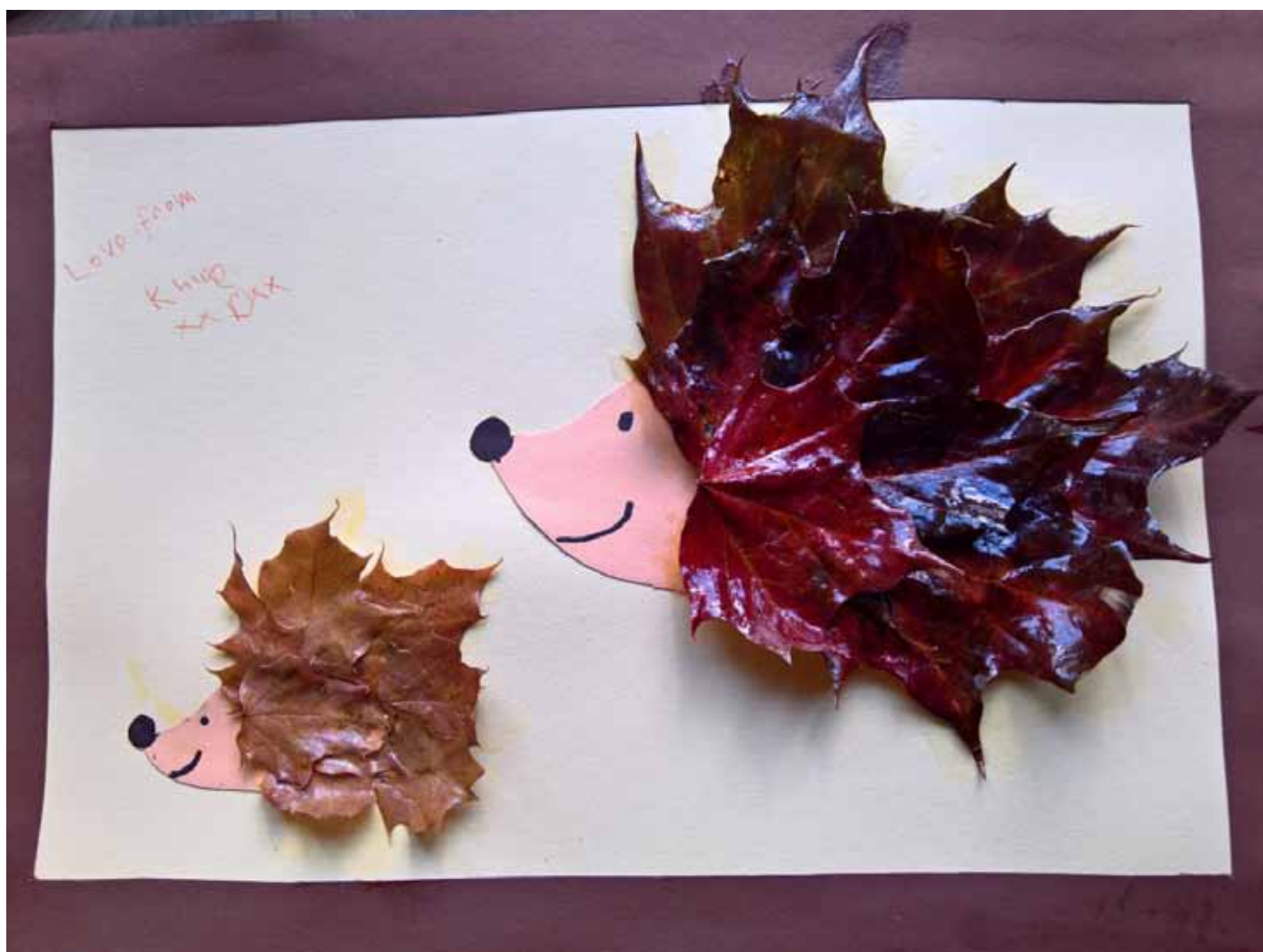




Thanks to Kloe for this lovely relief picture made with autumn leaves.

Helping Hedgehogs Through The Winter

Find out more on page 14

New opening hours at The Penny Tap

Find out more on page 14

Please keep your dog under control

Find out more on page 11

Parish Councillors Sixpenny Handley

Chairman	Cllr C Taylor	553148
	Cllr D Adams.....	552284
	Cllr R Adams.....	553032
	Cllr C Baker-Smith	552978
	Cllr B Boyland	552805
	Cllr S McLean	552910
Vice-Chair	Cllr J Reed.....	516390
	Cllr A Turner.....	552735
Pentridge	Cllr Ms J Henry.....	553036

Clerk	Ciona Nicholson.....	552211
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	Simon Hoare	02072 192787

Rights of Way Liaison Officers

Sixpenny Handley	J Reed.....	516390
Pentridge	Mrs M Jones.....	552358

The Downsman Team

Editor	naomi@naomiboath.co.uk	
Treasurer & Distribution	Tony Gibb.....	552704
Advertising	Nick Hammond Smith	
	adverts@thedownsman.org.uk	

Churches

Church of England	St. Mary's, Sixpenny Handley	
	St. Rumbold's, Pentridge	
	St. Andrews, Gussage St. Andrew	
Vicar	Revd Canon Richard Hancock, The Vicarage	
	60 High Street, Sixpenny Handley.....	552182
Roman Catholic	Church of Our Lady of Lourdes &	
	St. Cecilia, Blandford Forum	
Priest	Fr Chacko Panathara.....	01258 452051

Doctors Drs. Morgan, Taubman & Hawdon

Dean Lane Surgery	552500
-------------------------	--------

Sixpenny Handley Village Hall

Chairman	Carole Wyatt	552572
Vice Chairman	Paul Styles.....	552544
Treasurer	Paul Skinner	552785
Bookings	Janice Bicker.....	07951 056069

Pentridge Village Hall

Chairman	Tarka King	tarkaking@gmail.com
Vice Chairman	Richard Pollen	pollen@richardpollen.com
Treasurer	Colin Taylor	553148
Bookings	Graham Elford	07882 264160
	Email: info@pentridgedorset.co.uk	

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. Pete Wilkinson	553150
5 - West & South Simon Meaden	552715
Other Areas (These are separate Homewatch Schemes)	
Pentridge Roy Elford.....	552911
Woodyates	

Police

Nicholas Lee, Verwood Police Stn.....	07825 521761
	01202 222222

Police non-emergency number

Dementia Friend Champion Hazel Kileen.....552980

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

552997

Matt Reeks (Chairperson)

07825 054376

Becky Wallworth (Business Manager)

01725 552997

Happy Nappy Club

Lucy Barr.....07508 691323

Milly Bones

1st Woodcutts Scout Group

Group Scout Leader	John Curtis.....	552397
Explorers	Anthony Brown.....	552814
Scout Leader	Rob Easton	552038
Cub Leader	Andy Young	01258 830861
Beaver Leader	Jane Scott	01725 516294
Scout Hut Bookings	Pete Wilkinson	
	bookings@firstwoodcutts.org.uk	

6D4all Youthclub

Liz 01425 654467 Vicky 01725 552549 Graham 01725 516973

Sixpenny Handley W.I. (Formed in 1922)

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

Sixpenny Handley Mothers' Union

Contact: Sue Curtis.....552397

Chase Community Friends

Chairman	Vic Hatton.....	01258 841321
Secretary	Penny Adams	01725 552218

Sixpenny Handley CLT

Chairman	Simon Parker	
Secretary	Jenny Netherton	07830 188 589

Sixpenny Handley Sports Association

Sports Pavilion Bookings.....552211

Sixpenny Handley Bowls Club

President	Ron Jermyn	552424
Secretary	Colin Chambers.....	552796
Treasurer	Paul Chalmers.....	516316

Handley Sports Club

Chairman & Treasurer	Mark Young.....	552741
Secretary & Team Div 3 Manager - Adam Day		01258 452481

Sixpenny Handley Tennis Club

Chairman	Alex Thomas	01725 516320
Membership/Treasurer	Stephanie Chick	552557

Sixpenny Handley Cricket Club

Evening Captain David Cross

Citizens' Advice Bureau

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

Next edition

The next edition will be published from
1st April 2019

**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: adverts@thedownsman.org.uk for more details.

**Advertising deadline
10th March**

Payment must be made by the advertising deadline to be included.

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**

Ready for it...

Well what a start to 2019 - I wasn't really ready for it with the first meeting of the year on 2nd January, our Web Booth photo shoot with Andrew Chorley (www.awdphotography.co.uk) on the beautiful 4th Jan and all this with the children not yet back at school... but I'm getting into it now and look, new photo --->



So what news from the village??? The Penny Tap are increasing their opening hours from 1st February. They will now be open until 8 o'clock on a Friday and Saturday evening. It was great to visit with the new choir just before Christmas and join in some carolling with you all. If anyone is interested in joining the choir speak to Kate Hancock or email her at boot7@hotmail.co.uk.

News from our library too - it is expanding! Take a look at page 8 for details or pop down on a Thursday or why not combine the trip to take in the Community Coffee Morning on a Wednesday!

This year is election year - no I'm not speculating on if it will be a General one or not - but if you would like to put something back into the community, how about offering yourself for nomination as a Parish Councillor? Details on page 6.

Some lovely events to look forward to: First Star Fest at the campsite (see page 34), then sing-along Sound of Music at the church, Pentridge 16th March there will be a quiz night for all the family and in Sixpenny Handley a Race Night 30th March so get those dates in your diaries. Looking further ahead plans are underway for another Big Session, keep an eye open for the date in our next issue or online.

Going back to work (as we all do when we have to!) CBA Services run by Catherine Chapman from Sixpenny Handley have their first CBA conference in February for all of us in small businesses, see page 33. Catherine also runs our Downsman Business Support Group, we are continuing our talk about the use of social media 14th February, so do join us if you can.

Our new advertiser this issue, the outstandingly creative Min, is running her local Jewellery Making Workshops - definitely worth a look for all you crafty people, see page 9.

Wishing you all a belated Happy New Year.

Naomi Booth

editor@thedownsman.org.uk

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

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More about the parish can be found at www.sixpennyhandley.info

To the Editor

Three Decades Of Rural Life

We arrived here on 26th May 1988 to be met by a vibrant and busy place with an influx of cowboys and Indians from Church Farm Camping Site roaming and exploring the village, having the occasional shoot out, although there was plenty of activity with a full blown Western event for the Spring Bank Holiday weekend. The two pubs were busy as were the shops; the church was in interregnum; the school had won a reprieve from closure; there was a good selection of shops including a busy Post Office, garage and petrol station and bus company - you name we had it. What a place to come to which we discovered in a Bournemouth Estate Agent quite by accident in our quest for a place to settle.

We were welcomed and became part of this community being invited to become involved in its life, and becoming fully integrated especially with the church. Becoming members brought us into contact and fellowship with those who

were involved with almost all community activities. We are especially grateful to Alec Hunt, a local boy and builder, councillor, PCC Member (Fabric) and friend from whom we bought Lime Grove which he had built. His connections and knowledge were invaluable. An important part of our life has been and is still to be involved and this has been helped by being one of the village postmen - a wonderful way to get to know a community especially on a bicycle in all weathers.

Our roots are buried deep here having spent half of our married life with you, our daughter was married here in 1989, and we have many fond memories of time and events over the years which are no longer part of the village's life. We found it necessary to consider our future and came to the conclusion that with the reduction of services and amenities we could not look forward to rural isolation - especial transport. To lose our 'wheels' would be untenable and therefore action was

required. The rest is history, having made the decision and after being accepted into the community of St Nicholas Hospital in Salisbury, we made the move to a peaceful and beautiful place for the next stage of our lives journey together.

The words we have heard so frequently are "you'll be missed" and we will miss you but what we have created and left behind will continue providing opportunities for you to take up and carry forward. Your recognition of our time with you was totally unexpected and we have been overwhelmed by your generosity, recognition and support.

*With our gratitude and love
Janette and David Salmons*

STAR FEST
STARDATE: February 22 - 24 2019
At Church Farm Campsite, Sixpenny
Handley - see page 34 for details

Hanlega's



We wish all our customers a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Wednesday: Steak Night 6-9pm

Friday: 6-9pm

Saturday: 8.30-10.30 am, 6-9pm

Sunday: 8.30-10.30 am Lunch: 12.30-3pm

Book Now For Christmas - ring for our Christmas Menu

We will close on New Years Day and

Re-open Friday 22nd February 2019

Email: hanlegastheshed@yahoo.co.uk 01725 553005

*'The Shed', Church Farm, High Street, Sixpenny Handley, Salisbury, SP5 5ND
Part of Church Farm, Caravan and Camping Park*



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Downsman Noticeboard

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

Regular carers meetings

For anyone who is a carer of one of Sixpenny Handley Practice's patients

2019 meetings:

26 Feb, 26 March, 23 April,

28 May, 25 June, 23 July, 27

August, 24 September,

22 October, 26 November.

There is no meeting in December.

All meetings are held at Sixpenny Handley Surgery at 3pm-4.30 p.m.

Drop in for a coffee and a chat

Little Pennies & 1st Woodcutts

Race Night

Bar, tea/ coffee and cake, raffle

30th March

Tickets £7.50

includes dinner

Please buy in

advance from Pre-

School or Scouts

Doors open 7pm

Sixpenny Handley Village Hall



What's on in Pentridge

16th March 2019 Quiz Night

Come and enjoy the fun from 7.30pm until late.

Invite your friends and family
Separate adults and kids quizzes
with great prizes!

Food provided just bring your own drinks
Adults £5 – kids go FREE

For more information or to book your place
please email: info@pentridgedorset.co.uk

www.pentridgedorset.co.uk

Pentridge
Village Hall



6d4all
youth club

**Sixpenny Handley
Youth Club**
6D Handley Village Hall
Age 10 - 16 welcome
facebook.com/6d4all

Contact Liz 01425 654467, Vicky 01725
552549, Graham 01725 516973

Sound of Music Night!

Saturday 2nd March 8pm,

St Mary's Church

Come and climb every mountain
with us, watch the film, dress up
and sing the songs. Bring a Bottle,

Prize for best Fancy Dress!

Suggested £5 donation on the
door. All proceeds to St Mary's
Church



Parish Library

Opening Times:

Tuesdays

10.00am - 12.00noon

Friday

8.30am-10.00am

Wednesday

10.30am – 11.45am

(Crossroads Café)

Thursdays - 1st & 3rd of month

3pm-4.15pm

Thursday 7th February

Thursday 21st February

Thursday 7th March

Thursday 21st March

Crossroads Café

Wednesdays

10:30am - 12noon

Parish Office

Town Farm Workshops

All Welcome

Chase Community Friends

Once a month in Sixpenny Handley Village Hall we hold a day centre with a 3 course lunch for £5.00 followed by entertainment
Please contact 01258 841321
Transport, interest clubs and help also available

full details at the back of the
Downsman

The Downsman Business Support Group

****NEW VENUE****

Will be meeting again on

14th February

11th April 2019

9:30am - 11am

At the Sports Pavilion,

Sixpenny Handley

Catherine Chapman 07895 913546 or

Sarah Taylor 07852 324112

or email downsmanbsg@gmail.com

CBA Services Limited invites
you to their first small business
conference

Monday 11th February

The Corn Exchange,

17 Market Place, Blandford

DT11 7AG

9am to 12pm

Free

Full details and how to book
page 33



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 (Ciona Nicholson) 01725 552211

07907 445951

Have you ever considered becoming a member of the Sixpenny Handley & Pentridge Parish Council?



2019 is an election year! Are you interested in becoming a Parish Councillor for the Sixpenny Handley & Pentridge Parish Council? The best way to find out what it's like to be a parish Councillor is to talk to someone who's doing the job now! Before the next elections on 2nd May 2019 why not come along to a Parish Council meeting and see what goes on. If you would like to find out how you can become more involved or to discuss the possibility with a current member of the Council do not hesitate to contact us.

Ciona Nicholson

Clerk
Sixpenny Handley & Pentridge Parish
Council.
01725 552211
07907 445951

What is the Sixpenny Handley & Pentridge Parish Council & what does it do?

The parish council is a local authority that makes decisions on behalf of the people in the parish. It is the level of local government closest to the community, with (from the 1st April) only the new Dorset Council based in Dorchester above it in the hierarchy.

Parish Councils represent the concerns and aspirations of the local community. Councillors are volunteers but a council is not a voluntary organisation, not a charity nor anything to do with the Church.

The range of powers available to Parish Councils continues to change. The Localism Act was introduced in November 2011. The aim of the Act was to devolve more decision-making powers from central government back into the hands of individuals, communities and councils. The Act covers a wide range of issues related to local public services, with a particular focus on the general power of competence, community rights, neighbourhood planning and housing. The key measures of the Act were grouped under four main headings:

- new freedoms and flexibilities for local government
- new rights and powers for communities and individuals
- reform to make the planning system more democratic and more effective
- reform to ensure decisions about housing are taken locally.

Some of these measures can only be exercised at a higher level but Parish Councils have many powers if they choose to use them. It is how and which of these powers councillors decide to use, that makes a vibrant forward thinking Parish Council and can bring positive benefits to communities. The basic responsibility of Parish Councils is to make the lives of their local communities more comfortable by representing the whole electorate within the parish, delivering or co-ordinating services to meet local needs and striving to improve quality of life in the parish. Parish Councils can also comment on planning applications and be represented at public enquiries.

A well-informed council is aware of what its community needs and strives to provide this through team work, accessing grant funding, representation at other meetings and lobbying appropriate bodies.

By becoming a parish councillor you become someone your community will look to for help, guidance and support - a community leader with the power to influence decisions for the benefit of the people you serve.

Opening Hours:

10.00am – 12 noon Tue

7.00pm – 7.30pm Thu

8.30am – 10.00am Fr

For 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 Ciona.

£10 per session

Book in with Ciona on

01725 552211 or 01725 553040

The full Parish Council meets once a month for the council meeting to which members of the public are also invited. Meetings may last two hours, depending on what's on the list of items to discuss. The council also has sub-committees; Finance & General Purposes and a Planning Committee which meet regularly once a month. Again, the public are welcome.

Once elected, parish councillors sit on the council for four years. If they then want to stay in the post they can stand for re-election.

This does not mean that you have to stay for four years. If for any reason you can no longer meet the commitment, you can stand down.

What does a Parish Councillor do?

Most people's impression of what a councillor does is that they just attend council meetings and nothing could be further from the truth. The duties and

pleasure, of being a local councillor are many and varied, however it is the ordinary day-to-day contact with local people in their own community that is the most important part of being a councillor.

Listening: One of the most important tasks of a Parish Councillor is listening to and understanding the views of people in their community. Many public bodies or organisations acknowledge this is the hardest information for them to capture and they in turn use the skills and local knowledge of the parish or town council for advice to assist and inform their services.

Representation: Parish Councils also need representation at other local government meetings or on local bodies/organisations and councillors may be asked to serve on certain groups or attend functions on behalf of the parish council. Councillors act as ambassadors for their community keeping everyone aware of local needs and concerns and reporting back on District/Unitary, County and regional changes.

Training and support: Training is available

to any council, large or small. Legislation allows for councils to pay for training and ongoing training for councillors is sound business management. The Dorset Association of Town and Parish Councils provides professional training programmes designed specifically for councillors.

Responsibility: All councillors are expected to abide by the Parish Councils Code of Conduct. Each local council must adopt and publicise a Code of Conduct. The Code deals with councillors obligations about their conduct, including the registration and disclosure of their interests. Complaints about councillors' conduct are dealt with by the principal authority.

The responsibilities detailed in the Code of Conduct are designed to protect councillors as well as the people they serve and give clear guidance so that councillors may undertake their duties with confidence.

Are you eligible to be a Parish Councillor?

To be eligible to stand for an election for a particular parish, you must:

- Be an elector of the parish; or
- In the past 12 months have occupied (as owner or tenant) land or other premises in the parish; or
- Work in the parish (as your principal or only place of work); or
- Live within three miles of the parish boundary.
- You don't have to be connected to a political party.

Advertise in

The Downsman

This space £5 per issue

**£25 per year
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Parish Library News



As some of you may already know, we will be getting some more bookshelves in the next few weeks, and we will have room for some more books.

We are very pleased the library is used such a lot and are grateful for all the books that are donated.

For people who do not use, or might not know about our library yet, you can always borrow books when the Parish Office is open, Tuesday mornings 10 till 12, Friday mornings 8.30 till 10am and on the first and 3rd Thursday of the month in the afternoon from 3 – 4.15

Thursday 7th February

Thursday 21st February

Thursday 7th March

Thursday 21st March

And books always available on our

WEDNESDAY COFFEE MORNING

10.30 – 12pm

Everybody welcome

If you know of anybody new to the village, or of anybody who might like to have some company, a chat and cup of tea or coffee, please tell them about this friendly get-together every Wednesday morning in the Parish Office.

Bea Boyland



A busy time at the coffee morning 16th January and in the library too where expansion plans are afoot with more bookshelves arriving in the next few weeks

Crossroads Café Christmas Raffle - Thank You

These raffle prizes were all most generously donated by the patrons of Crossroads Café to raise money to buy some extras for St Joseph's School, ROKON, South Sudan. The raffle realised a generous £126 to which two donations of £20 were added for my visits as Santa Claus to the little ones of Little Pennies Pre-School and Bright Sparks Nursery.

Thank you for making it possible for a sum of £166 to be sent to the school where it will make such a difference – they have so very little.

David Salmons



Jewellery Making Workshops

From the novice to those who've dabbled,
there are always new skills to learn.



1:1 Lessons £15/hour
2:1 Lessons £20/hour

Materials are extra – I only charge for what you use
(mainly silver) by weighing your finished pieces.
No charge for scrap that is generated!

Most weekdays are available between 9-3pm
Evenings & Weekends on request

Lunch included if a day course is booked. Tea, coffee & cold
drinks flow freely, as do the odd biscuit or cake...

Please feel free to contact me for more info:-
min@minfletcherjones.co.uk
01725 552198

Min Fletcher-Jones

www.minfletcherjones.co.uk



GARDEN CENTRE GIFT SHOP CAFÉ VINTAGE BARN



The Garden Room at Cranborne is available for weddings, private parties, celebrations, wakes, conferences and functions. Please contact us for more information or visit our website for a full list of events throughout the year, including a very special Mother's Day lunch, and Easter events.

CRANBORNE MANOR GARDEN WILL BE OPEN EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 6TH MARCH

Monday - Saturday 9.00 am - 5.00 pm Sunday & Bank Holidays 10.00 am - 5.00 pm

Cranborne Garden Centre, Cranborne, Dorset BH21 5PP

Tel: 01725 517248 www.cranbornegardencentre.co.uk



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Big Session 2019

Plans are underway for this years Big Session. We are deciding on the date as I write, bands are being confirmed and childrens' workshops and activities organised.

Could your business offer a charitable donation for our Community day?

The Big Session is the villages biggest fund-raiser and money raised goes to the CCIO, the Sixpenny Handley Charity which as you saw in our last edition the awards the money to local voluntary groups and causes in the village. To raise the money however we always rely on businesses support to fund some of the acts and entertainments we book and offer raffle prizes for our Grand Draw. . Donations towards the event can be made to the 6D Handley CCIO: charity no 1172688.

If your business or workplace can help, please contact us at sixpennysessions@gmail.com or speak to Paul, Penny or Naomi. Thank you.

Cranborne Chase AONB

Landscape Partnership Scheme

The Cranborne Chase & Chalke Valley Landscape Partnership (LP) is an exciting five-year Heritage Lottery funded scheme aimed at supporting activities which conserve or enhance the cultural and natural heritage of the area or help people to understand and appreciate its special qualities.

Our bid has now been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund, and we will hopefully be in touch in early March with good news.

Dark Skies Bid

You can now stay up to date with our bid to attain Dark Sky Reserve status with our website - www.chasingstars.org.uk. Your support is vital - and you can be a huge help by signing our Dark Skies Pledge at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NL375VD>

Please Keep Your Dog on a Lead

Sheep Worrying is a Crime (Section 1 - Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953)



During 2018 - Dorset Police had 40 reported attacks on livestock by dogs. 40 times a dog owner failed to have their dog under their close control near livestock and did not consider what their dog may do. 'my dog has never done anything like that before' repeatedly seen on police incident logs.

11 of these cases the dog owners were identified and dealt with, including Dog Behaviour Contracts and compensation was paid to the farmer and a recent court prosecution. 3 more cases are ongoing. We are only just into 2019 and we have already seen another dog attack on sheep in East Dorset from a dog that has 'never done it before'.

Did you know that livestock worrying is a criminal offence?

If you're out walking the dog this weekend on agricultural land and it worries livestock you are committing the offence of livestock worrying. We're asking dog owners to

be responsible when out enjoying our countryside.

- Keep all dogs on a lead around any livestock and remember to always release the lead if chased by cattle and get yourself to safety.

- Worrying is traditionally thought of as a dog biting/attacking livestock but it also means:

- Chasing livestock in such a way as may be reasonably expected to cause injury or suffering; in the case of ewes, this includes abortion or loss or reduction in the number of offspring she has.

- Not having a dog on a lead or under close control when close by, or in a field or enclosure with livestock.

- The penalty for livestock worrying can be 6 months imprisonment and/or a fine of up to £1000.

If you witness a dog worrying livestock, please report this to Dorset Police at dorset.police.uk/do-it-online or call 101. Please include a description on the dog, owner and details of the vehicle used by the owner, and if possible any photographs or video footage you may have of the incident



WI News And Information

NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S
INSTITUTES

The run up to the end of the year was as busy as ever for the WI members, including rehearsals for our Christmas extravaganza.

Thu 15th November

We hosted a county meeting to discuss the proposed NFWI resolutions for 2019. A lively Q & A session followed, with strong opinions for and against the six diverse resolutions which have been chosen. Our members will vote for their choice at the next meeting on 14th February.

Fri 7th December

The Beacon Group Advent Carol Service was held at St Margaret's Church, Margaret Marsh. A lovely little church in rural Dorset, which was filled to capacity for this traditional service.

Mon 10th December

The Christmas Party for WI members and invited guests, including our annual in-house entertainment which this year was the hilarious Mum's Army performing "The Owl and The Pussycat" written, directed and narrated by President Bobbie Carter, not forgetting Edward Lear, of course! This successful evening ended with a bumper raffle and sumptuous buffet. The table decoration competition was won by Lydia Carter.

Fri 14th December

The Book Club lunch was held at Rushmore Golf Club. Ten members enjoyed a relaxed meal in this beautiful setting, in readiness for the festive season.

Fri 4th January

Ten members went to the Tivoli Theatre, Wimborne to see the pantomime "Cinderella". The production was very good this year and a fun filled afternoon was had by all, followed by a tasty fish and chip supper.

Mon 14th January

The monthly meeting was well attended. The speaker was Mrs Anne White (who is incidentally president of Southbourne WI) who gave an interesting talk on the "History

of Bread" from the ancient Egyptians to the present day – a wide ranging subject. The vote was held for the NFWI 2019 resolution: the overwhelming choice from Sixpenny Handley was, not surprisingly, on the "Decline of Local Bus Services". The Flower of The Month competition was won jointly by Liz Coombs' Violet and Jan Gibb's Pansy; third was Stella Symes' Iris

Future Meetings:

Mon 11th Feb	Monthly meeting.
Speaker: Mr Andrew McElwee – "Working Behind the Scenes in the National Trust"	
Sat 23rd Feb	Annual Jumble Sale
Mon 11th Mar	Monthly meeting.
Speaker: Miss Hannah Scriven – "World War 1 War Poets".	

If you are interested in our meetings or would like further information please don't hesitate to contact the Secretary, Mrs Margaret Jones on 552358. Visitors are most welcome.

Helping Hedgehogs Through The Winter

At this time of year hedgehogs would normally be hibernating; the recent warm temperatures have resulted in some still being out which is a worry as these little animals are in decline. Some young who were borne in the second litter last year may not have had time to eat enough food to survive any cold - they should be taken in and fed through the winter. If you know

of any hogs wandering around, please contact Tony Gibb on 07818 047617 so they can be assessed and, if necessary, taken to the local wildlife hospital where there are already over 200 in care.



Three weeks old and I now live in Sixpenny Handley



SIXPENNY HANDLEY WI JUMBLE SALE

Sat 23rd 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 or electrical goods

NEED HELP ON YOUR FARM OR IN YOUR WOOD?

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Available on a part-time basis to suit.
Call: Charlie White on 07796 996 723 /
cw@badgerestates.co.uk



Trussell Trust Donations in Handley

A huge 'thank you' to all those who have so generously donated food to the Trussell Trust throughout 2018. In total, we contributed well over 1000 items, which is an amazing amount.

Particular thanks go to the village shop for their generosity and support of the collection process. I know that the Trussell Trust, and the recipients, are really grateful for all the donations received. I hope we as a village are able to continue supporting this very worthwhile charity in the coming year.



Come and join us at The Penny Tap for a pint or two in the re-modelled Sports Pavilion @ Sixpenny Handley

Wed- 4.30 - 7.00
Thurs- 4.30 - 7.00
Fri- 4.00 - 8.00
Sat- 2.00 - 8.00

Take out Service Available

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Upcycling

Alterations, big or small Mending

-----XXXXXXXX-----

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07754208180
sarahbfradgley@gmail.com

The Village War Memorial

In August 2004, The Downsman published the first of my twenty-four profiles regarding Sixpenny Handley's servicemen commemorated on the war memorial. Since then additional information has come to light and this year I intend to revise my work with a view to publishing a booklet in which their supreme sacrifice will be presented against a backdrop of the two world conflicts.

Three who died in the Great War, Privates Edwin Hobbs, Douglas Lucas and William Henry Lucas are buried in the churchyard at St Mary's, two with headstones provided by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and one remembered on a family tablet. Through the generosity of William Spence, one of my social media contacts, I can now report that Edwin Hobbs of the 5th Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment, whose death occurred on the last day of April succumbed to pneumonia while in training at Witley Military Camp near Leatherhead in Surrey. Had he lived he would have proceeded to the Dardanelles

and the disastrous Gallipoli campaign where the then vicar's son Second Lieutenant Sidney Vandyke Hasluck was killed in action on the 14th of June 1915 [see The Downsman June 2005].

Douglas Lucas and William Henry Lucas whose respective deaths were on 4th of June and 15th November 1917, were as the result of wounds. Douglas had emigrated to Canada but on the outbreak of war in August 1914, enlisted with the Canadian Infantry and arrived back in the United Kingdom, early in 1915, attached to the 2nd Battalion, Canadian Infantry [Eastern Ontario Regiment]. Wounded in action on the 11th of May 1917, William Spencer reports that Douglas sustained a perforated stomach and died while being treated in Bellahouston Hospital, Glasgow. Later in the year William Henry Lucas of the Devonshire Regiment, attached to the 194th Company, Labour Corps, died in Nottingham Military Hospital.

Bill Chorley



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
Jane Scott
01725 516294



Age 14-18
Thursday 7 to 9pm
Anthony Brown
01725 552814

Annual Carol Service and Celebration

On 12th of December, 74 members of First Woodcutts and 100 plus adults attended our Christmas Celebration Service at St Mary's Sixpenny Handley. This was hosted by our New Vicar Canon Richard Hancock, Carols were sung. Each section performed a presentation with a Christmas theme, Our District Commissioner, David McGregor made presentations of the Chief Scouts Gold Award to Katie Warrack, Ben Griffiths, and George Hallett, all three of these together with Isaac Carlyle-Clarke and Harvey Gothard will be attending a District Presentation evening to receive their actual certificates sometime in the early New Year, Skip John and Skip Skip Rob made presentations of Proficiency Badges firstly to members of the Beaver section and then to members of the Cub to Pack our usual roars of BRAVO in approval, nearly raised the roof of the Church, Canon Richard gave us a very short though thought-provoking sermon, this was followed by a visual presentation of what the young people had been up to throughout 2018, Rob then announced that the 2019 Family Camp has been booked for Butchers Coppice (Bournemouth) for the weekend Saturday 4th to Monday 6th of May and that Summer camp would be held in the Peak District 27th July to 3rd August. The service concluded by us all singing Ding Dong Merrily on High and ending prayers.

Winter Camp

Between Christmas and New Years 20 Scouts and 4 leaders enjoyed a special Winter Camp at the HQ. The Scouts were ready for any weather, as it turned out the evening was mild and many slept out under the stars in hammocks and in shelters. A special Christmas feast was cooked by the Scouts over the camp fire and in the wood-fired oven. The plates were bulging with roast beef and pork, all the trimming and even Yorkshire puddings. The camp was a great opportunity to spend time outdoors, test camping skills and enjoy conversations



Carol Service and Celebration

with friends around the fire.

Shelterbox Challenge

During Summer Camp 2017 the Scouts visited the Shelterbox HQ in Cornwall and learned about the work the charity undertakes supporting communities throughout the world who are hit by disasters. The Scouts learned about the contents of the boxes and how they were designed to support a family of up to 10 people for a year. When it came to choosing a charity for Woodcutts to support in 2018, Shelterbox was the unanimous choice. The group set themselves the target of fundraising enough money to purchase 2 Shelterboxes, a total of £1180. Over the year the young people completed night hikes, camp outs, mountain bike cleaning and shelter building in the woods. The original target was smashed and the group raised enough to purchase just short of 5 boxes! A great effort by all and a true demonstration of Scouting doing a good turn and helping other people.



Winter Camp at the HQ



www.shelterbox.org

Mountain bike washing for Shelterbox

Can coaching help you?

Coaching is a positive and proven approach for helping people explore their goals and ambitions, and then work towards achieving them.

My coaching model will assist in developing your skills and abilities, boosting your performance and confidence in life or at work, helping you to deal with issues and challenges. This should help to make you more effective in your commitment to yourself and your own goals.

Call Adam on 07710965017
or
email: adam.macmillan-scott@hotmail.com

Disappointing Statistics

MISSED SURGERY APPOINTMENTS

November 2018

- 21 Doctor's Appointments Missed
Time 3 hrs 30 mins
- 5 Nurse's Appointments Missed
Time 50 mins

December 2018

- 30 Doctor's Missed Appointments
Time 5 hrs
- 3 Nurse's Appointments Missed
Time 30 mins

Please inform us in plenty of time if you are unable to attend an appointment you have booked.

Cards

Whist

Following an excellent Christmas drive, competitive whist recommenced at the village hall on 16th January [play starts at 7.30 p.m.], with a new contender for 'top spot', namely Stuart Haskell whose present aggregate score is 987 points, two ahead of Julie Trickey. Barry Park [960] occupies third place, a point clear of Ray Parsons. Eight championship rounds remain and I have little doubt that the leaderboard will witness many changes of fortune. A major challenge for all contestants will be to better Kingsley White's 191 which, currently, is the highest individual score.

Bridge

Recommences at the parish office on Monday 4th February, play commencing at 1.30 p.m.

Bill Chorley

Sixpenny Village Hall

The work continues

Work continues at the Village Hall this spring, the exterior has now been cleaned and its looking great. The funding from The Talbot Trust has been received and work will start soon on upgrading the electrics ready for our new PA system and lighting rig. This will be followed by the sanding and refurbishing of our wooden floor and the stage. A very useful Management Committee Meeting was held recently and your feedback and ideas were gratefully received. A sample of the new chairs (style, not colour) is in the hall for people to try. An armed version of the chair is also available. The date of the next AGM is 17th April and a future date for your diary is Rob's Auction on 28th September.

Sixpenny Handley Village Hall – available for hire priced per hour.

Local groups £8.50
Daytime events, children's parties, Christenings etc £9.00
Other daytime bookings, meetings etc £10.00
Evening events, local private parties etc £10.50
Evening events, bookings from outside the Parish £11.50
All bookings subject to £10.00 alcohol licence if alcoholic drinks are to be sold

BOOKINGS: Janice Bicker 07951 056069 or email 6dhandleyhall@gmail.com



Interested in learning more or becoming a Friend?

Contact Erica Pretty on 07825 145726 or go to

www.dementiafriends.org.uk

Help Line 0303 3033 100

Hazel Kileen

01725 552980

is our Community

Dementia Friend Champion

Kevin Knight Horologist

Clock and Watch Repairs

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

Village Hall 100 Club

November 2018

1st £25	90	Mr. Smith
2nd £15	60	Mr. D. Salmons
3rd £10	16	Mr. R. Jesse

December 2018

1st £25	14	Mrs. Wacker
2nd £15	25	Mr. Hatton
3rd £10	13	Mrs. Pollock

If you would like to join the Village Hall 100 club please contact me, Bea Boyland, on 01725 552805, or email me, beaboyland@btinternet.com

Human rights lawyer Margaret Owen part of delegation in Turkey

DTK co-chair and Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Hakkari MP Leyla Güven is on hunger strike for 68 days in Amed prison to demand the end of the isolation imposed on Kurdish people's leader Abdullah Öcalan.

Sinn Féin and Labour party MEPs Martina Anderson and Julia Ward are part of the delegation which includes also human rights defender Wendy Lyon of Ireland, UK human rights lawyer Margaret Owen and Italian lawyer Simonetta Rosella Benedetti.

The delegation held a press conference at the Amed Bar Association on Sunday.

Sinn Féin MEP, Martina Anderson said: "I'd like to tell you my feelings after 48 hours in this city. Leyla Güven is a democratically elected politician. She is 55 years old and has been on hunger strike for 67 days.

Last night, - added Anderson - we thought there might be a glimmer of a light about his situation. Leyla Güven is on hunger strike demanding the removal of the isolation imposed on Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan, who is detained in İmralı Island."

Anderson added: "We know that Abdullah Öcalan has not been able to meet with his family for 2 and a half years, since 2016. In addition, he hasn't been allowed to meet with his lawyers since 2011. We learned that on Saturday he was allowed a visit [with his brother] of just 15 minutes. We had the impression that Saturday's visit was not a development that could be considered as meeting the demands of the people on hunger strikes. Because the hunger strike prisoners demand the complete abolition of isolation policy."

Anderson continued: "During the hunger strikes in 2016, a short visit was also allowed but the policies of isolation soon returned. The hunger strikers are asking to avoid any 2016-like tactic be carried out again."

Sinn Féin MEP Martina Anderson then

spoke on behalf of the Irish, Italian and British members of this delegation: "We call on Turkey to end isolation and go back to the peace process. Turkey's government should put an end to torture in prisons, to repressive policies and to isolation. The only thing Kurds in Turkey are demanding is the right to live in peace." Human rights lawyer Margaret Owen, from Britain, drew attention to the hatred she saw in the eyes of the policemen. "I have been coming to Turkey for years, as an observer to hearings, elections, events. But I've never been so worried. Because Leyla Güven and 256 political prisoners are now on a hunger strike. And they have reached the threshold of death."

Referring to the way police treated the delegation, Owen said: "I felt the fear of being crushed by the police for the first time. And I saw the hatred in the eyes of these young policemen. I've seen people who have been policemen for fear of being

unemployed. And I've seen these young people used as a tool of violence."

Owen had this to say about Saturday's visit to Öcalan, by his brother Mehmet: "Summer does not come with a single sunny day. I mean to say that isolation does not end with a visit.

We will continue to work as deputies, activists and lawyers here in Turkey with those defending an independent judiciary, independent media and independent organizations.

It looks like we are seeing the dark side of the moon in Turkey. But we will do what is in our hands to put an end to this darkness and we'll continue to come to Turkey."

Source: <https://anfenglish.com/news/meps-and-lawyers-from-europe-denied-meeting-with-leyla-gueven-32109>



**Come and enjoy the fun at the Village Hall
on 16th March 2019 from 7.30pm until late**
**Invite your friends & family – separate Adults
& Kids Quizzes with great prizes!**
Food provided just bring your own drinks
Adults £5 – kids go FREE
For more details or to book a place
email: info@pentridgedorset.co.uk
www.pentridgedorset.co.uk

Dorset Wildlife Trust

North Dorset Group Events Calendar
2018/19

The North Dorset Group of the Dorset Wildlife Trust holds talks and guided walks throughout the year. Our new calendar of talks for 2019 is detailed here. All talks take place at Fontmell Magna Village Hall (SP7 0PF) on the third Wednesday of the month and start at 7.30p.m. A small donation of £2.50 is invited to defray expenses and this includes tea/coffee, Honeybuns cakes & biscuits. There is also a stall selling items from DWT's extensive range of sales goods and a table displaying a variety of free leaflets on Dorset's flora and fauna.

2019

Wednesday 20th February:

'Beavers in Devon – Restoring Wetlands the Natural Way'

An illustrated talk by Jake Chant from the Devon Beaver Project on the helpful impact of beavers on the environment.

Wednesday 20th March: 'All about Deer'

An illustrated talk by Sam Hamer (from DWT's West Dorset Conservation Team) on the six species of deer in Britain.

Wednesday 17th April:

'Dorset's Weird & Wonderful Fungi'

An illustrated talk by Bryan Edwards from the Dorset Environmental Records Centre. This talk will be preceded by a rapid AGM.

Dawn Chorus Walks

Sunday 5th May: Steve Oliver (North Dorset Warden) will lead the first of our dawn chorus walks at Ashley Wood, near Tarrant Keyneston. Meet at the entrance to the wood at 4.30 a.m. Parking is available from 4.00 a.m. in Tarrant Keyneston Village Hall car park. Booking essential – please telephone Steve Oliver on 07824 874273. Cost: £6 adults/£3 children.

Saturday 11th May:

Expert local birder, Jon Ross, leads the annual dawn chorus walk in Ansty. This will be followed by a superb full English breakfast. Meet at The Old Brewery Hall car park in Ansty (DT2 7PN) at 4.45am. Cost: £12 (including breakfast). Booking is essential – telephone Roy Davies on 01258 880 699.

These ever popular walks are each limited to 12 people, so please book early!



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Single load 1.4 cubic metre or a smaller load of 1 cubic metre.

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james@tallut.co.uk



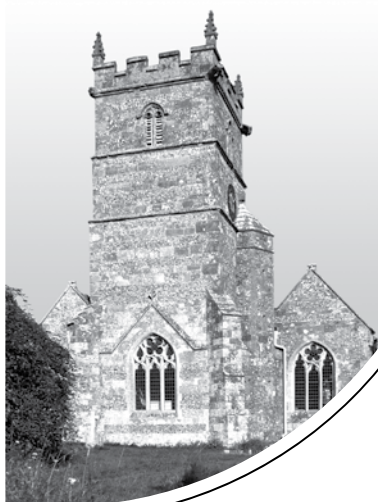
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Implements include, flail mowers, grass toppers, trailers, rollers, chain harrows, log splitters, saw benches, fertilizer/seed spreaders, link boxes and more...



Contact James Chick or visit www.tallutmachinery.co.uk



The church magazine
for *St Mary the Virgin*,
Sixpenny Handley
with *Gussage St Andrew*
and *St Rumbold's*,
Pentridge

Who's who?

Vicar

Rev'd Canon Richard Hancock
The Vicarage
Sixpenny Handley
01725 552 182

Curates

Rev Paul Skinner
01725 552 785
Rev Dr Michael Foster
01258 830 764

Churchwardens

*St Mary's with
Gussage St Andrew*

Chris Stokes 552 672
Sue Curtis 552 397

St Rumbold's, Pentridge

Mary Ferguson 552 222
Jane King 552 231



The Seeker

handleychurch.org.uk



Feb 2019

Sound of Music Night! — Saturday 2nd March 8pm, St Mary's

Come and climb every mountain with us, watch the film, dress up and sing the songs. Bring a Bottle, Glasses will be provided. Prize for best Fancy Dress! A great way to kick off the winter blues.

Suggested £5 donation on the door.
All proceeds to St Mary's Church. Spread the word.

The Alpha Course

**Starting Tuesday 12th February
7-9pm Sixpenny Handley**

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each session begins with a simple meal then we watch short film presentation which looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Alpha is run all around the globe, and everyone's welcome. It runs in cafés, churches, universities, homes—you name it.

You can check out Alpha at: www.alpha.org

There will be an **Alpha Taster Session** in St Mary's Church Friday 1st February 7pm. Come and find out about Alpha. If you would like to register an interest and come along to the first session, (there is no obligation to attend the others) then please contact the Vicar at canonrick@icloud.com

"WHAT'S THE MEANING OF LIFE?"
"DO I HAVE A PURPOSE?"
"IS THERE MORE TO LIFE THAN THIS?"
"IS THIS IT?"
"WHAT AM I DOING HERE?"
"IS THERE A GOD?"

Alpha

FIND OUT
ABOUT THE
ALPHA COURSE



**News items
and articles welcome!**

**Please drop them in to
the Vicarage, or email;
ask@handleychurch.org.uk**

Thanks!

Remember!

If you would like to give your child a good start in life, talk to the vicar about a christening.

If you are getting married, you can get married in your local church if you live in the parish or have some other link.

And if a loved one dies, please talk to us about how the church may be able to help.

Contact the vicar for more information. We are here for you.

Did you know?

It costs over £40,000 each year just to keep our churches open and functioning.

Remember, we get no funding from the government at all, so if you would like to keep the church near you, we need your help! Please think about giving regularly.

In full colour

A full colour PDF of The Seeker is available from our website.



DIARY OF A COUNTRY PARSON

Join The Revolution!

Well here it is 2019! Christmas has been and gone and hopefully we are all still managing to keep our New Years resolutions. The most popular resolution is to lose weight and I too have signed up to this one. Over the past year I have put on just over a stone and am finding my waistcoats are a bit tight. Now as a Sixpenny man its important my waistcoats fit, and I should be able to get two on at the same time. So, before my 50th Birthday in May it's time to shed a few pounds.

However, I also like to come up with something of a different resolution each year and this year I have decided to take no "Selfies" for a year. This caused a laugh from Mrs Vicarage in church when I made this announcement, as she knows that vanity, particularly on social media is one of my foibles. This doesn't mean I'm going to be denying my Facebook followers the chance to gaze at my handsomeness, [Oh modesty is another problem my wife reminds me of] rather I'm going to take Usies this year.

The problem with the selfie is in the name it's just about me. I see people wondering round places all the time taking photos of themselves locked into their own little digital world often not aware of the real people around them. Life at its best is not about me but about us. If we focus on the me rather than the we, we have known community. It is through living together in community that we get the best out of life. It means we can laugh and celebrate together as well as support one another when the going gets tough.

The idea of Usies is that it means we have to interact with someone ask their name and if their happy to be in a photo with us. Even better is too involved a third person and ask them to take the photograph, more interactions. This is how we can get to know people and make new friendships. A selfie stick might be a great gadget, but it can't laugh with you, share a conversation or give you a hug when you need one. God created us to live in community with one another. The whole miracle of the Christmas story is that he decided to come and live with us in that community to be part of the interdependence we have for one another. Jesus demonstrates this in his ministry by being with people, all people, no matter who they were and then gave us the commandment of community "Love one another as I have loved you". So why not join the Usie revolution!

The 1st Handley Woozel Hunt

Just before Christmas there was an article in the Church Times about eccentric clergy in the past and how today clergy seem to take themselves far too seriously. I'm doing my best to break this mould and I'm glad that Handley has previous experience of eccentric clergy in the form of Rev Ron Wood, Vicar and cartoonist.

Woozel hunting is a serious thing, keeping the Woozel population under control is important if all our mince pies are not going to be stolen. When I arrived in the village I soon spotted signs of Woozel nests everywhere and as the Christmas season approached stories of missing mince pies abounded.

Thankfully Woozel hunting rights were endowed to one of my ancestors Lord Blakeney by Good King Wenceslas so I decided to exercise those rights and organize a boxing day hunt. Around thirty people turned up for the hunt including lots of children and some hunt protestors. Once a Woozel nest is found they are bated with fresh mince pies, often placed in a festively decorated fishing net. Young children then lure the Woozel out by telling it Christmas Cracker jokes collected from the day before. However, there are those who want to ban the hunt and they can be found waving 'Save the Woozel' placards, shaking rattles and singing Good King Wenceslas which frightens the Woozel back into its' nest.

An hours hunting ensued with several Woozel nest found and finally a Woozel was sighted by the Vicarage fence but he got away. Mulled wine and mince pies were had in the church and prizes for jokes, Woozel nets and hunting attire distributed. The Hunt will resume next Boxing Day.



Photograph by Andrew Chorley



wheat was cut, ground and a loaf baked and brought into church to bless the beginning of the harvest. Then finally Harvest Festival. It's really important we keep these traditions alive and for the church to demonstrate that it stands alongside its farming community, as well as giving thanks to our creator for all the benefits we receive from his hands. Jesus often used farming metaphors when he taught and was himself described as the Good Shepherd who was prepared to lay down his life for the sheep. This we will mark at our Easter celebrations. I look forward to celebrating the other rural festivals with our farmers and community this coming year. In the meantime, please, prayer for all our farmers and their families.

We plough the fields...

It was a real pleasure and a lot of fun to lead the Plough Sunday services in our churches this year. Plough Sunday marks the beginning of the agricultural year and traditionally the ploughs and farmers are blessed. This year our farmers from Handley and Pentridge did us proud bringing their ploughs to be blessed. In times past this was very much a tradition of the church and local community. Other key times were Rogation in May, when the community would beat the boundaries of the Parish. Lamas at the beginning of August was when the first



End of an era at Shaftesbury

This afternoon, (being the 10th of January when I wrote this) I went to the last ever Dorset cattle market at Shaftesbury. After 60 years of operation it closed its gates for the last time at the end of the sale. The site is being sold by North Dorset Council to the supermarket chain Lidl.

The place was heaving with farmers from all over the region coming to mark this sad but historic day. The sight of a dog collar, (two in fact, as I was joined by the Rev Richard Kirlew the Rural Officer for Salisbury Diocese) was welcomed. The market filled with rugged Dorset faces, many of whom had farmed the land in this area for several generations. I spoke to one farmer who recalled coming to this market

for the first time with his father some 50 years ago.

One of the joys of rural living and ministry is that we are surrounded by the land and its beauty. We see the seasons come and go and from the Vicarage up on the hill, I see creation paint a new picture each morning reminding me of the greatness of God our creator. However, as a rural community we must never forget that the land is a place of work and production not just a changing picture postcard. Farming is hard work and despite all the modern technology the season can still play havoc for our farmers. If the fields are too wet to plough or sow, extremely dry summers which affect the production of silage, which if

followed by a long hard winter will mean a shortage of feed for the cattle. To add to this farmers are subject to the whims of a worldwide market where prices and farming futures can be changed in the blink of an eye. However we will still expect to walk into the new Lidl in Shaftesbury and only pay £1 for a litre of milk, or pence for our fruit and vegetables.

I firmly believe one of the roles of the rural church and community is to support our local farmers. Many of us are familiar with Fairtrade for our tea, coffee or bananas, but do we apply the same principles to our own home grown produce? Should not our farmers get a fair price for what they produce? Supporting our farmers ensures they are fully a part of our communities.



✚ Bible Study Group

As we hope you see from *The Seeker*, the Bible is THE Book! Read it and understand more in good company on alternate Thursdays at 7.15pm.

Details from Mike on 01725 552 720.

Come and meet friends

A The Alpha Course

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith with a meal. No charge. Do as few or many sessions as you wish. Details from the Vicar; canonrick@icloud.com

* Special Event

Please refer to the main text for details of special events marked on the calendar.

T Teddy Bears

Pre-school children and their carers are invited to St Mary's on Thursday mornings during school term from 10.30am to noon, for fun, drinks and biscuits and maybe a Bible story or two. There is no charge.

✿ Mothers' Union – Tea, company and a good talk, usually every second Thursday of the month, from 2.30pm. Details from Mary (552 041).

SUNDAY SERVICES	Gussage St Andrew 9.30am	St Rumbold's Pentridge 11.15am	St Mary's Sixpenny Handley		
			9.30am	10.00am	6.00pm
Feb 3 rd	#	HC	HC	#	Evensong
Feb 10 th	HC	#	Informal	#	Evensong
Feb 17 th	#	Matins (MP)	HC	#	Evensong
Feb 24 th	HC	#	#	Family	Evensong
Mar 3 rd	#	HC	HC	#	Evensong
Mar 10 th	HC	#	Informal	#	Evensong
Mar 17 th	#	Matins (MP)	HC	#	Evensong
Mar 24 th	9.30am St Mary's HC – Joint service with Chase Benefice				
Mar 31 st	HC	#	#	Family	Evensong

HC Holy Communion **MP** Morning Prayer **SofP** Songs of Praise **#** No service

Ash Wednesday March 6th
 Holy Communion and Ashing
 7.00pm, St Mary's

Make a Mothers' Day – March 31st
 Join us for a very special Family Service on Mothering Sunday, 26th March at 10.00am at St Mary's. We can all show mothering love, and this is something to celebrate together as well as in our families.

St Mary's Teddy Bears

All pre-school children and their carers are invited for a drink and a biscuit, a good natter and a play in the church. There is no charge and you don't need to come to church at other times – we just love seeing you! Come along for as long as you can between 10.30 and noon and make your Thursdays brighter.



February				See side panel for key to symbols		
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 *	2
3	4	5	6 HC	7 T	8	9
10	11	12 A	13	14 T ✿	15	16
17	18	19 A	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 A	27	28 T		

Fri 1st 7.00pm Alpha Taster Session, St Mary's, Handley

March				See website for updates		
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 *
3	4	5 A	6 HC	7 T	8	9
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31						

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Downsman Business Support Group

2019 meetings

Thursday 14 February

Thursday 11 April

Thursday 20 June

Thursday 12 September

Thursday 14 November

9.30am to 11am

meeting at Sports Pavillion

Sixpenny Handley

We're a friendly group of local business owners who meet every couple of months to network & support each other over a cup of coffee. We aim to promote each others businesses, share upcoming events & opportunities

For further information:

Phone: 07895 913546 or 07852 324112

Email downsmanbsg@gmail.com

or see our Facebook page.

Sixpenny Handley Bowls Club

Firstly, thankyou Gordon for stepping in and covering the last issue of the Downsman. I was in Australia then and enjoying some fine weather. I did not leave bowls behind however as I became an honorary member of the Hervey Bay Bowls Club. Like us they play on an artificial surface. The members there gave me a warm welcome and I enjoyed playing bowls in a different format to our game. On the domestic front we hosted the WMTL presentation evening and had some very positive feedback about how well the evening went. Well done to all the members who helped to organize the event. Once again the runners up silver plate is proudly displayed in our trophy

cabinet. The winners were Mere Town who are serial winners of this league but our consolation was that we managed to beat them on the home turf. Quite unprecedented in recent history.

We had our annual Xmas Hamper day competition on 25th November. The ladies showed the men the way by winning all three hampers. First place went to Sarah Churchill with runners up Karen Ellis and Maxine Keech.

The Annual presentation lunch was held at Rushmore Golf Club with a very good turn out from members and guests.

Congratulations to all the winners and runners up.

Competition

Men's Singles
Ladies Singles
Novices Cup
Presidents Cup
Two Wood Singles
Patrick Taylor Cup
Mixed Pairs

Winner

Paul Chalmers
Angela Gower
Chris Mugford
Paul Chalmers
Dave Adams
Gordon Beckley

Winners

Runners Up

Winners

Runners Up

Mixed Triples

Mixed Fours

Winners Paul Chalmers Alan Elliot Ron Jermyn Brian Staplehurst

Runners up Barbara Sewell Mike Carter Gordon Beckley Stella Olsen

Runner up

Vic Howard
Karen Ellis
Gary Curtis
Ron Jermyn
Ron Jermyn
Dave Addams

Paul Chalmers Roy Best

Colin Chambers Barbara Sewell

Alan Elliot Paul Chalmers Gordon Beckley

Barbara Sewell Angela Gower Roy Best

We had a super musical evening at the club house on 14th December given by Clare Sutherland and Johun Sim two professional musicians who played and sang both classical music and songs from shows and finishing with Carols

Short mat bowls leagues continue with Sixpenny Handley currently mid table in their league while the Tanners team remain close to bottom but with the advantage of having most of their remaining games at home.

As always we welcome new players in particular we would like to see more ladies taking up the sport.

Ron Jermyn

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Handley's Australian Pioneers/4

We continue the story of Handley's Bounty Immigrants. These were forty one families, mainly from the Handley area, who left North Dorset poverty between 1837 & 1839 for a better life in Australia.

John Weeks Senior – Poacher/Convict

Benjamin and John Weeks, their wives and sister, Jane Vincent and her husband had left for New South Wales in November 1836. Sadly, they had to leave behind in Handley their 61 year old father, John Weeks senior.

- John Weeks senior was a poacher who with many convictions was far more familiar with the Dorchester courtroom than the Tolpuddle Martyrs.
- In 1815, he was sentenced to seven years' transportation 'for beating a keeper.' Although he spent time in a Gosport prison he avoided transportation either through possibly being too useful a labourer in Portsmouth dockyard or perhaps by knowing the right naval official to bribe!
- However, in October 1837 his luck finally ran out when he was again sentenced to be transported for stealing wheat. After spending time in the Gosport prison hulk, York, John Weeks was shipped off to Van Diemen's Land (now Tasmania) on the vessel Lord William Bentinck 2.
- While awaiting transportation, he would have worked as a labourer in Portsmouth dockyard and have buried life-expired convicts on 'Rat Island' in the harbour.
- At the age of 69, John Weeks completed seven years' hard labour and headed to New South Wales to meet up with his three children who were by then prospering in Camden. He died, aged 82, and no record has been uncovered of John Weeks senior ever having been a guest of a New South Wales courtroom!



Camden, New South Wales.

Ben Weeks – 'the Legend'

Handley born Ben Weeks had arrived in Camden, New South Wales in 1837 as a Bounty Immigrant. Incredibly he remains a 'legend' to this day in the historic Plough and Harrow Inn – now owned by a former Qantas chief executive.

- After initially settling in Camden, Ben and his family moved to the settlement of Boorowa – some 150 miles from Sydney. However, life in these early days was not easy as the village was known for its cattle thefts, border disputes, bushrangers and occasional murder.
- Nevertheless, Ben prospered and became a significant land owner. After 20 years away from Camden he returned in 1885 to look out old friends and booked into the Plough and Harrow Inn. This had been founded in 1841 by Dorset born Samuel Arnold from Child Okeford.
- Sadly, Ben died during the night falling from the Inn's first floor. While Ben may have enjoyed a tot of rum when back in Camden, the Inquest concluded he had not imbibed one too many.



Plough and Harrow Inn

- An early photographic portrait of Handley's Ben Weeks can still be seen today, hanging proudly in one of the lounges of the Plough and Harrow Inn, Camden, New South Wales.

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25th May, 6th July, 14th September and
23rd November

After the huge success of our November Retreat Day and our February date is now being fully booked we have planned several more for 2019. Please book early if you are wanting to attend as spaces fill up very quickly. Each Retreat Day will follow the same format:

Arrive at 11.30 to settle in with a herbal tea. Heart felt Yoga with Becky at 12 noon for a blissful hour to holistically connect with your body. A healthy lunch at 1 pm and at 2 pm we will deepen the process of being in the moment with Sarah Monro, as she guides you through mindfulness practices to enhance awareness of the here and now. At 3 pm experience a deeply relaxing sound healing journey through the Gongs with Sarah Lownds. You will be nurtured and supported throughout the day so you can just let go.

11.30am to 4pm - Soup and Salad Lunch provided

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Timetable

Monday	09:15	Fitness Pilates	Broadchalke Sports Hall
Monday	10:15	HIIT	Broadchalke Sports Hall
Monday	13:45	Pilates	Broadchalke Sports Hall
Monday	16:30	Pilates	Sixpenny Handley Village Hall
Monday	19:00	Better Backs	Bishopstone Village Hall
Tuesday	09:15	Pilates	Coombe Bissett Village Hall
Tuesday	14:00	Pilates	Radnor Hall
Tuesday	18:00	Fitness Pilates	Britford Memorial Hall
Tuesday	19:00	Pilates	Britford Memorial Hall
Wednesday	09:30	Better Backs	Bishopstone Village Hall
Wednesday	18:00	Pilates	Bishopstone Village Hall
Wednesday	19:00	HIIT	Bishopstone Village Hall
Wednesday	19:30	Pilates	Bishopstone Village Hall
Friday	09:15	Fitness Pilates	Broadchalke Sports Hall
Friday	11:00	Pilates	Bowerchalke Village Hall

Pilates - Improves balance, flexibility, core and back strength, and joint mobility.

Pilates for Better Backs (Better Backs) - Focuses on the back, hips and buttocks.

Fitness Pilates - Claudine's best of all disciplines, but not as intensive as HIIT.

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Gone Sailing



Brr! Brr!

No! Not a friendly ring tone, but a response to the winter chill, always at least a layer colder on the water. So it is with thermals, fleeces, woolly hats, neck warmers, wrist warmers, and sea boots, that we venture to sea.

The last sail of 2018 had a southerly wind with a bit of East in it, a fast sail to Cowes, and a lunch time mooring in Cowes Yacht Haven (50% discount if wearing a Christmas pullover - we were not!) About five LTSC yachts on a long pontoon. And a fast sail back to Lymington, a reach both ways, so none of this tacking stuff.

The following week, time to take the Main off to obtain discount from the Sailmaker, Two Sweden 390s and four guys taking two Mains off. Down to a fine art now, the roller cars present a bit of a fiddly challenge, but once out of the track, the Main is lowered into the boom bag, ropes and halyards wrapped around it, the whole slid off and lowered onto a waiting trolley, the sail laid on a tarpaulin, flaked and bagged.

The first sail of 2019, had a good breeze from the north. With only the Genoa available we made 7+ knots boat speed towards Cowes, this time mooring in East Cowes Marina, taking advantage of winter rates. Eleven LTSC yachts (well the sun was out!) All very convivial, and then return, with temperature dropping as sun went down, again a reach both ways, so an easy sail.



Media

Did you see 'Britain by Boat'? All a bit disappointing we thought, such a lovely yacht, and not enough time spent on her. And rather old fashioned terminology, we tend to use racing terms more - quicker and simpler.

Australian Team a winning team, a subtle but important difference.

2019 Awaits...

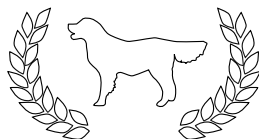
LTSC Cruising programme is now published, in addition to every Wednesday, weekends and longer to:~ West Cowes, Marchwood, Jim's Mystery Tour, Bucklers Hard, Hamble Scramble (race), Alderney, Poole, Summer Cruise (France, Brexit permitting), Chichester, South of St Cats, St Vaast, Bembridge, Medina, Weymouth, Hornets, Cowes, and no doubt others. So why not join us? There are of course dinghy sailing events, and other water sports. And naturally a full social and off the water calendar.

If you are thinking of finding out what this sailing thing is all about, (warning more addictive than Cannabis!) RYA Push the Boat out events 4 & 5 May with LTSC, or other participating clubs. Find out all about it, try a sail! Join and have over 1,000 new friends (better than facebook!) www.ltsc.co.uk

So, a whole year of sailing ahead, goodeeee.

From the Skipper's Library

'Born to Win' - John Bertrand - the story of how John Bertrand came to skipper and win the America's Cup for Australia. The first defeat of USA in 135 years. A fascinating, fast paced, and exciting account. Of interest to sailors, sports people, psychologists, team builders, and every one else. An interesting quote, the American Team were a team of winners, the



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CATCHPOLE LAW.....on law

Probate – should I deal with it myself, or instruct solicitors?

If you are appointed as an executor under a Will (or are taking on the role of administrator for a family member who died without a Will in place) you may be tempted to take sole responsibility in dealing with the administration of the deceased's estate. It is very important to consider the full implications of this role given that executors and administrators carry personal liability for any mistakes made in dealing with an estate.

There are many reasons to consider instructing a solicitor from the outset, for example:-

- Correct interpretation of the Will – Wills containing trusts are commonly used to plan around risks of care fees, remarriage or divorce. However, the careful planning behind such a Trust may be jeopardised if the Will is

incorrectly interpreted and the estate then incorrectly distributed, and this can potentially lead to financial loss or adverse tax consequences later.

- Making changes to the Will – it is possible to amend a Will after death by way of a Deed of Variation, and this can lead to favourable inheritance tax outcomes. A solicitor would be able to advise on this and draw up the necessary deed.
- Inland Revenue accounts can be time consuming and complex and executors need to consider not only inheritance tax but income tax and capital gains tax. A solicitor will ensure that all tax liabilities are discharged and will often be able to take steps to minimise the amounts payable.

Whilst there are many good reasons to instruct a solicitor in dealing with the administration of an estate, this does not mean that the solicitor must take over

every part of the process. Catchpole Law can offer a half-way solution whereby it is possible for you to continue to deal with routine matters such as gathering in information regarding assets and liabilities of the estate, ready for us to complete the relevant inheritance tax forms and apply to the Court for the Grant of Probate. This will ensure that costs are minimised, yet you still have our professional expertise and guidance in place (as well as the advantage of indemnity insurance that all solicitors must carry for their clients' protection). In addition, now that Probate court fees are set to rise in the spring, we would also be able to assist you in expediting the application for the Grant in order to avoid paying higher court fees.

If we can be of assistance, please contact Michael Catchpole or Shauna Lines.

CBA Services Ltd

The team at CBA Services Limited hopes you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year celebrations and those New Year's Resolutions have remained.

By the time you sit down to read this with your cuppa you should have:

1. Submitted your Tax Return for the year ended 5 April 2018
2. Paid your balancing payment for 2017/18 and if applicable your first payment on account for 2018/19
3. Updated your income position for the Child Tax Credits and Working Tax Credits
4. Know if we have left the EU with or without a deal

It is only another 64 days until the end of this tax year – 2018/19. Therefore, to ensure you have maximised any tax planning required, I thought I would just remind you:

- If your total income is between £100,000 - £123,700 you will lose your personal allowances and therefore income within this bracket will be assessed at 60%. In order to reduce the income chargeable, you could make a charitable donation, pension contribution or transfer a source of income to a spouse.
- If you are a director of an owner managed company, you could make use of the dividend allowance of £2,000. In addition to this, where your director's loan account exists, and the company owes you, you could charge the company interest and therefore utilise any personal savings allowance of £1,000.
- If your earned income exceeds £50,000 (taking the highest earner in a household), then the child benefit gets effectively withdrawn, otherwise the highest earner will receive additional tax charge.
- You have an annual capital gains tax allowance exemption of £11,700. A married couple can arrange for one partner to sell shares after their spouse has transferred some loss-making shares to them to reduce the overall gain.
- Have you made a capital loss in the year? If so, you will need to make a formal claim to HMRC to claim the loss. The claim must be submitted to HMRC within four years of the end of the tax year of the loss.
- If you have permanently separated from your spouse during this tax year, you may want to consider dealing with transferring assets between you before 5 April 2019. This is because assets can pass between separated spouses without capital gains tax in the year of permanent separation. Transfers taking place after this deadline may attract capital gains tax.
- Utilise the individual savings account



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allowance which is £20,000 for individuals, £4,260 for a junior ISA and help to buy ISA monthly limit is £200.

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- An amount of up to £3,000 can be given away each tax year and if unused in a year, that amount can be carried forward for one year and utilised later that year.
- Small gifts exemption, you can give up to £250 to as many people as you wish each tax year.
- You can contribute £40,000 (gross) a year into a pension scheme. This can be increased if you did not use up your allowances in the preceding 3 years. The standard annual allowance of £40,000 is also reduced by £1 for every additional £2 of an individual income over £150,000.

Do you run a business and would like to join the Downsman Business Support Group, then please come along to the next meeting which is being held at the Parish Office on the revised date of 14 February 2019 at 9.30am.

If you need assistance with any accountancy or tax related matters, please contact Catherine at CBA Services Limited on 01258 840306/07895 913546/ Catherine@cba-services.co.uk

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 Limited invites you to their first small business conference

Date: Monday 11 February 2019
Where: The Corn Exchange, 17 Market Place, Blandford Forum, Dorset
DT11 7AG
Time: 9am to 12pm
Cost: Free

Topics to be covered are:

Speaker:	Topic:
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View HR	Mental illness in the workplace
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We are proud to announce our first ever StarFest!

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For full details, and to sign our Dark Skies Pledge please see <http://www.chasingstars.org.uk>

Highlights include:

- Interactive virtual reality workshops with Space Detectives (pre-booking required)
- Travelling Planetarium Show, with Astronomer Bob Mizon
- Stargazing with Wessex Astronomical Association
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- Face painting

The Space Detectives workshops must be pre-booked: Please ring the AONB on 01725 517417 or email us on info@cranbornechase.org.uk (charges/donations for individual events are payable on the day).

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timings and programme details at:

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Gardeners' Notes

February

- Continue to feed the birds
- Clear away winter crops and plants and prepare ground
- Finish winter pruning of fruit trees and bushes
- Sow herbs and cress indoors,
- Force on rhubarb
- Start to sow chillies and tomatoes in a propagator.

March

- Deadhead spring bulbs leaving the foliage
- Start sowing hardy annuals, continue sowing chillies and tomatoes
- Plant onions and shallots
- Start to chit out potatoes

Ensure that you thoroughly check when seeds are to be planted, order and plan the years crops and planting.

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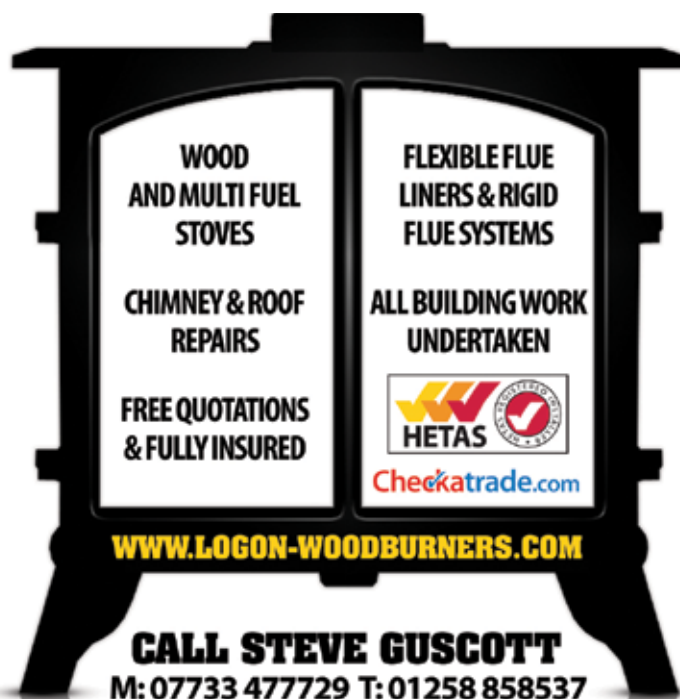
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Noticeboard



6d4all
youth club

Sixpenny Handley Youth Club
6D Handley Village Hall
Age 10 - 16 welcome
facebook.com/6d4all

Contact Liz 01425 654467, Vicky 01725 552549, Graham 01725 516973



HAPPY NAPPY

Babies to School Age Children
Sixpenny Handley Village Hall

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

**Toys, Singing and Fun
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...with coffee, tea and a chat for
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Lucy Barr 07508 691323
Milly Bones 07525 248890

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



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info@thelittlepennies.co.uk
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8:45am-11:45am
&
11:45am-2:45pm

Friday:
8:45am - 11:45am

Fees & Funding

**3 & 4 year olds £12.00
per session
or £4.00 per hour**
(funding available
for 3-5 year olds)

2-3 year olds
£13.50 per session
or £4.50 per hour

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excellent progress from their
starting points. They gain
the skills they need for their
future learning
and in readiness
for school."*
Outstanding
OFSTED report
2016



**Purpose built pre-school at
Sixpenny Handley First School
with indoor/outdoor free flow play areas.**

Rob's Column

Gran's gold locket I wear with pride
Both grandparents' photos inside
Grandpa, whom I never knew
Fell in the Great War aged twenty-two,
These dear people no longer apart
Are always kept close to my heart,
With thanks, we remember on Armistice
Day
Those who gave their life
And the great price they did pay.

When you're up against it
And pressure's all around
It's hard to be positive
And all too easy to frown
Take a little moment
Go for a walk in the breeze
Renewed and refreshed again
You'll tackle things with ease.

Q: Why does a cow wear a bell?
A: Because its horns don't work.

I gazed into the mirror
And what did I see there?
My face etched with deep lines
The lines are "Lines of Laughter"
And silver was my hair
This phrase I often hear
But it only takes a laugh or smile
To make them disappear!

Q: Why is venison so expensive?
A: Because its always deer.

The silence and peace of the woodlands
At this time of year
With its mix of autumn colours
Creating a magical atmosphere
Scrunching through the fallen leaves
Kids exploring happily
Uplifting times to be enjoyed
By all the family

The cost of something
Is it good value for what you got?
Is it going to gain somebody else?
Is it going to be a fund-raising event?
Its up to you what you do or give
And how you spend.

Auction news. Rob's Auction will be in the last weekend in September. Time to look out things, offer help. It will be a fun time for all and perhaps you will get nice things to take away.

Q: Time – Emit
A: A second time around

Make a little daily list
Of all you have to do
Tick off the chores
But make time for you
You have to have a balance
Work, rest and play
Makes for a perfect day.

Happy New Year.

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A. Curl up with a goof book

A. It's up to you

Rob



**SIXPENNY HANDLEY
WI
WANTED
Items needed
for the
JUMBLE SALE
on
Sat 23rd FEB**

Items for sale may be brought to the Hall between
10am & Midday on the day.

Sorry, no large furniture or electrical goods

What's On

Date	Club or Group	Page
Mon	Happy Nappy : Village Hall 10:00 - 11:30 Weekly in Term Time	
Mon	WI Meetings : Village Hall : 2nd Monday of Month	
Mon	Pilates : Village Hall 4:30pm	
Mon	Scouts : Scout Hut 19:00-21:00 : Term Time	
Mon	Boxercise class : 6D Village Hall at 7.15pm 2nd Mon of the Month @ Sandroyd.	
Tues	Parish Library : Parish Office : 10am - 12noon	
Tue	Bridge : Parish Office	
Wed	Cross Roads Cafe Parish Office 10:30am - 12noon	
Wed	Whist : Village Hall : Fortnightly	
Wed	Beavers, Cubs, Explorers : Scout Hut : Term Time	

Day	Club or Group
Thu	Parish Library 1st & 3rd Thu : Parish Office : 3pm - 4:15pm
Thu	Yoga with Araxy : 6D Village Hall
Thu	Downsman Business Group : bi-monthly : 9:30 - 10:30am
Thu	Extend Seated Exercise : Parish Office : 10:30am
Thu	Mothers' Union : 2nd Thursday in the Month 14:45
Thu	Teddy Bears Drop-in : Church 10:30 - 12:00 Weekly in Term Time
Thu	6D Handley Tennis Club Rusty Racquets 6:30-7:30
Fri	Parish Library : Parish Office : 8:30am - 10am
Fri	Chase Community Friends Lunch Village Hall : 2nd Friday in the Month
Fri	6D For All - Youth Club : 6D Village Hall Alternating weeks 7:30pm
Sun	St Mary's Church 9:30 Traditional & Informal services 18:00 Evensong Alternating weeks St Rumbold's 11:15 Gussage St Andrew 9:30

**CHASE
COMMUNITY
FRIENDS**

Invite you to

'Meet and Munch'

11am to 3pm
on 2nd Friday each month
at Sixpenny Handley Village Hall
£5 per person

The day includes:

1. Coffee and Tea
2. 3 course freshly cooked meal
3. Quiz
4. Entertainment
5. Transport (if required)



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