



The Downsmen

The Parish of Sixpenny Handley and Pentridge, including Woodyates, Deanland and Minchington

Delivered by Sixpenny Handley Homewatch

April 2024



**New
Downsmen
Editor
Could it be you?**

Views expressed in this magazine are those of our correspondents and contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions held by the Editor or Members of Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge Parish Council. This publication does not endorse the products or services advertised within.

Directory

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

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Jessica/James Winby.01725 552259

The Downsman Team

Editor	Naomi Booth	editor@thedownsman.org.uk
Treasurer	Tony Gibb	.552704
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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

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

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

Sixpenny Handley Bowls Club

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

Handley Sports Club

Chairman & Treasurer	Mark Young	.552741
Secretary & Team Div 3 Manager	Mark Young	.552741

Sixpenny Handley Tennis Club

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

Sixpenny Handley Cricket Club

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

Citizens' Advice Bureau

Wimborne Branch .03442 4 1291

Next edition

The next edition will be published from
1st Jun 2023

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

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 May**

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

Advertisement Costs

Size	Single edition	Yearly rate
Small Text Ad	£2.50	-
Small Square	£6	£30
Rectangle	£12	£55
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

Time for a change?!

After 12 years of editing The Downsman it is time for me to step back and let someone else take the reins. I have given notice to the lovely team that support me at our issue meeting so now we are all on the lookout for someone to step in.



What the role currently involves (though you will develop it as you see fit as I have done):

- > Compiling 6 issues per year, currently Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec
- The issue starts with an email I send to those signed up to receive our Downsman Deadline reminder email around 1st of the month before the issue date.
- Set date/time of the Downsman team meeting (I am self-employed so have variable meeting dates/times to fit around life).
- Half an hour meeting, currently on Zoom but used to be in person, to catch up with bank account, advertising updates, changes in distribution, possibilities for content etc.
- Reply to content providers as they send their emails in.
- Duplicate last Downsman and remove content that will change in the new edition.
- Save email content and put it into The Downsman template. I currently use Adobe InDesign, but the editor before me used MS Publisher.
- Send to the proofreaders and advertising.
- Make amends from the proofreaders.
- Send .pdf to printer.

Skills needed:

- Communication, File management, Timekeeping, Desktop publishing

Good stuff:

- Saying you need desktop publishing skills above shows how wrong job descriptions can be! I hadn't used Publisher when I took over the last editors template and one of my main reasons for taking it on was to learn InDesign which I had a copy of but had yet to get into properly. The only way to learn is to do - so I learnt on the job and now use InDesign most days in my work to make things look better!
- The Downsman has a great team to support you. I hadn't ever chaired a meeting when I started and now I really have. There are two Parish Council members - Colin and Stuart, Stuart also runs the distribution, two proof readers, Annie and Liz, Linda takes the minutes, Tarda does the advertising and Tony who acts as treasurer and pays the printer.
- Meeting people and contributing to the community. For a role that basically you do on your own at a computer, it has been a great conversation starter. As I publish my photo on the note from the editor people will come and introduce themselves. The team, contributors and advertisers have become friends who will chat when we meet on a walk or at local events.

I have given a year's notice as that is how long it took me to step into the role, but it is time... my eldest daughter will be off to uni and I'm looking to make some changes to move our family forward then too! Saying that, do get in touch if you are even just a little interested and we will go from there.

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



SIXPENNY FORGE
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 £1 per bag.

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The new 25 mile route goes directly through Sixpenny Handley.
 Sunday 19th May 2024 First ride 8.30am
 You may remember reading about Nigel Truton and his Rotary Club bike ride last year - why not join in... They have three rides to attract all ages and skills. There is the 25 mile and 50 mile sections . Family Ride - 6 miles
<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/48518>



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



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

LOCAL, RELIABLE HANDYMAN

Can do almost anything, from plumbing to gardens

- Home improvement -
- Repair services -
- Interior and exterior jobs -
- Years of experience -



Charlie Walker

07774 393638 • 01725 552478
 chaz1940@btinternet.com

Downsman Noticeboard

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



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

18th May
21st September
16th November

Sixpenny Handley Village Hall
10am - 2pm



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.

Sixpenny Handley
COMMUNITY CINEMA



Wonka Friday 19 April
6D Handley Village Hall £6 entry
Bar & snacks (Popcorn, Ice-cream, Chocolate etc) available

SIXPENNY HANDLEY VILLAGE HALL

CRAFT FAIR
& teas

Sat 30th March
Saturday 29 June
10am-1pm
FREE ENTRY

6DHandleyVillageHall / 079510 56069

Parish Council Elections

2 May 2024

More info on becoming a councillor and voting on page 5

Anyone for Tennis?



see page 29

CRANBORNE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
CRANBORNE SPORTS CLUB
Penny's Lane BH21 5QE
at 7.30pm
Visitors welcome £3

7th May Ancient Cranborne by John Smith (from Rockborne Villa)
A look at ancient Cranborne from very early beginnings to around 1100.

Enquiries: Dorothy Lane
clhssecretary@gmail.com
01725 517569



Save the date
Saturday 13th July

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

Farnham Church and Allotment Association invite you to their

Plant Sale
Saturday 18 May
from 10am to 1pm
on the Drive of
Winklebury Cottage in Farnham

Farnham Church will be on hand to provide refreshments.



Clerk's Corner

Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge Parish Council
www.sixpennyhandleyandpentridge-pc.gov.uk

Unit 6, Town Farm Workshops, Sixpenny Handley. SP5 5PA
Email: Parishclerk@sixpennyhandleyandpentridge-pc.gov.uk
Clerk to the Council (Ciona Nicholson) 01725 552211
07907 445951

Parish Council Elections 2 May 2024

Sixpenny Handley Ward has 8 seats and Pentridge Ward has 2 seats

If you are interested in standing to become a Parish Councillor then the easiest way is to speak to Ciona (07907445951) as soon as possible. Otherwise see below.

Nomination papers must be hand delivered to the Returning Officer, Dorset Council, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ between 9.30am and 4.30pm on any working day after the date of publication of this Notice (excluding bank holidays) but no later than 4pm on Friday 5 April 2024. Some additional appointments will be available in the evenings and also at locations in Blandford Forum, Wareham and Wimborne. Details can be found at <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/parish-and-town-councils-within-the-dorset-council-area-election-on-2-may-2024-information-for-candidates>. Please make an appointment to deliver your nomination papers by telephoning Electoral Services on 01305 838299 or emailing elections@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk.

2. Nomination papers may be obtained from the offices of the Returning Officer, Dorset Council, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ during the times stated above or can be downloaded from <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/guidance/candidates-parish-council-elections-england/nominations/completing-your-nomination-papers>.

3. If any election is contested the poll will take place on Thursday 2 May 2024.

4. Applications to register to vote must reach the Electoral Registration Officer, Dorset Council, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ by 12 midnight on Tuesday 16 April 2024. Apply online to register to vote or download an application form at <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>.

5. Applications, amendments or cancellations of postal votes and amendments or cancellations of proxy

CALLING ALL COMMUNITY HEROES



Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge Parish Council

NEEDS YOU!

MAKE A CHANGE BECOME A COUNCILLOR

TO FIND OUT MORE, CONTACT:
Parishclerk@sixpennyhandleyandpentridge-pc.gov.uk
Clerk to the Council (Ciona Nicholson) 01725 552211

votes must reach the Electoral Registration Officer, Dorset Council, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ by 5pm on Wednesday 17 April 2024. Apply online to vote by post or download an application form at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote>.

6. Applications for a Voter Authority Certificate or an Anonymous Elector's Document valid for this election must reach the Electoral Registration Officer, Dorset Council, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ by 5pm on Wednesday 24 April 2024. Apply online for a Voter Authority Certificate or download an application form at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>.

7. New applications to vote by proxy at this election must reach the Electoral Registration Officer, Dorset Council, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ by 5pm on Wednesday 24 April 2024. Apply online to vote by proxy or download an

Opening Hours:
10.00am – 12 noon Tue
7.00pm – 7.30pm Thu
8.30am – 10.00am Fr
For Parish Council
information visit:
www.sixpennyhandleyandpentridge-pc.gov.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**

application form at
<https://www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote>.

8. Applications to vote by emergency proxy at this election must reach the Electoral Registration Officer, Dorset Council, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ by 5pm on Thursday 2 May 2024. Download an application form at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/proxy-voting-application-forms>.

9am - 12pm



Mondays & Wednesdays



Sixpenny Handley Community Hubs



At our recent team meeting, updates were given on ongoing Handley Hub activities and several success stories shared. As many in our community navigate through challenging times, the collaborative efforts of the Crossroads Café, Magnificafé and Village Hall teams continue to underscore the importance of Handley Hubs as the cornerstone of community cohesion and support.

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:

Attendance at the first two Sunday Crossroads Cafés this year has been a little lower than hoped, but we will continue to open 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!



IT Support

The weekly IT Support offered by Andy has been instrumental in assisting individuals with various tech-related issues. Notably, support has extended beyond tablets and smart phones to encompass home phone line troubleshooting. A comprehensive document has been created to help address

such issues and will be used by the whole team to assist those who might still have questions regarding the shift of telephone services from traditional analogue to digital or internet-based platforms. IT support will continue to be available at the Crossroads Café every Wednesday.



Crossroads Café and Magnificafé Attendance

We are delighted to report that attendance at the Crossroads Café on Mondays and Wednesdays (9.00 am – 12.00 pm) has increased. The Citizens Advice Bus service and community library have both proved to be popular draws, bringing in new visitors from the village and the wider local community.

Patronage of Magnificafé on Thursdays (9.00 am – 12.00 pm) has been steady and St Mary's PCC is considering extending the existing seating area to accommodate more visitors. If you haven't yet popped in for breakfast or brunch, we urge you to give it a try. We promise you won't regret it and, like us, will quickly become hooked! The wonderfully warm welcome from Bobbie and her team and the freshly cooked bacon and eggs, bagels, toast and freshly brewed coffee or tea are yummy!

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: 10 & 24 April, 8 & 22 May and 5 & 19 June.

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>



Sixpenny Handley First School & Nursery News



It has been a busy Spring in school and we have had many events, visitors, school visits and of course lots of learning. These are just a few of the events that have happened so far:-

We had a school 'Safety Day' that included the topics First Aid, Water Safety and E-Safety.

The whole school were treated to a concert from those children who have piano lessons in school.

We celebrated Chinese New Year.

Year 2 children attend a Dodgeball Tournament at Three Legged Cross First School.

Year 4 children attended a Teams Event at St Mary's First School, West Moors. 2 children have qualified for the Biathlon Nationals.

We had a visiting workshop on scootering and skateboarding with all children taking part in the activities.

Dorset Music Service visited weekly to deliver ukulele lessons to the Year 3 and Year 4 children.

Live4Tennis visit weekly to deliver tennis lessons and it is wonderful that we have the local tennis courts to facilitate this.

Forest Yogi Minds visit weekly and deliver Forest School Activities for all the children. Jacquie McLean and Dylan (Pets As Therapy) visit every week and listen to readers from across the school.



The reception children have been reading Mr Wolf's Pancakes. They found a pancake recipe, wrote their shopping list and headed off to Bugdens shop to buy the ingredients. It was a very soggy walk but they very much enjoyed the pancakes on their return!



They also visited Launceston Farm as part of their theme of Spring, mini beasts and animals, taking part in Farm to Fork baking activity, a farm walk, grain handling, animal spotting, worm survey...and observing other general farm activities that were happening that day!



The year 1 and 2 children have started their new theme, learning about the life of Queen Victoria. They had a Victorian Day where they dressed up and completed Victorian activities, including making saffron buns. They visited the Dorset Museum in Wimborne as part of their theme and will be taking part in workshops throughout the day.

Year 3 and 4 have started reading their next Favourite 5 book, Escape from Pompeii learning about Roman Engineering, Roman Roads, the structure of the World and how plate tectonics can cause volcanoes and earthquakes. They have been creating mosaics and writing newspaper reports about volcanic reactions.

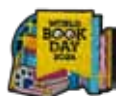
NSPCC Number Day – Children took part in maths activities in the style of an escape room which unlocked codes to find a final digit to release 'Golden Time'. All funds

raised from the day went to the NSPCC.

We held a pupil voice event where the children discussed playtimes and what they would like to keep or change about playtimes on the playground, given the limited space. As a result, we put out a request for dressing up costumes, hobbyhorses and puppets and hope to have a permanent stage area built shortly. We have running and football clubs and continue to offer yoga, drawing and writing clubs inside for those who wish to take part.



Bag To School - This is a great way to raise funds for the school, they collect clothes, shoes, scarves, belts, soft toys, household linen, towels, bedding and curtains. We would love the community to be involved in helping raise further funds for the school. Empty bags can be collected from the school office or you can use bin liners. Our next collection will be on Tuesday 19th November. Unfortunately we are not able to store bags but are happy to take them from Thursday 14th November, just bring them along to school. Thank you. Our most recent collection raised £118.00 for the school.



World Book Day had a theme of travel. Passports were issued to all children as they entered the departure lounge (school hall) to take a simulated flight to North

America. They visited every continent throughout the day and were introduced to 7 new books and accompanying activities. There were an amazing array of costumes from the Captain of the Titanic (including the ship) to Explorers, animals and lots of sunglasses and straw hats!



We would like to say a huge thank you to the amazing support of our community. Following a successful bid to the CCIO Community Fund Grant, we have been able to renew the fencing around the school field including new access gates to the community field which has provided a secure and safe environment. Thank you to the Parish Council.

We would also like to thank Budgens Shop who following are celebrating their 5th anniversary in the village and kindly donated a £1,000 to the school. We really appreciate this support and will use the money to provide high quality library corners throughout the school.

And finally a big thank you to all our Parents and Friends who work so hard to fundraise for all the 'extras' that are so needed in school. So far this year, due to their incredible achievements, we have been able to purchase 20 new iPads and a storage trolley, new library books, visit the pantomime in Salisbury, have Forest School sessions and they have supported us with general resources for our learning.



Crossroads Café Community Hub

Have you visited our coffee mornings in the Parish Office?

If not, come and see us soon, as you can see all ages are welcome from the eldest to the youngest!

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.

(in March on Sunday the 24th)
Everybody is very welcome and we hope to see you soon.



Visitors of all ages at Crossroads Cafe!

Advertise in
The Downsman

This space £5 per issue

£25 per year
(1 issue free)

Allotment Diary

The potatoes have been chitted and planted, along with the onion sets. The leeks and purple sprouting are nearly over, but the garlic and Japanese onions are coming along fine. Seeds are in seed trays and beginning to germinate. It is the beginning of a new allotment season.

Over winter I thought about introducing a new allotment product, apart from veg, fruit and eggs. My thoughts turned producing my own honey. Apparently our every third mouthful is provided by the humble honey bee in the form of fruit, veg and nuts. So I started reading up about bees and came across an article about beekeepers in the USA.

Every year nearly 3 million beehives are transported across the USA to support the fruit harvests. It begins in February with the almond blossoms. Almond trees are grown intensively, and sprays are used to eliminate insect pests and weeds; unfortunately this includes the native bee populations and the plants that support them. So every year beekeepers deliver approximately 2.8million hives, each containing approximately 40,000 bees, from as far afield as Florida and North Dakota to the California almond orchards.

When the almond pollination is complete there is no food, or native plants, left to support the bees. So the hives have to be moved on to the next pollination crops, such as apples and peaches.

The problem for the beekeepers is that approximately a third of the bees die each year. Whilst the almond farmer will not be spraying while his orchards are being pollinated the neighbouring farmer may be spraying a different crop. And bees will travel.

There is also a problem with the types of pesticides. In the mid 1990s organo-phosphates were banned in the USA and replaced by nicotinoids. Like organo phosphates they are toxic, but they degrade more slowly and may last two or three years. So bees may be affected by land sprayed 2 or 3 years previously. If the nicotinoids dont kill the bees they weaken them and leave them prone to disease.

Unfortunately these insecticides are easily stored in fats, such as beeswax and honey. Since the second world war the use of insecticides has increased exponentially; and insect populations have been decimated. The loss of insect life is being referred to as the next mass extinction. But the problems dont stay with insects. For instance nearly all song bird chicks need to feed on animal protein, invariably in the form of insects and larvae. Consequently there has been dramatic decrease in most wild bird populations, in the USA and here in the UK.. And of course the honey and stored pesticides go into the human food chain.

The basis for the use of pesticides and fungicides is to optimise yield. In the USA it is referred to as 'simple agriculture'. Destroy competition and you maximise yield. Yield is God. However there is a growing realisation that this only works for so long, before you have to start paying in all sorts

of ways, quite apart from paying \$250 a hive to beekeepers to transport hives from Florida to California because you have lost your native pollinators.

So do we produce our own honey, with the chance of there being pesticides used on adjacent land? Do local farmers use nicotinoids? I dont know and perhaps I need to do some more research before investing in a hive. Some farmers are in the stewardship scheme which restricts the damage to biodiversity, and this should be applauded.

For the time being, I may stick to my pesticide free veg, fruit and eggs. And keep the wildflower patch for the native pollinators. As for honey on my porridge. Hmmmm.

Chris Stokes



BESPOKE Websites
Design & **PRINT**

Tel: 01725 552430

naomi@thewebbooth.co.uk

www.thewebbooth.co.uk



designed with you in mind



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

Opening hours
Wednesday 4.30 - 7pm
Thursday 4.30 - 7pm
Friday 4-8pm
Saturday 4-8pm

Take out Service Available

Parish News 1970

SIXPENNY HANDLEY, GUSSAGE ST. ANDREW AND PENTRIDGE

The period leading up to Christmas has been a rather sad one for Handley with the deaths of four parishioners.

First of all Mr. Keats died. It had been so good to see him enjoying the glorious sun of last summer, and he took full advantage of the weather to do all his remaining strength allowed. The death of our last smith seems to mark the end of an epoch, and we grieve of course for the loss of his own good self.

Mr. Hansford died after many years spent in this village. Church people remember him with special appreciation for the years of devoted service he gave as Verger at St. Mary's, setting, with Mrs. Hansford the high standard of care we have been able to keep up ever since.

Dorothy Adlem's death leaves a big gap in the life of our village. She had been active in so many ways. We so admired the courage and determination which enabled her to make a come-back after serious illness. It seems that to have died "in action", as you might say, would have been her choice.

The sudden death of Mrs. Jack Day was a sadness to the many people who knew her as a good friend, as well as to her family. To the members of our church congregation it came as a special grief, for we shall never feel it quite right that her place should be empty. Our consolation is that we know we can never be separated when we are all one in Christ Jesus. My own feeling was that she had never really got over the death of her brother. We can be thankful that she didn't live to know of the death of her youngest son which occurred later that same week. So many people in the village are touched by these deaths. We sorrow both for them, and with them.

UNITY WEEK

This year in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity we are going a little further than only praying. There is to be a meeting with our Methodist friends and their Minister, in the Chapel at 7.0 p.m. on Wednesday, 21st January. Further details of this will be announced.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PARTY

This will be on Monday, 5th January, from 4-6 p.m. in the Unity Hut.

MONEY RAISED

The Appeal in Handley for the Organ Fund bought in the balance of the total needed, a sum of about £70. This is very gratifying, as it is not many months since we faced up to the task of raising this money.

We had grand support again, on another poor day, for the Autumn Sale. The £100 realised will go quite a way to helping us meet our obligations.

In addition we received £5 from the Handley Brownies, a share in the proceeds of their Sale. This kindness is very much appreciated.

£38.10.0. was the result of the Hinchington Coffee Morning, which was also well supported. It came just at the right time, when we had been told of the increase we have to face in the cost of the recent restoration work.

MOTHERS' UNION

Our Branch meets this month to undertake the catering for the parties on Monday, 5th January.

HOLY BAPTISM

At St. Mary's on December 7th: Debbie Yvonne Churchill.

HOLY MARRIAGE

At St. Rumbold's on November 22nd: Christopher John Finlay and Patricia Ann Riddle.
At St. Mary's on Nov. 29th: Richard Roger Mullins and Phyllis Margaret Adlem.

BURIAL

At Handley on December 2nd: Walter John Hansford, aged 76
At Handley on December 13th: Dorothy Rhoda May Adlem, aged 56
At Handley on December 18th: Theodora Thirza Day, aged 77

SERVICES IN JANUARY

4th Handley 9.30 only.	Gussage 3.0;	Pentridge 8.0
11th Handley 8,6,30;	Gussage 10.0;	Pentridge 3.0
18th Handley 8,6,30;	Gussage 3.0;	Pentridge 9.30
25th Handley 8,6,30;	Gussage 10.0;	Pentridge 3.0.

ANTHONY J. LANE



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Village Hall News

Sixpenny Handley Village Hall CIO
(Charity Number: 1201429)



Your Village Hall

Are you planning an event this year? Then look no further 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.

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.



Have your say...

The Village Hall AGM will be held on Wednesday 3 April at 7.00 pm in the hall. Please do join us to receive an update from the Trustees on the progress we've made to date and the exciting plans we have to further improve your hall.

If you have any fundraising ideas or suggestions for further improvements

to the facilities that you would like us to consider, please do raise them at the meeting. If you don't tell us about them, we won't know!

If you would like to receive a copy of the AGM agenda and reports in advance of the meeting, please email Paul at: paulstyles@btinternet.com to request them.

YOUR VILLAGE HALL



Can you help?

We have a proactive, dynamic team but we always need more hands, more ideas and more help!

Can you spare a few hours of your time to help us? We need a volunteer to do a bit of admin - taking minutes at our meetings (only 4 or 5 a year!) and helping us to run our exciting programme of events. Please contact Paul now for a chat to find out more.

If you would be interested in joining our team as a Trustee or volunteer to help out at our fundraising events to ensure that our amazing Village Hall can continue to offer a great venue and bring quality events to our community, please do get in touch or come along to the AGM and tell us in person.



Finally, can you spare an hour or two of your time between 10.00 am – 1.00 pm on Saturday 20 April to help with our Spring Clean? Whether it's cleaning windows, the odd bit of painting or helping to plant up some of our new planters outside in the garden, we would be hugely grateful for your help. We may even be able to throw in a freshly brewed cup of coffee and a piece of cake – now there's an incentive to join us!!

Entertainment Update

Community Cinema



On Friday 19 April we will be showing the big screen spectacle, Wonka (PG), the story of how the world's greatest inventor, magician and chocolate-maker became the beloved Willy Wonka we know today.

Wonka (Timothée Chalamet) comes to pre-war Paris as a young man after a life on the ocean wave, determined to make his fortune with the chocolate recipes invented by his mum (Sally Hawkins). His new ideas make him enemies, notably Bleacher (Tom Davis) and Mrs Scrubbit (Olivia Colman), but he wins out with the help of new friends. And look out for the wonderful Hugh Grant as the original Oompa-Loompa! This is one for children and adults, so please make a note in your calendar now!

Tickets for all films cost £6 and are available on the door only. Hot and cold drinks plus snacks will be on sale from 6.30 pm and the film starts at 7.00 pm.

After the April film we will be taking out annual summer break but the cinema will be back in September. Keep an eye out for news of the new season of shows in the August issue of The Downsman and www.moviola.org or our Facebook page: 6dHandleyVillageHall for further information.

Artsreach

Watch out, watch out there will be some naughty goats about this autumn ... Please make a note in your diary for a family show to be held during the afternoon of Saturday 26 October for the start of half term. There

will be loads of interaction before and during the show which is aimed at the whole community but mainly for those aged between 7 – 11 years. More news will follow in the next issue of The Downsman and on our Facebook page. For the full programme of Artsreach shows



please see: <https://artsreach.co.uk/>

Craft Fair with Teas

The 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 delicious homemade sandwiches and cakes on sale.

Please add the date to your diary and keep an eye out for the flyers and posters around the village, our Facebook page and Nextdoor for further information and updates.

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

Why not spoil dad this Father's Day! We will again be hosting afternoon tea at Wimborne St Giles this summer 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, generously portioned food served at very reasonable prices!

Held in Wimborne St Giles's Village Hall, 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 scrumptious sandwiches, cream scones, gateaux and a wide range of delicious homemade cakes. If you are a baker and would be able to donate a homemade cake or some scones 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.

The Sixpenny Ladies Group

The first social of 2024 was a Cheese and Wine Evening, held on Monday 12th February, this was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Also included was a competition with a Valentine's theme of a hand made Valentine card to your "heart throb", all the cards were excellent, ranging from very romantic to highly amusing.

March 11th. Our March evening was well attended and enjoyed by all. The evening "Decorating Eggs for Easter" was arranged by fellow members Denise and Katrina. Some members brought in eggs already decorated and some demonstrated their skills of decorating on the evening, which was well supported by the amount of members who took part.

We enjoyed delicious refreshments of home-baked Easter cakes and biscuits and the evening finished with a splendid raffle.

Our next social on Monday 8th April will include a speaker "Gary" an ex-metropolitan police officer who will give a talk on what happens in a hostage situation, also, the usual refreshments, raffle and sales table.

Why not come and join us for our next meeting.

For further information contact:
Bobbie 552042, Liz 552926 or Stella 552450

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 Group Scout Leader
 John Curtis
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1st Woodcutts News

www.firstwoodcutts.org.uk

Squirrels

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 Zoe Wilkinson
 01725 552397

Age 6-8
 Tue & Wed 5 to 6pm
 Annette Toop
 07973 677815

cubs

Age 8-10½
 Mon & Wed
 Andy Young (Akela)
 07796 941202

SCOUTS

Age 10½-14
 Mon & Tue
 Rob Easton
 01725 552038

EXPLORERS

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

Scouting is a world-wide movement and as part of every sections programme is based around an international theme where we explore other cultures and faiths.

Beavers and Scouts celebrated Chinese new year in February. Scouts made steamed dumplings and tried some Chinese games. Beavers celebrated the Year of the Dragon with learning to count in Cantonese, making paper dragons and eating noodles with chopsticks! Beavers have also been exploring through their Global Issues Badge - looking at rubbish, the environment and endangered animals.

Explorers have had a diverse programme including cooking and sampling Welsh cakes and Welsh rarebit on St David's Day and sharing a gaming evening with the data projector on the wall of the Scout HQ.

Squirrels and Beavers also celebrated St David's day. Beavers learnt Welsh greetings and they learnt to sew for their Mother's Day gifts! Squirrels took part in activities based on world Down Syndrome day in March and they completed their Storytime Badge which included a visit from local author Debs Pharoah-Pink who shared her book 'A Squirrel's Tale'. The Squirrels thought about the characters in the book and drew their own illustrations.



Cubs undertook a task much closer to home at one of their sessions making cups of tea and scientifically analysing the merits and failures of a diverse range of dunking biscuits! February also saw British Science week where the Cubs watched Akela complete the egg in the bottle 'trick' and explain why it works before experimenting with cleaning coins in a range of solutions!

Getting into the community Cubs and Scouts and families took part in Sixpenny Handley Community Litter Pick on 16th March and on 23rd Cubs Morse Code work, done as part of their Communicator Badge was displayed at the D-Day event at the Village Hall.





T: 07513821752 E: nick@nl-accounting.co.uk
W: www.nl-accounting.co.uk

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Church News

From St Mary's, St Andrew's & St Rumbold's

THE VIEW FROM THE PULPIT Carol Neilson LLM

Dear Friends,

The window of the study is ajar, for the first time of the year and through the open window I can hear the songs of birds. I am not an ornithologist nor a bird watcher and I can recognise the song of only a few birds; one of these is the wood pigeon. When we first came to the Chase the wood pigeon's song was very prominent and we could hear it all day long. After a few days we had really heard enough of it. But now I rejoice hearing them again, singing their quite repetitive monotonous repertoire but it is singing – a sure sign of spring and of new beginnings. This month we begin the Great Fifty Days of the Easter season, which stretches from Easter Sunday to Whit Sunday (Pentecost). The Easter season

might be compared to the song of wood pigeons - something quite ordinary and nothing to pay much attention to as the chocolate eggs soon are eaten and we will get on with all the ordinary jobs. But the Easter season is far from ordinary; on the contrary, it is extraordinary. It is the season where we again and again hear about how the love of God changed everything and gave us all a new beginning. God's love conquered death. The Easter message the angels brought was that the tomb was empty and Christ was gloriously risen from the dead. Angels were the first to bring this message to Mary and a few other women early on Easter Day morning and these women were told to tell it to the disciples and so the Easter message of the Risen

Christ spread throughout the region. For all those who heard it, it certainly was a new beginning. The broken-hearted Mary who wept in distress at the tomb - received comfort; the anxious Peter who had denied Jesus three times - received forgiveness; the doubting Thomas who would not believe without seeing - received faith. They all received mercy because God gave them a new beginning out of unconditional love. Revived and renewed, these disciples started out on their journey to tell the extraordinary Easter story of the empty tomb and the risen Lord. Their testimony we still hear and will be proclaimed repeatedly, Easter after Easter. Until we, as the wood pigeons, can sing it as the song of our hearts: "Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!". *Rev Henriët Miell*

Our Benefice

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

As you will recall the grand plan was to form two new Benefices, 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) would form the southern Benefice. In the north, Chettle, Farnham & Tollard Royal would join Handley and Pentridge to form the northern Benefice. The PCCs involved had all been consulted in this plan and 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. Their departure will be a huge loss and they will be greatly missed, as they have both served us all so well.

The good news is that we have been informed that this plan definitely stands and that we should now go about organising ourselves into a new Benefice. To that end, we have held a first meeting

with our fellow parishes and 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. That said, the Diocese will have a view and the various PCCs will all have to agree that name.

We have also looked at appointing an administrator for the new Benefice and making the necessary financial arrangements, all vital elements to ensure all necessary paperwork and associated detail is done properly. 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 expect to see the formal paperwork setting up the new Benefice in coming weeks.

If anyone has any thoughts or good ideas about this, or wishes to input any view that may be helpful for the challenges we face, please write to notices@handleychurch.org.uk Affordability as always will be key and for those of you who do not know, we are expected to be able to raise sufficient money locally each year to pay for the

majority of the costs of our priest as well as to maintain the fabric of our churches. This is why we are always grateful for any support given. Meanwhile some have assumed that we have no priest, but as explained above, we do! Our priest for now of course remains Rev Dr David Miell who along with Henriët both look after our pastoral needs.

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

What's On



By the time you read this we will have had the most of our new season of Film Nights in the Village Hall – Please support this joint initiative between our PCC and the Village Hall Committee. The last film this Spring is on the 19th April. We offer excellent films in a comfortable, warm setting with the opportunity to have a snack or a drink at a very reasonable price. Look out for future FILM NIGHTS next Autumn.



Community Café – MAGNIFICAFÉ - originally set up by the PCC, has now joined 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 if needed and there is free Wi-Fi.



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. We are starting up in 2024 on 7th February, starting at 7.15pm. Please contact Mike Carter on (01725 552720) for details.

St Mary's Service Time Change

Revd David John, priest from the Iwerne Valley Benefice will be coming to help out at services in Handley in anticipation of David and Henriët's departure at the beginning of July. To facilitate this change services at St Mary's will be changing to 11am to allow David to move between churches from April.

The best way to find out what is going on is to receive the weekly Church Notice Sheet, 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

HANDLEY BENEFICE WITH INNER CHASE GROUP MONTHLY PLANNED SERVICES

The details of our normal services are posted regularly in the weekly Church Notice Sheet, 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

	1ST SUNDAY	2ND SUNDAY	3RD SUNDAY	4TH SUNDAY
Sixpenny Handley	11:00 Family/Informal Service	11:00 Holy Communion	11:00 Holy Communion	11:00 Holy Communion
St Andrew 's Gussage St Andrew	Services currently suspended due to ceiling issue.			
St Rumbold's Pentridge	9.00 Holy Communion	No Service	No Service in April	No Service



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Cranborne Chase National Landscape

Spring has arrived on Cranborne Chase National Landscape - the new name for this designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

We are delighted to announce that the Nurturing Nature Project has been awarded 'Conservation Project of the Year' at the Wiltshire Life Awards last Friday.

We send congratulations to our partners, Wiltshire and Swindon Biological Records Centre, for ensuring the project's success, and to the incredible volunteers who have engaged with and supported it.

Funding is now available from the DEFRA funded Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme, for projects taking place between April 2024 and March 2025.

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National Landscape.

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Robert Hall
FiPL Officer
roberthall@cranbornechase.org.uk
01725 517417

StarFest 2024

Our biggest Dark Sky celebration of the year is only weeks away...

Booking is now LIVE for StarFest 2024, a three-day event celebrating Cranborne Chase National Landscape's International Dark Sky Reserve.

Join us during International Dark Sky Week for drop-in family events, bookable planetarium sessions, talks, storytelling and stargazing.

Sessions are free but booking is essential on timetabled events. For drop-in events see the link below

<https://cranbornechase.org.uk/events/starfest-2024/>

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Per Ardua Ad Astra

Royal Air Force

A History - Part 5

November 11th, 1918, a date indelibly etched into the heart of the nation and for well over a century annually recalled in services of remembrance. It was over - well, not quite. Operations on the ground and in the air continued right up until the appointed hour for the fighting to cease. During the night of November 10th-11th, thirteen bomber squadrons were active attacking raid communications and aerodromes over a wide area while specially equipped fighter squadrons roamed the skies hunting for enemy bombers.

During the morning of the 11th, as last minutes discussions were taking place in Marshal Foch's railway coach in the Forêt de Compiègne, offensive patrols remained the order of the day. No. 35 Squadron at Flaumont flew at least one contact patrol resulting in FK.8 F7482 crewed by Lieutenant H C Heintzman, a Canadian [surely with German lineage], and 2nd Lieutenant H S Howard overshooting the landing area of their return. With decaying speed the FK.8 smashed into a fence and was effectively wrecked. On the stroke of 11 o'clock at Bisseghem 2nd Lieutenant E S Wilcox attached to No. 65 Squadron was authorised to carry out a practice flight in F.1 Camel C3322. Weather conditions were far from ideal and Wilcox made a precautionary landing at Beveren. By the afternoon the weather appeared to have improved and he took off with the intention of returning to base but en route he encountered low cloud and with mist now obscuring the ground he was obliged to forced land; this ended with the fighter on its back but, fortunately, without hurt to the pilot.

Two more fighters were wrecked during the day; Lieutenant W T Carew of No. 74 Squadron crashed his SE.5a C9066 and a similar fate befell Lieutenant L P Wykes who wrecked his F.1 Camel E5168 while testing the engine. Neither were hurt and, I suspect, both would soon join the list of unemployed officers as the Air Force ran down its establishment

At the end of hostilities squadron establishment of the Royal Air Force stood at a phenomenal total of 242 squadrons, though it must be noted that not all were operational and the majority would be disbanded within months of the war ending. However, the 'teeth' of the Air Force in November 1918, was ensconced on the Western Front and in the weeks following the Armistice some would be assigned to the demilitarised zone of the Rhineland, while others would be relocated to the Middle East and India for although the European was over protection of British interests in the afore mentioned areas was paramount.

Servicing this significant force of Air power resulted in a combined officer and other ranks structure of over 291,000 personnel which although recognised as unsustainable in peacetime was reduced in a manner that left the Air Force seriously understrength for the many commitments it was called upon to fulfil. I suspect chauvinism played its part leading to the disbandment of the Women's Royal Air Force in 1920, and no doubt with cost-cutting in mind any expansion of the Royal Air Force in the first decade of peace was minimal.*

Fortunately, it was not all 'doom and gloom' for the far-sighted programme devised by Marshal of the Royal Air Force, Lord Trenchard, laid down the bed-rock that the shifting sands of government left more or less untouched. Thus, at Halton in Buckinghamshire an Apprentice School was established that would ensure an output of skilled technicians to service and maintain the airframes and engines of the Air arm; in Lincolnshire, Cranwell became the Cadet College for flight cadets who on graduating from an intensive eighteen month course of instruction in flying and basic administration would be granted permanent commissions, while at Andover in Hampshire a Staff College was set up to advance the careers of officers destined for permanent service.

But, perhaps, most important of all was Trenchard's inspired decision to bring into

existence the 'short service commission' officer. Terms of engagement varied but three to five years was the norm followed by four years attached to the Reserve of Air Force Officers. And, in due course, with the example of the Army's Territorial Force, and Auxiliary Air Force was created along county or city lines.

Much, I fear, has changed since those days. Halton still exists though No. 1 School of Technical Training transferred to Cosford near Wolverhampton in 1993, leaving Halton as a basic recruit training centre, but now with the 'Sword of Damocles' hovering over it with possible closure in 2027. Halton is unique in that it is the only Royal Air Force station to be honoured with two Queen's Colours.

Cranwell continues as the training establishment for officers, but the Air arm of the Auxiliary Air Force [subsequently retitled Royal Auxiliary Air Force] and its Naval counterpart disbanded in March 1957, leading to an article in 'Flight and Aircraft Engineer' titled 'A Bright Sword Sheathed'.

Andover's time as a Staff College ran out in 1970, when it was absorbed by RAF Staff College, Bracknell, which in turn 'closed its doors' on New Year's Day 1997, and, presently, staff training for all the armed services is centred at Shrivenham.

In my next instalment I will return to the years following the end of the Great War and describe in part Trenchard's achievements in promoting squadrons of the Royal Air Force as guardians of the British Empire.

* In my fourth volume of Royal Air Force Squadron Losses, compiled in conjunction with Paul McMillan, which covers many aspects of the service between January 1921 and December 1930, appendices show squadron establishment year by year along with details of commanding officers, short service commission officers and graduates from Cranwell. Along with other books in the series it is a record of Royal Air Force

achievement, sacrifice and service to our nation.

Note. Although November 11th, 1918, is recognised as the day that German military aggression ceased in Europe, it was not the final chapter in the war for in German East Africa troops under the command of General Paul Emil von Lettow-Vorbeck, undefeated, signed an Armistice with the Allies - British, Indian, African and Portuguese - at 11 a.m. on November 25h, 1918.

Royal Air Force veterans, particularly those who had an association with Halton, will be vexed if the 'Sword' should fall but no military establishment is sacrosanct as has been witnessed recently with the closure of Scampton from where Wing Commander Guy Gibson VC formed and led No. 617 Squadron to breach the Ruhr dams in May 1943. Will it become home for illegal immigrants, as proposed by the Home Office - only time will tell.

*To be continued.
Bill Chorley*

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CBA Services

Following the Budget on 6th March 2024, I have summarised the information for easier digestion! If you have any questions or queries regarding your tax or accountancy affairs, please contact CBA Services Limited at our Blandford Forum Office.

Impact on personal finances

Further fall in employee National Insurance contributions (NIC)

As expected, the Chancellor has found headroom to make a further reduction of 2 percentage points, from 10% reduced to 8%, effective from April 2024.

Taken together with the previous 2% drop following the Autumn Statement, this represents a reduction in this tax charge by one-third. It means that a person earning £35,400 will be more than £900 a year better off.

High Income Child Benefit Charge (HICBC)

From 6 April 2024, the income threshold at which the HICBC can recover Child Benefits from parents is being increased from £50,000 to £60,000. The band of income that will affect the amount of any HICBC clawback is also doubled, from £60,000 to £80,000.

From April 2024, Child Benefits will be subject to the HICBC at a rate of 1% of benefits received for every £200 the highest paid parent exceeds £200. This means that when the highest paid earner's income exceeds £80,000, all Child Benefits will be recovered.

For new Child Benefit claims made after 6 April 2024, any backdated payment will be treated for HICBC purposes as if the entitlement fell in the 2024-25 tax year if backdating would otherwise create a HICBC liability in the 2023-24 tax year.

Capital Gains Tax (CGT) on UK residential property sales

The higher rate of CGT for residential property gains is being reduced from 28% to 24%. The change will take effect from 6 April 2024. The lower rate will remain at 18% for any gains that fall within an individual's basic rate band.

The 18% and 28% rates of CGT that apply to gains in respect of carried interest remain unchanged from 6 April 2024. These rates previously mirrored those for CGT on

disposals of residential property.

Restriction in scope of Agricultural Property Relief and Woodlands Relief

The scope of Agricultural Property Relief and Woodlands Relief will be restricted to property in the UK. Property located in the European Economic Area (EEA), the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man will be treated the same as other property located outside the UK. The changes will take effect from 6 April 2024.

Stamp Duty Land Tax - Multiple Dwellings Relief (MDR)

The MDR is being abolished. This change will come into effect for transactions with an effective date on or after 1 June 2024.

Transitional rules mean that MDR can still be claimed for contracts which are exchanged on or before 6 March 2024, regardless of when completion takes place. This is subject to various exclusions, for example that there is no variation of the contract after that date.

Changes to Non-UK Domiciled tax rules
The government will abolish the remittance basis of taxation for non-UK domiciled individuals and replace it with a simpler residence-based regime, which will take effect from 6 April 2025. Individuals who opt into the regime will not pay UK tax on foreign income and gains for the first four years of tax residence.

Overseas Workday Relief (OWR) will be reformed with eligibility for the relief based on the new regime. OWR will continue to provide Income Tax relief for earnings from duties conducted overseas for the first three years of tax residence with restrictions on remitting these earnings removed.

The government has also announced an intention to move to a residence-based regime for Inheritance Tax, with plans to publish a policy consultation on these changes, followed by draft legislation for a technical legislation, later in the year.

A new ISA

A new British ISA with its own allowance of £5,000 a year is to be introduced for investments in UK equity. Further details of the new scheme will be released later this year.

Flat lining Income Tax rates and allowances
One area of personal tax that was not eased in the Budget announcements was the fiscal drag created by the freezing of the

Income Tax personal Allowance and High Income Threshold.

The Income Tax Personal Allowance (presently £12,570) and the higher rate threshold (presently £50,270) above which you will pay Income Tax at 40% not 20%, have not seen a significant increase for over four years.

In the same period, the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) has increased from 108 to 132. To keep pace with inflation, based on the CPI increase, a £45,000 salary in April 2020 would now need to be £55,000 to maintain the same purchasing power. And as the higher rate threshold has remained unchanged, at £50,270, the top £4,730 will be taxed at 40% not 20%.

Based on the CPI change, the present Personal Allowance should be circa £15,400 and the Higher Rate threshold £61,400 to maintain their monetary value.

The Income Tax Personal Allowance and Higher Rate Threshold will remain unchanged and will not be reviewed again until April 2028.

Vaping Products Duty

The government has published a consultation on the detailed design and implementation of the duty, which will close on 29 May 2024. Registration for the duty will open on 1 April 2026 with the duty taking effect from 1 October 2026 alongside a proportionate increase in tobacco duties. The duty will apply to liquids for use in vaping devices and e-cigarettes at the following rates:

- £1 per 10ml for nicotine free liquids
- £2 per 10ml for liquid containing nicotine at concentrations between 0.1 to 10.9mg per ml
- £3 per 10ml for liquids containing nicotine at concentrations 11mg per ml, or above

The government will also make a one-off tobacco duty increase of £2 per 100 cigarettes or 50 grams of tobacco from 1 October 2026.

Alcohol Duties

These duties will be frozen from 1 August 2024 until 1 February 2025. This extends the present six-month freeze announced last year.

Fuel Duty main rates

The rates of Fuel Duty introduced at Spring Statement in March 2022, and extended

at Spring Budget in March 2023, will be extended for a further 12 months. This will maintain the cut in the rates for heavy oil (diesel and kerosene), unleaded petrol, and light oil by 5 pence per litre, and the proportionate percentage cut (equivalent to 5 pence per litre from the main Fuel Duty rate of 57.95 pence per litre) in other lower rates and the rates for rebated fuels, where practical. The changes will take effect from 23 March 2024.

Impact on UK businesses

VAT registration threshold increase
The taxable turnover threshold which determines whether a person must be registered for VAT, will be increased from £85,000 to £90,000. The taxable turnover threshold which determines whether a person may apply for deregistration will be increased from £83,000 to £88,000. These changes will be effective from 1 April 2024.

This will benefit smaller traders who are tiptoeing towards the present registration threshold of £85,000 and really don't want to register as they will not be able to pass on the 20% VAT to their customers.

NIC cuts for the self-employed
The Chancellor has made a further reduction in the Class 4 NIC paid by the self-employed. The further cut will be a reduction from 8% of chargeable profits to 6%. Essentially, the overall reduction will be from 9% to 6% effective from 6 April 2024.

No change in Corporation Tax (CT) rates
For the financial year beginning 1 April 2025, the rates of CT will remain unchanged. The main rate will stay at 25% with the reduced small profits rate at 19%.

Abolition of the Furnished Holiday Lets (FHL) tax regime
In a surprise announcement, the present favourable tax benefits of letting properties as short-term holiday lets is to be abolished from April 2025.

Draft legislation will be published at a future date and will include an anti-forestalling rule. This will prevent the obtaining of a tax advantage through the use of unconditional contracts to obtain capital gains relief under the current FHL rules. This rule will apply from 6 March 2024.

Full expensing to be extended to leased

assets
At present, full-expensing of plant or machinery for leasing is excluded from a claim under the full-expensing or the 50% first year allowance for special rate assets. The government will shortly publish draft legislation to bring leased assets into these reliefs.

Support for independent film makers
This relief will benefit independent filmmakers and will be provided via the Audio-Visual Expenditure Credit. The Independent Film Tax Credit is aimed at films that have budgets (or total core expenditure) of up to £15 million and that receive a new accreditation from the British Film Institute. The credit rate will be 53% of qualifying expenditure. Qualifying expenditure is capped at a maximum of 80% of a film's total core expenditure; the most taxable credit a film can receive will be £6.36 million.

The changes will take effect for films that commence principal photography from 1 April 2024 on expenditure incurred from 1 April 2024. Claims may be submitted from 1 April 2025.


Permanent extension for higher rates of

Theatre, Orchestra and Museums and Galleries Tax Reliefs
This change affects the permanent extension of 40%/45% (for non-touring/ touring and orchestral productions respectively) headline rates of relief for Theatre Tax Relief, Orchestra Relief, and Museums and Galleries Exhibition Tax Relief. These rates will take effect from 1 April 2025.

Energy Profits Levy — One Year Extension
As announced at Spring Budget 2024, the government will extend the sunset end date of the Energy Profits Levy to 31 March 2029. This is expected to raise a further £1.5 billion for the Treasury.

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.



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Wimborne St Giles Cream Teas

Come and support local charities, whilst enjoying a delicious cream tea!



Every Sunday starting from 14th April through to the end of September, Wimborne St Giles Village Hall, will be opening their doors to the public each Sunday, to sample the delights of homemade sandwiches and cakes. Each week sees a different charity hosting a tea, much to the delights of everyone, including those who travel miles to have an experience of this well-known tradition. It is hard to resist the selection of sandwiches, followed by the vast array of cakes, from cream filled meringues and scones to fruit cake and tray bakes, all handmade by each charity. Over the years many thousands

of pounds have been raised for various charities including local Schools, Churches, Guide and Scout groups as well as charities such as In Jolly Good Company and Forest Holme Hospice.

Come and wander around the pretty village before sitting down to enjoy a delicious cream tea whilst helping to support local charities. Teas run from 2.30pm until 5pm every Sunday between 14th April and 29th September and are located at the Village Hall in Wimborne St Giles, BH21 5LX. Find us on Facebook.

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A Good Time To Start A Collection ? – British Stamps

By: Stuart McLean –Parish Councillor

The last edition of our village magazine, “The Downsman” contained several articles on an interesting variety of hobbies and pastimes, which included sailing; an allotment diary; a local history society; bingo; jewellery making; community cinema; tennis and skateboarding among others. I should like to add another absorbing hobby to that list – which is that of stamp collecting. I have collected British Stamps since I was a small boy and have now amassed a collection in which I have a mint (ie unused) copy of every stamp issued in the reign Queen Elizabeth II from 1953 until 2022, which amounts to over 4,000 such stamps. With the sad passing of our former monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, I suggest that now is a good time to start a collection of those stamps which have begun to be issued in the reign of His Majesty King Charles III.

The death of Queen Elizabeth II, marks a significant change in the design, production and issue of the means by which we are

able to send pre-paid letters and parcels throughout the United Kingdom and the World. I refer here, of course, to the issue of British stamps by the Royal Mail. During the reign of Queen Elizabeth II over 4,000 stamps have been issued, each with her unique silhouette or portrait emblazoned upon them to denote the country of origin. Indeed the United Kingdom is the only country in the world to issue stamps without the name of the country of origin printed upon them. The Universal Postal Union, of which every country that issue stamps is a member, has agreed that they will all print the name of their country on their own stamps to identify their origin, but from which ruling the United Kingdom is exempt.



This is because the very first stamp in the world, introduced on the 1st May 1840, was the “Penny Black” which

simply bore the portrait head in profile of Queen Victoria with the words “Postage” at the top and “One Penny” at the foot with no mention of the country of origin. The success of the introduction of this innovative means of pre-paid postage was such that in the 9 months of its issue life over 63 million One Penny Black stamps were printed and sold before the Penny Black was replaced by the Penny Red stamp. Remarkably in less than 40 years the British system of pre-paid postage had been adopted by some 150 countries around the world.



I was fortunate that in 1952, at a very young age, a favourite uncle of mine presented me with a Stanley Gibbons stamp album for my birthday and for some time afterwards each year sent me the stamps that had been issued that year during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. By the time that I joined the Army in 1966 I had amassed

a considerable number of such Queen Elizabeth stamps and so I registered my interest in such stamps with the Post Office in Edinburgh, who since that time have posted me every new stamp as it has been issued, wherever I was stationed in the world, paid for by direct debit from my bank account.

The accession of His Majesty King Charles III marks a new era in the history of philately as he becomes the 8th monarch whose image adorns the nation’s stamp issues. The first of such stamps were the “Flowers” commemorative set of ten stamps issued on the 23rd March 2022 and were the first stamps to bear the silhouette of His Majesty King Charles III



This was followed by the series of Definitive bar-coded stamps issued on the 4th April 2023.

These first two issues of the stamps of His Majesty King Charles III present a timely and unique opportunity for anyone to start a collection of King Charles III stamps that over the course of time will grow and develop in size, range and value, as my collection of Queen Elizabeth II has done over the past 70 years. By registering your details on RoyalMail.com you can be sure to receive each new edition of stamps as they are issued. I strongly recommend, that as my uncle did over 70 years ago, that you start a member of your family –a son, daughter, nephew or niece on the fascinating hobby of stamp collecting – it might just catch on !



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6DH Skatepark Project

In our previous update, we shared our plans to publish a tender in our pursuit of sourcing a reputable Skatepark builder. Now, we are thrilled to provide you with an insight into the progress made and what lies ahead in this exciting endeavour. Following the publication of the tender, we organized a productive project workshop aimed at identifying the preferred style and features desired by our local skateboarders for the future Skatepark. These valuable insights were then made available alongside the tender, sparking interest from numerous companies. Impressively, three of these companies went a step further, conducting on-site visits to assess crucial factors such as area dimensions, soil composition, and gradients—a testament to their commitment to understanding the project's requirements.

The enthusiastic response from Skatepark builders has been truly encouraging for our Project team, especially considering the

pivotal role grant funding plays in realizing our vision. Despite initial concerns about garnering interest with limited funding in place, the overwhelming response through phone calls and site visits has reaffirmed our decision to advertise the tender. Furthermore, it instills confidence in the expectation that grant funding will indeed be accessible, as indicated by the builders' confidence during their interactions with us.

As the deadline for tender submissions looms this week, our focus now shifts towards selecting a preferred supplier, a decision that will be finalized with the Parish Council by the end of March. With this crucial step completed, we can eagerly anticipate moving forward with the contract award process, paving the way for the commencement of Skatepark design and planning activities in May alongside the chosen candidate.

Crucially, this phase will entail extensive engagement with the Parish community to ensure that all aspects of the future Skatepark are thoroughly considered. Beyond layout and features, our

discussions will encompass strategies for addressing concerns such as noise pollution and anti-social behaviour, as well as actively involving the youth of our community who will benefit from the revamped Skatepark. We wholeheartedly encourage everyone to continue sharing their thoughts and ideas as we embark on this journey together towards realizing our dream Skatepark.

Your unwavering support serves as the driving force behind our project, epitomizing the enduring spirit of community collaboration. With excitement building, we eagerly anticipate the next chapter where we will delve into the actual design and the tangible progress towards the construction of our new Skatepark. Stay tuned for more updates as we bring our vision to life, one skate trick at a time. 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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Laid Up

As I write this, Ayers & Graces is now laid up ashore for annual maintenance, and I am laid up at home, hopefully we will both be back on the water soon, and at the same time.

So not a lot to report this time, the lift out went according to plan, and the yacht is well shored up, interestingly the yard still use large diameter 150mm+ straight tree branches and timber wedges to secure most yachts, anchor and chain are on the ground, shore power is on, and ladder secured. The yard require sails off before lift out – a precaution against sails unfurling in strong winds and the risk of ‘the domino effect’ as one yacht crashes into another. All running rigging is off and being cleaned. There is evidence of a leak – salt crystals on the Mahogany internal woodwork, after much investigation, found to be one of the windows, need to remove and reseal, these windows although to the coachroof

Gone Sailing

(avoiding, of course the problem of those yachts with windows in the side of the hull) do get a lot of exposure to heavy seas when overpressed, (as does the helm’s bum!)

Bunkside reading

Still going through the Christmas reading: ‘Sea Journal’ Lisa Woollett, a series of musings, natural history, and photographs, which capture the essence of a year along many coasts, particularly Cornwall, reading it is like a walk along the shore. ‘Old Man Sailing’ John Passmore, a very good read, a journalist and experienced sailor, with the advance of covid lockdown, John decided to sail single handed towards the Azores, 42 days and 3629 miles later he returned. Full of entertaining experiences and encounters, also lots of stuff on his blog.

LTSC

Just picked up the latest plan for Saturday sailings, looks like there will be sailing

every two weeks, subject to the usual wind and weather constraints, planning for high water at midday, so will be East bound in the Solent, hope this will encourage you to join in. Of course, as always, Wednesday Meanderers continues every week, Club Cruises over the Summer, dinghy sailing, and lots of training opportunities.

Adam

*Yachting Correspondent for
Sixpenny Handley*

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Homewatch

We have been very fortunate in that Sixpenny Handley has not been too badly affected by a series of break-ins in the local area, mainly to stables, garages and outbuildings. It is believed that these crimes are the work of the same people and it is really important that any suspicious activity, such as vehicles driving around with no obvious purpose or unknown individuals taking an unusual interest in houses and gardens, is reported. The number to call in such circumstances is 101 but, in an emergency or if you witness a crime actually being committed, you should dial 999.

Theft from unattended cars and vans remains a common occurrence in and around the local area. You can avoid become the victim of such crime by ensuring that nothing of any value is left in your vehicle where it can be easily seen by passers by. Where you have to leave tools or other attractive items in your vehicle,

make sure they are placed in the boot or other area where they cannot be easily seen and, of course, make sure the vehicle is securely locked.

Potholes are once again beginning to appear on the roads through and around the village. Not only do they have the potential to cause expensive damage to our vehicles, but they can also be a real road safety problem if drivers spend too much time looking out for them, and not enough time watching for other road users ahead of them. Do take time to report them to the Council so that they can be repaired in a timely manner.

Poaching and hare coursing remain a real problem in many rural areas, so please help to keep our own village and surrounding area free of such activity by reporting anything suspicious without delay.

Sampan Susie

I remember when my sisters and I were girls, quite young, maybe 6, 5 and 2 we went to the beach. This was not your easy-to-get-to beach. This was Middle Bay. From Hong Kong Island there were so many large flights of steep stairs down. Lots of steps on the way down to the jetty. I remember some sort of watercourse in the thick tropical jungle to our right. Most people were walking down in the same direction for their day out at the beach. We were encumbered by picnic hampers, bags of drinks, mats, hats, towels; every one of us carrying what we were able to bear, even my little sister with a hat on her head and a small bag in her hand. We had our swimming costumes under our shorts and t-shirts — practical portorage!

Arriving at the jetty, we stood and looked out and past the bobbing moored boats leading the eye over to the island that is Middle Bay. All would-be passengers awaited the sampan which would transport us and our baggage over to the makeshift jetty by the beach on the island. We never had long to wait as the crossing was perhaps 8 minutes. I would watch the sampan wallah so closely. She intrigued me; she rowed her sampan with one oar with a metal spigot set into lower end the oar just up from the blade. This spigot was set on to a metal piece with a hole in it, something like a catch for a bolt. She rowed in a figure of eight, over and over, deftly manoeuvring her little boat of people across the water.

Sampan Susie was her name (our name for her), as we never heard her speak. It is not possible to speak without a tongue. I think I was told that it might have been the Japanese, or possibly the communists who had maimed her in this terrible way, perhaps for saying something with which they disagreed. She made bold sounds from her throat, made facial expressions, lots of head shakes and nods. Amazingly, she made herself understood and she understood us for the most part. It must have been a long, hot day for her giving her water boat service. She had a large

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woven wide-brimmed bamboo sun hat to shield her face and eyes from the strongest of the sun's rays. Still the gleaming hot reflections of light off the water had turned her skin to deeply-lined leather.

At Middle Bay the skulls began skulling. They rowed in pairs. Dad was in a boat somewhere, warming up with his rowing partner. He had rowed at Radley and was still pretty good at it. There he was, over in the deeper water, away from moorings, pulling on those long oars in time with his partner. They were shifting, every pull on the oars a positive effort to travel backwards in what I thought a strange direction, as I was just 5. "Look where you're going!" I mouthed. "Watch out!" These were adults who had done this before so I simply looked on.

We sat and watched from our rush mats on the sand, mats which were not up to the job, soon covered in wet sand and dry. Time for snacks and drinks. SAND!! — it is bothersome stuff! It sticks to the wet swimsuit, to the drying towel, to fingers, feet, legs and bots. We always tried to sit in the shade but shade was not a constant. We had t-shirts to protect against the worst of the sun on shoulders, necks and tops of arms. We were in and out of the water like sandhoppers. My sister could swim, whereas I had on my back a polystyrene egg for a float. Mum watched us all simultaneously with eyes everywhere. My younger sister at two was probably a big handful to her, crawling up the concrete steps to the clubhouse, and then her eyes could not be on child one and child two, cavorting in the shallow but potentially deep sea. Promises had been drawn out of eldest daughter about boundaries and limitations of water play. Number two followed suit. Splashing was the game of the moment and brought on quite a bit of splashing retaliation from number two.

Late afternoon, softer shadows, rowing done, skulls washed down, away in the boathouse. Time to go home.

Standing at the quay side, bags as big as they had been before, but not quite as heavy. Squinting into the distance. Where

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is Susie? Can't see her. She is busy over the water, unloading her last payload onto land, before returning to meet us. She is invaluable to us. How else would we cross the water, make it to the other side and from there get home again? Dad thanks Susie in Cantonese, which he spoke very well and we all smile our gratitude. He pays the fare for the five of us, no notes but clinking change from his pocket. Susie has made possible our happy day out at the beach. Even now I think of her from time to time, the bold image of her in my long-term memory. If only the short-term memory was like this, immediate and reliable. Oh well, so be it ...

AD



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