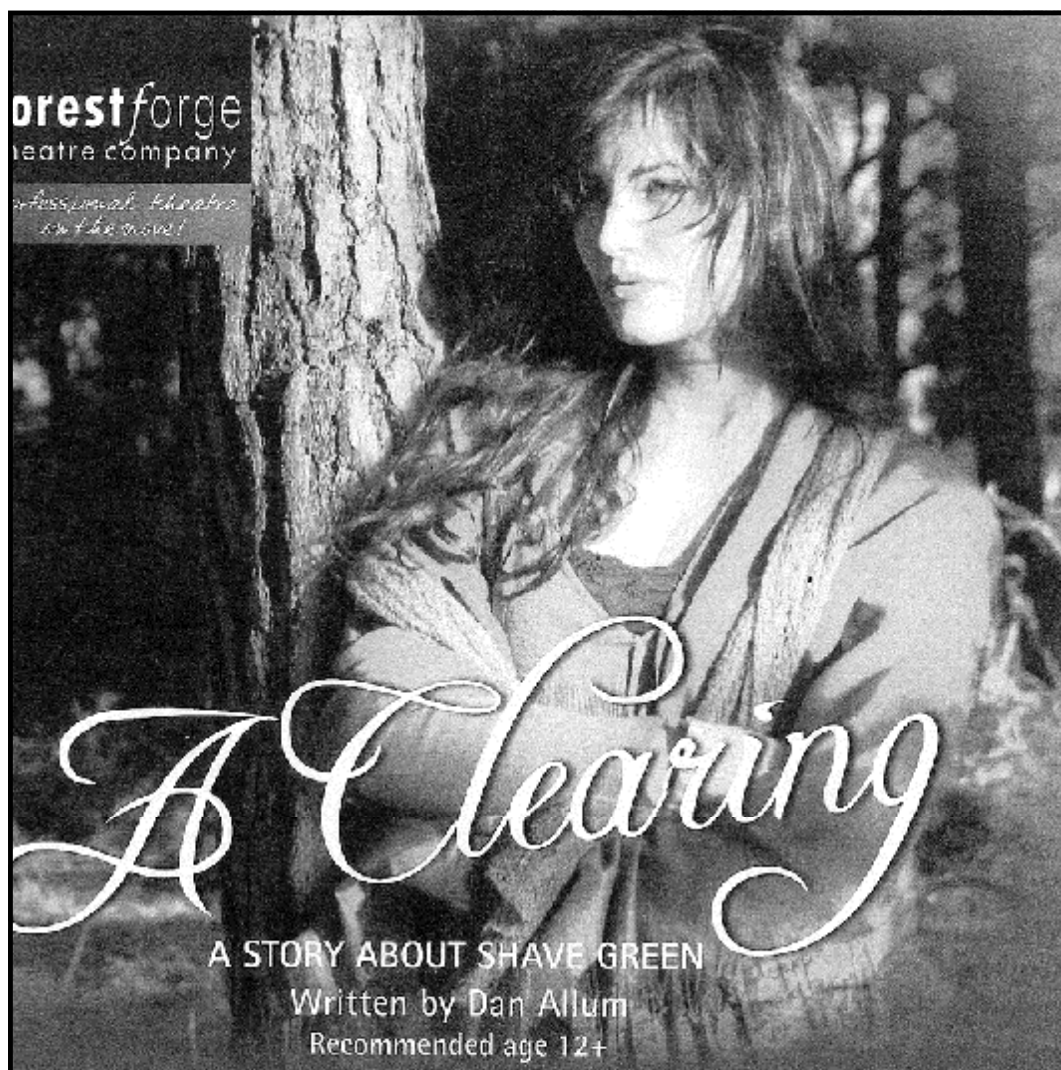
Email the Village Hall: villagehall@sixpennyhandley.org

Mobile Library Schedule

Visits on Thursday Fortnightly

Woodyates – Cogley Close	2.25 – 2.40
Back Lane/St Mary’s Close	3.00 – 3.20
Roebuck Inn	3.25 – 3.45
Dean Lane	3.50 – 4.05
Sheasby Close	4.10 – 4.30

February 5th, 19th, March 5th, 19th, April 2nd



forestforge
theatre company
*professional theatre
on the coast*

A Clearing

A STORY ABOUT SHAVE GREEN
Written by Dan Allum
Recommended age 12+

During 19 February to 4 April 2009 to community and
art centres and village halls

SIXPENNY HANDLEY VILLAGE HALL
Thursday March 5th 2009
At 7.30.p.m.
Adult £7 U18 £5. Family £20
Box office 01725 552 591

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 269844.
Publicity designed by www.SUMMERHOUSE.co.uk
For more information visit: www.forestforge.co.uk

REMEMBER OUR NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

editor@thedownsman.org.uk

Following the success of our first Pamper Day
we are repeating it on
Saturday 14th February 11.00-4.00



PAMPER DAY



provided by
The Body Shop

at 5 The Orchard Sixpenny Handley

**Only £5 for a facial, hand massage
or foot massage**

(& then £2 for each additional treatment)

**£8 for a facial and full make-up
(using Body Shop products)**

& including a glass of wine & nibbles.

Come & relax - & be pampered! (Please bring a towel)

Please phone Bobbie Carter 552042 or Jean Mayne 552692

for further information & to book.

Come on ladies – spoil yourself!! (& bring a friend)

Proceeds for St Mary's Church, Sixpenny Handley

Old jewellery appeal

Do you have an odd cufflink or earring, a pocket watch or gold watch that doesn't tick, a discarded necklace or a ring that doesn't fit?

Send your unwanted jewellery to:

**O J Campaign
Diabetes UK
FREEPOST LON12854
London NW1 2YF**

And convert it into funds
to support Diabetes UK.



The charity for people with diabetes
Macleod House, 10 Parkway, London NW1 7AA
Telephone 020 7424 1000 **Fax** 020 7424 1001
Email info@diabetes.org.uk **Website** www.diabetes.org.uk
A charity registered in England and Wales (no. 215195) and in Scotland (no. SC039136).
© Diabetes UK 2008



Sixpenny Handley

Sixpenny Handley Homewatch January 2009



Sixpenny Handley

Many of you will have heard that rural properties and farms in the area suffered a high number of thefts and non-dwelling break-ins in the run up to Christmas. There were 12 reported incidents in our area alone but adjacent parts of Hampshire and Wiltshire had similar experiences. Dorset Police report that things have calmed down somewhat and that cross-boundary initiatives are underway to address the problem. Among the items taken were chainsaws, a pressure washer, agrichemicals and diesel. Anyone with outbuildings, especially workshops, is urged to look to their security and to fit alarms, lights and locks as appropriate. Whilst the problem has lessened, in tough economic times it is unlikely to go away altogether.

The Homewatch team learnt with regret recently that Nick Torok, our local Police Community Support Officer has taken promotion elsewhere. Whilst congratulating him on that we will miss his reassuring and regular presence in the parish and, not least, at our Homewatch meetings. We understand that he will be replaced but that there will be some delay. The Homewatch has written to Dorset Police saying how much better police support for our community has been of late and urging that Nick is replaced as

soon as possible so that momentum is not lost. On the positive side, we understand that another Special Constable, Sam Large, will be patrolling in the village on occasion, supplementing the efforts of our local 'Special', Yogi Patel.

PC Jane Brittain was sadly unable to attend our latest meeting but she sent apologies and a full written report. She is dealing with the abandoned car in the Village Hall car park and is also continuing her work locally with the speed camera, so keep to the limit!

The PACT initiative (Partners and Communities Together) continues to gather pace and several of our Homewatch leaders in various parts of the parish are now also PACT representatives. John Curtis performs this role for the village itself, Roy Elford for Pentridge, Simon Meaden for Minchington and Ann and Phil Adams jointly for Woodyates. Being part of PACT helps us to ensure that the Homewatch is working alongside the local councils and public services.

Despite recent incidents we are still fortunate to live in a low crime area. Keep alert, keep in touch with us if you have concerns or suspicions and keep yourselves and your property safe.

DO YOU NEED TO LOOK SOMETHING UP ON THE INTERNET?

There is free broadband, Internet access
available in the Parish Office

Tuesday 1000 - 1200
Thursday 1800 – 1915

Help is available
Provided by the
Connecting Dorset project

PARISH WELCOME LETTER

The Parish Council has produced a
Welcome Letter with general
information for people moving
into the parish.

If you know of someone who might benefit from receiving one please call the Parish Office on 552211 or Tony Gibb on 552704.

The postmen have kindly offered
to hand them out.

Woodcuts and the Scottish Highlands

It is for ten years now that I have been reporting the happenings at Woodcuts in the Downsman, and at no time have things been so bad. Not one supermarket is open here; in fact all the shops that have ever traded here have closed. Not one bank is open and any hope of finding a factory working at full potential simply isn't a possibility. However all is not lost; we still have our natural world to enthral us. Perhaps we should all come to terms with our lives and realise that the man-made, materialistic things of life are not so important after all.

For the past few years I have watched the snowdrops (please note Liz, I promised I would mention these beautiful and delicate harbingers of spring) flowering earlier and earlier, with some showing those wonderful inflorescences on Christmas Day. This year the cold weather has taken its toll, and the first snowdrops in flower I saw were on the tenth of January, despite this being when the temperature during the daytime was only -3°C and dipping into double figures at night. It isn't known whether the snowdrop is indigenous or not, but it did grow in Elizabethan gardens, and is known in Gerard's Herbal as the 'Timely Flowering Bulbous Violet'. Other names for it in the UK include Candlemas Bells, Death's Flower, Dewdrops and Fair Maids of February, while in Germany it is known as Naked Maiden, (*nackte jungfrau*) and in France, Snow Piercer, (*perce-neige*).

Other flowers that have braved the cold and are flowering include the garden primroses and daisies in the lawn. I can see both from where I am sitting on the settle at the kitchen window.

Also in view is the bird feeding station, which is on the southern side of the house and in whatever sunshine we get. This morning I have seen twelve species of birds visiting in the last couple of hours, which include great tits, coal tits, blue tits, long tailed tits, marsh tits, dunnocks, chaffinches, greenfinches, robins, blackbirds, collared doves and wood pigeons. The white headed greenfinch that I mentioned in the last issue has been back, but only once in late November. One species we haven't seen for a while is the greater spotted woodpecker, but I did see one this morning on the feeder on the north side of the house next door. Another bird which is worth mentioning that can be seen by anyone travelling across the common at night, is the barn owl which perches on the fence posts, normally on the southern side of the road. Whether it is feeding off road kill or awaiting fresh victims is not quite clear, but its very light eye patch and its almost ghostly white underside that can be seen when it is in

flight is a definite form of recognition. Look out for it any night you are crossing the common in either direction.

Whilst speaking of birds, I must mention one of my favourites - the nuthatch; it used to be a regular feeder around here and was seen often, but of late has not been seen at all. Apart from its beautiful light blue back, chestnut rump and white breast, which makes it the kingfisher of the woodland, it is a remarkable bird being the only British species that can move up and down a tree trunk while looking for food - it can travel down the trunk head first. If you think this is not remarkable, try coming down stairs head first!

Before leaving the bird world, I must mention the use many make of road kill, other than by the barn owl already mentioned. How often we see large, dead mammals as road kill today in the form of fox, badger, rabbits, hedgehogs and the occasional hare and numerous pheasants from the bird world. I personally haven't seen a deer of any sort for at least two years now, whether because they are less numerous or are adapting to the traffic on our roads. How often do you see magpies, jackdaws, rooks and carrion crows enjoying these free meals, as well as sparrow hawks and kestrels at the road side, but have you ever seen one of these species actually killed by a vehicle. The answer is possibly never. They are still birds of the wild and react differently to the pheasant. They realise that traffic is an enemy, whereas the pheasant which, of course, does not eat road kill, accepts the traffic as a boon. After all, don't pheasants get used to the keeper's 4x4 when he visits them daily in their breeding pens, and when released doesn't he feed them in the woods, using a spinner feeder from the back of his 4x4 as he drives along? Pheasants see cars as a source of food and spend their time in the roads waiting to be fed.

When in Devon last summer, on the edge of Dartmoor, Madge (Meg) and I saw signs that a local shoot had put up at the side of the road saying "Beware of the Pheasants". We soon found out why - there were literally hundreds in the road ahead and they had no intention of moving. We can only assume that when it came to the shooting season beaters weren't required, instead tall men must have been employed to pick them up, (that is the pheasants), (those birds from the wild) and throw them into the air to be shot. What a changing world we live in, and to think that those controlling pheasant shoots believe that they are custodians of the countryside.

Obviously although the farmers control the major part of the countryside, they cannot be construed as the custodians of the natural world either, but they are responsible for producing the necessary food which keeps us alive, and what a rough time they are having. As food becomes scarcer prices go up and of course there is less choice. As the population grows throughout the world the choices will be fewer and the amounts available less and the unit prices even higher. With this in mind the European Union has imposed bans on numerous pesticides, which have been used for years, which will reduce yields and cause prices to rise. Maybe it seems wrong that one minute I should be decrying something that is offensive against the natural world and then be championing pesticides, but I see this as a necessary evil. To take one example of the banned pesticides, linuron has been used as a herbicide by carrot growers for forty years to my knowledge; in fact I used it myself on hundreds of

acres of carrots both in the UK and Eire. It does a wonderful job when used correctly and its ban will reduce yields and increase harvesting problems, so even a simple, much used and loved vegetable such as the carrot will increase in price considerably. The banning of fungicides used in the production of bread wheat will ensure the increase of the price of flour and the resultant bread. Just what we need in a time of financial uncertainty and recession, isn't it? Although the public will benefit from the reduction in price paid to the farmer of milk by 10p per litre, or will they?

I must climb down off of my hobby horse for now and thank you for reading to the end, and may I wish you all a HAPPY NEW YEAR.

God bless you all.

Ted Cox

SHReD

On the first of April this year, **SHRED** will be celebrating its first birthday, and we thank all who have supported us during the past year and look forward to your support in 2009. To help us would you please pay your subscription before 1st April to:-

SHRED, c/o Hon. Sec. Mrs. Rita Taylor, 2 The Orchard, Sixpenny Handley, SP5 5QL

Please tell your friends who don't read the Downsman about us. The more members we have the more efficient and environmentally friendly will be the service. The annual subscription will remain at £10.00. (It is hoped to produce a membership card for members which will need to be shown when purchasing bags). Collection bags will remain at the same price, £5.00 for six, available at the Hardware Shop and the Post Office. (Both of these establishments handle these bags at no benefit to themselves.)

We still need volunteers to assist on the collection rounds and at the composting site. Please ring either Ted Cox on 552801 or Simon Meaden 552715 if you are able to help.

There are woodchips available for purchase now, which would be ideal as a mulch in and around shrubberies, fruit trees etc. Hopefully, in the not too distant future, a soil conditioning compost will be available at a very competitive price. Please watch the Downsman and for posters in the village for more details.

I, personally, would like to take this opportunity to thank Simon Meaden for the tremendous work he has done for **SHRED** over the past year. Without his help there would be no composting system.

Ted Cox

SHReD - Thank You

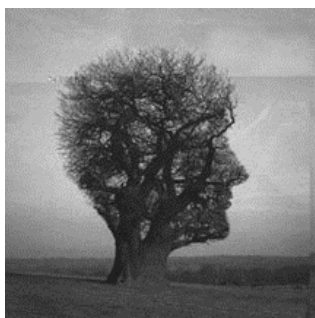
I just wanted to recommend a very silently efficient service offered by SHRED.

I joined in late autumn last year as an increasing amount of twigs, prunings and cuttings began to pile up in my drive and within a day, for a modest fee, the pile had been swiftly removed. Following this, I filled 7 or 8 SHRED bags (bought from the P.O.) with more twigs, prunings and leaves and miraculously they, too, disappeared without my even calling SHRED to take them away. This is a great service.

Sincere thanks SHRED. (For further details contact: Simon 01725 552715)

Penny Adams

Number 1 hot top tree tip: DON'T TOP TREES!



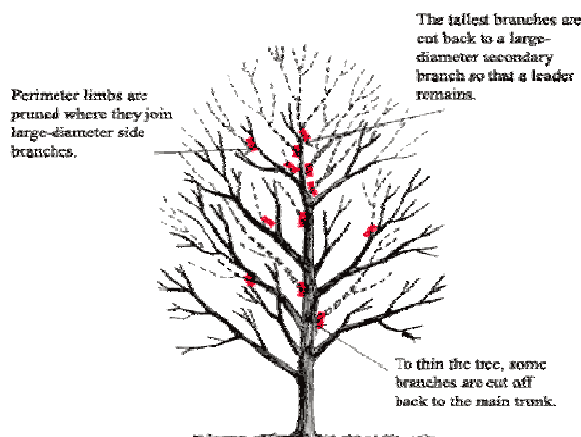
End this senseless, misguided, misunderstood mutilation! It is a blight on the urban forestry landscape. It's pointless, it doesn't work, it's ugly, it's dangerous, it is a total abomination and it makes the perpetrators look ridiculous. I am frankly amazed that it is still a common sight. Imagine my reaction when I returned home one night a couple of years ago to see six perfectly good field maples lopped and topped by a landscape firm acting on instructions from the East Dorset Housing Association. I wrote them a letter in which I could scarcely

contain my anger and incredulity at such a total hack job. I thought that they should have known better than to instruct a company who is obviously oblivious to BS 3998 recommendations for tree work. The response to my enquiry was equally astounding as they curtly told me the work was satisfactory. I have been a climber for the majority of my working life so you can take it as read that I am going to have an idea of what constitutes satisfactory tree work. Alarmed by their response I asked the council Arb. Officer to have a look and requested tree preservation be put on the rest of the trees in Sheasby Close. The officer agreed with me, his reaction being total disbelief - he said that you didn't have to be an expert to see that it was bad. The EDHA response to him was totally different; they were apologetic they admitted it was a mistake and promised to use a recommended tree firm, coincidentally one I worked for as a foreman a few years ago.

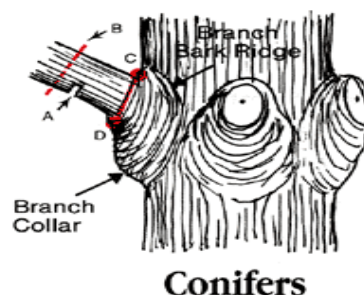
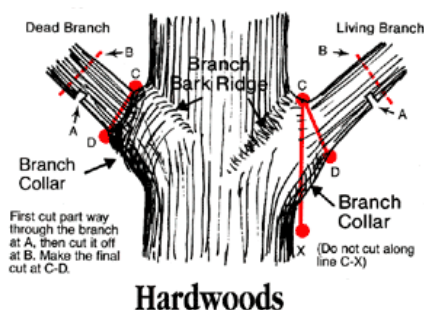
At least you can see a good example of how not to prune and it will help me to explain why lopping and topping is not a viable management proposition.

1. **It doesn't work.** The DNA of the tree determines its ultimate height. A topped tree will reach its predetermined height or die in the attempt. An entry level craft arborist is trained to understand wound response; their pruning cuts will work with the tree's response system to minimize stress and decay. Lopping and topping stresses the tree into a panic response so it will redress the leaf loss as quickly as possible. The speed and efficiency of the grow-back is dependent on species and vitality. The predetermined height of a field maple is 7-15 metres. It is a vigorous species and these were healthy specimens. The work was inappropriate and money was wasted on a pointless endeavour. Two years on, the panic response of almost total leaf loss has been to over-compensate as they have a greater leaf area, are bigger and are creating more shade than before.
2. **It's ugly.** Lopping a tree creates a hydra effect, like the mythological serpent of ancient Greece. Cut off the head and more grow back to replace it. The field maples had pleasingly shaped natural crowns - now they are a mess and the local amenity value brought by tree cover has suffered as a consequence.
3. **It's dangerous.** The union of the new growth to the old is inherently weak due to inevitable decay. After a few years the union will be unstable and has a tendency to fail. On a street tree this will obviously be problematic. The new sucker growth causes the tree to be top heavy and increases wind resistance and the chance falling.
4. **It contravenes BS 3998.** All contract arborists recommended by local government will have a working knowledge of this document. All arborists from craft level and above have been taught a level of competence that is written in this document. It is the nationally accepted standard and is one of the first things you are taught.
5. **It's expensive.** What's done can't be undone. The tree will need constant attention - probably an annual 'haircut'.

The diagram below illustrates a correctly reduced mature tree as per BS 3998.



These diagrams show how to correctly prune a tree as per BS 3998.



There has been a positive response to the Christmas tree recycling initiative and we are up to our eyeballs in Christmas tree chippings! Thanks to Steve Judd for making the space available at the recycling centre at Church farm.

I am pleased with your response to my articles and I now have enough questions for a DTH Q & A session for the next issue.

Paul McDermott
Director, Dorset Trees & Hedges



Contact:
Paul McDermott

Professional Tree Surgeons

"With your best interest at heart"

Day: 0777 171 09 19

Eve: 01725 552985

P/JX 160618 Ordinary Seaman William Chedley Lucas HMS Barham

On the 17th August, 2000, a Thursday, there died in Vancouver, Canada, one Hans-Dietrich von Tiesenhausen at the ripe and respectable age of 87. Until his retirement some years previous, he had enjoyed life as an interior designer and now with his passing he was likely to have been remembered, particularly by his clients, for his artistic talent.

On Tuesday the 25th of November, 1941, in the broad expanse of the Mediterranean died William Chedley Lucas at the innocent age of just 18.

The passing of these two men, separated by a span of nearly sixty years, is inextricably linked, for as the life of Ordinary Seaman Lucas ended, Lieutenant Hans-Dietrich von Tiesenhausen snapped closed the periscope grips aboard U-331, and gave orders to dive. Mere seconds earlier three torpedoes had burst from their tubes and with less than half-a-mile to run to their target the outcome was almost a near certainty.

Indeed, von Tiesenhausen's confidence was fully justified for *HMS Barham*, a Queen Elizabeth-class battleship of 31,100 tons was struck amidships and as she rolled to port a tremendous explosion rent the air as her magazines exploded, killing in an instant almost two-thirds of her crew.

The unrelenting naval campaign in the Mediterranean had claimed yet another victim and with it the first serviceman from Sixpenny Handley to lose his life in the Second World War.

By one of those awful quirks of fate the cruel sea had claimed the life of the last soldier from the village to die in the *Great War*, Private William Thomas Chaldecott whose profile was published in the October 2008 issue of *The Downsman*. Furthermore, there are similarities between the two U-boat commanders in that their vessels were destined to be sunk. For Oberleutnant Robert Heinrich Ramm of UB-123, death awaited him and his entire crew within days of his despatch of the *Leinster*, while for von Tiesenhausen a further year of hazardous duty lay ahead before his fortune ran out in the aftermath of a series of depth-charges dropped on the U-331 from an RAF Hudson. With his vessel crippled, a wireless signal was transmitted indicating surrender, but while on the surface a force of torpedo-carrying Albacores from the carrier *HMS Formidable* arrived, U-331's fate was sealed.

In the event, thirty-two of her crew perished leaving Hans-Dietrich and sixteen survivors to be plucked from the sea north of Algiers by an Allied seaplane.

The sinking of *HMS Barham* was a maritime disaster of the first magnitude; 717* of her company died immediately or from wounds received, and though telegrams to the next of kin, initially in the form of those dread words "*missing*", were delivered by December 8th, it was not until two days before Christmas Day that follow-up messages arrived confirming the death of their loved ones. Such awful tidings were thus brought to the door of No.12 Common Road, home for *Jimmy* and Olive Violet Lucas that their son, known to them and all his friends as *Billy*, would never return.

Even then, a full month after the tragedy, a further five weeks elapsed before the Admiralty released news of the loss in the form of a communiqué to the press. Eventually, readers of *The Times* were apprised of the official Casualty List on Monday, 23rd February, 1942, by which time not only had Japan entered the war as part of the Axis camp, but her air forces had, on 10th December 1941, sunk two of the navy's capital ships in the South China Sea; *HMS Prince of Wales* and *HMS Repulse*. These grim truths, mixed with the knowledge that the aircraft carrier *HMS Ark Royal* had sunk on the 14th of November, 1941, 30 nautical miles, or thereabouts, short of Gibraltar while under tow following a submarine attack the previous day. These were losses that the navy could ill-afford. Then, with the news from the Far East about as bad as it could be imagined, the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, was informed in the early hours of 14th February, 1942, that two of Germany's feared battleships, *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* accompanied by the light-cruiser *Prinz Eugen* and an escort of destroyers had broken out of the Brittany ports and were steaming at full speed beneath an umbrella of fighter cover toward the *Strait of Dover* and heading for their home ports in North-West Germany.

It is not within the remit of this profile to report further on this embarrassing chapter in our air and naval history, or on the heroism displayed that bleak winter's day by the combined efforts of the Fleet Air Arm and Royal Air Force crews, and I close with a reminder of the magnitude of the misery and suffering that the Second World War was inflicting on the people of our nation and of the many thousands of parents throughout the Commonwealth and Dominions whose sons and daughters were fully committed to fight against Nazi Germany and her cohorts.

Young *Billy* Lucas, just an ordinary seaman, had played his small part to the best of his ability. His sacrifice will be remembered in perpetuity for not only are his

details inscribed on the village War Memorial, but along with his fellow sailors from *HMS Barham* who perished, his name appears on panel 51, column 1, of the Portsmouth Naval Memorial.

Bill Chorley

Postscript. The casualty figure, marked *, has been taken from the Acorn web site and in particular from the *Hearts of Oak* segment where Billy Lucas's Christian name is incorrectly reported as "Wallace". From various reports posted on the internet, I have discovered that von Tiesenhausen

was born in Riga on February 22nd, 1913, and following his success on November 25th, 1941, he was decorated with the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross (he already held the Iron Cross, 2nd and 1st classes). During his time in U-boats, and in addition to the sinking of *HMS Barham*, he is credited with damaging *HMS TLC-18* on October 10th, 1941, and sinking the *USS Leedstown* on November 9th, 1942. Finally, *HMS Barham* had seen action at the *Battle of Jutland* in 1916, and since the outbreak of the Second World War had been on almost continual operational duty.

CALLING STRING PLAYERS!

**To join a new amateur String Chamber Orchestra being formed
in Sixpenny Handley in the Spring**



The group will be directed and conducted by Gay Cullingford,
a very experienced player and teacher in the area.
All violin, viola, cello and bass players who are of at least Grade 5
standard - or who were at some time in their lives! –
are invited to make contact.
If you are not sure what standard you are/were, get in touch and
we'll find out.

We will be exploring the wonderful repertoire of string ensemble music,
with weekly evening rehearsals during term times,
and aim to give occasional concerts for charity.

Please ring Gay Cullingford: 01725 516453 or email gcullingford@googlemail.com



A very big congratulation from Mum, Dad, Zoe, Fiona, Harvey and Granny and Grandad on coming 5th overall in your first race season of moto x, a big achievement for an 8year old!!!

Well done and good luck for the coming season!

Beyond the Stave

a musical evening, with a difference...



...including music for flute and piano by Beethoven, Handel, Susato, Godard, Gaubert and Rutter.

Saturday 28th March

7.30pm

at **St Mary's Church**

Sixpenny Handley

"an enchanting evening of music for flute and piano
cleverly linked by light anecdotes and sketches" *(Blackmore Vale)*

"a wonderful repertoire of pieces; a room full of talent" *(C. Markay)*



Mary Chelu - flute
Stephen Binnington - piano
Rosalind Wilson - actor/presenter
Fraser Wilson - actor/presenter

Proceeds to the Church 50k Challenge

Tickets £5.00 (U19s £2.00) available from the Post Office, The Vicarage (552608) or on the door.

Phil Beer

at Ebbesbourne Wake Village Hall on Saturday 21st Feb. 2009

Phil is one of the most popular ambassadors for acoustic roots music. A dazzling instrumentalist, he is perhaps best known as half of Show of Hands, a band that has sold out the Royal Albert Hall three times and who were voted Best Live Act by the public at the 2004 Folk Awards.

He is a top flight fiddler and also plays slide, Spanish and tenor guitar, mandocello, viola, mandolin and South American cuatro, not to mention his rich vocals.

The hall is always packed out when Phil is in Ebbesbourne
so book your tickets early.

Tickets are £10 from Paul and Judith Sampson on 780717
or from Judith at Fry's shop or visit www.ebbesbournefolk.co.uk.



Thursday 5th February

SIXPENNY HANDLEY VILLAGE HALL

Doors open 7.00 pm

Start 7.30 pm



ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS
THE CHASE PRE-SCHOOL
REGISTERED CHARITY NO.1033941



CARDS

**WHIST**

On a bitterly cold first Wednesday evening in January, the 2008-2009 competition reached its half-way point and though for Gerald Trickey, the pre-Christmas leader, it was not the best of nights, a second half recovery score of 90 (he managed only 68 on the first 12 deals) enabled him to cling on to first place with an aggregate total of 1,467 points. Meanwhile, his closest challengers, Nora Davis and Doug Haskell, were able to take slight advantage of Gerald's *stumble* and both now lie 2nd and 3rd having garnered a total of 1,466 and 1,463 points respectively. Hovering in 4th spot with 1,456 points is David Brine, this quartet now having opened a reasonable cushion over 5th place, presently held by Wilf Jacobs 24 adrift of David and only 6 clear of Marge Poolman (1,426). In order of merit, the remaining top 10 positions are held by Rita Austin (1,422), Chris Napier (1,415), Stuart Haskell (1,410) and Len Diggin (1,409), these being the only players to be going into the second half of the contest with aggregates of over 1,400 points.

As recounted, the evening was chilly in the extreme and with several regular players absent only seven tables were in play and it was John York who returned the best score, carding 178, 6 better than Betty White who in turn was 2 points ahead of Sylvia Thorne. In descending order "160 and over scores" were returned by Wilf Jacobs, Doug Haskell, Bill Peach, David Brine, Chris Napier, Kingsley White, Doreen Leverton, Nora Davis and Doris Gibson.

Eight players exceeded "150", Susie White and Stuart Coombs being best at 159 apiece but a veil of anonymity is best drawn over the remaining seven!

On the Saturday before Christmas the annual *Christmas Drive* took place but, sadly, the steady decline in numbers from previous years continued and only 11 tables were in play. Despite the paucity of competitors, Doug and Chris, aided by John and Nora Davis and a host of our regular players ensured that the prizes were of the highest quality and, including the *mini-draw* overseen by Peter and Mary Braithwaite, well over 80 prizes were on offer and I believe everyone present left the hall with at least one prize. Helping for the second year to distribute the array of *gifts* was Miss Jasmine Crabb, while the best whist score of the night (178) was handed in by a visiting player, Peggy Joyce, with Doris Day coming a very popular second at 171, while third went to Marie Parsons (167).

BRIDGE

For the Bridge Club, 2009 commenced with an excellent lunch at the Sports Pavilion. Organised by Trish Chorley and with catering provided by *Chase Manor Catering* who, as in 2008, came up trumps (no pun intended), the entire event was an outstanding success. Pre-lunch drinks were kindly supplied and dispensed by Gerald Trickey and John Davis while in the afternoon a mixture of rubber bridge and *Chicago* ensued. Trish, partnering Sheila Bradley, triumphed at rubber, while John Davis returned a score in excess of 3,000 to take the *Chicago* honours.

Bill Chorley

Village Hall 100 Club Winners

November

1st	£25	33	Mrs. Stone
2nd	£15	7	Mrs. J. Salmons
3rd	£10	131	Mr. T. Gibb

December

1st	£25	140	Mr. G. Jackson
2nd	£15	100	Mr. A. Hunt
3rd	£10	36	Mrs. W. Judd

Extra draw for Christmas £25 109 Mrs. L.Coombs

The 100 Club is run in aid of the Village Hall.

If you would like to join for £1 a month, please contact George or Bea Boyland on 552805.



Sixpenny Handley Bowls Club



As usual at this time of the year, we have been very busy these last couple of months.

Our quiz night was very successful again, and very well attended and we made a profit of nearly £500!

In November, we did something a bit different from our usual game and spent an evening at Fontmell Magna to play carpet bowls. We had a very enjoyable time and hope to invite them over for a Sunday afternoon and show them how our game is played.

We did not have as many members as we had hoped on our Hamper day, but we did play some good matches and Clifford won the Hamper, with Sarah a very close runner up. Patrick was 3rd.

On the 14th of December we had our annual lunch at Drusilla's. After lunch, our new President, Brian, thanked Gordon, our past President, for all the work he had done. Then followed the presentations of all the cups and certificates and, as usual, there were quite a few of those.

After all the festivities, we have started playing our matches again, and we hope the rest of the indoor season goes well.

A few dates to go on your calendar:

Singles competition: Sunday 1st February at 10.30 am

Pairs competition: Sunday 1st March at 11am

Quiz night: March 28th

Barbeque: July 25th

President's Day: August 15th

Jumble Sale: September 12th

Bea Boyland

Handley Sports Club '100' Club

Draw Number 10

£20	035	Mr C. Snape, The White House, Sixpenny Handley
£15	053	Mr S. Neave, 2 Rosefields, Blandford St. Mary
£5	008	Mr R. Guppy, The Garage, Sixpenny Handley
£5	075	Fran. Mathers

Draw Number 11

£20	035	Mr C. Snape, The White House, Sixpenny Handley
£15	168	Patrick Taylor, Stone Acre, Deanland, Sixpenny Handley
£5	115	Mr M.A. Rose, Littlefield Lane
£5	113	Nick Bainbridge, Dogwood Road, Broadstone

Draw Number 12

£20	108	Mrs Middlebrook, 6 Elfin Drive, Ferndown
£15	189	Neil Blachford, Verwood
£5	123	Mrs Cordina, Melbury Cottage, Sixpenny Handley
£5	090	Rod Gatrell, 6 Paddock Close, Sixpenny Handley



SIXPENNY HANDLEY WI JUMBLE SALE

Sat 28th Feb

Doors open at 2.30pm

**SIXPENNY HANDLEY
VILLAGE HALL**

Lots of Stalls

Tombola

Raffle

Entrance 20p

Items for sale may be brought to the Hall after 10 am on the day.
For collections beforehand ring Stella on 552236 or Jan on 552704.
Sorry, no large furniture.



News And Information

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

The Group Advent Carol Service held in St Mary's was well attended and enjoyed by all. The Federation Carol Service in Wimborne Minster the following week was, as always, very moving. Two days later we had our Christmas party. Members and visitors from The Group, friends from Link Lyndhurst, together with the County Chairman were entertained by a puppet show and a musical interlude performed by "willing members". Bobbie Carter was the producer.

We were delighted to welcome new faces to the January meeting. The speaker was Mrs Thom who took us through her French parents' wartime experiences under German occupation. Her mother was a teacher and a member of the Resistance. Her father had to join the army, was captured and sent to Buchenwald Concentration Camp. A goose pimple-making story, which held our attention from start to finish.

DATES FOR DIARIES

Mon Feb 9th Mrs Critchley: The search for a wreck in Patagonia.

Sat Feb 28th Jumble Sale: Village Hall 2.30 p.m.

Mon Mar 9th Mr Downes: Consequences of an Aircraft Accident.

Please phone the Secretary, Bobbie Carter, 01725 552042, for further information.

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Sixpenny Handley

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Oil Boilers and Oil Cooking stoves
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SIXPENNY HANDLEY VILLAGE HALL

FILM NIGHTS

Friday, 20th February

**007 Comes to Sixpenny Handley
James Bond in Quantum of solace**

Friday 20th March

Title to be confirmed

7.00 pm for 7.30 pm start

£5 at the door

SIXPENNY HANDLEY HORTICULTURAL AND HOMECRAFTS SHOW **5th SEPTEMBER 2009**

WE ALWAYS NEED HELP
IF YOU CAN HELP US IN ANYWAY WE WOULD BE
GRATEFUL TO HEAR FROM YOU.
WE ARE ALWAYS DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE DONATIONS TO
OUR RAFFLE/TOMBOLA.
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RUN YOUR OWN STALL PLEASE
PHONE CAROLE WYATT ON 01725 552572



**grow something
make something
show it**

SIXPENNY HANDLEY HORTICULTURAL & HOMECRAFTS SHOW 2009**Growing Hints - Vegetables****Tomatoes**

Sow the seed just below the surface in a tray of peat-based compost. Germination takes 6 - 14 days at 24C (75F) Sow early in the year for greenhouse crops, and early spring for the outdoor ones. When the seedlings have made two pairs of true leaves prick them out into 3in (7.5cm) pots and place them in a light, warm place indoors or in the greenhouse. The object is to produce short-stemmed sturdy plants. Transplant when the first flowers are showing. The greenhouse plants can be set into well-prepared border soil, into large pots or into units for ring culture. The most widely used method is the growing bag, allowing three cordon plants to each bag.

Outdoors a warm, sunny site is needed to ensure a good crop. After hardening off, set cordon plants 2ft (60cm) apart in rows 3ft (90cm) apart, bush plants 3ft (90cm) apart. Do this after the last expected spring frost. Both cordon and bush plants will do well in growing bags or large pots on a sunny patio against a south-facing wall or fence. Bush varieties need no attention other than a mulch to protect the fruit from being splashed and, in northern districts, protection with cloches to increase the yield of ripe fruit.

Cordon varieties, both in the greenhouse and outdoors, need support. Those outside can be given a bamboo cane to which the plant's stem is tied with either plastic string or raffia. In the greenhouse the stem of the plant is loosely tied to a length of string with the other end tied to a horizontal wire under the roof.

Plants in growing bags should be watered according to the instructions on the bag and fed with a liquid fertiliser. This should start when the fruit on the first truss has reached pea size. Cordon plants also need the side shoots removing.

Pollination of greenhouse plants can be assisted by gently shaking the plants and by spraying occasionally with water.

Leeks

Seed is best sown in January in trays of compost. Transplant seedlings individually to 3in pots when large enough to handle. Keep them in an unheated but frost free greenhouse until late April, when they can be transferred to a cold frame before planting out to their final positions in May. Leeks thrive on rich organic matter, so incorporate plenty of well rotted farmyard manure during autumn digging of the plot. Set out the young plants about 12in apart. Prepare holes 6-8in deep with a dibber (or crowbar) and place a plant in each hole. Fill the hole with water, but do not attempt to refill the hole with soil. This planting technique is unique to leeks. Keep the plants well watered from now on. To blanch the stems, plastic drainage pipes about 12-18in long and 3in diameter can be carefully placed over them when the plants are about 12in high. Plants benefit from regular feeding, but take care with high nitrogen fertilizers as these may cause the stems to split.

Beetroot

Sowings made in early April and early May usually give beetroot to cover the autumn show season. Earlier sowings are more inclined to "bolt" (prematurely run to seed). The soil can be autumn or spring dug. Do not add farmyard manure, as this causes the roots to fork, but the addition of spent growing bags or potting compost is useful. Remove as many stones from the soil as possible. Sow the seed, then thin the seedlings to 4in apart. Do this in the evening and water remaining

seedlings back in well.

Keep plants weed free, but take care when hoeing. If the hoe touches the roots, it will mark them and spoil their shape. As the roots push out of the soil, replace it with potting compost or finely sieved soil to prevent the root tops becoming "corky".

Cauliflowers & Cabbages

Brassicas need a rich soil which has been liberally manured. Dig in plenty of well rotted farmyard manure in the autumn and leave the soil to weather over winter. A light dressing of lime the following February is beneficial. Ensure the soil is well firmed prior to planting. Sowings are best made individually in cells to ensure strong development and to prevent checks to the plants' growth at planting out time. Autumn shows require mid April sowings. When planting out, allow plenty of space to give good air circulation. Two feet between plants each way is about right. Cover the young plants with netting if pigeons are a problem in your area. Keep the plants well watered throughout the growing season. Successive sowings of cauliflowers over a period of weeks help avoid "buttoning" or blind plants, and gives a better chance of quality heads at show time.

Onions from Sets

The soil is best dug in autumn, ideally having been manured from a previous crop. Onions thrive in a neutral or slightly alkaline soil and the application of a general purpose fertiliser is advisable. When planting the sets, be guided by the weather and soil conditions rather than by the date. For best results, plant rows 18in apart, with 12in between the sets in the row. Heat prepared onion sets can receive a setback if planted in cold soil or in a plot which has not been reduced to a fine tilth. When conditions are unfit for planting outside, these sets can be started in "shuttle trays" or "modules" in a cold greenhouse.

Keep well watered in dry spells. A weekly feed with a liquid manure is useful, while a high nitrogen fertilizer helps produce big bulbs – but beware because it can also lead to splitting if you overdo it. In late summer a potash fertilizer will ensure firm bulbs capable of storing well.

Once the leaves have fallen over in late summer, lift the bulbs carefully and leave them to dry for a few weeks on the surface. Careful drying off is important for skin finish. Loose skin can be removed but heavy skinning will lose you points on the show bench.

Carrots & Parsnips

CARROTS

Root crops have fairly demanding soil requirements. Begin by digging in autumn, but do not incorporate manure as this encourages roots to fork. For long carrots, it is worth acquiring a crow bar with which to punch holes in the soil. Aim for a hole about 2ft deep and 4in wide. Fill the hole with a 50:50 mix of potting compost and sand and firm it down. Sow about four seeds per hole, then thin to the strongest seedling as they develop. Thin in the cool of the evening and water remaining seedlings well afterwards. Ensure the compost mix is moist at all times.

PARSNIPS

Generally they can be grown in much the same way as carrots, but the prepared planting holes should be a little deeper and wider.

Both carrots and parsnips can also be grown above the ground in deep containers such as water butts. Alternatively, some exhibitors grow their carrots and parsnips in drainpipes. Both butts and

pipes can be filled with the compost and sand mixture.

Runner Beans

Dig out a trench about 9-12in deep in autumn or early spring, and line it with drenched, shredded newspaper to aid moisture retention. Then add some well rotted compost and replace the soil. It is worth sowing half a row of your chosen variety direct in the cropping positions in the first week of May. The other half of the row can be taken up with plants produced from sowings made in pots in the greenhouse, again in the first week of May. This should ensure that one of the batches is producing beans for a late show. Additional sowings made in mid May and early June will provide beans for the September show. As a general rule it takes about 14 weeks from sowing to the first setting of the beans.

Plants grown up a single row of 8ft canes means they will not become tangled. Consequently straight beans rather than curled ones will be produced. Runner beans need plenty of water if they are to thrive. Spray foliage and flowers in the evening to promote a good setting. When the beans have set, a weekly high potash feed is beneficial.

Potatoes

Dig in well rotted manure in the autumn. Manure which is too fresh produces haulms (tops) at the expense of tubers. Leave the manured ground to weather over winter. In January/February stand seed tubers up in trays or egg boxes to "chit". Place them somewhere light, airy and frost free. The objective is to achieve stocky, strong, green shoots. Once these shoots are around ½ inch, the tubers can be planted. Early and second early varieties can be planted from mid March to April. Draw out a trench about 6in deep and fill it with well rotted compost or the contents of spent growing bags. This will provide a soft and stone free environment in which the tubers can develop free from blemishes and cuts. Avoid mushroom compost for this purpose as its high lime content encourages scab. The addition of a general purpose fertiliser is also advisable. Place the tubers in the trench about 12in apart. Cover with a mix of soil and compost and lightly firm the row.

For exceptional specimens some exhibitors grow their potatoes in beds of leaf mould, as this gives the skin a superb finish.

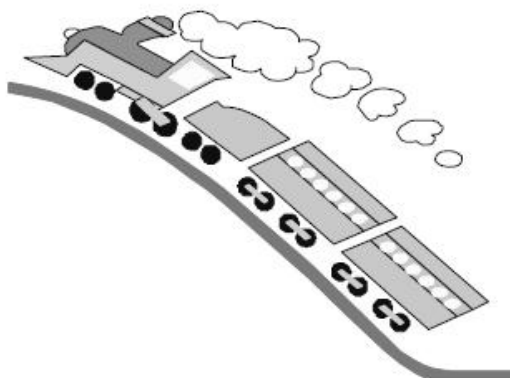
When shoots emerge above the soil, beware of frosts and be prepared to cover them. The best way to do this is to draw soil up into ridges over the shoots. When no more soil can be drawn over the shoots, protect them with horticultural fleece, ideally placed clear of the shoots themselves with a series of canes. Keep the plants well watered through the summer months.

THE CHASE GARDEN CLUB

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Rob's Column

Do you know a way of stopping your mouth from freezing up this winter? It's simple - GRIT YOUR TEETH!

On my way home from work I stopped off at the petrol station to put some air in my tyres as they were a bit flat. I put the air in and went inside to pay. The cashier said to me, "That's £2, please." "£2," I said. "It's air, for crying out loud. It shouldn't be that expensive!" "Well," he replied, "That's inflation for you."

The other day I bought myself some sensible walking boots and a little rucksack and I went up to the Lake District. I walked for about five miles then I stopped and sat on a stone wall and had a flask of coffee. Then I walked another five miles and stopped and had another flask. 'Oh, hell, I'm rambling!'

Everywhere is within walking distance - if you have the time!

This chap came over to me in the pub and said, "I was going to the shop this morning and your dog went for me." I said, "You're lucky - he doesn't go to the shop for me."

Please remember:

Don't forget:

Never leave the bathroom wet, nor leave the soap still in the water. That's a thing we never oughter. Nor leave the towels about the floor, nor keep the bath an hour or more when other folks are waiting. Please don't forget, it isn't done.

Keep it clean

Will ladies please rinse out teapots then stand upside down in the sink. On no account should bottoms be placed on the worktops.

(Seen at a Village Hall kitchen)

They say money talks.
Mine always says Goodbye!

My wife told me that she has given me the best years of her life. That's dreadful! It means there's only the worst to come.

How do you get a room full of old ladies to swear and moan?
Shout out 'Bingo'.

Good neighbours are a blessing.
They bring you peace of mind.
You never have to ask them.
They always have the time.
One such as you, dear friend,
Is very hard to find.

Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

Everyone makes mistakes. The trick is to make mistakes when nobody is looking!

The village Posties would like to thank all the residents of the parish for their generosity at Christmas and would like to wish everyone A Happy New Year.

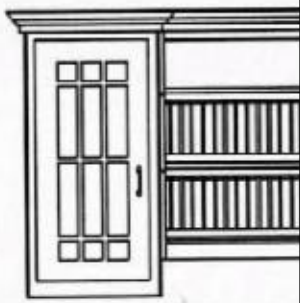
Sarah, Rob and Chris.

We stand once more at the end of the year
with mixed emotions of hope and fear.
Hope for the peace we long have sought;
fear that our hopes will come to naught.
Unwilling to trust in the Father's will,
we count on our logic and shallow skill
and, in our arrogance and pride
man is no longer satisfied
to place his confidence and love
with childlike faith in God above.
But tiny hands and tousled heads
that kneel in prayer by little beds
are closer to the dear Lord's heart
and of his kingdom more a part
than we who search and never find
the answers to our questioning mind,
for faith in things we cannot see
requires a child's simplicity.
Oh, Father, grant once more to men
a simple childlike faith again
forgetting colour, race and creed
and seeing only the heart's dear need,
for faith alone can save man's soul
and lead him to a higher goal.
For there's but one unfailing course -
we win by faith and not by force.



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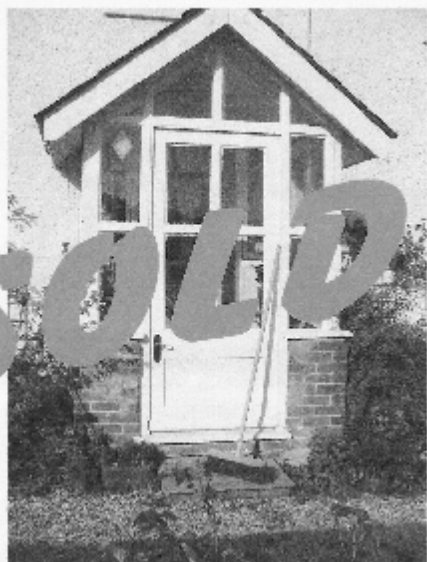
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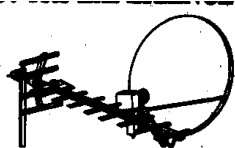
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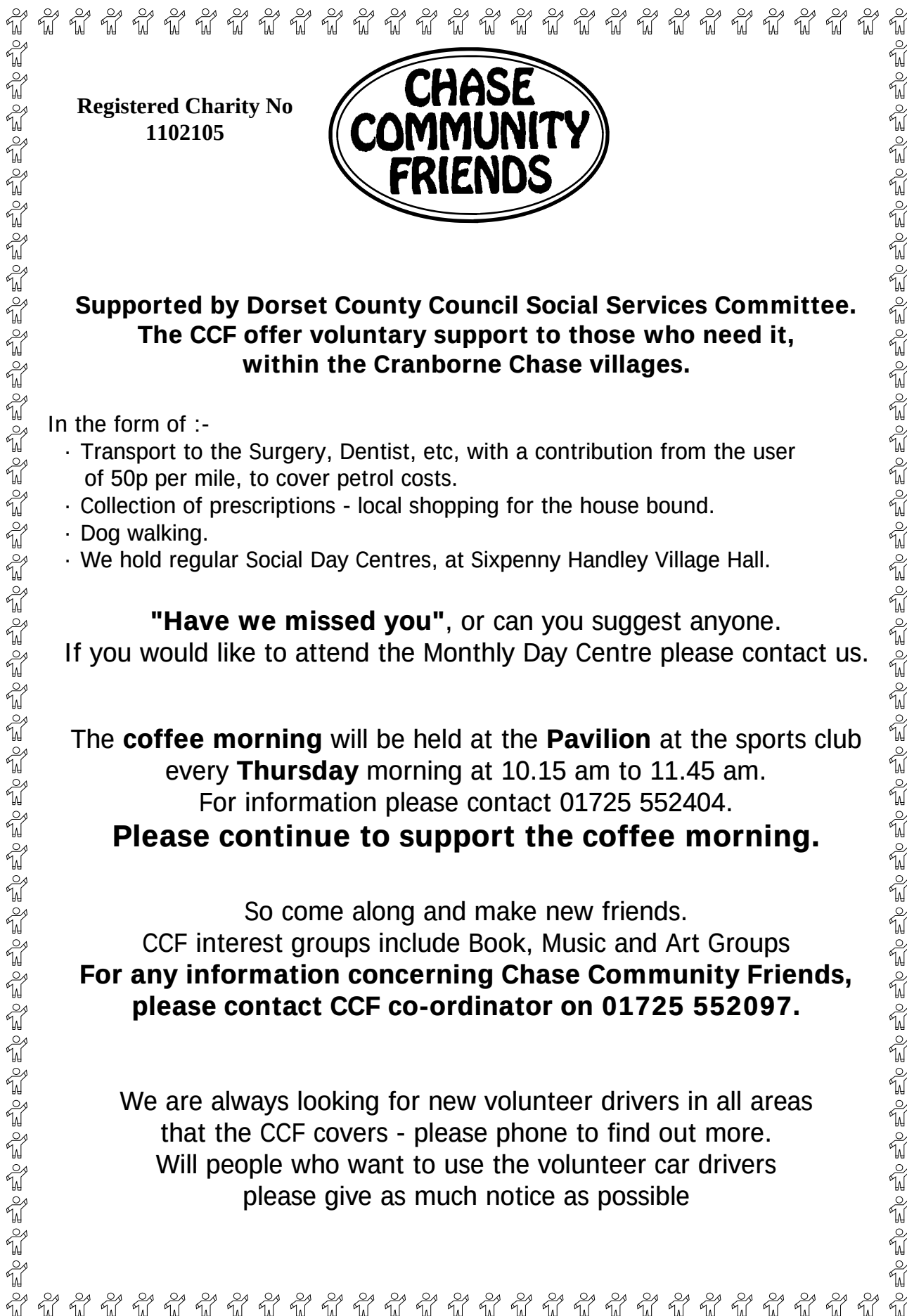
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"Have we missed you", or can you suggest anyone.
If you would like to attend the Monthly Day Centre please contact us.

The **coffee morning** will be held at the **Pavilion** at the sports club every **Thursday** morning at 10.15 am to 11.45 am.

For information please contact 01725 552404.

Please continue to support the coffee morning.

So come along and make new friends.

CCF interest groups include Book, Music and Art Groups

**For any information concerning Chase Community Friends,
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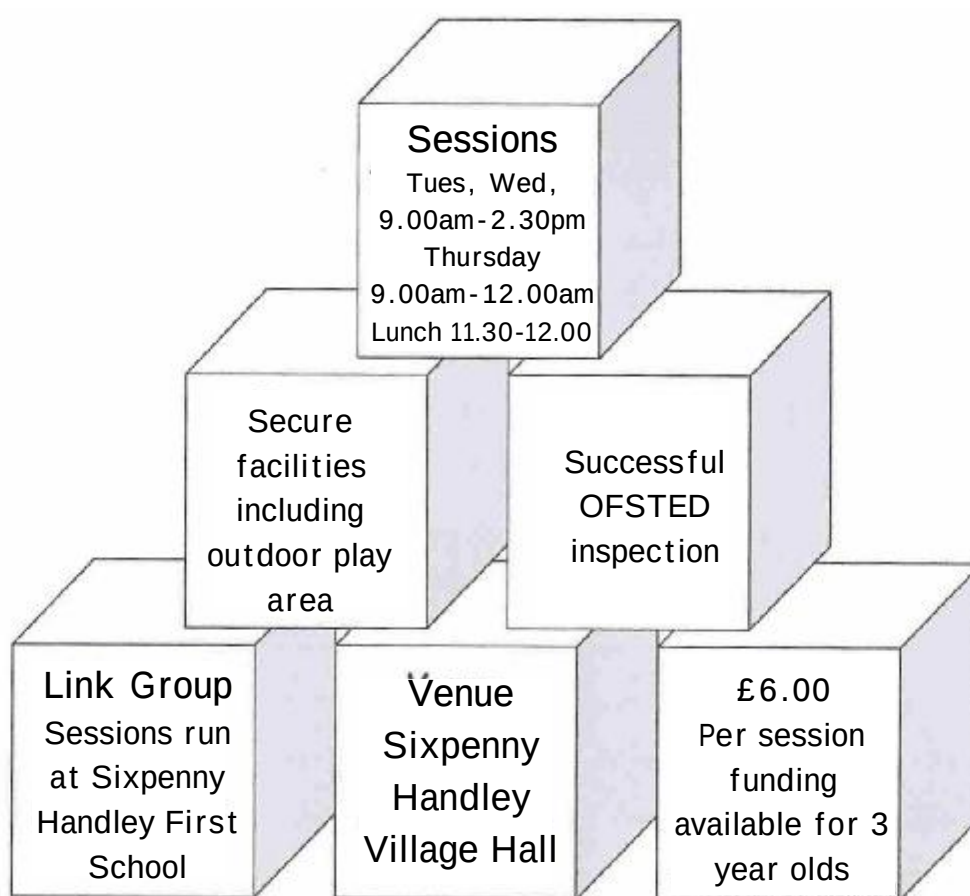
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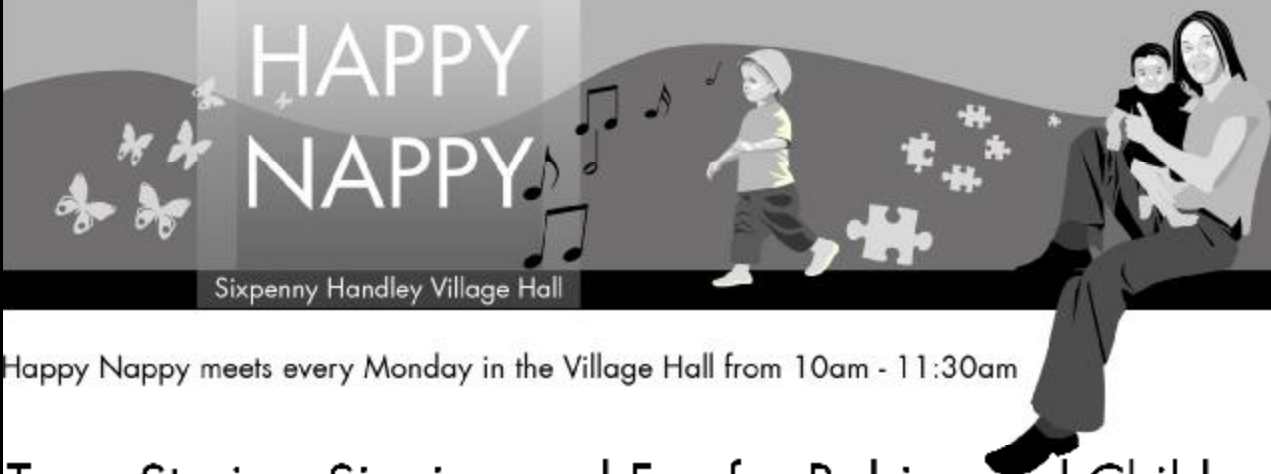
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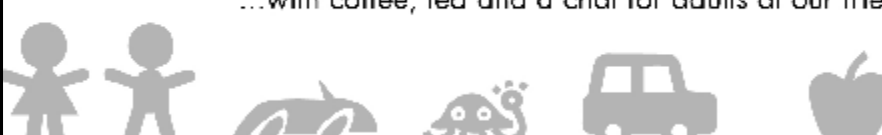


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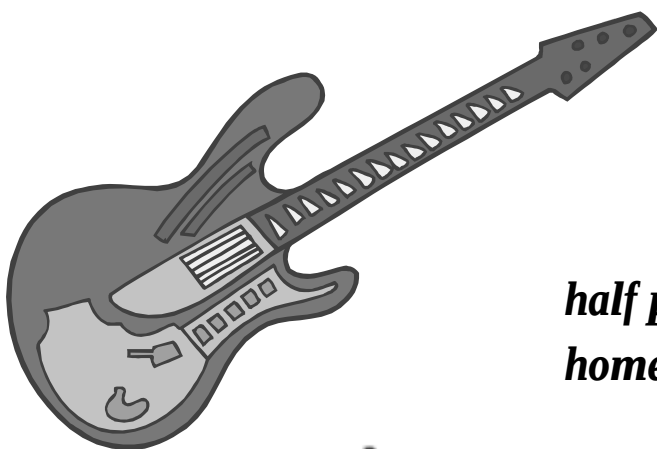


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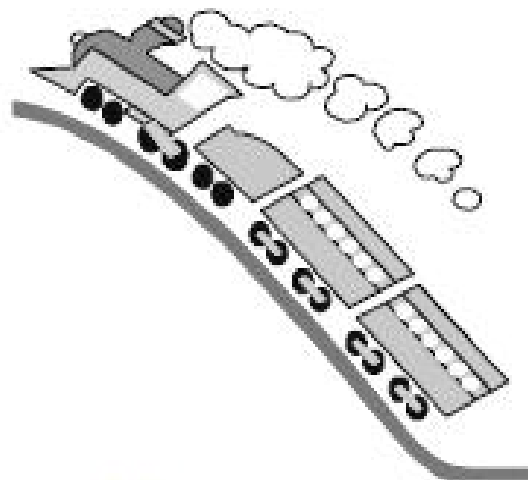
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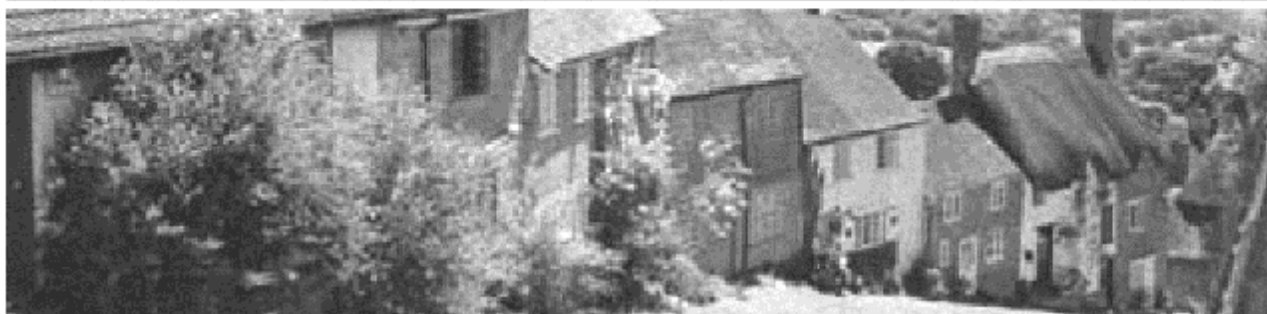
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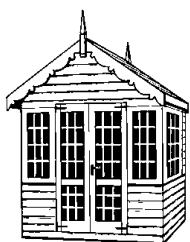
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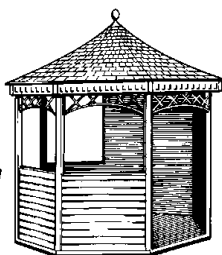
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The Downsman

DON'T FORGET WHAT'S ON!!!

DATE	FUNCTION	PAGE	DATE	FUNCTION	PAGE
1 Feb	Bowls - Single Competition	21	1 Mar	Bowls - Pairs competition	21
5 Feb	Bingo, Village Hall	19	5 Mar	Forest Forge Play: A Clearing	8
5 Feb	Mobile Library	7	5 Mar	Mobile Library	7
9 Feb	W.I. Meeting	23	9 Mar	W.I. Meeting	23
14 Feb	Pamper Day	9	13 Mar	COPY DEADLINE	3
19 Feb	Mobile Library	7	19 Mar	Mobile Library	7
20 Feb	Film: Quantum of Solace	23	20 Mar	Film Night	23
21 Feb	Phil Beer, Ebbesbourne	19	26 Mar	Chase Garden Club	15
26 Feb	Chase Garden Club	15	28 Mar	Concert: Beyond The Stave	18
28 Feb	W.I. Jumble Sale	22	28 Mar	Bowls - Quiz Night	21
			1 Apr	Next Issue	3
			1 Apr	Shred subscriptions due	13
			2 Apr	Mobile Library	7