



Delivered by Sixpenny Handley Homewatch

June 2024

Sixpenny Sessions presents



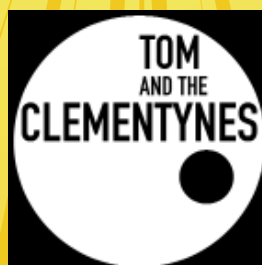
Live Music & Children's Workshops

Saturday 13th July

1.30pm - 10.30pm

The Penny Tap, Scouts BBQ, Church Teas, Ice Cream

Live Music:



TOM POWER

**ANDY KENNETT
AS ELVIS**



JINDER

Sixpenny Handley Cricket Pitch  **No Dogs please**

*Advance Tickets: £12.50 Adult, £5 Child Under 16, £30 Family (2+2)
from Ticketsource, Clarkes the Butcher or Budgens. Under 5s attend free of charge*

Parish Councillors Sixpenny Handley

Chairman	Cllr J Reed	516390
	Cllr D Adams	552284
	Cllr R Adams	07495 343 720
	Cllr D Chick	552557
Vice-Chair	Cllr S Meaden	552715
	Cllr S McLean	552910
Pentridge	Cllr C Taylor	553148
	Cllr A Turner	552735
Clerk	Ciona Nicholson	552211
Parish Office		552211
Dorset Council	Cllr Piers Brown	07511 156 811
	Email: cllrpiers.brown@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk	
Member Parliament	Simon Hoare	01258 452 585

Rights of Way Liaison Officers

Jessica/James Winby.01725 552259

The Downsman Team

Editor	Naomi Booth	editor@thedownsman.org.uk
Treasurer	Tony Gibb	552704
Advertising	Tarda	adverts@thedownsman.org.uk
Distribution	Stuart McLean	552910

Churches

Church of England St. Mary's, Sixpenny Handley	
St. Rumbold's, Pentridge	
St. Andrews, Gussage St. Andrew	
Vicar	Dr David Miell, The Rectory, Church Hill, Tarrant Hinton, Blandford Forum DT11 8JB 07708601462
Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady of Lourdes & St. Cecilia, Blandford Forum	
Priest	Monsignor Francis Jamieson 01258 452051
Blandford Methodist Church, The Close Blandford DT11 7HA	07799 516 735

Doctors Drs. Morgan, Taubman & Hawdon

Dean Lane Surgery	552500
NHS non-emergency number	111

Sixpenny Handley Village Hall

Chair	Paul Styles	552544
Vice-chair	Ros Adams	553032
Treasurer	Karen Adams	Karen7adams@yahoo.co.uk
Entertainment	Penny Mansergh	552812
Bookings	Shellie Cooper	07563 703577

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
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Co-ordinators

Area 1 - Dean Lane	Adam Ralph	552265
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	Colin Taylor	553148
Woodyates	Colin Taylor	553148

Police

Verwood Police Stn	01202 222222
Police non-emergency number	101

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

Happy Nappy Club

Lucy Barr	07508 691323
Milly Bones	07525 248890

1st Woodcutts Scout Group

Group Scout Leader & Squirrels	John Curtis	552397
Explorers	Anthony Brown	552814
Scout Leader	Rob Easton	552038
Cub Leader	Andy Young	07796 941202
Beaver Leader	Annette Toop	07973 677815
Squirrel Leader	Zoe Preedy	preedyzoe85@gmail.com
Scout Hut Bookings	Pete Wilkinson	bookings@firstwoodcutts.org.uk

Chase Community Friends

Chairman	Carole Wyatt	01725 552572
Secretary	Gael Radclyffe	01725 552829

Sixpenny Handley CLT

Chairman	Simon Parker	
Secretary	Jenny Netherton	07830 188 589

Sixpenny Handley Sports Association

Sports Pavilion Bookings	552211
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Sixpenny Handley Bowls Club

President	Ron Jermyn	552424
Secretary	Colin Chambers	552796
Treasurer	Ann Adams	552284

Handley Sports Club

Chairman & Treasurer	Mark Young	07508 941 371
Secretary	Adam Day	07398 249 502
Team Div 2 Manager	Mark Young	07508 941 371

Sixpenny Handley Tennis Club

Chairman	Alex Thomas	01725 516320
Membership	Kay Phillips	07803 725838
Treasurer	Stephanie Chick	552557

Sixpenny Handley Cricket Club

Chairman	Bob Farrington	07811 348632
Captain	Simon Bowes	07738 261210
Fixtures & Treasurer	Nick Limb	07791 754175

Community Fund (Sixpenny Handley & Pentridge CCIO)

Chairman	Colin Taylor	553148
Secretary	Ciona Nicholson	552211

Citizens' Advice Bureau

Wimborne Branch	03442 4 1291
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Next edition

The next edition will be published from
1st Aug 2024

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

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 July**

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

Advertisement Costs

Size	Single edition	Yearly rate
Small Text Ad	£3	-
Small Square	£7	£33
Rectangle	£15	£60
Large Square	£30	£140
Half Page	£40	£195
Whole Page	£55	£275

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 £7 fee.

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

A quick two months...

Time flies, as they say, when you are having fun... and since the last magazine I've been in a production of The Drowsy Chaperone with my daughter Miriam and Milborne Port Opera (great fun if you like a musical) and been with all my family to 1st Woodcutts Family Camp. I also took a day off the website design and admin, which I fill my working week with, to be a Polling Clerk in Blandford. Being a Polling Clerk is a full on day, with the added responsibility this year of checking ID, but it is a good day for meeting people chatting with the other workers and people who come in to cast their vote...



Family Camp was epic, see the report on page 14. Chris and I were in charge of the Cricut machines in the craft area, making pop-up Thank You cards. Miriam was leading pyrography (burning wood to make art) and Verity was away with her friends' families enjoying all the activities from axe throwing to climbing and from dream catchers to bottle rockets!

We are still looking for a new editor for The Downsman, do say hello and have a chat if you are interested, it would be great to hand it over in slow time and I know many people including myself would be grateful for this magazine to continue.

As you can see from the upcoming pages, we have some great events to look forward to this summer including the Big Session and the Pentridge BBQ and Barn Dance, so get those tickets and have some fun while raising money for you local community!

Also there are so many big events in the area including the Chalke History Festival 24th-30th June 2024 and Open Farm Sunday 9th June if either of those take your fancy there is more info on page 25.

June is also time to say farewell to David and Henriët Miell who have been supporting our parish as priests for the last 3 years. They will both leave us to retire to Devon and will be greatly missed. There will be a special service on Sunday 30 June, at 11am at St Mary's in Sixpenny Handley for anyone who wishes to join us.

Hoping you have a lovely early summer!



Naomi Booth

editor@thedownsman.org.uk

c/o The Parish Office, Unit 6, Town Farm Workshops, Sixpenny Handley, SP5 5PA
More about the parish can be found at www.sixpennyhandley.info

To The Editor

Chase Community Friends Thanks

Chase Community Friends would like to thank Richard Adlem MBE so much for his very generous donation of £5,000 towards the operational and running costs of CCF.

It is enormously appreciated - thank you Richard.

Charity Clay Shoot for Community Fund – Sixpenny Handley & Pentridge (CCIO)

Charity No: 1172688

I am organising a Charity Clay Shoot on Saturday 15th June 2024. I am looking for 20 teams of 4 guns each to enjoy what should be a fun day. At this stage I would be grateful if you could email me to confirm that you will be able to come. I will then send you an application form to complete. I look forward to seeing you and your team on 15th June if not before. See poster p11.

*Michael Catchpole
michaelbcatchpole@outlook.com*

Dear Editor of the Downsman

I would just like to congratulate the leaders and helpers of the 1st Woodcutts Scouts for providing a lovely family camp experience for so many recently at Butchers Coppice in Bournemouth. I was lucky enough to visit and witness the great activities and family feel the whole event achieved. The leaders and helpers deserve so much praise for what they achieve at these events and we as a community are so lucky to have people who give up their time to help our youth go in the right direction. As a Parish Councillor this really helps and makes our job a lot more enjoyable and when you see everyone having a great time it is such a joy!

Thanks again to 1st Woodcutts and Bravo to you all! If you would like to support the youth of the village and have a good time don't be frightened to volunteer, there's no doubt that you will enjoy it.

Kind regards

Simon Meaden.

Annual Litter Pick

On behalf of the Sixpenny Handley & Pentridge PC and the community - huge thanks to be given to the 1st Woodcutt Scouts for their dedication in completing their annual litter pick around the parish. It took place in March and as always, the troop, leaders and volunteers spent several hours collecting rubbish from around the hedgerows and communal areas. Thank you for helping keep our environment clean and healthy.

Election 2024

Many thanks to those who voted in our recent contested election – It is such an achievement for a parish to have a contested election and congratulations to all candidates that stood up for election. The Sixpenny Handley & Pentridge Parish Council will have a full complement of Parish Councillors for the next term of office and a full list of Councillors and their responsibilities will be published in the next edition of the Downsman.

GARAGE SALE 8th JUNE

RETIREMENT CLEARANCE OF TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

ALL MUST GO

POWER TOOLS ... SANDERS ... POWER SAW ... HAND TOOLS
BOTH METRIC AND AF. TROLLEY JACK. CREEPER TROLLEY
WOOD ROUTER SET IN CASE UNUSED

HONDA MOTORBIKE. GOOD RUNNER WITH MOT TILL NEXT YEAR
ELECTRIC SCOOTER WITH CHARGER...

3M X 3M GAZEBO STILL IN BOX QUALITY MODEL
QUALITY MOUNTAIN BIKE... HARDLY USED
OTHER BITS AND BOBS, HAVE A SORT OUT. NEED TO CLEAR...

INFO CALL TED ON 07716 761 473. LOCAL.
WELL SIGNPOSTED ON RIGHT IN SHEASBY CLOSE.

Downsman Noticeboard

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

GARAGE SALE 8th JUNE RETIREMENT CLEARANCE OF TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

ALL MUST GO

**INFO CALL TED ON
07716 761 473**

WELL SIGNPOSTED ON RIGHT IN
SHEASBY CLOSE



Sixpenny Handley Village Hall
will be holding our Big Help Out
on Sunday 9 June from
10.00 am – 1.00 pm
See you there!



**Saturday
13th July**

Keep up to date facebook.
com/6Dacoustic.live/

CHARITY CLAY SHOOT SATURDAY 15TH JUNE 2024 10am to 4pm

60 Bird – 6 Course Stands
Followed by – 60 Bird Sporting Flush
Teams of 4 Guns - Cost per Gun -
£130 (Team £520).
Cartridges Available to Buy (12/20
Gauge) with Certificates.

Lunch and Refreshments for Guns Included

Contact: 07920 585944

Email: michaelbcatchpole@outlook.com

All proceeds to the Community Fund

Charity No: 1172688

PENTRIDGE VILLAGE BBQ & AUTHENTIC BARNDANCE

With live band Innominata & caller

**3rd AUGUST 2024
6pm onwards**

Tickets
£ 15 Adults
£ 10 Children (6-17)
£ 40 Family tickets



Anyone for Tennis?



see page 29

SIXPENNY HANDLEY VILLAGE HALL

CRAFT FAIR & teas

**Saturday 29 June
10am-1pm
FREE ENTRY**

6DHandleyVillageHall / 079510 56069



Handley Community Choir
The Choir Thursday evenings at
6.00pm for an hour in St Mary's.
New Members very welcome!
Please contact Margaret on 01725
553150.



Bring clothes, furniture, household,
garden, electrical, toys, bikes etc and
we'll do our best to fix them.
Refreshments available too!

We are going from strength to
strength... off for the summer back
21st September
16th November
look forward to seeing you then
Sixpenny Handley Village Hall
10am - 2pm

ST MARY'S CHURCH, SIXPENNY HANDLEY

CREAM TEAS



& produce stall



24TH AUGUST - 2.30PM TILL 5.00PM

Crossroads Café Community Hub

Have you visited our coffee mornings in the Parish Office?

We are there every Monday and Friday mornings from 9 till 12.

We are a friendly bunch and always ready for a chat with coffee, tea, biscuits and very often cakes.

And while you are there you can also borrow books from our Library, which is very popular with a lot of readers.

We are also open every last Sunday of the month from 2 till 4.

Everybody is very welcome and we hope to see you soon.

Bea

Colin Pearce Car Repairs Ltd



Unit 1, Pinewood Park Business Centre
Blandford Rd, Coombe Bissett, SP5 5RF



Trust my Garage

in conjunction with Tisbury Motors, SP36HF

We offer the following services:

Diagnostics up to Main Dealer level on most vehicles, key coding, ECU re-coding

MOT tests on Class 1,2,4 and 7 vehicles & campers

Servicing Repairs on all types of vehicles, welding, aircon, tyres, batteries, exhausts

We can also re-map your vehicle to give you more power

Free local collection and delivery service available

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Mob: 07970 789836



PENTRIDGE VILLAGE BBQ & AUTHENTIC BARNDANCE

With live band Innominata & caller

3rd AUGUST 2024, 6pm onwards

Tickets

£ 15 Adults

£ 10 Children (6-17)

£ 40 Family tickets

To reserve tickets please contact:

By email: TARKAKING@GMAIL.COM

Or by phone: TANSY 07594736904



Sixpenny Handley Community Hubs



To stay informed about all the events at the Hubs and what's happening in our community, along with other useful information, please follow us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/6dHandleyHubs> or have a chat with our volunteers at one of the Hub cafés.



Sunday Crossroads Café:

We will continue to open the Crossroads Café on the last Sunday of the month (from 2.00 – 4.00 pm) as we know that Sundays can be difficult for those on their own. Please do come along if you'd like some company in the warmth of the Parish Office and enjoy some homemade cake with your cuppa to boot! The next dates are: Sunday 30 June and Sunday 28 July.



IT Support

IT support sessions continue to be popular and are available at the Crossroads Café every Wednesday.



Crossroads Café and Magnificafé Attendance

Don't forget to pop along to the Crossroads Café in the Parish Office on Mondays and Wednesdays (9.00 am – 12.00 pm) and to Magnificafé in St Mary's Church on Thursdays (9.00 am – 12.00 pm). You are guaranteed a warm welcome!



Citizens Advice Bus

The Citizens Advice outreach bus continues to provide invaluable support to the community, maintaining fortnightly Wednesday sessions at the Crossroads Café. Funding for the bus has been confirmed for the rest of 2024 and efforts to secure further funding through grant applications are underway, ensuring the sustained provision of this essential service.

Forthcoming dates are: 5th & 19th June; 3rd, 17th & 31st July and 14th & 28th



August.

Your Community Hub Needs You!

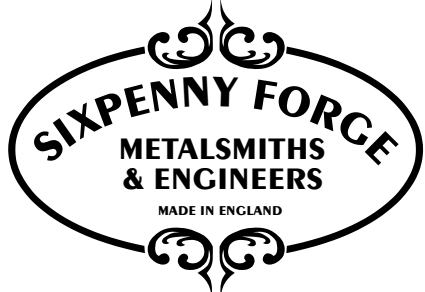
All the community hubs are run by a band of cheerful volunteers who will guarantee you a friendly welcome and a listening ear. We are still keen to encourage more members of the community to volunteer, so if you can spare some of your valuable time to help out at one or more of the venues, please contact Andy on: 552735 or at: andydturner@outlook.com

The hubs are subsidised by the host organisation and a minimal charge or donation is requested to help cover costs if you are able.

If you have any ideas to help with the wellbeing and connectivity of neighbours in our community, do please let us know.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/6dHandleyHubs>



Metalsmiths & Engineers
07766 203 817
richard@sixpennyforge.co.uk

Chalke Heating

Martin Miller: 07732460258



e-mail: martin@chalkeheating.com



Independent AGA and Rayburn service engineer
Service oil fired boilers and cookers
Rayburn - AGA - ALFA

The Sixpenny Sessions team is delighted to be bringing back The BIG Session on Saturday 13th July from 1.30pm to 10.30pm on the village cricket pitch. Supported by and in aid of the local community, our family friendly festival aims to give you a fabulous mix of live music, together with children's workshops and fun stalls run by community organisations.

Music Line-up

1.45pm TOM POWER

A local singer-songwriter who has been writing and performing his own acoustic music for over fifteen years. Taking inspiration from the world around him, Tom crafts songs around themes of nature, growth and everyday life. His music draws upon folk, pop and soft-rock influences, which he combines with his own reflective twist to explore a range of topics and emotions. No stranger to the stage, Tom also plays with the local skiffle band Quinns Quinney - elements of their infectious energy are woven in to the tapestry of his own material.



3.00pm

The Mother Ukers will take you on a musical journey through time and space with their unique 'Ukular Fusion'. With songs & flavours of Modern pop, Punk, Classic rock, the Swinging 60s, Fabulous 50s blended together and marinated with the sound and rhythms of the roaring 20s and seasoned with a touch of the blues in a swamp grass melody. The Mother Ukers unleash the power of their humble little four string ukes and guarantee to tickle your ears, kiss your soul & get them feet a tapping!



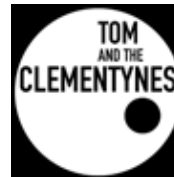
The Big Session

Saturday 13th July

4.15pm

JINDER

Jinder is a songwriter and storyteller based in the UK's pastoral Westcountry. Best known for modern folk classic 'Keep Me In Your Heart', an evergreen song which topped the download charts in eight countries after being featured in the successful British movie 'Fisherman's Friends' in 2019, Jinder has released thirteen critically acclaimed albums to date, for five different labels, including Sony BMG and Universal.



5.30pm

Combining energetic performance with raw talent, Tom Clements is the frontman of the Clementynes and he is a unique musician. Since embarking on his career in 2011, he reached the quarter finals of the Dorset Music Awards in 2012, runner up in the Salisbury Music Awards (2012 & 2014) and semi-finalist in 'Bournemouth unplugged' 2012. Tom has also appeared on BBC Wiltshire's Live Lounge and featured on BBC Introducing Solent. Tom has opened shows for The Wurzels, 2020 Grammy Nominees - Larkin Poe, Mark Chadwick (The Levellers), & Toploader.



6.45pm

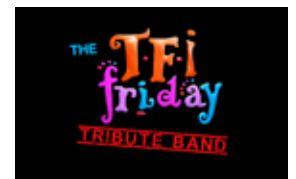
Andy is a Professional singer with 30 years in the business. He has performed locally and Internationally throughout his career performing for a wide range of venues from Festivals, Hotels, Holiday Parks, Corporate events, Clubs, Pubs and Care Homes. Providing a variety of shows including an Elvis Tribute, Billy Fury Tribute, A 1950's

and early 1960's set including party songs and 1970's songs that fill the dance floor. Andy also provides a dedicated Jive, Bop and Stroll show aimed at Rock 'n' Roll Weekenders and Jive Clubs



8.00pm

Dr Beatroot are a 5-piece British Skifflegrass band from Bournemouth, Dorset. The band formed in 2017 from a collection of friends and hail as 'Bunch of passing fools' who came together from a mixture of other bands and who all just can't get enough Bluegrass and Appalachian roots music. Their unique brand of entertainment fuses Percussive bluegrass, country, skiffle and Appalachian roots with High energy, Traditional and newer tunes that will make you want to Clap along, stamp your feet and sing out loud.



9.15pm

Hailed as 'The Ultimate 90's Experience!', the TFI Friday Tribute Band do exactly what their name suggests, performing all the huge hits from the 90's made famous by bands who appeared on the legendary Chris Evans-fronted 'TFI Friday' television show.

This perfectly formed bundle of power-pop will be bringing us some classic 90's bangers from the likes of Ocean Colour Scene, Alanis Morissette, Dodgy, Wheezer and so many more! This really will be a sure-fire way to bring this year's Big Session to a close with a bang...and we just know that you'll wake up humming these tunes on Sunday morning!

In addition to the music, there will be children's workshops around the field. Please remember, these activities are all included in your ticket price and are held on the cricket pitch so that the whole festival is contained in one fabulous setting.

There will also be fun and games for children and adults from 0 – 100 years old – all are welcome! We are delighted that so many community organisations are taking part with stalls and fundraising activities this year, including The Creative Skills Hub, Sixpenny Handley School, Football Club, Cricket Club, Village Hall, 1st Woodcutts Scouts and, of course, the team from St Mary's Church who will be selling hot drinks and an array of delicious savoury and sweet treats. We will also be joined this year by a team from Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.

The BIG raffle will again be run by the Skatepark fundraising team this year, so keep an eye out on social media for a preview of some amazing prizes.

Food will be on sale during the afternoon with the usual fantastic barbecue, run by the team from 1st Woodcutts Scouts (available from 2.00 pm) and Richard will be back selling a selection of ice creams from his van. A full bar will be available throughout the afternoon from The Penny Tap. Teas and coffees will be available from the Church stall and there will be a free drinking water station.

This year we have again been humbled and amazed by the generosity of so many local organisations who have donated towards the running costs of the event. At the time of writing these include: CLGC Financial Consultants Ltd, Domvs, HK Law LLP, MARSHISAACS Ltd, N L Accounting, Sandroyd, Sixpenny Forge, Summerlock Upholstery, Wessex Internet and Wilsons Solicitors LLP. Your help in funding this event is greatly appreciated; thank you all.

To remind you, all profits raised by the event go into the Community Fund, which funds projects within our wonderful community. The recent round of grants has benefited the Football Club by funding some brand new dugouts and the Village Hall with gravel and planters for the garden

area. So, the more we raise, the more we can put back into the community.

We are pleased to be able to keep the Big Session ticket prices the same as last year, namely: £12.50 (adult), £30 (family of 2 + 2), £5 (additional child). Under 5s attend for free. Tickets are available online via www.ticketsource.co.uk or from Clarkes the Butcher and Budgens in the High Street.

So, grab a rug, hat and sunscreen and come and join us. We promise you will have a fabulous afternoon. Switch off from what's going on in the world for one afternoon and immerse yourself in the wonderful atmosphere, whilst enjoying some great music, food, local drinks and fun and games. All we need now is wall to wall sunshine.

Finally, please remember that NO DOGS are allowed on the cricket pitch during the day. We have had issues in the past with irresponsible owners not supervising their dogs and, although we are dog owners ourselves, we have had to make the difficult decision to exclude our four-legged

friends from the event. Sorry.

We would welcome your help on the day so, if you'd like to get involved, please let us know by messaging us via Facebook, by email at sixpennysessions@gmail.com or by collaring one of us when you see us out and about around the village!

See you on 13th July. Let's have a blast - woop, woop! *Naomi, Paul, Penny & Simon*



OUR PARISH LIBRARY

As you all know we have a large selection of books for you to read. Not only can you borrow books in our very popular library, and now we also have a few jigsaws for you to borrow, ideal to keep you busy on the coming darker days.

You can borrow books and jigsaws when the Parish office is open and on our usual first and third Thursday afternoons from 3 till 4.15.

Our Crossroads café Hub and library is also open every Monday and Wednesday morning from 9 till 12.

Come and visit us, have a chat with friends, or make some new friends, have a coffee or tea and choose a few books.

We love to see you there, everybody is very welcome. Bea

Allotment Diary

Did we have a spring this year? What happened to those springs of years gone by, sunny days with April showers? We seemed to have had just a prolonged period of cold wet weather.

There is little point in putting plants in cold ground. They just sit there and look at you and never do as well. I have often found sowing direct into the bed a problem. When we have sown direct it is hit and miss if the seedlings germinate and those that do are invariably decimated by flea beetle and their chums.

Instead we germinate seeds and grow them on at home before planting them out. Late February or March is usually the time to sow indoors but even then there can be problems with germination. This year I put seeds on damp kitchen paper in ice cream tubs in a dark place and guaranteed germination before putting the seedlings in seed compost.

We germinate wild flowers as well as vegetables. Our allotment has a 'wild' uncultivated area which throws up ox-eye daisies, vetches, thistles, docks and wild flowers. This amounts to about 10% of the area. We also plant wild flowers here and there. I confess I don't know a great deal about wildflowers and knew even less until I became involved in the wonderful work being done by Christine Reynolds in St Mary's churchyard.

At one time most of the graves in the churchyard were in a poor state and needed tidying up. The obvious thing to do was to plant flowers. Christine has studied the native fauna and flora of the area for many years and began introducing flowers that once populated our cornfields, many of which have now disappeared e.g. corn marigold, corncockle, cornflower, wild poppy and pheasant's eye.

Christine then introduced wild flowers that were once common in our hedgerows, which are now slowly disappearing as a result of intensive farming. Volunteers have joined in Christine's work and there are now wildflowers blooming in the churchyard all summer.

Here in Sixpenny Handley we are blessed with some of the most bio-diverse habitat in Europe, in the form of native chalk

grassland. It is referred to as the 'British rainforest' in view of the diversity of native plants per square metre, and the insects and other wildlife that thrive on it. It is a wonderful environment for bees and other pollinators. Yet 90% has been lost to modern farming. However a few decent sized tracts remain.

Salisbury Plain is the largest area of natural chalk downland in the UK. During the 19th Century the country needed an area in which to train soldiers to fight in the various wars around the world and chose the plain. As a result large areas of chalk grassland had been left untouched but for the odd tank track or shell casing. The plain hosts a vast array of wild fauna and flora. It has a plethora of the rare bees, insects and native wildlife.

There are areas of the same chalk grassland in the middle of our village, much of which is full of wild flowers waiting for a chance to flourish. The war memorial, parts of the churchyard and the playing field retain areas of chalk grassland. If managed sensitively the downland flowers will emerge. If repeatedly mown the plants remain dormant.

During lockdown I asked the Parish Council if my son William and I could manage some of these areas including a sliver of playing field next to the football pitch. The normal mowing regime was halted in late spring, so the wild plants which had been dormant for years could flourish. This patch became awash with colour, with the emergence of native plants, including white and red clover, creeping thyme, lady's bedstraw, yellow hawkbits, birdsfoot trefoil and self heal (to name but a few). And the bees, moths, butterflies and hover flies who rely on them appeared too. Nowadays the area is mown all year and the downland flowers have had to go back into hibernation, silently awaiting another summer. Maybe next year.

In France and elsewhere in Europe farmers are protesting about a range of issues, including setting aside land for nature conservation. When I worked in Sussex we worked on farm management plans based on the recommendations of the Farming Wildlife Advisory Group. They

recommended, for instance, the creation of wide headlands to provide wildlife corridors and protect hedgerow bottoms from spray drift, giving native plants and insects a better chance of survival. Wildlife corridors were a relatively simple, tried and tested way of promoting nature conservation. Not long ago I discovered that there are volunteer groups in Southern England planting hedgerows and creating wide field margins on farm land. At a time when this country imports about 40-45% of its food it seems illogical to start putting aside substantial areas of farmland to 'rewilding' when more straightforward options, like wildlife corridors, are available. But who am I to argue about EU agricultural policy. It's always been pretty opaque to me. I'll just keep to my wild patch and enjoy the company of the bugs and pollinators therein. And hope we get some sunshine.

Chris Stokes



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We were very grateful to those who turned up for our annual spring clean in April. In spite of the rather smaller than hoped for turn out, we managed to achieve a lot. As we hope you will have already seen – we now have a very smart new gravel area inside the gate to the patio and two shiny new planters full of lovely plants thanks to the grant received from the Community Fund. We hope to continue the garden work at our next volunteer day in June. This year's national Big Help Out is taking place between 7 – 9 June. At Sixpenny Handley Village Hall we will be holding our Big Help Out on Sunday 9 June from 10.00 am – 1.00 pm. If you would like to come and help with outside work (weeding, planting, mowing, etc.) or inside work (deep cleaning crockery & cutlery, painting the remainder of the foyer, etc.) then please do let us know.

We will provide hot and cold drinks and homemade cakes as an incentive!

Please let us know if you are coming along for catering numbers, although obviously anyone who just turns up will be very welcome!



Entertainment Update Artsreach

Please make a note in your diary for our family show about some naughty goats causing mayhem in a local community. This will be held during the afternoon of Saturday 26 October at the start of half term. There will be loads of interaction

Village Hall News

Sixpenny Handley Village Hall CIO
(Charity Number: 1201429)

before and during the show which is aimed at the whole community but mainly for those aged between 7 – 11 years. We are hoping to use the company's wrap around activity programme for school children in the weeks leading up to the show. This is still in the development stage so do please keep an eye on our Facebook page and in the next issue of The Downsman.

At the time of writing the team is just about to attend the launch of the full autumn programme from Artsreach (<https://artsreach.co.uk/>) - more news to follow soon. Watch this space!



Craft Fair with Teas

Our next Craft Fair with Teas will be held on Saturday 29 June from 10.00 am – 1.00 pm. Entry is FREE and there will be a wonderful selection of traders plus the usual array of delicious homemade sandwiches and cakes on sale.

Please do come along and support this event. Any profits made go towards the upkeep and running of the village hall.



Afternoon Tea at Wimborne St Giles – Sunday 16 June – 2.30 – 4.30 pm

We will again be hosting afternoon tea at Wimborne St Giles on Sunday 16 June to raise funds for the upkeep and running of our own village hall. This fundraising opportunity has gained a great reputation throughout North Dorset and is well known for the delicious and generously portioned food served at very reasonable prices!

Held in (or hopefully outside!) the Village Hall in Wimborne St Giles. There's plenty of indoor and outdoor seating in the lovely garden plus car parking next to the hall. From experience we recommend you arrive early to avoid disappointment. The queues start a good half hour before we open and people do pile their plates high with freshly made sandwiches, scrumptious cream scones and a wide range of delicious

homemade cakes and gateaux.

If you are a baker and would be able to donate a homemade cake or two we would be hugely grateful. We have a long list of goodies that the organisers require us to provide, so please contact us to discuss further.

If you have any ideas that you'd like us to consider for future events in the hall then please do let us know. We try to put on a mixture of entertainment to suit all but some do prove more popular than others, so your input would be much appreciated!

Keep up to date with all our scheduled events on Facebook at: 6DHandleyVillageHall and Nextdoor.

Your Village Hall

Don't forget, if you are planning your own event please look no further than your village hall for a fabulous venue! The hall can be transformed into the perfect space whatever the occasion. Whether you're looking for somewhere to hold a special family party, a wedding reception, a community or charity event, a class or club, we have the facilities for you at very reasonable rates.

Sixpenny Handley Village Hall is available to hire on an hourly basis, with discounted rates for local residents and organisations. Please contact Shellie Cooper on: 07563 703577 or email her at: 6dhandleyhall@gmail.com for more details.

The Sixpenny Ladies Group

The newly formed Sixpenny Ladies Group have enjoyed two more monthly social meetings.

On Monday, 8th April we were enthralled by our guest speaker, Gary, an ex Metropolitan police officer, who gave riveting accounts of the many and varied situations he had dealt with during his career. We do not realise how often our police officers put their lives on the line to keep law and order, and to protect the general public.

On Monday 13th May we were fortunate to have another excellent guest speaker, this time a local resident, Linda Cooper, who spoke with great humour of her life and career in the WRAC, and the interesting obstacles she had encountered and overcome whilst posted at home and abroad. We should be proud of our armed forces, who also put their lives on the line when faced with adversity and conflict.

On both occasions we had the usual delicious refreshments, raffle and bring and buy table.

The next social evening will be at 7pm on Monday 10th June; an informal mix and chat including bingo, table quiz, raffle and sales table — why not come along and join us?

For further information please contact Bobbie on 552042, Liz on 552926 or Stella on 552450.

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Family Camp 2024

Family Camp this May saw 178 members of the 1st Woodcutts family visit Buddens Campsite for our Family Camp.

Some amazing statistics from the weekend...

2560 - total number of hours of activities provided over the camp

418 - number of bacon rashers grilled for breakfast

43 - rockets launched

1708 - pellets fired from air rifles

3 - parents stuck in cave bus (we thought there would be more)

22 - number of confused French Scouts who thought they saw a scout leader propose to Akela at the camp fire

4 mins and 3 secs - time to serve lunch to all of camp

29 - incredible volunteers who made the weekend happen. A big shout out to our Young Leaders And Explorers who ran bases and helped during the weekend. They are our Leaders of the future.

1 Sunday roast. What a roast it was though. Thanks for all the leaders who beavered away in the kitchen to ensure we were fed and watered all weekend.

19 - approximate number of times overheard parents saying 'I am not sure where they get their energy from, the leaders just keep going and going'

10 - average score out of 10 given by all who attended.

Thank you to everyone who came for making Family Camp so special. We are so lucky to have an amazing leadership team, fantastic young people and the support of the families - it really does make 1st Woodcutts a very special group.





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Wessex Internet battles the elements to bring ultrafast broadband to more than 20 communities so far in 2024

Wessex Internet has confirmed where its services have gone live in the first quarter of the calendar year, with more than 20 villages and other rural areas in Dorset, Somerset, Hampshire and Wiltshire connected to ultrafast broadband between January and March 2024.

Despite the wettest winter on record for 130 years, network delivery teams battled

the elements to bring services to some incredibly challenging locations. They found mole plough routes across flooded plains, spliced cables al fresco under storm umbrellas, and were especially careful to keep up their standards of tidiness and courtesy when making final installations through village streets and muddy gardens.

New customers have taken the time to contact the Blandford-based company to offer thanks, not just for bringing ultrafast broadband to their homes for the first time, but also for the consideration and professionalism shown by staff involved.

A customer in Milton Abbas said: "A very amenable workforce at every stage who could be flexible about routing the cable. Overall, I wouldn't hesitate to recommend Wessex Internet, and they're doing a great service installing this excellent infrastructure into our small village."

Another new customer commented: "I am so grateful to your garden team and engineers, as well as your telephone support team. They stayed with me until 8:45pm to make sure my connection was all working, as my old provider had been cut-off and I live in the middle of nowhere."



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Church News

From St Mary's, St Andrew's & St Rumbold's
THE VIEW FROM THE PULPIT David Miell

Dear Friends

At around this time last year I remarked in these pages on the strange name given to this period in the Church Calendar, the summer and autumn months, known as 'Ordinary Time'. If one year ago that seemed ironic in the light of extraordinary world events, how much more so a year on. The state of the world is all the more distressing and little seems 'ordinary' in this age of the 'new normal'. But this year our local churches face a particular challenge as the beginning of Ordinary Time also coincides with the need to prepare for a period of change and uncertainty.

In just a few weeks Henriët and I will retire to Devon after three very happy and fulfilling years in this area. We feel richly blessed by the joy and privilege of having

served as your priests over the past 3 years: thank you for having us! Having made many friends along the way it is going to be hard for us to say goodbye, which we shall do 'officially' at special services on Sunday 30 June, at 11am in Sixpenny Handley and at 4pm in Tarrant Gunville, at which everyone is welcome.

The bishop is keen to appoint two new priests at the earliest opportunity and advertising the posts begins in June. As our 11 parishes soon enter a time of vacancy, the sense of change and uncertainty all around us is heightened by plans for the parishes to be grouped together in new ways, into new 'benefices'. While this period may be a little unsettling, regular services will continue with only minor changes and

church life will probably seem reassuringly 'ordinary'.

Many people, even non-churchgoers, still look upon the church as a place of stability and certainty amid "the changes and chances of this fleeting world". This very 'ordinariness' of the 'established church' is seen as something solid and enduring, like the church buildings themselves. I once heard 'the good old CoFE' aptly described as being 'mundane yet vital': baptisms, weddings, visiting the sick, funerals, Sunday services, Christmas, Easter, harvest festivals, village fetes...all these things will continue throughout 'ordinary time'. So, dear friends, trust in the Lord: for while we all must change, His steadfast love endures for ever (Psalm 136).

Our Benefice

of St Mary's, St Andrew's and St Rumbold's - regrouping news

So, as you will have read above the plan to form two new Benefices to go ahead. The larger one to the south of us with 6 parishes, led by a full-time incumbent. The smaller one with 5 parishes based around Handley with a half-time (actually 0.66) incumbent priest. In this plan, the southern parishes of Pimperne, Stourpaine, Durweston, Tarrants (Hinton, Gunville & Monkton) will form the southern Benefice. Here in the north, Chettle, Farnham & Tollard Royal would join Handley and Pentridge to form the northern Benefice. The PCCs involved had all been consulted and they very much looked forward to its implementation, as the best possible option for our parishes. Meanwhile David and Henriët have been diligently supporting this whole somewhat odd and large grouping of 11 parishes, for which we are extremely grateful. They will both leave us on retirement in July 2024 and their departure will be a huge loss, they will be greatly missed. I am sure that we all wish them all the very best of luck in their next stage of life. There will be a special service on Sunday 30 June, at 11am at St Mary's in Sixpenny Handley to say farewell to them,

everyone is very welcome to attend.

We reported in the Downsman last time that we had formed what is generally called a Benefice Council to deal with cross-parish issues. The proposed name of the new Benefice is - 'Upper Chase Benefice'. This seems very appropriate geographically and has the advantage that it is different from what we all had before. An administrator for the new Benefice has been appointed and she is already making the necessary arrangements. Much thought is also going on with regard to how pastoral care and family event services are delivered so that these are managed properly. We have now received the formal paperwork setting up the new Benefice from the Diocese and the Parishes will be voting on that in coming weeks. Meanwhile whilst our vicarage here in Handley has been let in the short term after refurbishment, we expect to be able to advertise again for our half time priests from June onwards.

After David and Henriët Miell have departed we shall be formally in interregnum and our pastoral needs will be looked after

the Acting Rural Dean. Services however will be provided by our own Lay Worship Leaders (LWLs) and very kindly, by priests from the Iwerne Valley Benefice; Rev David John and Rev Toby Carson and we look forward to getting to know them.

Pastoral support

If you need help or pastoral support it is always available from Rev David Miell, who is also the Rural Dean, based in Tarrant Hinton and is the Priest in Charge of our Parishes.

He can be contacted at: Rev Dr David Miell; The Rectory, Church Hill, Tarrant Hinton, Blandford Forum, DT11 8JB.

Mobile: 07708 601462 or email: dkmiell@gmail.com

Local help or advice on any church matter is available by emailing support@handleychurch.org.uk or from our Church Wardens: Handley, Linda Cooper - 01725 552864 or Margaret Wilkinson 01725 553150; Pentridge, Jane King - 01725 552231 or Mary Ferguson - 01725 552222

Services

Services are likely to be based on the following principles:

	1ST SUNDAY	2ND SUNDAY	3RD SUNDAY	4TH SUNDAY	5TH SUNDAY
Sixpenny Handley	11:00 Family/Informal Service	11:00 Holy Communion CW	11am Benefice Service Holy Communion CW Location tbc	11:00 Holy Communion CW	A Benefice Service will be arranged
St Rumbold's Pentridge	Services at St Rumbold's Pentridge are yet to be decided but it is hoped that there will be at least one Holy Communion a month, perhaps on the 1st Sunday.				A Benefice Service will be arranged
St Andrew 's Gussage St Andrew	No Service	9am Matins	No Service	9am Holy Communion	A Benefice Service will be arranged

So the message for now is that we can expect some changes to what we have become used to, the best way to find out what is going on is to receive the weekly Church Notice Sheet, also posted on our High Street Notice Board, or pick up a copy when passing St Mary's or ask for it by email. It is always useful and has lots of other local news and information. Please email notices@handleychurch.org.uk if you wish to be included on its distribution list.

What's On



The joint Church and Village Hall Community Film Nights in the Village Hall have ended now until September - look out for details nearer the time.



Handley Community Choir meets AGAIN! - Thursdays - at St Mary's, 6pm.
The Choir is always practising for any excuse to sing. They get together for practice on Thursday evenings at 6.00pm for an hour or so in St Mary's. New Members welcome! Please contact Margaret on 01725 553150.



St Mary's Bible Study Group – Meetings in 2024 are usually on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.15pm.
Please contact Mike Carter on 01725 552720 for details.



Community Café – MAGNIFICAFÉ - originally set up by the PCC, has now joined with the Parish Council's Handley Hubs initiative. The Mag Café, as it is known, continues going from strength to strength - it meets most Thursday morning from 9-12am in St Marys. Come along for hot breakfast, eggs, bacon, bagels, waffles, as well as various drinks. It's a great place to meet with friends and small children. It has a quieter corner where you can hold a meeting and there is free Wi-Fi.



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14 days is the absolute minimum cooling-off period that the business must give you.

You don't automatically get a cooling-off period if you have something specially made, for example made to measure curtains, windows, or a conservatory, or if you invite the business into your home for urgent repairs, such as mending a burst pipe.

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Your cooling-off period begins the day after you give the go-ahead for the work to be done. The business must give you details of how to cancel. If they don't provide these then your cooling-off period is extended by 14 days from the date you do receive them - up to a maximum of 1 year. If the business hasn't started the work and you're still within the 14 days cooling-off period, then you can cancel and get all your money back. If you signed the written notice to agree for the service to be provided during the cooling-off period, and the business gave you the written cancellation information, you'll have to pay a part of the agreed price. The amount will depend on how much was completed when you asked to cancel. If the business began the work during the cooling-off period without your approval, you then have the right to cancel and get a full refund of all costs.

For further advice, including suggested letter templates, or to report to Trading Standards a trader who has not given you a written cancellation notice, visit the Citizens Advice consumer helpline at citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer or phone 0808 2231133.



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D-Day the 6th of June, 1944

A Reflection 80 Years Hence

In the wan light of dawn, and beneath a leaden sky, the largest seaborne landings in history took place on a 71-mile front from a point just below Caen in the east to the Cotentin Peninsular in the west. Hours earlier the Normandy coast had been crossed by a strong force of aircraft towing gliders carrying around 17,000 soldiers, the majority from the American 82nd and 101st Airborne divisions, the remainder from the British Sixth Airborne and it was six Horsas gliders that are credited with being the first to land on French soil when at 20 minutes or so after midnight they made precision landings near two key objectives and in the brief fire-fight that followed 2nd Battalion, Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry overwhelmed a motley collection of some 50 enemy troops guarding two bridges spanning the River Orne and Caen Canal.

The success of this brilliant 'coup de main', unfortunately, was overshadowed by the relative failure of the remainder of the airborne landings owing, mainly, to continuance of the storm conditions [this had caused a 24-hour delay in the seaborne assault] being responsible for blowing many of the towing-aircraft from their release point. Nevertheless, despite pre-invasion misgivings amongst some senior commanders D-Day was now a reality and the next 24-hours were going to be crucial to its success.

Of all the images of that historic day eight decades ago several spring immediately to mind. One that stands out comes from newsreel footage taken inside one of the landing craft capturing the moment that the ramp goes down with a steel-helmeted soldier ready to lead his men onto the beach and make for the esplanade that can be seen in the distance.

Another image, captured by the cameraman is a panoramic sequence of soldiers 'staggering' across the sand, their backs bent forward under a load reminiscent of the Great War. In what was a short clip lasting just a few seconds one or more are seen to fall; no one stops; no one turns back to see if the man is still alive; ingrained in every head is the order to get off the beach and be ready to engage the

enemy.

By the end of the day in the region of 160,000 Allied troops had stormed ashore onto five beaches from Sword at the eastern end to Utah on the Cotentin Peninsular. In securing and holding the all important lodgements before the defenders could mount a major counterattack 4,414 were killed and over 5,000 were 'hors de combat'.

It had been a phenomenal success. How was this so? There is no single answer, though Air Power and complete command of the Channel [not a single U-boat or E-boat interfered with the armada of over 7,000 ships plying their way twixt the south coast and Normandy] along with a successful deception plan, code named 'Taxable', were some of the factors leading to 'Overlord's' triumph.

The day itself, and the weeks that followed in the drawn-out 'Battle of Normandy' have been well documented and need no re-telling here, but an observation or two in respect of the commanders that led to its success is appropriate.

Overall command lay in the hands of the Supreme Commander, General Dwight D. Eisenhower. It is said of 'Ike' that he could put a smile on his face no matter how bad or dire the circumstances might be; he was, undoubtedly, well suited for this most taxing role in that he was a master of tact, diplomacy and the ability to smooth any ruffled feathers of his senior commanders within Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force. In this he was ably assisted by his deputy, Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Tedder whose brief was to liaise closely with the air commanders, notably Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Harris and Major General Carl 'Tooey' Spaatz commanding respectively Bomber Command and US Strategic Forces in Europe. Neither were 'shrinking violets' when expressing their opinions in how best to defeat Nazi Germany [neither were enthusiastic on the merits of 'Overlord' both being firmly wedded to the opinion that Germany could be bludgeoned into

defeat by overwhelming air attacks on their cities and industry], and if this was not problematic enough Tedder also had to deal on behalf of 'Ike' with the three service commanders namely General Bernard Law Montgomery, commanding 21st Army Group, Air Chief Marshal Sir Trafford Leigh Mallory and Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsey.

Of this trio, 'Monty' was the most difficult. Self-opinionated, he basked in the aftermath of his triumphs in the Western Desert where in the autumn of 1942, he had launched the offensive against Erwin Rommel's Africa Korps at El Alamein which combined with Operation 'Torch' [Allied landings in North Africa in November 1942] led to the expelling of Axis forces from North Africa in May 1943.

Called home from Italy, his shining star still in the ascendancy, his pre-invasion planning and his personal impact at conferences culminating in the signing off of 'Overlord' was impressive, and in this he cannot be faulted. Leigh-Mallory who was present at many of these briefings was certainly impressed though, subsequently, his relationship with 'Monty' would come under severe strain. Montgomery's worst trait was an inability to work harmoniously with his American counterparts, his relationship with 'Ike' being an example.

It is said that Lieutenant-General Omar Bradley, commanding US First Army, found 'Monty' insufferable and there was certainly no love lost where 'Old Blood and Guts' Paton was concerned [Paton's career came close to an ignominious end in 1943, when in the closing stages of the 'Battle of Sicily' he assaulted two young soldiers suffering from 'battle fate'].

Nearing conclusion, I return to my comment 'Air Power'. Long before the landing crafts disgorged their human cargoes onto the Normandy beaches the Luftwaffe had been soundly reduced in its ability to mount any serious threat to the invading forces. Their airfields had been so systematically bombed and strafed that their fighters and bombers had been withdrawn to bases far distant from the beaches; also, four long years of

intensive combat commencing with the 'Battle of France' followed by the 'Battle of Britain' and then actions spread across the Mediterranean and Russia along with defence of the homeland as the Fortresses of the 'Mighty Eighth' bombed their cities by day and Bomber Command at night [both Air Arms absorbing the most awful casualties] had reduced their ranks of experienced pilots to a pitiful level. Thus, it is no exaggeration to describe the Allied air forces in 1944 as true 'Masters of the Air'.

It would be remiss of me not to pay tribute to the ordinary German infantry men who in Italy from the late summer of 1943, to the spring of 1945, fought a tenacious battle without the benefit of close air support [the halcyon days of May and June 1940, were just a distant memory]. Likewise, their performance in the 'Battle of Normandy' won grudging praise from many an Allied general.

And so on this occasion of the 80th Anniversary it is right and proper to acknowledge the courage and bravery of all who participated, both friend and foe, in this operation which was to lead to the defeat of Adolf Hitler [he committed suicide in the final days of the war] and the evil henchmen who dragged Germany to the depths of abject misery. Few from either side in this colossus of all battles now survive and it is to you we should salute and remember in perpetuity your actions on the 6th of June, 1944.

Bill Chorley

Note. Part 6 of Per Ardua Ad Astra is held over until the August issue.

Kevin Knight

Horologist

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Sixpenny Handley First School & Nursery News



The summer term started with our Adventurers class visiting Stewarts Garden Centre Growhub in Wimborne as part of their theme learning all about plants. They saw thousands and thousands of plants growing in the glasshouse, found out about all the exciting gadgets used to look after so many plants, used the potting machine, planted their own Dahlias and visited the Garden Centre.



The Navigators and Pioneers launched their new theme – Stone Age to Iron Age (including Healthy Me). They explored historical timelines and where the Stone Age and Iron Age fit with other key periods they have already investigated. This term Years 3 & 4 started their music unit linked to the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. They are looking forward to their 'live' performance alongside the orchestra at the Lighthouse Theatre, Poole.



The Voyagers (Year 1) attended an individual sports festival at St Ives Primary School. The children competed in a number of events that culminated in track races. They had great fun and were particularly proud of the winner's trophy that they returned with. Well done all of year 1.



The Eco Ambassadors and Mrs Cox organised an Earth Day assembly, which included watching some excerpts from Planet Earth 3 and learning about some small easy ways we could help our planet.



Voyagers (year 1 & Year 2) had an exciting trip to 'The Etches Collection' museum at Kimmeridge. They really impressed all the adults with their knowledge about fossils and Mary Anning before exploring with microscopes and visiting the 'aquarium experience'. Well done Voyagers for being such excellent ambassadors for the school.



Explorers have been finding out about the wind. They have made windmills, kites and sailing boats as well as finding out about frogs in forest school and planting up their gardens!



The Adventurers have travelled the world, located all seven continents and found out what likes to grow in each environment! They have explored a variety of different

fruits and have then used these to represent their own versions of artwork by Giuseppe Arcimboldo.



Year 4 visited the Ancient technology centre at Cranborne to hear a drama based on the experiences of historic figures from Cranborne Chase. These included The Queen, the Politician, the Smuggler's Wife, the Father of Archaeology and the Coombe Bissett Carrier and all were introduced by General Augustus Henry Lane Fox (latterly known as General Pitt Rivers). They came back full of knowledge and opinions on each character and had impressed the year 7 teacher with their listening skills and confidence to speak out.

As we near the end of the term, we have had a focus on Mental Health Awareness and to mark the occasion we launched the week by all wearing something green (this included socks, ribbons and dinosaur get ups!). Other activities in the week included a skipathon, dancing with Joe Wicks, outdoor disco at lunchtime, a whole school approach to a picture book that deals with the importance of being unique as well as buddying up for acts of kindness. We spent time in our grounds reconnecting with our surroundings planting and tidying and we are so grateful to our wonderful parents for supplying plants and compost.

Our visitors/events so far this term have included:

Lambs and Chickens kindly visited all the children!

Jacque & Dylan (Pets as Therapy Dog) visit weekly.

Volunteer Reading Helpers visit us weekly.



Couple join Walk for Wards to thank Salisbury Hospital

“I will be forever grateful to Radnor ICU for saving my husband’s life”

A Walk for Wards participant says she will be “forever grateful” to the Salisbury Hospital staff who saved her husband’s life.

Jade and Matt Hawkins have joined the Stars Appeal’s flagship fundraising event on Sunday, July 7th to say thank you to Radnor Intensive Care Unit (ICU). The Stars Appeal is Salisbury Hospital’s Charity.

Last November, Matt, aged just 32, was admitted on to Radnor ICU with severe bronchitis.

Jade, aged 33, said: “When Matt was admitted to Intensive Care, it was the scariest feeling in the world, all I could think was “how am I going to tell the kids?”, who were six and two at the time. We’ve been together since we were 19, to lose him would have been devastating.”

Thankfully, Matt’s condition began to improve. He spent two weeks being cared for on Radnor ICU.

“I will be forever grateful to Radnor Ward for saving my husband’s life. The love and support from the staff was wonderful. They were incredibly kind to Matt, supporting him through all his anxieties and holding his hand through the nights,” adds Jade, who says Matt is doing well.

Matt said: “To all at Radnor ICU, thank you for saving my life. I will always appreciate the care you gave me. Every single person working in that ward was kind and supportive. You are all a credit to the NHS.”

While in hospital Jade was able to stay in touch with her family using the Stars Appeal free Wi-Fi. Stars Appeal funded Hospital Chaplains were also on hand to offer support.

Jade said: “The Wi-Fi was so beneficial. We have a big family, so just being able to message and update them about Matt’s condition was a huge help. We had a lovely chat with the chaplain who offered us support if we needed it.”

In 2015, Radnor ICU was enhanced thanks to the Stars Appeal with a £300,000 refurbishment with furnishings, décor and artwork. More recently the charity has added a dedicated bathroom which helps patients with their rehabilitation, independence and recovery.

Donations also enable the Stars Appeal to provide advanced treatment and rehabilitation equipment.

This is the first time Jade and Matt, who are from Tidworth, have taken part in Walk for Wards. They will be doing the 10k route around the Wilton House Estate.

“I know first-hand how valuable the support is from the hospital and the Stars Appeal. To be able to help other families in that terrifying situation is such an incredible feeling,” continues Jade.

“This hospital has fixed my son’s broken



arm, helped me give birth to my daughter during Covid and saved my husband’s life. All I can say is thank you!”

It is free to register for Walk for Wards. There are three routes – a 3k, 5k and 10k. Participants are asked to raise a minimum of £20 each. To find out more visit <https://starsappeal.org/event/walk-for-wards/>

To support Jade and Matt go to <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Matt-and-Jade-stars-appeal>

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Latest News from Cranborne Chase National Landscape

We are delighted to be returning to the Chalke History Festival, the UK's leading history festival in Broad Chalke, Salisbury.

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Stop domestic light pollution...

Cranborne Chase International Dark Sky Reserve (IDSR) has launched a new campaign, asking the community to help stop domestic light pollution by being a 'Big Dipper', and reducing the artificial light that they use. Light pollution is something that everyone can play their part in erasing, protecting the night skies for future generations. Follow these five simple steps below for easy outdoor lighting solutions...



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Turning a Dream into Reality!

Things are now really moving as we now have a Skatepark build company on board, Maverick Industries, based in Poole. This week, Thursday 16th May to be precise, sees a kick off meeting with the Parish Council to outline the design and build approach followed by a design workshop with our skateboarders. The latter will confirm the riding styles to be addressed and thereby what features will be included in what will be the fully costed design. Below is an initial impression of what it could look like. This was part of Maverick's winning tender submission and features a number of ramps, bars and curves. It is also integrated with the expected footpath as well as blending in with the recreation ground with a wildflower bank facing towards the football pitch.



So the next steps are broadly:

Design – This will continue post this weeks meeting, Maverick will complete detailed designs and costings in addition to completing site surveys to confirm the construction and layout of the skatepark for sign off by the project.

Planning – With the design approved by the project with oversight by the Parish Council, the project team, working with Maverick will submit for an amendment to the current Skatepark plan approval.

Funding – With planning approved the project team supported by Maverick will be applying for grants to fund the design being built. This will include seeking support through our Just Giving site (see QR Code) and additional fund raising activities such as the raffle at this years big session. We already have some great prizes secured for this event. Our expectation at the moment is to raise around £250,000, a big target but it is achievable as seen in many other locations around the country.

Build – With the appropriate funding in place to complete the build, work will then start on putting the design into practice. The project team and Maverick are pragmatic about what this will be, for instance if the fund-raising target cannot be achieved, the design will be scaled to the amount of funding raised although we are aiming high and do expect to make our

target. The build work will be completed with minimal impact to the Recreation Ground, for instance protective matting will be laid across the ground to ensure vehicles do not damage the surface from the access point by the Village Hall. Any work being undertaken will be clarified with the Parish Council by the Project team and Maverick, hence the initial kick off meeting in May. Throughout all phases of this project we will continue to engage with members of the parish, before confirming the design. We will look to hold a public meeting to gain everyone's input and address any concerns people may have with this build. Please watch out for further information in the coming months

We meet each month to discuss fundraising and all aspects of the project to be

addressed over the next month. If you would like to know anything or to get involved, please contact Chairperson, Leah Way (07840 979180) or Secretary, Andy Turner (07427 119468)



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*Please note junior members will not be issued with a key, unless an Adult is a member/non playing member.

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Are you happy to share your email with other members so that you can be contacted to play tennis: YES / NO

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Gone Sailing



Afloat and reacquainted

Last task before Ayers & Graces is ready for sea – get the sails on! Sails for a 39' yacht are heavy, and need three to lift the mainsail, but we have a cunning technique. For the main, tarpaulin secured to pontoon, sail cover laid on with two battens fitted, main unrolled and laid just so, sail battens inserted, now this is all a bit clever compared with years ago, when you pushed the batten in from the leach edge and maybe secured with a stitch. The system now is battens are inserted from luff edge (mast edge) and have a clever tensioning device and small bolt, so batten cannot come out!. All battens inserted, sail is flaked into bag, bag zipped up, strops around bag, main and spinnaker halyards attached to strops, I was allocated light duties of pressing buttons on electric winches, and the whole was slid along the boom, works a treat! The main has bearing cars for ease of hoisting and dropping, and these are inserted in the mast track, bit of

a fiddle, but patience is rewarded, and all goes well! Lazy jacks then attached (aid easy dropping/flaking of sail). Now the jib, but the wind has veered and is no longer coming from ahead, time for coffee and biccies and a think. Move yacht to other side of the pontoon where the wind direction is more from forward, jib unrolled, halyard, tack, and sheets attached, one operates the winch (manual at the mast, so not me!), skipper directs and prepares jib, I feed jib into track with copious squirts of MacLube (other sprays are available). All done ready for next week!

First Sail

Not a lot of wind, and from North, so headed towards Beaulieu for lunch, along the second reach 'what is that in a yacht tender?' on closer inspection it was a large brown seal having a snooze. We continued up river, and on our return the seal was still there, and had turned over, a photo opportunity for some.

Saturday Sailing

Recent sail had perfect weather, good breeze from East with some South in it, gave us three tacks to Cowes, and sunshine all the way, the fleet moored to the pontoons in Folly Reach, up Medina river, noting that the 'floating bridge' was working on this occasion. Yacht 'Biggles' moored alongside, and no! she is not owned by a retired fighter pilot! The return had lighter winds, and we kept out of the way of a big racing fleet, who were only sailing a little faster than us.

Media

Sailing has a very sparse coverage on TV, but there was a recent exception, BBC1 Travel Show 13 April, a report on 'Grieg City Academy' and all the good work that has been achieved by one visionary teacher. The school is an inner city London school, and students have been encouraged to get involved with sailing. They have renovated old yachts, and an old offshore racing yacht which entered the Fastnet with good result. For the students a world which they could not have imagined opened up for them, with life changing opportunities. Their sailing coverage is excellent, and if you can view it (catch up?) that would be worth your while.

Summer Sailing

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Adam

*Yachting Correspondent for
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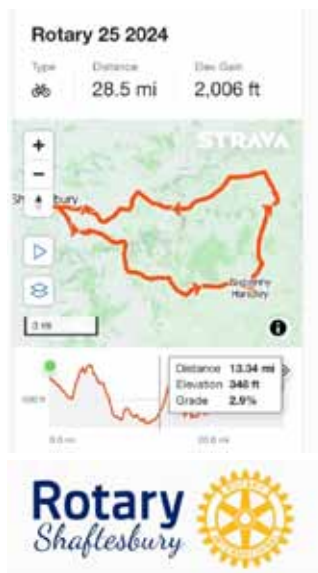
Completing North Dorset Cycle Ride

Well we made it round. A fantastic event which we make more challenging! For me the combined age of my bicycle and me is 160 years old!

The route, billed at 25 miles is nearer to 29, includes Zig Zag Hill and the long drag of a hill past Garston Wood. We have renamed it Cardiac Hill.

This year's riders were myself, Ian Merriwether, Paul Nicholson, John Carlisle-Clark, Adam Batty and Adrian Harris. What a fantastic reception we received at the top of Gold Hill, several of the team even had loaves of Hovis bread!

Nigel Turton



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What's all this fuss about ADHD?

Recently there's been a fair amount in the news about Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD); both the rapid increase in diagnosed cases for young people, but also the current shortage of medication to support them.

There's also a huge increase in self-diagnosing via social media, including TikTok or Instagram, which is worrying and unsafe, but this article relates to those who have been professionally diagnosed, normally around 6-10 years of age, but latterly also adults.

If you don't have ADHD, or have a family member or friend with it, you may not realise the potential impact it can have on that person's life, but also their wider family and community. Without proper professional support, the odds are stacked against them.

Currently, I work with a number of young people and adults with ADHD, supporting them through specialist coaching, especially when going through more tricky times in their life, such as coping with school for teenagers and for adults who have just discovered they have the condition. I fully recognise the challenges they all face on a daily basis.

ADHD is classed as a neurodiverse condition, whereas most people are neurotypical. In fact, around 5 to 10% of young people in the UK have it, 3 or 4% of adults are also affected. It's amongst a number of other neurodiversity disorders, such as dyspraxia, dyscalculia, Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and others like Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD). All in some way impact to various degrees on the individual's ability to think and behave in a way we might consider normal.

ADHD creates many challenges because the ability to function within acceptable norms and the ability to use cognitive and executive skills effectively is reduced. It doesn't mean that they are any less intelligent, or necessarily less able to excel in life. Many are brilliant in certain

occupations with entrepreneurial flair and exceptional focus.

However, due to a difference in the makeup of their frontal cortex (where executive functioning takes place) and neurotransmitter imbalances, their ability to plan, organise themselves, react in a calm way, maintain focus and control their emotions is different. Plus, they are far more likely to take risks and act impulsively, with little thought to the consequences.

It's been said that by the age of 10 someone with ADHD is likely to have been told off 20,000 more times than a normal child: an incredible statistic. Not surprisingly, therefore, this has quite an impact on their self-esteem and view of the world: that it's against them, and they are struggling to keep up with their peers. They feel constantly judged, in trouble and different.

In the young, the situation is exacerbated during puberty where teenagers with ADHD find it hard enough to cope with normal life compared to their friends, let alone the hormonal changes, which exacerbate their condition. This also presents problems for teachers in schools, many of whom do not have the time to accommodate a child in their class, who is agitated, fidgeting, and being easily distracted. Also, they may not be aware of what is actually happening to the child in front of them.

Not only that, but it also creates many difficulties and huge stresses for parents trying to manage a child with this disorder, because they cannot be relied upon to behave in the same way as their neurotypical siblings. A simple example is getting up in the morning to go to school, or packing a sports bag. It's often a complete nightmare. Every day things are complicated.

What is interesting is that ADHD is known as a neurogenetic disorder, which means it's often passed down from a parent; often the father to son, but sometimes daughters too. Other factors are believed to cause

it too. The ratio of children with ADHD is about 2/3 boys and one third girls.

In addition, if one or the other parent is also neurodiverse it's possible for their children to have a combination of disorders. It's no one's fault, but this fact can often add to tensions between parent and child and parents themselves. It's a tightrope walk for many.

Luckily, the psychiatric and medical world is now far more knowledgeable about the impact of ADHD on young people and how it affects their ability to navigate through their early lives and beyond. There are many organisations who can provide support and guidance to both parents and children with his condition, which is now far better understood. Schools are also far more aware than they used to be, but some have some way to go still.

Medication, whilst it may be in short supply at the moment, is one acknowledged way to help people with ADHD up to 50%-60%; to help self regulate and to perform far better, because their frontal cortex is stimulated to be more active.

There are also a number of successful strategies that young people can adopt to help them through this, including the use of exercise, special diets, plus support from other people, including an ADHD coach or Cognitive Behavioural Therapist. That said, every case is unique, and has to be managed that way. Seeking support and advice is absolutely vital.

One of the key characteristics of an ADHD coach is that they are entirely non-judgemental and use techniques which seek to boost their client's poor self-esteem and confidence, as well as providing strategies to help them with every day life. This has been proven to work well, especially as the coach will work alongside the parents and school, so that the effort is fully collaborative with an absolute focus on supporting the child. Some techniques work equally well with adults.

Cont'd page 35

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Please call Martyn

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There is no question that young people with ADHD - and adults too, find life more difficult to manage, but at least now there is far more help at hand and, in the near future, there is going to be a government review about this very issue to try and help those with ADHD to have as normal life as possible, with the appropriate funding, focus and support for help them through their many hurdles of growing up and moving into adult life.

If you'd like to find out more about ADHD and how I support those with it through coaching, I'd be very happy to talk to you. Call on (07710) 965017.



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11am - 2:45pm
£7 per person

All Welcome



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