



The

# Downsman

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

Delivered by Sixpenny Handley Homewatch

December 2023

**SIXPENNY HANDLEY VILLAGE HALL**

**NEW YEAR'S EVE**

**PARTY**

**SUNDAY 31st DEC : 8PM - LATE**

Featuring

**BREAK  
COVER**

**TICKETS £15**

**(KIDS 10-16 years £7.50)**

**LIVE MUSIC, QUIZ**

**SILENT DISCO AFTER MIDNIGHT**

**ROCK & POP FANCY DRESS (optional)**

**BAR & FOOD AVAILABLE**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE [ticketsource.co.uk](http://ticketsource.co.uk) Budgens & Clarkes the Butchers**

** [facebook.com/6DHandleyVillageHall](https://facebook.com/6DHandleyVillageHall)**

# 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
	Cllr Mrs M New	..... 552539
Pentridge	Cllr C Taylor	..... 553148
	Cllr A Turner	..... 552735
	Cllr Gino Salvia	..... 553076
Clerk	Ciona Nicholson	..... 552211
Parish Office		..... 552211
Dorset Council	Cllr Piers Brown	..... 07511 156 811
	Email: <a href="mailto:cllrpiers.brown@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk">cllrpiers.brown@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</a>	
Member Parliament	Simon Hoare	..... 01258 452 585

## Rights of Way Liaison Officers

Jessica/James Winby.01725 552259

## The Downsman Team

Editor	Naomi Booth	<a href="mailto:editor@thedownsman.org.uk">editor@thedownsman.org.uk</a>
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	<a href="mailto:Karen7adams@yahoo.co.uk">Karen7adams@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Entertainment	Penny Mansergh	..... 552812
Bookings	Shellie Cooper	..... 07563 703577

## Pentridge Village Hall

Chairman	Tarka King	<a href="mailto:tarkaking@gmail.com">tarkaking@gmail.com</a>
Vice Chairman	Richard Pollen	<a href="mailto:pollen@richardpollen.com">pollen@richardpollen.com</a>
Treasurer	Colin Taylor	..... 553148
Bookings	Graham Elford	..... 07882 264160
Email:	<a href="mailto:info@pentridgedorset.co.uk">info@pentridgedorset.co.uk</a>	

## 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	..... <a href="mailto:preedyzoe85@gmail.com">preedyzoe85@gmail.com</a>
Scout Hut Bookings	Pete Wilkinson	
	<a href="mailto:bookings@firstwoodcutts.org.uk">bookings@firstwoodcutts.org.uk</a>	

## Chase Community Friends

Chairman	Gordon Oxford	..... 01725 552591
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	..... 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		
Evening Captain	David Cross	..... 552640

## Citizens' Advice Bureau

Wimborne Branch	..... 03442 4 1291
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**Next edition**

The next edition will be published from  
**1st Feb 2023**

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

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](mailto: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](mailto:adverts@thedownsman.org.uk) for more details.

**Advertising deadline  
10th Jan**

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**

*Advent, Christmas and New Year*



Doesn't time fly... one minute you are starting the autumn term, the next you realise you are nearly at Christmas and haven't even blinked!

Before we get started, I was sorry to hear Gill Martin, who was a member of the Downsman committee when I started and a source of much needed solid advice, has passed away recently. You can read more in letters to the Editor. I'm glad I got to see her again in the summer at the Crossroads Cafe, an inspirational lady.

The village is gearing up with Advent, Christmas and New Year events, do look at the Noticeboard and the adverts and notices on page 10 and 11. Hopefully one of the events takes your fancy, as well as Santa on his traction engine, Christingle and the Christmas Faye and craft Fair there is the new New Year's Party at the Village Hall and the family sing along there after the traction engine has been... or why not try your luck at Christmas Bingo or humm along with Verwood Concert Brass's Christmas Concert... then we will all deserve some mince pies and a glass of sherry (or your favourite equivalent)!

It is lovely to hear of all the social activities now available in the village, and joining the Hub cafes and film nights is a new ladies social night beginning in 2024, see page 4 for more details.

Speaking of 2024, we have elections coming up! I have taken the role of Polling Clerk for a number of years with a friend in Blandford, but closer to home there are more roles that will need filling locally... Ciona, our Parish Clerk has written about our Parish Councillors and what being a Parish Councillor is all about so do have a read and get in contact if you would like to know more... Also we have all the news about the changes with the transition from analogue to digital landline phones on page 8 and 9 thanks to Andy Turner, myth busting for you!

Lastly, a huge thank you from the Scouts to so many people for their fundraising fantastic firework spectacular on page 14 and a couple of new entries for the Downsman - 'A thought on Remembrance' and all about No Dig Method on the Allotments!

Thanks to our contributors new and old and Happy Christmas and New Year to you all!

*Naomi Booth*

[editor@thedownsman.org.uk](mailto:editor@thedownsman.org.uk)

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

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More about the parish can be found at [www.sixpennyhandley.info](http://www.sixpennyhandley.info)



## To The Editor

### Gordon Oxford

Gordon Oxford has had a very long involvement with Chase Community Friends and more recently the task of its chairman which he thoroughly enjoyed. His dry sense of humour and practical support is going to be so greatly missed by the CCF team.

The Trustees and those who join us for our monthly Friday lunches send our deepest sympathies to his wife, Pat, and their family.

### Remembering Gill Martin of Sixpenny Handley

It was with great sadness to hear the news of local lady Gill Martin's recent passing. The Sixpenny Handley & Pentridge PC members would like to acknowledge and give thanks to her contribution to the Community. Gill served for many years as Secretary / Assistant Clerk to the Parish Council until her retirement in 2014.

Gill loved Sixpenny Handley and had lived here since 1982 when she moved here with her late husband Gordon.

Early in 1990/91 Gill with her friend Pauline Bailey Wright, Brian Hansford and her husband Gordon established Sixpenny Handley Short Mat Bowls Club at the Village Hall. This was the forerunner to what today is a six rink outdoor all weather surface built in 1995. It developed into a Clubhouse and licenced bar, Short Mat is still played in the Village Hall during the winter season.

Gill was the Secretary of the Club for a great many years and also served on the committee in various other capacities and only illness curtailed these activities. A lovely lady who will be greatly missed.

*Sixpenny Handley & Pentridge Parish  
Council*

## A NEW VENTURE FOR 2024...

Following the closure of Sixpenny Handley W.I. earlier this year, several ex-members have expressed how much they miss the social interaction enjoyed at the monthly meetings. For this reason, a number of us have decided to endeavour to start a new informal, social and friendship group in Sixpenny Handley for women of all ages.

A "trial" meeting was held on 23rd October in the Bowls Clubhouse, with sixteen ladies attending, which was most successful. The evening had a "Halloween" theme, comprising a quiz, a raffle and best decorated witches hat competition, also delicious Pumpkin or Leek and Potato soup (homemade by Bobbie Carter) with crusty bread, which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

In the new year we are hoping to meet and socialise regularly, including visits to local places of interest, lunches, afternoon tea and if we have enough support occasional speakers for the afternoon or evening.

If you are new to Sixpenny Handley, or even a long-time resident and wish to widen your social circle you would be most welcome to join our friendly group. There will be no membership fees or obligation to attend every meeting or event.

For further information please contact:

Bobbie Carter on 552042  
Liz Coombs on 552946  
Stella Olsen on 552450

## LOCAL, RELIABLE HANDYMAN

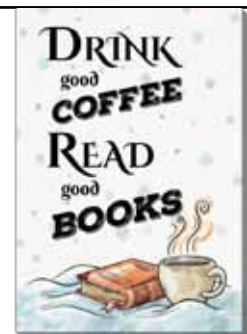
Can do almost anything,  
from plumbing to gardens

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



**Charlie Walker**

07774 393638 • 01725 552478  
chaz1940@btinternet.com



## Crossroads Café Community Hub

We are open every Monday and Wednesday  
morning  
from 9 till 12

Please come and visit us for warmth, chats with friends, a cup coffee or tea, and you can even have a go at our jig saw puzzle! And of course our library is open as well.

**Just a reminder we will have our usual Christmas Raffle on Wednesday the 20th of December.**

**This year the proceeds will go to the Macmillan Cancer Support.**

We look forward to see you and are always very pleased to see new faces.

Bea



# Downsman Noticeboard

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



SIXPENNY HANDLEY VILLAGE HALL  
**CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR & teas**  
 Sat 9th December  
**10am-2pm**  
**FREE ENTRY**  
 6DHandleyVillageHall / 07951 056069



SIXPENNY HANDLEY VILLAGE HALL  
**NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY**  
 SUNDAY 31st DEC : 8PM - LATE  
 Featuring BREAK COVER  
 TICKETS £15 (KIDS 10-16 years £7.50)  
 LIVE MUSIC, QUIZ, SILENT AUCTION, AFTER MIDNIGHT ROCK & POP FANCY DRESS, BAR & FOOD AVAILABLE  
 TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM THE VILLAGE HALL



Sixpenny Handley  
**COMMUNITY CINEMA**  
 December 15th  
 Barbie (12)  
 Jan 19th  
 A Haunting in Venice (12)  
 £6 entry  
 Bar & snacks (Popcorn, Ice-cream, Chocolate etc) available

**Santa in Handley**  
 Monday 18th December

Santa's Traction engine to travel up the High Street to the Village Hall car park, leaving Dean Lane at 6pm

to raise fund for Salisbury District Hospital's STARS APPEAL

with carol singing and mince pies in the village hall after!

St Mary's Church Sixpenny Handley with the Chapel of Gussage St Andrew invite you all to the

**Christmas Fayre**  
**Saturday 2 December**  
 11.00am to 2.00pm  
 Village Hall, Sixpenny Handley

Our Village children singing  
 Cafe, hot soup, drinks, all sorts of goodies  
 Children's activities  
 Cakes, of course  
 Mulled Wine  
 Bottle Stall  
 Preserves  
 Tombola  
 Hamper  
 Books  
 Raffle  
 Toys



**OUR PARISH LIBRARY**  
 Open when the Parish Office is open  
 From 9am - 12noon Mondays and Wednesdays  
 first and third Thursday afternoons from 3pm till 4.15pm

**CROSSROADS CAFÉ**  
 PARISH OFFICE EVERY  
 Monday & Wednesday mornings  
 FROM 9am

**Verwood Concert Brass**



**Christmas Concert**

Saturday, Dec 16th, 2023 7.30pm  
 The Hub Verwood BH31 7QE  
 Tickets £10 (under 19's £2)  
 Available from The Hub 01202 828740  
 verwoodconcertbrass.co.uk/hubconcert  
 Registered Charity No: 1144224  
 www.verwoodconcertbrass.co.uk

**Christmas BINGO**  
**Thursday 7th December**  
 Sixpenny Handley Village Hall

Doors Open 7.00pm  
 Eyes Down 7.30pm

Join us to celebrate this festive season with Mulled Wine, Mince Pies, other refreshments and a Raffle!

Card Payments Accepted




**Christingle**  
**St Mary's Church**  
**24th December**  
**4pm**



## Clerk's Corner

Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge Parish Council  
[www.sixpennyhandleyandpentridge-pc.gov.uk](http://www.sixpennyhandleyandpentridge-pc.gov.uk)

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

### Elections

With next year's elections on the horizon I felt local residents might like to know a little more about our Parish Councillors and what being a Parish Councillor is all about.

#### An interview with a Parish Councillor

##### Cllr Andy Turner

Background/Occupation:  
Retired IT Service Architect



#### How long have you lived in the Parish?

34 Years

#### How long have you been a Parish Councillor?

8 Years

Why did you get involved and agree to stand for election?

I wanted to support the community and help to make a difference whilst improving my skills, knowledge and experience.

#### What aspects do you enjoy about being a Councillor? What aspects are rewarding? What aspects are not so rewarding?

I enjoy helping people and trying to make our Parish a better place. It is especially rewarding when you know someone has benefited from work I have done. It's not so rewarding when you find that people who should know, do not listen.

#### What are currently hot topics?

For me its flooding at the moment, although the current levels have dropped we need to be prepared for the levels in the water table to rise over the winter months.

#### Why do you think people should get involved?

To bring fresh ideas which will help keep the Parish Council focussed on what the parishioners need. On a personal level you can gain so much from being part of the Parish Council, hone your own skills and experiences to help with the day job, or what you aspire to at work.

#### If you had a magic wand what changes would you make or introduce to our community?

Great local services for all ages and a regular bus service so that everyone can get into town, have the option of leaving the car at home and to allow others to come and find out what our Parish is about.

#### What to expect as a Parish Councillor?

Expect to attend 2 meetings a month and to take ownership of a particular aspect such as being school liaison. We work as a team to achieve what is needed, so working in a team is essential.

#### An interview with a Parish Councillor

##### David Chick

Background/Occupation: Farmer

#### How long have you lived in the Parish?

55 years

#### How long have you been a Parish Councillor?

12 years

#### Why did you get involved and agree to stand for election?

To help the community and get involved.

#### What aspects do you enjoy about being a Councillor? What aspects are rewarding? What aspects are not so rewarding?

I enjoy being involved with the running of the parish and also knowing what's going on. The not so rewarding aspects are when you don't feel your voice is being heard by Dorset council.

#### What are currently hot topics?

All aspects of Planning

#### Why do you think people should get involved?

It's your chance to make a difference in your community.

#### If you had a magic wand what changes would you make or introduce to our community?

For more people to make more use of the brilliant sports facilities in the village – we are very lucky to have them.

If you are inspired and would like to know more about the Parish Council – please contact the Clerk or any member of the Parish Council.

**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](http://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

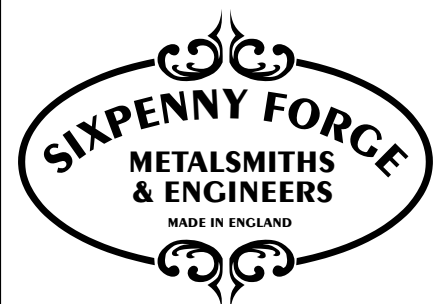


Nick Daniel

Your local Heat Pump Specialist

Tel: 07795 189 742

FREE ESTIMATES



Metalsmiths & Engineers

07766 203 817

[richard@sixpennyforge.co.uk](mailto:richard@sixpennyforge.co.uk)



# Sixpenny Handley Community Hubs



Welcome to the latest Community Hub update. To stay informed about events at the hubs and what's happening in our vibrant village, along with other useful information, please follow us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/6dHandleyHubs>



### Sunday Crossroads Café

We relaunched the Sunday Crossroads on Sunday, 30 October which was a great success, in spite of a slight technical issue with the coffee machine! Thanks to those who attended for their help and patience with this. We now have a replacement machine so normal service has resumed.

The next Sunday opening will be on Sunday 26 November. There will be a selection of cakes, in addition to our usual offerings of tea, coffee, and biscuits and a warm and inviting atmosphere. Everyone is welcome, so please do come along with your friends and family from 2.00 – 4.00 pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

Please note that we will be taking a break in December as some of our volunteers are involved with organising the New Year's Eve Party at the Village Hall on Sunday, 31 December, so will not be available. We'll be back in January though to help beat those January blues.



### Communication with the Hub Support Team

We have launched a Handley Hub Support team WhatsApp group to keep the Hub team members up to date and to help them to spread the word about our events to the wider community. It will also be used to

share any requests for support from Hub team members received from members of the community. So, if you need help with, for example, transport to an event please do let us know (see contact details below) and we will do our level best to help out. If you don't ask, we won't know!



### Help with your Laptop, Tablet or Mobile Phone

Great news for those needing 'how to' support. We now have regular one-on-one sessions at the Crossroads Café on Wednesdays.

This initiative is proving very popular and a number of sessions have already been held over the past few weeks. Andy can help you with most 'user' type problems and make use of the Parish Office internet connection to walk you through any problems and show you how to address them. If you require assistance, mark your calendar for Wednesdays (9 am – 12 noon) when Andy will be on hand at the Café.

### Attendance at Cafés

Our community hub cafés continue to be popular destinations for residents. The Crossroads Café attendance remains steady and Magnificafé consistently sees around 25 to 30 attendees, with a special shoutout to our mums and young children who frequent these Thursday sessions in the Church. Your support is truly appreciated.

### Citizens Advice Bus

The Citizens Advice bus continues to be a valuable resource for our community. Mags and Tracey from Citizens Advice East Dorset and Purbeck are regularly seeing 3 to 5 visitors every other Wednesday.

It will next be at the Parish Office car park on Wednesday 6 and Wednesday 20 December. We are waiting to hear whether the necessary funding will be in place to enable them to continue their visits to the village in 2024. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates as well as the next issue of The Downsman.



### Your Community Hub Needs You!

We are keen to encourage more members of the community to volunteer, especially on Sundays, so if you would be interested in joining us, please contact Andy on: 552735 or at: [andydturner@outlook.com](mailto:andydturner@outlook.com)

All the community hubs are run by a band of cheerful volunteers who will guarantee you a friendly welcome and a listening ear. They are subsidised by the host organisation and a minimal charge or donation is requested to help cover costs if you are able. We really hope that even more members of our wonderful community will come along and join in at one or more of these venues.

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

# Chalke Heating

Martin Miller: 07732460258


e-mail: [martin@chalkeheating.com](mailto:martin@chalkeheating.com)


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



# UK Transition From Analogue To Digital Landline Phones

## And What It Means For The Residents Of Sixpenny Handley

As you may be aware, telecoms companies in the UK are replacing the technology they use to provide fixed telephone networks (landlines), which involves replacing copper lines with fibre lines and shifting to digital exchanges. The industry plans to upgrade landline services to new digital technology using an internet connection, such as Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), Digital Voice or All-IP telephony. For most customers, the upgrade is expected to be completed by 2025.



For us in Sixpenny Handley the technology will be available early next year. We are very fortunate to be benefitting from a government contract that will enable local provider, Wessex Internet, to establish a 'fibre to the property (FTTP)' network bringing this new technology directly to your home. This is probably the most significant infrastructure upgrade since the 1900s.

This report aims to explain the implications of this transition for homeowners and businesses within the parish and to inform residents about the available options to transition to a 'digital' telephone service. Please note, you do still have a choice!

### Why is the old network being replaced?

The existing copper-based phone lines, also called 'analogue networks,' have been in use for many years and have become outdated. Sourcing parts for maintenance or repairs has become challenging because suppliers no longer manufacture them. To address this issue, the telecoms industry is transitioning to new digital phone lines known as fibre lines. These modern lines will enable communication providers to deliver clearer and higher-quality phone calls to consumers and businesses. Additionally, they will introduce new features like anonymous caller rejection and three-way calling.



### What does this mean for me?

The transition to digital phone lines will generally be easy for most consumers, but the exact process may vary depending on your communication provider, typically BT or Openreach, and the equipment they use.

If you already have broadband, the change may just involve connecting your phone to your broadband router instead of the wall socket. Telecoms companies will contact their customers before the migration, so you don't need to do anything until your provider contacts you. Keep an eye out for their correspondence. Broadband customers might already be receiving letters and socket adaptors to connect their phones to their router.

### What if I don't have or don't want to have broadband?

Legislation remains unchanged and ensures that all consumers in the UK will retain access to a landline service if they desire one. For those who don't have broadband or don't want a high-speed internet connection, certain providers will still offer a basic internet connection solely for making calls. This means you can continue to have a landline in your home, but the technology supporting it will change.

If your current telephone service provider cannot offer this or you decide to switch to another provider, you may need to upgrade your telephone handset to a 'digital' telephone, essentially equipped with its own broadband connection.



### Vulnerable customers

Ofcom has published a guide to ensure that vulnerable customers are treated fairly and that any at-risk customers are supported.

If you believe you or one of your relatives is a vulnerable customer who depends on a landline, you should notify your/their provider so that they can advise on how the migration could affect you/them.

It is the responsibility of the provider to ensure that those who depend on a landline are provided with a resilient solution that will allow customers to make calls to the emergency services in the event of a power outage and the government is working with Ofcom to ensure this is the case.

### What if I have specific need for a landline or other devices connected to a phone line?

If you are a vulnerable customer and have specific needs, such as having other devices connected to your phone line like alarm systems or fax machines, you can discuss what additional steps or replacement devices or adaptors you need with your telephone provider or equipment supplier.

Current analogue landlines provide low-voltage power from the telephone exchange, allowing handsets to function during power outages. However, digital landlines (typically fibre lines) cannot supply power, so handsets and routers need a backup power source like a battery to work during power cuts. Ofcom requires telecoms companies to ensure uninterrupted access to emergency services even during power outages. They must offer at least one solution that provides access to emergency services for a minimum of one hour during power outages, free of charge, for those who rely on their landline.

For most customers, using a mobile phone as a backup during power outages is recommended by telecoms companies. If

you don't have a mobile or have a poor or no signal, as is the case in some parts of the village, your landline provider should provide a solution such as a battery backup unit, enabling you to make emergency calls during power cuts.

In the UK, national roaming allows emergency calls to be made using any mobile network, even if you're not a customer. Your handset may display "Emergency calls only" in such situations.

If you're uncertain about how a device in your home or business will be affected, it's advisable to contact the equipment supplier or device manufacturer to determine its compatibility with a digital phone line.

If you're planning to buy a new alarm or device before this change, please make sure that you confirm with the equipment provider that it's compatible with digital phone lines to ensure it remains functional and future-proof.

#### **What does this mean for my business within the Parish?**

The shift to digital landlines will impact all customers, including businesses in the parish. Businesses should plan for a smooth transition to digital alternatives to minimise disruption in 2025.

Landlines are also crucial for various devices like burglar alarms and card payment systems. Since telecoms providers may not be aware of all connected devices, it's essential for businesses to assess their device usage and decide if replacements, upgrades, or adaptors are needed. If you're a business customer and have concerns about the switch to digital phone lines, it's advisable to contact your telecom provider for assistance.



#### **Upgrading the village's telephone network from Analogue to Digital**

The villages' phone network is currently undergoing an upgrade from analogue (copper) to digital (fibre). Wessex Internet

has been contracted to deliver fibre networks in Sixpenny Handley. This will cover over 450 households which is the majority of the village. These fibre lines will be installed but not physically connected unless homeowners order the fibre service from Wessex Internet. This project is expected to commence in December 2023 and conclude in early 2024. Homeowners have the option to switch to the new fibre service or keep their existing arrangements.



#### **Digital switch over deadlines**

Openreach has set a deadline of 31 December 2025, for when service providers must migrate most analogue telephone lines to digital phone lines. It is likely that most customers in Sixpenny Handley will transition earlier which, as explained above, will affect your product offerings, so you are encouraged to check with your provider for the available options.

Openreach has stated that once an exchange area is over 75% full fibre-enabled, they will cease selling traditional phone line services at fully fibre-enabled premises. This is expected to occur after Wessex Internet has completed installing the fibre network in the village, but no date has been set. To meet the 2025 migration deadline, service providers will be contacting customers in the village to facilitate the switch to digital phone services. If you switch to Wessex Internet's fibre service, you will need a 'digital' telephone service at the time you are changing your broadband to full-fibre broadband.

If you need any further information or help, please contact Andy Turner on: 552735 or at: andyturner@outlook.com

Useful numbers and websites:

UK Government website:  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-transition-from-analogue-to-digital-landlines#overview>

Openreach: <https://www.openreach.com/>

BT: <https://www.bt.com/help/broadband/your-switch-over-day--everything-you-need-to-know-about-your-mov/>  
Or call: 150 (from BT mobile) or 0330 1234 150

Wessex Internet: <https://www.wessexinternet.com/> / 0333 240 7997



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Donhead St. Andrew

## Community Carols to Sing for Santa Monday 18 December, 6.00pm

This festive occasion is to raise fund for Salisbury District Hospital's STARS APPEAL. No doubt there are quite a few of your neighbours in village who have benefited from the support that the Stars Appeal provides. It will be wonderful to support this fund-raising and, indeed fun-raising event for the whole family.

As reindeer only fly on Christmas Eve, Santa will have to ride on a traction engine to travel up the High Street to the Village Hall car park. The folk who organise events at the Village Hall together with the people at the Church, felt this provided a golden opportunity for children of all ages (some have grey hair, some even have beards) to come together to let rip on some carol singing. Of course, singing can be quite

thirsty work, therefore, you will be able to wet your whistle on some mulled wine or hot chocolate, and biscuits, and cheese straws, and snacks. And, mince pies. It's Christmas!

For info and updates, please refer to the Facebook pages, of 6DHandley Village Hall and St Mary's Church, Sixpenny Handley or call 01725 553150.



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### Frogmore Barn Christmas Event

Enjoy Christmas shopping in our Barn Showroom in Sixpenny Handley which is to be open on the first three Fridays and Saturdays of December between 10am and 4 pm

Frogmore Barn is filled with a wide range of Christmas gifts and Decorations for the whole family. You can call or email for the Barn to open at any other time. Please see our Website



Christmas Reindeer

Frogmore Farmhouse, Frogmore Lane, Sixpenny Handley SP5 5NY  
Tel: 01725 552910 or E-Mail: [frogmoredesign@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:frogmoredesign@tiscali.co.uk)  
See our Website: [www.frogmoredesign.com](http://www.frogmoredesign.com)

**Christmas**  
**BINGO**

**Thursday 7th December**

Sixpenny Handley Village Hall

Doors Open 7.00pm  
Eyes Down 7.30pm

Join us to celebrate this festive season with Mulled Wine, Mince Pies, other refreshments and a Raffle!

Card Payments Accepted

**Verwood**  
**Concert Brass**

**Christmas**  
**Concert**

Saturday, Dec 16th, 2023 7.30pm  
The Hub Verwood BH31 7QE  
Tickets £10 (under 19's £2)  
Available from The Hub 01202 828740  
[verwoodconcertbrass.co.uk/hubconcert](http://verwoodconcertbrass.co.uk/hubconcert)  
Registered Charity No: 1144224  
[www.verwoodconcertbrass.co.uk](http://www.verwoodconcertbrass.co.uk)



St Mary's Church Sixpenny Handley with the  
Chapel of Gussage St Andrew invite you all to the

# Christmas Fayre

**Saturday 2 December**  
11.00am to 2.00pm  
Village Hall, Sixpenny Handley

Our Village children singing  
Cafe, hot soup, drinks,  
all sorts of goodies  
Children's activities  
Cakes, of course  
Mulled Wine  
Bottle Stall  
Prizes  
Tombo  
Hamper  
Books  
Raffle  
Toys



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or drop me a line:  
[philippa@fundogtraining.org](mailto:philippa@fundogtraining.org)



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foodie treats



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Fresh stock arriving regularly

### OPENING HOURS

We are open every day until Christmas  
Monday - Saturday 9.30am to 5pm,  
Sunday 10am - 5pm

### OPENING HOURS OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

Christmas Eve - Open 9.30am - 2.30pm  
Christmas Day, Boxing Day,  
& 27th December CLOSED  
28th - 30th December OPEN 10am - 4pm  
31st December - 4th January CLOSED

\*\*\*  
SEASONAL SALE starts at 9.30am  
on Friday 5th January  
Please note we close at  
4pm throughout January

**GARDEN CENTRE GIFT SHOP CAFÉ**  
Cranborne, Dorset, BH21 5PP 01725 517248 [info@cranbornegardencentre.co.uk](mailto:info@cranbornegardencentre.co.uk)  
[www.cranbornegardencentre.co.uk](http://www.cranbornegardencentre.co.uk)



**WANTED! New Secretary to the Charity Trustees**

We're looking for someone with relevant skills to join our friendly team of volunteers as Secretary to the Charity Trustees.

Duties will include:

- taking and circulating meeting agendas and minutes
- booking traders for our craft fairs
- organising general maintenance
- keeping records and contracts up to date
- dealing with ad hoc correspondence.

Do you have an admin background and great organisational skills? Would you like to help us to run our wonderful community asset? Can you spare a few hours of your time per month? If so, we'd love to hear from you. Please send us a message at: 6dhandleyhall@gmail.com telling us why you'd like to join the team or call Paul on: 07786 790349 for further information.

We are totally reliant on the generosity of those who are prepared to give up some of their valuable time to run the village hall and to help out at events, etc. If you would like to be more involved to ensure that this amazing asset can continue to bring quality events to our community, please do get in touch.

**A BIG, BIG thank you**

Improvements to the village hall continue. We now have a larger patio area and have started on the outside project (although this will now be put on hold until the spring!)

We are hugely grateful to Anthony Brown and the 1st Woodcutts Explorers who have made a wonderful rustic pergola for us. We look forward to covering it with fragrant climbers and making it into a lovely space for people to use when visiting the hall.



**Village Hall News**

Sixpenny Handley Village Hall CIO  
(Charity Number: 1201429)



**Entertainment Update**

The Community Cinema will continue on the third Friday of the month throughout the winter.



In December, we've got the cinematic phenomenon **Barbie** coming to Handley!

To live in Barbie Land is to be a perfect being in a perfect place. Unless you have a full-on existential crisis. Or you're a Ken. Barbie (Margot Robbie) and Ken (Ryan Gosling) are having the time of their lives in the colourful and seemingly perfect world of Barbie Land. However, when they get a chance to go to the real world, they soon discover the joys and perils of living among humans.

So, dust off your pink outfits (encouraged but not compulsory!) and come and join us on **Friday 15 December** for a pre-Christmas romp in Barbie Land! Doors open at 6.30 and the film starts at 7.00 pm.

Our January 2024 film is **A Haunting in Venice**, the third film in which Kenneth Branagh reprises his role as Belgian sleuth, Hercule Poirot.

The film, an adaption of one of the least known Agatha Christie Poirot whodunits, 'Hallowe'en Party', is set in eerie post-World War II Venice. Poirot, now retired and living in self-imposed exile, reluctantly attends a séance at a decaying, haunted palazzo. When one of the guests is murdered, the former detective is thrust into a sinister world of shadows and secrets and must put

Keep up to date with events on [facebook.com/6DHandleyVillageHall](https://facebook.com/6DHandleyVillageHall) and Nextdoor

his little grey cells to work one more time to uncover the killer.

Expect the unexpected – this film in not for the faint hearted! Come and join us on **Friday 19 January** for this darker and spookier spin on Branagh's Poirot.

Further 2024 dates for your diary: Friday 16 February (The Great Escaper), Friday 15 March (The Miracle Club) and Friday 19 April (tbc). Keep an eye on our Facebook page and the next issue of The Downsman for full details of all these films.

Tickets cost £6 and are available on the door only. Please see: [www.movoioala.org](http://www.movoioala.org) or Facebook: 6dHandleyVillageHall for further information.

**Christmas Craft Fair with Teas**

Our final Craft Fair & Teas for 2023 will be held on Saturday 9 December. We have 21 traders attending, selling a wonderful selection of Christmas gifts including leather, needlefelt, wool and wood goods; jewellery; soaps, creams and wax melts; cards and tags; plus preserves, jams and chutneys. There's something for everyone!

We will have some delicious homemade festive food for sale accompanied by some suitably festive music.

SIXPENNY HANDLEY VILLAGE HALL  
**CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR & teas**  
Sat 9th December  
**10am-2pm**  
**FREE ENTRY**  
6DHandleyVillageHall / 07951 056069



AND, we'll be open an hour longer than usual – from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm, so why not come and have lunch in the warmth of our little meeting room. Have a pre-Christmas catch up with your friends and neighbours whilst shopping for some unique Christmas gifts for your loved ones! Soup and sandwiches will be on sale along with the usual array of delicious homemade cakes.

#### NEW YEAR'S EVE FUN & GAMES

We have some fantastic fun and games

planned for New Year's Eve!

The theme for the evening is "Rock & Pop" and we encourage you to dress up accordingly. This is optional, but we will be giving out prizes to the best fancy dress on the night so get planning your outfit now!!

Fabulous local cover band – Break Cover - promise that "no songs are out of bounds for the Break Cover treatment – rock, rock & roll, 80s, pop and even some more recent songs get an outing in our set. If you can sing-along or dance to it, then we'll turn it into a Break Cover cover."

Featuring music from every decade since the 50s including songs by Queen, AC\DC, Billy Idol, ZZ Top, Led Zeppelin, The Cult, Simple Minds, The Black Keys, Imelda May, Beth Hart, Blondie, Tina Turner, Kim Wilde, Joan Jett, The Clash, The Kinks, Bryan Adams, Deep Purple, The Monkees and many, many more, Break Cover promise to get us in the party mood.

During the evening we will be holding the BIG Quiz of the Year, so brush up on what's happened during 2023, as well as your general knowledge as there will be a great prize for the winning table.

Out of respect to our neighbours at the hall, we have booked a silent disco for after midnight. This means that we can carry on having fun with some great tunes playing through headphones, without disturbing those who choose not to stay up late!

The bar will be fully stocked with beers, cider, wine, prosecco and spirits (gin, vodka and bacardi) and savoury and sweet snacks will be available to buy. And, for those who get the munchies later on in the evening, you can pre-order hot food (fishfinger sandwich or vegan falafels) on the night which will be served at around 10.30 pm.

The event is supported by the Sixpenny Sessions team. Children over 10 are welcome (as long as accompanied by an adult). Tickets costing £15 (adult) and £7.50 (child 10 – 16) are now on sale at Clarkes the Butcher, Budgens and online at Ticketsource.

Any profit raised will go to the Village Hall CIO (Charity Number: 1201429) and will be used to maintain this wonderful facility of ours for the whole community.

Please keep an eye on our Facebook pages (6DHandleyVillageHall and 6Dacoustic.live) for updates.

So, tell all your friends and family NOW! Let's get together for a fantastic community celebration to welcome in 2024.

#### Your Village Hall

Don't forget you can book for your events too, see our advert for details <<<




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email: 6dhandleyhall@gmail.com**



**Scouts**   
1st Woodcutts  
Group Scout Leader  
John Curtis  
01725 552397

## 1st Woodcutts News

[www.firstwoodcutts.org.uk](http://www.firstwoodcutts.org.uk)

**Squirrels**

Age 4-6  
Thursday 4:15pm  
Zoe Wilkinson  
01725 552397

**BEAVERS**  
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

### Fireworks Thanks

Firstly we just want to say a huge thank you to everyone who came and supported our Firework Spectacular. We raised over £11,600 for our Scout group. Also £800 was raised by the Skate Park Crew and £860 by Sixpenny Handley First School!

Skip SKip, Rob Easton says "We put on an awesome night and wowed the crowds. They travelled from far and wide and promised they would be back. Comments heard 'best display I have ever seen, better than Disney!'; 'what a welcoming group of volunteers'; 'everyone seemed so happy, even those pushing cars out of the mud!' 'I wish our scout group was this welcoming and friendly'.

We want to thank Steve and Lee for their ongoing generosity for the use of their land, Clarkes the Butcher, Budgens Sixpenny Handley and Chettle Shop for selling tickets and also all those sponsors who kindly supported the event either financially or through services - without them the display could not happen.

This display is also only possible with the support of an army of volunteers. A special thank you to those who were out in force on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. It was long and often wet days, but it was worth it. So, to the car parkers, ticket checkers, burger flippers, beer sellers, till ringers, litter pickers, firework firers, games runners, tea makers and all those who were part of this amazing event. - THANK YOU!"

Funds raised for Scouts mostly covers the HQ running costs at Woodcutts and also goes towards extra activities and camp expenses for our young people.

### Autumn Term

Squirrels had a fantastic few weeks welcoming new leaders, squirrels and a young helper! We have been working towards our feel good badge, talking about feelings and emotions. Being kind and unkind to our apples and showing the



inside results.

Beavers have had a crafty time making bug hotels, spiders, remembrance poppies sun catchers and collages.

Cubs have been exploring cultures, games, faiths and festivals from around the world as part of our World Challenge Award. . We have also been working on some great teamwork challenges including the egg-drop this week!

Scouts have enjoyed baking, map reading and lots of games following their work helping prep and pack-up from Fireworks!

Explorers created a great range of games for their Fireworks Fund-raising and are looking forward to a war hammer evening. Their pergola work is also complete and up at the Village Hall!

And we all took part in the Remembrance Parade on Sunday 12th November where Squirrels and Beavers presented their poppy collages to be placed in the church.



Over 100 members of 1st Woodcutts were on parade for Remembrance Sunday. Cub pack pictured ready to march up the High Street



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# Church News

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

**THE VIEW FROM THE PULPIT** Rev Dr David Miell Priest in Charge

Dear Friends

As the days get shorter, we become acutely aware of darkness closing in around us. Sadly, 'dark days' describes not only the season but also the state of our world. So, it is good to remind ourselves that, in the Christian Calendar, this is now the Season of Light. All through December and January, from Advent through Christmas and Epiphany to Candlemas, we celebrate the "the true light, which enlightens everyone, coming into the world" (John 1:9), the light who is Jesus Christ.

This year we light the first Advent Candle on 3 December, adding another each Sunday until the Advent Wreath is completed by lighting a candle on

Christmas Day, representing Christ's birth. In the darkest days of winter, the Church proclaims words of hope from the Bible: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined" (Isaiah 9:2) and "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5).

Imagine the shepherds guarding their flocks in the dead of night: cold, lonely, keeping watch, yet ready to face whatever lurks in the dark. Suddenly, they see - an angel! The glory of the Lord shines around them (Luke 2:9)! And they are terrified - not of the dark but of the light! Too often we'd rather face the terrors of the dark - all

too familiar to us - than the searing light of truth to which the Love of God exposes us. But the reassuring message of the angel to the shepherds, and to all of us, is "Do not be afraid", for this is "good news of great joy for all people" - God is not against us but for us - and "with us" - in the form of this child in the manger, "a Saviour, who is Christ, the Lord". And those who, like the shepherds and wise men, dare to go through the darkness to see for themselves, find it to be true: "Jesus is the light of the world and whoever follows him will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life" (John 8.12).

David Miell

## Our Benefice

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

Our plan is to form two 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, Handley, Pentridge, Chettle, Farnham & Tollard Royal would form the northern Benefice. These are the 11 parishes that David and Henriët

currently support, but they both will leave us for retirement in July 2024. The good news is that the post for our new Benefice was advertised recently and we have at least one applicant. Shortlisting and interviews will follow soon and with luck we may see a new priest here in Handley serving our local parishes by Easter. If anyone has any thoughts or concerns about this, or wishes to input an idea that may be helpful for the challenges we face, please write to [notices@handleychurch.org.uk](mailto: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 many have assumed that we have no priest, but we do. Our priest in charge for now of course remains Rev Dr David Miell who along with Henriët look after our pastoral needs. They will certainly be working hard for us over the Christmas period.

## WHAT'S BEEN?

In October, it was 'standing room only' at the Chapel of Gussage St Andrew. Over fifty people came to listen to Sue Smith tell us - and show us - about the ways in which traditions of harvest have been recorded in illuminated manuscripts: some of these manuscripts date back over 600 years. Sue's slides showed their astonishing beauty with vivid colours; she described the painstaking methods and the plants used to make those colours. We also learned all sorts of interesting facts, for instance, how our present-day fiscal year of 5 April stems from the church's calendar, albeit a very circuitous route. As usual, when we have such a fund-raising

occasion, food seems to appear without too much prior arrangements - which has slight echoes of the feeding of the five thousand - except in this case, there was very little left over! Our thanks to Sue Smith for her wonderful effort on our behalf; astonishingly the event raised over £700 for both churches.

Remembrance Sunday was, as usual, marked by the whole village. 1st Woodcutts Scout Group followed Veterans and Serving Military Personnel marching up the High Street to the War Memorial. After observing the Two-Minute Silence

at the 11th hour and reading the Roll of Honour, many moved into St Mary's to continue the Service. As well as the Union flag, members from each section of the Scout Group presented their Standards to Rev David Miell who placed them by the altar, together with collages that the Beavers and Squirrels had made out of potato cuts to make poppy prints. A number of young 1st Woodcutts' members participated in the Service which was marvellous to see. There is always something very moving about a flag being very slowly trailed to salute the fallen and Handley marked Remembrance Day with its usual special spirit and dignity.



## What's On

By the time you read this we will have had the third of our new season of Film Nights in the Village Hall. Please support this joint initiative between St Mary's & St Andrew's PCC and the Village Hall Committee, offering excellent films in a comfortable, warm setting with the opportunity to have a snack or a drink. Look out for future FILM NIGHTS coming soon.

### The Handley Christmas Fayre, Saturday 2nd December in the Village Hall

11am - 2 pm.

Our Village children singing, Café, hot soup, drinks, all sorts of goodies, Children's activities, Cakes, of course Mulled Wine, Bottle Stall, Preserves, Tombola, Hamper, Books, Raffle, Toys. All the lovely people who have helped before with this event will have done their best to raise funds and provide you with a Christmas opportunity to find some presents whilst enjoying the Christmas spirit.

### Community Café

MAGNIFICAFÉ 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 wifi.

### 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

### Normal Weekly 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. If you would like to receive this, please email  
notices@handleychurch.org.uk

## 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

### Special Community Carol Event for Christmas: Sing for Santa, Monday 18th December at 6.00pm

More info on page 10

## CHURCH SERVICES DECEMBER 2023 & JANUARY 2024


3rd December	1st Sunday of Advent	1st Sunday
9.00am	Pentridge	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00am	Sixpenny Handley	Family Service
10th December	2nd Sunday of Advent	2nd Sunday
9:00am	Gussage St Andrew	Matins (BCP)
10:00am	Sixpenny Handley	Holy Communion (CW)
17th December	3rd Sunday of Advent	3rd Sunday
9.00am	Sixpenny Handley	Holy Communion (said)
10.00am		Informal Service
10.30am	Pentridge	Matins (BCP)
6.00pm	Sixpenny Handley	Carol Service
Monday 18th December		6pm Carol Service at Pentridge
24th December	Christmas Eve	4th Sunday
9.00am	Gussage St Andrew	Holy Communion (BCP)
4.00pm	Sixpenny Handley	Christingle Service
25th December	Christmas Day	Monday
10:00am	Sixpenny Handley	Holy Communion (CW)
11.15am	Pentridge	Holy Communion
31st December	First Sunday of Christmas	5th Sunday
10.0am	Tollard Royal	Group Holy Communion (CW)

7th January	Epiphany	1st Sunday
9.00am	Pentridge	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00am	Sixpenny Handley	Family Service
14th January	Second Sunday of Epiphany	2nd Sunday
9:00am	Gussage St Andrew	Matins (BCP)
10.00am	Sixpenny Handley	Holy Communion (CW)
21st January	Third Sunday of Epiphany	3rd Sunday
10:00am	Sixpenny Handley	Informal Service
10.30am	Pentridge	Matins (BCP)
28th January	Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)	4th Sunday
9.00am	Gussage St Andrew	Holy Communion (BCP)
10:00am	Sixpenny Handley	Holy Communion



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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.

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## Double your donation to CRESS in the Big Give Christmas Challenge 2023

CRESS are taking part in the Big Give Christmas Challenge to raise £12,600 in just 1 week! Funds will be used to support South Sudanese Refugees in Uganda.

CRESS has set up 74 Savings groups in rural Northern Uganda with 1669 registered members, 75% of whom are women. Savings groups act like a community bank. Refugees put their money in and can then ask for loans for business or family needs. They repay back over time with interest. Groups are also encouraged to create projects to raise funds together. Big Give will enable our yearly savings conferences where groups are trained students inspired and ideas are shared. We hope also to run an inspirational conference for the children whose education is supported by CRESS sponsors.

Donations to our Big Give Christmas Challenge will be generously matched by our supporters & The Together Trust>> during the campaign meaning your money can support twice as many refugees.

Isaac Soro, Savings Officer in Uganda sent a recent case study:

“At 32 years old, Maneno, married with four children, joined the Ajunyafe Rich Savings Group in March 2021. She acknowledges the life-changing impact of the program, stating that her ability to start a business and increase her savings enabled her to send her brother back to school and invest in livestock”

Caroline Lamb, CRESS Founder and CEO says:

“We have been so impressed with the take-up and reports of the ever growing numbers of Savings Group members and their success stories. We hope you will support this, our first Big Give Challenge, and enable us to bring together and inspire the members to further success in their small businesses which enable them to be more self-sufficient, feed, clothe, house, educate their families and pay for health care.”



### How can you get involved?

- Visit [BigGive.org](https://BigGive.org). and make a donation from November 28th and December 5th  
- Set a reminder and add our campaign page <https://tinyurl.com/cress-big-give-2023> (or use the QR code) to it so you remember not to miss your chance to double your donation this Christmas!

### Don't forget

We also have CRESS Christmas Cards for sale at The Hub in Broadchalke £5 for 8 cards from The Hub or email - [caroline.lamb@cressuk.org](mailto:caroline.lamb@cressuk.org) (extra charge for postage)  
Not sending cards? Why not send some via email - [dontsendmeacard.com/ecards/charities/cress/christmas](https://dontsendmeacard.com/ecards/charities/cress/christmas)

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# Per Ardua Ad Astra

## Royal Air Force

### A History - Part 3

Reflecting briefly on Major Edward Mannock VC, in the Air Force of today his general state of health would prevent him from becoming a pilot. When war was declared on Turkey, now aligned to Germany, on November 5th, 1914, Edward was employed by the National Telephone Company and had volunteered early in 1914, to work with their operations in Turkey; thus, within days Edward, along with other British nationals, was interned and may well have died such were the appalling conditions in which he was held, but by good fortune his plight was brought to the attention of America's Consular Agent\*[probably based in Constantinople] who attained Edward's release. Owing to his pitiful state his documents were stamped "Unfit for military duties." The privations of internment had left him with defective vision in his right eye, but despite this serious impairment a burning desire to serve the Allied cause he was first accepted into the Royal Army Medical Corps, then by the Royal Engineers until, finally, the Royal Flying Corps.

With scant time to grieve the loss of their commanding officer, No. 85 Squadron soon were heavily committed to what historians refer to as the "One Hundred Days Offensive" with the commencement of the Battle of Amiens.

After four years spent in trench warfare, and with countless setbacks behind them; no one who served on the Western Front, and survived, will forget the horrors of two years previous when on July 1st, 1916, the Battle of the Somme opened with high hope of breaking through the German lines and routing the enemy in one epic battle.

For reasons since explained in numerous books that focus solely on this battle it was not to be and by the end of the opening day 57,000 men from fourteen British Divisions that 'went over the top' were either dead, dying, wounded, missing or captured. It was the darkest of all days in the history of the British Army. Over the next five months [some sources stretch the battle beyond Christmas and New Year] the advance, supported on its right flank by the French, gained ground but at a terrible cost until

the fighting petered out and the misery of trench warfare returned.

As briefly noted in the opening part of this history of the Royal Air Force, the German spring offensive had succeeded in driving a huge gap in a front held by weakened divisions of the Third and Fifth Armies. This was eventually stemmed, but for several months since enemy forces had caused much consternation amongst the Allied generals. Much of their success in these attacks can be attributed to the release of of well trained divisions from the Eastern Front for following the Treaty of Brest-Livovsk, Russia was to all intent and purpose 'removed' from the war. But throughout the summer the build up of American forces had restored the balance of power along the Western Front and by July 1918, an exhausted enemy was finally halted. Now, rejuvenated French, British and Commonwealth divisions were ready to go over to the offensive.

Alternatively known as the Third Battle of Picardy the Allies struck in dense fog at 04.30 hours on August 8th, 1918. The success achieved in the ground fighting that day, particularly by the Australian and Canadian Corps commanded respectively by Lieutenant-General John Monash and Lieutenant-General Arthur Currie, effectively ended the long years of near stalemate when neither side was able to stamp their authority on the battlefield.

Such was the impact of the opening day that Erich Frederic Wilhelm Ludendorff [architect of the spring offensive] was moved to describe it as "Schwarzer Tag des deutschen Heeren" - the blackest day of the German Army.

In the air the Royal Air Force was fully involved to which their skilled opponents reacted with great vigour. Thus, below the myriad of aerial battles lay a landscaped wreathed in the 'fog of war.' Stripped bare from years of almost continuous artillery bombardment the earth was torn to pieces and within the mass of thousands of shell holes, many filled with an evil-

smelling morass of stagnant water, lay the detritus of war slowly decaying. For the men advancing behind the creeping barrages of fire it was a scene bordering on Armageddon. Rusting entanglements of barbed wire with here and their skeletal remains of some unfortunate soldier ensnared in its unforgiving grip; shattered buildings, artillery pieces smashed by the deluge of high explosives that had rained down on their positions and more than a few twisted remains of aeroplanes that had fallen in combat. Before the day was over many more would fly their final sortie.

Supporting the Royal Air Force were three squadrons from the Australian Flying Corps, two equipped with fighters and one engaged on aerial reconnaissance. Such was the intensity of air fighting that when the sun dropped below the western horizon eighty-nine of our aircraft had been brought down, either through enemy action or by the bane of every pilot's life - mechanical malfunction. A ninetieth machine, an Aiirco DH.9 from No. 233 Squadron based at Dover, went down in the Channel following engine failure, its crew, Lieutenant H G Sullivan and 2nd Lieutenant C D Churchill being picked up unharmed by their experience.

These were the heaviest losses sustained since formation on April 1st, 1918. All are identified between pages 113 and 126 of my second volume devoted to Royal Air Force squadron losses. For a mere 'snapshot' I recount the fate of two crews, both from No. 5 Squadron equipped with RE.8 two-seater reconnaissance machines. Operating from Bovelles the squadron commenced flying as soon as the fog lifted. For Lieutenant F C Russell and his observer, Lieutenant Lewis John Francis Oertling, they were tasked with working with artillery batteries firing on enemy positions and while doing so they came under attack from an enemy scout. With his RE.8 shot through in numerous places Russell managed to crash-land behind enemy lines. He survived to become a prisoner of war but Lewis Oertling was fatally wounded; he now rests in peace at Vignacourt

British Cemetery, some 16km northwest of Amiens, while 28km southeast of Amiens at Caix their squadron colleagues, Lieutenants Arnold Derham Robinson and Arthur Charles Southeron-Estcourt, a graduate from Magdalen College, Oxford, and a holder of the Military Cross, fell to their deaths. I have little doubt their bodies were recovered by a unit from the Canadian Corp who captured the village of Caix on the first day of the battle. Both were buried in Caix British Cemetery.

\* Page 157 of Chaz Bowyer's classic 'For Valour - The Air VCs' published by William Kimber, 1978.

*To be continued  
Bill Chorley*

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## CBA Services

We are in full flow at the office completing Self Assessment Tax Returns for our clients. Please remember, if you are doing your own online tax return these must be submitted to HMRC (HM Revenue &

Customs) by 31st January 2024 for tax year 2022/23. The deadline for sending paper Returns closed on 31 October 2023.

### Current State Pension Age

The second review of the State Pension age has been published by the Department for Work and Pensions. The State Pension age is currently 66. The review has stated that

a further increase in the State Pension age to 67 for those born on or after April 1960 will take place as planned between 2026 and 2028. Following this announcement, the government has confirmed the State Pension age will rise to 67 by the end of 2028.

The Pensions Act 2014 requires the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to regularly review the State Pension age. There had also been plans for a further gradual rise in the State Pension age to 68 between 2044 and 2046 for those born on or after April 1977. The government plans to have a further review within two years of the next Parliament to reconsider the rise to age 68.

This will ensure that the government is able to consider the latest information to inform any future decision on the State Pension age. This will include life expectancy and population projections, the economic position, and the impact on the labour market.

The government has said they remain committed to the principle of providing 10 years notice of changes to State Pension age, enabling people to plan effectively for retirement. All options for the rise to the State Pension age from 67 to 68 that meet the 10 years notice period will be in scope at the next review.

### Filling Gaps in National Insurance Record

National Insurance credits can help qualifying applicants to fill gaps in their National Insurance record. This can assist taxpayers to build up the number of qualifying years of National Insurance contributions and which can increase the amount of benefits a person is entitled to, such as the State Pension.

This could happen if someone were:

- employed but had low earnings;
- unemployed and were not claiming benefits;
- self-employed but did not pay contributions because of small profits; and
- living or working outside the UK.

National Insurance credits are available in certain situations where people are not working and therefore, not paying National Insurance credit. For example, credits may be available to those looking for work, who are ill, disabled or on sick pay, on parental leave, caring for someone or on jury service.



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## Homewatch

Christmas is almost upon us again and the winter months bring long dark nights and the need for increased vigilance, especially over the Christmas and New Year period, when many of us will be out celebrating with family, neighbours and friends. Do ensure you lock your home securely when you go out, even if only for a short while, and that curtains are drawn and some lights left on. In particular, do not leave Christmas presents where they can be seen from outside.

If you are going away over the festive season, you may wish to alert your neighbours that the house will be empty and ask them to keep an eye on your property. Equally, even if you have not been specifically asked to watch out for your neighbours, please be vigilant and report anything suspicious to the Police. If we all stay alert to the increased risk of opportunistic crime, we can help deter the ill-intentioned and keep our community safe.

Although the weather has been remarkably mild through the autumn, it will very likely turn colder over the coming weeks. Given the high price of energy and the ongoing cost of living issues, please look out for any

elderly/vulnerable neighbours as they tend to be more susceptible to the cold. It will only take a moment or two to check that all is well with them every now and then.

Police resources are always scarce and tend to be concentrated in the more heavily populated urban areas. However, the rural crime team in Dorset has been strengthened recently and we can help it to get a clearer picture of any problems affecting our community by reporting even relatively minor incidents. In an emergency, or if you see a crime being committed, you should dial 999; other incidents can be reported to the Police by dialing 101.

Given the ongoing problem in the local area of theft from unattended vehicles, please avoid leaving anything of value in your car, especially when such items are clearly visible. Finally, remaining with the subject of vehicles, please take every precaution driving in winter conditions, when visibility can be poor and braking distances much increased by slippery road surfaces. Allow extra time for your journeys and remember it is better to arrive a little late than not to arrive at all.



Depending on the circumstances, National Insurance credits may be applied automatically or an application for credits may be required. There are two types of National Insurance credits available, either Class 1 or Class 3. Class 3 credits count towards the State Pension and certain bereavement benefits whilst Class 1 covers these as well as other benefits such as Jobseeker's Allowance. Taxpayers may also be able to pay voluntary contributions to fill any gaps if they are eligible.

**Do You Need To Pay Tax When You Sell Your Home?**

In general, there is no Capital Gains Tax (CGT) when you sell your home. This applies to a property which has been used as the main family residence. An investment property which has never been used as your own home does not qualify for relief. This relief from CGT is commonly known as Private Residence Relief. Taxpayers are usually entitled to full relief from CGT where all the following conditions are met:

- 1.The family home has been the taxpayer's only or main residence throughout the period of ownership.
- 2.The taxpayer has not let part of the house out - this does not include having a lodger.
- 3.No part of the family home has been used exclusively for business purposes (using a room as a temporary or occasional office does not count as exclusive business use).
- 4.The garden or grounds, including the buildings on them, are not greater than 5,000 square metres (just over an acre) in total.
5. The property was not purchased just to make a gain.

If a property has been occupied at any time as an individual's private residence, the last 9 months of ownership are disregarded for CGT purposes – even if the individual was not living in the property when it was sold. The time period can be extended to 36 months under certain limited circumstances. There are also special rules for homeowners that work or live away from home.

Married couples and civil partners can only count one property as their main home at any one time.

**Tax Free Annual Party**

The cost of a staff party or other annual

entertainment is generally allowed as a deduction for tax purposes. If you meet the various criteria outlined below, then there is no requirement to report anything to HMRC or pay tax and National Insurance. There will also be no taxable benefit charged to employees.

An annual Christmas party or other annual event offered to staff generally is not taxable to those attending provided that the average cost per head of the function does not exceed £150.


The event must be open to all employees. If a business has multiple locations, then a party open to all staff at one of the locations is allowable. They can also have separate parties for separate departments, but employees must be able to attend one of the events.

There can be more than one annual event. If the total cost of these parties is under £150 per head, then there is no chargeable benefit. However, if the total cost per head goes over £150 then whichever functions best utilise the £150 are exempt and the others taxable. Note, £150 is not an allowance and any costs over £150 per head are taxable on the full cost per head.

It is not necessary to keep a running total by employee but a cost per head per function. All costs including VAT must be considered. This includes the costs of transport to and from the event, food and drink and any accommodation provided. It is highly recommended when planning a staff party or other annual event to try and stick to the tax rules above. This should ensure that your party does not have an extra tax cost for you or your employees. We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous 2024!

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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## Sixpenny Handley Road Sign

Recent work by Dorset Council in clearing undergrowth to the side of the highway revealed the dilapidated road sign, as shown in the photograph above, at the foot of the hill as you enter Sixpenny Handley. The sign is one of an original 1960's vintage constructed of cast aluminium, with raised lettering, pointing the way to Shaftesbury, Bowerchalke and Blandford. Because Dorset Highways no longer maintain these signs (nor the fingerpoint signs which can be seen around the village), your Parish Council agreed to fund its restoration.

Accordingly Councillor Stuart McLean, greatly assisted by Mr Richard Jesse of the Sixpenny Handley Forge, who generously offered his professional services at no cost, removed the sign, arranged for it to be sand blasted, painted white and letters picked out in black. As you can now see the sign has been relocated in its original position. These signs are rare because of the nature of their construction in that many were

stolen for the value of the aluminium, of which they had been originally cast.



The renovated sign, seen here after its replacement by Stuart McLean and Richard Jesse, now stands proudly and fully visible at the foot of Handley Hill for all to see. The Parish Council is most grateful to Mr Jesse for his generous support in ensuring the renovation of this attractive and unusual sign.



## Yoga with Liz



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## Allotment Diary

It's that time of year when you look back over the growing season. This year has been quite productive despite the cold winds during March and April and a soggy soggy August. We had salad crops during the summer, as well as plentiful potatoes, spinach, courgettes, French and runner beans amongst others, which has been a pleasant surprise bearing in mind the dire warning on taking on an allotment at Common Road with its hard ground full of flints.

We've always enjoyed fresh home grown veg, so last year we decided to give it go. We had an allotment some years ago and enjoyed cultivating the soil by digging and enriching it with well rotted manure/compost, but digging the ground was always hard work. So this time, in view of the soil conditions we decided to go down the route of No Dig as seen on TV (Gardeners World) and various YouTube channels\*. It's easy they say, all you need is some brown cardboard and some compost. We were sceptical about the principle of No Dig which seemed to go against the grain of years of traditional thinking and the associated toil and sweat! However, in the face of adversity and a plot full of flints, it was worth a try.

We were fortunate that a plot became available with a few raised beds already in place, so we collected cardboard and made a visit to Newbourne Farm Composting - recommended to anyone with a childhood love of Tonka toys and megatractors. Monstrous yellow diggers build stacks of green waste the height of a house, which steams for weeks decomposing before being graded into usable garden compost. We bought 10 bags of the stuff, laid it on the cardboard and hey presto, a few weeks later it was ready to sow. No digging, no weeding, just strim between the beds and watch your garden grow. Well not quite, but No Dig certainly takes the hard work out of it.

The theory behind No Dig is that there is a complex soil structure beneath our feet with all sorts of microbiological bugs and worms and processes\*. Digging is said to be rather like an earthquake in this microbiological community, from which

the soil struggles to recover. Instead of digging, a layer of compost can be added to the healthy soil without disrupting its structure, to allow healthy plants to grow without the need for pesticides, herbicides or other chemicals, or the need for animal or artificial fertilizers.

The beauty of this approach is that the veg we grow is entirely organic, it helps keep our carbon footprint down - and the added advantage in one's advancing years is the lack of physical effort. Whilst many people already grow their own veg, not everyone has room for a vegetable garden. There are a few allotments free at the moment and we would encourage anyone keen to enjoy their own fresh, organic vegetables to give No Dig a go. The prospect of taking on an allotment can be daunting, but a half-plot or even a quarter-plot could be an option for those with limited time to spare. There are always fellow allotmenters happy to provide advice and support. If you are interested you should contact Ciona, at the

Parish Office or the allotment secretary, Steve Barrett. Alternatively, if you'd like to hear more about No Dig allotmenting we can be contacted on [cwstokes100@gmail.com](mailto:cwstokes100@gmail.com).

Happy growing  
Chris and Julia Stokes.

\*To learn more about the No Dig approach, YouTubers Huw Richards and Charles Dowden are worth a watch.

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## Gone Sailing



### Log 66

#### Osprey Round Isle of Wight

Regular readers will recall report of 2018 Gull Osprey RIoW, where 'Ayers & Graces' was requested to be 'mother ship' in support of an Osprey race, to celebrate Ian Proctor's (the designer) centenary year. Once again we were called upon, to celebrate the Osprey 70th anniversary with another RIoW race for Ospreys and acting as 'mother ship' again.

We had on board experienced Osprey sailors, photo shoot team, and race organiser. Bit of an early start, with a clear sky, and fantastic display of stars as we set off down river. As Ospreys also sailed down river, a photographers dream, with Ospreys sailing through the red orb of a rising sun. The Osprey dinghy is 17'6" in length, and raced by helm and one or two crew, though one is more usual. Sail wardrobe is main, large genoa, and symmetrical spinnaker. Crew ride a trapeze.

The race is anti clockwise round the Island,

a distance of some 60 miles, which calls for stamina and endurance from helm and crew. The course is quite simple, a start off Lymington River, Needles to port, Bembridge Ledge buoy to port, finish in Lymington river. But of course varying wind strengths and direction, fair and adverse tidal streams, to cope with. Racing was incredibly close, with much changing of position as the race progressed, and helms choosing different tactics.

To mark the occasion for us we were given a copy of the 'Osprey 70th Anniversary' book, which makes fascinating reading, charting progress from 1953 to present day, and Ospreys mark 1 to mark 6, [www.ospreysailing.org](http://www.ospreysailing.org) is well worth a look. And the skipper and me are mentioned in dispatches!

#### Towards Freshwater Bay

A favourite easy destination, when wind and tide serve, is Freshwater Bay, down Needles Channel, turn to port at Needles (avoiding the wreck close in, which catches

a few out during Round Island Race!), sail into the bay, and anchor for lunch. Difficult holding as, I think, a rocky bottom, the anchor bouncing a bit before holding. A few interesting things to observe; often a Spitfire flying round the Island (cost about £3k, they say), also strange flying antics by old Boeings, flying low over the water and in an oval circuit, our on-board Air Traffic Controller, advised that these were out of Cardiff Air Port and probably practising oil spillage remedial procedures.

#### Winter brrrr

But there are some great sailing days in the Winter! With interesting debate as to whether wind in Winter is heavier than wind in Summer? You are of course able to join us as we done our preferred thermals, woolly hats, ski mitts, and whatever else is needed to keep warm and comfortable. [www.ltsc.co.uk](http://www.ltsc.co.uk)

Adam

Yachting Correspondent for Sixpenny Handley

# Hanlega's



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## A thought for...

Remembrance Day 11th November 2023

As I stood this year beside the village War Memorial I found myself wondering what is meant by 'remembrance' and what others might think about for those two silent minutes.

There is something about those comfortingly familiar words that bears contemplation. 'They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old' is the stated determination of survivors of the Great War never to forget their fallen comrades - not for a day - hence 'at the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them'. Even a hundred years later we retain their present tense - 'we that are left...' and I pondered on this.

It is not possible of course to 'remember' an event that one has not experienced. Even to imagine what others must have experienced is almost impossible; I try to remember the uncle that I never met, my mother's elder and much loved brother,

Alexander. There are family photos of him of course, but all before the age of 25. He served in the South African Air Force and was lost at sea on a reconnaissance flight over the South Atlantic. Did he suffer engine failure, or run out of fuel? Was he shot down? Did he and his crew man survive for a few ghastly days in a life raft without any hope of rescue? It will never be known. He left a wife and a young son and his name is inscribed on the war memorial at El Alamein dedicated to all those who gave their lives in Africa in WW2.

I try to imagine service in the trenches, but again it is quite impossible. I have never felt really cold, soaking wet and hungry, not Arctic convoy cold, life boat cold, Stalingrad cold. I just remember my father describing a freezing Korean winter when his company cook had to apply melted butter to their toast with a shaving brush that he kept for the purpose.

I have lived in the tropics but I have never experienced days and days on end carrying rifle and pack in the clothes-rotting humidity of a mosquito and leach infested Burmese jungle; nor the merciless sun-scorched, sand blown, gritty heat of North Africa.

I have felt brief moments of alarm, the adrenalin rush of a near miss while driving too fast or the odd moment when sailing in rough weather; never the weeks-long dread of torpedo attack on the merchant convoys; never the prolonged and repeated exposure to mortal danger of the fighter pilots or the long range bomber crews, nor the daily morale-sapping fear of stepping on an IED in Afghanistan.

I have no experience of the horrors of war. What I know of such things has been absorbed in comfort and safety, from history books and documentary films.

As one born soon after the end of the Second World War, I am one of a lucky generation to have enjoyed the relative peace of the ensuing seventy years, though that is not to forget that it has been rare indeed for a year to pass without our armed forces suffering at least some casualties, often many. One thinks of Korea, Northern Ireland, the Falklands, the two Gulf wars and Afghanistan to name just a few. And that, I realise, is why in spite of the emphasis on, and the origin of our Remembrance in the Great War, we still quite rightly voice those immortal words in the present tense.

And so, during those two long, sad, silent minutes, thankful that I have never myself experienced war, I ponder with enduring gratitude on the sacrifice of all, including those of more recent generations, who 'shall not grow old'; those whose remembrance must never be forgotten.

*Simon Thompson*

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## Sixpenny Handley Bowls Club

The summer league finished at the end of September. We again competed in the Percy Baker Cup and Westbrook Mixed Triples League without unfortunately picking up any trophies. Our internal cup competitions drew good support with the following results. Paul Chalmers won the Men's Singles Cup with Kevin Johnson Runner Up. The roles were reversed in the Presidents Cup with Kevin beating Paul. The Ladie's Singles Trophy went to Stella Olsen with Liz Davis Runner Up. Dave Adams took the Two Woods Singles title with Roger Naylor Runner Up. In a tight fought Open Pairs Cup final Dave Adams and Stella Olsen triumphed over Ron Jermyn and Paul Noble. Their trophies will be presented to the winners at the Clubs pre-Christmas buffet lunch to be held at the clubhouse on 10th December.

The winter indoor season is now underway where we are playing in the Blackmore Vale Short Mat League. This is proving to

be a challenge in its new format which has meant the various leagues have been amalgamated into just two leagues East and West. We are now competing against teams from the previous higher leagues. Our results so far reflect this having lost two matches and winning one. We are however enjoying the challenge even though the number players we have available has reduced this year. This is because we have mourned the death of Ann Naylor and Gordon Oxford. Gordon was a founder member of the club and served for many years on the organising Committee. He was the Clubs representative at the BVL as well as short mat captain. Both he and Ann will be sorely missed.

We have again been joined by players from other clubs who are pleased to be able to continue playing on our all-weather surface.

As always new players both male and female are assured of a warm welcome

irrespective of age or ability. Just come along any Tuesday evening at 7.00pm or Sunday afternoon at 2.30pm. All you need is a flat pair of shoes with all other equipment being provided. A free trial period is also available before deciding on your future in this relaxing and enjoyable pastime.

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## Digital Switchover Scams

The UK's telephone network is changing. Between now and 2025 most telephone providers will be moving their customers from old analogue landlines to new upgraded landline services using digital technology. Services that rely on the old landline system such as home phones and healthcare devices will be switched over. The new network will provide a future proof, more reliable and dependable broadband service.

The Local Government Association (LGA) says the change will be straightforward for most people. However, they have warned that criminals are using misinformation about the switchover to confuse people vulnerable to scams.

The LGA says people who use healthcare telephony devices are particularly at risk of being targeted by scammers, who trick victims into disclosing their personal and financial information over the phone. Around 2 million people use these devices across the country. The switchover is free of charge and councils and their homecare alarm providers or contractors will never ask for personal or financial information over the phone.

The LGA says it has seen reports of fraudsters calling people claiming their bank details are needed as part of the switchover or their service will be disconnected. It has also received reports of residents being contacted over the phone by callers claiming to work for the NHS, asking for their personal information. Telecoms providers such as Virgin Media, O2 or BT should contact customers before the switchover to check in to make sure their service isn't affected.

Anyone with telecare services should check how the switchover will affect them. Seen a scam? Report it to Action Fraud online or by calling 0300 123 2040.

If you want advice because you have been affected by a scam, then call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 0808 2231133, or visit [citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer](http://citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer)



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