

The DOWNSMAN

December 2011

Christmas Greetings



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 D Chick	552557
	Cllr T Gibb	552704
	Cllr S Meaden	552715
	Cllr T Reynolds	552995
	Cllr Mrs S Court	553077
	Cllr J Reed	516390

Pentridge

	Cllr R. Ferguson	552222
	Cllr Dr. J Gillespie Smith	552576
	Cllr C Taylor	553148

Clerk

	Lisa Goodwin	01258 840935
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Assistant Clerk

	Gill Martin	552297
	Parish Office	552211

District Councillor

	Cllr S Tong	01258-840061
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County Councillor

	Cllr T. Palmer	552321
	 Fax: 552405	

Member Parliament Robert Walter... 0207 219 6981**Rights of Way Liaison Officers**

Sixpenny Handley	D Chick	552557
	J Reed	516390
Pentridge	Mrs M. Jones	552358

The Downsman Team

Editor	Margaret Cornish	553199
Production	Brian Hansford.....	552468
Advertising	John Cornish	553199

Churches

Church of England	St. Mary's, Sixpenny Handley	
	St. Rumbold's, Pentridge	
	St. Andrews, Gussage St. Andrew	
Vicar	Rev Mel Durrant, The Vicarage	
	60 High Street, Sixpenny Handley	
		552608

Roman Catholic	Church of Our Lady of Lourdes & St. Cecilia, Blandford Forum	
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Priest	Rev. Father Dylan James	
	The Prestbury, 55 Salisbury Street, Shaftesbury.....	01747 852125

Doctors

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

Sixpenny Handley Village Hall

Chairman	Carole Wyatt	552572
Vice Chairman	Tony Gibb	552704
Treasurer	Paul Skinner	552785
Bookings	Jaqui Blake	552306

Sixpenny Handley Homewatch

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

Area 1 - Dean Lane	Don Penrose	552022
2 - Lower Handley	Chris Stokes	552672
3 - Upper Handley	John Clarke	552674
4 - Deanland & N.E.	Charles Nodder	552292
5 - West & South	Simon Meaden	552715

Other Areas (These are separate Homewatch Schemes)

Pentridge	Roy Elford	552911
Woodyates	Mrs A Adams	552675

Police

	Simon Hallam, Verwood Police Stn	07825 521761
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Sixpenny Handley Allotment Holders Association

Chairman	John Curtis	552397
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Secretary	Jane Laing	553146
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Schools

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

Little Pennies Pre-School

Chairperson	Sarah Stonton	516939
Secretary	Andrea Meyer	552392

Happy Nappy Club

	Samantha O'Neill	552088
	Katie Keeble	552177
	Sarah Styles	552544

1st Woodcutts Scout Group

Group Scout Leader	John Curtis	552397
Explorer Leader	Andy Turner	552735
Scout Leader	Rob Easton	552038
Cub Leader	Andy Young	01258 830861
Beaver Leader	Denise Turner	552735

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
Secretary	Mrs Bobbie Carter ..	552042

Sixpenny Handley Mothers' Union

Leader	Sheila Bradley	553133
Secretary	Mary Macleod	552041

Chase Community Friends

Chairman	Vic Hatton	01258 840671
Secretary	Maureen Penrose	01725 552022

Sixpenny Handley Sports Association

Chairman	David Cross	552640
Vice Chairman	Patrick Taylor	01258 840231
Secretary/Treasurer	Tracey Lownds	552414
Bookings	Bea Boyland	552805

Sixpenny Handley Bowls Club

President	Robert Keech	516216
Secretary	Bea Boyland	552805
Treasurer	Patrick Taylor	01258 840231

Handley Sports Club

Chairman	Mark Young	552741
Secretary	Brian Hansford	552468
Team Manager	Mark Young	552741
Asst. Team Manager	Stuart Haskell	

Handley Sports Youth

Manager	Adam Day.....	01258 452481
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Sixpenny Handley Tennis Club

Chairman	Tracey Lownds	552414
Membership/Treasurer	Sue Smith	552225

Sixpenny Handley Cricket Club

Evening Captain	David Cross	552640
Secretary	Frances Churchill	552868

Citizens Advice Bureau

Wimborne Branch	01202 884738
Ferndown Branch	01202 893838
Out of Hours Service	08444 772022

Welcome to the latest edition of *The Downsman*.

Editor: Margaret Cornish, 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 Email : sixpennyhandley@dorsetparishes.gov.uk
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Please email editor@thedownsman.org.uk
 to ensure your articles and news reach us
 (preferably in Word, please — not pdf)

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.

We regret that flyers cannot be distributed within the Downsman.

The next edition of this magazine will be published on the

1st February 2012

Copy Deadline is Sunday 15th January 2012

**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**Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge Parish Council**

Unit 5B, Town Farm Workshops, Sixpenny Handley. SP5 5PA

Email: sixpennyhandley@dorsetparishes.gov.uk

Office 01725 552211/Clerk to the Council 01258 840935

www.sixpennyhandleyparishcouncil.btck.co.uk

December 2011

By Lisa Goodwin

You should have received your up to date 'Parish Plan & Youth Questionnaire' with this edition of The Downsman. An up to date Parish Plan forms an important part of local 'power' to influence decisions that will affect the future of our community especially with impending changes to Government legislation. It is important that all residents are consulted on how they would like to see our community develop in the next 10-15 years. We would be very pleased if you could return your completed questionnaire to the Parish Office as soon as possible. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Good news . . . Sixpenny Handley achieved 94.51% in this year's Best Kept 'Large' Village Competition 2011 achieving Highly Commended! This was an improved mark on 2010 with the Play Area and Recreation Area obtaining full marks. Forty villages took part, with standards reaching new heights in the judges' opinions.

We know there have been a number of concerns with residents regarding the recently installed street lighting in Sixpenny Handley. The Parish Council is discussing various matters with SSE Contracting but you are able to contact them directly on 0800 068 4145 should you have a query/problem and they will respond within 5 working days; alternatively refer to their website www.lightsonindorset.co.uk

Nick Hayden, Senior Arboricultural Officer from East Dorset District Council, will be visiting the Parish Council on Thursday December 8th at 7.30 pm in the Parish Office to discuss various tree related matters. If you have any issues of concern you are welcome to attend, or alternatively phone EDDC Tree Section directly on 01202 886201 for advice.

Don't forget to keep an eye on our website which gives you access to a range of information, including minutes of the meetings.

www.sixpennyhandleyparishcouncil.btck.co.uk

Members of public are welcome at our meetings to speak during the public open session prior to Council business. Our meeting dates are published on the website along with the agenda. Please note meetings may be subject to change so it is always best to check.

BROADBAND FOR DORSET

You may have seen in the press that the Government gave Dorset £9M to improve the speed of broadband throughout the county. The problem was that the County has to find an equal amount of 'matched funding' at a time when it is having to make severe savings. The good news is that the will to improve things for the benefit of the local economy is definitely there and lots of organisations are supporting the project and a bid is being submitted to meet the government criteria.

This parish is in the bulk of the area that is considered to be below the acceptable service level. Whilst things will not happen overnight, it is hoped that by 2014/5 the current speeds should be double through the spread of fibre optic cabling or other technical solutions. Fingers crossed.

THANK YOU

The Little Pennies Pre-School would like to thank DJ Logs who kindly donated some wooden blocks for the children's role play area.



EDITOR

required for The Downsman with immediate start

Are you computer literate and would like to be involved in the local community? Then The Downsman magazine is looking for an Editor to take over the roll in the New Year, starting with the February issue. If you are interested and would like further information, please contact Margaret on 01725 553199.

Also, if anyone would like to join the committee, please contact Margaret for details of meetings, etc.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Rob's Auction. Another massive success! The Hall Committee are very grateful to Rob Jesse and his family for all their extremely hard work in laying on the Auction and then, afterwards, sorting out the material that did not sell. Some pieces of furniture were collected, stored, transported to the hall, sold and even delivered to new owners; that means they could have been loaded or unloaded into trailers six times! No-one is getting any younger and the time will come when large items such as cabinets and three piece suites cannot be accepted. We will let you know.

Thanks, also, to the stewards, caterers and everyone who gave items thus helping to make it such an enjoyable and profitable event. The final total raised should be in the order of £2000.

Storage of Items in the Hall. Over the years the village hall seems to have become a dumping ground for groups to store their bits and pieces. This is particularly so in the loft, which has numerous plastic Christmas trees and boxes. Regular hall users have been allocated storage space which is very limited; the management committee has decided that anything not in its allocated space or claimed by the end of **January 2012** will be disposed of as it is considered to be a potential fire risk.

Artsreach: We live in hope that Artsreach will allocate us some live theatre of music in the New Year. The massive reduction of funding by EDDC for Artsreach is the cause.

IS YOUR ELECTRICITY BILL TOO HIGH?

Do you have problems with energy saver bulbs? LED light bulbs are now available to fit domestic fittings. They may not be cheap to buy but they run at a minute fraction (10%) of the cost of a normal bulb and the payback time is about a year. A 40W bulb is replaced by a 4W LED bulb! LED floodlights running at 10W are also available.

If you want to reduce your carbon footprint and bills ring 552704 for further information.

SIXPENNY HANDLEY WITH PENTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE – 2011/12

With the new government legislation on Localism and the associated National Planning Policy Framework, it is important that the people of our Parish are consulted on how they would like to see our community develop in the next 10-15 years; this, hopefully, will fit in with the East Dorset District Council Corporate Strategy.

As was the case in 2006, each member of the Parish, young people included, is invited to fill in the Parish Plan Questionnaire that you will find with the December edition of the Downsman. Extra copies can be found in the shops, surgery, churches and the Parish Office.

The more people that give a little time to complete the questionnaire, the more influence, impact and assistance will come from the completed answers. In 2006 there was only a disappointing 12% return of questionnaires from parishioners; we are determined to beat that this time.

If we don't decide what we want, others are likely to make decisions for us.

Please leave your completed responses at the Parish Office, any village shop or hand it to your parish councillor – preferably before 31st December 2011.

Thank you.

This is an important document for the future of your parish.

Whilst you only receive one copy with the Downsman, extras are available from village shops and online at www.sixpennyhandley.org or www.sixpennyhandleyparishcouncil.btck.co.uk

Telephone Box, Deanland

On 6th October, the Parish Council minutes record that "it was agreed by all that the remaining two telephone boxes be sold" including the red telephone box in Deanland, without any attempt to consult with the residents of our little community. This is outrageous, as the telephone box is part of our local heritage. This telephone box is an iconic George V kiosk, designed by Giles Gilbert Scott (architect of Waterloo Bridge, Battersea Power Station and Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral) in 1935 in the style of Sir John Soanes, the eminent nineteenth century classic architect. Adjacent to it is an equally traditional red lamp post-box, which the Royal Mail, English Heritage and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport have designated as "conservation street furniture" with protected status. How ironic it is that the younger, rather bland post-box will be retained, but our hamlet is to be denied the pleasure of seeing our far more characteristic and symbolic telephone box any more.

I do not care what the motive for this vandalism may be, because there is absolutely no excuse for failing at least to talk to those for whom this telephone box is both a familiar friend and a well-known landmark for visitors. The telephone service may well be disconnected and the box therefore redundant, but I was assured many years ago, following an earlier attempt by BT to replace it with a Yellow Peril, that BT had guaranteed that it would always adorn our landscape and would never be removed. I can find no-one else in our community who was aware that it had even recently been sold by BT, and therefore there was no reason to suppose that BT's guarantee was no longer in force. No-one knew that the telephone kiosk was suddenly under threat, and under those circumstances the Parish Council had absolutely no mandate from the voters to dispose of it, but had a duty to make some sort of effort to consult with those who may have an interest, at the very least, before making an arbitrary decision about its future.

Our heritage is under threat from all quarters. The Government is proposing to allow uncontrolled development in rural areas; the village has expanded beyond all recognition in the thirty five years that I have lived here in Deanland; the identification of 'Spots Green' with which our signpost in Deanland used to be adorned has been removed, so few newcomers even know where 'Spots Green' is; and now our own Parish Council is intent on disposing of a feature of our hamlet

which is becoming increasingly rare in rural areas, in order to profit from its inflated value on eBay ! Selling the family silver is a mercenary act, and I doubt that a penny of this windfall will be spent on Deanland.

My solution would be for the Parish Council to offer to sell the telephone box to the local residents of Deanland for the same sum as that originally paid by them to BT, which I am informed was only £1. The residents of Deanland could establish a trust for this purpose and for the maintenance of the telephone kiosk, which I am sure that they would be willing to do. This would mean that the Parish Council would be relieved of all responsibility for the telephone kiosk, but that it would be preserved as a quintessentially English feature of our rural landscape.

To this end, I have indeed now made a formal application myself to English Heritage to have this telephone box listed, of which I would hope that the Parish Council will take due note, and not take any further action until this has been considered by English Heritage.

Democracy is under threat, and interest in local politics is on the decline precisely for this sort of reason. To add insult to injury, a sanctimonious member of the Parish Council had the arrogance to castigate us in the Downsman for not voting in local elections, whilst not having the courage to identify himself except as an "engine driver". It is hardly surprising that so few vote for people who prefer to remain anonymous, and then have the temerity to take decisions without any attempt at consultation.

The trouble with "engine drivers" is that they go in their own direction only, irrespective of where their passengers want to them to go. Democracy depends on "taxi drivers" who listen, and go where their passengers want them to go.

A number of years ago, I personally championed the installation of broadband to the village by acquiring the 300 prospective subscribers which BT required in order to prove the business case for the investment. I then established a website for the village which provided a lot of practical information like bus timetables, forthcoming events, sports facilities, associations and clubs, and included sections on local history, photographs, a password protected local telephone and email directory, and even links to past editions of the Downsman. A particular feature was an inter-active discussion forum which enabled local residents to debate matters of interest. I devoted

a lot of time and effort to it, entirely voluntary, and it proved to be reasonably popular. I even added a "Disaster Page" which could have been used as a source of central communication in the unlikely event of a catastrophe. However, what it lacked was endorsement by the Parish Council, for which I encountered active resistance on the grounds of N.I.H. (Not Invented Here). The Parish Council decided instead to start something of their own, and proceeded to plagiarise most of what I had done, and so I abandoned the project. But it is significant to note that there was no inter-active discussion forum on their website. So much for democracy.

Technology has moved on since I established my website for the village with its Discussion Forum, and I have no doubt that by now I would have migrated it to something like "Facebook". I would urge the Parish Council to consider opening a Sixpenny Handley Facebook account or Facebook Group for this purpose.

There are one or two other controversial issues which need wider debate in the pipeline, on which the Parish Council should consult the taxpayers in the interests of democracy - it is not difficult to do. In particular, the forthcoming proposals by East Dorset District Council to introduce new arrangements for recycling and rubbish collection will attract considerable debate. It is not a satisfactory answer to suggest that members of the village should attend Council meetings for this purpose, firstly because there is insufficient room to accommodate more than one or two people, and secondly because there is insufficient time at such meetings to allow a proper discussion. A social networking medium like Facebook would

enable members of the Parish Council to be properly informed and represent the views of the village when decisions are taken, given that parish councillors do not offer themselves for election on a manifesto of any sort, and therefore we do not know what they represent. There is a need to consult the voters far more than they have done in the past, to ensure that they are not motivated only by their own private agenda.

Unlike a certain "engine driver", I am not frightened to add my name.

Nick Sherman



**Deanland's George V telephone kiosk
and E11R post-box**

The Trussell Trust

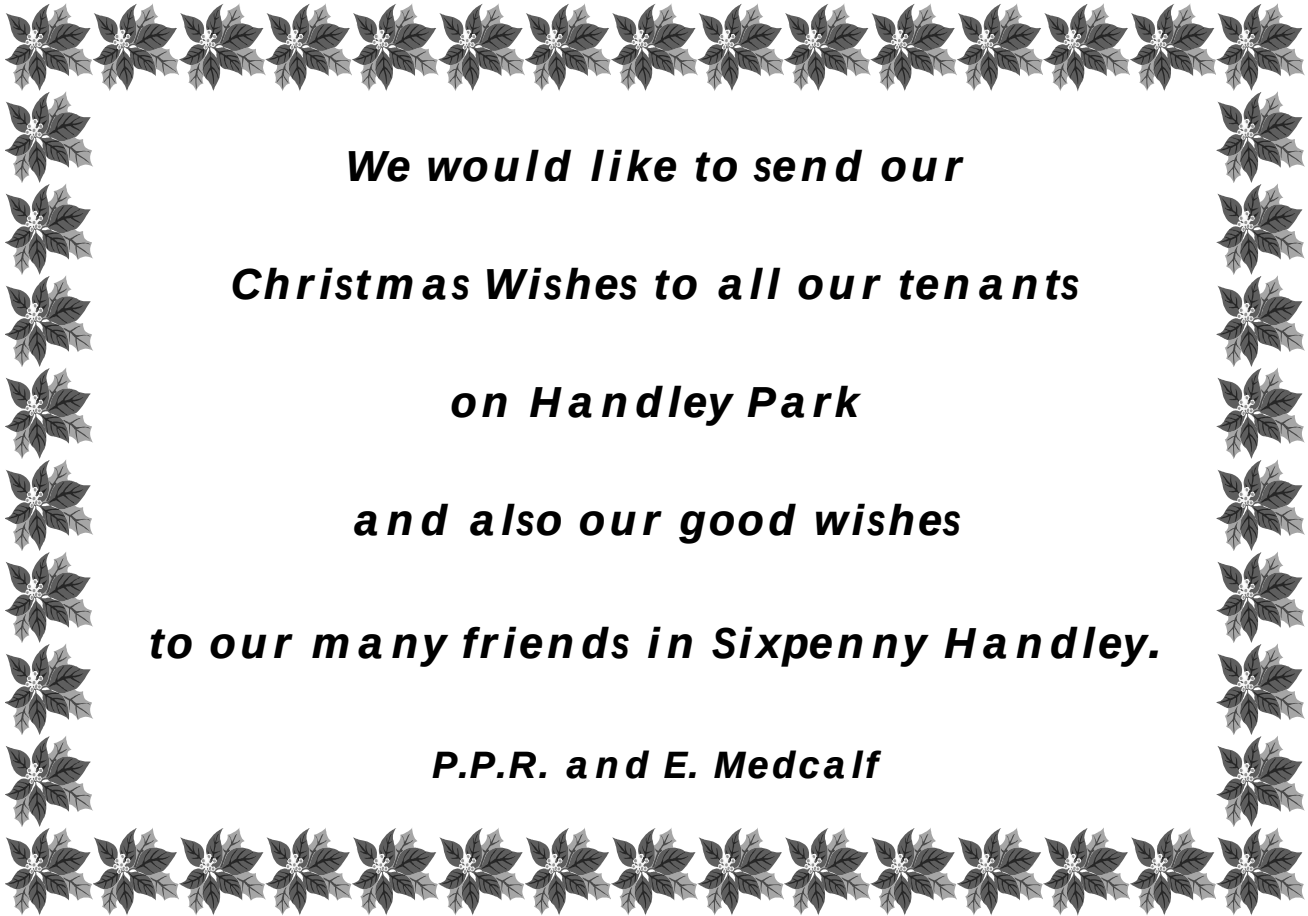
The Food Bank

Thank you to all those who have given so generously in donating food for the Trussell Trust Foodbank throughout the year. During the school holidays there is always an extra demand for food as there are no free school meals, so at these times could you put in a little extra, please? The Trust is most grateful and appreciative of our giving. The total weight for the year is **141.2kg** which included the Harvest Festival giving.

Shoeboxes for Bulgaria

Well, we filled **150** boxes for Bulgaria. It was a bit of an effort this year but we got there in the end. As usual, our boxes were overflowing, many of which I had to put treble rubber bands round! These boxes are so much appreciated by all who receive them, so a very big Thank You from them all.

Trish Chorley
Trussell Trust Ambassador



***We would like to send our
Christmas Wishes to all our tenants
on Handley Park
and also our good wishes
to our many friends in Sixpenny Handley.***

P.P.R. and E. Medcalf

“Her Majesty’s Government’s Front Office”

Would you believe it! It’s true, according to the Prime Minister; it really does exist and is situated here in Sixpenny Handley in our High Street. Yes, you’ve guessed it – it’s our POST OFFICE. The odd part is that the Government is gradually removing the services provided through their “Front Offices”, which currently makes them sustainable, the latest being NS & I (National Savings and Investment) products other than Premium Bonds. This latest move is a blow to thrift and easy access to one’s (local and handy) savings which will affect small savers. As a young boy, before and whilst at boarding school, I remember well my POSB bank book which was a handy way of putting a little by from my pocket money for holidays, Mum’s birthday present and little emergencies.

I must admit, I don’t fully understand the complexities or the state of play between the Government and Post Office Ltd, but it is fairly safe to assume that thousands of post offices will be lost. So much for the Government’s Front Offices, which are owned by the individuals with bank loans and mortgages to be financed out of ever-decreasing income. The decrease is the result of the Government putting services out to tender and Post Office Ltd failing to win contracts. The situation and possible threat will become clearer as negotiations proceed.

A community is the sum of all its parts, but as parts cease to exist so the attraction to be part of it diminishes, which is accelerated by the closure of Post Offices, schools, public houses, shops, and in some cases, churches, too. With all these parts the attractiveness is reflected in the quality of life and also in the price of property. Conversely without them the opposite is the case.

We have much to be grateful for here, with a superb medical practice, recreational facilities many much larger communities would give their eye teeth for, a regular daily bus service as well as the above. All these assets put together make for a very attractive place to live. We may not all need what is on offer but there are those who do. Please remember those whose only trip out is to collect their pension, not having wheels, and not being online makes the Post Office really important. The old maxim of “**use it or lose it**” applies and the thought that these servants of communities should personally subsidise us and do so without adequate remuneration is totally unjust.

What can we/you do? Use your Post Office and challenge our MP.

David Salmons

Singing in Sixpenny

This is an appeal for those who might like to sing with the Church Choir for the Carol Service on December 18th. Sadly Gareth Malone will not be available to take the rehearsals, but we shall still welcome new voices! The commitment will be to come to the practices in St. Mary’s Church at 7.00 pm on the three Fridays of 2nd, 9th and 16th December for just 1 hour. Please contact John Cullingford on 516453 if you are interested to joining in.

There is more! We plan to take a group Carol singing around the village on Tuesday 20th December as part of the Marie Curie fundraising event, SING OUT 2011. The plan is to stop at six or seven locations, where we can be heard by a group of houses, and invite residents to join voices with us and to support this excellent charity. We will meet at the Surgery Car Park, Dean Lane at 6.00 pm. Bring torches / lanterns - words for Carols will be provided. Contact John for more details: 516453.

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 8th, 22nd,
2012: January 5th, 19th February 2nd**

Discovering our village past

I am writing this on Remembrance Sunday, having just come back from the service in at the War Memorial, where I admired all the good work that has been undertaken in the churchyard to clear the undergrowth. When I first heard about it, I thought that it would be a nice idea if we could put together a small team of volunteers who would be willing to give up the odd hour from time to time to catalogue all the tombstones and memorials in the churchyard, as there are no complete records anywhere. The oldest one which I have seen dates from 1771, but no doubt there are much older ones than that.

I have spoken to the Vicar and asked for his blessing about this. I understand that someone had been tasked a while ago with producing a register of some sort, but Mel welcomed the idea of a team of volunteers to do it thoroughly. He can let me have what records that do already exist. Richard Adlem has also kept a plan himself over the years, but it is equally limited to contemporary graves.

My idea is to try to read each inscription and record it, at the same time taking a GPS reference

using a simple SatNav. The task would now be so much easier as it has all been cleared so well. I would propose having a plan which could be uploaded to the church website for reference, and a marker inserted by each grave for identification. Someone has indeed suggested an aerial view using Google Earth to plot each grave. However, the current view still has all the trees and shrubbery which makes it impractical, but it may be possible to use Google Earth for this when a new image replaces the old one at some time in the future.

So, if anyone would be willing to join the team, I would be pleased to hear from them. Please could you contact me by email at :

gravestoneproject@shermans.co.uk

This need not be an arduous task and there is no pressure to meet a deadline, but maybe it would be nice to have made a good start by the time of the Queen's Jubilee, so that we can remember some of the thousands who have lived in Sixpenny Handley not just in recent times, but over the centuries.

Nick Sherman (Deanland)

2012 has a lot to celebrate with the Queens Jubilee and The Olympic Games

Some of the Community Groups are considering how to celebrate 2012 by having a Great Community Party involving all the Community Groups possible;
Sports Association, Parish Council, Street Fayre Committee, with the hope that others will join in. This Party will need a lot of organisation and once again we will be asking for HELP - so please look out for information that will be posted around the village and in the shops and also on the Street Fayre website,
fayre@sixpennyhandley.com and on Facebook. Let's get it together and have a Great Day. Please email the Street Fayre web site with any questions. Full contact details of others who can be approached, will be posted once confirmed.
Thank you,

Maureen New

COFFEE MORNING

in aid of BREAST CANCER CARE

at the Sports Pavilion,
Sixpenny Handley

10.00 am—12.30 pm

Saturday, 3rd December

Cakes and preserves, bottle stall,
bric-a-brac, raffle, etc.

Donations or enquiries to:

Liz Coombs: 01725 552362 or
Stella Olsen: 01725 552450



News And Information

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

On 21st September, several of our members joined Broadchalke W.I. at their September meeting. The speaker, Demi Ladwa, demonstrated how to make vegetable curry and onion bhaji, which was tasted afterwards and all agreed was delicious!

On 23rd September, Sixpenny Handley W.I. took part in the annual Dorset Federation Quiz. Four tables participated. The questions this year, although not easy, were more interesting than in recent years and it was a fun evening. Surprisingly, one table got through to the final which was held on the 14th October at Milborne St Andrew Village Hall. The Sixpenny Handley team did very well on three of the four categories, but struggled on the other - 'Carry On' films! - finally coming fifth out of twenty tables.



On 10th October, due to circumstances outside of our control, the meeting found itself without a speaker. However, as Sixpenny Handley W.I. has many talented members, we were very lucky to enjoy a great evening with Liz Coombs showing the members some very simple ways to produce some beautiful floral decorations. It was done with such skill making it look so easy that many of us were quite jealous! The flowers were raffled off at the end of a fun evening.



On 12th October two members went to a meeting of the Melbury Abbas W.I. After the usual business, there was a demonstration of planting out hanging baskets and patio containers carried out by Thorngrove Garden Centre in Gillingham. The enterprise is operated on business principles as a first-class resource for disabled people to gain 'real life' work and life experiences at the heart of the local community. It was an interesting session, with many of us gardeners picking up some extra tips. Tea and cakes ended a very pleasant evening.

On 20th October, 13 members attended the Dorset Federation Autumn Council Meeting at the Lighthouse Theatre in Poole. The morning began with the singing of Jerusalem and after the usual business the highlight of the day was the speaker, Ann Widdecombe. She talked about her life as a politician, a writer and as a celebrity, particularly with regard to 'Strictly Come Dancing' and 'Fat Club'; a very entertaining session. The afternoon speaker was Sheila Dibnah, widow of Fred Dibnah the Bolton steeplejack, who talked about their brief time together, before he died of cancer in 2004. After the presentation of cups and various prizes, the meeting closed with the National Anthem.

On 26th October several members attended the Autumn Group Meeting at Shroton. The speaker, Basil Purdue, spoke of his training and work as a pathologist which was an interesting talk enjoyed by all. It was a very friendly session and everybody enjoyed the refreshment spread!

On 14th November Mr Christopher Coll entertained the members with a lively, and at times very funny, talk entitled 'The Dad's Army Story'. The popular BBC comedy series, set in the fictional south coast seaside town of Walmington-on-Sea during World War 2, was written by Jimmy Perry and David Croft and went on to produce 9 series and 80 episodes. The series ran between 1968 and 1977 and the repeats are still enjoyed today. A fun evening all round!

Some W.I. members contributed 10 shoeboxes to the Rotary International appeal, which sends gifts to disadvantaged children in Albania, Montenegro, Tanzania and Romania.

The Book Club and Craft Club continue to meet on a monthly basis and the Choir is also now up and running in preparation for the Christmas meeting.

Dates for the Diary

December 12th In-House Christmas Entertainment.
December 15th Group Advent Carol Service at Melbury Abbas.
January 9th 2012 Oxfords' Bakery - A History of Baking

Anyone who would like to attend a meeting or would like more information, please contact the Secretary, Mrs Bobbie Carter. Tel 01725 552042

Rita Taylor (Committee Member)

CARDS

Whist On Wednesday, November 9th, the 5th round in the 2011-2012 competition took place at the Village Hall with 7 full tables in play. At the end of the 24th deal, the top of the leader board had changed about with Doug Haskell replacing son Stuart, their latest aggregate scores being 829 and 814 points respectively. For Doug, the season has been productive for not only has he led the contest in 2 of the 5 rounds, but in doing so has set the highest individual score of 183. Nevertheless, it is early days and with 12 rounds still to play it is far too early to predict who will emerge as the winner in May 2012.

With Doug posting the highest score [178] on the 9th [along with Suzie White, whom he teamed up with on the 14th deal of the evening, he remained unbeaten through to the 24th, racking up 102 points plus in the process - Susie made a century for the first time], it was Michael Seievoir who was next best with 170, neatly reversing his run of poor fortune in the previous rounds and elevating him from 35th to 27th place in the table.

Next best was Gerald Trickey [168 - which promoted him from 5th to 3rd, but still 15 points adrift of Stuart Haskell], followed by Tommy Marshfield [167 - 17th to 8th], Susie White [166 - 11th to 6th], Zoe Pike and Kingsley White, each returning 165 and moving them to 7th and 4th places respectively, and Silvia Thorne whose 164 returned her to the top 10 and 9th overall. Silvia had led the field at the end of the 1st round, since when she had steadily lost ground to 14th in the table.

Ruth Hustings, meanwhile slipped from 3rd to 5th and 'your scribe' nosedived from 4th to 10th. Notable absentees were Mary Braithwaite and Mary Penny, both losing their top 10 places as a

consequence. Both will, however, receive an automatic '142', this being the lowest score carded at the end of the 1st round.

I would like to have been able to report an increase in attendance at these drives, but disappointingly our numbers have declined and for the 9th there were only 7 tables in play. It is little consolation to know that whist drives throughout the region are recording fewer players, but in the case of our own drives it is particularly disappointing as the prizes on offer are quite magnificent. And though I have mentioned this on several occasions, it is worth repeating that if you do not finish in the top 8 or 9 at whist, you still stand an excellent chance of walking away with a prize in the draw for what is given for the whist is replicated in the draw. Finally, the Christmas Drive will take place at the Village Hall on Saturday, December 17th, play commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Bridge First, a huge 'thank you' to Brian and Sheila Bradley for hosting the summer luncheon. The weather was perfect and the food and wine was of an equal standard, and the occasion was topped off by two small slams being bid and made! Meanwhile, the weekly events at the Sports' Pavilion continue to attract an average of 10 players [we play two tables of 5 with the dealer cutting out after each hand] and the standard of play is most encouraging. In many ways, bridge is an easier game at which to succeed than whist, for at least you have the opportunity with good cards to select which suit will be trumps [or no-trumps] and after the first card has been led, your partner's cards are laid out thus [in theory] making declarer's play that much easier, whereas in whist the trump suit is set in a repeating pattern of hearts, clubs, diamonds and spades.

Bill Chorley

Village Hall 100 Club Winners

September

1st	£25	21	Mrs C. Preedy
2nd	£15	107	Mr Jermyn
3rd	£10	80	Mrs Shepherd

October

1st	£25	120	Mrs Poolman
2nd	£15	67	Mrs M. Macleod
3rd	£10	66	Sarah Churchill

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

If you would like to join and have a chance to win, please contact Bea Boyland on 552805

WE WANT YOU, WE WANT YOU, WE WANT YOU AS A NEW RECRUIT!

YOUR VILLAGE SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!

Are you community minded? Are you proud of our village? Do you want to get more involved but don't know with what?

Well, we have the solution – become a **SCHOOL COMMUNITY GOVERNOR**. Please join me, as the only current community governor (there should be three) and help support your school.

You need **no experience** in anything specifically, as training is provided, but your contribution to supporting our very special school will be invaluable.

Mrs Hewitt, the Headteacher, and her team have, with the support of the Governors, achieved the almost impossible feat of going from a 'satisfactory' school to an '**outstanding**' one without even stopping at 'very good' on the way! This is a rare achievement in the school world and something we are all very proud of, but to help the team continue their outstanding work we need more governors.

What do we do?

We are known as 'critical friends' to the school management team, we provide support, question and encourage all their efforts and on very rare occasions (in fact I'm struggling to think of one!) may need to challenge them if we are unsure of a decision they wish to make. We help with budget setting, general maintenance decisions, planning the curriculum and staffing issues.

All coming from different backgrounds is an advantage as we all have different strengths and experiences we can use to provide our support and even, on occasion, wisdom!

How much time does it take?

The short answer is that the time requirements are not too onerous but it's important, if you commit, that you can make yourself available for certain specific times as follows:

- A Full Governing Body Meeting every other month during term time – about 2 ½ hrs
- A subcommittee meeting (either Buildings and Finance or Curriculum and Staffing) also every other month during term time – about 1 – 1 ½ hrs.
- Subject Visits for the subject you have special responsibility for - once per term.
- Occasional training – E.G. New Governors, Training, Finance for Governors, Safeguarding – usually 2 – 3 hrs in an evening on a date to suit you.

What do we get from it?

A huge sense of pride and satisfaction when the school is recognised as being outstanding, knowing that we played a part in supporting the team to achieve this.

Pride in the school and the pupils when we are invited to their lessons, school functions or when they attend our meetings occasionally to do presentations for us. Seeing confident, polite and enthusiastic children who engage so well with their teachers is an extremely satisfying experience (albeit that Mrs Hewitt and her team are mainly responsible for it) knowing that perhaps, our work helped achieve this.

Fun when you sit in on lessons and the children want you to join in and help them and actually, despite the serious business covered at our Full Governing Body Meetings, the fun and banter that can accompany really good team work.

**SO, WHY DON'T YOU COME AND JOIN US OR AT LEAST MEET US FOR AN INFORMAL CHAT AND SCHOOL VISIT?
I PROMISE YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED!**

Julie Watkinson, Community Governor and Chair of the Buildings and Finance Committee
Sixpenny Handley First School

email: office@sixpennyhandley.dorset.sch.uk

Telephone: 01725 552356

Bowls

As usual at this time of the year we have had our AGM. Nearly everybody was able to attend this meeting and could vote for the new committee. This has not changed much, except that Brian Hansford is now Vice Captain instead of Dave, who cannot do it any longer due to work commitments.

The short mat season is now well on the way, and both teams are doing OK. However, we need to play a few more matches to find our place in the league tables! At least, that is what we tell ourselves!

Bob is keeping us well informed with all the news with his monthly bulletin. If anybody has any-

thing they would like to go in the bulletin, please let Bob know as it is a good place for any news that might be of interest to other members. Little snippets of information make good reading.

The beetle drive was a success, and is worth doing again. It is nice to have some social events, and Val has some more good ideas which the committee is working on.

By the time you read this we will have had our quiz evening and our Presentation lunch. Now we are looking forward to Christmas and the New Year, and I wish you all Happy Times.

Bea

Mothers' Union

Our coffee-morning-with-competition held on 15th October was good fun with the competition being won by Sue Curtis – well done! We have sent a cheque for £100 from the proceeds to the Mothers' Union overseas fund at Mary Sumner House (MU HQ), which is such a good way to be assured that the money goes directly to where it is needed.

On 13th October we were entertained and informed by Anne Hinchliffe who came to give us 'episode 2' of 'Music in Prisons'. Once again, some took part in extempore playing of instruments with variable degrees of proficiency!

Our next meeting is on Thursday 8th December at 2.45 pm at 15 Paddock Close. It will be our Christmas meeting at which we ask those present to bring a poem, story etc. with a Christmas flavour, to read out. I am sure it will be as brilliant a mix of comedy, religion and thoughtfulness as we have had in previous years. Please bring a few festive nibbles with you to share round.

The 12th January meeting will be our AGM, accompanied by some activity/puzzle.

Enquiries: Sheila Bradley 553133 or Mary Macleod 552041

Dorset Fire & Rescue need your help with their survey

Dorset Fire & Rescue are seeking the views of residents to help shape how we do things. We have produced a short leaflet to explain the impact of budget reductions on the service we provide and we are seeking feedback on our current service and what residents are willing to pay for. A copy of the leaflet and the survey can be found by using the link below.

The survey runs until 31st December and we would like your help with this.

Can we please ask you to publicise the survey and

encourage your residents to complete it. The survey is available on-line at <http://www.dorsetfire.gov.uk/index.php?ref=525> or from any of our fire stations. We can also provide hard copies on request.

All public sector bodies are having to make very difficult decisions at the moment and your help in getting residents to respond is very much appreciated.

Russell Wilson
russell.wilson@dorsetfire.gov.uk

November in Woodcuts

What an autumn and early winter we are having! Rarely have the daytime temperatures dropped below double figures so far this year, and until the start of this month, rainfall has been well below normal. This has affected the natural world as well as the agricultural and horticultural activities. We saw a somewhat belated end to harvest, because of rain at the end of September but this, in fact, allowed the arable farming fraternity to forge ahead with their autumn/winter seed bed preparations in the area and get stuck into the early sowing of winter barley, wheat and oil seed rape. You only have to travel on any of our roads to see well advanced crops everywhere, which are in super condition to cope with winter weather when it comes. The advanced crops, especially the oilseed rape, have achieved wonderful ground cover, which means that weed control is going to be far less of a worry to the arable farmers in the spring.

It is not only on the arable farmland that things are not as they should be, many trees still have green leaves, while others are hanging onto their leaves in many shades of yellow, brown or red, which they normally would have shed weeks ago. In the garden things are not as they should be either. Madge (Meg) has just come in from our fruit pen with several bright red raspberries and today is the ninth of November. A fuchsia hedge, which I am nurturing, is still in bloom with many more buds to open. I just hope it has time to prepare before any seriously cold weather hits it. It has been planted for three winters now and each spring has had to be cut back to ground level, because all its above-ground parts have been killed off by frosts. This year I am hoping for better things and am going to cover it with fleece if cold weather threatens. Next to the house we have Rose of Sharon in flower and roses blooming all over the place. Elsewhere, we also have copious supplies of cotoneaster berries, which are a wonderful food supply for all sorts of berry-eating birds, and which haven't been touched yet. All in all, it could be a disaster waiting to happen or simply the effects of climate change and perhaps we are going to have a very mild winter.

Out in the countryside, I have seen several pairs of roe deer as the evenings darken, moving out into the fields of winter cereals, presumably to graze instead of browsing in their woodland habitats. The large herd of fallow deer which I saw so much of last year around here, has not materialised as yet.

Nor have we seen the red kites, which were so evident much of last year. We have been told that the month of October was the warmest October since records began and that the first two weeks of November are well on the way to creating a November which could turn out to be also the warmest since records began.

It is just as well that we haven't had a hard frost yet, as I still have some potatoes in the ground awaiting digging. They are Pink Fir Apple, which are best eaten as earlies with their skins still on. So I am really pushing my luck where potatoes are concerned. One good thing about this variety is that it is relatively slug resistant, whereas other varieties I grew this year have suffered from slug damage. However, all in all, potatoes have done well this year. This is something that my old 'tutor' and countryman, 'Old Bob', would never have admitted. He grew huge areas of potatoes in his garden and allotment every year and when asked, 'How are your spuds this year Bob?' would reply, 'Some as big as peas, some's as big as marbles and the rest is lit'luns.' It is a great pity that I didn't record more of 'Old Bob's' sayings from some fifty /sixty years ago. He didn't know the word malapropism, but he was brilliant in the use of it.

On one occasion, when we were to cut down some yew trees in the churchyard, his brother, George, who was our foreman, was told to go and see our new young vicar, who none of us had yet met, before we started the job. George, a man in his late fifties, came back from the interview terribly annoyed. He said, 'That young upstart of a vicar called me George.' Bob piped up, 'What, and you hadn't even been seduced 'ad ya?' (I think he meant introduced).

But please don't keep side-tracking me! I must get back to potatoes, and Irish potatoes at that. When I was a farm manager in Wexford, I was responsible for growing a hundred acres of potatoes each year under contract for the Smiths Crisp factory in Dublin. The farm I managed was two thousand acres of flat land that had been reclaimed from the land just north of Wexford harbour and was very fertile; similar to the Fens of Lincolnshire, only much smaller. It did have its disadvantages though, because it was, and still is, home to some 10,000 White Front geese from Greenland every winter, as well as Brent, Barnacle and Grey Lag, plus some two hundred swans,

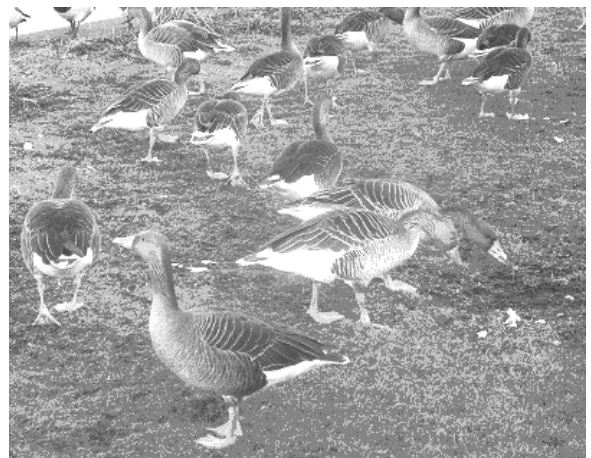
including Mute, most of which spend the whole year in the harbour, plus winter visitors in the form of Bewick and Whooper swans. The geese enjoyed the pastures and the winter-sown cereal crops. In England I had been used to sowing winter wheat at one and a quarter hundredweights to the acre, but in Ireland, because of the geese, the seed rate was doubled to two and a half hundredweights to the acre. That is one half for the next harvest and one half for the geese.

Since we grew about a thousand acres of winter cereals, this meant that an extra sixty two and a half tons of seed were needed. However this wasn't the biggest problem; the two hundred-odd winter resident swans caused the biggest headache. They loved potatoes and loved paddling up and down on the ridges where the potatoes had not been lifted. This resulted in potatoes near the surface becoming exposed to the light and becoming green, and green potatoes are poisonous. Not an ideal situation when they are to be used for crisps. One year in particular, because of a very wet autumn and early winter, potato lifting was extremely late and the number of green potatoes was excessive, but because it was the variety required for crisps, Record, and there wasn't an alternative source in the country, Smiths had to use ours.

This situation had repercussions because the women on the factory's production line had to cut off the green from each affected potato. We had a phone call from Smiths asking for me to go up to Dublin to explain why the problem existed. I can assure you that trying to pacify a contingent of rather irate, female Dubliners, was one of the most demanding and worrying experiences of my career. I just wish that Chris Packham of Autumn Watch

could have been there to explain away the situation.

Sorry; I have digressed again, and it is time that I sent in my copy to the editor or I shall be beyond the deadline for the next addition. Before I go though, I would like to recommend to any bird watchers that are interested to look up on the internet Wexford Harbour Wildfowl Reserve or the Wexford North Slob (Slob being a corruption of the Irish word *slab* which, translated, means mud). If you want a winter or early spring, bird watching holiday, the Wexford Slob is the ideal place for the variety of birdlife and, of course, wonderful hospitality. If you are interested I still have many contacts over there.



Whitefront and Barnacle Geese photographed January 2010 on Wexford Slob

Now I must finish and send off my copy. Thank you for reading to the end and God bless you.

Ted Cox (15.11.11)



THE CHASE GARDEN CLUB

The Chase Garden Club's Autumn and Winter Programme is now well under way with a variety of activities. Non-members are welcome at all meetings, which commence at 7.30 pm in the 1st Woodcutts Scouts HQ, Common Road, at Sixpenny Handley, Dorset SP5 5NJ. At every meeting there is a raffle, plant sale and refreshments. Membership is £20 per annum or £3.00 per meeting for non-members.

The continuing Programme for 2011/12 is as follows:-

Thursday 29th December 2011	No Meeting
Thursday 26th January 2012	Quiz Evening and AGM
Thursday 23rd February 2012	Sweet Peas: Chris Hill
Thursday 29th March 2012	A Year Through the Lens: Paul Sturges
Thursday 26th April 2012	Annual Supper: Members Only

The summer programme of garden visits for 2012 will be announced nearer the time.

For further information regarding the above please contact either - Gill Carter on 01725 552030 or Louise Walford on 01725 516384



Sixpenny Handley

Sixpenny Handley Homewatch June 2011



Sixpenny Handley

The new police team looking after our patch is now settling in. Under PC Simon Hallam, who operates out of Wimborne, we also have Police Community Support Officers Steve Willis and Andy Downs. Between them, these three officers cover a new area known as East Dorset Rural, which combines the old 'Wimborne Rural' and Alderholt/Cranborne territories, so it is a very large patch. They are doing their best to get up to our Parish as often as they can although, as an example of just how deep the policing cuts are biting, for a time PCSO Andy Downs was reliant on a bicycle for transport.

137 incidents were reported for the third quarter of the year throughout East Dorset Rural, mostly small thefts. An alarming spate of wheel nuts being removed in the village seems to have come to an end. Quite what the motivation was is unclear but in one instance at least it seems that wheel theft was intended and the thieves were disturbed before actually removing the wheel. This left the vehicle in a dangerous state, of course, and in another case a wheel actually came off a car that

had been driven off without the owner being aware it had been tampered with, so please be careful.

The police speed camera has been restored to working order and is in use again from time to time around our parish. It is usually locals who get picked up. You have been warned.

A reminder that the new number (nationally) for contacting the police with non urgent information is 101. Still use 999 if you require immediate attendance. Can we once again urge everyone to report all crimes, however trivial, as it is on the basis of information received that the police allocate resources to our area.

One of the more unusual police attendances in our patch was when a member of the public found an old unexploded hand grenade by a footpath in Deanland. It had been exposed by brush clearance and was safely disposed of in a controlled explosion, supervised by the military from Tidworth.

Have a safe and happy Christmas.

Book Review - 2

Since penning my last review, I have read four books - three of which have much for me to recommend them. The first, *'To the Last Man, Spring 1918'* [Viking, 1998] is a well written account of the German spring offensive of 1918, sometimes referred to as the *'Kaiser's Battle.'* Lyn MacDonald is acknowledged to be in the first division of military historians, and she has few equals as a chronicler of the battles of the *Great War, 1914-1918.** Thus, her telling of General Ludendorff's last major offensive aimed at driving a decisive wedge between the British and French armies on the Western Front does not disappoint. Her use of numerous personal accounts garnered from soldiers of all ranks, British, French and German, who were caught up in the fighting and woven into her analysis of the battle which lasted from dawn on March 21st to the evening of April 5th is presented with considerable skill. In particular she is at ease when describing the relationships between the generals and their political masters. It is no secret that Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig and the prime minister at the time, David Lloyd George, detested each other. This animosity came to a head as the fighting entered its final phase. Lloyd George had crossed to France for a meeting with his French opposite number, Georges Clemenceau, at Beauvais and it was while in the cavalcade of cars motoring towards Abbeville that Lloyd George turned to Haig and ordered him to dismiss immediately the commander of the British Fifth Army, General Sir Hubert Gough, on whose weakened front the full weight of the German attack had fallen. This was an insidious act on the part of the prime minister, particularly as earlier in the year he had denied Haig the reinforcements requested, many of which would have gone to bolster Gough's understrength divisions. Despite Haig's protestations Lloyd George would not retract and as Lyn MacDonald writes on page 340, the Commander-in-Chief's face was *'white with anger'* when he took his leave on reaching Abbeville. Like so many of the great offensives of that savage war what had begun with much promise eventually petered out in stalemate. Yes, measured by the standards of previous years, Ludendorff's men had made a considerable advance but had failed completely to sever the right flank of the British army from the left flank of the French. The cost of failure was immense though figures for the German losses are difficult to gauge. On the British side the official count was later given as 22,000 dead and 75,000 taken prisoner of war and

a further 63,000 wounded. Although first appearing over a decade ago, new copies are still available; Amazon on its website quotes £35.00 - it is worth every penny.

In contrast, Alan Dearing's, *'The Friendly Invasion - as the US GIs trained for D-Day'* is a much slimmer book of just 172 pages which includes comprehensive notes and sources. Basically, it is a novel centred on a handful of people, young and old, living in the Dorset seaside resort of Lyme Regis where, late in 1943 and for the first six months of 1944, thousands of American soldiers were ensconced in camps built within the town and its environs. This *'friendly invasion'* is factual and the author concentrates mainly on the relationship between the Negro servicemen who made up the bulk of the advance party charged with constructing the camps and the towns people who, by and large, gave them the warmest of welcomes. This generosity of spirit shown by the civilian inhabitants, many of which had never set eyes on a coloured person, continued after the arrival of the combat troops (predominantly white) whose deep rooted prejudices surfaced immediately. Almost overnight segregation was imposed; Lyme's cinema (a very popular venue) was open to the white GIs on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays with Wednesdays and Fridays being reserved for the coloured soldiers. This open hostility between the white and black GIs culminates at the end of the book in a terrible tragedy. Principal of the fictional female characters entwined in this heavily charged atmosphere are two teenage girls, Jo and Ruth, both evacuees from Plymouth and both billeted with the Green family. Jo is open spirited and soon forms a relationship with Franklin, one of the first of the Negro soldiers to arrive in the town. Ruth, although yearning to become involved, is unable to shed the strictures of her Jewish background. Meanwhile, of the men left in the town - those who were either exempted from military service or as yet too young to be called up - see the situation as an opportunity to make themselves some money. Particularly adept in doing so is Ricky, another evacuee and a pupil at the local grammar school. Sensibly, the author restricts himself to fairly general comments regarding the pre-invasion exercises, though mention is made of *Exercise Tiger* which resulted in nearly 1,000 American dead when German e-boats got in amongst the landing craft as they manoeuvred off Slapton Sands. Published by Enabler

Publications at £5.99, and available through bookshops, *'The Friendly Invasion'* should have much appeal to anyone living in Dorset. Further details can be found on the publisher's website: www.enablerpublications.co.uk.

A sight and sound familiar to all who live in and around the village are the rhythmical beat of helicopter blades, the most common being Middle Wallop's Apaches as they exercise, usually in pairs, on the approaches to the roundabout on the A357. Of equal familiarity is the distinctive thrash of the twin-rotor Chinooks, operating out of Odiham. Both types feature in Flight Lieutenant Alex 'Frenchie' Duncan DFC and Antony Loveless's *'Sweating The Metal'* (Hodder & Stoughton, 2011). Here, the authors take the reader into the adrenalin charged world of helicopter operations in Afghanistan. What impressed me most, apart from the sheer drama of the operations undertaken by Flight Lieutenant Duncan (on two occasions Duncan came close to being shot down by the Taleban) and his fellow Chinook pilots, is the way the narrative hangs together. It is pacy, its language is rich with expressions that add a real sense of urgency to what is taking place; in his prologue, Duncan writes, *'I check my watch; we've been sitting 'turning and burning' - rotors spinning, burning fuel - on the pan at Camp Bastion, for fifty minutes now. Early afternoon - Helmond Province in May - and the outside air temperature display on the instrument panel says it's 50C. The Chinook's windscreen takes the full glare, turning the cockpit into a greenhouse where the ambient temperature is nudging 65C. Hot doesn't even come close.....'* The unusual title to the book is explained on page 30. Apparently, when carrying a maximum underslung load, the Chinook's airframe quite literally bows in its central area, thereby creating a rippling effect across the outer metal skinning in much the same way as experienced by human weight-lifters where the skin on their upper arms reacts under extreme conditions of stress. Not only is *'Sweating The Metal'* an excellent read, I predict that when our forces withdraw from this far-off and desolate country, Duncan and Love-

less's work will be regarded as one of the best accounts to emerge from this bloody conflict.

Finally, I come to the fourth book which, in more ways than one, is an oddity. I was once given good advice by a lady in our village who, having seen me browsing through the stock of the mobile library, said *"Life's too short to read boring books"*. Well, I must confess there were several times that I nearly gave up on *'Desert to Danube'*. However, I ploughed on through page after page of narrative, mainly concerned with exercises until, at last, I reached a very interesting part in Duncan Leitch Torrance's personal memoir of his army service that began in early December 1944 and finished towards the end of March 1948. Commissioned into the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, the bulk of his service was spent attached to units charged with the recovery and identification of servicemen who had died in the war and were now being brought in from isolated graves and reinterred in the many concentration cemeteries established by what was then the Imperial War Graves Commission, but which is now known as the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. This sombre task took him to the deserts of Libya and, for the final months of his service, to Germany where he was attached to one of the Royal Air Force's Missing Research and Enquiry Units. Thus, the last 100 or so pages of the book provide a fascinating read as the work of these units has not been covered in depth by historians and, therefore, his contribution is most commendable. I do not have a price for the book, but suspect it will not be overly expensive. Its reference is: ISBN 978-0-9559355-2-7 and this will enable bookshops to trace its availability and costs. Alternatively, visit www.enablerpublications.co.uk.

* On a par with Lyn MacDonald is Martin Middlebrook who, twenty years before publication of *'To the Last Man'*, wrote *'The Kaiser's Battle, 21 March 1918, The First Day of the German Spring Offensive'* (Allen Lane, 1978). Do try to obtain a copy.

Bill Chorley

SPORTS ASSOCIATION NEWS AND SPORT RELIEF 2012

As you know, the Sports Association is the umbrella organisation that connects between the Parish Council, who are the owners of the fantastic sports facilities, and the four individual clubs of cricket, bowls, tennis and football. It is run by a small band of volunteers who form the committee and it is their purpose to promote sports in the village and beyond.

This year has seen the building of the new machinery shed, known as the green shed, which means that we can store our kit safely and securely. This is a great help. Thanks must go to East Dorset District Council for the majority of the grant towards this and also to the Parish Council for their help.

Maintenance of the grounds is always an issue as it is done by volunteers for the benefit of the sports clubs. Special thanks need to be given to Mark Young, who does a great job on the football field, and John Peacock on the cricket field, but we still need more help. We have the most beautiful setting and good equipment and we would welcome some regular ongoing help and assistance in the preparation of the grounds from somebody who may have some time on their hands. This might appeal to somebody who is retired and looking to put something back into the village.

Whilst on the subject of help, on Sunday 25th March, in conjunction with Sainsbury's Sport Relief, we are holding the Handley Mile at the recreation ground. This will be a one mile circuit of the

cricket and football clubs in aid of Sport Relief. There will also be a three mile and a six mile route for anybody to run, walk, hop or crawl along! All proceeds will go towards the charity and you will hear a lot more about it in the national press in the New Year. Sixpenny Handley has signed up to this and it should be exciting. We are expecting over 100 runners, maybe even more, and there will be other entertainments and a barbecue. The event will start at 10 am and 10.30 am, depending upon which route you want to take, and all proceeds from the routes will go towards Sport Relief and some to the Sports Association as well.

Again, we need your support. We hope to get a lot of people as runners and participants - don't worry if you are not able to run, it can be a walk if necessary. We also need marshalls on the day to help organise the routes, car parking, registration, etc.

The Sports Committee is run by a small body of people and time and time again it is the same people doing the same jobs. We also need help for the Handley Fair in July and we have a small committee that needs extra support. If you would like to help put something back into your village and would like to participate in any way, small or large, in the Sports Association and fantastic set-up that we have, please do either contact myself, David Cross, or come to one of our meetings - the next meeting is at the Sports Pavilion, Monday 9th January at 7 pm - we would love to see you.

The Photographic Club

The Photographic Club continues to meet regularly and is proving to be a great success. At each session members bring their photographs, with a particular topic chosen by Andrew Chorley. At these meetings, photographs are analysed and discussed, hopefully to improve our techniques; always to encourage and never to put down. It is a very positive and friendly learning environment. One Sunday recently, 6 members went to the New Forest to capture anything that took one's eye - as you can see, Andrew is deep in thought!

Rita Taylor



1st Woodcutts News



Settling in to the new HQ

It's been nearly 6 months since the Sections were allowed back into the newly rebuilt HQ and we have to say that we are loving it. We now have a purpose built space that is fit for Scouting in the 21st Century. Not just for Woodcutts, but for the whole of East Dorset District and beyond. There are still a few jobs to be done and we want to provide an outside washing-up facility for camping, but apart from that it's back to business as usual. The meetings for each of the sections are now being held in the HQ and the facilities are revealing their true identity. The Committee Room is quite firmly known as "the craft room" by the Beavers who have been working on Craft badges. At the end of October the Beavers and Cubs enjoyed a joint Halloween party with food kindly provided by parents. Much fun and frivolity for all, and Akela was even more scary than normal! Another activity that put the new building to the test was a competition to build the tallest possible tower from spaghetti and marshmallows. The numbers in all the sections are continuing to climb. In no way would we call ourselves "victims of our own success" but we are having to monitor the growth carefully and have already started making plans for further expansion should that be needed. It is our intent (and duty) along with the Scout Organisation nationally to provide a place for any young person who would like to join. As you can imagine, this does put pressure on the leaders (who are all volunteers) so if you feel that you can help in any way, then please do talk to the leaders. Even just an occasional bit of support is much appreciated and can provide a welcome respite to the leaders and a refreshing change when the young people can learn new skills or a new way of looking at things.

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

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

Canada visits Woodcutts

A few weeks ago our Scout Leader, Rob Easton, found two forlorn-looking Canadian Scouts on his doorstep looking for a place to stay on their 10 month world tour. They had come from Brownsea Island having been told in no uncertain terms to aim for Woodcutts "where they do proper Scouting". The two visitors were billeted in the HQ and Rob and his family provided them with meals. In payment for our hospitality the Canucks made a presentation to the Scouts about the planning for their trip and Scouting in Quebec. They also allowed themselves to be asked some incisive questions such as, "Do Canadian Scouts get lost on Night Hikes too?" After a flurry of excitement over a lost passport involving long phone calls to the Canadian Consulate before it was found "in my bag!", they went on their way to visit Stonehenge, carrying a necker from Woodcutts as a memento. We hope to hear from them again as they continue their journey around the globe.

Night Hike

One Friday in October, 14 intrepid Scouts congregated at the HQ for a night hike. Setting off at 9:30 pm the Scouts progressed through Chase Woods towards Win Green, stopping on their way when met by a kindly provider of hot soup. Having warmed their cockles (technical Scouting term) they continued to Win Green, arriving about 1 am. After spending some time trying to identify distant light sources from their direction on the map (is the Isle of Wight really north?), they returned to the Scout HQ, arriving at about 5:30. After a full one and a quarter hours' sleep they were awoken by the traditional smell of frying bacon before being returned to their parents, suitably exhausted.

Carol Service

After our brief foray into "alternative venues" last year at the ATC, we are returning to the more traditional format of a Carol Service at St Mary's on Sunday 4th December at 2:30 pm. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as can make it and we promise that you won't be disappointed. In recent years we have had "Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer" chosen as a favourite Carol (?!?) by the Explorers, hand bell ringing by the Beavers and presentation of a "coming of age" Leatherman (a Woodcutts tradition) to the outgoing District Commissioner. This year will be just as exciting so make a date in the diary.

1st Woodcutts News



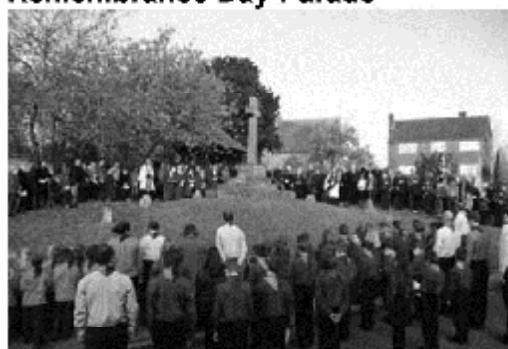
Recent Fundraising successes

We are very pleased to say that both our recent fundraising activities were a huge success, thanks to the dedicated few who helped organize, the many who assisted, and the multitude that turned up in support.

The dinner dance in early October was a fun evening with good food and good music. Special thanks to Carolynne & Neil Bowes and Ann Cullen for organizing the food, to Pearl James for the raffle and to Alec James and his friends who provided the musical entertainment, and finally to Denise Turner for the decorations. Also, the Explorers who came along, very smartly turned out and helped by serving and clearing the food, deserve a mention.

The Fireworks Spectacular seems to go from strength to strength and gets more popular each year as its reputation spreads far and wide. Under the direction of Rob Easton more than 45 helpers ensured that the event went off without a hitch. Our thanks to all who helped and the many more who turned out in droves to enjoy the event. Once again, the weather gods were smiling on us and after a dreadful week we had a dry and clear evening. We are particularly pleased that the event allows other groups in the community to participate and raise money for themselves and also extends the range of activities that the public can enjoy when attending.

Remembrance Day Parade



This year's Remembrance Day Parade was extremely well attended by all sections with about 80 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Leaders joined by a number of ex-Service personnel for the march up the High Street to the War Memorial. Photos were taken of each section and the whole group before setting off (mostly) in step.

After the traditional two minutes silence and the laying of wreaths, the Group joined a packed congregation for a service in the Church. Our thanks go to the parents for such a well turned out group of young people.

Cloth Bank – green fundraising

We have a new way of collecting clothing and fabric to raise money for the group. There is now a shiny new Cloth Bank behind the HQ where your old clothes and any other fabric can be deposited for collection. The items need to be placed in specially provided plastic bags before being dropped into the bank. If you would like to start making space in your home by throwing away some old items then please can you obtain bags from Rachel Hiner (01725 552189) and then drop off the bags at the HQ whenever you are next there.

Shopping online? – use Easyfundraising

This scheme allows money to be raised for the group whenever you shop online at most of the popular online sites such as Amazon without it costing you a penny more – sometimes even less! Simply register with the site and select "1st Woodcutts" as your preferred charity. For more details, visit our website or go straight to www.easyfundraising.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)
01258 830861



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

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

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

Sixpenny Handley First School News

All about our learning! By Robins Class (Early Years)

Our very first theme when we started school was Rumble in the Jungle and we had lots of fun finding out all about jungles. We learnt a song about an elephant and used the computers to spot jungle animals. We came to school dressed up as animals and jungle explorers and went on an aeroplane all the way to South America to explore the jungle! We made our own jungle animal biscuits and we took them on our trip with us. It was a fun day at school!



Our new theme this half term is Once Upon a Time! We have been asking lots of questions about stories that start with once Upon a Time and have been finding out the answers in the classroom. We have our very own stage and microphone in the classroom to help us with our story acting and we have been singing there, too! We are starting to learn to tell stories with special actions and the Toucans class have been helping us.

Wrens- Year 1



Last half term we wanted to learn all about the human body. We thought of lots of questions and we researched the answers in our class. We called our theme 'Inside Out'. We measured the amount of blood we have inside our body. We tried out a heart monitor to see what our heart rate is and we bandaged some patients up in the hospital role-play area. We pretended to be archaeologists and played in the sand to find bones. We made cardboard tube stethoscopes and listened to people's hearts beating. We read the Funnybones story and made some finger puppets to act the story of it. We did a tooth experiment. We left them for 2 days and when we looked at the teeth the one in the coca cola was black, the one in the orange juice was orange, the one in the milk was all white and the one in the water was clean. We dug up our own vegetables and ate some of them for our snack and we made some fruit cakes for our Mummies and Daddies to try. We can't wait to learn about our next theme, 'Showtime'.

Eco Update!

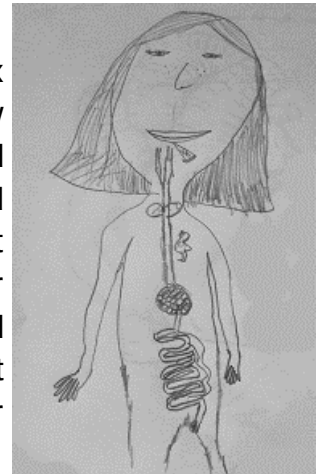
Sixpenny Handley First School had an ECO morning on the 4th November working together to help towards recycling. The idea stemmed from a meeting the school council had with Mrs Swan, who helped to set up the morning with the children. The school had to create new recycling bins to collect plastic milk top lids and old used up pens. The whole school had the same amount of materials to create their recycling bins and each class made some fantastic designs. We would like the village to help us collect plastic milk top lids and old used up pens as each class are competing to collect the most. Funds from the recycling will be going towards The John McNeil Opportunity Centre and School. As a school we need your help, so please don't throw any old used up pens, highlighters, ink correctors or plastic milk top lids as you can bring them to Sixpenny Handley First School to recycle. It was a great morning where all the children had fun and were able to get messy!



Continued on page 29

I Never Stop!

Last half term the Red Kites theme was 'I Never Stop!'. We spent six weeks learning about how our bodies never stop. We found out how the heart works and became the blood in our bodies. We also found out about how the digestive system works and what happens to food when we put it in our mouths and how it changes in our bodies until it comes out. We know our brains are really important and tell our bodies what to do and we found out about each part of the brain and what it does! Miss Benyon came into school to teach us more about how our bodies worked and we did some great activities to test our brains. Thank you, Miss Benyon.



Handley Sports Youth Football Club

It's been sometime since I last wrote in the Downsman on the progress of the Youth team. As usual, a lot has happened: players have come and gone and we have had exciting entertaining matches as always.

Since last season we have acquired two players from Salisbury which is a great achievement to be attracting players from such distances. They were invited to come along and watch a men's match, check out the facilities we have on offer, and meet myself and my current squad of players. Before even leaving that day they said they wanted to sign and have been part of our team ever since. Angus Scully is also back playing again after he was plagued with injuries last season, so Angus is almost like a new signing, too!

We remained in Dorset Youth Leagues and kept our place in Division 3 as we had finished 5th the previous season.

Our first match saw us hosting Sturminster Marshall, who had been relegated from the league above. We knew this would be one of the toughest games of the season, though this didn't show as we stormed into a 2-0 first half lead with goals from Bradley Sando and Jamie Steele. Into the second half and, again, we started well on top with Steele getting his second. Stur pulled one back near the end, but the win was never in doubt and it was a fantastic start to the season.

We then had a couple of games called off, which is never ideal, but the next game was the Dorset Cup in which over 60 teams enter. Again, we were handed a tough draw at home to Sturminster, though this time Sturminster Newton. Stur are a league above us and were doing well after their first 3 matches. Yet again though, the boys began the match in storming fashion and should have been several goals up within minutes, but good goalkeeping and wasteful finishing meant it stayed 0-0. However, shortly before half time we finally got the breakthrough our play was deserving of: Brad Sando placed a shot across the goalkeeper into the far corner. The second half proved to be much more eventful with Sturminster obviously not wanting to lose to lower league opposition. They came back strongly and got an equaliser early into the half. Handley, however, didn't let this get to them and went on to dominate the next 20 minutes, going in front when a great through-ball was played through

the defence and Jamie Steele, with his blistering pace, raced onto the ball to smash it past the goalkeeper who barely had time to react until it was past him. Not long after, though, it was 2-2 and the game was very tense until full time. Into extra time; and it was the Brad Sando show . . . first he placed a free kick from 30 yards into the top corner with power and precision, then, with extra time nearing an end, Sando again beat his player and curled the ball into the side, netting to complete his hat-trick and put the game to bed for Handley!

The following week we were back to league duty and away to the top of the league. Unfortunately, the boys were victims of their own success and went with the attitude that after beating a team from the league above, going back to their own league would be simpler. This proved fatal, and we were on the wrong end of a lesson in wanting the win more! Credit must go to West Moors as their win was deserved.

So on to Weymouth Wanderers: following the last two games it was rather a non-event as we drew 0-0 with nothing to note from the game! But not to concede any goals is always good, and after last week the hunger and commitment was back.

We now had 2 away games on the trot, firstly down in Bournemouth to play Bearwood United. We came away with a 3-2 win, but on chances we should have been talking about a 20 - 2 Handley win but, as said previously, we don't do things the easy way here! We were dominant throughout the whole match but, unbelievably, found ourselves 1-0 down to Bearwood's only attack and corner of the first half. Again, the boys' response was impressive as they never let their heads drop and battled on a very wet pitch. Josh Davis got the move going, playing a through-ball which, yet again, Jamie Steele got to first and curled a fantastic rushing shot past the stranded goalkeeper. However, another lesson was soon learnt as whilst the boys were still half celebrating, Bearwood attacked and scored with a fortunate sliced shot. Subs were made and this was Angus Scully's first appearance since ripping muscle away from bone. His introduction changed the game as he used his power and passing to get the ball down sending a fine cross to Bradley Sando who tucked it away into bottom corner. Handley piled forward, but were frustrated by some extremely dodgy offside decisions. Time was running out but we continued to attack, and in the last minute of the

Continued on page 31

game Scully played the ball forward to Sando who turned on the ball and kicked it sweetly into the top corner to win the match with the last kick of the game. Again, done the hard way but fully deserved!

The second of the away matches was something of a 'derby' match at this level at Blandford United Raiders. Something I've worked on with the boys is too get straight at the opposition from the start of the match, not allowing them time to get into the match. We did this perfectly, with Blandford not getting into our half for the first 15 minutes, though, again, very wasteful finishing stopped us from wrapping up the match nice and early. Christian Gully-Smith had been moved from centre midfield to right midfield for this match; everything was going through him and he was the most unfortunate not to score first. However, the first goal was created by Gully-Smith playing a great slide rule ball through creating a race to the ball between their keeper and Jacob Wareham. Jacob won the race and expertly chipped it to make it 1-0. The second half was much the same, but again we were left to rue bad concentration as Blandford made it 1-1. To the boys' credit, it seemed to wake them up and we scored 3 goals in 15 minutes to go 4-1 up. The second goal game from the impressive Angus Scully taking a shot that crashed back off the post. Sando controlled things and layed across the box for Jamie Steele to tap it home. We were on top in midfield winning everything and again it was Gully-Smith who played Sando through who calmly placed his shot across the keeper into the bottom right hand corner. Blandford didn't know what had hit them and Sando took full advantage of this by running down the wing to play in Steele who slotted past the goalkeeper to score his second of the match. Towards the end we allowed Blandford to pull back a late consolation goal!

Our last match at the time of writing was back to the Dorset Cup. Once again, the draw was unkind to us drawing us against Broadstone Colts. Broadstone were 4th in the top Dorset League last season and were current runners-up of the Dorset Cup from the previous season, so we knew we were in for an extremely tough match. Handley, though, came out with all guns blazing, although both teams were showing amazing commitment, passion and battling for every single ball. The first half belonged to us, and a great defence-cutting ball from James Hunter was met by Christian Gully-Smith who caused chaos in the Broadstone defence, with the ball eventually falling to Jacob Wareham who

brought it down and fired it across the goalkeeper into the bottom corner. We had chances to extend our lead but failed to take them, and in the second half Broadstone began to show why they are known to be such a good side around Dorset. However, tireless hard work from all our players and two class saves from Allystair Riggs kept them at bay and the shock of the cup so far was complete!

On being informed by the Dorset FA we now face Wimborne Town in the quarter finals, we were also made aware that we are the first team in 23 years to reach the last 8 of the cup from Division 3, as it's normally always Division 1 teams getting through by this round. This really is a fantastic achievement regardless of the next match, and after having managed the boys for 8 years now and over 200 games, this is probably the most proud of them I have ever been and they should be proud of themselves and fear no-one in future matches.

We currently sit 3rd in our league with matches in hand over 1st and 2nd and are successfully into the quarter finals of the Cup, so it's looking as if we are in for a good season. As always, we look to the village for support at home matches on Sundays at 2.00 pm.

My continued thanks goes to all the parents for their support; my coach, Allyn Steele; Referee, Stuart Haskell, and linesman, Mark Styles, who all give up their free time every home match to help us.

Up The Sports!!

Adam Day

See page
35 for
more
details.



Lucy Boggis set to lead Santa Fun Run at Salisbury Cathedral
Event takes place on Saturday 10 December 2011 at 12 noon

Heptathlete Lucy Boggis, aka 'Tempest' in the television show *Gladiators*, is set to lead the warm-up for the Southern Spinal Injuries Trust Santa Fun Run at Salisbury Cathedral. The event, which will take place on Saturday 10 December, is set to attract hundreds of Santas of all ages and abilities for the perfect start to the festive season.

Commenting on the event, Lucy Boggis said: "It's great to be part of this event again. It's such good fun and creates a wonderful spectacle. With both my sisters involved in the types of sports that can result in a spinal cord injury I'm really happy to be supporting SSIT."

For the past two years the SSIT Santa Fun Run has taken place at Longleat and over 300 Santas have taken part helping raise money for the charity which supports the Duke of Cornwall Spinal Treatment Centre in Salisbury and people with spinal cord injury in the South and South West of England.

With seasonal music, provided by the local entertainment management company Orangements, and some gentle stretches led by Lucy, the Santas will be well prepared for the one or two mile run, jog, walk or push around Salisbury Cathedral Close. The event will be fully supported by the 4th Battalion, The Rifles, who will be supplying tents for registration and route marshals, and is sponsored by the wheelchair suppliers, Gerald Simonds.

The SSIT Santa Fun Run starts at 12 noon on Saturday 10th December 2011 and is open to people of all ages. It will be wheelchair, pushchair and dog-on-a-lead friendly. Entry costs £12.50 for adults and £6.50 for children in advance and includes a Santa suit and commemorative medal. Further details, including online registration, are via the SSIT website: www.ssit.org.uk.

For more information please contact:
Sue Hall E: sue.hall@ssit.org.uk
t: 01985 841194
m: 07769 953 537 (on the day only)

Rob's Column

Today

I had to keep a promise first,
 then seek a long lost friend.
 Encourage one who'd lost his faith,
 a quarrel try to mend.
 Then I forgot a grudge I had and overcame a fear,
 I had to show my gratitude,
 shed doubt and be sincere.
 I sought to make so few demands
 and fought for my belief
 I showed my love in simple ways,
 in beauty found relief
 Then in the closing twilight hours
 I heard a sweet voice say,
 My dearest child,
 I am so pleased with what you've done today.

By J C Cole

Lost your pen = No pen
 No pen = No notes
 No notes = No study
 No study = Fail
 Fail = No diploma
 No diploma = no work
 No work = No money
 No money = No food
 No food = You get skinny
 You get skinny = You get ugly
 Ugly = No love
 No love = No marriage
 No marriage = No children
 No children = Alone
 Alone = Depression
 Depression = Sickness
 Sickness = Death

*(Lesson: Don't loose your pen - you will die .
 I'm doomed I lost mine last month)*

Why do they call weather weather? Is it because
 they're not sure weather it will be good or bad?
 Or weather you should stay in or go out? Weath-
 er you like it or not you'll have to weather it.

When I was a little boy my parents dropped me off
 at the wrong nursery. There I was surrounded by
 trees and shrubs.

I need a six month holiday twice a year - that's all
 I ask.

Taxing Times

To the Collector of Taxes

For the following reasons I am unable to meet
 your demand note for Income Tax.

I have been bombed, blasted, buried, and sand-
 bagged, walked on, sat on, held up, held down, flat-
 tened out and squeezed by Income Tax, Super
 Tax, Tobacco Tax, Purchase Tax, Beer Tax, Spirit
 Tax, and Motor Tax, and every other society, or-
 ganisation and club that the inventive mind of man
 can conceive, to extract what I may not have in my
 possession, for the Red Cross, Blue Cross, Double
 Cross, and every other cross in the Country.

The Government has governed my business until I
 do not know who owns it.

I am suspected, inspected, examined, informed,
 requested, required, commanded so that I do not
 know who I am, where I am or why I am here at
 all.

All I know is that I am supposed to be an inex-
 haustable supply of money for every need, desire,
 and hope of the human race. And because I will
 not go out and beg, borrow or steal the money to
 give away I am cursed, boycotted, talked to, talked
 about ,held up, rung up, robbed and damn near
 ruined.

The only reason why I am clinging to life at all is to
 see what is going to happen next

Yours faithfully.

Time to Go Home

Time to go home says the great steeple clock
 Time to go home says the gold weather cock
 Down sinks the sun in the valley of sleep
 Lost are the orchards in blue shadows deep
 Soft falls the dew on cornfield and grass
 Through the dark trees the evening airs pass
 Time to go home they murmur and say
 Birds to their homes have flown away
 Nothing shines now but the gold weathercock
 Time to go home says the great steeple clock

J Reeves

Not Averse to Getting Older

Getting older:

There's not much fun in getting old,
You feel the heat and feel the cold.

The distance to the town is more,
Jobs become a tiresome chore.

And that hill, it seems to me
Is steeper than it used to be.

People that you know quite well
Somehow their names are hard to tell.

Just, "Hello", I'm obliged to say
Then casually pass the time of day.

Yet names from many years ago
I can remember just like so.

There are those things that disappear
When I'm sure they are quite near.

I drop something down by my toe
But then where does the objects go?

It runs off and hides away,

Leaving me in disarray

And searching every space

It turns up in an obscure place.

I go to the shed, a tool to get,
When I arrive, completely forget

What it was I went there for

After entering in the door.

Things that happen of absent mind,

Forget to take, or leave behind,

Something that's for various ills

Do not forget to take the pills.

So beware the tricks of older age

That could send you into a rage.

Compose yourself remain sedate,

Accept the fact that it's just fate.

V Hardwell (Shepton Mallet)

I've just turned sixty so I thought I should ask my new GP for a check up. After several exhaustive lab tests he said I was doing "fairly well" for my age. A little concerned I asked him, "Do you think I'll live to be eighty?" He said, "Do you smoke, drink beer, wine or hard liquor?" "No," I replied. He asked, "Do you indulge in hard or soft drugs?" Again, my answer was, "No". Then he said, "Do you eat lots of rich food, like rib eye, steaks, and barbecue ribs?"

I replied, "No, I try to avoid all red meat." He asked, "Do you spend a lot of time in the sun, playing golf, boating, sailing, hiking, or bicycling?" "No, I don't," I said. Then he said, "Do you gamble, drive fast cars, have lots of sex?" Once more the answer was, "No". Finally, he looked me up and down and said, "So why do you want to live until you're 80?" *(But, I'll try)*

There's even a riot in my biscuit tin. When I came down this morning a rook had hit a penguin over the head with a club and tied him to a wagon wheel with a blue ribbon. He then kidnapped a cookie and made a breakaway in a taxi. Police said he was seen after 8 in Maryland drinking bourbon, hobnobbing with a ginger nut, but not a crumb of evidence. So the jammy dodger got away.

Thanks to Lynne N.

Did you hear about the burglar who was running away from the cops when he fell inside a combine harvester? His family have been told not to worry as he'll soon be out on bale.

A couple of thank yous

Thanks to Half a Sixpence for all the good services and supplying everything you need to keep the village going. I've saved a fortune by not having to go to town and the time wasted in travelling. May it last another 25 years.

Thanks to the village for the support in donating, giving draw prizes, buying, biddin and, helping at the Village Hall Auction. Over £2,000 was raised this year.

Rob

The Downsman

DON'T FORGET WHAT'S ON!!!

DATE	FUNCTION	PAGE	DATE	FUNCTION	PAGE
3 Dec	Coffee Morning for Breast Cancer Care	13	5 Jan	Mobile Library	11
4 Dec	Scouts' Carol Service	28	9 Jan	W.I. Meeting	15
8 Dec	Nick Hayden, Arboricultural Officer, East Dorset District Council at Parish Office	4	12 Jan	M.U. AGM	19
8 Dec	Mobile Library	11	15 Jan	Copy Deadline	3
8 Dec	M.U. Meeting	19	19 Jan	Mobile Library	11
10 Dec	Santa Fun Run, Salisbury	35	26 Jan	Chase Garden Club	23
12 Dec	W.I. Meeting	15	1 Feb	Next Issue	3
15 Dec	Bingo	10	2 Feb	Mobile Library	11
15 Dec	W.I. Carol Service	15			
20 Dec	Carol Singing around village	11			
22 Dec	Mobile Library	11			
29 Dec	Chase Garden Club	23			
31 Dec	Last day for Parish Plan questionnaire				