

The Downsmen

December 2009

Happy Christmas



to everyone!

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

Pentridge

	Cllr R. Ferguson.....	552222
	Cllr Dr. J Gillespie Smith	552576

Vice Chairman	Cllr Mrs M New.....	552539
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<u>Clerk</u>	Christopher Snape.....	553001
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<u>Assistant Clerk</u>	Gill Martin.....	552297
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	Parish Office.....	552211
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<u>District Councillor</u>	Cllr S Tong	01258-840061
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<u>County Councillor</u>	Cllr T. Palmer.....	552321
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Fax 552405

<u>Member Parliament</u>	Robert Walter.....	0207 219 6981
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Rights of Way Liaison Officers

Sixpenny Handley	Mrs M New.....	552539
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Pentridge	Mrs M. Jones	552358
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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	
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St. Rumbold's, Pentridge

St. Andrews, Gussage St. Andrew

Rev Mel Durrant, The Vicarage

60 High Street, Sixpenny Handley

.....552608

Roman Catholic	Church of Our Lady of Lourdes &	
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St. Cecilia, Blandford Forum

Priest	Rev. Father Dylan James	
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The Prestbury, 55 Salisbury Street,

Shaftesbury..... 01747 852125

<u>Doctors</u>	Drs. Nodder, Morgan & Taubman	
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Dean Lane Surgery.....552500

Sixpenny Handley Village Hall

Chairman	Carole Wyatt.....	552572
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Secretary	Tony Gibb	552704
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Treasurer	Paul Skinner.....	552785
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Bookings	Jaqui Blake.....	552306
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Sixpenny Handley Homewatch

Overall Co-ordinator & Police Focal Point	John Curtis.....	552397
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<u>Co-ordinators</u>		
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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

<u>Schemes)</u>		
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Pentridge	Roy Elford.....	552911
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Woodyates	Mrs A Adams.....	552675
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<u>Police</u>	Wimborne Station..	01202 222222/
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07825 521735

Sixpenny Handley Allotment Holders Association

Chairman	John Curtis.....	552397
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Secretary	Jane Laing	553146
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Sixpenny Handley Horticultural Show

Chairman	Brian Hansford.....	552468
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Secretary	Carole Wyatt.....	552572
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Entries	Tony Gibb	552704
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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	
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Wimborne..... 01202 885233

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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<u>Happy Nappy Club</u>	Alison Dunford.....	552415
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Claire Easton..... 552038

Naomi Booth..... 552430

Vikki Russell..... 552322

1st Woodcutts Scout Group

Group Scout Leader	John Curtis.....	552397
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Explorer Leader	Andy Turner.....	552735
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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	Jacqui Tarran.....	552008
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Sixpenny Handley W.I. (Formed in 1922)

President	Mrs Maggie Staplehurst ...	552795
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Secretary	Mrs Bobbie 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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Chase Community Friends

Chairman	Dr. Geddes.....	552395
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Secretary	Vic Hatton	01258 840671
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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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Bookings	Bea Boyland	552805
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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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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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Secretary	Frances Churchill.....	552868
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Citizens Advice Bureau

Wimborne Branch	01202 884738
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Ferndown Branch	01202 893838
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Out of Hours Service	08444 772022
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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 : sixpennyhandley@dorsetparishes.gov.uk
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Please email 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.

Due to problems with production the Downsman Committee have decided they can no longer entertain the insertion of flyers in future copies.

The next edition of this Magazine will be published on the
1st February 2010
Copy Deadline is Thursday 14th January 2010
We would also ask that contributors make every effort to meet the deadline which is required to allow for printing, production and distribution

Views expressed in this magazine are those of our correspondents and contributors 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

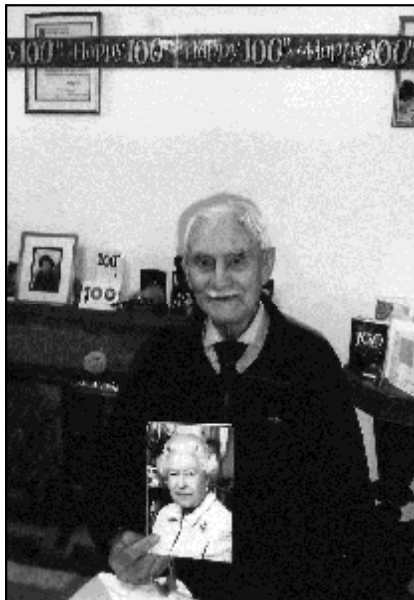
The following new plans have been received:

- 3/09/0901 Bodenham Cottage, 5 The Hollow** - Erect house and double garage.
- 3/09/0926 & 3/09/0954 – 67 High Street** – Open front porch extension and replacement single storey rear extension to form utility room and WC. Listed Building Application to include demolition of existing single storey rear extension and replacement extension using slate roof tiles and open front porch extension.
- 3/09/0948 Sixpenny Handley First School** - Pre-School Building and access ramp.
- 3/09/0982 Burley Road Farm, Handley Common** - Demolition of redundant farm buildings and construction of new dairy, parlour and collecting yard building, feed hopper and slurry compound and underground silage effluent tank.

The following plans have been previously considered:

- 3/09/0679 Sixpenny Handley Newsagents, 12 High Street** – Single storey side/rear extension to existing shop premises - Permitted.
- 3/09/0678 The Dairy Farm, Manor Farm, Handley Green** - Change of use of farm building (A2/B1 use) to micro brewery (B2 use) - Permitted.

Gill Martin
Assistant Clerk to the Parish Council



Many congratulations to Victor on reaching his 100th birthday.

(Please see page 9 for Godfrey Turner's history of Victor's life)

VICTOR FRYER'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

Mr Victor Fryer of Sixpenny Handley would like to thank the many friends and family who came to see him at his 'At Home' to celebrate his 100th birthday on 12th October and for the many cards and presents.

Also, many thanks to the kind folk who erected the birthday banner across the main street.

Again our thanks.

Richard & Marilyn (Son and Daughter-in-law)

MR & MRS R. MEDCALF

wish all the tenants of Handley Park

and their many friends

all good wishes

for a

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

and a prosperous NEW YEAR

Due to failing vision, Mrs Win Judd will be unable to send Christmas cards this year. She wishes everyone a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

LES AND BARBARA DAY WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYBODY FOR THE GET WELL CARDS, PHONE CALLS AND VISITS TO LES ON HIS THREE WEEK STAY IN HOSPITAL; HE IS SLOWLY MAKING GOOD PROGRESS.



S H R e D

Hopefully, members are now aware that there will be no collections during December and January except on request. We are hopeful that we can persuade more households to join the scheme in the New Year; otherwise this facility will be unable to continue. Everybody who uses the service realises that it is invaluable, but without support it will fail! Unfortunately, there has also been little interest in the sale of compost, but maybe in the Spring this also will pick up. If anyone has any ideas as to how we can ensure that this project continues we would love to hear from you.

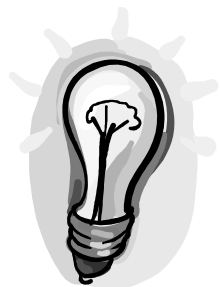
IF YOU DON'T USE IT, YOU'LL LOSE IT!!

Rita Taylor (Company Secretary)
01725 552885



Sixpenny Handley Sports Association

QUIZ EVENING

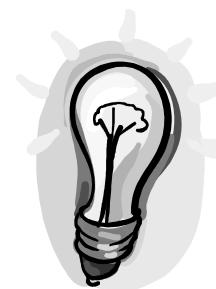


Friday 5th February 2010

At the Village Hall

£25 for a table of 4

including Light Supper

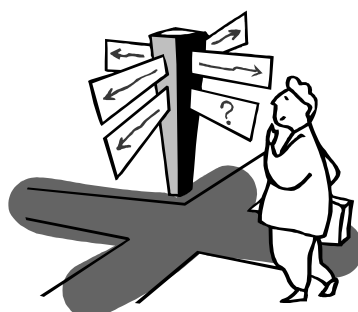


ALL AGES WELCOME

More information and to reserve your table

Please telephone Catherine on:

01725 552955



CAROL SINGING AROUND THE VILLAGE

**This is an invitation, especially to children who might not have been before,
to join in one of the best traditions of Christmas.**

**Most of the carols will be the well known ones. No-one will be auditioned before they can
join in!**

All you will need is warm clothes and a good torch.

**The group are singing on Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd December,
starting at 6.00 pm and finishing at 8.00 pm.**

**On the Tuesday, meet at the surgery car park, touring around the lower village;
on Wednesday meet in the pub car park, touring around the upper village.**

We are not collecting, but refreshments along the way are always part of the magic!

PLEASE COME AND JOIN IN!

**(For more information, contact either Paul Skinner on 01725 552785
or John Cullingford on 01725 516453)**

A Day at the Races

Sunday, 18th October, saw a great day of motor racing at Cashmoor. The Poole and Parkstone Motor Cross Club put on a really good day of fast-action races, with plenty of thrills and a few spills!

Thanks must go to Simon Meaden for hosting the event and to the race club for organising a safe and enjoyable day. Further thanks must also go to all the local people who supported this event. It was lovely to see so many people attend and give motor sport a chance to be seen locally.

To those unable to attend, maybe next year will see you there!

To those who oppose such events, PLEASE at least give it a chance and see the pleasure it brings to so many, especially the 6 - 50+ year olds who ride all year at clubs up and down the country in all weather. These organised race events keep so many young people focused in just the same way as any sport can - yes, a little noisier perhaps, but only for a few short hours.

Motor sport is great on TV, but close up it's so much more! Thanks to all.

**From Michele
on behalf of
Poole and Parkstone Motor Cross Club**

THE REAL VAN GOGH

The most comprehensive exhibition of his paintings drawings and letters, to be shown in London since 1968

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Sunday 21st March 2010

Travel and timed ticket entry: £30

Coach from Ham car park (free)8.30 am
or pick-ups along the A354

Application leaflets from June Davey
01258 830377
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Any profit will go to Naomi's House
and Jack's Place - children's and young
adults' hospices

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Rushmore Golf Club

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- Are you looking for a new location for your Christmas Party?
- The Christmas Menu is available for groups of 4 plus at lunchtimes and 20 plus in the evenings. Served from 1st to 24th December, but the diary is filling, so reserve your date now!
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Godfrey's History Department

A CENTURY OF YEARS - Victor Fryer

On Monday 28th December 1908, Sapper Victor W. Fryer, Royal Engineers, married Rosina Parsons. It was on Tuesday 12th October 1909 at 117 Britton Street, Gillingham, Kent, that Rosina, wife of Victor W. Fryer, gave birth to a son, who they named Victor. Victor was christened in the little Primitive Methodist Chapel in Old Market Street, Bristol in 1910 by the lay pastor, Charles R. Parsons (no relation to Rosina).

1912 saw his father come top of his class following a long course in engineering at nearby Chatham. He was awarded the Fowke Medal and was promoted to Staff Sergeant.

The family moved to Brecon, Wales, for a period and then they moved to Malta, where Victor's father was to be clerk of works. They sailed to Malta aboard the troopship Rohilla and Victor remembers being seasick! It was there that his father borrowed books from the Education Officer in Valetta and so began Victor's education at Imtarfa where a new military hospital was being built. His lessons were arithmetic, writing, spelling and dictation, little essays and mental work doing his lessons mostly in the early morning before the days became too hot. When the war started some of the families left Imtarfa and for four and a half years he was the only English boy there and he became popular with both the nurses and the soldiers.

The family returned to England in 1919. They travelled for two days aboard the SS Woodnut and then across France by train to Calais, arriving in the middle of the night where Victor remembers having bacon and eggs in the underground cafe at the Gare Du Nord. They crossed the channel and then onward by train until finally arriving at Bristol Temple Meads railway station in the early hours of Saturday, 24th May 1919 (Empire Day).

In the Autumn of 1919 his father was posted to Dover as Foreman of Works at the Western Heights. The family were quartered in a small bungalow where his sister, Margaret, was born. Victor attended the nearby army school and sat exams in reading, recitation, arithmetic, writing, English, English history and geography and passed to Standard VI in all subjects (a grade normally found in 13 to 14 year olds - Victor was only ten and a half) due to the superb education he received from his father in Malta. He spent a year in the preparatory form of Dover County School where he was always ahead of the other pupils and in 1920 he was awarded a Kent County Scholarship which would pay for his education until 1927.

In late 1921 his father was posted abroad. Victor, along with his mother and younger sister, Margaret, moved back to Bristol and there they were given a new council house in Fishponds from where he would cycle or travel by train to Cotham Grammar School in Redland. There he was introduced to French and science, also to cricket and rugby and received a book as a form prize. He has a happy memory of riding home on the train from Redlands to Fishponds with his maternal grandfather driving the engine.

In 1923 his father returned to the UK and in October the family moved to 8 Burford Road, Salisbury and later to 1 Burford Road. Victor's scholarship was transferred and he went to the Bishop Wordsworth Grammar School.

1925 saw him pass the Oxford and Cambridge Joint Board Exam with Third Class Honours. He had hardly ever seen a tennis racquet but won through to the final of the boys' singles, where he was soundly beaten. He returned to the sixth form for two years to do maths. He was made Captain of the tennis team and was also in the 1st XI soccer and cricket teams. He also held the record for running a mile in just over five minutes. He did rather neglect his maths, though, as in 1927 he failed the entrance exam to Bristol University and so on 1st September 1927 he started work as a junior clerk at the Midland Bank, Romsey, travelling there and back by train. His salary was just £4-3s-4d per month (£4.18).

In 1930 and 1931 he won the Free Churches Lawn Tennis Club Singles. In 1931 he reached the semi-finals of Salisbury's Open Men's Singles and also saw him pass the final Institute of Bankers Exam where he was awarded Distinction in Foreign Exchange and in Accountancy. He came first in all England in Accountancy and was awarded the Whitehead Prize. He had studied with Pitman's College for this and they awarded him their own prize at a Reception in the Royal Albert Hall. 1931 saw him move to the Ringwood branch and then on to the Guildford branch, once again travelling back and forth by train.

In 1932 he completed Part II and became a qualified Associate of the Institute of Bankers (A.I.B.). He came 15th in a pass list of 1,000 and 2nd in the Midland Bank. As an extra, he had gained the Senior Education Certificates of the London Chamber of Commerce in Bookkeeping and Accountancy and Banking and Currency. In his fourth year at Guildford he passed the final exam of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries.

Continued on page 10

The family lived near to Salisbury Congregational Church in Queen's Road so they became members there. Soon Victor and his father were singing in the choir (they had previously been in the choir of the United Methodists Church in Milford Street). Victor is a baritone and his father was a tenor. Another member of the choir was a Miss Stevens (known to everybody as Bunty) with whom he became acquainted in 1932 and romance began to blossom in 1935. He'd attended several tennis parties at her parents' home and saw her every Sunday at church. In August 1935 he was admitted into a Harley Street nursing home to have some wisdom and other teeth removed. Miss Stevens visited him there several times and they agreed that one day they would be wed. Their engagement was announced on her 21st birthday and they were married in 1937. Victor's Best Man was Frank Yerbury, a great pal he'd first met in Bristol as a boy.

Victor was now working in the Haslemere branch, so he lodged there and came home at weekends. After their marriage, they rented their first home which was Silver Birches, Buffbeards Lane, Haslemere. In January 1938 he was moved to the St Leonards-on-Sea branch and they rented a flat at 80 Marina. 1939 saw him win the Sussex Club Championship with the Amherst Club Team.

Sunday, 3rd September 1939, war was declared and he and his wife became Air Raid Wardens. Although banking was a reserved occupation Victor became unreserved and on Monday, 21st July 1941 Victor enlisted in the RAF at Lords Cricket Ground.

In May 1946 he returned home as Flight Lieutenant (Accountant Officer) and went back to banking at St Leonards-on-Sea and lived at 6 Vale Road. In 1947 he became treasurer of the local branch of the Marriage Guidance Council and also for the Silverhill Presbyterian Church but had to give these up when he moved to Hove in 1948.

In April 1948 a course at the bank's college in Oxted resulted in him being appointed No. 2 in the Portslade branch. Here he became local secretary to the Brighton Branch of the Institute of Bankers, joined the Royal Observer Corps, became a Deacon of the Hove Presbyterian Church (St Cuthbert's) and began learning Braille.

He started out on the Institute of Bankers Diploma in Executor and Trustee work but the war interrupted this. However, in October 1949 came his final success meaning no more exams.

In January 1952 he was appointed to a job in Head Office and moved to Woking with his family. Here he met Joyce Pearce who was founding the Ockenden Venture. Victor became its first

treasurer, and made a radio Good Cause Appeal for her as well as for her friend, Sue Ryder, as she, too, needed funds for her new charity.

In September 1955 he became Manager of the Romsey branch - back where he'd started work as a junior clerk in 1927. He had to give up the Ockenden and Sue Ryder contacts because of the distance from them. Some years later he received an invitation to go back to Ockenden for the visit of the Queen Mother and he was introduced to her.

On Wednesday, 16th January 1957, the Council of the Institute Bankers elected him a Fellow (FIB and now FCIB). This was an achievement for which he can be proud.

January 1959 saw him take over as Manager of the Boscombe Branch. Here he became Treasurer of the Royal Victoria Hospital League of Friends and became a member of the Finance Committee of the East Cliff Congregational Church.

In 1969 Victor retired from banking at the age of 60. He and his family moved to Sixpenny Handley straight away where he became Clerk to the Parish Council for two years, Treasurer of the local Conservative Association for many years, became treasurer of the Wednesday Club in 1979 and was Auditor of the Church Accounts.

On 15th February 1971, as Clerk to the Parish Council, he was on ITV outside the Roebuck Inn explaining why Sixpenny Handley would NOT become 'Two and a Half New Pence Handley'.

On Sunday 11th September 1972 he broadcast on the "In Touch" programme about the 'Fun and Frustrations' of transcribing print books to braille for the students' library of the RNIB for a quarter of a century. Some years later Victor was featured with his bread plate collection by Bruce Parker from the studio in Southampton. He'd collected over 200 in a 20 year period. Some of them have now been sold.

12th July 1994 Victor and his wife attended a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace as representatives of the Volunteer's Group.

On Monday, 12th October 2009, we all congratulated Victor on reaching his 100th birthday and receiving the Queen's Telegram.

Godfrey Turner



CARDS



WHIST

At the end of October, and with five rounds completed in the 2009-2010 competition, Gerald Trickey [last season's runner-up] held a slender two-point advantage over Edie Langley who in turn was a mere point ahead of Stuart Haskell, the top three aggregate scores being 819, 817 and 816 points respectively. Last year's champion, David Brine, was lying just outside of the top 10 in 11th place with 765 points and he faces an uphill struggle not only to retain his crown but also to be a serious threat to the leading trio for if the trend set in the past is repeated those who lead early on are almost certain to be in contention come the final round. However, the competition this year is fierce with the lead changing hands three times over five rounds; Mary Penny made an excellent start carding 175, 166 and 170 in the first three rounds only to fall away quite dramatically with two very much below par scores of 138 and 140 which leaves her in 6th place on 789. Meanwhile, Stuart Haskell who has been a 160 plus player

throughout the five rounds briefly occupied 1st place at the end of the 4th round only to be disposed of by Gerald at the close of round five. Presently, Mary Braithwaite has returned the highest individual score - 178 - [round four] but a non-attendance at the 2nd round means she will be subject to the 'average rule' when it comes to determining the finals positions in May 2010. This also applies to a handful of other high scoring players; Kingsley and Susie White; John Davis; Sheila Steel and Chris Napier to name but five.

Rounding off the top 10, Daphne Killeen is 4th with 794 points, followed by your scribe on 793, Mary Penny 789; Rita Austin 780; Doris Gibson 777; Doug Haskell 773 and Nora Davis 766.

So far the competition has attracted a total of 41 contestants with an average of eight tables in play at each drive.

Finally, the Christmas Drive will be held at The Village Hall on Saturday, December 19, play commencing at

7.30 p.m.

BRIDGE

Continues to flourish at the Sports' Pavilion and the standard of both bidding and play is, I am pleased to report, very encouraging. Recently, Gerald and Julie Trickey [playing East-West] turned in an excellent performance at Wimborne's Allendale Bridge Club by heading the averages for the 11 tables in play. The Allendale Bridge Club is recognised as one of the leading venues in Dorset with more than a few of its members playing at county level.

For new readers of this column, if you play bridge, or have an interest to do so [or whist for that matter], then please contact me on [01725] 552776. The Tuesday afternoon sessions get under way at around 1.30 p.m. with a break for refreshment [tea, coffee, biscuits] after 12 deals followed by a further eight hands, time permitting. The play is Chicago with duplicate scoring.

Bill Chorley



Sixpenny Handley Bowls Club

The Blackmore Vale season has started and so far the Tanners are doing quite well and I hope we can carry on! The 'A' team has only played one match at the time of writing, so watch this space.

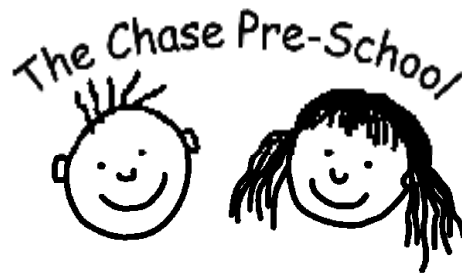
Our social secretary, Val, organised our presentation lunch in The Royal Chase in Shaftesbury and I think I can say it was enjoyed by everybody. Thank you, Val, for all your hard work. It was special as it is our 18th birthday this year and Doris, one of our first members, entertained us by telling us about the early days when the club first started.

As usual, Brian spent a lot of time sorting out all the competition winners and presented, with the help from some members, all the cups and certificates. Brian, we know you put a lot of hard work in this, and it is appreciated. Thank you.

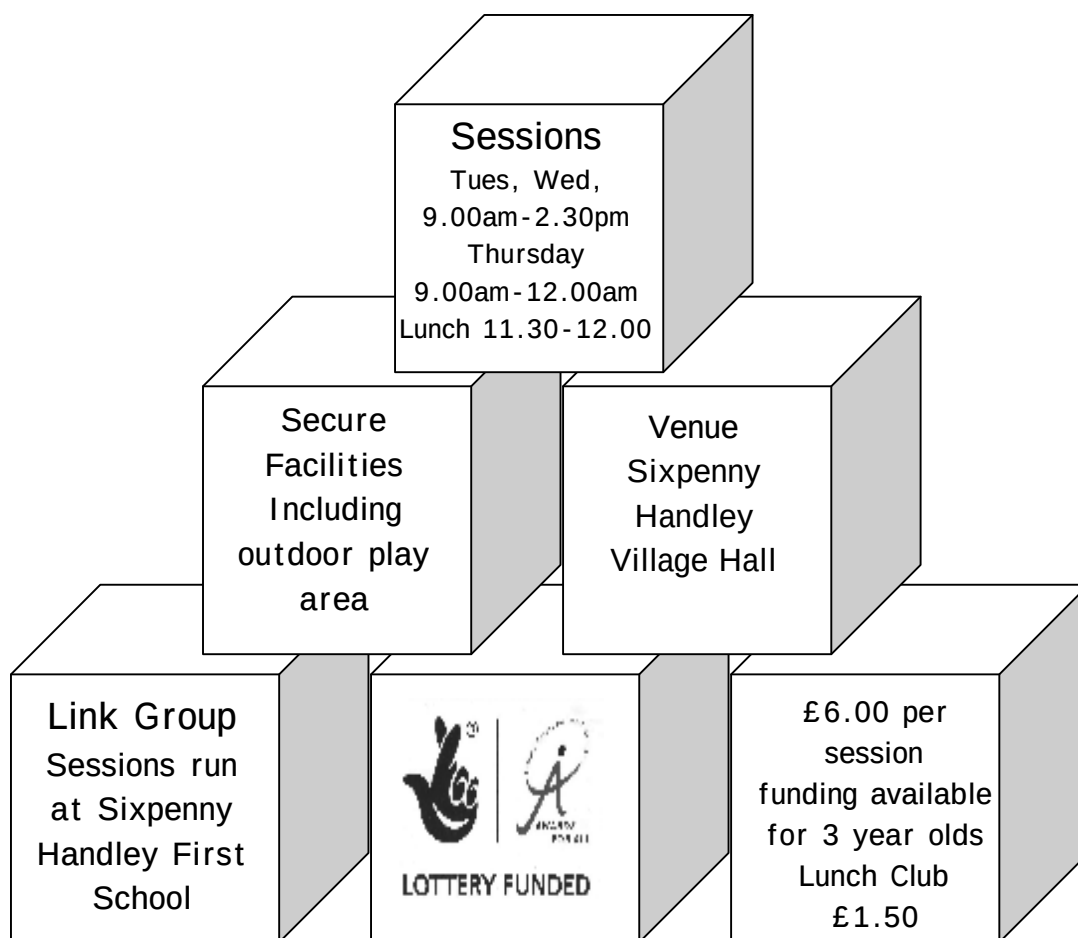
We are still always looking for new members and so we will be holding a **FUN DAY** on the afternoon of 10th January, with wine and mince pies. Of course we hope lots of people will come and see what our sport is all about and get to like it. We hope all the members can be available to help.

Enjoy the indoor season. Have a good Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Bea Boyland



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



“Children flourish in a happy and relaxed atmosphere
conducive to learning”

Successful OFSTED inspection report 2007

Call Emma: 01725 552412 or Andrea: 01725 552392 for more information.

The Chase Pre-School is a non-profit making organisation. Registered Charity No.
1033941.

AUTUMN FELLOWSHIP REPORT

Why The Fellowship Was Formed

As a result of the very successful Alpha Courses which were held in the village back at the turn of this century, there would have been a large void for many of us had not the Fellowship been formed. It aims were to question and debate all types of Religion, Spiritual Growth Elements and promote Christian Fellowship; also to share the occasional meal together. Although we use Bibles for reference purpose sometimes, it was never intended to be a Bible Study Group as there has been a very active one for many years in the village.

What We Do

During the Autumn we started watching a DVD called "They like Jesus, but not the Church". This DVD is divided into six study sessions, similar to what one might experience/follow in a Lent Course. The first session was called "The Danger of the Christian Bubble", (or the danger of being an inward looking group). A thought provoking evening which made us all take another look at "What is a true Christian?" and "Are we part of this Bubble?"

Another interesting meeting was spent when one of our members researched the history behind some of the hymns we sing in Church. We discovered that Frances (Fanny) Jane Crosby, although blinded when only 6 weeks old by an incompetent surgeon, went onto to write the words for some 8,000 hymns in her lifetime using a great many pseudonyms. One of her best loved hymns being "Blessed Assurance", which we sang amongst others.

Our October speaker was The Rev. Sheila Robertson who, with her husband, Ross, gave us a fascinating talk about their visit to the island of Iona, its Christian Community and the spiritual benefits it offers. This evening ended with Night Prayer led by Sheila and Ross.

We try to have a varied and interesting programme suitable for all denominations.

The Fellowship Group meets on a Tuesday Evening at various locations, details in the Church notices, and is open to everyone that wishes to further their Spiritual Knowledge. Anyone interested will always be warmly welcomed, even on an occasional basis.

For further details please contact: Paul Skinner.

Tel: (01725) 552 785

Bible Study

We are currently studying the Book of Tobit from the Apocrypha, a Biblical supplement. Tobit is the story of simple, every-day Jews trying to make their way in a difficult world while exiled in Assyria. It is the story of people trying to be good and to do good and, with God's assistance, succeeding. Over the years we have looked at both the Old and New Testaments so it is good to study a book that was not chosen to be in the official Canon.

Sixpenny Handley Tennis Club



Monday — Junior Coaching
Thursday 6.30pm — Club Night
(come along and play other members of the club)
Sunday 4pm—Match Practice

**New members welcome, for further details please
contact Tracey Lownds 01725 552414**



Call your friends and join us for a great evening of fun and prizes!

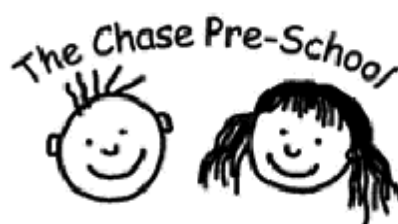
THURSDAY 3RD DECEMBER

SIXPENNY HANDLEY VILLAGE HALL

DOORS OPEN 7PM

START 7.30PM

TEA / COFFEE & HOME MADE CAKES



ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS
THE CHASE PRE-SCHOOL.

REGISTERED CHARITY NO.1033941

C/JX 672323 Ordinary Seaman Donald Lionel Bennett HMS Hurst Castle [K416]

'The only thing that ever frightened me during the war was the U-boat peril,' so wrote the prime minister of the time, Winston Spencer Churchill. The *Battle of the Atlantic* was the longest fought conflict of the Second World War, a battle conducted with vigour and tenacity by both sides across that vast expanse of open sea which in all seasons could be cruel to the extreme. It was a battle that involved sailors of many nations, both naval and merchantmen and where their chances of survival in a sinking were slim to say the least.

To explain the complexities of the battle is beyond the remit of this profile and it is suffice to say that had we not been able to counter the U-boat menace the outcome of the Second World War may well have ended in a German victory. Thus, the remainder of this article will concentrate on just three of the combatants and their part in the myriad of actions that took place in the North Atlantic and of whom only one survived.

Donald Lionel Bennett joined the Royal Navy as a boy and in the late summer of 1944 was serving aboard HMS *Hurst Castle* a Castle-class Corvette of 1,010 tons. Laid down in the Caledon Shipbuilding & Engineering Company yards at Dundee in August 1943, HMS *Hurst Castle* slipped into the grey chill waters of the *Firth of Tay* on 23 February 1944. Already a skeleton ship's company had been formed with Australian born Lieutenant Harold Geeves Chesterman DSC and Bar of the Royal Navy Reserve appointed to command. Without access to Royal Navy personnel records I am not able to say if Donald was present during these embryonic stages for it would be a further four months before HMS *Hurst Castle* was commissioned during which time gangs of workmen attended to the multitude of tasks necessary in fitting the ship with the requisites necessary for war, plus the clearance of snags and

the all important sea trials. I believe it is safe to say that for Donald this would be his introduction to operational service, while for Harold Chesterman the future would be a return to a stamping ground and life that he was very familiar, namely the Atlantic and convoy escort duties. HMS *Hurst Castle* would be his third command; all in Corvettes that had commenced in the spring of 1941 with HMS *Burdock*, followed by a two-year appointment to HMS *Snowflake* during which he gained his Distinguished Service Cross and First Bar, these prestigious decorations being *Gazetted* on 2 June and 14 October 1943 respectively. Although not specifically mentioned in person, Lieutenant Chesterman was responsible for bringing HMS *Snowflake* alongside survivors from the British oil-tanker *British Ardour* torpedoed in the North Atlantic by U-706 [Kapitanleutnant Alexander von Zitzewitz] and from the heaving swell successfully rescuing 62 souls. This was in April 1943 and the following month his gunnery crews assisted in the sinking of U-125 east of Newfoundland.

At around the same time that work started on HMS *Hurst Castle*, Werke Number 317 was nearing completion in the Deutsche Werke AG Kiel and on the first day of September 1943 U-482 a Type VII submarine was commissioned. By the high summer of 1944 with Kapitanleutnant Graf von Hartmut Matuschka, Freiherr von Toppolczan und Spaetgen, to afford him his full title, U-482 was ready for the first of what would turn out to be four sea patrols totalling 50 days. Putting out from Kiel on 6 August 1944, U-482 entered the Norwegian port of Horten on the 8th from where it slipped on the 14th for a two-day passage to Bergen. Its next patrol which commenced that same day was to prove fateful for HMS *Hurst Castle* and for 16 of her ship's company, including Donald Bennett.

For Matuschka the period twixt mid-August and late September would prove to be the most successful for any Type VII boat on patrol in 1944. On 30 August he was in contact with convoy CU-36 whose escorts included HMS *Hurst Castle* and before the day was out had sunk the 10,400-ton American registered tanker *Jacksonville*. Undoubtedly this sinking would have alerted the escorts and over the next hours a concentrated hunt would have taken place but Kapitanleutnant Matuschka running silent and deep managed to evade his would be killers. Two days later, and possibly outside the escort screen surrounding CU-32, he had in his periscope lens the unmistakable sight of a corvette. This would have been a time of incredible tension for the crew of U-482; was their boat in *Asdic* range and registering on the set of the corvette? I have little doubt that Matuschka carried out numerous careful sweeps of the surrounding sea before committing his boat to the attack.

When he did so for Ordinary Seaman Donald Lionel Bennett, 16 years of age, along with 15 of his colleagues their fate was sealed and at 0822 hours a single T-5 'Gnat' acoustic homing torpedo smashed into HMS *Hurst Castle* dealing her a mortal blow. For both captains their immediate concerns were similar; Matuschka, satisfied his torpedo had struck home, promptly dived while Chesterman had but one objective in mind and that was to get as many of the survivors off his sinking ship as quickly as possible. In their own separate spheres they were successful and within 48-hours of sealing the corvette's fate U-482 was tracking convoy ONF-251 and in particular the Norwegian freighter *Fiordheim*. For the third time Matuschka struck with deadly results, adding a further 4,100-tons of shipping to his tally.

Five days after despatching the *Fiordheim* U-482 was shadowing convoy HXF-305 off the north-west

Continued on page 16

Continued from page 15

coast of Ireland and it was in these waters that he sent two ships to the bottom. One was a rescue ship [such vessels accompanied the convoys in the hope of plucking anyone who survived the trauma of sinking to safety], the *Pinto* but as far as the Allied war effort was concerned Matuschka's second victim was of prime importance for the 15,702-ton British owned *Empire Heritage* was laden with American Sherman tanks, all earmarked for issue to our armies fighting in Europe. These now litter the seabed off Donegal.

This brought to a close Matuschka's successful intercepts though it was not until 26 September that he returned to the relative safety of Bergen harbour. Like his counterpart Lieutenant Chesterman, Kapitanleutnant Matuschka was honoured by his country; an Iron Cross Second Class had been awarded quite early in the war and this was followed by the Fleet War Badge in 1941 while awaiting him as he tied up at Bergen was news that he was now a recipient of the German Cross in Gold.

Born in Dresden-Blasewitz on 29 December 1914, Graf von Hartmut Matuschka is believed to have perished along with his entire company of 48 submariners, himself included, on 25 November 1944 with the loss of U-482. There is, however, much conjecture as to the circumstances surrounding the loss of U-482 but according to revised intelligence from the Admiralty it is believed the U-boat ran into a sea-mine off Malin Head. Guomunder Helgason, who has conducted an exhaustive search of naval records from both sides of the conflict, and whose web site I acknowledge for much of the background material that has allowed me to present this profile of young Donald Bennett [he was the youngest serviceman from the village to lay down his life in either of the two conflicts that have dominated these articles over the years], lists no less than three differing accounts. Two settle

on 25 November 1944 [one includes the re-assessment from the Admiralty] though in order that all avenues be explored he mentions 16 January 1945 as a possibility. An attack by depth charges from HMS *Ascension* is given as one possibility for 25 November, the location of the attack being reported as west of the Shetlands in position 60.18N 04.52W, while the January date shows the sinking as taking place in the Northern Channel [55.30N 05.53W] following sustained depth charging from the sloops *Peacock*, *Starling*, *Hart* and *Amethyst* and the frigate HMS *Loch Craggie*.

As I remarked at the beginning of this article the intensity of effort put into the *Battle of the Atlantic* was paid for in the lives of thousands of servicemen from both sides. For those fighting the battle on the surface there was always a slim chance of survival; the images of oil-blackened seamen with bright-staring eyes huddled in open life-boats or clinging to flotsam thrown to the surface when their vessel sank feature in many of the wartime newsreels but few escaped from the U-boats. More often than not for these close knit crews 'home' became their tomb as the Allied depth charges either opened up their hulls or sent them out of control to the deep where the sea-pressure would crush what life remained. It was a brutal time for all concerned as the following report posted by the compilers of *u-boot-waffe.net* confirms. When U-125 was rammed in May 1943 by HMS *Oribi* and mistakenly believed to have been sunk, her commander Kapitanleutnant Ulrich Folkers immediately broke radio silence requesting his base for assistance. However, her plight on the surface was discovered by the corvettes HMS *Sunflower* and *Snowflake* and as recounted earlier her fate was sealed. However, although listing badly U-125 remained on the surface and with HMS *Snowflake* coming up alongside Ulrich Folkers and his crew [54 in total] jumped into the water in the knowledge

that they had set scuttling charges to prevent their boat from being captured. At this point the captain of HMS *Sunflower* radioed the escort commander for permission to heave to and pick up the U-boat crew but his request was denied - probably because it was thought that other U-boats were in the vicinity and as a consequence all 54 perished. Such incidents were rare but the *Battle of the Atlantic* had to be fought to the finish with the victor reaping the spoils. Very fortunately these spoils, ultimately, were ours and Europe was free from an unthinkable future in the grip of Nazi led socialism.

Bill Chorley

Postscript. Donald Lionel Bennett's name is commemorated on the Chatham Memorial and it is with immense sadness that I conclude his report with the following words, given in a statement from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and posted on their web site; '*As a result of constant vandalism at the Memorial the Commonwealth War Graves Commission has had to arrange for it to be regularly patrolled and public access limited to the period 08.30 to 17.00. Should for any reason the Memorial be closed during the stated hours, please telephone the Guardroom at Brompton Barracks on 01634 822442 who will arrange for the gates to be opened.*'

What a terrible inditement of our times that servicemen and women who in so many cases lost their lives well before they might enjoy the freedoms that our youth of today enjoy should have their names ingloriously besmirched by the mindless actions of a few.



**DO YOUR CHRISTMAS
SHOPPING IN EBBESBOURNE!**

Pandora Stormonth Darling will be holding a sale at her home in Ebbesbourne Wake on Tuesday 8th December. Her company, PJ Pan, sells a stunning collection of ladies cotton pyjamas, pyjama bottoms, pyjama shorts (great for teenagers!), alpaca bed socks, knitted slippers and handmade organic soap. There is also a range of men's boxer shorts and pyjama bottoms coming very soon. Please come along to Barrow View between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm – everyone welcome! If you can't make this date but would like to see the collection another day, please call Pandora on 01722 780499 to arrange a time.

Barrow View is in the centre of the village on Handley Street, two doors down from the pub (SP5 5JG).

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EAST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL

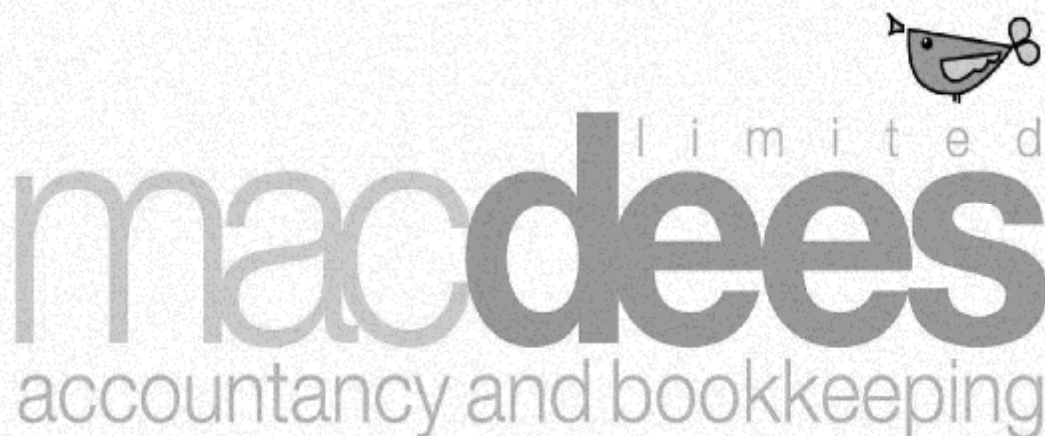
has now supplied a
bank for recycling cartons.

This is situated alongside the other recycling banks at
Church Farm in Sixpenny Handley
and is a bright orange cube, so it is hard to miss!

This is great news as cartons are not acceptable in the kerbside green box.
(By cartons this means liquid food and beverage cartons
(ie Tetra Pak - eg. orange juice or drinks cartons.
It is not intended for plastic containers or cardboard).

East Dorset
District Council





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Normality Returns to Woodcuts!

On the 2nd November, the last painted lady was seen at Woodcuts, so the red light district can be bulldozed. (If this means nothing to the reader, please refer to the previous edition of the Downsman). In the Telegraph of Saturday 14th November, there was a report on what was heard on Autumn Watch the previous night about painted ladies. Apparently some have been seen on the south coast, obviously waiting for the return migration to warmer climes. No indication was given to numbers seen, but it would seem that they are only a very small fraction of the original incomers. With the recent winds blowing from the south west, it is very doubtful if they have made much headway as yet.

So normality returns here for at least seven months. Or does it? It has been some twenty years now that we have been aware of the possibility of climate change. Twenty years during which we have seen plants flowering over a much longer period, birds nesting both earlier and later in the year, trees in leaf much earlier than previously and holding on to their leaves much later in the season than previously and, of course, much milder winters.

Today, twelfth November, finds many trees still carrying green leaves and presumably carrying out the process of photosynthesis, as they have done since buds burst in the spring. (Please note that I have used words instead of numbers for the date, hoping that the editor will not spot the fact that I am still writing this, when I should have already sent it in, as the copy date is passed!) Thinking back to bonfire nights many years ago (I was going to say fifty years ago, but I realised that nobody would believe that I could remember so far back), it was always very cold and there was always an incentive to get as close to the bonfire as possible, even though we wore 'overcoats'; garments which the

modern generation have never heard of. If, as a child, I had found a live butterfly flying outside three days before bonfire night on the 2nd November, I would have been amazed. Now I actually found a peacock butterfly, very battered and worn, with only three wings, the left rear having been completely lost, flying in the garden on the 14th November. It was still very active and disappeared before I could photograph it. This was the day after the torrential rain and high winds that had caused minor flooding in the area.

Maybe the weather conditions aren't all good for our wildlife but there is a lot to be said in their favour. Temperatures remain high for the time of the year and the rain ensures that vegetative growth continues. If you are in any doubt about this, all you need to do is look at the fields of winter cereals and oil seed rape that have been drilled this back end of the year. The overall germination and plant populations look very good at the moment, but these conditions do have their problems. If crops are growing well, so are weeds, slugs, insect pests and fungal diseases, so it isn't all sunshine and roses for the farmer.

Generally, though, most of our animal wildlife will be entering the winter on a high, with berry eating birds enjoying a glut; with holly, ivy, rosehips, spindle, and yew all abundant. For the insectivores there are many insects still flying, so they will not have to change their diets completely yet, or start the hunt for the grubs hidden under bark or in the leaf debris on the ground.

Our bird feeders in the garden here have not been used extensively for many weeks. There have been various tits visiting but very few finches and only the occasional robin, sparrow, blackbird and none of the bigger birds such as the collared doves, wood pigeons and

jackdaws. The one species that has been a regular visitor is the nut hatch, but even then not as regular as before. Presumably as the days continue to shorten, the weather gets colder and food becomes scarcer, regulars will return. Their food will be waiting when they do.

The numerous berries on the cotoneaster along our front fence always leave me hoping that a waxwing will find its way there one day, but I suppose I will have to forget about that as they stick to the east coast, but I live in hope that one will loose its way one day. Gold crests are infrequent visitors to our garden and to encourage them, we have included a niger seed feeder with the other seeds, nuts and fat balls, only to find the only goldfinch to visit, actually spent its time eating the seeds out of the heads of the dead michaelmas daisies some feet away.

I did have the luck to see a mixed flock of tits on the outskirts of a wood nearby. As I walked along the edge of the wood, I came to an oak tree covered with ivy, in which I heard numerous birds fluttering and singing in several different tunes. I sat down underneath the tree to listen and watch. The first to show themselves were long tail tits with their very acrobat manoeuvres and cheerful song, followed by blue, great, marsh and coal tits as far as I could ascertain in the failing light. I had a camera with me but the light was too bad for photography. As I had approached I disturbed a buzzard which had been hovering over the side of the wood, so I assumed that the flock of tits were celebrating the buzzard's going.

There is so much going on in the countryside at present, but I am afraid that I have to finish now as I am already late - hopefully I will have more to tell you next time.

God bless you all.

Ted Cox

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EMAIL: churchfarmcandcpark@yahoo.co.uk

SATURDAY 5TH, 12TH, 19TH DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS DINNER EVENINGS

BOOKINGS ONLY PLEASE. £5 PER PERSON DEPOSIT REQUIRED.

ALTERNATIVE DATES CAN BE ARRANGED FOR BOOKINGS OF 10 OR MORE.

OPEN CHRISTMAS EVE –

LICENSED BAR, MUSIC AND BUFFET

**£5.95 PER PERSON – PLEASE BOOK FOR FOOD,
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LICENSED BAR, MUSIC AND BUFFET

CONTACT US FOR MORE DETAILS

FRIDAY NIGHT – FISH & CHIPS, etc

6PM – 9PM Eat in or Take Away.

SUNDAY LUNCH – ROAST DINNER

12.30PM – 2.30PM

LICENSED BAR FOR 6TH, 13TH, 20TH DECEMBER!

***We won't be serving Breakfast through December and January,
but it will commence again in Spring 2010!***

Thanks to everyone who's supported us so far and Merry Christmas!

Everyone Welcome!

We also cater for functions!

***Contact us for more information or see our boards on site for further
details. Also you can visit our website for updates!***

www.churchfarmcandcpark.co.uk



News And Information

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

On October 12th Simon Curson came to give a talk on The Magic of Moths. It was an interesting session illustrated with a very intensive slide show. He was extremely passionate about his subject and dispelled for many of us the idea that moths are dull and boring, as many of the slides shown were very colourful.

The Autumn Council meeting of the Dorset Federation of Women's Institutes was held on 22nd October at The Lighthouse Theatre in Poole. 14 members from Sixpenny Handley attended. There were two guest speakers throughout the day, one being Jen Green who gave a very amusing talk about her Aunt May, and the second was Bob Flowerdew of Gardeners Question Time fame. It was certainly an informative and enjoyable session.

On 28th October, 9 members attended the Autumn Group Meeting at Melbury Abbas. The speaker, Mrs Margaret Adams, a farmer's wife, gave a talk about her life with the 'boss' (her husband) which can only be described as hilarious; definitely a book in the making! The evening was well attended and enjoyed by all.

At the first meeting in November Ms Annette Williams gave a talk entitled The Wessex Influence – crafts. There was a display of some of the elaborate work she had produced over the years; she obviously is a very talented lady, and hopefully some of our members were inspired to try some of her creative ideas.

There is a craft group, which meets separately once a month and at present are making a hand-stitched hexagonal patchwork bedspread. Hopefully there will be a photograph available in the next issue of the Downsman in the New Year.

Dates for the Diary

3rd December: Group Advent Service at Iwerne Minster.

14th December: Christmas Meeting and Party

11th January: Not Dead Again - Mrs Pauline Giles

Rita Taylor
(Committee Member)

RNLI

I am sure that you would like to know the total raised from the 'Front Path Stalls' which was held at our house on the August bank holiday.

Despite the second day of the two-day event producing most unhelpful weather (it poured!), the money we banked in the RNLI account was finally £645.

Over the two days we took £360 and the rest came from orders put in by people who were unable to attend and wanted to contribute.

Thank you so much for your continued and generous support.. I look forward to seeing you next year!

Sheila Bradley
(Secretary, Blandford branch)

Mobile Library Schedule - Visits on Thursday Fortnightly

Woodyates – Cobley 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

**December 10th, 24th,
January 7th, 21st, February 4th**

THE CHASE GARDEN CLUB

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

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

gifts for the family

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1st Woodcutts News

12th September 2009

First-class Firework Fiesta!!!



Pyrotechnical Panorama

Once more the people of Handley were treated to a grand display of fireworks courtesy of Woodcutts Scouts. After the torrential rain last year everyone was keeping their fingers crossed for better weather. On the day of the event the weather remained dry allowing Rob and gang to prepare Church Farm campsite for the pyrotechnical extravaganza.

A clear sky brought out over a thousand locals, who converged on Church Farm making this year's display was the most successful so far.

Each year the show gets bigger and more popular and this year was no exception. The scouts had asked other local groups to use the event to do a little of their own fundraising, so this year there were even more to enjoy than ever before.

Each year the show has had the usual refreshments of hot drinks, soup, hot dogs and

burgers, but this year's display also featured a very popular bar where lager, cider and cask Badger beer were enjoyed by the over 18s, whilst soft drinks were served for those under 18 and those who were driving home.

This year the event was split into two shows, a more visual and less explosive early evening display designed for the very young and those of a more nervous nature, which was followed by the main display. Those who turned up early and stayed to the end were rewarded with two spectacular displays. Each show featured a multicoloured display with a variety of whizzes, bangs, sparkles and flying fireworks.

The Scouts would like to thank everyone who turned up to the Sixpenny Handley firework display this year. As a result we raised over £3000.

1st Woodcutts Scouts, Handley Common, Sixpenny Handley, Salisbury. SP5 5NJ

<http://www.firstwoodcutts.org.uk>

1st Woodcutts News

12th September 2009

Spotlight on the Beavers



The Beaver colony takes children from the age of 6 to 8, and meets on a Wednesday from 5.00 pm to 6.00 pm. They are easily recognised by their distinctive turquoise sweatshirts. The colony has proved to be very, very popular and the group is full, having 24 members with a modest list of children waiting to join as the older Beavers leave to join the Cubs. Two of the very first Beavers have recently been invested in to scouts. In September the older Beavers spent an "X-Treme" day at Buddens Camping and Activities Centre near Wareham. Activities included abseiling, archery, climbing and orienteering. As you can see from the photo above it is pretty fair to say that all had an extremely good time! The Beavers all had a hoot at this year's Halloween party - during the party they had a go at apple bobbing and guess the contents of a series of a disgusting feelie boxes.

Members of the Beaver colony are constantly working hard at achieving badges and you will be impressed to hear that some of the Beavers are due to be awarded the Bronze chief scouts award. This is the highest award for Beavers. It is gained by completing six separate challenge badges.

The next major event for the Beavers will be a visit to the Tivoli theatre in Wimborne for this year's Pantomime, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs!

Other Activities

Remembrance Day: For those of you who didn't attend the Remembrance Day service you'll have missed 77 scouts marching up the High Street in the rain to the war memorial in tribute to those who gave their lives during two world wars and more recent conflicts. The Scouts would like to thank the local current and ex-servicemen who joined them in marching on Sunday.

1st Woodcutts Christmas service: This year's 1st Woodcutts Christmas service at St Mary's will be held on Sunday 6th December. Last year's service was a great success. This year we would like to invite the village. You can expect to see hard earned activity badges being awarded to scouts and hear each section singing their own hand picked Christmas carols; last year the explorers sang Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. Who knows what it will be this year!

1st Woodcutts Scouts, Handley Common, Sixpenny Handley, Salisbury. SP5 5NJ

<http://www.firstwoodcutts.org.uk>



Age 6-8
Wednesday 5 to 6pm
Denise Turner (Willow)
01725 552735



Age 8-10½
Wednesday 6 to 7.30pm
Andy Young (Akela)
01725 553166



Age 10½-14
Monday 7 to 9pm
Rob Easton
01725 552038



Age 14-18
Wednesday 7.30 - 9.30pm
Andy Turner
01725 552735

Group Scout Leader
John Curtis
01725 552397

Country Rambles by Richard Harwood

The wildlife of today is not ours to dispose of as we please. We have it in trust. We must account for it to those who come after. (King George VI)

We seem to be finally sliding into winter, the leaves on the trees are reluctantly giving up their hold on the branches, and the temperature is dropping. What a funny but beautiful end of year it has been; I have seen baby rabbits and butterflies in October, and have continued to pick crops in the garden long after their normal season. As the temperature drops we will want to heat the house and those of you with open fires may find this Old Devon Rhyme interesting

Logs to Burn

Read these lines and generally learn

The proper kind of logs to burn.

Oak logs will warm you well

If they're old and dry.

Larch logs like pinewood smell,

But the sparks will fly.

Beech logs for Christmas time

Yew logs heat well.

'Scotch' logs it is a crime

For anyone to sell.

Birch logs will burn to fast,

Chestnut scarce at all.

Hawthorn logs are good to last

If you cut them in the fall.

Holly logs will burn like wax

You should burn them green,

Elm logs like smouldering flax,

No flames to be seen.

Pear logs and Apple logs

They will scent your room.

Cherry logs across the dogs

Will smell like flowers in bloom.

But Ash logs, all smooth and grey,

Burn them green or old;

Buy up all that come your way,

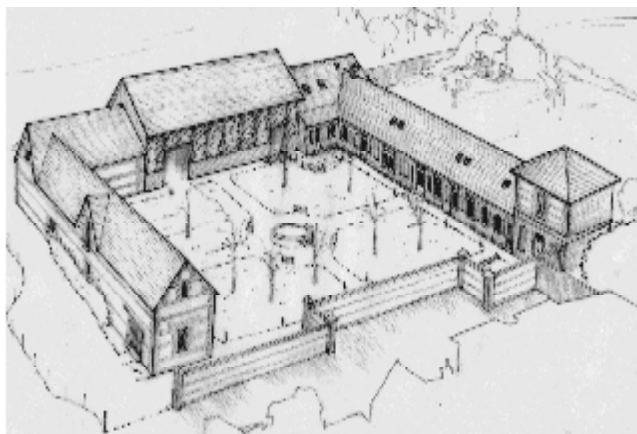
They're worth their weight in gold.

These are words of wisdom. Very often if you buy logs in you end up with green logs which do not burn well. I try and burn a mixture of woods because I don't turn down any offer of supply, but I always save

dry Beech logs for the Christmas holiday because they last and give out a really good heat.

This is also the time of year that we in the British Isles get our annual migration of woodcock. Traditionally the first big fall comes with the first full moon in November, but severe weather conditions in Scandinavia will alter the timing. After landing on the East Coast they spread across the country, but their main holdings are in the South West and Wales. They are classed as game birds and are an elusive difficult target because they tend to spend the day in dense evergreen shrubbery such as Rhododendrons, flying out at night to the fields to feed. So if you are walking through a fir plantation as the light turns and you sense then see a bird about the size of a large blackbird with a long straight beak, flying on silent wings, then that may be a woodcock.

Friends or relatives coming to stay?



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A bit of give and take to reduce waste



Got a chair you no longer want
Looking for a coffee table?



Want to swap spare spoons for a new necklace?

Then come along to a free Give or Take Day
at Sixpenny Handley Village Hall on Saturday 30th January 2010.

The Give or Take Day, organised by East Dorset District Council, is a community waste exchange event – a chance for you to get rid of small furniture and bric-a-brac you don't need and to pick up something you do need. And it is all free. Even if they feel they have nothing to bring along, people are more than welcome to come and take what they fancy.

The event provides an opportunity to reduce waste by reusing household items instead of throwing them away. This saves on landfill space and reduces fly tipping, and also contributes towards saving valuable resources.

Representatives from East Dorset will also be on hand with information on your local recycling schemes, stopping junk mail, reusable nappies and other ways to reduce your waste.

Gemma Coles, East Dorset District Council's Waste Reduction Manager said 'We throw away far too many items that could be reused or recycled, which means that our landfill sites are nearly at capacity. At previous events we have managed to save around a tonne of waste from ending up in landfill, which is great! Why not come along and see what takes your fancy?'

- The event will run from 9.30 am – 12 midday
- Items can be dropped off from 9.00 am
- Last time to drop off items is 11.00 am
- Refreshments will be available on the day
- We regret that electrical items cannot be accepted

You can give books, toys, clothes, tools, bric-a-brac, kitchenware, small furniture, jewellery, ornaments, bikes and bike parts and plants.

You can take what you want, even if you don't bring anything, but please don't be greedy! Leave behind something for others. Dealers and traders will not be admitted.

For further details, contact Anna Beech on 01202 886201.

Also, we are always looking for spare pairs of hands to help put incoming items on the correct tables. If you would like to volunteer to help for the morning, even if it is only for a few hours, we would love to hear from you on the above telephone number!

Rob's Column

Mr Nobody*Author: Unknown*

I know a funny little man,
As quiet as a mouse,
Who does the mischief that is done
In everybody house!

There's no one ever sees his face,
And yet we all agree
That every plate we break was
cracked
By Mr Nobody.

Tis he who always tears our books,
Who leaves the door ajar,
He pulls the buttons from our shirts,
And scatters pins afar.

That squeaking door will always
squeak,
For, prithee, don't you see?
We leave the oiling to be done
By Mr Nobody,

He puts damp wood upon the fire,
That kettles cannot boil,
His are the feet that brings in mud,
And all the carpet soil.

The papers always are mislaid
Who had them last but he?
There's no one tosses them about
But Mr Nobody.

The finger marks upon the door
By none of us are made;
We never leave the blind unclosed,
To let the curtains fade.

The ink we never spill; the boots
That lying round to see
Are not our boots; they all belong
To Mr Nobody.

The Nimble Thimble

I put my thimble on a shelf
But down it tumbled by itself.
I put it next upon a table;
It tumbled down when it was able.
I put it next upon a chair.
It somehow tumbled off of there.
I put it last upon the mat,
'Now, thimble, tumble off of that!' But down the sloping floor it dribbled
Into a hole a mouse had nibbled.
So shop man, please, another thimble,
But one that isn't quite so nimble.

I had a right laugh last night. I'm going
to try for a left one tonight!

Keep smiling - it makes people
wonder what you're up to!

My nephew wants a spider for his
birthday so I went to the pet shop.
£50 for a tarantula! I'm not paying
that - I'll get it cheaper on the web!

The credit crunch is really bad. I
bought a large farmhouse for £1.19
today (then had it medium sliced).

People are often unreasonable,
illogical and self-centred.

Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse
you of selfish, ulterior motives.

Be kind anyway.

If you are honest and frank

People may cheat you.

Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building,
Someone could destroy overnight.

Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness,

They may be jealous.

Be happy anyway.

The good you do today

People will often forget tomorrow.

Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have

And it may never be enough.

*Give the world the best you've got
anyway.***Please to Remember***(att. Walter De La Mare)*

Here am I,

A poor old Guy:

Legs in a bonfire,

Head in the sky.

Shoeless my toes,

Wild stars behind,

Smoke in my nose,

And my eye-peeps blind.

Old hat, old straw

In this disgrace;

While the wildfire gleams

On a mask for a face.

Ay, all I am made of

Only trash is;

And soon - soon,

Will be dust and ashes.

***(Well done to the Scouts for a
terrific bonfire night again this
year)***

Many thanks for giving, attending,
selling, spending, buying, bidding,
receiving, telling. To all at the Rob's
Village Hall Auction.
Over £1,300 was raised.
Rob.

**EAST DORSET CRIME
PREVENTION**

On 21st October, our Dorset Police
members arranged a Seminar called
"Stop That Thief" and invited all local
farmers and estates in our area. Police
members from Dorset, Hampshire and
Wiltshire attended, along with an NFU
representative and individuals
concerned with security systems and
crime prevention.

Mark Harper, Dorset Police Crime
Reduction Officer, opened the meeting
saying that the more we can do to put
the criminal off the better – they are
more interested in simple jobs. If
items have security markings they
are more difficult for them to dispose
of. He showed us a product called
SelectaDNA which consists of micro
dots with a spot of glue used in
conjunction with stickers which are
very hard to remove. They come in
a package of 55 labels and with a
registration number and instructions
of how to register. Your details are
then placed on a database and if any of
your property is stolen, this can be
traced back to you. These are cur-
rently being used by the Police, which
shows how successful the product is.
There is also a warning notice that can
be purchased and displayed to advise
that this scheme is in use. Although
the seminar was for farmers, this
product could be used in homes and is
available from our Police Officers for
£15.00. (The Parish Office would be
pleased to take any orders.)

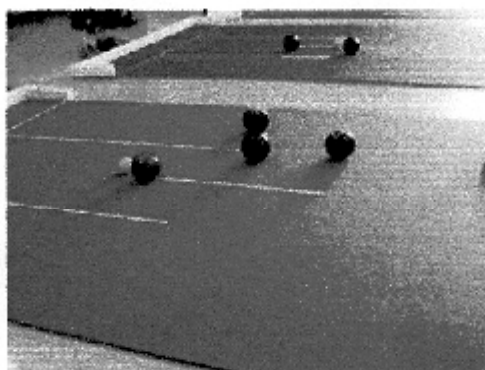
Two Police Officers from Beaminster
then advised how they had formed a
"Stop That Thief" campaign for farm-
ers in their area and now had a strong
group going who were running
themselves independently of the Po-
lice. Most of the farmers now have
security systems in place, which has
considerably cut the crime rate. Mem-
bership forms were available should it
be considered that a similar group
could be beneficial in this area.

Several security systems were available
of varying types and were demonst-
rated by members of the companies con-
cerned. One of these involved fuel
storage tanks and so could be useful to
householders as well as farmers.

I felt this was a very useful seminar and
was just disappointed that more of our
farming community were not present.

Gill Martin

SIXPENNY HANDLEY BOWLS CLUB



WE ARE HAVING A FUN DAY!!

EVERYBODY WELCOME

IF YOU HAVE BEEN THINKING ABOUT JOINING US

COME AND GIVE US A TRY

ON

Sunday 10th of January 2010 from 2 p.m.

In the village hall

Wine and nibbles provided

Sixpenny Handley First School News

'Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear' was the Autumn Topic for the Reception class children. New to school, the children enjoyed thinking of questions they would like answered about bears, both real and cuddly. They enjoyed making bear masks and moveable teddies as well as playing in the Three Bears kitchen. The children made honey sandwiches, jelly and iced buns before inviting their own teddies to school for a teddy bear's picnic.

Our Amazing Coast!

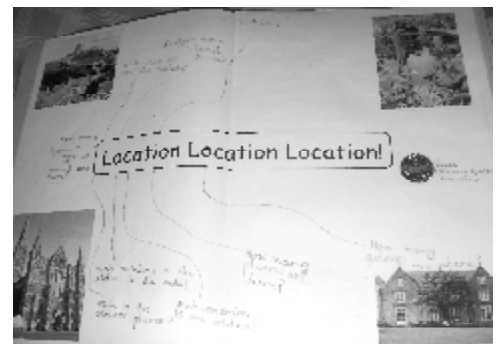
In Year 2, Kestrels class have been asking lots of questions about the coast. We spent 6 weeks finding out all of the answers! We went all the way to Weymouth to visit the RNLI Lifeboat station and had a brilliant day learning about the fantastic work that the lifeboat crew does. We even designed and made our own boats to see if they could hold more animals than Noah's Ark. It has been great fun and we have learnt a lot.



The Wrens (Year 1) Theme for the half term was: "It's All About Me". The children planned the questions they would like answered during our weekly Key Skills lessons. We invited members of the community in to talk to us. One mum brought her toddler in so we could see how much we have changed. A dad came in to talk about the toys he played with when he was a child and how they are different to what we play with. We used a variety of media to create self portraits — even painting with water on the playground! At the end of our theme, we visited the Priest's House Museum where we learnt more about toys!



This half term Woodpeckers (Years 3 and 4) planned their own learning. The children chose to investigate where countries are located in the world and what continents they are in. The Year 4 children went to Leeson House on a residential visit while the Year 3 children chose to research Salisbury City and how it has changed over time. Towards the end of the half term the children chose to find out where different animals are located and the conditions they need in order to survive. It was a super half term with lots of exciting learning – well done Woodpeckers!



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exercise for 6 months then all you will need to do is
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The consultation will involve a 30 minute discussion of
your medical history and health checks.

A follow up appointment will then be made for you
to come and start exercising.

Your instructor will guide you through your exercise
programme and will advise on how often to exercise.
Initially, your sessions will be supervised until you feel
confident to start exercising independently.

Your instructor will also review your exercise
programme every 8 weeks!

For information on the cost of the GP referral scheme please
contact Carly Howard on 01202 821007.



TOP TREE TIPS

In this Top Tree Tips feature, I want to show you how to inspect your trees for problems and tell you what you should be looking for. The annotated diagram shows a generic sick tree and every point is a clue to whether your tree is a potential threat. When I am asked to look at somebody's tree these are the points that concern me and any decision I take for remedial work is specific to an individual tree and its surrounding.

1) Topped or pollarded. Regrowth after topping is inherently weak.

2) Broken limb scar. Decay can occur where branches have ripped out.

3) Weak fork. Where two limbs have grown too close to each other bark is trapped and is likely to split away

4 and 5) Bad pruning wounds. Flush cuts (4) and stub cuts (5) tend to create internal decay.

6) Peeling bark. This can be a sign of rotten wood underneath.

7) Cavities at the base. Particularly significant if two or more buttresses are affected.

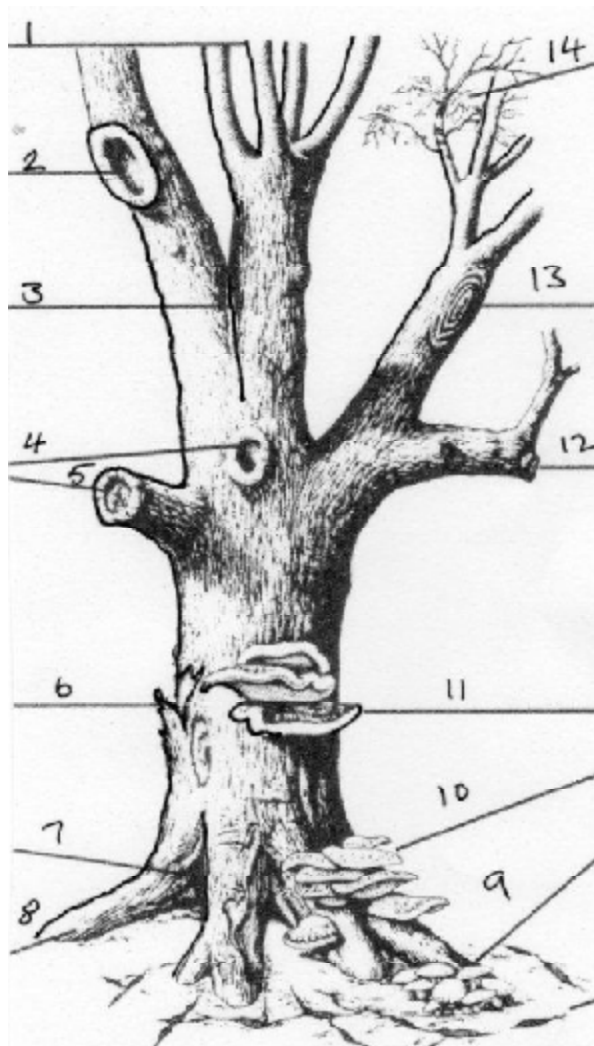
8) Root damage. Damaged roots may affect stability.

9, 10 and 11) Fungus. It is important to identify the species of fungi because each has a different decay strategy with some being even beneficial.

12) Right angle bends. Breakage or bad pruning may have created decay at the elbow.

13) Cankorous growths. This suggests a weakness wherever it is found.

14) Dieback in leaves, needles, twigs or branches. Indicates problems with general health.



Paul McDermott
Director, Dorset Trees & Hedges
07771 710919 / 01725 552985

Village Hall 100 Club Winners

September

1st	£25	135	Mr B. Godfrey
2nd	£15	80	Mrs S. Shepherd
3rd	£10	62	Mrs J. Weston

October

1st	£25	143	Mrs C. Napier
2nd	£15	18	Mrs B. Carter
3rd	£10	135	Mr B. Godfrey

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.

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- Collection of prescriptions - local shopping for the house bound.
- Dog walking.
- We hold regular Social Day Centres, at Sixpenny Handley Village Hall.

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

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,
please contact CCF co-ordinator on 01725 552097.**

We are always looking for new volunteer drivers in all areas
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Will people who want to use the volunteer car drivers
please give as much notice as possible

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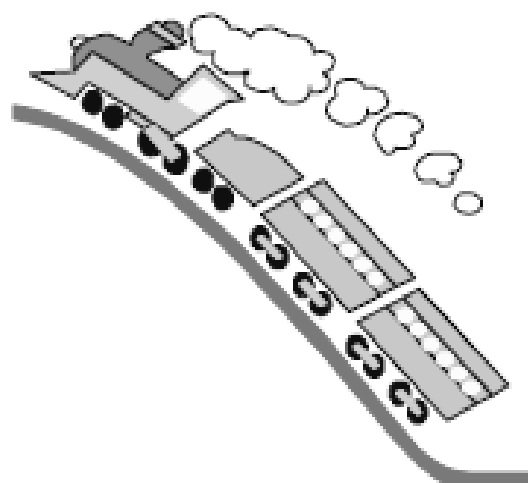
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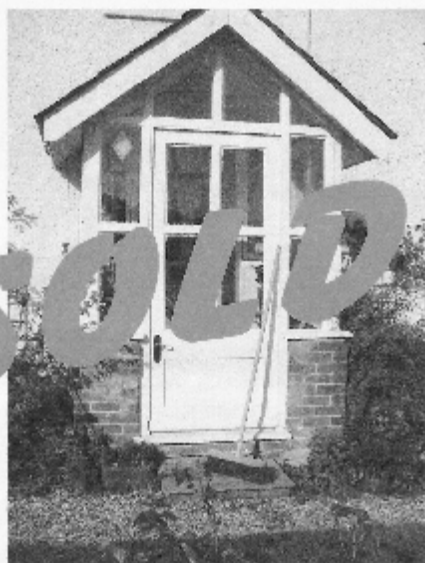
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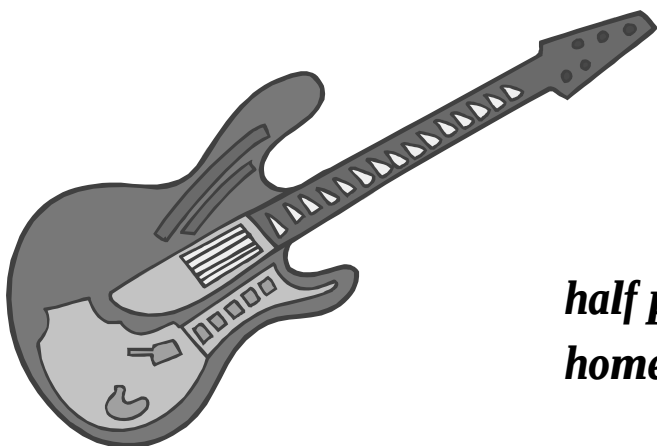
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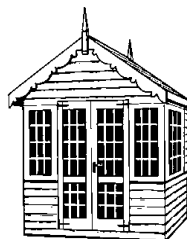
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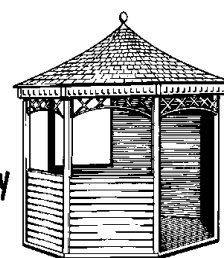
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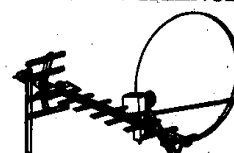
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DATE	FUNCTION	PAGE	DATE	FUNCTION	PAGE
3 Dec	W.I. Advent Service, Iwerne Minster	21	7 Jan	Mobile Library	21
3 Dec	Chase Pre-School Bingo	14	10 Jan	Bowls Club Fun Day	28
10 Dec	Mobile Library	21	11 Dec	W.I. Meeting	21
14 Dec	W.I. Christmas Party	21	14 Jan	Copy Deadline	3
22 Dec	Carol Singing in Village	7	21 Jan	Mobile Library	21
23 Dec	Carol Singing in Village	7	28 Jan	Chase Garden Club	21
24 Dec	Mobile Library	21	30	EDDC Give or Take Day	26
			1 Feb	Next Issue	3
			4 Feb	Mobile Library	21
			5 Feb	Sports Association Quiz Evening	6