

West Woodyates Borehole

The groundwater level apparently went up as the fastest rate since 1945 with a rise of 25 metres in a week.

After a bit of a lull the next storms took it over the top with the resultant flooding along Dean Lane. To make matters worse there was nowhere for the water to escape to as the River Allen, which would normally clear it to the Stour was already overflowing all the way to Wimborne St Giles.

Did you wonder why the drains were blocked? Most of it was silt and rubbish picked up on the way down through Garston Wood.

Although the ground water level at the borehole has dropped some 14 feet since its record high on 8 January it has now steadied and even risen a few inches over recent days. This situation is likely to continue with the heavy rain forecast.

continued on back cover



Photos: Nick Sherman, Jenny Gordon, Naomi Booth

**A Woodcutts
Farewell
from Ted Cox**
page 18

**Assistant Clerk
Job Vacancy**
page 6

**About
The Downsman**
page 10

Parish Councillors Sixpenny Handley

Chairman	Cllr D Lockyer.....	552492
	Cllr D Chick.....	552557
	Cllr A 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
Assistant Clerk	Gill Martin.....	552297
	Parish Office.....	552211
District Councillor	Cllr S Tong.....	01258 840061
County Councillor	Cllr Steve Butler.....	01725 517412
	Email: steve.butler@dorsetcc.gov.uk	
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	naomi@naomiboath.co.uk	
Production	Brian Hansford.....	552468
Advertising	David Salmons.....	552721

Churches

Church of England	St. Mary's, Sixpenny Handley
	St. Rumbold's, Pentridge
	St. Andrews, Gussage St. Andrew
Vicar	Rev Mel Durrant, The Vicarage
	60 High Street, Sixpenny Handley
	 552608
Roman Catholic	Church of Our Lady of Lourdes &
	St. Cecilia, Blandford Forum
Priest	Rev. 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	Tony Gibb.....	552704
Treasurer	Paul Skinner.....	552785
Bookings	Tony Gibb	552704

Sixpenny Handley Homewatch

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

Co-ordinators

Area 1 - Dean Lane	Don Penrose.....	552022
2 - Lower Handley	David Chick.....	552557
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
.....	01202 222222
Police non-emergency number.....	101

Sixpenny Handley Allotment Holders Association

Chairman	John Curtis.....	552397
Secretary	Steve Barrett.....	552121

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	Margaret Durrant.....	552608
Secretary	Andrea Meyer.....	552392

Happy Nappy Club

Emma Reeks	0777 909 58 63
Karen Adams	552391

1st Woodcuts 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
-------------	--------------------	--------

Sixpenny Handley W.I. (Formed in 1922)

President	Mrs Bobbie Carter	552042
Secretary	Mrs Margaret Jones.....	552358

Sixpenny Handley Mothers' Union

Leader	Sheila Bradley	553133
Secretary	Mary Macleod.....	552041

Chase Community Friends

Chairman	Vic Hatton	01258 840671
Secretary	Penny Adams.....	01725 552218

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	David Adams	552284
Secretary	Bea Boyland	552805
Treasurer	Patrick Taylor.....	01258 840231

Handley Sports Club

Chairman	Mark Young.....	552741
Secretary/Treasurer	Brian Hansford....	552468
Team Manager Div 3	Mark Young.....	552741
Team Manager Div 5	Adam Day.....	01258 452481

Wanted each Saturday-a Lineman now known as an assistant referee to train for each team - Home and away. The person will be under the control of the Match Referee

Sixpenny Handley Tennis Club

Chairman	Tracey Lownds.....	552414
Membership/Treasurer	Karen Miller.....	516340

Sixpenny Handley Cricket Club

Evening Captain	David Cross.....	552640
Secretary	Frances Churchill.....	552868

Citizen's Advice Bureau

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

Next edition

The next edition will be published on
1st April 2014

**Copy deadline for the
next edition
15th March**

Please make every effort to meet the deadline so that we have time for printing, production and distribution.

If possible please email your articles to editor@thedownsman.org.uk.

Advertising

Our advertising offers great value. The Downsman is currently delivered to over 700 households within the parish. Email David: downsmanadverts@sixpennyhandley.org for more details.

Advertisement Costs

Size	Single edition	Yearly rate
Small Text Ad	£2.50	-
Small Square	£5	£25
Rectangle	£10	£50
Large Square	£25	£125
Half Page	£35	£175
Whole Page	£50	£250

Advertisement Sizes

Size	Image area*
Small Text Ad	30 words
Small Square	59mm
Rectangle V	59mm x 122mm
H	122mm x 59mm
Large Square	122mm
Half Page	186mm x 122mm
Whole Page	186mm x 248mm

*without frame which will be added by us.

If you need us to set your advert please add a one-off £5 fee.

**Sorry - we are unable to
include flyers**

Well, what a start!

Once term started it really did feel like all systems go in our household. We had a wonderful Christmas break, but that was oh so long ago!

This January was the first time I had ever seen quite how the West Woodyates Borehole can really affect the village, it really was a river. You could tell those school children who lived on the other side, they were the ones wearing their wellies and carrying shoes to school every day!



Moving on to this issue; excitingly this Downsman completes the year of changes we started last March. To celebrate and as a thank you to all involved in producing, delivering and providing content I have written a piece about The Downsman (page 10). Myself I have been very grateful for your comments about the changes we have made, it makes the effort worthwhile. If you have any comments you would like to pass on to The Downsman team please email editor@thedownsman.org.uk or pop them into the Parish Office.

And as to thanking contributors, it is with fond farewells that we say goodbye to Ted Cox who has been writing his Woodcutts updates (page 18) for longer than I know. We wish Ted and Meg a very happy new life in the Piddle Valley. We are also grateful to Kelly Dawe who has been doing the wordsearch for the last year, the Puzzle page (page 36) would love a new contributor so please let me know if you could help. Also if you have any money saving tips, do send them to me for the Save a Sixpence column.

What else? Well you are all asked for your help with the Waistcoat Festival or finding family memories of the Handley fire (page 9). Handmade in Handley are new to the Downsman and are going to start workshops in the Post Office (page 11). There is a very yummy sounding review of The Walnut Tree (page 23). And there are some interesting articles from Catchpole Law and CBA Services (pages 34 and 35).

Naomi Booth

editor@thedownsman.org.uk

c/o The Parish Office, Unit 6, Town Farm Workshops, Sixpenny Handley, SP5 5PA

Directory	2	Food & Drink	22
Letters to the Editor	3	Health & Beauty	28
Noticeboard	5,38	Out and About	
Parish News		Gone Sailing	30
Clerks Corner	6	Gardening	32
Mobile Library	6	Puzzles	36
Woodcutts	18	Rob's Column	37
Book Review	20	Little & Lol	39
		What's On	40

To the Editor

Ena & Derry Goddard

would like to thank all friends and neighbours for cards and messages received for the sad loss of our son Steve.

I have stumbled across the Downsman and must say it is very good.

My association with your area is that my Mother was born and raised in Dean end, There were only 8 families living there then, I remember her telling me that 8 men went to the 1914-18 war and none returned. Some of the families names I remember were Hall, Dennett, Oxford and Rymond. My mother's maiden name was New. Her father was killed at Armentiers and my grandmother re-married Jo Rideout and they went to live in Newbarn at Handley. I spent a few months at Handley School Mr Fry was headmaster. So I will continue to read your excellent Downsman as it brings back memories. Thanks.

Mike Dennis

The Meaden family

would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts in relation to the passing away of Mary Meaden.

We are planning an internment of ashes service at Gussage St Andrew Chapel on April 12th 2014.

(More details closer to the time).

Useful Bus Cards

At a recent meeting we were made aware of very useful cards that First Bus have produced, that can be carried in your purse or wallet, in order that you can request help from the bus driver. For example to explain you have difficulty hearing or speaking. Hard copies can be obtained by ringing First Bus on : 0870 010 6022

Susan Bickle
Community Engagement Officer

Dear Editor

The Highway Code Section 227 states that in wet weather:

- The rain and spray from vehicles may make it difficult to see and be seen.
- Drivers should take extra care around pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists and horse riders.

What a pity it is that so many drivers in this community do not observe the code. During the recent flooding at the cross roads and along Dean Lane there have been numerous instances of vehicles being driven too fast causing pedestrians to be soaked in the process. Regrettably those involved in the school run were often the worst offenders together with "white van man" delivery drivers.

Maybe if they all realised that they could be open to a prosecution for Common Assault as well as Driving Without Due Care and Attention they might think about their behaviour differently. The chances of the roads being flooded again this winter remain high with every shower that passes.

Having had a rant, I must, through your columns, praise the support that has been received from East Dorset District Council and other agencies, all of whom attended a meeting in the village and experienced the flooding to get there. They came out in the worst of the weather to help us protect our homes.

A H Gibb

Community Land Trust An opportunity to transform a community's future.

Did you know that your Parish Council considered at their meeting on 23 January how best to proceed with the development of Affordable Housing in Sixpenny Handley and resolved in principle to initiate the establishment of a CLT? Watch this space for more

exciting news on this issue in the near future or if impatient to know more now visit –

<http://www.communitylandtrusts.org.uk/home> and

<http://www.wessexca.co.uk/projects/community-land-trusts>

David Salmons (Heard from the Public Gallery)

"So you don't want a bus service anymore ?

The 184 bus service to Salisbury is under severe threat, because Dorset County Council has decided to reduce the subsidy from April.

And frankly the reason for this is apathy. No-one went to the Parish Council meeting to discuss the proposals last year. Very few could be bothered to complete the consultation form. Those who qualify for a bus pass and could use it but do not, are either too lazy or too proud to do so. That is very selfish : there are many people in our village for whom the 184 bus service is an absolute lifeline, because they either can no longer drive or do not have a car. If we don't use it, we lose it, like so many other facilities in this village. If the Post Office were to go, everyone would complain, but how many people really support it whenever they can? Gradually, one by one, we will lose all our local services, simply because people do not appreciate them until they have gone. Who is to say that taking everything for granted like this will not mean that one day we will not even have a Church, a shop, a garage or a doctors' surgery ? I am not sure we even have a community really any more.

I use the 184 whenever I possibly can, though I don't need to do so. I have two cars, but I prefer to cycle to the village, tie my bike to a tree and take

continued on page 31

Downsman Noticeboard

If your group is staging an event or needs help, use this free space to tell everyone!



SIXPENNY HANDLEY WI JUMBLE SALE Sat 22nd FEB Doors open at 2.30pm SIXPENNY HANDLEY VILLAGE HALL

Lots of Stalls
Teas
Raffle **Entrance 20p**
Full details on page 13

1st Woodcutts Scouts

Pub Quiz

Saturday 15th March
Sixpenny Handley
Village Hall

Tickets £7 from Alf a Sixpence
to include Ploughman's Buffet
Doors open 7:30pm
Quiz Starts at 8pm
Full details on page 9

SIXPENNY HANDLEY ACOUSTIC LIVE



The Langfords + Support

Sat 15th Feb, 7.30pm-10pm
Village Hall, Sixpenny Handley
Tickets £4 advance from Handley
Newsagents & £5 on door.
Full details on page 14

HELP IS URGENTLY NEEDED

The village hall urgently needs
to find a new Booking Secretary.
If you could spare some time to
help the committee, we would
love to hear from you.
The booking system is software
based; the hall can supply
a laptop to help with email
bookings.

*For further details please contact
Tony Gibb on 552704.*



20th February

Sixpenny Handley Village Hall
Doors Open 7pm
Start 7.30pm
Fun, prizes, tea/coffee and home-
made cakes!
Future dates:

20th Mar & 17th Apr

All proceeds to The Little Pennies Pre-School
Registered Charity no. 1137622

St Mary's, Sixpenny Handley
12th, 19th, 26th March 2nd, 9th April
WEDNESDAYS during LENT



SOUP LUNCHES

Only £2.50 - a cuppa & a chat from 12.30
soup served at 1.00pm - Bring & Buy table



Each week the work of a charity supported by
local people will be highlighted

See article in *The Seeker* or phone 01725 552608 for
more information or to offer help
Transport can be provided



Once a month in Sixpenny
Handley Village Hall we provide a
freshly cooked 3 course lunch
for £4.00
Please contact
01258 841321
Transport, interest clubs
and help also available
full details page 25

Sixpenny Handley Waistcoat Festival

Festival 12-4pm Lantern
Parade 7.30pm-8.30pm

17th May 2014

Full details on page 9

GROUP SCOUT ACTIVE SUPPORT UNIT

Interested in
volunteering some time
to scouting in a flexible
way?

**Why not try
Scout Active
Support.
page 17**



Clerk's Corner

Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge Parish Council
www.sixpennyhandleyparishcouncil.btck.co.uk

Unit 6, Town Farm Workshops, Sixpenny Handley. SP5 5PA

Email: sixpennyhandley@dorset-aptc.gov.uk

Clerk to the Council (Lisa Goodwin) 01258 840935

Assistant Clerk (Gill Martin) 01725 552211

WANTED

Assistant Clerk to the Parish Council

Gill Martin's forthcoming retirement provides a wonderful opportunity for someone who enjoys engaging with people to have an interesting and rewarding part time job serving the local community and being the main point of contact with the Parish Council. Details of the appointment:

- A commitment of about 7 hours a week.
- Some of the work can be done from home.
- Initial monthly salary in excess of £200.00
- 21 days paid leave per year pro rata.
- All necessary training provided.
- Free training to work towards the award of a Certificate in Local Council Administration – a nationally recognised qualification.

Applicants should be happy to work as a team member, comfortable working with a computer system and have a basic understanding of book keeping.

For more details please contact any of the following -

The Parish Clerk - Lisa Goodwin 01258-840935 The Assistant Clerk- Gill Martin 552297

The Personnel Officer - David Lockyer Tel - 552492

It is hoped to make an appointment for the start of March so that the new post holder can have an overlap period with Gill for basic introductory on job training.

Closing Date for applications Friday 14 February 2014

Opening Hours:

Tuesday 10am – 12 noon &
 Thursday 6pm – 7-30pm

For up to date
 Parish Council

information visit:

www.sixpennyhandleyparishcouncil.btck.co.uk

The Parish Office Unit 6 Town Farm Workshops is available to Hire

Come and take a look when we are open on Tuesday mornings or Thursday evenings or arrange a visit with Gill.

£10 per session

Book in with Gill on

01725 552211 or 01725 552297

Jools by Sheila Ralph
 01725 552265

Valentine's Day
 14th February

Good range of valentine's
 themed gemstone jewellery

Including some
 925 sterling silver jewellery

Make your loved one happy
 with
 a unique piece of gemstone
 jewellery

Available from
 January 31st

At

Sixpenny Handley Post
 Office

Mobile Library

Visits on Thursday Fortnightly

February - 13th, 27th

March - 13th, 27th

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

Village Hall 100 Club

November 2013

1st £25 79 Mrs. Hayes

2nd £15 29 Mrs. Styles

3rd £10 45 Mrs. Wadge

December 2013

1st £25 38 Mr. Budden

2nd £15 63 Mr. Goddard

3rd £10 80 Mrs. Shepherd

Village Bunting



We would love to create our own unique Village bunting to be available for village organisations to use at village events.

Do you have any quirky material to donate to our cause (approx 300mm sq), could you design a flag to be included, do you have sewing skills?

If the answer is yes then please contact Kelly on 553095.

The Sixpenny Handley and Chalke Valley Practice

Tel: 01725 552500

www.sixpennydocs.co.uk

Tel: 01722 780282

The Doctors and all staff would like to thank you for your many gifts and cards. They were much appreciated by all of us at the Surgery.

Medication reviews

It is important, if you are on repeat medication, that you see a doctor at regular intervals to check that the medication is having the desired effect and that no changes need to be made. We print a warning on the right hand side of the script to tell you when a review is due so that you have time to arrange an appointment with a doctor. Our new clinical computer system has an option which will prevent the dispensers from issuing repeat medication once the review date has passed and we have switched this on to safeguard you. Please make sure that you check when your medication review

is due and make an appointment to see a doctor before your medication runs out.

Text Reminders

Are you concerned about forgetting an appointment? If so, why not sign up to receive text reminders?

When you make an appointment, you will be sent a confirmation message so that you can check that we have understood when you think the appointment is. Then 24 hours before your appointment you will receive another text to remind you about it. Please see the Receptionist the next time you visit the Surgery or telephone us during Surgery hours.

Online reordering

An increasing number of people are making use of the internet to order repeat medication via a secure website, allowing them to do so from the relative

comfort of their own home and at a time that suits them. The process is quite straightforward.

Please note that if you decide to sign up for this it does not stop you calling the surgery or coming in to order your tablets as before. So why not complete a simple form at reception next time you are in and use the facility when it suits you.

The New Web Site

Ever wanted to:-

- Discover what we do
- See who we are
- Contact out of hours
- Get simple on line advice
- Order repeat medication

Look no further

www.sixpennydocs.co.uk

DOUG LUCAS LOGS FOR SALE

FULL OR HALF TRANSIT LOADS

Also sacks, netted logs,

kindling, coal

FREE DELIVERY ALL AREAS

Tel: 01725 552636

Mob: 07765 426662

The Little Pennies Pre-school

Little Pennies Pre-school has had a wonderful start to 2014. Many of our sessions are now up to 16 children and we have plenty in the pipeline to keep them busy and learning.

Our first theme this year has been The Post Office. Our home corner has



been transformed into a Post Office. The children have written postcards and visited the real Post Office to buy stamps and send them.

D.J LOGS

Quality barn stored logs
Full and half loads

Kindling wood and Netted logs

(Netted logs can be delivered free of charge if purchased in multiples, or with kindling only in Sixpenny Handley)

Please call Darren or Lucy 01725 553167





Sixpenny Handley First School Recycling Projects



Our recycling projects are helping to raise funds for our school and local charities. Please help by contributing in the following ways:-

Bag2school

- Please donate unwanted, good quality, clean, adults' and childrens' clothing, paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around), handbags, ties, belts, hats and soft toys and jewellery. Unfortunately they are unable to accept duvets, bedding, household linen, curtains, carpets, pillows, cushions, mats, towels.
- Do not include soiled or wet clothing, material off-cuts, single shoes or bric-a-brac.
- The collection dates are Thursday 24th April & Wed 12th November at

6d Handley First School between 8:30 -9am. Recycling bags will be distributed around the village or available to collect from school. Items can be dropped off a few days beforehand or contact Maureen Swan (552561) to arrange collection.

- Items are re-sold in Eastern and Western Europe, Africa and Asia. Bag2School raises money for schools and also supports The Funzi & Bodo Trust, helping poverty stricken villages in Kenya.

Milk bottle tops

Please continue to collect plastic coloured milk bottle tops (washed). As well as handing them in to the school, there are collection boxes in St Mary's Church and in Styles' newsagents.

Used Pens

- All used pens of any brand, including marker pens, highlighters, white board pens and correction fluids can be included. Collection boxes as above or hand it to school.

Recycle-----Recycle-----Recycle

Toby Daniels

Dip WCF

Registered Farrier

Appointments for the weekend are available

Telephone: 07515 445469

Guitar Lessons

acoustic/electric
lead/rhythm/improvisation
blues-pop-rock etc.



half price taster lesson
over 35 years experience



Dave Gray
01725 552503
07751 566342

C & B STYLES

Newsagents & Mini-Market.

12 High Street, Sixpenny Handley.

Monday – Friday 6.30am – 7pm

Saturday 7.30am – 7pm, Sunday 7.30am – 1pm.

In-store bakery for Fresh morning breads & pastries

Extensive range of groceries, Chilled & Frozen Food.

Local Bread and Milk Daily. Fruits & Vegetables.

01725 552658

Off-licence with large selection of Wines, ciders & Ales.

Debit cards taken with free cash-back facility. Paypoint facilities in-store.

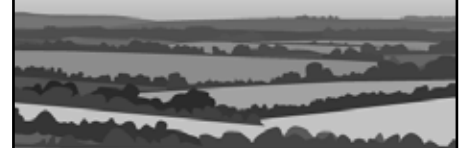
the web booth

- Websites built and updated
- Search Engine Optimisation
- Social Media
- Design for web & print

Tel: 01725 552430

Email: chris@thewebbooth.co.uk

Visit: www.thewebbooth.co.uk



Christopher and Naomi Booth



Sixpenny Handley Waistcoat Festival 17th May 2014

**Festival 12-4pm and Lantern Parade
7.30pm-8.30pm**

*Music, good food, games, stalls,
beer, competitions, children's area,
storytelling, performances, street
theatre, craft demonstrations, May
King and Queen and of course fabulous
waistcoats!*

The Parish Events Committee are gaining pace now with our preparations for our first ever Waistcoat Festival. Sixpenny Handley First School, The Scouts, and Little Pennies Pre-school will all be researching the story of the great fire in Sixpenny Handley in 1892 and will be working on lots of exciting projects in the Easter term.

Residents and businesses on the High Street and the Hollow will soon be receiving a letter of consultation through their door with information on the festival day and the closure of the High Street. Back Lane, Frogmore and Dean Lane will be accessible as normal.

Many thanks to those who have already agreed to help. There are lots of ways to get involved and we are still seeking help with the following:

- Donations of bright plain or patterned fabric for bunting
- Donations of old waistcoats for the school (children's or adults)
- Volunteers for a stewarding rota.
- Stall holders - Village groups and traders (by application only email for details).
- Businesses to advertise in the festival programme (small fees).
- Anyone with memories from relatives and stories to tell about the great fire or life in the village around 1892.

If you can help please get in touch



Sixpenny Handley after the fire photo from Dorset County Museum archive

with the festival team by email
sixpennyfestival@yahoo.co.uk

or phone 01725 516265

Follow us on Facebook

Sixpenny Waistcoat Festival and

Twitter @6dFestival

**Watch out for our updates in the
Downsman and start digging out those
waistcoats everyone. There will be
prizes for the best male, female, child
and family waistcoats!**

Fun for Families at half term

During half term, on Wednesday 19 February from 10.30 – 12.00noon, there's the fabulous trail of Fascinating Faces to follow and then the opportunity to create a face from your own imagination out of clay to take home using a range of clay techniques and tools. This is a drop in event, suitable for children 5-12 years, £3.00 per child (parents free). All materials provided.

WESSEX
Drainage Solutions Limited

- DRAINS UNBLOCKED ▪
- CCTV SURVEYS ▪
- ALL DRAINAGE REPAIRS ▪
UNDERTAKEN
- 24 HOUR CALL OUT ▪

Tel. 01722 580054

SEPTIC TANK EMPTYING HOTLINE - 01722 580056

www.wessexdrainage.co.uk

info@wessexdrainage.co.uk

1st Woodcuts Scouts – PUB QUIZ

Saturday 15th March, Sixpenny Handley Village Hall

Come and test your knowledge, with questions presented from
Quizmaster Hutch

Tickets £7, must be purchased in advance from Alf a Sixpence to include a
Ploughman's Buffet

Maximum 6 persons per team

Doors and Bar open from 7.30pm. Quiz starts at 8pm

The Downsman

For all those of you who are new to the village (and I include myself here, only being resident for 9 years) I thought I'd put together a little history of The Downsman.

Where did The Downsman come from?

Brian Hansford started The Downsman as a monthly news sheet for the village. He named it after Handley FC which in the 1920s were called The Downsmen. As the name was no longer in use he thought it could be used again.

This news sheet was a simple A4 page and was a little sporadic. It was printed by the East Dorset District Council. The church then set up a newsletter as well separately, so there were two parish newsletters.

In 1991 while Brian was Parish Clerk the Parish Council requested a magazine which would print all the news and information and of the parish. They decided The Downsman should be independent of the council with an editor not on the council. The council still has a member who sits on and helps the committee. The council has occasionally helped with funding of equipment.



At first The Downsman was an A5 magazine which was printed and collated in Brian's sitting room. The magazine became so popular that by 1996 the stapler couldn't get through the pages, so the format was changed to A4.



The Downsman being collated by Sixpenny Handley Bowls Club: photos Linda Howard

So what happens now?

The Downsman has a committee of about six members which meets before each issue to discuss any problems arising.

David Salmons sorts out all the advertising, invoicing and chasing payments. I collate all the emails and written articles and create the magazine from them. The magazine is then proof read by Annie Dyer and Tony Gibb before being printed.

Thanks to Tony's A3 printer, Brian no longer has to spend half a day sticking the A4 sheets onto A3 before he prints. The church insert is produced by Rev. Mel Durrant and Mark Wolstenholme and when both are ready Brian orders the paper and prints the 11 or 12 A3 sheets over 700 times... That is a lot of paper, but the changes to layout this year mean about 3 x 700 sheets less per issue!

The Bowls Club are the next to join in and see it as their way to help the community. They meet Brian in the Parish Office where the printing takes

place and collate the magazine. Pat Oxford organises members and Gordon Oxford usually inserts each magazine into the folder. The other members pick up the sheets in the right order. Brian usually counts them and puts them into bundles. With so much practice you can imagine they are now like a well oiled machine. The whole job starts about 1.30pm and is finished by 4 pm. (So next time you get a duplicate page, just be thankful for those lovely people who have spent their afternoon collating it for you!)

Once the magazine is collated it is delivered through your door by Sixpenny Handley Homewatch team. The magazine is also now available in pdf form. I email a copy to Alan Vincent a former editor who runs a website for us, see www.thedownsman.org.uk.

At our next meeting it will be a year since we changed the look of The Downsman. If you have any comments you would like to share with us please email editor@thedownsman.org.uk or drop them into the Parish Office addressed to The Editor.

Handmade in Handley

Handmade in Handley is a new venture to bring to adults the opportunity to learn new sewing skills and to encourage more people to try sewing projects or repairs for themselves. In these hard economic times many more people have become interested in wanting to save money by making and being creative, but may be lacking the confidence to get started and feel they need someone to guide them through new techniques; the designing and development stages to being able to realise their ideas. As an experienced textiles teacher of 25 years I'm here to help.

The Basic Sewing class is designed for those wanting to learn how to lay and cut out from a commercial pattern; how to then go on to make the item up successfully – learning construction methods and some of the tricks to obtaining a professional finish. The Designing for Decoration Workshop is aimed at those with some sewing skills but need help to transform original images such as photos into their own stitched interpretation. Follow up workshops will be available on specific makes and techniques.

Handmade in Handley

Handmade in Handley is a new venture to provide textile based classes and workshops from the sewing novice to the more confident maker. Classes will be run in the village Post Office Coffee Shop. Classes are being run by an experienced Textiles Teacher, covering a wide range of making opportunities.



Classes in February & March 2014

- Basic sewing classes for Beginners
- **Designing for Decoration Workshop**
learn how to design and make your own original embroidery

Classes coming soon:

- Projects for the home
- Gift makes for children
- Thrifty sewing skills

If you are interested then either email Lyn at HandmadeinHandley@outlook.com or phone 01725 553103 or speak to Christine or Steve in the Post Office.

Individual tuition also available.

Top Tip-Lacking inspiration?- collect together all your sewing materials and then spend some time sorting them and organising them into colour ranges; find attractive baskets and boxes to show them off; and place them somewhere you can get to them easily, so next time you feel creative it's all there to hand!

*Happy sewing
Lyn*

**COMPTON
SMITH**
CLASSIC INTERIORS

Designer Paints · Wallpapers · Fabrics · Curtain Poles · Curtains · Upholstery · Lamps
Architectural Ironmongery · Interior Design Service · Handmade Furniture



10d Wincombe Business Park, Shaftesbury, SP7 9QJ Tel: 01747 850150
www.comptonsmith.co.uk



Frogmore Design
Interior Design & Painted Furniture

Experience shopping in our Barn Showroom in Sixpenny Handley open every Friday 10am to 2pm. Frogmore Barn has a wide range of beautiful items for the home and a selection of personal gifts. We also offer an individual interior design service from a single room to a complete house makeover.

Initial consultation free

Frogmore Barn open every Friday from 10am to 2pm

Frogmore Farmhouse,
Frogmore Lane, 6d Handley

Tel: 01725 552910

email: frogmoredesign@tiscali.co.uk

website: www.frogmoredesign.com



WI News And Information

NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S
INSTITUTES

On 4th December ten members attended the Beacon Group Carol service at St. Mary's, Shroton, organised by Shroton and Child Okeford WI. Each of the six institutes gave a reading. The singing was excellent aided by a very good organist. One of the carols, The Okeford Carol, was written specifically for the village, sung to the tune of Mary's Boy Child ". It was a lovely evening rounded off with home-made mince pies, tea and coffee.

Our Christmas party was held on 9th December when we were joined by members from the other Beacon Group Institutes and Broadchalke WI. The competition a "Christmas Table Decoration in a Box" was fiercely contested - Patsy O' Connor's arrangement judged the winner. The entertainer for the evening was

delayed, so after WI business we mingled and ate a delicious array of food provided by members. It was a time to reflect on and discuss the past year and hopes for the future. The entertainer gave a highly unusual talk on the history of the music hall.

On 13th January we welcomed Mr John Combes from Ringwood for his talk entitled "Dorset Coast Naturally part 2". Mr Combes is an outstanding wildlife photographer who described the coast walk from Swanage to Portland, illustrating it with his own photographs, music and stories. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening which made us forget the floods and appalling weather outside the village hall.

Mr Rob Jesse, our village postman, is the guest speaker on 10th February. If

you would like to come and hear his talk or are interested in joining us please contact our secretary Mrs Margaret Jones on 01725 552358.

DON'T FORGET: The WI Jumble sale will take place in the village hall on Saturday 22nd February. Doors open at 2:30. Any donation will be gratefully received during the morning.

AIRWAVES

IAN NEWMAN
OVER 30 YRS EXPERIENCE

- TV & Radio Aerials
- Extra Points/Repairs
- Satellite Dishes
- Digital



Telephone: 01722 322862
Mobile: 07831 403644



Mothers' Union



We started the New Year with our AGM. It is always interesting to hear a summary of all our activities and involvements in the previous year. After the business of the AGM, we tackled Bible quizzes which Mary Macleod had provided. I think we were quite good at it!

Sheila gave out sheets of paper about 'Journeying Alone'. These were supplied by our Archdeaconry MU Representative, Mrs Iris Parker, after our December meeting when she and her husband Tony came to enjoy with us seasonal poems and readings, followed by Christmas nibbles. The sheets are designed to encourage us to think about aspects of loneliness. Iris will come later in the year to give us a detailed talk on the subject, to be followed by a

discussion and an opportunity give our views.

The amazing collection of Teddy Bears, knitted by members and friends have all been distributed to their new homes:- the Women's Refuge in Salisbury, the MU holiday caravan at Rockley Park and Victim Support of the Fire Service. All the bears had their own personal bag and thank you to everyone who knitted and sewed.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, 13th February, and it will include a talk about the 'Samaritans'.

Enquiries: Sheila 553133 or Mary 552041

Kevin Knight Horologist

Clock and Watch Repairs

Tel: 01722 331969
Mob: 07900 928451
kevindavidknight@gmail.com



CARE4CATS
AND
OTHER CREATURES TOO!



FULLY INSURED CRB CHECKED
FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION
Small family business set in the heart of Cranborne Chase
PET & HOUSE SITTING UP TO 50 MILE RADIUS
Competitively Priced
Peace of mind, we care for your pets when you are unable to!
FURRED OR FEATHERED, 1 DAY TO 1 MONTH
RELIABLE : EXPERIENCED : CARING



01725 552580
0780 777 4338
SUSAN COLLINS





SIXPENNY HANDLEY WI

JUMBLE SALE

Sat 22nd FEB

Doors open at 2.30pm

SIXPENNY HANDLEY VILLAGE HALL

Lots of Stalls

Teas

Raffle

Entrance 20p

Items for sale may be brought to the Hall between 10am & Midday on the day.
For collections beforehand ring Stella on 552236 or Jan on 552704.

Sorry, no large furniture

Village Hall Notes

The last few months have seen considerable effort to keep the hall going. Not only have we suffered from problems with the lighting throughout the building but, to make matters worse, a failure of the gas cooker has resulted in over £800 worth of bills. All the control mechanism for the oven has now been replaced. The foyer lights have been replaced as have some of the lights in the toilets, the latter using LED bulbs.

The Management Committee has decided that the main hall lights should be replaced with LED bulbs in order to reduce electrical load within the hall and also reduce the running cost of the building. As we reported in the last Downsman, the profits from Rob's Auction were being put to a hearing loop. Both projects will cost over £4000, however to offset this a bid is being submitted for a grant from the EDDC Community Fund. Hopefully we will know the result by the next Edition.

Sixpenny Handley Acoustic Live

The village hall entertainment committee are launching 'Acoustic live' with the fantastic 'Langfords' on Saturday 25th February.

A four piece 'Folk country' band, who play all original music, tinged with melancholy. Guitar licks from Nashville with violin and electric bass. Support act still to be confirmed.

Other dates for your diaries:

Saturday 12th April, 'Fly yeti fly'. A folk festival seasoned male/female duo from Devon.

& Saturday 14th June, Arch Garrison. Folk Duo, North sea radio orchestra's front man.

Please support this new venture, we're sure your going to love the range of varied, engaging live music we have planned for you.

Don't miss out on a great night on your doorstep!. Refreshments & Raffle available on the night.

If you would like to help out at an event or know of an act for future dates then please contact Paul on 552544.

SIXPENNY HANDLEY ACOUSTIC LIVE



The Langfords

+ Support

Sat 15th Feb,
7.30pm-10pm

Village Hall, Sixpenny Handley
Tickets £4 advance from Handley
Newsagents

PATRICK ROSE

QUALITY PAINTER AND DECORATOR

Free quotes
& advice

Fully insured

TEL: 01258 857116
MOB: 07989 373735

Mr R. A. CLOUGH

FENCING CONTRACTOR

All types of Fencing including:
Close board
Chain link
Post and Rail

Free Estimates
Telephone 01725 519 604
Mobile 07778 603 559

Save a Sixpence

A space where readers can share their money saving tricks:

All those plastic tubes and bottles of sunscreen, face cream, tomato purée, toothpaste, etc, which appear to be empty .. very carefully cut them in half, and you will be amazed how much is left (WP)

Advise your money saving hint here

Bowls Club

Now we are in 2014 and have our new mat and clubhouse, we can look forward to a very good year. We have not had much chance to try the new green, but no doubt the weather will get better and we can give it a go.

And we have had some very nice social evenings in the clubhouse, where we can meet up and have a chat.

In the meantime, both teams are playing their indoor league games and are doing quite well, and we will have our Short mat singles competition on the 9th of February and the pairs competition on the 9th of March.

Keep bowling.

Bea

OF WIMBORNE
TOMS **SPECIALIST IN**
ALL ASPECTS OF
HARD METALS - LEAD WORK - CAVITY TRAYS - GUTTERING - FELT ROOFING

Telephone
Sixpenny Handley 01725 516350
Wimborne 01202 886830

- A local established family business with over 20 years experience.
- Lead work on Dormers & chimneys.
- Cavity trays manufactured to your requirements.
- Flat roofing using high performance felts and single ply systems.
- Hard metal roofing systems, using zinc, copper and stainless.
- Zinc and copper fascias and guttering.
- General roof repairs



FOR ALL YOUR CARPET & VINYL NEEDS

1st Class personal service,
samples brought to your door,
just pick up the phone and call

Kevin Armstrong
01258 269061
07767 774021
armstrongkvn@aol.com

Home Handyman

Painting, Decorating

And

General Maintenance
around the home

Keith Orman

Tel: 01725 552293
Mob: 07941652690
No job too small

R.JAMES

CARPENTRY & JOINERY

Bespoke Furniture
Kitchen Installations
Roof Construction
Outdoor Structures
Repairs & Maintenance
and more

01722 781093



Fully qualified carpenter
with over 10 years
experience

Fully Insured

Free quotes and advice

Fast, friendly and
reliable service

07818 321182



MAIDMENT & CARTER LTD.

BUILDING CONTRACTORS

Traditional Values



Contemporary Thinking

- CARPENTRY & JOINERY
- BRICKWORK
- STONEMASONRY
- PLUMBING
- ELECTRICAL
- DECORATION
- ROOFING
- DRAINAGE
- KITCHENS
- BATHROOMS
- INSURANCE WORK
- UPVC DOORS, WINDOWS, FACIAS ETC
- FITTED BEDROOMS
- QUICK RESPONSE
- FREE ESTIMATES
- FULLY INSURED

NHBC

All Aspects of Building Work Undertaken - Extension & Renovation Specialists
For your peace of mind, we only employ the services of time quality tradesmen
IN-HOUSE DESIGN & BUILD SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE FOR NEW BUILDS, FROM PLANNING THROUGH TO COMPLETION
Directors: Paul Maidment & Julian Carter Unit 3c, Sunrise Business Park, Higher Shaftesbury Road,
Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 8ST
Tel/Fax: 01258 45 45 22 Email: mandcltd@btconnect.com Web: www.maidmentandcarter.com



Group Scout Leader
John Curtis
01725 552397



Age 8-10½
Wednesday 6 to 7.30pm
Andy Young (Akela)
01258 830861

1st Woodcutts News

www.firstwoodcutts.org.uk



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



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



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

2013 – Another great year for Scouting in Woodcutts

During the Carol Service held at the Church in early December we were treated once again to a display of all the year, highlighting all the exciting things that had taken place during the year. On the long list of events was the Rugby trip, the Family Camp, the trip to Thorpe Park, the summer camp on Brownsea Island, the night hike, the Halloween party, and many more. And on every photo there were smiling faces to show how much fun they were having. At the service we also welcomed new members to the group (leaders and young people).

2014 – Another great year for Scouting in Woodcutts

The plans are already under way for the coming year. And it promises to be just as exciting and fun-packed.

District Camp: this year we will be participating in the District Camp along with the other groups from East Dorset. The camp will be in May and will be at Buddens.

Summer Camp: for many a year there seems to have been a close association with Guernsey for our group in Woodcutts. We have photos of trips there going back at least to the 1970s. Well, this year Guernsey is again the chosen destination. With all the usual activities and a few new surprises it will undoubtedly be a great trip once more. Other activities planned for the Spring include a night hike and a survival camp. We will also be participating in the Waistcoat Fair. Later in the year the programme will be based

around the centenary of the First World War looking at local history (particularly those names read out during the Remembrance Day service), understanding the lives of those involved and a visit to the Imperial War Museum. Of course, all the usual fun and frolics will be taking place as well.

Scout Shop

For as long as there has been scouting in Woodcutts, the need to travel to one of the neighbouring towns to obtain uniforms and equipment has been a challenge for the parents. No longer. We are setting up our own Scout Shop here in Woodcutts. It will open on Monday 3rd February from 6:30-7:30 at the HQ and will then open every first Monday of each month. There is a small stock of uniforms for sizing purposes and then we can order in anything requested and distribute once items have been received. All prices are as per the official Scout Catalogue and the group does benefit from the sale of items. However, this is mostly about providing a service to you.

In addition we have in stock children's (£5.00) and adult (£7.50) t-shirts with the Woodcutts 57 logo and hoodies (£15.00) available to pre-order.

Active Support Unit

As mentioned previously we now have an Active Support Unit for Woodcutts ably led by Paul Styles. No prior experience in Scouting is required, just a willingness to volunteer some time to support Scouting. If you think you could help in any way then please contact Paul on 01725 552544 or paulstyles@btinternet.com.

Any offers of help gratefully received

As mentioned above we have a busy year ahead. As well as the Scouting programme (run so brilliantly by our team of volunteer leaders) we also have to support the fund-raising programme that pays for the maintenance of the HQ, the purchase of equipment and other costs essential to the running of the group. And we don't just want to run events for ourselves. We want to support our local community, not only at the Waistcoat Fair but at the Blandford Fair and at other events nearby. All of these things take time to organize and time to execute and the number of people on the committee is insufficient to take on all the tasks that we would like to get done. So, if you think you could lead the organization for an event, gathering volunteers to help, assigning things to be done, then please do get in touch. Or if you just have an idea about fund-raising, improving group involvement in the community or anything else then do get in touch with us.

Thank you.

Dates for your diaries:

1st Woodcutts Scouts Pub Quiz

**Saturday 15th March
Sixpenny Handley Village
Hall**

Tickets £7 from Alf a Sixpence to include Ploughman's Buffet

Doors open 7:30pm

Quiz Starts at 8pm

Full details on page 9



S WALLWORTH
ELECTRICAL SERVICES
DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL

FULLY QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN
EMERGENCY REPAIRS
INSTALLATIONS – RE-WIRES
ELECTRICAL REPAIRS & TESTING
EXTRA SOCKETS & LIGHTING
NIGHT STORAGE HEATING
ELECTRIC SHOWERS

SPECIAL RATES FOR OAPS

FREE QUOTATIONS

SIMON WALLWORTH
31 DEAN LANE, SIXPENNY HANDLEY
SP5 5PA
TEL: 01725 552545
MOB: 07826 928759
S.WALLWORTH@HOTMAIL.CO.UK



**Interested in volunteering some time to
scouting in a flexible way?**

Why not try

Scout Active Support.

**No prior experience in Scouting is required, just
a willingness to volunteer some time to support
Scouting.**

**1st Woodcutts Scout Active Support Unit is a group of
likeminded adults who offer supporting to Scouting in
some way.**

**For details on how to join us
Please contact Paul on 01725 552544 or
paulstyles@btinternet.com**

Cards

Whist

The New Year opening drive saw seven-and-a-half tables in play, an excellent attendance considering that to reach the village hall floodwater had to be contended with from all the main approaches. By the close of the evening's play, Stuart Haskell [174] and Kingsley White [172] had put clear blue water [an appropriate expression on this occasion] between themselves in first and second overall [their aggregate totals being 1317 and 1307 points respectively] from Doug Haskell [1273]. However, the best score was carded by Sylvia Morrison and with her second 180 plus return, this has elevated her from 37th at the end of round five to her present standing of 7th: an excellent achievement. But with nine of the seventeen competitive rounds remaining, much can alter. Edie Langley

of Ashmore, meanwhile, remains inline to pick up the highest individual score after returning 185 at the pre-Christmas drive. So, with round eight completed, the leading contenders for prize money are Stuart Haskell [1317], Kingsley White [1307], Doug Haskell [1273], Ness Park [1269], your scribe [1266], Gerald Trickey [1263], Sylvia Morrison [1256], Edie Langley [1254], Rich White [1249] and Susie White [1248].

It would be remiss of me not to extend the gratitude of Sixpenny Handley Whist Club to all those who supported the Christmas drive. As ever the number of prizes to be won, both from the fortune of the cards and the luck of the draw ticket, was well up to expectation. Peter and Mary Braithwaite hosted the mini-draw [an established feature of the Christmas drive], and it could only have been an unfortunate few who departed without a prize of one description or another. John Berville was overall victor

with a score of 174, while Sylvia Berville had the lowest score of the evening - 137.

Bridge

The increase in attendance has been maintained throughout the months of November and December and the first meeting of 2014 was very well supported with three full tables, plus one. Gerald Trickey returned the best score at 3320 points, with John Davis second at 2600. The most encouraging aspect, however, is the growing confidence of partners to 'double' contracts that they consider their opponents will not achieve and the main beneficiaries at this first meeting of the year were John Davis and David Rouse who took 800 points off their opposition, who were vulnerable.

Bill Chorley

A Woodcutts Farewell

It has taken me ages to decide how to start this, my last article from the bustling metropolis of Woodcutts. How can I do it without leaving a great gulf in my life and I hope a somewhat smaller one in the minds of those of you who read my contributions to the Downsman? Many of you will know that Meg (Madge) and I are leaving this peaceful, rural retreat, where we have been resident for the last fifteen years and from where I have been sending in my contribution to your magazine for that time. Now I can say how much I have appreciated the complimentary comments, that many of you have made during the time that I have been writing about this idyllic spot, with its own particular niche in the Cranborne Chase. I am extremely sad that this is my last article for the Downsman but the world moves on and I must move on too.

We are not moving far, just to the west of Bere Regis to Turners Puddle, a place which has a lot going for it; firstly it overlooks the River Piddle, (and I must mention that it is above its potential flood plain) and secondly that it is only a few miles from the home area of the Tolpuddle Martyrs. (Please note that the Piddle was changed to Puddle because Queen Victoria was to visit the area.) Both of these two subjects have endless possibilities for me to write about, so I won't be lost for topics in the future. Although I won't be sending articles for Naomi to contend with, I hope I will be still occasionally producing articles and finding someone, who will make use of them.

In the last fifteen years, Meg and I have made many friends in Woodcutts and Sixpenny Handley and we will miss you

all but Bere Regis is not that far distant and we hope to be back here quite often and of course would appreciate seeing those of you who would like to visit us in our new home. We will still have our BBQ, which is far too big for just a few people, so perhaps we can organise a party come summer. I know that often people move and lose contact with those who have been their neighbours for years but we don't want this to happen. When we came to this part of Woodcutts, where there are only ten houses, four were occupied by people older than ourselves. Now we are the longest serving residents, as well the oldest; every other property having been occupied and vacated at least once and in some cases several times in the past fifteen years.

Now that is enough about the past,



UPTON OIL COMPANY

Supplying quality fuels and lubricants across
Hampshire and Dorset for over 70 years

0800 373 295
sales@uptonoil.co.uk
www.uptonoil.co.uk

Upton Oil Company is a trading division of WP Group



Chalke Heating

Martin Miller: 01722 780734
E-mail: martin@competentcraft.co.uk

Independent AGA/Rayburn Specialist
Saving you money for all types of oil fired heating and cooking
Service, Maintenance and Repair that keeps your central heating safe, clean and efficient

Boiler : All makes
Cookers : Rayburns - AGA - Alfa - Stanley - Esse





M.A.B. HEATING

C10079



307264

Boiler & Heating Services

Oil, Gas and LPG

Very Competitive charges for
boiler servicing and breakdowns

Boiler Replacements

Professional and friendly service

7 days a week inc Bank Holidays

Please call Mark on:
Tel: 01747 828689
or
Mob: 07974 249287

what about the present here at Woodcutts? What is happening or has recently happened apart from the fact that it has been raining? Well I can tell you the wind has been blowing. How do I know this as we were away for a week over Christmas? Well we were in touch even when we were away, we can't let things happen here without being in the know. When we have moved I will expect to be kept up to date with events of note but back to the winds, or should it be 'backs to the wind'. While we were away, Roy, who was keeping an eye on Meg's horses, rang to tell us that our greenhouse had been blown over, breaking practically every pane of glass and twisting the metal frame beyond repair. As the dimensions of the greenhouse were ten feet by fourteen feet, you can imagine the amount of clearing up there was to do. Meg picked up the broken glass, while I dismantled the metal frame but it doesn't end there. Oh no! Roy also reported that the horses' field shelter, a timber structure with a tin roof and measuring ten feet by sixteen feet, had been picked up by the wind and deposited on its back, the opposite side of the fence from where it was supposed to be. Unfortunately neither was covered by insurance but they still have to be dealt with and replaced. Living in the country has its drawbacks but other people have had far worse mishaps due to the flooding, throughout the country.

What else has been happening in the natural world around here? Apparently not a lot, the prevailing weather conditions have seen to that. For instance, as regular readers will know, I record the first sightings of the snowdrops in flower and this can be any time between Christmas and mid January, depending on weather conditions. As there have been relatively few frosts, which have hardly been visible, with temperatures only

just below zero, I rather expected the snow drops to be well ahead of normal and that many flowering heads would be showing at least by New Year's day but not so. The only reason I can think of their not showing, is that they need a period of vernalization; that is they have to experience a period of time when the ambient soil or air temperature drops below a certain figure, which in turn triggers reactions in the plant; which in this case would be producing and extending a flowering head. Certainly there are seeds which will not germinate until they have experienced the 'period of vernalization' appropriate to them. There are all sorts of things which affect the growth of plants and their flowering, including day length, sunlight hours, temperature, available moisture, available nutrients etc. Obviously in this year and the last few weeks of 2013, things have not been up to scratch for the beautiful snowdrops, which as a result are going to be flowering later than in the past few years. Having said this, there are snowdrops in flower in St. Mary's churchyard but certainly not as numerous as at this time in the past few years.

What else is happening here at Woodcutts? One of the more obvious things is the apparent reduction of wild bird numbers. This may also be due in part to the warmer weather conditions and the more than adequate supply

of food around the countryside in general, which has meant that the birds, normally coming to feed in the garden have found sufficient food in the wild. It is not only those that normally come to the bird table but those that feed off the hedgerow berries. The cotoneaster hedge at the front of the house is laden with red berries, which normally by this time of the year are usually almost completely gone. Ivy berries, which are also normally eaten by the pigeons at this time, are also still available in large numbers. There are also several species of insects about for the time of year and earth worms are still active in the surface soil, so all in all, the birds have a good supply of food without resorting to coming to the garden for it. What is in store from now on is anybody's guess and will depend very much on the weather we are to experience in the immediate future. Although I shan't be here to watch what is happening at Woodcutts I shall be keeping a close eye on things where we are moving .

All that remains for me to do is to say thank you for reading my contributions and for your complimentary comments and helpful suggestion. So au revoir and

God bless you all.

Ted Cox
(Jan. 2014)

T.V. — VIDEO — DVD Hi-Fi REPAIRS & SERVICE
IAN HARRIS MIPRE
• Advice on repair of your existing equipment • Assistance in setting up and supply of new items • Loan sets available Call me, your local expert with over thirty years experience. Tel: 01747 870822 Mobile: 07921 194816

BEN COOMBS
Reliable Handyman for General Maintenance Painting and Decorating Gardening, etc. Reasonable rates
Ring 01725 552362

Book Review

Horses Field United, Margaret A P Quinn, Ellingham Press, 2013

Our Boys on the Close, Margaret A P Quinn, Ellingham Press, 2013

Many readers of The Downsman will be familiar with, and delighted by, the three volumes of poetry written by Margaret Quinn. In addition, she has recorded her myriad of memories ranging from time spent as an evacuee in South Wales before returning to London and war-related voluntary work ahead of becoming a teacher: these experiences being published under the title *Take Back the Years* [published in 2011]. Now she has turned her skill with the pen to the genre of children's stories with two books, both related in subject, concerning the adventures of a group of children growing up in the 1960s. Although in essence 'children's stories', the importance of family life and the values of caring and loving parents are the underlying theme as the boys raise funds in order to form a football team. Interwoven with her primary plot, Margaret writes with insight on the numerous escapades that children get up to as they make that challenging transition from junior to senior school. Although both books were released in tandem, it is advisable that they are read in the sequence shown above. In an age where the media would have us believe that children are only interested in computer games et al, these books will serve as a reminder that much can be gained from activities that do not depend on the dexterity of fingers operating a games keypad.

Give Us This Day, Jennie Sherbourne, Rockbourne Publications, 2013

While testing a Supermarine Spitfire V in 1941, George Pickering had the awful misfortune to experience complete structural failure which tore off both

wings. Miraculously, although dazed, George Pickering managed to extricate himself from the cockpit, though in the process of doing so his parachute was damaged, and moments later his fall to earth was arrested as he plunged through the tops of some trees. Unsurprisingly, his injuries were horrific but aided by the skill of his doctors and no little determination on his own part, he recovered and late in 1942, having appeared before a medical board, was deemed fit enough to resume his flying duties. Tragically, he was killed the following year, not in another air accident but while being given a ride in an army Bren gun carrier. Although a work of fiction, parts of *Give Us This Day* parallels the life and death of George Pickering in the form of a Supermarine test pilot by the name of Johnnie Kershaw who survives a terrible crash, recovers and then dies in a motorcycle accident. This, however, is not the principal theme of her debut novel. Beginning in the dark days of 1940, the narrative sweeps through the entire war and beyond; the bombing of Southampton; the impact this has on the lives of families brought together through adversity; the heartbreak of the marriage break up of Johnnie's best friend, Mike Pinkerton; the enduring love and faith of the O'Brien family caught up in the awfulness of war and so on. It is a breathtaking read.

Agent Zigzag, Ben Macintyre, Bloomsbury, 2007

Operation Mincemeat, Ben Macintyre, Bloomsbury, 2010

As the Second World War recedes into the past and previously highly classified files are released into the public domain through The National Archives, so authors and historians are able to delve into some of the secret activities that

had an important bearing on the outcome of the Allied victory of May 1945. Thus, in the first of his two very readable books, Ben Macintyre brings to the fore the remarkable story of Eddie Chapman, a prewar villain who in the aftermath of the Blitzkrieg of May 1940 and the subsequent occupation of The Channel Islands, was languishing in Jersey Prison from where he was released in October 1941. It was not long after his release that Eddie Chapman concluded that his best chance of returning to England would be to become a spy for the Germans. In conversation with German officers who patronized the barber's shop that he and new-found friend, one Anthony Charles Faramus, had opened, Chapman, who despite only rudimentary education had a gift for picking up languages, alluded to his loathing of the British and he was rather perplexed when his sentiments seemed to fall on deaf ears. His perplexity was further heightened when, along with Faramus, he was arrested, taken to France where both were incarcerated in the infamous Paris prison of Fort de Romainville. From here Faramus would eventually end up in Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp while Chapman following lengthy interrogation was taken to the German Intelligence [Abwehr] training camp at Villa la Bretonnière. From this point Eddie Chapman's story becomes the stuff of almost unbelievable legend: parachuted into Cambridgeshire in December 1942, he immediately turned himself in and for the remaining years of the war he worked as a double agent. The account of his handling by MI5, his return to Germany via Portugal and thence to Norway by way of Berlin before returning to Paris and back once more to England is a tour de force of intrigue and no little danger to Chapman himself. As the back cover of the book illustrates, 'Dashing and

louche, courageous and unpredictable, inside the traitor was a hero, inside the villain, a man of conscience', and aided by a selection of MI5 files Macintyre has woven an account of Agent Zigzag's life that was probably as unfathomable to Chapman as it was to his army of handlers, both British and German.

His second book, released three years later, tells an equally impressive story and one which had a very significant bearing on Allied operations following the expulsion in May 1943 of the German army from North Africa. Already, plans for invasion of Sicily [Operation Husky] were well advanced but in the minds of those charged with bringing the invasion to fruition was the knowledge that seaborne invasions could so easily be repulsed if the enemy were prepared. As if by design, rather than chance, the seeds of a great deception that would lead Hitler and his sycophantic generals to believe that the Allies were going to launch a two-pronged attack with Greece in the eastern Mediterranean and the island of Sardinia in the west as the primary objectives, had been germinating in the minds of British Naval Intelligence since the early days of the war. The prime architects behind this most ingenious plot were the aristocratic Ewen Montagu who held the commissioned rank of lieutenant commander in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and Charles Christopher Cholmondeley, an RAF officer who had been seconded to Naval Intelligence. The nucleus of their thinking was that a body, with a briefcase attached, should be floated onto a beach in Spain where, it was intended, the specially prepared contents of the briefcase would find their way into the hands of German intelligence. As their ideas moved towards reality so a corpse had to 'acquired' and in the event the body of an illiterate Welsh vagrant, Glyndwr

Michael, who had died in the most pitiful circumstances in London became the 'man who never was' under the pseudonym of 'Captain Michael Martin' of the Royal Marines. In relating how the body was eventually released from HM Submarine Seraph and the almost comic opera scenario following the beaching of the body by a Spanish fisherman at Huelva as British intelligence anxiously wished their German counterparts to find the

documents, is the strength of Operation Mincemeat. Do read it for not only does Ben Macintyre, newspaper columnist and Associate Editor on The Times, tell the story of one of Second World War's greatest intelligence triumphs, but he mines a rich vein of social history in respect of all the principal players - not least that of 'the man who never was' who in death served our country so well.

Bill Chorley

RICHARD ADLEM MBE

practising as

HANDLEY FUNERALS



Private Chapel

Monumental Mason

Telephone Handley 01725 552496 or 07766 039557

Park Cottage, Sixpenny Handley, Salisbury, SP5 5NJ

Richard has no association at all with I.N. Newman LTD, trading as 'Richard T. Adlem Funeral Director', and should not be confused with them.

PREMIER CARS

Private transfer service

Luxury, stress-free door to door service

Airports / Ports / Events / Business

**A chauffeur-style service based on
reliability, courtesy and value**

Meet & Greet service option available

Please contact us for a quotation

07557 384325

**www.premiercarssalisbury.co.uk
enquiries@premiercarssalisbury.co.uk**

LARMER TREE

TOLLARD ROYAL, SALISBURY, WILTSHIRE SP5 5PY

OPEN MOTHER'S DAY
SUNDAY 30TH MARCH 2014

FOR LUNCH BOOKINGS
PLEASE CALL 01725 516971

THEREAFTER
GARDEN & COFFEE GROVE CAFÉ
OPEN SUNDAY TO THURSDAY
11.00AM TO 4.30PM

www.larmertreegardens.co.uk

We are open to all! You don't have to be a member to come and enjoy the fantastic facilities we offer in a truly idyllic location



- ✓ 18 Hole Championship Golf Course
- ✓ Huge Driving Range
- ✓ Fully stocked Pro Shop
- ✓ Tuition available with PGA Professionals
- ✓ Bar & Restaurant with Spectacular Views
- ✓ Open 7 days a week for Breakfast & Lunch



Book now for our Saturday
Night Supper Club!
Fantastic Menu & Live
Entertainment for just
£29.95pp
Call for more information

Rushmore Golf Club | Tollard Royal | Wiltshire | SP5 5QB

01725 516391

www.rushmoregolfclub.co.uk

Upwood Holiday Cottages

Lime & Beech Holiday Cottages
in Deanland, Sixpenny Handley
available for weekly or short breaks
all year round for visiting family or
friends.



Call for more details on 01725 552518 or visit www.hideaways.co.uk

tJ's

Mobile Fish & Chips

Will be in Sixpenny Handley
at Town Farm Workshops
Every Thursday from
4.30pm to 7.30pm

Tel 01202824893

07908675028

07719197059

Our Prices are very
reasonable

The quaintest café

Nestled in the heart of the Cranborne Chase in Dorset is the village of Sixpenny Handley, at the top of whose High Street can be found the quaintest café with the best cuppa for miles around.

The Walnut Tree was opened seven years ago as a gift shop and gallery, and has now been extended to include a café. Upon entering, one is struck by the warmth in the small and friendly space. Each table, gift card and gift item has been sourced or handmade by the owner, Brady Turner, to match the eclectic mix and contemporary feel. Even the smooth, aromatic barista coffee Brady serves is her own unique blend, locally roasted and freshly ground. Her range includes frothy latté, cappuccino, and rich espresso in regular or decaf. There is also a comprehensive range of good quality Birchall tea, including black teas, fruit teas and decaffeinated; and the famous hot chocolate experience, amongst other drinks.

The range of sweet or savoury artisan food available included a generous slice of homemade cake, a filled homemade bread roll, panini, or homemade soups, to name a few. Additionally, the seasonal menu includes such treats as iced tea and cream teas. As if that



The inside of The Walnut Tree Gallery Shop and Café in Sixpenny Handley

weren't enough, loaves of freshly-baked bread can be purchased on Saturdays and whole cakes can be ordered and purchased too.

A family-run business, it was welcoming to all, and is wheelchair accessible. Sit at a table or lounge on the sofa and enjoy being treated as 'one of us'. They run a loyalty card system, offer to wrap gifts you've purchased; or let you simply enjoy the ambiance. Our visit was pleasurable indeed.

Look out for the pink wall, pink sign and wrought iron fence in the front. Parking is available in the lay-by opposite or along the High Street. The café is open from Monday to Saturday, from 9 to 4. Phone ahead for any special bookings. The Walnut Tree is at 52 High Street, Sixpenny Handley, SP5 5ND, Phone 01725 552836.

© Linda Williamson January 2014

Lily Lou's Cakes



*Gorgeous Homemade Cakes and Cupcakes for Every Occasion
Affordable Prices, Made Locally
2 Hour Cupcake and Cookie Workshops
Available for Groups and Individuals*

*Ring Sarah on: 01722 336085
Mobile: 07846 443797
www.lilylouscakes.co.uk*



Even more food for thought

Satirical look at present day Life

King Henry's dockyard hived off for
some obscure political reason.
Do I detect a whiff of treason.
For the people of Portsmouth, a terrible
toll.
In Henry's day, somebody's head would
have had to roll.
The workforce are now suspicious, and
with doubts are riven.
What can one say, Come back Guy
Fawkes, all is forgiven.

Commercial Shipbuilding was once the
pride of this nation.
Not anymore, now German, Italian, and
even Croatian.
What has happened, where did we go
wrong?
Was the Titanic fiasco the beginning of
our swan song?

The HS2 runaway train on paper still
goes rattling on, to understand is rather
hard.
"To be or not to be" has not yet been
decided. As yet no track not even a
yard
Mickey Mouse figures have been
applied, every £1 spent, £2.30 will be
the profit side
The odds might have been better with
Nationwide

The banking fraternity are up to their
old tricks again.
With scant regard to millions of people
suffering financial pain.
Large bonuses, ME first they shout.
No thought of the Joe Bloggs who
bailed them out.

A large trade mission to China has taken
place, with cap in hand and begging
bowl.
Hoping to fill our financial needs, and
foster our International role.

This proud nation once traded
throughout the World with respect, and
yet,
Hopefully in years to come, this we will
not regret.
Flying Virgin this time, Why not show
the flag with our own National Airline
What are our Partners impression of us..
Quaint, old fashioned, Bobbies and the
London Red bus.

Same sex marriage is now okay, and
legal to the letter.
Promoted by the PM, and Politicians
whom I feel, should have known
better.
To coerce our Religious Leaders into
accepting this was an insult.
Against the teachings of the Good Book,
and definitely not the right result.
Where are we heading I sometimes
ponder.
What will life be like in years to come I
wonder?

Dorchester's Prison Warders are having
a Rumble.
Marching the streets with a reasonable
grumble.
Their ancient Victorian nick, with all
that it ails.
To be replaced by a new Mega sized
jail, somewhere in Wales.
Environmental friendly, and more
inmates chances.
Like Snooker, and afternoon Tea
Dances

*Not to be taken too seriously
Peter Bailey*

A thought at the start of another year in our first issue of 2014

*(Reproduced, with permission, from
the Blandford Forum United Reformed
Church News Letter)*

2014: Compassion, Newspaper, Vinegar and Water

Years end and TV, Radio and
Newspapers regale us with the
highlights of the closing year the top
20 tunes, 50 funniest news stories, best
programmes and books....etc. and then
we have the New Years Honours' List –
do you compose your own highlights as
you write a Christmas letter to friends?
Perhaps you set resolutions? As we
return Christmas decorations to storage
boxes, recycle trees and cards, we are
aware of a personal tidying up too –
new calendar, new diary and new time
tables. Sometime the unexpected gives
us a new perspective.

A young couple moves into a new
neighbourhood. The next morning
while they are eating breakfast, the
young woman sees her neighbour
hanging the washing outside. "That
laundry is not very clean; she doesn't
know how to wash correctly. Perhaps
she needs better laundry soap." Her
husband looks on, remaining silent.
Every time her neighbour hangs her
washing to dry, the young woman
makes the same comments. A month
later, the woman is surprised to see
nice clean washing on the line and says
to her husband: "Look, she's finally
learned how to wash correctly. I wonder
who taught her this?" The husband
replies, "I got up early this morning
and cleaned our windows." And so it is
with life... What we see when watching
others depends on clarity of the window
through which we look.
Shalom

Submitted by David Salmons

DAVE & M SWIFT PLANT LTD

Construction & Agricultural Contractors
Machinery and Tractor Hire

Tel: 01725 552364
Mob: 07827440815

Fax: 01725 552553
Mob: 07766733530

AGRICULTURE

Hedge Trimming
Small and Round Baling
Round Bale Wrapping
Grass Mowing and Raking
Vegetation Topping
Hay Tedding and Bobbing
Quickie Loader
with All Attachments
12 Ton Richard Weston Trailer
with Silage Sides
Low Loader Trailer for Haulage
Fencing

CONSTRUCTION

Site Clearance
Bulk Excavation (Big and Small)
Demolition
Drainage, Sewage and Storm
Groundwork and Footings
Resurfacing
Concreting
Tracks, Paths and Drives
Lakes, Lagoons and Ponds
Equestrian Schools Indoor/Out

E-Mail: swiftnaturallakes@btinternet.com

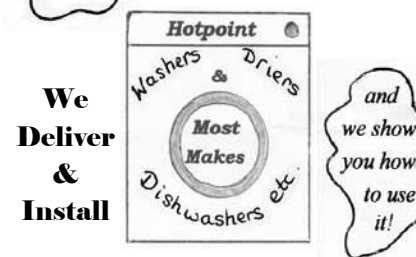
NEIL EVERALL

Your Local Appliance Specialist
for

Superb Prices!



After Sales Service



**PLUS - Fast Efficient Repairs
to Most Makes & Models**

01258 455093

**3 Kingston Close, Blandford Forum
DT11 7UQ**



Registered Charity No 1102105

Lunch

Once a month in Sixpenny
Handley Village Hall we provide
a freshly cooked 3 course
lunch for £4.00, followed by
entertainment. Tea and coffee
are provided during the day.
Booking is essential.

Interest Groups

CCF interest groups include a
book club, and a record music
group.

Transport & Help

We also provide transport to
the surgery, dentist, etc, with a
contribution from the user of 60p
per mile while in the car to cover
fuel costs.

It greatly helps if you can give
us as much notice as possible
should you require transport.

We can also help with the
collection of prescriptions, local
shopping for the housebound,
and dog walking.

Volunteers

We are always looking for new
volunteer drivers in all the areas
the CCF covers.

The CCF offer voluntary
support to those who
need it within the
Cranborne Chase
villages.

So come along and make new
friends.

"Have we missed you?"

If you know someone who
might like our help, please let
us know.

**For any information
about the above please
contact the Chase
Community Friends on**

01258 841321

We are supported by
Dorset County Council Social
Services Committee

Waters Edge

WIMBORNE ~ DORSET



where
you live.
livelocal



A selection of 37
shared ownership
homes now available.

Set within the thriving and picturesque market town of Wimborne a range of 1 and 2 bedroom apartments from only £45,500 and 3 and 4 bedroom houses from only £91,000 * These lovely homes are available for anyone local to the East Dorset area - certain criteria applies so **please contact us for more information.**

*based on a minimum of 35% share



shared equity is also available

- FULL NHBC WARRANTY • MODERN FITTED KITCHEN WITH HOB AND EXTRACTOR
- OFF ROAD PARKING • ENERGY EFFICIENT UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING • GAS CENTRAL HEATING

Call us today for more information on: 01380 735 480
e. homeownership@aster.co.uk | www.asterhomes.co.uk

| **asterhomes** 

SKY LIFT

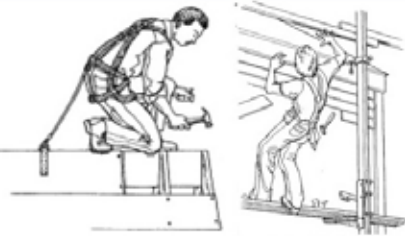
Access Solutions

'Serving Dorset, Hampshire & Wiltshire'

Available from £95

skylift1@btinternet.com

01722 780959 - 07732966808



- Tree Surgery
- Flue Installations
- Painting and Decorating
- Roofing & Building surveys/repairs
- Gutter Replacement/Cleaning
- Window Cleaning



IPAF Licensed Operator - Comprehensive Liability Insurance included

THINKING OF SELLING OR LETTING YOUR PROPERTY?



Bassets are a multi award winning estate agents and have claimed the 2012 industry equivalent of the Oscar

- Valuations by highly experienced and qualified staff.
- Informed viewings to showcase your property within the local area and to encourage offers.
- Skilled negotiating to secure the best possible sale or rental price.
- Unbeatable service to ensure a smooth stress-free move.
- All-inclusive lettings service including Fully Managed, Tenant Finding and Private Landlord.
- Proud supporters of the Dog's Trust, Trussell Trust and Food Bank. See our facebook page: 'Bassets in the Community'.

YOUR NEAREST BASSETS IS AT:

29-31 High Street, Fordingbridge, SP6 1AS

Tel: (01425) 654 766

OFFICES ALSO IN SALISBURY (01722 415 141) AND AMESBURY (01980 676 722)

sarpenela

NATURAL THERAPIES CENTRE

We offer an extensive range of natural therapies and spa body treatments from Hot Stone Massage to Aromatherapy, Reiki Healing to Reflexology, Spa Body Wraps to Organic Fruit Facials.

Visit us for a treatment, enjoy a day retreat or stay with us at the Farmhouse, where we offer you luxury B&B accommodation to complete your Sarpenela experience.

Gift vouchers also available

01725 516942

info@sarpenela.co.uk

www.sarpenela.co.uk

Sarpenela, Farnham, Blandford, Dorset DT11 8DG

Far from the madding crowd...

AA 5 Star Luxury Bed & Breakfast

Farnham Farm House

John & Pat Benjafield welcome you to their farmhouse and working farm in this beautiful, unspoilt village of Farnham - Hardy's Dorset.

Tel: 01725 516 254

E-mail: info@farnhamfarmhouse.co.uk

Visit www.farnhamfarmhouse.co.uk

AVON

Your local independent representative

Clair Brown

Delivering to your door

01725 552814 079 2003 1360

www.angelbright.co.uk

... More than just Makeup ...

Jane Barrow
Beauty Therapist



- Massage
- Facials
- Waxing
- Pedicures
- Eyelash Tinting

Flexible Appointments – including evenings and weekends

Sixpenny Handley – 01725 552100

Gift Vouchers Available

Member of the Guild of Beauty Therapists

Thank you to all my clients



As some of you will know, I have now left Michelles Hair Design, where I have been working for the past 7 years. For those of you that I did not have the chance to advise I was leaving, I would like to take this opportunity in thanking you for all your support over the years.

If I can be of any assistance in the future please feel free to give me a call 07763 833 266.

Many thanks, Laura

PILATES

What is Pilates?

Pilates consists of low impact exercises and movements designed to strengthen and lengthen muscles safely

What are the benefits?

- Primarily it results in good posture and great body shape
- It increases bone density and improves joint mobility
- It reduces stress, increases blood circulation and improves flexibility
- It promotes relaxation and correct breathing



New Classes in Sixpenny Handley Village Hall. For more contact Claudine on 07788587937

Julie James (ITEC) Massage Therapist

- Therapeutic Massage
- Hot Stone Massage
- Senior Massage

Therapy rooms in
Fordingbridge
and Sixpenny Handley

Contact Julie on
07775 937996
or
01725 552698

**Gift Vouchers
available**

Vikki Hyler-Total Treatment Mobile Beauty Therapist

Sixpenny Handley and
surrounding areas

Offering-Facials,
Massage, Gellux nails,
Nail wraps, Manicures,
Pedicures, Waxing,
Eyebrow and Eyelash
Tinting- in the comfort
of your own home

Fully Insured and
NVQ3 Qualified

Vikki-01725 552322

info@totaltreatment.co.uk
www.totaltreatment.co.uk

Anne Reed, B.A., M.C.S.P., S.R.P.
Chartered and State Registered
Physiotherapist

Treatment for:

- Sports Injuries,
- Spinal and Neck Pain,
- Arthritis,
- Headaches
- Acupuncture,
- Ergonomic Advice,
- Massage

Home Visits and Evening Appointments

Telephone: 01725 552518

Trouble afoot

PODIATRY - CHIROPODY



JOHN CULLINGFORD BSc(hon) Podiatry
MChS, SRC, HPC registered
FULL FOOT SERVICE AVAILABLE
AROUND CRANBORNE CHASE
Please Phone 01725 516453
Mob. 07796 848693
HOME VISITS WELCOMED
CLINIC AVAILABLE



A Glance Astern

January is a particular time for review, a sailing buddy suggested I update my personal log, (never know when you might have to advise someone of your experience/qualifications?) So I took the opportunity to do a full scale review and transfer all to a spreadsheet. My logs run from 1982, tho' I have sailed dinghies and yachts before then, so some stats; since 1982 I have been on board for over 600 days, sailed over 20,000 nautical miles, and enjoyed over 500 night hours, not sure if all that is a lot or not, compared with world girdling trips, probably not, but I have had a lot of fun! And a glance at a log entry brings back the events of that passage. During 2013; over 50 days on board, nearly 1,000 nautical miles, not much night sailing, ten different yachts and skippers, over 20 different ports ... an enjoyable years sailing!

Look Ahead

Well, much the same as 2013, I expect, but different yachts, skippers, and destinations, one thing is certain, conditions are unpredictable much in advance, so always a small step into the unknown, (it's what makes life interesting!) Whilst on the subjects of glancing astern and looking ahead, useful to mention here, Rule 5 'Look Out' 'Every vessel shall at all times maintain a proper look-out by sight and hearing as well as by all available means appropriate in the prevailing circumstances and conditions so as to make a full appraisal of the situation and of the risk of collision' (The International Regulations For Preventing Collisions At Sea) It is the duty of all on board a small yacht to keep a proper look-out, and the helmsman must know where his vessel is in relation to other vessels, risks, and

Gone Sailing

hazards. 'I say helm, have you seen that pot buoy fine on the starboard bow?' always acknowledge with thanks and identification, 'the red one? Yes, thanks'. There was an incident last year on one of the club trips, (I was not on board!) The skipper was down below, two crew on deck, 'helm have you seen that green post?' helm replied yes, unfortunately they were looking at different posts! Oops, crunch, so take nothing for granted.

Bunkside Reading

Over the course of these logs, I have almost reached the end of the shelf, but there are one or two gems still to find, and a dusty one revealed itself. Sailing to Freedom – Veedham and Wall (Voldemar Veedham and Carl B Wall), a true account of 16 Estonian refugees fleeing the Russian oppressor, from Sweden, where they had refugee status until the end of WWII, but now in 1945, USSR was seeking their repatriation, and they feared they would not be treated well. They found a 70 year old sailing boat, the 'Erma' 36'6" overall, repaired her (copper patches below water line, and other jobs), and without much experience, sailed from Stockholm for USA, via Scotland, Ireland, and Madeira, landing finally in Norfolk USA.

Wind Farms

The Navitus Bay Development proposals will be submitted for Planning considerations fairly soon. To find out more of how this will affect our World Heritage coastline, and what you can do, please visit www.challengenavitus.org.uk.

Get On Board

As usually noted, LTSC sail all year round, also two open days with opportunities to try a sail dinghy and yacht (conditions permitting), probably April and September check web site www.ltsc.co.uk, also nationally RYA are organising 'Push the Boat Out 2014' 17 – 18 May (over 100 clubs took part last year, and 1,000s tried sailing) www.rya.org.uk/PTBO, there is a club near you!

Browsing

As usual, why not browse a sailing mag. whilst having a coffee in the PO?

Cast Off

Let 2014 be the year you go sailing (there really is no other way to travel). Here's to sunshine on your face, and fair winds abeam.

Adam

MINSTER STONE MEMORIALS



VISIT OUR LARGE SHOWROOM AT
OLD ROAD WIMBORNE BH21 1EJ
(NEXT TO THE GREEN MAN PUB)
PHONE OR EMAIL FOR FREE
BROCHURE & PRICE LIST

ALSO
MEMORIAL
CLEANING &
REPAIRS

WIMBORNE
01202 883224
www.minstermemorials.co.uk

Do you love Valentine's Day?

Negative press has brought the reasons for celebrating Valentine's Day into question.

Celebrating Valentine's Day has been popular in our nation since the 18th century, a time when lovers exchange notes or small gifts, and more recently it's become a commercial enterprise – if you don't order the roses early enough at a premium per stem, there won't be any left to give! So here's the question: Do you love Valentine's Day?

The oldest known Valentine note still in existence today was written by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife, whilst he was imprisoned in the Tower of London in 1415, having been captured at the Battle of Agincourt. A few years later, King Henry V is believed to have hired a writer to compose a valentine note to Catherine of Valois. The original St Valentine, however, is a little more difficult to pinpoint. There's the story of the priest named Valentine (or a variant of Valentine) who continued to perform marriages for lovers in secret after Emperor Claudius II in the third century had outlawed marriage for young men, believing that single men would make better soldiers for his empire. Another story tells of the man named Valentine who was imprisoned and sentenced to death for assisting persecuted Christians. Just before his martyr's death on February 14th, he allegedly wrote a note to a young girl who visited him in prison, with whom he had fallen in love. The note was signed "From your Valentine".

The idea that the middle of February was a day for romance was endorsed by the Middle Ages understanding that birds chose their partners and began their mating season mid-February. Chaucer refers to this as The parlement

of foules (The Parliament of Fowls), "For this was on seynt Volantynys day Whan euery bryd comyth there to chese his make", which translated, is "For this was on St Valentine's Day, when every bird comes to this place to choose his mate".

What brings Valentine's Day into disrepute is its link to the brutal worship of the ancient pagan gods Luperus, Juno (god of women and marriage) and Pan (god of nature). In their annual Lupercalia Festival, after sacrificing animals, the pagan priests would slap women with branches dipped in the sacrificial blood, and coupling of young men and women was determined by a name picked by a lottery system. There have also been tales of more violent, demeaning customs. If this is true, perhaps it is also true that the concept of St Valentine was used to replace the pagan gods by Pope Gelasius in the fifth century, to Christianise the pagan festival. It then became an occasion to pair young couples in what was sold as a respectful friendship which sometimes resulted in true love.

We seem to have moved away from that now; often Valentine gifts are given as a token of ongoing commitment to one's loved, better half. Ah, remember the excitement of that first anonymous note to show that there was a secret admirer! So it would seem a bit mean to reject the whole idea on the basis of its roots. Perhaps it's kinder to celebrate with the family; heart-shaped pancakes for breakfast and a pink, heart-shaped cake for tea. This is a much happier celebration than the stories of old!

Linda Williamson

continued from page 4

the bus whenever I go into Salisbury or Blandford for that matter. I can afford to take a car, but I don't; I often use the bus to go to Southampton, and regularly use it to go to Bournemouth. It takes a little longer maybe, but then I am retired and I have the time.

However, that does not apply to Salisbury. I defy anyone to be able to drive into Salisbury, park the car and get into town faster than they can by bus. I defy anyone to be able to get to the hospital and park the car faster than they can by bus - one change at the hospital roundabout, the R1 comes along every few minutes and you are there. And when in town, you can use all the park-and-ride buses and the RED buses for nothing with a bus pass. You can run down to the Southampton Road as easily as by car, or anywhere else for that matter. When it comes to the cost, there is no contest - the bus is free for oldies like me, but with the car it costs petrol and parking.

By not taking the bus, you don't know either what you are missing socially. There is a lovely community spirit among shoppers on the bus. The bus is far better than Facebook or Twitter for local gossip !

Above all, it is the views on the bus which excite me. Especially upstairs, where you are so privileged to be able to see over the hedge rows for miles of unspoilt rural countryside in the heart of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. People would give good money to see the gorgeous Dorset downs from such a vantage point, but on the 184 bus it can be free. I am often saying to the drivers "I cannot think what you are doing sitting down here when you are missing so much; you should be up top !", and they join in the joke. Enjoy nature like

continued on page 36

Penny Llama & Alpaca Rescue

Poop For Sale

Finest organic manure for your garden or allotment.
Low on odour, low in phosphorus so will not burn plants.
No need to rot down - use straight away!

£1.00 per bag Tel: 01725 552061

Order 20 bags or more we can arrange free local delivery.
All proceeds go into the care of these rescued animals.



Contact:
Paul McDermott

- 🔧 *Competent, professional service*
- 🔧 *Public liability insured*
- 🔧 *High working standard*
- 🔧 *20 years climbing experience*
- 🔧 *Expert advice, free estimates*

Day: 0777 171 09 19

Eve: 01725 552985

Wanted

Space for cordwood
storage / log
conversion.

Area to compost
chippings & clippings.

Return for rent or
free logs and garden
chores.

Tel; Paul,
Dorset trees & hedges

01725552985 /
07771710919

ANDREW BAVERSTOCK

Farnham, Dorset

Garden machinery service and repairs

Tel. (01725) 516311
Mob. 07813 252078

Please phone without obligation
to discuss your requirements



GORDON-WATSON

Wholesale supplier of trees, hedge-
plants and forest products to the
horticultural trade.

Tree planting and establishment
of hedges, Hedge-laying. Rivetting
banks (hazel faggots)

Wide selection of hedge plants
available.

Call 01725 517 692 evenings best.



We care for your lawn so if you would like a healthy lawn to
be proud of and enjoy call us now.

Lawn Renovation	- Fertilisation - Weed Control
Yearly Maintenance Program	- Moss Control - Aeration
	- Scarification - Reseeding

Free quotation, with no obligation. Results guaranteed.

Call now 0845 603 5586 / 01258 455599

or email weedman@btconnect.com



DAIRY HOUSE PLANTS

FIFIELD BAVANT, SP5 5HT
(Chalke Valley)

**Do you need help organising
your garden?**

I offer practical, down-to-earth advice for
small and medium gardens, starting with
an informal chat, a walk around your
garden and hand-written ideas for your
particular needs.

I also offer plants at competitive prices.

*Nursery open by appointment, or
April - October, Saturdays and Sundays*

Ring 079070 069599

e-mail: janeyadrian@aol.co.uk

Gardeners Notes

February

- Start to chit your seed potatoes upright
- Plant dahlia tubers which have been dugged up for winter
- Start to sow broad beans and other seeds which need planting under warmed up soil
- Using deep pots/toilet tubes start to sow sweet peas
- Clear up gardens from the winter months

If it finally stops raining and doesn't start snowing it might be practical to warm the soil up/dry it out with cloches/polythene so you can start sowing earlier.

Start to check over seed packets early enough so you can organise them into the months which they need planting.

March

- Start to sow climbers from seed
- Start to sow chilli,peppers,tomatoes, cucumbers in the greenhouse
- If warm enough those plants in greenhouses could be moved to cold frames
- Plant early potatoes outside
- Start to sow summer bedding in greenhouses

Want to put your garden to rights?

It's as easy as picking up the telephone:

- Garden 'blitz' work, garden clearing and reworking
- Redesign, restoration, design and build
- Landscaping and planting advice

Call **0845 519 6436** for a free estimate
www.independentgardening.co.uk

IG
independent gardening limited



CATCHPOLE LAW

A Law Practice based in Sixpenny Handley, with specialist focus on:-

- * WILLS
- * INHERITANCE AND CAPITAL GAINS TAX
- * POWERS OF ATTORNEY
- * DEATH IN SERVICE AND PENSION TRUSTS
- * PROBATE AND ADMINISTRATION
- * CHARITIES
- * VARIATIONS OF ESTATES
- * RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY WORK
- * TRUSTS
- * CARE OF THE ELDERLY

and more...

APPOINTMENTS IN THE OFFICE OR AT YOUR OWN HOME

**FOR FURTHER DETAILS, PLEASE TELEPHONE 01725 552788
to speak to Michael Catchpole, Robert Stone or Richard Wallace-Lower**

Principal: Michael Catchpole, Solicitor
Registered Office: Hill House, Sixpenny Handley, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP5 5NT
Catchpole Law is regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA No: 513783)

CATCHPOLE LAW.....on law

New Rules on the deduction of liabilities for Inheritance Tax (IHT) purposes

Our previous article mentioned new rules which affect loans secured against the family home, designed to save IHT. These rules were introduced by the Finance Act 2013 and came into force on 6th April 2013. The rules only apply to arrangements put in place from 6th April 2013 - i.e. they do not have retrospective effect, as originally planned by the government.

Position before the new rules

Before 6th April 2013, a commonly used tax planning technique was for a taxpayer to raise a mortgage against his main residence and to use the monies raised to purchase business property, qualifying for 100% business property relief - i.e. on the death of the taxpayer, no inheritance tax (IHT) was payable on

the business property, due to the relief. In a taxable estate, on the death of the taxpayer, the mortgage used to buy the business property could be deducted from the value of the main residence, thus reducing the taxable estate and tax liability. For example, if the taxpayer borrowed £400,000 against a residence worth £1m to buy business property, the value of the residence was reduced for IHT purposes to £600,000 resulting in a substantial tax saving. The business asset would not attract an IHT liability due to the business property relief.

Position after the new rules

Under the new rules, the value of the mortgage is treated as reducing the value of the business property and not the property (in our example, the main residence) on which a mortgage was raised. It is therefore only the excess value on the business property (if any)

which attracts relief. In the above case, the full value of the residence is taxable at 40%.

Care will be required when existing borrowings are restructured or replaced after 5th April 2013.

The Finance Act also includes new rules which state that in order for a liability to be deductible on death (reducing the taxable estate), the liability must be paid on or after death, out of the estate.

When a liability is not so discharged, it will only be deductible if there are genuine commercial reasons for not repaying the debt and the debt must not be left outstanding as part of arrangements for which the main purpose is to secure a tax advantage. It is, at this stage, not clear how these

continued opposite

CBA Services..... Year ends and begins

By the time you will be reading this, your Tax Return for the year ended 5 April 2013 should have been submitted to HM Revenue & Customs together with paying your balancing payment on account for 2012/13 and your first payment on account (if applicable) for 2013/14. In addition to this notification should have been made to the Child Tax Credit Office of your income for 2012/13. If these have not been undertaken and you need assistance, please feel free to give me a call.

Now looking to the next few months before the end of this tax year (5 April 2014), here are a few planning ideas which you should consider:

- Ensure you have made the maximum annual pension contribution in 2013/14 which is £50,000. From 6 April 2014, this will be reduced to £40,000.

restrictions will operate in practice, as invariably a liability will be paid after a Grant of Probate is obtained and after an IHT account is submitted to HMRC - i.e. a deduction reducing the IHT liability will be claimed before it is discharged.

It is, however, likely that HMRC will accept liabilities being deducted from taxable estates before they are paid. However, if the liability is not in fact discharged at a later date from the estate, HMRC will want to be informed so that the tax can be recalculated.

It is of course not unusual for debts within a family to be left outstanding and, therefore, care will need to be taken when administering estates where liquid funds are not readily available to pay existing debts. We will be changing tack in our next article to discuss care costs and funding rules.

- If you are a higher rate tax payer if you make a donation to charity you will receive relief at higher rate, so if you made, for example, a donation of £1,000 (net) you could save at least £250 of tax and the charity gets £1,250 as a donation.
- If you are a sole trader/partner/employee capital expenditure incurred between 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2014 you could claim annual investment allowance of up to £250,000, whereas from 1 January 2015 this will be reduced to £25,000.
- If you have not used your capital allowance tax annual exemption of £10,900 this year and you are thinking about selling some investments, you could save up to a maximum of £3,052 of tax by selling investments before 5 April.

This saving could be doubled if you have a spouse to whom you could transfer half the investment.

- Have you invested the maximum of £11,520 (of which £5,760 can be cash) into your ISA?
- Each tax year you could gift up to £3,000 and any unused portion from the previous tax year can be used, so if you have not used up your allowance from 2012/13 this can be utilised before 5 April 2014.

Please contact Catherine at CBA Services on 01725 552955, if you need any assistance with your bookkeeping, accountancy or tax issues.

Whilst care has been taken in preparing this publication it is for information only. It is not, and should not be construed, as advice and accordingly no reliance should be placed on the information contained herein.

CBA Services

offers the following:

Bookkeeping Account Admin/secretarial
Preparation and submission of Personal/Trust Tax Returns

A friendly, professional and confidential service,
tailored to your specific requirements.

www.cba-services.co.uk cchapman.cba@gmail.com

Telephone 01725 552955 or 07895 913546



Puzzles

Missing the normal Downsman Puzzles page?

We need a new volunteer to create this page or content. Any offers to:

editor@thedownsman.org.uk

Coffee Break Quiz

Peter Bailey

Music attributed to specific artist(s)

Names Required please.

1. Pretty woman
2. San Quentin
3. Have you got a light boy
4. She
5. Good vibrations
6. My old man's a dustman
7. Thank heaven for little girls
8. Summer Holiday
9. 9 to 5
10. Bohemian Rhapsody
11. It's not unusual
12. Lady in Red

HB Accounting

YOUR LOCAL CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

*Services provided to
Sole Traders and Small Businesses:*

- Financial accounts prepared
- Personal & Corporate tax returns
 - Bookkeeping
- Payroll and PAYE services
 - Value Added Tax
- Budgets and Cashflows

*For all your accounting enquiries
please contact:*

Mrs Holly Brewer ACA

Mobile: 07970 647 258

Email: email@hbaccounting.co.uk



continued from page 31

you never can when concentrating on driving a car - how often have I watched the deer, or a fox, the magnificent display of poppies like we had last year, the harvest, the autumn colours or the frost in the trees as we travel at branch level through them on a frosty day. There is no excuse for anyone who qualifies for a bus pass not to use the bus from time to time, just as a public duty. If we do not make more use of the bus then it becomes commercially unviable, and it will simply stop. Just think what that would mean to a number of older families in the village who have been forced to give up driving for one reason or another. What would they do? What about those who depend on the 184 to get to work every day? What about the school children who would no longer be able to get to school except by car? Is that setting them the right example? I have never seen a Parish Councillor on the bus. Our bus service is a veritable privilege and it is our responsibility to use it or lose it. Can you think of any other rural village in the Country that enjoys a bus-service every two hours into a local city?

I do not pretend to be a "local"; I am an in-comer to the village like so many others, having only lived in Deanland for a mere thirty seven years. But I remember having had a village bus throughout all that time. Victory Tours had provided the service since 1921, and I remember Cyril Adams, its founder, well. When I first came here, the bus even came up to Deanland and you stood in the lane to flag it down. In those days, Victory Tours even ran a twice daily service from Sixpenny Handley to London, rubbing shoulders at Gloucester Road Coach Station with coaches marked "Paris", "Milan" and other exotic destinations abroad. I am sure that is why the 184 still diverts down into Sixpenny Handley now. It

will be a very sad day when 92 years of heritage comes to an end.

It is now up to the operator, Damory Coaches, to decide how to apply the remaining subsidy. We have been incredibly lucky, and in fact only the subsidy for the Sunday service has been withdrawn; it was originally proposed to cut the subsidy very much more for our route. It is entirely thanks to our neighbours around Blandford, who launched a major campaign to save the 184, that we have got away so lightly. But the operator, Damory Coaches, may still consider that further service cuts are needed in view of the reduced subsidy, as it is not a profitable route - on a recent journey, the driver told me that he had taken less than £4 since leaving Weymouth. So they could well decide not to turn down into the village anymore from April, but to stop only up at the roundabout on the main Salisbury road, which is a real risk.

We all need to respect the valuable benefit to our village life that the 184 brings, which is the envy of so many other villages. "How lucky you are" friends elsewhere tell me. Nothing has yet been finalised, and in the last few weeks between now and March, the only way to send a real message to the Council and to Damory Coaches is by everyone taking at least one journey on the 184, especially if you qualify for a bus pass, just to demonstrate how important it is to our village community.

There will be excuses. "It does not affect me; I don't do that sort thing; I can afford to use the car; it's undignified; buses are for other people", I hear you say. Oh well, the day will come when you too may no longer be able to use your car and say to yourself "I wish we had a bus. Why did THEY ever stop the 184?". Don't blame "THEM" - blame yourself."

Nick Sherman

Rob's Column

Christmas Turkey

Now Christmas lunch is over,
And the turkey's been a winner,
My house guests all have said that they
enjoyed their festive dinner,
And after they've been sleeping they
proclaimed that on the whole,
They fancy for their supper, stuffing on a
turkey roll.

It's boxing day they're overjoyed when I
announce that I
Got busy in the kitchen and prepared a
turkey pie,
When they return from hiking, hand
each a turkey butt,
I think they must be tired, cos come
comments are quite smutty.

The next day, not much hunger infact
there are very few,
Who seem to have an appetite for
home-made turkey stew.
At supper time I think, that I will be the
perfect host,
But no one sees to keen on turkey pate
served on toast.

The last day of their visit and they all
seem in a hurry,
So few take up my offer of a warming
turkey curry.
Some of them have long journeys, and
the weather looks quite murkey,
So I've packed lunch for each car load,
baguettes with Christmas turkey!
by Judith Blatherwick

*The Posties of the parish wish to thank
one and all for the Christmas gifts and
would like to wish you a Happy New Year.*

If walking is good for
your health, Posties
should be immortal!

Into the New Year, again we go,
What it will hold, we do not know,
Resolutions to make anew,
Another chance to see them through,
Go forward, do not stop until,
Your hopes and dreams and goal fulfil.

Another year has come and gone
It's time to start anew!
What highs and lows will this one bring?
Well that is up to you?
Remember as the year begins
You get out, all that you put in.

This January sales lark is doing my head
in,
I went to Boots (they don't sell boots)
I went to Currys (they don't sell curries)
I went to Selfridges (they don't sell
fridges)
And that Virgin Megastore, what a let
down that was.

Which King of England invested in
fireplaces?
Alfred the Grate

What do you get if you cross a centipede
and a chicken?
Enough drumsticks to feed an army

Post Puzzle

My wife looked puzzled as I started
talking to an envelope "What are you
doing?" she asked. "Simple" I smiled,
sealing the envelope, "Just sending a
voice mail."

Royal Mail Privatisation Latest

Postman Pat laid off.
Black and white cat on zero hours
contract.

If you have young children who always
want to play,
Try to join their frolics, whatever time
of day,

It won't be long before they grow
And they'll be teens before you know.
*Well done to Arthur Jones, what a little
star on the telly and in the papers*
Grandad

It was really cold wasn't it this morning,
I had to use my supermarket discount
card to scrape the ice from my
windscreen (didn't work though, I only
got 10% off).

As winter comes and days grow old with
frost and ice and snow,
Spare a thought for homeless folk who
have no place to go,
Help them at this time of year, and bring
them warmth and festive cheer.

Are you quick to lend a hand when
people are in need?
Or does your shyness hold you back
from doing helpful deeds?
Don't be scared, just do your bit for only
good can come of it!

A fine is a tax for doing wrong,
A tax is a fine for doing well.

You don't need pricey stuff to spread a
little cheer,
All you need is paper and a pen -
nothing dear,
A simple note with love in mind can
make a persons day, you'll find.

What did the triangle say to the circle?
"You're pointless"

Memory foam

It remembers me...
Will you?

Amateurs built the ark
Professionals built the Titanic

Rob Jesse



Bright Sparks Nursery

Situated in Ebbesbourne Wake Village Hall

What Can We Offer You?

Just: 10 minutes from Sixpenny Handley, 5 minutes from Broad Chalke & 10 minutes from Tisbury

Brand New Playground Equipment

Completely Renovated Playground Area

Unique village setting with outside space & large playing field

*9 until 4 Monday-Thursday
9 until 3 on Fridays*

£3 per hour for 2-4 yr olds

£3.50 per hour for 1-2 yr olds

Holiday Club available during school holidays

One of the few local nurseries who take children aged 1 year

Owned and run by Angela, Karen & Nicky for the past 12 years

Come and take a look or request a prospectus.

Contact Angela, Karen or Nicky on 01722 781069 or send us an email to brightsparksare@aol.com

Noticeboard



Swim and play sessions

Babies from 3 months through to pre-school children at Sandroyd School
The sessions will be on a Friday morning from 8.45- 9.45 (in the pool) Coffee will be served until 11.00am.

Cost- £25.00 (5 week block)
Tel: 01725- 553208 to book.
or chookes-gosney@sandroyd.com
We look forward to welcoming you...

Babies to School Age Children

HAPPY NAPPY

Sixpenny Handley Village Hall

Happy Nappy meets every Monday in the Village Hall from 10am - 11:30am

Toys, Singing and Fun for Babies and Children

...with coffee, tea and a chat for adults at our friendly group...

Children 50p, Adults £1

Emma Reeks 0777 909 58 63
Karen Adams 01725 552391

Teddy Bears Drop-in



Thursdays 10:30—12 noon, in term times.

Carers and small children are welcome for a chat, coffee and play in St Mary's Church



The Little Pennies
Pre-School
Registered Charity no. 1137622

www.thelittlepennies.co.uk
info@thelittlepennies.co.uk
Tel: Margaret 01725 552608

"Children are happy and feel exceptionally safe [and show] excellent behaviour and good manners"
Successful OFSTED report 2010

Sessions
3-5 years
Monday to Thursday:
8:45am-11:45am
&
11:45am-2:45pm

2-3 years
Friday:
8:45am - 11:45am

Fees & Funding

3-5 years
£9.90 per session
£3.30 per hour
(funding available for 3-5 year olds)

2-3 years
£12.00 per session
£4.00 per hour

Purpose built pre-school at Sixpenny Handley First School

Happy 2014 from Little and Lol. Today it is a bit cold and wet to play outside, so Little and Lol are playing dress up. Little is being a knight and Lol a princess. Can you colour them in.

They want to make a play, can you help them make up a story? A story needs a beginning, middle and end, so...

Your beginning:

Once upon a time, A long time ago or Last week?

Where are they? In a castle, in a forest or in a school play?

A middle:

What do they do? Do they have to find something, do they have an adventure fighting dragons, do they have to save the school play?

The end:

Do they succeed, or do they fail, is it happily ever after?

If you would like to share your adventures in The Downsman email them to editor@thedownsman.org.uk.

Little and Lol



Is your little explorer looking for a new adventure?

Clayesmore Nursery is opening its doors to under fives for a series of free play sessions.

Our next two sessions are: **12th February** and **26th February 2014** from 9.15 am-10.30am

Enjoy coffee and a chat with fellow parents while your mini adventurers explore, create and play - both inside and outdoors!

See our website for future dates and find out how your little one can join the fun!

www.clayesmore.com

Coming soon

Woodland Adventure

10th March 2014
1.30pm-3.30pm

An afternoon of countryside capers for curious kids!



What's On

Date	Function	Page	Day	Club or Group	Page
3 Feb	Scouts First Scout Shop	16	Mon	Happy Nappy : Village Hall 10:00 - 11:30 Weekly in Term Time	
9 Feb	WI Meeting	12	Mon	WI Meetings : Village Hall : 2nd Monday in the Month	
	Bowls Singles	15	Mon	Scouts : Scout Hut 19:00-21:00 : Term Time	
13, 27 Feb	Mobile Library	6	Wed	Cards : Village Hall Third Wednesday in the month	
14 Feb	Assistant Parish Clerk Job Deadline	6	Wed	Beavers, Cubs, Explorers : Scout Hut : Term Time	
15 Feb	Acoustic Live Night	14	Thu	Mothers' Union : Second Thursday in the Month 14:45	
20 Feb	Bingo	5	Thu	Teddy Bears Drop-in : Church 10:30 - 12:00 Weekly in Term Time	
22 Feb	WI Jumble Sale	13	Thu	Bingo : Village Hall 7:30 start Third Thursday in the month (Excluding August)	
9 Mar	Bowls Pairs		Fri	Chase Community Friends Lunch Village Hall : 2nd Friday in the Month	
12, 19, 26 Mar	Souplunch	5	Sun	St Mary's Church 9:30 Traditional 11:00 Informal 18:00 Evensong Alternating weeks St Rumbold's 11:15 Gussage St Andrew 9:30	
13, 27 Mar	Mobile Library	6			
15 Mar	Scouts Quiz	9			
20 Mar	Bingo	5			
2,9 Apr	Souplunch	5			
17 May	Waistcoat Festival	9			

continued from front cover

Sceptic tank and sewer management problems caused by the ingress of ground and surface water into the foul water network will continue until there is a significant further drop in the groundwater level. So please minimise water use and discharge.

Concern has been expressed to me about the state of our roads and the developing pot holes some of which are quite large and a potential cause of damage to motor vehicles especially the smaller cars. The Highways department are very aware but as you can imagine it is a serious county wide problem and there will be no quick fix. So please drive slowly and with care as many of the potholes are obscured by the river water. I continue to be incensed by some thoughtless drivers proceeding far too fast - without

due care and attention - causing a large wash and spray and thereby hazarding pedestrians and properties immediately adjacent to the road.

The good news is that we are not as badly off as neighbouring areas and we continue to receive excellent support from our District Council. Moreover, its nothing like the situation in China a few years ago when there were 53 million homeless after their three major rivers flooded!

Although this information is based on an Environment Agency 5 day forecast these conditions could - subject to the weather - continue for a few weeks more.

David Lockyer
Parish Council Chairman & Flood Warden

1. Roy Orbison 2. Johnny Cash 3. Singing Postman Allan Smethurst Norfolk 4. Charles Aznavour 5. Beach Boys 6. Lonnie Donegan 7. Maurice Chevalier 8. Sir Cliff Richards & The Shadows 9. Dolly Parton 10. Queen 11. Tom Jones 12. Chris De Burgh

Quiz Answers