

The DOWNSMAN

June 2011



Working on the new allotments



**The Parish of Sixpenny Handley
with Pentridge**

**Including: Woodyates, Deanland and Minchington
Published by Sixpenny Handley Parish Council
Delivered by Sixpenny Handley Homewatch**

Parish Councillors Sixpenny Handley

Chairman	Cllr D Lockyer	552492
	Cllr Mrs P Bailey-Wright..	552771
	Cllr D Chick	552557
	Cllr S Meaden	552715
	Cllr T Reynolds	552995
	Cllr Mrs S Court	553077
	Cllr J Reed	516390

Pentridge

	Cllr R. Ferguson	552222
	Cllr Dr. J Gillespie Smith	552576
	Cllr C Taylor	553148

Clerk

	Gill Martin	552297
	Parish Office	552211

District Councillor Cllr S Tong 01258-840061

County Councillor Cllr T. Palmer 552321

..... Fax: 552405

Member Parliament Robert Walter... 0207 219 6981

Rights of Way Liaison Officers

Sixpenny Handley D Chick 552557

J Reed 516390

Pentridge Mrs M. Jones 552358

The Downsman Team

Editor Margaret Cornish 553199

Production Brian Hansford..... 552468

Advertising John Cornish 553199

Churches

Church of England St. Mary's, Sixpenny Handley

St. Rumbold's, Pentridge

St. Andrews, Gussage St. Andrew

Vicar Rev Mel Durrant, The Vicarage

60 High Street, Sixpenny Handley

..... 552608

Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady of Lourdes &

St. Cecilia, Blandford Forum

Priest Rev. Father Dylan James

The Prestbury, 55 Salisbury Street,

Shaftesbury..... 01747 852125

Doctors Drs. Nodder, Morgan & Taubman

Dean Lane Surgery .. 552500

Sixpenny Handley Village Hall

Chairman Carole Wyatt 552572

Vice Chairman Tony Gibb 552704

Treasurer Paul Skinner 552785

Bookings Jaqui Blake 552306

Sixpenny Handley Homewatch

Overall Co-ordinator & Police Focal Point

John Curtis 552397

Co-ordinators

Area 1 - Dean Lane Don Penrose 552022

2 - Lower Handley Chris Stokes 552672

3 - Upper Handley John Clarke 552674

4 - Deanland & N.E. Charles Nodder 552292

5 - West & South Simon Meaden 552715

Other Areas (These are separate Homewatch Schemes)

Pentridge Roy Elford 552911

Woodyates Mrs A Adams 552675

Police

Simon Hallam, Verwood Police Stn 07825 521761

Sixpenny Handley Allotment Holders Association

Chairman John Curtis 552397

Secretary Jane Laing 553146

Sixpenny Handley Horticultural Show

Chairman Brian Hansford 552468

Secretary Carole Wyatt 552572

Entries Tony Gibb 552704

Schools

First School Handley First School 552356

Middle School Cranborne Middle School 517348

Upper School Queen Elizabeth's School

Wimborne 01202 885233

Little Pennies Pre-School

Chairperson Sarah Stonton 516939

Secretary Andrea Meyer 552392

Little Pennies Pre-School Link Group

Contact Tilly Stevens 552046

Happy Nappy Club

Samantha O'Neill 552088

Katie Keeble 552177

Sarah Styles 552544

1st Woodcutts Scout Group

Group Scout Leader John Curtis 552397

Explorer Leader Andy Turner 552735

Scout Leader Rob Easton 552038

Cub Leader Andy Young 553166

Beaver Leader Denise Turner 552735

1st Sixpenny Handley Rainbows

Unit Guider Jacqui Tarran 552008

Sixpenny Handley W.I. (Formed in 1922)

President Mrs Maggie Staplehurst 552795

Secretary Mrs Bobbie Carter ... 552042

Sixpenny Handley Mother's Union

Leader Sheila Bradley 553133

Secretary Mary Macleod 552041

Chase Community Friends

Chairman Vic Hatton 01258 840671

Secretary Maureen Penrose 01725 552022

Sixpenny Handley Sports Association

Chairman David Cross 552640

Vice Chairman Patrick Taylor 552187

Secretary/Treasurer Tracey Lownds 552414

Bookings Bea Boyland 552805

Sixpenny Handley Bowls Club

Secretary Bea Boyland 552805

Treasurer Patrick Taylor 552187

Handley Sports Club

Chairman Mark Young 552741

Secretary Brian Hansford 552468

Team Manager Mark Young 552741

Asst. Team Manager Stuart Haskell

Handley Sports Youth

Manager Adam Day..... 01258 452481

Sixpenny Handley Tennis Club.....

Chairman Tracey Lownds 552414

Membership/Treasurer Sue Smith 552225

Sixpenny Handley Cricket Club

Evening Captain David Cross 552640

Secretary Frances Churchill 552868

Citizens Advice Bureau

Wimborne Branch 01202 884738

Ferndown Branch 01202 893838

Out of Hours Service 08444 772022

Welcome to the latest edition of The Downsman.

Editor: Margaret Cornish, Parish Office, Unit 5B, Town Farm Workshops, Sixpenny Handley
Email: editor@thedownsman.org.uk

Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge Parish Council

Parish Office:
Unit 5B
Town Farm Workshops

Opening Hours:
Tuesday 10am – 12 noon
Thursday 6pm – 7-30pm

Phone: 552211
Email :
sixpennyhandley@dorsetparishes.gov.uk

**Please email editor@thedownsman.org.uk
to ensure your articles and news reach us
(preferably in Word, please — not pdf)**

Advertising Costs

The rates to advertise in The Downsman are:

Full page - £16

Half page - £10

Quarter page - £5

Our offer of book 6 but only pay for 5 insertions continues with the annual rates (6 issues) being £80, £50 and £25 respectively.

The magazine offers excellent value in reaching your local customers.

We currently deliver The Downsman to approximately 700 households within the parish.

We regret that flyers cannot be distributed within the Downsman.

The next edition of this magazine will be published on the
1st August 2011
Copy Deadline is Friday 15th July
**We would also ask that contributors make every effort to meet the
deadline which is required to allow for printing, production
and distribution**

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.

CLERK'S CORNER

2011 Local Government Elections

We have survived the local elections and for the second time running had to vote for Parish Councillors. Unfortunately, we have lost three of our Councillors who have held posts during the last four years or more. These three have worked really hard for the parish and most of their work is not noticed. However, we have three new Councillors; one at Pentridge where the three candidates were elected unopposed, and the two new ones in Sixpenny Handley. We wish all three the best of luck and hope they enjoy their new posts. The new Parish Council members provide a sound basis for the next four years when exciting times are due. The Localisation Bill is certainly bound to affect our Parish in a big way.

When you read this, we will have had our Annual General Meeting and the first full meeting of our new Parish Council. Following on from these, we will be able to publish a list of the appointments which are being accepted, so that you know who to contact for your particular complaints/comments.

The 2011 Street Fayre

The Street Fayre should have been held by the time you read this article and I would like to thank the organisers for what, I am sure, will be another good event.

Fly-Tipping

Please remember that fly-tipping is illegal. Recently, two members of our Parish attempted to use the recycling tip between Verwood and Ringwood, but were refused entry. I am attempting to find out the rulings for this tip and will report back when I have this information.

As I am late with my article, I am not showing any planning information; I will bring these up-to-date in the next issue.

Gill Martin

Sirs,

As an elder statesman of the village I would like to express my thoughts on the youth football team in the village. Unfortunately I don't know the young man's name who runs the team, but I have taken an interest and watched them from the days of the smaller goals behind the Pavilion, and I now still watch occasionally when they are on the main pitch.

They are a very entertaining team to watch and it's a huge testimony to the young coach running the team that the boys are always smiling and having a good time and enjoying a laugh, especially when he is involved!

Congratulations to all!

N. Moores

Sirs,

May I take this opportunity to say "thank you" to Roz Adams for her Service to the parish through her work on the Parish Council, particularly in respect of her input in the production of the excellent history of Sixpenny Handley.

Bill Chorley

NOEL LEVERTON

Doreen and family would like to thank everyone for the many cards and letters she received following Noel's passing on 21st March 2011. Also, thank you for the donations for Leukaemia. It was nice to have so many kind words from so many friends - it was a great comfort. A special thank you to the staff at The Shed for such lovely food following his funeral. Please accept this as a personal acknowledgement.

MRS LORNA STARR

The family of the late Mrs Lorna Starr wish to thank, on her behalf, all neighbours, friends and relatives for their concern and kind enquiries during her recent difficult illness.

We also wish to express our thanks to Dr Morgan for his help and considerate concern over the past weeks.

Thank you, all.

Mrs Sharon Frith (daughter)

TEAM HUXTABLE EUROPEAN CHALLENGE

As some of you may be aware, my family entered into the organised Clocktower Challenge in March. I wrote a little piece about this and how the proceeds would benefit the Salisbury Hospice. Well, little did we know that this challenge would be cancelled by the organiser at very short notice with no contingency plan as to what we could do with the sponsorship we had already received!

There was really only one way to go and that was for us, Team Huxtable, to make the challenge *our* challenge, and give the Hospice what we could manage to raise. We agreed to stick to the route and the time scale of the original challenge and on Friday March 25th at midnight we piled into our little Micra and away we went!

We headed for France, then into Belgium, Germany, then Holland, back into Belgium, back to France and then home! We arrived back in Sixpenny Handley on Sunday 27th at 9.30 pm - 2 ½ hours ahead of schedule! We have taken photos of ourselves with all of the clock towers in the designated cities and loads more just to be sure! We are writing a little family story about it as it was a bit of a whirl and already my children need to remind me in which order we passed through the cities.

We funded ourselves and we could not have dreamed of the generous response we would receive from our friends and neighbours. We had sponsorship from as far away as America, New Zealand, Brussels, Germany and Spain - which is incredible when, all considered, these people have no vested interest in our local hospice!

We used [justgiving/juliehuxtable](http://justgiving.com/juliehuxtable) online to collect our money and if anyone is interested in reading our story or donating any money then please feel free to take a look. There is also a link on there to the Hospice and the work it does to improve the lives of those who are fortunate enough to be able to benefit from the care given by the whole team.

Our latest (hopefully not our final) figure has gone to **£2062.18** including gift aid so we are absolutely delighted that we did not cave in and not bother to do the challenge. It is all too easy for people to say they will do something and then forget how important it is to follow this through. When we lost Colin, my husband and the children's father, we were devastated as we felt he was too young at 54 to get ill and die. We could not have coped without the Hospice, so a special thank you goes to them.

Julie Huxtable (Mrs)

Mobile Library Schedule - Visits on Thursday Fortnightly

Woodyates – Cobley Close	2.25 – 2.40	
Back Lane/St Mary's Close	3.00 – 3.20	
Roebuck Inn	3.25 – 3.45	
Dean Lane	3.50 – 4.05	June 9th, 23rd
Sheasby Close	4.10 – 4.30	July 7th, 21st, August 4th

REFLECTIONS ON THE PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Well, the advertising is finished and the ballot boxes cleared away. Of the 1003 people eligible to vote in Sixpenny Handley (not Pentridge), 554 bothered to turn out and cast their vote. 7 people spoilt their papers or did not mark them (what a waste!) which meant that the turnout was just over 55% and there was no District Council election alongside it as the Lib Dems didn't want to be beaten. So you were voting for YOUR parish council – and possibly the referendum.

Several people were heard to say "I don't know any of the candidates" – well whose fault is that? *Yours!*

It is not the candidate's responsibility to tell the electorate who they are, particularly when there are only SEVEN seats on the council. There may be a need for flyers in District and parliamentary elections but this is not a large community. Candidates seeking re-election should be known to the electorate for their hard work (unless they felt so vulnerable and needed to canvas to keep their seat – for what purpose?). New candidates quite rightly may need to tell people why they are standing.

All parish council meetings are open to the public, but how many actually come – no one. Yet the parish council is spending your money. How many came to the Annual Parish Meeting this year (an election year) – 31 and most of those were councillors and the speakers!

Agenda and minutes for all meetings are published on the notice boards. All council meetings start with public questions; the law changed four years ago allowing a chairman to invite public engagement, where relevant, during a formal meeting. There is no point in carping about the level of the parish precept if you don't come to the meetings to find out how the decision was reached by the volunteer councillors elected to make decisions on your behalf.

The parish council is like a train: there is **NO** room for passengers in the engine – that is where the work is done – so councillors must realise that they have to pull their weight. There is *plenty* of room for passengers to travel in the carriages, to join in the journey to the promised land. The countryside through which the train will pass is changing fast; the volunteer (unpaid) councillors have their work cut out to wade through the plethora of legislation that confronts them. If more people came along, the council would have to move their meetings to a larger venue.

Is it not about time your councillors were given more support?

A Driver

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Jumble Sale

Many thanks to everyone who helped at the Jumble Sale at the end of March. All the hard work raised over £360 towards the costs of running the hall.

Race Night

The holiday spirit really did start before Easter for those who supported the Race Night. With Rob Jesse's amusing commentary to keep everyone entertained and Vic Hatton's skilful fund raising on the tote, the hall again benefitted from a very healthy injection of funds to the tune of £340. Thank you.

Annual General Meeting

At the AGM, Carole Wyatt was re-elected to the Chair along with other members of the Committee. Kay Chapman has kindly volunteered to take on the role of Secretary and was elected as a trustee. During the management meeting that followed it was decided that we should continue to support the Artsreach live events for the next year. The committee and wider community were urged to support the events.

Rob's Auction

Please amend your diaries: the date will now be Sat 8th October

Village Hall 100 Club Winners

March				April			
1st	£25	52	Mr Penrose	1st	£25	38	Mr Budden
2nd	£15	89	Mrs Day	2nd	£15	124	Mrs Oxford
3rd	£10	74	Mrs Summeril	3rd	£10	99	Mr Orman

The 100 Club is run in aid of the Village Hall.

If you would like to join and have a chance to win, please contact Bea Boyland on 552805

NEW PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

I am starting a photography club on June 10th at 7.00 pm. If anyone is interested in attending the first meeting, it will be held at 10 Sycamore Close, Sixpenny Handley.

The first meeting will be intended purely as a way to get ideas going in terms of setting up the club. Any level of expertise is welcomed, even those who have never picked up a camera!

If interested please email me on andrewchorley@mac.com or telephone 01725 552776.

Andrew Chorley

Thank you for your support

As most people are now aware, I am no longer working for Dad (Steve Judd) and Lee at The Shed. Unfortunately they decided that they no longer required my services as Restaurant Manager and are replacing me with someone better qualified for the role. I would like to thank everyone who supported me over the last 2 years. It was lovely meeting and getting to know you all. I enjoyed my time there and will miss being part of the village community. I am now working at the Queen's Head in Broadchalke. It would be great to see familiar faces again!

Louisa Judd

Mothers' Union

The speaker at our meeting in May was Marianne Haywood, who described to us her pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. At the age of 72, she covered an amazing 790 km walking across Northern Spain from east to west, taking 3 months to do this.

Although we have no more meetings until September, the MU group will be involved in a number of events in the forthcoming months. The group has been asked to help with refreshments at two events over the Summer. We are taking our turn in cleaning the MU caravan which is sited at Durdle

Door – giving accommodation for a holiday for families in need of a break.

Two outings are planned: a half day to the village of Moreton and a Quiet Day at Grove Farm.

On 9th August we will celebrate the work of Mary Sumner who founded the Mothers' Union in 1876; there are active branches in 81 countries of the world. There will be a service in St Mary's at 11.00 am and this will be combined with the Worldwide Day of Prayer. Enquiries to: Sheila on 553133 or Mary on 552401.

Sixpenny Handley Bowls Club

Here we are again in our outdoor season.

In April we finished indoors with our Blackmore Vale Day in Sherborne. The Tanners did very well and got through to the second round. It was a very pleasant day - the sun was shining and although we were indoors, we did have our lunch outside in the sunshine.

We had our opening day for the outdoor season on the 17th April. It was a very good start with nearly everybody there. Colin, our President, cut the ribbon to start the season. We had the spider, which was won by Brian Hansford. After a roll up, we had a splendid tea and raffle organised by Colin and Donna. Thank you very much, Donna, for all your hard work! We did enjoy it.

We have now started to play League matches, but unfortunately Pat is having a lot of problems getting enough players, especially ladies, for the MTL matches due to holidays etc. Are there any ladies out there who would like to join us? We are a very nice bunch, are very happy to show you how to play the game, and have plenty of equipment you can borrow. You do not have to commit yourself (or pay anything) until you are sure you like the game and want to be a member of our club. Just turn up (flat shoes if possible) any Sunday afternoon or most Wednesday evenings after 6.00 pm, or chat to any of our members for more information.

Have a good season!

Bea

New Forest & Hampshire County Show – 26th 27th 28th July 2011

It is getting towards that time of year again – time to think about buying your tickets for the Show while the 20% discount is available. If you are a business and wish to book a stand at the Show or hospitality to celebrate that anniversary or to reward your best clients, please call the office on 01590 622400.

This year we are pleased to have secured the return of Jamie Squibb and his amazing motorbike stunt performance.

The Solent Dog Display team, and one of the most popular areas, the Show Farm, are back and there is also a new poultry section.

Come and enjoy this wonderful Agricultural Show, full of events and all day entertainment for all the family.

For enquiries, bookings or tickets, ring 01590 622409 or visit www.newforestshow.co.uk



CARDS

Whist : On Wednesday May 11th the final competitive round in the 2010-2011 Whist Season was played at the Village Hall and by the close of play Kingsley White had managed to repel a last round challenge from his closest rival, namely Betty White who, it will be recalled, had won the 2009-2010 contest. At the commencement of play, Kingsley had a cushion of 16 points but this whittled away by the half-way point but as is so often witnessed a seemingly hopeless position can be reversed over the next 12 deals. And so it was for Kingsley, and though he finished with a below par score of 151 to Betty's 160, this was sufficient to secure overall victory. As a measure of both players run of fortune throughout the series of drives, Kingsley's aggregate total was 2912 and Betty's 2905, and they were the only two contestants to break the 2900 barrier.

John York overcame a poor start to the season to finish third with a total of 2895 points, three clear of Ruby Jacobs. However, the principal top ten finisher to benefit from a final round score was Gerald Trickey whose 170 saw him leapfrog from seventh to fifth, thereby displacing Barry Park who dropped to eighth, though Barry had the satisfaction of maintaining the highest individual score of the competition - a magnificent 191 which he returned on March 16th.

Thus, with Gerald now fifth, Doug Haskell - consistent throughout - held on comfortably to sixth (2886). Seventh spot went to John Bennett whose high finishes in the penultimate and final rounds saw him come into the reckoning for the first time in the contest, while another final round surge elevated Sylvia Thorne to tenth place, displacing Mary Braith-waite in the process. Despite a frustrating final round which featured a mix of

good and mediocre scores, Susie White managed to cling on and ended up in ninth place with an aggregate score of 2864.

Details of the 2011-2012 competition will be published in the next issue of *The Downsman*.

It only remains for me to pay tribute Stuart Haskell for his direction as *Master of Ceremonies* (or should I use the bridge term - *Director?*) and to Chris and Doug of the same family for their unstinting work in buying the prizes. Their choice of goods throughout the past nine months has been of a very high quality (whatever is provided for the whist is duplicated for the draw, thereby giving everyone an excellent chance to win either by their cards' skill or through the hope that their draw ticket will be selected).

Bridge continues to be well supported, both at the Sports' Pavilion and at nearby Tarrant Gunville. However, may I take this opportunity to say "*thank you*" to Sheila Bradley and, in her unavoidable absence, John Davis, for running the bridge club so efficiently whilst I was on holiday. And, I should add, "*thanks*" to all the players who attended the Tuesday afternoon sessions. On a sad note, that great bridge stalwart of many years standing, Eric Turner, died in March. Eric supported our club from the outset (at *The Roebuck*) right through to late November 2010, when illness prevented him from attending.

Finally, after many years of playing I have decided to return to teaching bridge for beginners. For further information, please telephone me on 01725 552776 or email to wr.chorley@googlemail.com

Bill Chorley

COUNTRY RAMBLES

The wildlife of today is not ours to dispose of as we please. We have it in trust. We must account for it for those who come after. KING GEORGE VI

The weather continues to be mild and in the end I had to plant out stuff that I have got in the poly tunnel because it was getting pot bound. To date a couple of things have been singed by a grass frost, but they are shooting again, so they will only have been delayed. The swallows arrived six days earlier than last year and we wondered which of their three previous nest sites they would reuse; the answer was none of them. They chose to create a new nest on the cross beam of my workshop. I have to say that it is both disconcerting and inconvenient to have the nest where it is. Disconcerting because they fly in through the door and whizz past my ear when I am working at my bench, and inconvenient because we have to leave the door open and I can't turn the lights on in the evening.

We have just had the election for the parish council and, unlike the Archers, we didn't have to have an election because we had insufficient candidates. This meant that I will continue for another four years, which is just as well really because I have am trying to establish a wild flower area on one of the council-owned fields. The first step was to kill of the existing vegetation with the next stage of the process being to rotovate the area to prepare a seed bed into which we can sow the seed in September. The process is not unlike preparing an area for grass seed; the area has to be weed free and of a fine tilth to take the very small seed. The area will be sown with a mixture of grass and flowers for alkaline soils with the aim to provide a habitat and food for a wide variety of birds, insects and animals, whilst at the same time establishing a seed area which should spread

to the rest of the field.

To make this work we will have to manage the cutting frequency, and intervene when necessary to get this first patch established. In doing this we will be contributing to the Test Valley Biodiversity Plan and be one of the first parish councils to take this sort of action. As I said, it will not be achieved quickly, but if we are successful the area will be a real asset to the parish.

As I write, the first heads of elderflower are appearing in the hedgerow. We make elderflower champagne every year - it is a non-alcoholic, refreshing summer drink. I developed the taste for it as a boy in Cornwall, and many was the day that we went to the beach with some sandwiches and a bottle of elderflower as our only sustenance for the day. Last year we had some Australian friends visit and they tasted it for the first time, and if I had let them, they would have drunk my entire stock.

It is impossible to walk in the countryside at this time of year and not see young rabbits. The does are normally mated in January and the gestation period is 30 days. The rabbit kits are born blind, and it's not until they are at least 18 days old that they emerge from the nest. Most will have been weaned within another week. The does will then mate again, while the young does can breed themselves when they are 14 weeks old.

Richard Harwood

FIRST FLIGHT

During my boyhood and early teens, life during the war years in Handley was pretty exciting. The village was a very busy place with lots going on and, of course, the Army were ever present. Although there was blackout, the village bobby always seemed to know where we boys were! One meeting place was a sort of builders' yard owned by Mr Hubert Dibben, just below the Roebuck Hotel. It wasn't long before the Home Guard were formed. Before that they were known as the Local Defence Volunteers, LDV, or sometimes referred to as look, duck and vanish.

Not to be outdone, the boys were invited to join the Army Cadet Force; not that we were a large contingent, but were allied to a larger unit of boys at Shaftesbury Grammar School. This meant we went firing rifles on the range at Martin Down and also attended summer camp with the Army proper.

One such camp was to the Dorset Regiment Barracks in Bridport Road at Dorchester, although at that time it was

occupied by the Parachute Regiment. The week we were there, two outings had been planned.

The first trip was to be a visit to Tarrant Rushton airfield, with a flight in a glider towed by a Halifax bomber, provided you had a letter of consent from a parent. Guess who had left his at home? Time was of the essence, and I was hell bent on going on this trip and to my shame I wrote a letter of agreement and signed my father's name on it. We were taken by bus to the airfield, where we were briefed on what was going to happen, and then taken to a Horsa glider standing on the end of the runway which was attached to a Halifax bomber. The glider was a pretty primitive piece of equipment made entirely of laminated wood, nuts and bolts, and canvas. Looking back on it now, it reminds me of some sort of kit available from some D I Y store! The seating arrangement was about a dozen canvas seats down each side looking inward, each seat having a webbing type lap belt. Take-off was quite smooth, the pilot being a sergeant in the Glider Pilot Regiment. He was dressed in hob-nailed boots, shorts

Continued on page 19

and a hard leather-type crash helmet strapped under the chin. With the glider being airborne long before the towing plane, it eventually all came together, and we proceeded to the Isle of Wight, and then back to the airfield. On releasing the tow rope it became very quiet with just the sound of wind hissing over the outside. On landing, we bounced a few times before coming to rest.

Stepping back onto terra firma was a relief, as I was not feeling particularly well, although a few gulps of the Dorset air soon put things right although many of the lads were of 'lighter shade of pale' (white). After being taken to a wooden hut and given mugs of hot tea, we were taken to visit No 1 hangar just inside the main gate. Inside, fitters were carrying out repairs and servicing a Halifax towing aircraft. Little did I imagine that in later years I would be working in this same hangar for at least ten years - a more pleasurable chapter of my working life. As most of us were ex RAF or Navy, there was always a lot of friendly rivalry, banter, and ribald comment. I digress . . .

The second outing of the summer camp was to Portland

Bill, where we were taken to a quarry and had instruction on the use of hand grenades and explosives, although nobody was asked to throw a grenade. From there we were taken to the Verne Citadel which, at that time, was still an army barracks. This was a touching experience for me as my father had been here in the Dorset Regiment prior to going to France in 1916. Again, we had mugs of hot tea and plain slab cake, which was very popular in those days as fruit cake was pretty rare.

One thing I do remember from the Mess hall there was looking out on a breathtaking view of Weymouth Bay and the Chesil Bank. I have seen many beautiful views and sights in my lifetime, but still rank the Dorset coastline as one of the best. Perhaps I am prejudiced! Unfortunately Verne is now Her Majesty's prison for naughty boys. Heaven forbid that I should ever have to go to prison, but if I had to, the Verne would suit me.

Peter Bailey



Sixpenny Handley

Sixpenny Handley Homewatch June 2011



Sixpenny Handley

Dorset Police have made changes to the cover provided for our area. The parish is now policed from Verwood, where the officer assigned to our beat is PC Simon Hallam. He is assisted by one Police Community Support Officer but the area the two of them must cover is huge. Our erstwhile Rural Beat Officer, the Wimborne based PC Jane Brittain, has been moved to a desk job and, of course, this comes on top of our losing the excellent PCSO Jamie Edge last year, so the level of cover is significantly reduced and familiar officers, who were getting to know our area and its community, are gone.

The Homewatch leaders have written to the Chief Constable of Dorset wishing the new officers well but regretting the changes. We understand that cuts must be made and we also understand that a very low crime area like ours will never be seen as a priority, but we do question the wisdom of making dramatic reductions and removing settled officers who were doing a good job. We also made the point that it would have been good to have been consulted, or at least informed in a timely manner, of the changes and the reasons behind them.

On a more positive note, you may have noticed that we have replaced a dozen faded or broken Homewatch Area signs around the Parish. This work was done by volunteers from the Homewatch scheme and the cost

of the signs was shared between the Parish Council and the Homewatch, using up the last of the funds raised by those Homewatch Village Barbecues (remember them?) back in the 1990s.

Whilst no-one expects a sign alone to put off a determined criminal, we do believe that good signage indicates an alert community, and that may have a discouraging effect. The signs also serve to remind us all that there is a crime risk out there, albeit low, and that we must always lock up when we go out, secure all vehicles and watch out for, and report, anything suspicious.

In that context, please remember that the lighter, summer nights tend to encourage more crime and don't forget to put away those mowers and other garden tools which are such a popular target. An alarm for your sheds and any other outbuildings is well worth considering, too. Get it fitted – and any other security improvements completed – before the Steam Fair, as that event is always associated with a noticeable, if modest, crime peak hereabouts.

Enjoy the summer weather and, if you are going away for a holiday, have a good one. Lock up carefully before you leave and ask a responsible person to keep an eye on things.

WASHDAY AT WOODCUTTS

I have just been reading Flora Thompson's 'Lark Rise to Candleford' and came across the passage about Miss Lane's reluctance to have the washer woman come more regularly than once every six weeks. The reasoning behind this was that people would think she hadn't enough linen to be able to cope for at least that amount of time. This got me thinking about the weekly wash day being every Monday for ordinary folk, especially in the countryside, in my childhood back in the 1940s. Old Bob, who I have written about before on occasions, had a saying about Mondays, which we had to listen to every week without fail. It was a description of his cooked meal, which he would have on returning home after a minimum of nine hours away, having survived on sandwiches and whatever else his wife had put into his 'grub' bag. "Boy, its 'ardly wurth me while going 'ome tonight, me tea will only be tongue pie and soap suds."

Monday for the country wife with a family was always stressful. Lighting the fire under the copper, having filled the same with cold water from the tap in the kitchen if she was lucky, or from the well or even the rain water butt if she didn't have a tap. Hopefully, one of the children, if she had one old enough, would have collected enough fire wood from a local wood for the copper fire during the previous weeks and would possibly have carted the buckets of water from where-ever to fill the copper before going to school. The house which I was born in had no running water, so no bathroom; instead there was a bucket toilet across the yard, up a flight of twelve brick steps, along a path for about twelve yards, then an abrupt ring turn to bypass the neighbours' facilities, then another abrupt turn but this time to the left and God help you if you were in a hurry!

When I first remember this house not only did it not have running water but it also lacked electricity, but what a wonderful home it was for myself, my two elder brothers, my mother and my maternal grand parents. (My father was away in the army in India in my early years). It was in the village of Buriton, just to the north of the South Downs and was situated at the bottom end of the High Street, overlooking the duck pond and within a couple of hundred yards of the village church and the Manor, where the Bonham-Carters lived and where Edward Gibbons, who wrote "The Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire", stayed.

The walls of this house were built of chalk some two feet thick, with a plaster and pebbledash finish to enable it to withstand weathering and this it had done for several hundred years. When I knew it, the well was no longer used, with water being collected from a tap outside in the High Street by the bucketful. This tap supplied the water for all the ten houses at this end of the street. The only exception was the Rectory, which

presumably had its own water supply as we never saw the Canon come out with his bucket. This house was simply part of a terrace, the ones each side having been added at a later date than the original building. Despite this, and without any extensions added but presumably with a bathroom now, this property changed hands recently in excess of £360,000. Oh, how times have changed, but we are supposed to be talking about Woodcutts, so please don't keep leading me astray!

I've got the washing in for Meg (Madge) and it is Monday so I can continue. Firstly, I must mention our persistent jackdaws, mentioned in the June Downsman last year, which had stubbornly insisted on trying to build a nest on the flat concrete slab which had been used to seal off the kitchen chimney as it is no longer used. For many years they had successfully nested here and were quite oblivious to the fact that it had been sealed off - after all, they had their rights! Eventually they gave up and moved on but this year they returned and again laid copious amounts of twigs on that very same slab. Of course, every time there was any sort of breeze, the twigs simply blew down across the roof onto the front lawn. However, they were not to be put off and simply returned with more building material which, too, ended up on the front lawn. This continued for about three weeks and they never attempted to reuse the material twice, so I collected it and, as you can see, it was a very generous wheelbarrow full.



As you can see, the wheelbarrow is standing in front of the bird feeder on the front lawn, which is regularly



visited by two jackdaws, presumably the nesting pair, which really lay into the fat balls. It is a pity that they can't nest in our chimney any more, because if they did, we could charge them for bed and breakfast! They do share the fat balls with an even bigger bird - a cock pheasant, which stands beneath them; that is the fat balls not the jackdaws, and jumps up in an example of

Continued on page 23

an upward dive, if this is possible. I have photographed it, so I hope this explains what I am trying to describe.

We are getting quite a few of this year's young birds visiting the feeding table already, but none are so greedy as the wood pigeons who simply stand on the ground and eat whatever the pheasant and jackdaws drop.

But what else is happening in Woodcutts? Well, we have had a visit from an artist sponsored by the Dorset County Council. In towns you sometimes see 'pavement artists' but here in Woodcutts we have 'road artists'. All down our lane there are copious amounts of white aerosol paint, applied by said artist. As I have mentioned, he is restricted to one colour but his shapes are many and varied. This, of course, depends on the shape of the hole that he has attempted to immortalise.

Of course we must put the state of our lane down to the weather. It can't be the traffic flow, can it? No, it must have been that very cold, wet spell in December

and January, when ice took its toll. Now, of course, we are in the reverse situation being too hot and dry. Am I glad that I am no longer involved in agriculture! On May bank holiday Monday I was driven down through parts of Surrey, Sussex and Kent and was amazed to see barley in ear just north of Rye. On my journey home I realised it wasn't just in Sussex that this was the case, it is here in Dorset, too. It made me think of the summer of 1976 and the harvest then. This year, because it is so much earlier, we could have a disastrous harvest unless we have rain in the next few days. The weather forecast today (5th May) suggests that rain may come in the form of heavy thunder storms, but this is not ideal either as heavy rain can damage the crops and when it does come, if it is very heavy, there is likely to be a huge amount of 'run off' and as such, will be lost to the drainage systems and rivers before it can do any good to our gardens and farms. In the meantime, we must make the most of the sunshine and enjoy what we have. We come this way but once.

Rob's Column

A Thankful Heart

Take nothing for granted,
for whenever you do
The "joy of enjoying"
is lessened for you-
For we rob our own lives
much more than we know
When we fail to respond
or in any way show
Our thanks for the blessings
that daily are ours. . .
The warmth of the sun,
the fragrance of flowers
The beauty of twilight,
the freshness of dawn
The coolness of dew
on a green velvet lawn,
The kind little deeds
so thoughtfully done,
The favours of friends
and the love that someone
Unselfishly gives us
in a myriad of ways
Expecting no payment
and no words of praise-
Oh, great is our loss
when we no longer find
A thankful response
to things of this kind,
For the joy of enjoying
and the fullness of living
Are found in the heart
that is filled with thanksgiving.
Helen Steiner Rice

(My thanks to all who supported the Horse Race Evening when a nice profit was made. Also, if you backed a winner you came out not only having fun, but with some money to take home. Spread the word for the next one!)

Desiderata

Go placidly amid the noise and the haste,
and remember what peace there may be
in silence.
As far as possible, without surrender,
be on good terms with all persons.
Speak your truth quietly and clearly;
and listen to others,
even to the dull and the ignorant;
they too have their story.
Avoid loud and aggressive persons;
they are vexatious to the spirit.
If you compare yourself with others,
you may become vain or bitter,
for always there will be greater and lesser
persons than yourself.
Enjoy your achievements as well as your
plans.
Keep interested in your own career,
however humble;

it is a real possession in the changing
fortunes of time.
Exercise caution in your business affairs,
for the world is full of trickery.
But let this not blind you to what virtue
there is;
many persons strive for high ideals,
and everywhere life is full of heroism.
Be yourself.
Especially do not feign affection.
Neither be cynical about love,
for in the face of all aridity and
disenchantment,
it is as perennial as the grass.
Take kindly the counsel of the years,
gracefully surrendering the things of
youth.

Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in
sudden misfortune.

But do not distress yourself with dark
imaginings.

Many fears are born of fatigue and
loneliness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline,
be gentle with yourself.

You are a child of the universe
no less than the trees and the stars;
you have a right to be here.

And whether or not it is clear to you,
no doubt the universe is unfolding as it
should.

Therefore be at peace with God,
whatever you conceive Him to be.

And whatever your labours and
aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life,
keep peace in your soul.

With all its sham, drudgery, and broken
dreams,
it is still a beautiful world.

Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

*(From a text found in Old St Paul's Church,
Baltimore, dated 1692)*

(If only people would follow this advice!)

Making a Difference

Once upon a time there was a wise man
who used to go to the ocean to do his
writing. He had a habit of walking on the
beach before he began his work. One day
he was walking along the shore. As he
looked down the beach, he saw a human
figure moving like a dancer. He smiled to
himself to think of someone who would
dance to the day. So he began to walk
faster to catch up. As he got closer, he
saw that it was a young man and the
young man wasn't dancing, but instead he
was reaching down to the shore, picking
up something and very gently throwing
it into the ocean.

As he got closer he called out, "Good
morning! What are you doing?" The

young man paused, looked up, and replied,
"Throwing starfish in the ocean." "I guess I
should have asked, why are you throwing
starfish in the ocean?" "The sun is up and
the tide is going out. And if I don't throw
them in they'll die." "But, young man, don't
you realize that there are miles and miles
of beach and starfish all along it? You
can't possibly make a difference!"

The young man listened politely, then
bent down, picked another starfish and
threw it into the sea, past the breaking
waves and said, "It made a difference for
that one."

(Author unknown)

I tried that thing today at the petrol
station where you try to stop the pump
bang on what you want to pay. But I let it
go a fraction too late and it stopped on
£20.03. "Damn," I shouted and walked
into the shop to pay. "Unlucky, mate!"
smiled the attendant who'd seen what I'd
done. "Don't worry about the extra."
"Cheers, mate," I said as I handed him my
tenner and walked out.

One day I decided to follow the old
healthy advice, 'Go to work on an egg'.
However, after several tries, I couldn't get
it started, but then I remembered I had
not pulled the yolk out and it started so it
was then all white. I got a few yards down
the road on the way to work and it
stopped and would not start again, then I
discovered that I had run out of shell.

Went to our local shop and asked the
bloke behind the counter if he had any
wrapping paper. He said, "No, but I've
got some cardboard that does country
and western."

My wife turned the TV off while I was
watching it earlier. After a few moments
of starting at the blank screen, I thought
to myself, "That's not on."

My wife has stood by my side ever since
we were married. Mind you, we've only
got one chair in the house.

(Roll on the village auction on October 9th).

GARSTON: THE RSPB'S FAVOURITE WOODLAND

Right now is the best time of year for a woodland walk and Sixpenny Handley is blessed with the flagship of the RSPB woodlands - Garston wood: it is the jewel in the crown. To help explain the value of Garston it is important to understand some background information and I hope I can relate this to you.

Basically there are two types of woodland; primary and secondary. Primary woodland has not been touched by humans, therefore we have had no influence in the woodland eco system - it is totally as nature intended. The whole of Britain was once covered by primary forest and from pollen analysis data we can ascertain what and where the dominant species were situated. (*Map: Dominant species 3000 BC*). Incidentally, the difference between a forest and woodland is that a forest doesn't necessarily have to have trees on all of its area, woodland does. Secondary woodland is by far the bigger category because it contains a myriad of woodland types including single species plantations which can only sustain a small woodland community and ancient semi-natural woodland which will support a far bigger community. Little is left of the global primary forest, and none is left in Britain. It may be possible to suggest that a tiny fraction of the Caledonian forest is a remnant of the post-glacial primary forest, but these tiny areas will be limited to islands in the middle of large Scottish lochs.

To understand the significance of ancient woodland we first have to discuss the post-glacial primary forest. When the last ice age finally retreated, Britain was connected to the rest of continental Europe. All of the trees that made it here of their own accord during that time are called native. After the polar melt the seas rose, creating the English Channel; a very effective barrier to natural progression. Every tree after this event is called an exotic and could only have been brought across by humans. Incidentally, it also explains why Ireland has no snakes or moles. To qualify as an ancient woodland, Garston wood must have been in continual existence since 1600 and a great deal of the fauna will be native. Native trees support more invertebrates than do exotics because the invertebrates have had more time to evolve in unison within the British eco-system. An English oak tree can support 284 species of insect, whereas the exotic Holm, or ever-green oak, supports just one. Invertebrates are low in the food chain and in turn attract animals higher in the food chain. The food chains cross and interact to create a woodland food web which creates and sustains the woodland community.

Garston wood has a coppice with standards classification, which is a management term that needs explanation. Coppice refers to a shrub layer which

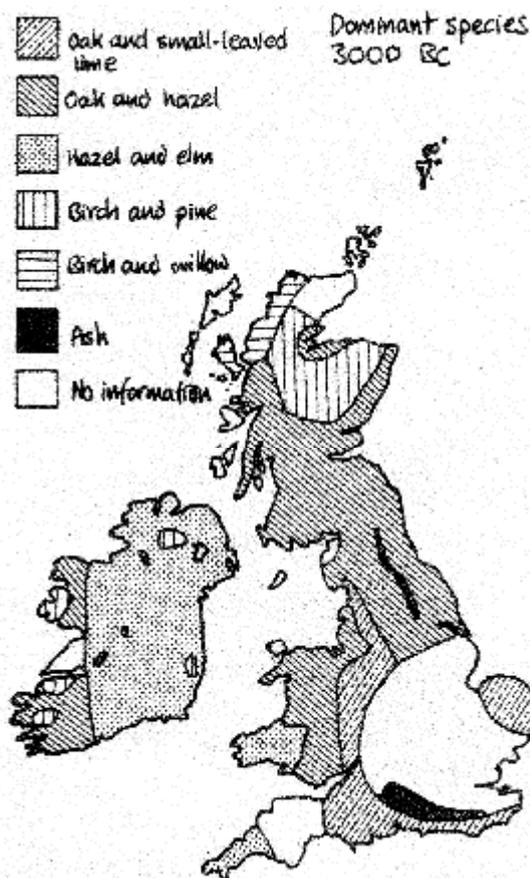
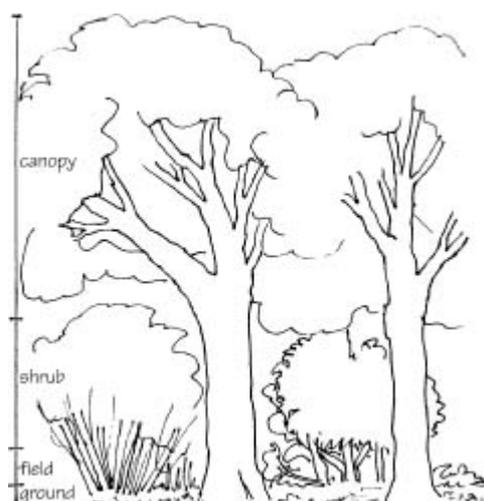
Continued on page 26

could be hazel or sweet chestnut, cut on a short rotation every 7 years. Coppice is derived from a French word 'coupe' which means area and refers to a small area of the woodland cut to ground level. The coupes give a mosaic of habitats from freshly cut to taller shrub layers, each home to separate and individual species of plant and animal. When cut, certain species of tree will regenerate vigorously and it has the effect of resetting the genetic clock to zero. The result is that the tree will live indefinitely. There are some sweet chestnut coppice stands that are said to be 2,000 years old having been planted by Roman settlers who were responsible for introducing the species in the first place. The botanical name is *Castanea sativa*, *Castanea* being the Latin word for chestnut tree from the original Greek word *Kastanea* which was a region in Thessaly, and *sativa* which means edible in Latin. Standards also known as maidens are trees, usually oak, that are allowed to mature and are cut on a rotation of 100 years or so.

When I take children for guided walks in the wood, I often ask them to find the oldest tree and they will invariably point to the nearest big maiden, but normally, just next to it, will be an older coppice stool. The stools, or mocks, are circles of growths, the outer ring of which gives you an indication of the girth of a tree had it not been coppiced. I think the oldest hazel mock I have ever seen is in Frogmore farm house and is proba-

bly as old, if not older, than the house. The term English rain forest has been coined to give an indication of the bio-diversity in these woods. Bio-diversity is an important issue to conservationists as it refers to just how many different species there are in a given area. Garston has a very high bio-diversity rating due, in the most part, to its structure and it owes a great deal to conservation management.

Woodland structure is divided into 4 layers: ground layer, field layer, shrub layer and canopy. (Diagram taken from *BTCV Woodlands Practical Handbook*, as was the map). Structure is vital to a woodland community because it packs in four distinct habitat types each attracting different species. Single species, or mono-cultural woodland plantations, can't support such a high level of diversity because the layers are not present. In conifer woodlands the canopy is closed throughout the year so very little light penetrates, stifling the growth of the field and shrub layer. This combination of structure, mosaic, past and present management has created an island of habitat scarce and precious to the countryside. The RSPB have been very proactive in the conservation management and have done a very impressive job of habitat maintenance and creation. The woodland is crammed with life - throughout the summer bird visitors are here and the field layer is at its most colourful - the whole wood has reached its crescendo in a symphony for all the senses. Go and see it for yourself.



The Downsman

DON'T FORGET WHAT'S ON!!!

DATE	FUNCTION	PAGE	DATE	FUNCTION	PAGE
8 June	W.I. AGM, Liverpool	13	1 July	Handley 1st School Fete	20
9 June	Mobile Library	6	2 July	Sixpenny Handley in Concert	6
10 June	A Taste of India, Sixpenny Handley	8	7 July	Mobile Library	6
10 June	New photography club	9	9 July	Trussell Trust Light Lunch	10
13 June	W.I. Outing	13	11 July	W.I. Outing	13
17 June	A Taste of India, Woodyates	8	15 July	Copy Deadline	3
23 June	Mobile Library	6	21 July	Mobile Library	6
25 June	Happy Nappy Table Top Sale	12	26 July	New Forest Show (3 days)	11
29 June	W.I. Outing	13	28 July	Chase Garden Club	6
30 Jun	Chase Garden Club	6			
			1 Aug	Next Edition	3
			4 Aug	Mobile Library	