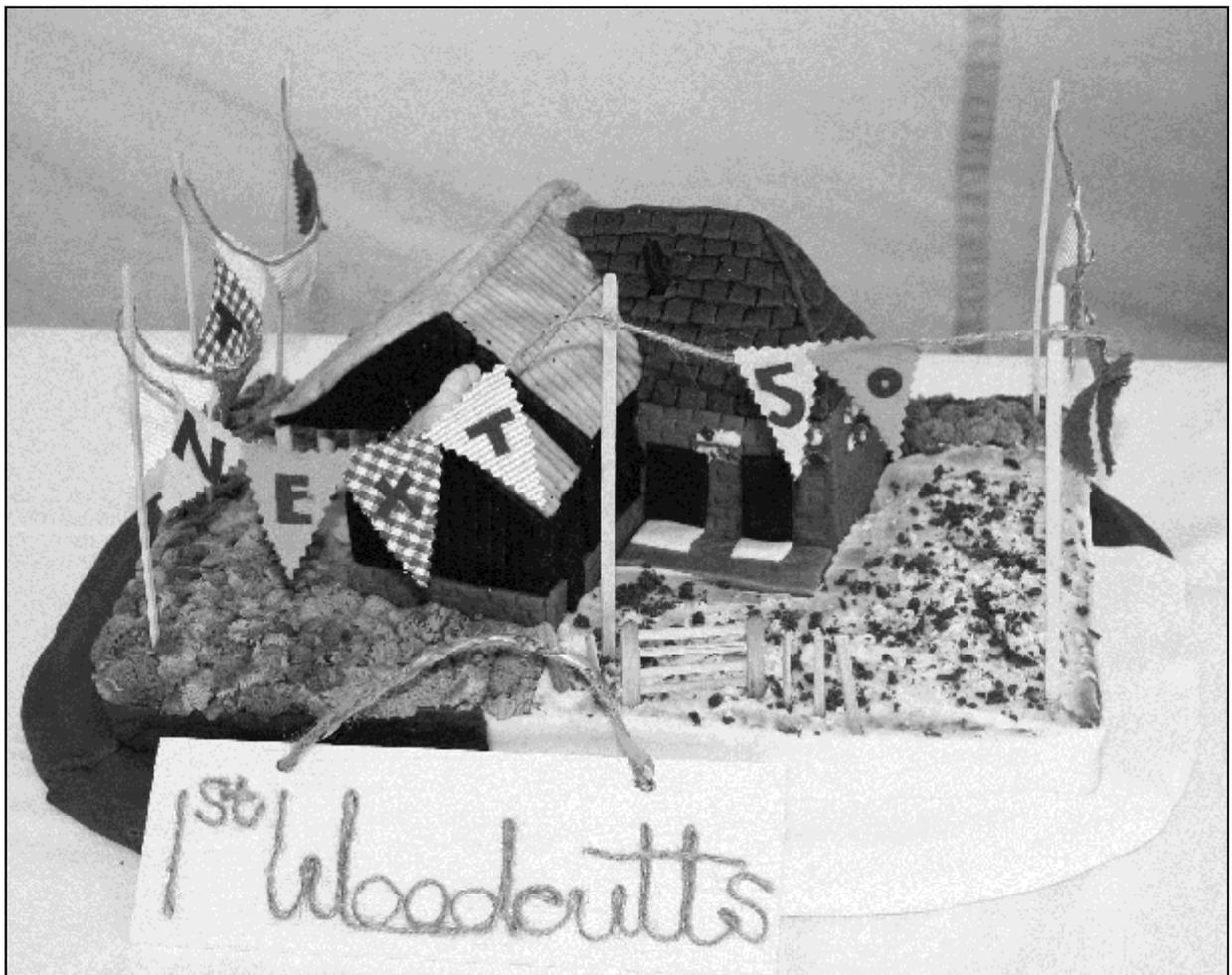


The DOWNSMAN

August 2011



The new scouts hut made in cake by Karen Slade, one of the Beaver mums, for the official opening of the scouts HQ

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 D Chick	552557
	Cllr T Gibb	552704
	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
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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

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
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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
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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

President	Robert Keech	516216
Secretary	Bea Boyland	552805
Treasurer	Patrick Taylor	01258 840231

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
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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
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**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 October 2011
Copy Deadline is Thursday 15th September
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

Following the local elections, we had the exciting result of three new Parish Councillors and it is nice to see some new faces again.

I would like to give my thanks to the two Councillors who did not stand for election this year – namely Rosalie Adams and Maureen New. They worked really hard for the Parish Council during their term of office and will be greatly missed.

Dog Fouling

We have received an email from the new ASB Case Worker, Gavin Barnes, who is involved in this matter. He has been studying this matter and came from Bristol where they decided that dog waste is no longer classed as hazardous waste and so agreed that dog matter could be **disposed of in normal litter bins, provided it is bagged up properly.**

It has now been decided to follow this procedure in the East Dorset District Council area and so would dog owners note that it is now OK to place dog matter in our normal litter bins/dog bins if provided **AS LONG AS IT IS BAGGED UP PROPERLY.**

Recent Planning Applications

3/11/0372 & 0373 - 67 High Street, Sixpenny Handley - Two storey and single storey extensions.

3/11/0588 - Roman Way, Pentridge - Replacement conservatory.

3/11/0371 - 27 St Mary's Close, Sixpenny Handley – Single storey extension.

3/11/0635 - Annexe, Hill House, Sixpenny Handley - Change of use of residential outbuilding to an office providing legal services (Class A2).

Results of previous planning applications

3/11/0372 & 0373 – 67 High Street, Handley - Two storey and single storey extensions - Refused.

3/11/0588 - Roman Way, Pentridge - Replacement conservatory - Permitted.

Gill Martin

Sixpenny Handley In Concert—Thanks!

Thank you! To Gay and John, Margaret and Mel and all of those very talented and brave members of our parish who took part in the concert held in St. Mary's Church on Saturday 7th July. The whole show was brilliant! Everyone who took part, from Bradie's young pianists through to what was definitely one of my highlights of the evening, Chris Wadge and his most unusual songs, were all very entertaining. Sixpenny Handley really does have talent!

The half share of the evening's total raised of £161.50 will be much appreciated by the people of the African village of Kochohindo. It will help to provide tools and seed for the 100 women who have all very gratefully taken up an allotment in the new venture of helping them to help themselves.

Once again, many thanks,
Bronia

Thank you

Doreen Leverton would like to thank all friends and neighbours who contributed to Leukaemia Research following the sad death of her husband. £450 was collected.

Thank You

I would like to thank all the people in the village who have made it possible for me to buy a FES box, which will enable me to walk properly and strengthen the muscles and movement in my leg. Since becoming ill, I have been amazed at the help, kindness and support myself and my family have received from within the community.

I would especially like to thank the Street Fayre Committee for allowing me to use the event to stage a tug-of-war in aid of 'Bett's Box'; Fiona and Tracy for collecting; Maureen and Roz for taking care of the funds; Chris and Bronia for donating the prizes; Rob Jessie for being a great umpire and all the people who made up the various teams. We are very lucky to live in such a friendly community-minded village, and I thank you all.

Bett Bolton

Thank you

May I please, through the Downsman, thank Mr N Moores for his kind letter of acknowledgement and for taking the time to come and watch the youth football team. My name is Adam Day and I am really pleased to be part of the growing, enthusiastic group of young players that are coming forward and wanting to join in. Handley has always had a good reputation for football, but I believe I'm right in saying we are the first ever youth side which started out as Under 9s and will start next season now as Under 15s. We have always campaigned for new players and it seems to be working, having just shown two lads from Salisbury our facilities and who have now signed for us next year. I, for one, am really proud of the boys that turn up; they are keen, turn up for practice and play their hearts out in a match. Any support is very much appreciated, but I am really grateful to you for taking the time to let us know publicly how you feel. I would be very pleased if one day when you are watching you would come across, as I would like to introduce myself to you and, of course, the boys. Thank you again for your acknowledgement and I hope you will follow us for many matches yet to come.

Yours,
Adam Day

Greetings from South Australia!

My name is Nikki Chapman and I live in a small village (like yours) in South Australia. I will be visiting the UK in August to see my family and I am hoping to shed some light on my mother's first marriage.

My mother was Beatrice who married Chedley LUCAS and lived in Sixpenny Handley (in the early 1920s). They had 2/3? children: Jocelyne (who I met some years ago), William (who died in the war - as reported in one of your magazines, hence my enquiry) and, I think, Frank. Chedley obviously remarried and his second wife was Olive (Downsman 2009) and they had a son, Fred. I would love to know where my mother lived at that time and if any of my relatives still live in Sixpenny Handley. Also, are there any photos of William or any of the family?

I will be leaving Australia on the 4th August and returning on the 16th September. Therefore, if anyone can help, please can you either email myself before the 3rd August and after the 16th September on fitzwillyoes@internode.on.net, or email between the 4th August and 15th September to my niece on dmeada@tiscali.co.uk as I shall be staying with her during my stay in England. Any help you can give will be most appreciated.

Thank you and best wishes,
Nikki

An apology

The Editor wishes to make an apology to Paul McDermot for omitting to credit him with the article entitled 'Garston: The RSPB's Favourite Woodland' in the June issue of The Downsman.

Sixpenny Handley Street Fayre 2011

Once again the weather could have been kinder and warmer but this didn't deter the Community and its visitors from turning out to support the many stalls and entertainment that had been laid on to raise money for community groups and charities. This year, the Committee very much wanted to support a charity that benefits our rural way of life and The Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance was chosen. They had a good and successful day and were very glad to have been able to come; we had hoped that the Ambulance might have been in the area to 'dip' in and give a brief hello by hovering overhead, but gladly, in some ways, they were not, which meant there were no accidents which they had attended.

As with everything these days, there are more and more hoops to jump through regarding getting an event such as this off the ground and the inevitable rising costs. A charge for closing the High Street was a first this year, accompanied by reams of required paperwork and risk assessments. St John's Ambulance now make a relatively small charge to cover their costs of attending and covering events this year we were especially grateful as, unfortunately, there was a quite significant injury late in the day which they handled ... recovery is now in progress, thankfully.

However, these issues were overcome by good team work, getting on with the task in hand and pulling together to make this, once again, a very successful day - hopefully enjoyed by all. I personally would like to say a really special 'Thank You' to the team who made my role a pleasant and enjoyable one throughout ... THANK YOU!!!

The church made an amazing amount of money, being just reward for the effort they put in to making St Mary's a very worthwhile place to visit. Chase Community Friends decided this year to raise funds for the charity, 'Help for Heroes, in Angie and Chris Snape's courtyard. We hope the shops benefited from being open during the Street Fayre and I would like to thank them for their cooperation in accepting the road closure at 11.00 am - an hour before their usual close of business: much appreciated. To Chris and Bronia Styles: once again for their generosity in giving Raffle Prizes and power for the Wood Turner Stall, which also applies to Gwen Jessie who, again, allowed her electricity to be used for the stage and equipment; and to Simon Parker who offered his supply for the Bouncy Castle. Kevin Easter and his fellow enthusiasts again did battle with the crosswinds, but managed to give an excellent display of flying their model aircraft, and Adam Day joined us for the first time this year to provide fun and games on the recreation ground for younger visitors, with the Bouncy Castle proving to be as popular as ever. The Roebuck has always helped in providing their facilities for our use ... a much better option than a 'Porta Loo', I think you will agree, and I hope many of you enjoyed a drink or two during the afternoon.

Our thanks and congratulations have to go to the May King and Queen, Jake Stewart and Holly Biggs, who were presented on stage by Mellvin Gudger, the Town Crier, who did an amazing job throughout the day keeping us on track and having a laugh or two on the way. Thanks, Adrian, for your chauffeuring services in your taxi for the May King and Queen, especially at such late notice; and to Jacob and Harvey Austin for being the outriders on their fabulous bike and quad ... well done, boys!! To Handley First School you pulled out the stops and entertained us beautifully with Shake and Wake never like that in my day. Well done to Clare the Headmistress for all your achievements and thanks, also, to Jayne for helping us out - not only in the organisation of the May King and Queen but also for the Hi Vis jackets and other little things which made such a difference and more specifically, the loan of your gym mats for those amazing young gymnasts who performed so well in 'The Shed' to music; it really was a treat to watch.

I hope many of you were able to meet PC Simon Hallum, our new Community Police Officer, who brought along a couple of colleagues, two police vehicles and some riot gear which was tried and tested by some younger members of the community. Let's hope it's never needed in our parish! Cheers, Simon, and hope to see you around as much as possible, given your increased area to patrol.

The Shed, courtesy of Steve and Lee, opened its doors to us by allowing the performances of the gymnasts and the Shake and Wake children, which enabled visitor and family and friends to watch their entertainers in comfort and pleasant surroundings. Not forgetting 'Mystic Riddick' with his Tarot card readings for a bit of fun. I hope they did a roaring trade, too, for their generosity in helping us out. They kindly allowed the full use of their facilities, despite being one of their busiest weekends, being that of the Country & Western Rally. Which led on to a really great evening for young and old alike, dancing and clapping the night away to Julian Phillips and The Stuff Boogie Woogie Band. I personally did not really know if I would enjoy that sort of music, but they were so entertaining and willing to

6d Handley School



Recycling Schemes

Sixpenny Handley First School are raising funds through recycling, for our school and other charities...

- **Bag2School** - Please donate unwanted, good quality, clean, adults and children's clothing, sheets, blankets, curtains, soft toys, shoes (paired up) belts and handbags. The more weight we collect the more money we raise for the school.
- Do not include dirty or wet clothing, material off-cuts, carpets, pillows, duvets, single shoes and bric-a-brac.
- The first collection will be at 6d Handley First School on Friday 30th September, from 8:30am. Recycling bags available at school (see poster). see poster on page 10
- Items are re-sold in Eastern and Western Europe, Africa and Asia. Bag2School raises money for schools and also supports The Funzi & Bodo Trust, which helps poverty stricken villages in Kenya.
- **Milk bottle tops** - Please start saving plastic coloured milk bottle tops (washed) to raise money for the school's nominated charity. More details and collection info to follow...
- **Printer cartridges, toner cartridges & mobile phones** - these can also be recycled through the school to help raise funds. Drop them in any time. (We can recycle most ink cartridges except for Epson and Kodak brands)

We can all play our part in recycling to help raise money for our local school and other charities.

We will update you of our progress very soon...

Village Hall News

The late May Bank Holiday saw an attempt to break into the village hall which, thankfully, was spotted on the Bank Holiday Monday by Gordon Oxford. Someone had taken a boot to the committee room door and the frame had been badly damaged. The police were called and were satisfied that nothing had been stolen from the hall. However, it has meant that the costs of the repairs and replacing the doors will have to be found - it will not necessarily all come from the insurance policy. This is the cost of thoughtless vandalism.

We attended the annual Artsreach Promoters Event and have selected three live entertainment events for this winter. We will not know whether our bids will have been successful for a couple of months. We will advertise the events when they are known.

Lifeboats (RNLI)

On Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th August (August Bank Holiday weekend) the "Front Path Stalls" will be held, as usual, at Sheila Bradley's, 46 High Street, Sixpenny Handley, from 10.30 am – 4.00 pm each day. Do, please, come and support this wonderful charity; buy your Christmas cards, Lifeboat goods and items donated by a firm which, every year, sends us a selection of their products to sell. We never know what we are going to get until they arrive, but the goods are always very acceptable. If the weather is wet, the sale will take place in the house. Enquiries: Sheila 553133

Reflections on the Parish Council Elections; a reply

I am one of those 554 people who "bothered to turn out to vote" and whilst I agree apathy seems to be the case at these elections, I will also defend a person's democratic right not to vote should they not wish to do so. It is presumptuous to assume that people are "not bothered".

It seems the author blames the electorate for not knowing the potential candidates standing for election and, indeed, for not seeking them out. Along with, most probably many others, I do not know every councillor, potential or otherwise. Of course, flyers etc, are not needed but there must be some form of communication with the public at large regarding elections. How is this achieved? The author says it's "our fault that we do not know". So how are we to proceed? Does the author suggest that potential candidates should be sought out and interviewed by every villager, or possibly a quorum held in the village hall so that candidates can be seen, identified and interrogated. *Not really viable solutions.*

But perhaps a more simplistic solution could be sought; the name (of the potential person) along with a couple of lines of "CV" placed in this most excellent publication – which I am sure most people read – would be a way of improving communication and allowing the public some knowledge of candidates.

With regard to meetings; yes I am sure that we all realise that the meetings are open to the public, but one expects, hopefully, that elected officials will act with purpose, diligence and discipline without the need for constant public supervision or (needless) public intervention.

Regarding the precept; I am one of those who "carped". I wrote asking for explanations/reasons for the increase of 11.5%, when the starting point was zero increase. The reply was very limited and the "exam question" was not answered. I have never seen a published balance sheet illustrating income over expenditure. (Once again, at the end of the fiscal year this could be published in the Downsman, along with any (short) explanation as to the decisions made).

I am quite sure that most of the village parishioners, as I do, support our elected officials and feel that they do, overall, a worthwhile task but the question still begs;

Do we not have the right to challenge and question decisions without being deemed to be obstreperous or "whinging villagers" who are too lazy or lethargic to vote!

I remain
Yours a paying passenger
D.G. Jones

Mothers' Union

Our next monthly meeting will be held on **Thursday 8th September at 15 Paddock Close at 2.45 pm** when the Rev Mel Durrant will hold a Communion Service. Before then we have a half-day outing to Moreton. There is much to see there and we do hope it won't rain!

Later in July a few members will be helping with refreshments in the Corn Exchange, Blandford, on market day to raise money for Deanery funds.

On Tuesday 9th August we will celebrate the life of the founder of the Mothers' Union. This day is designated '**Mary Sumner Day**' and a short service

will be held at St Mary's at 11.00 am, followed by coffee. Do join us to hear more about Mary Sumner's work and how the MU has kept up with the times since 1876. This date is also the Worldwide Day of Prayer, which will be incorporated into the service.

The MU caravan, sited at Durdle Door, is fully booked for the summer. We are taking our turn to clean it on 16th August. Please let Sheila know if you would like to stay in it – dates are available **out of school holiday time**.

Enquiries: Sheila Bradley 553133 or Mary Macleod 552041.

Sixpenny Handley Bowls Club

I can remember when I was a teenager seeing one of my uncles prepared to go on a bowls tour to Bournemouth with his club. He was a local businessman and his fellow members were drawn from the elite of the town. They, of course, were staying at the Royal Bath Hotel and wives were permitted to go, but not to play. He stood there in all the glory of blazer, with enough badges on the lapels to build a spitfire, white shirt, club tie, white trousers and carrying white gloves (to be used when bowling). I never saw him play, so am unsure whether he was any good, but I suspect that the kudos of wining and dining with his companions was the main attraction. To my young eyes he looked faintly ridiculous, but as he always gave me half a crown when I saw him, I suppressed my natural reactions. After all, he was an old man of about fifty.

About fifteen years ago, retired, my wife having recently died and all the jobs (well, nearly all) about the house and garden well under control, I was looking for something that my daughter and I could do together. The new all-weather bowls green had been recently completed at Sixpenny Handley, and with suppressed memories of my uncle and trepidations of not knowing any of the members, we decided to give it a try.

What a transformation has taken place over fifty years! Yes, we do turn out in white open-necked shirts and grey trousers when playing matches. We even have coloured shirts for league games, and with a throw-back to those early times, one team even calls themselves, 'The Tanners'. Red, blue, yellow bowls are sported by the trendies, and the flat white cap has been largely replaced by a white baseball cap. The 'wine and dine' after a game is now 'tea and biscuits' accompanied with good-hearted banter. We still play by roughly the same rules and the object of the game is to win, but to many it's a personal battle with a biased chunk of wood which has its own ideas of where it was intended to go.

So what's the point of this diatribe? On Wednesday evening we invited the Woodcutts Scouts Group to join us in an introduction to bowls. About twenty youngsters arrived with all the energy I have forgotten. We, and I hope they, had a great time. At the end, many of them said that they would like to play again, so if you mums and dads would like to bring them along on a Sunday afternoon, we'd be only too happy to let them have another go. Who knows; if there is enough uptake, we could even start a junior section. Now that would be progress! Rest in peace, uncle.

Bob Keech

Train Spotters

The engine driver says that there is a light at the end of the tunnel !

Volunteers needed!



The Salisbury foodbank warehouse needs your help!

We're usually on the lookout for tins and cartons and packets, but this time we could *really* do with a few pairs of helping hands:

One of our regular volunteers needs a new buddy to support, motivate, and encourage him in his tasks on Tuesday and / or Friday mornings.

We get particularly busy around harvest time, and are looking for one or more people (job sharing if necessary) to supervise the running of the warehouse Monday - Friday, 9.30 am - 5 pm (ish) on a voluntary basis.



We're always in need of buddies for volunteers working on our other projects, too - the chances are, if you want to help, there'll be a space here for you somewhere!

You don't need lots of previous experience for any of these roles just a willingness to work with people with learning disabilities, good communication skills, patience and, of course, the obligatory sense of humour...

If you're interested, please contact Lizzie Abnett on 01722 427111, or lizzie.abnett@trusselltrust.org

**The Dorset Historic Churches Trust
ANNUAL SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE
SATURDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2011**

This is one of the most enjoyable ways to raise money for a good cause, and last year thirteen cyclists – families, groups and individuals from the Parish - took part. Please circle the date in your diary, and if you haven't been involved before, consider joining in the event on Saturday September 10th! In almost every church visited, parishioners leave food and drink for the cyclists, so although you might not necessarily lose pounds, you can certainly gain ££££! Posters and information will be available in the church from the beginning of August, and I may be contacted by phone: 516453, or by email: jfcul3@hotmail.com.

Those who take part, on a bicycle (tandem or mono), on foot, in a wheelchair or on a horse, will be helping to raise money not only for the Dorset Historic Churches Trust, but also the church of their choice. The great thing about this sponsored ride is that it is very flexible – you can visit as many (or as few) churches and chapels as you wish, and start and finish when convenient to you between 10 am and 6 pm. Those unable to take part in the actual ride can help out by staffing their local church to welcome visiting cyclists - and if that is impossible, anyone can be a SPONSOR!

Please consider how best you can have fun with this FUNd raising event!

John Cullingford (Sixpenny Handley)



**COUNT YOUR
BLESSINGS**

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

15th – 21st MAY 2011

The "seeding and harvesting" of the Christian Aid envelopes to 400 or so homes in Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge Parish Council area realised the sum of £895.99 which includes the Gift Aid addition.

A heartfelt thank you for your generosity in these difficult financial times when most are feeling the pinch. When other personal donations made to other charities and causes are added to this figure – it's a really tremendous effort. This money will help so many disadvantaged people in the world in so many ways - if you wish further information and have an Internet connection, Google CHRISTIAN AID and you will get some idea of where your money goes. The charity works wherever the need is greatest, irrespective of religion or race and they invest in things that multiply and provide benefits for years to come.

Thank you again for your generosity as a community and to the collectors who made it all possible. Your gifts given with love will be received with love.

David Salmons

Endorse It In Dorset Festival 2011

The Endorse It In Dorset Festival 2011 will be held on the weekend of 12th to 14th August. If you wish to contact us with any queries, complaints and comments please call on 0787 387 8248 during the event and 0797 3737 935 before and after the event. You can also email before and after the event to g@lgofestivals.com. By calling the 'during the event' number we will be able to deal with any issues immediately. This process can take longer if you go through any other less direct channel.

Thank-you

SIXPENNY HANDLEY WHIST: 2011-2012 COMPETITION

The 2011-2012 whist competition will take place at the Village Hall between Wednesday September 14 2011 and Wednesday May 9, 2012 with prize-giving following on Wednesday May 23 2012. Entry fee for each of the seventeen competitive rounds is set at £1.50 per person and play will commence at 7.30 p.m.

The seventeen competitive rounds are scheduled for:

September 14 and 28; October 12 and 26; November 9 and 23; December 7; January 4 and 18; February 1, 15 and 29 [2012 being a leap year]; March 14 and 28; April 11 and 25 and May 9.

The Christmas Whist Drive will, weather permitting, take place on Saturday December 17.

As in previous years, Sixpenny Handley Whist will provide prize money for the top ten finishers, plus a £5 bonus prize for the highest individual score returned by any competitor who has played the requisite number of qualifying rounds, regardless of his or her overall placing.

The prize money, less the £5 bonus, comes to £137.50, broken down as follows:

1st £25; 2nd £22.50; 3rd £20; 4th £17.50; 5th £15; 6th £12.50; 7th £10; 8th £7.50; 9th £5 and 10th £2.50.

Qualification will be attendance and play in a minimum of twelve competitive drives.

A player who for any reason misses a competitive round will receive the lowest score returned at the end of the first round on September 14.

In addition to the cash prizes, Sixpenny Handley Whist prides itself in being able to provide a wealth of prizes in the form of goods - provisions for a dinner, including a joint of meat, drinks and other items of a good value. On average, at least eight persons at each whist drive will go away with a prize, and if the cards fail you, then providing you have bought yourself a strip of draw tickets, the prizes on offer for the whist are duplicated in the draw.

For 2010-2011 the average attendance was between seven and eight full tables in play, but we aim to do better for 2011-2012. The game itself is simple; it is played over 24 deals with the trump suits being hearts, clubs, diamonds and spades repeated in that order.

So, why not once a fortnight on a Wednesday give yourself a break from television and come along to the Village Hall for a game of cards with the chance to walk away at the end with one of the many prizes that will be on offer.

Bridge Still going strong both at the Sports Pavilion and at Tarrant Gunville; in the village we play on Tuesday afternoons, starting at 1.30 p.m. while at Tarrant Gunville we meet in the Village Hall with play commencing at 2 o'clock

Bill Chorley

Chase Community Friends

Formerly known as the Arts' Group, the title has changed recently to Arts, Crafts and Hobbies in the hope of attracting wider participation.

The venue remains the same; the Sports Pavilion, as does the day and time - every other Wednesday from 9.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon at the latest. So if you wish to come along and pursue the vocation of your choice, then please telephone Mrs Maureen Smith on 01725 552767 who will be only too pleased to advise you of the next meeting, or any other questions that you may have.'

Bill Chorley

ROB'S AUCTION

Saturday 8th October - starting at 6.00 pm.

Viewing from 2.00 pm

Last, but not least

Over the last year or so I have written various articles on life in Sixpenny Handley, mainly as seen through my boyhood and teenage years. I suppose you could call it a walk down memory lane.

However, there is one character and friend that I have missed, and that is Norman Clements. Norman can only be described as a one-off; a fun person with not a serious bone in his body. On his call-up into the RAF, he was posted to somewhere at the top end of Scotland. On returning to the village on leave, most RAF personnel wore forage caps, but for some obscure reason Norman had a peaked cap. This, he used as an entertainment prop with the aid of an empty cigarette packet inserted into the front of the cap which then raised the front brim of the hat considerably. Norman, who was fairly tall and slim, would then for amusement strut about like a German SS Officer. There was always a lot of nonsense, but never a dull moment. Norman was irrepressible! His parents, Fred and Mabel, lived in a house opposite Clarke's the butchers shop in the High Street. In the garden adjacent to the road, they had a wooden hut from which Mabel ran a clothing business selling working clothes, such as overalls, jackets, waterproof garments, boots, and wellies, etc, which was ideal in a working village. Fred often carried out the task of a stand-in postman.

Further up the street on the same side, was a little sweet and tobacconist shop, owned and run by Maurice and Julie Kiddle. Outside on a nearby wall was a bank of cigarette machines, most brands now long gone, such as Crayol, Players Weights, Woodbines, Black Cat, Kensitas, and Craven A. This was when Handley was a real working village. It could boast of three public houses, two grocery shops c/w independent bakeries, a bus company c/w taxi service, a garage for repairs, a hardware store, drapery shop, builder's, blacksmith/farrier, fish shop, even a resident policeman with a cell to lock you up if required. There was also a haulage firm, post office, undertaker and butcher's shop, the rest being taken up by farmers going about their everyday business. Even the Methodist Chapel was still an ongoing concern. One of the stalwarts of the chapel was my grandfather, George Bailey, who always sat in the front pew and liked to sing in a rather loud voice. Woe betide anyone who came in during the singing of the first hymn! He would take it upon himself to quietly give a "ticking off" at the end of the service to the person concerned.

However, life never stays the same, but moves on constantly; often regarded as progress, most of which is to the good, but with good comes a certain amount of bad in some form or other. In my life I have seen the progress of science and technology, and clinical surgery has been phenomenal. The early medical days of goose grease and brown paper, cod liver oil, and some horrible white liquid called Angiers Emulsion has long gone, the magic word now being antibiotics in the form tablets or injections. Clinical surgery has come on in leaps and

bounds with bits and pieces of the human body now transplanted almost as normal practice. Sadly, however, much of this knowledge has been gained from the experience of warfare with the latest success being a face transplant. Who would have thought that possible?

Another great advancement has been in communications. A disaster of any kind in the world is known about within seconds and help or assistance can be offered much more quickly. The use of computers is now quite common in most homes and can be a wonderful and useful piece of equipment. Alas, though, all is not sweetness and light: again with much good comes crime and corruption. The use of emails today is light years ahead of my younger days, when entering a phone box you had the choice of button A to speak, or button B to get your money back. Mobile phones nowadays will do almost anything in the commercial world, except make coffee!

And what of technology? Man has walked on the moon; there is a space station now permanently in space; television is in colour and as lifelike as it can possibly be, and trains can travel at 200 miles per hour. The development in aviation has moved on at a colossal rate from my early days as an RAF trainee flight mechanic in 1947. From prop swinging a Tiger Moth biplane to start the engine, to working on the 002 prototype Concord at RAF Fairford, Gloucestershire, some thirty years later was quite a big step. Sadly, the demise of Concord came after only a few years' service, being the result of a terrible crash at Paris, France on 25th July 2000 with no survivors. Several reasons for the failure were put forward; engine failure, wheel problems; picking up a strip of metal that had fallen off another aircraft and puncturing its own fuel tanks. Although it did carry on for a few more years, the future of Concord was doomed. On the other hand around that particular period, the American Boeing Aircraft Company rolled out the Jumbo Jet. Known in the trade as a bread and butter aeroplane, in other words a workhorse, it is slower but comfortable and suitable for the masses of population. It is still in production and in use throughout the world today. And the next long-range passenger plane is already on the drawing board, and cutting metal. It proposes to fly to the edge of space, and to make London to Australia inside five hours. Will technology ever stop? I doubt it.

In conclusion, I remember three young men of the village who lost their lives during the war; Harry Neave, who I only knew by sight, and two seamen, Donald Bennett and Chedley Lucas (Billy) who I remember at school and knew quite well as he lived a little further down Common Road. Donald was a member of the Army Cadet Force at one time. They were all Heroes. We can ask why? What was it all about? But will we ever find the answer? Who knows? Mankind never seems to learn the obvious lessons from warfare, that there's enough hell and hardship on earth without fighting over it.

Peter Bailey

An introduction to P.C. Simon Hallam

Firstly, I would like to introduce myself as the new Safer Neighbourhood Officer for Sixpenny Handley and the surrounding areas.

I have been a serving police officer since 2001, having started my career in rural Oxfordshire. I transferred to Dorset in 2006 initially working in Poole and then, for the past 2 ½ years, working as a response officer in Wimborne. I took over responsibility for the Handley area in April this year, taking over from Jane Brittain who, I know, was a very popular officer in this area. My role is to provide the 'village bobby' approach to policing and I have responsibility for rural East Dorset, taking in Alderholt, Cranborne, Holt, Sixpenny Handley, The Gussages and Crichels to name but a few. I am fortunate to have been appointed a PCSO, Steve Willis, who is new from the box and at the time of printing shall, hopefully, have a second team member joining us. We are working from Verwood Police Station and are now starting to get more hands-on with the issues of the area.

It was a great day for many of the villagers and visitors at the recent street Fayre. I know that many dads took time to embarrass themselves by

trying out the police hats and riot shields whilst playing with the sirens on the police cars! And I am still hiding from the scout leaders after defecting to the Snow White tug-o-war team!

On a more serious note, I would like to highlight the fact that vehicle crime has seen a marked increase across the area. Please don't make it easy for thieves; if they can't see valuables on display they won't be able to steal them. However, some good news is that a Ferndown male has been arrested and is awaiting a court hearing after successful use by police of a trap car in the area.

I hope that when anyone sees me they will feel free to speak to me, pass on any concerns and be assured I am looking to help keep Handley the safe place it is. Even in the last few months of having taken over I have been extremely impressed by the community spirit in Handley, which, sadly, is missing in some other areas, and I look forward to working with you all in the future

Simon Hallam PC 2457
simon.hallam@dorset.pnn.police.uk



Sixpenny Handley

Sixpenny Handley Homewatch June 2011



Sixpenny Handley

The run up to the Great Dorset Steam Fair (31st August to 4th September) usually coincides with a small rise in crime locally, so please be alert. This year an added problem during the Fair may be its coincidence with a large festival event at the Larmer Tree. The traffic, always heavy, may be even worse than usual, so we suggest you try to avoid the A354 south west of the village during that period.

Already (late July) travellers are reported moving into the area for the Fair and for other late summer events. There may be a link between this and a recent increase in thefts of diesel, particularly from bulk tanks on farms but also from agricultural vehicles as well. Domestic oil tanks have been drained in the past, so think about securing those too, especially if you are going away.

The Endorse it in Dorset music festival will take place at Oakley Farm from 12th – 14th August. The noise levels and crowd management have been excellent in recent years but if you have any concerns, please contact the organisers, who publish a phone number for such enquiries.

Cars at beauty spots have been targeted lately, with the car parks round Martin Down being a notable site. If you leave a car there or in the Garston Wood car park and other similar locations, please don't leave any valuables inside and make sure you lock up carefully.

Despite all the above, recent reported crime statistics for our area have been low. Let's all stay vigilant to keep it that way.

BOOK REVIEWS

At the end of the Second World War the United Kingdom boasted an aircraft industry almost on a par with that giant of industrial know-how, the United States of America. One key area where we lagged behind our American allies was in the design of commercial airliners which were going to be needed as the normalities of peace returned. However, this deficiency was balanced out by the lead that we held in the development of jet propulsion, for apart from the defeated *Third Reich* no other country had a jet-propelled aircraft in production and with a second almost ready to go into squadron service. The two were Gloster's Meteor and de Havilland's Vampire. Yet, within the span of four decades Britain's aircraft industry was but a pale shadow of its former glory.

In a well-written analysis of what went so badly wrong James Hamilton-Paterson's book *Empire of the Clouds* sub-titled (a little misleadingly) *When Britain's Aircraft Ruled the World*, exposes the muddled thinking and costly mistakes perpetrated by all the parties concerned; governments - both Conservative and Labour; the armed forces where the senior chiefs ignored the common good in preference to fighting their corners to the bitter end and, not least, the aircraft industry itself where boards of directors seemed content to rely on past achievements rather than face up to the economic realities that had arrived with the peace.

This is a book that anyone who has an interest in aviation, or the decline in our ability to produce well-designed and efficient goods, should read for it exposes and dams in equal measure the myth that *'British was Best'*.

Out of the 352 pages (plus source notes and an index) emerges a clear and unequivocal fact that despite being let down time and time again by the higher echelons of power, the industries' test pilots and their Royal Air Force counterparts, whose task it was to get the very best out of what

they had been given, come through with flying colours.

A recurring thread which the author pursues throughout the book is his high regard for one such test pilot, namely Gloster's Bill Waterton who was abruptly sacked by the Company in March 1954, and thereafter castigated from several quarters of the aviation press. And this was a pilot who early in the testing of the last aircraft to be built by Gloster's, the Javelin, brought one down to a crash-landing on Boscombe Down airfield at a terrible risk to his life when he could so easily have taken the safe option and eject. The vindictiveness of Gloster's management board was inexcusable and this theme of mean-minded individuals and departments is repeated in his telling of the various decisions by governments to cancel some of the most promising projects of the day (Harold Wilson and the TSR.2 debacle of the 1960s, while the near decimation of the air force that might have followed Duncan Sandys *White Paper* presented to the Macmillan government of 1957 are but two examples).

Published in paperback by Faber and Faber at the most reasonable price of £9.99, it is a thought-provoking first class read.

From fact to fiction, and I recommend the three-book series written by the Swedish author, the late Stieg Larssen. Titled *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*; *The Girl Who Played with Fire* and *The Girl who Kicked the Hornet's Nest*. As all three feature the journalist character Mikael Blomkvist and the lead character Lisbeth Salander, I do suggest they should be read in order. My only criticism is that the plot loses its edge in places due to rather lengthy passages that could, with editing, been tightened, but that said, it is a series well worth reading.

Bill Chorley

Mobile Library Schedule		-	Visits on Thursday Fortnightly
Woodyates – Copley 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		August 4th, 18th
Sheasby Close	4.10 – 4.30		September 1st, 15th, 29th, October 13th



Woodcutts Scouts

BACK AT HOME!

Saturday 18th June 2011 saw the start of a new era for 1st Woodcutts Scout Group. The new Headquarters was officially opened by Richard Adlem, the President of the Group. Phil Harding of Time Team, who also happens to be a former Scout, raised the flag at the very first Flag Break for the group in our new 'Hut'.

The group has grown in numbers since starting in 1957, with the hut proving difficult to maintain, and with the aspiration to continue growing the group needed to do something! In 2007 the "big push" in fundraising was begun. Fireworks night, litter picking at the Larmer Tree, the Street Fayre, darts evenings and Endorse it in Dorset all helped raise funds, together with donations from EDDC, the Parish Council, Talbot Trust and Grassroots to name but a few. Fundraising is very difficult, but the village community came together and a benefactor came forward. Richard Adlem gave the building its 'Kick Start' and the funding to complete the build. This enabled the group to finally see the move from the "chicken shed" and start the new building.

The new building not only supplies this pro-active group of 85 young people and 11 adult leaders with the facilities to continue and grow, but will also provide this community with another amenity. To ensure this fits in with the village amenities, we have been careful not to encroach on existing facilities but have looked at filling the gap such as providing band rehearsal facilities away from the village, or providing camping and training facilities, including indoor showers, etc, which other Scout and youth groups can hire for their enjoyment of camping in a beautiful part of Dorset.

A BIG THANKYOU

Of course all this upheaval posed a problem as to how the group's sections could continue during the building process. A **BIG THANKYOU** to all the community as they came together and offered facilities in the Village Hall, Sports Pavilion and every other amenity in the village enabling meetings to continue. We managed to continue all the weekly meets and even expanded EVERY section at the same time. We are looking to do something special on Bonfire Night in recognition of everyone's support.

WHAT THIS NEW HQ REALLY MEANS

Toby Cullen, Chairman, said, "Scouting in this area is very strong and this new building can only help the young people we already have and those in the future to take part in the 'Big Adventure'. Scouting can change the world for good as Scouts care for the environment and participate in a variety of community service activities as has been proved by the fundraising activities. They are helped to develop through challenges, teamwork and leadership skills. We may only be a small part of the half a million Scouts in the UK, but every group has something to offer and our new facilities will only increase the ben-

efits to the young people of the area and beyond"

GROUP SCOUT LEADER'S REPORT

Well, at last we are officially in our new HQ. What a journey we have had and what a wonderful opening ceremony - even the rain managed to hold off for most of the time! I should like to thank everyone for their contribution; to those who came along to support us on the day - family, friends and members of the community, especially the leaders and young people who are the reason why we do what we do.

All of the sections were represented at the beginning of May on our bi-annual family camp which, this year, was held at Buddens Farm, near Wareham. All who attended had a fantastic time with lots of Scout activities for parents and family to 'have a go'. My thanks to the Leader team for the organisation of this bi-annual event: a lot of hours went into putting this event together which paid off by making things move smoothly. All of the leadership played a part and even the President and his Lady attended the Sunday evening camp fire.

We recently gave a presentation to the East Dorset Scout Council AGM - the topic being a Year of Scouting at Woodcutts, which also included the HQ rebuild. Feedback was very positive with many of the District and County team commenting on the strength of teamwork that we showed and how others would benefit from this insight into Scouting. These comments were supported by our District Commissioner who commented at the AGM on the fantastic parental support and the recent HQ opening.

Summer camp is at Ferny Crofts. Planning is progressing well and we have a total of 24 Cubs, Scouts and Explorers, along with a smattering of leaders and one Gold DofE person, who will help Akela with the Cubs. Here's hoping for good weather at the end of August whilst we are away.

The sections continue to grow which is not a bad thing but may lead to us having to hold waiting lists and we may even have to think about forming new sections which would put an even greater strain on the leadership. However, we will have to cross that bridge if and when it becomes necessary. We must now focus on delivering an amazing Summer Camp and exciting autumn term across all the sections.



The Beavers have been working on lots of different things. Dads received their Fathers' Day presents - a homemade key ring crafted specially for 'Dad'. We took part in the National Insect week which was celebrated with a Bug Hunt. Christina Reynolds and Mike Swan very kindly came up to the hut and lent us their expertise on the day; the children were enchanted and were asking for more time at the end. We found lots

of interesting things to study including fat worms and woodlice. We did talk one enthusiastic Beaver out of taking home a colony of woodlice to start a farm in his back garden! More recently we have been looking at air. One week the children made insect-shaped gliders and this week we looked at how a wind farm works, making our own windmills and making kites, too. The most exciting news as far as I am concerned is that on Friday 8th July we had our long-anticipated Beaver sleepover. 20 Beavers attended, playing games, sitting around the camp fire singing all the 'traditional' Woodcutts songs, toasting marshmallows, had a magic show and watched a film and, as far as I am aware, all of them had a brilliant time. We think they also slept, although all but two were up and about at 5.30 am! The other Group Leaders came and helped Jill and I to make the evening a success which we appreciated so much; it really was a team effort.

cubs Numbers continue to grow including four starters new to Scouting at Woodcutts. Attendance remains at around 98% and enthusiasm appears high amongst children and parents alike. The new HQ has come into its own with the facilities allowing a much greater range of activities and the ability to split activities between groups, the latter being a great help with the high numbers we are currently enjoying. For the first time since I started running the Cub Pack we are in a period where new starters are coming in at a greater rate than we are moving children on to the next section. This is a brilliant problem to have but one which needs to be monitored closely. Since returning to the HQ we have enjoyed a variety of evenings ranging from knotting skills to paper aeroplane competitions, a cook-out with camp bread and popcorn and a mini-beast nature hunt. We even managed a musical evening where I filled the HQ with my wide and varied collection of musical instruments and allowed the Cubs free rein. It was certainly noisy and I don't think we will win any musical awards ... yet!! A number of the Cubs will be joining the Scouts and Explorers at Summer Camp in the New Forest; this will be the first full week they have done for some time and something I hope to repeat going forwards, maybe even a 'Cub' only camp – there's food for thought ...

SCOUTS We are now back home and able to enjoy Scouting proper. Since being in our new HQ we have had a real focus on Scouting skills, which includes instruction on knife and

axe, proper use of saws and then shelter building. Our very own Ray Mears, Anthony, had the Scouts lighting fires with the traditional bow, and cooking bread in a Dutch oven. This really is the start of a very exciting time for Scouts at Woodcutts. We have now formed 4 patrols – Falcons, Badgers, Wolves and Stags and appointed Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders to each. The first Patrol Leaders' Council decided which Scouts were in which patrol and gave an indication of the activities they think the members would enjoy. It is hoped that Martin will lead a night hike for the young people, and a trip to Thorpe Park or similar can be arranged for the autumn term. The Scouts have expressed an overwhelming interest in a Survival Camp and this is most likely to be held in the spring. This will be a real chance to practise the skills learnt over recent weeks and on Summer Camp.



The Explorer unit remains at 10 although we did lose one explorer, an ex-Scout returned to the fold. This term has been focussed on getting back into a routine with the new hut and keeping things on a more fun basis as the majority of the Explorers are sitting their GCSEs. We have started to use a new piece of kit called a Slack Line – this is a bouncy tightrope which is stretched between two trees about 2 feet off the ground. We have used it during our wide games nights; its early days yet but most of the explorers can at least stand up on it, which is no mean feat. Who knows when the back flips might begin! At the beginning of July we joined the rest of East Dorset Explorers at the District Camp site at Wimborne St Giles for a BBQ, archery, air rifle and slack lining. There were over 40 Explorers and with a good night for weather everyone had an enjoyable evening. This week, we joined the Scouts having a go at bowling with the village bowling club - yet another new experience and a chance to work with the Scout section. It is good to expose the Explorers section to the Scout section for continuity as the older scouts move into Explorers after their 14th birthday. Next week is our last outing where we will be completing the final litter pick after the Larmer Tree Festival. We are still working through next term, but hope to get DoF activities running, looking at what can be done with the PCs as the nights draw in and, you never know, maybe even an Explorer-edited group newsletter.

Village Hall 100 Club Winners

May				June			
1st	£25	134	Mrs Hardiman	1st	£25	124	Mrs Oxford
2nd	£15	90	Mr Smith	2nd	£15	20	Mrs Richardson
3rd	£10	9	Mrs Rhodes	3rd	£10	74	Mrs Summeril

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



News And Information

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

On May 19th, a few members attended a group meeting at Tarrant Gunville where the speaker, Rosemary Legrand, gave a talk, illustrated with many slides, on her holiday in New Zealand. There were many entrants to the competition entitled, 'A Floating Flower', and together with a raffle and, of course, a very good buffet meal, it was a very enjoyable evening.

On June 8th, 15 members went on a relaxing river cruise along the charming Wareham River from Poole Quay, the weather was kind and on arrival at Wareham, a fish and chips lunch was served; an outing enjoyed by all.

On June 13th, Sixpenny Handley W.I. held its garden meeting at the home of Elizabeth and Michael Brodie at Middle Chase Farm. It was well attended and after the brief business had been completed, there was a treasure hunt in which certain plants and vegetables had to be identified. There was a certain amount of cheating amongst the members, but great fun was had by all! The evening ended with tea and cake and, of course, the famous Elizabeth meringues that everybody craves!

Sutton Waldron and Iwerne Minster W.I. held their Summer Show where there were plenty of vegetable, flower, craft and cookery items on display and, as part of the Beacon group, a separate competition was held entitled 'Our Village'. Four members of Sixpenny Handley W.I. took on the challenge and took the first prize. The village, 'Mousell', complete with thatched cottages and church was seen hosting the wedding of Milly Greytail and Monty Barleycorn; much work and creativity went into this project and shows just



how much talent there is amongst our W.I. members.



On July 11th the W.I. meeting was held at Martin Green's Museum and Farm. The evening was dry and bright and it started off with a visit to the wildlife pond, which looked stunning as it was surrounded with a mass of colourful wild flowers. After a look round the museum, Martin took a large group on a mile long walk around part of his archaeological site. It was an evening enjoyed by all, particularly as Martin is such an interesting and knowledgeable speaker.

Dates for the Diary

8th August: American Supper Chez: The Old Forge
12th September: Mrs Nicky Marriott—Being a Radio Ham and visit to The Falkland Islands.

Sixpenny Handley W.I. is a thriving group. As well as the regular meetings held on the second Monday of the month at the Village Hall at 7.30 pm, there are other activities to take part in, plus the book and craft clubs that also meet on a monthly basis - in other words there is something for everybody.

Anyone who would like to attend a meeting or would like more information, please contact the Secretary, Mrs Bobbie Carter. Tel 01725 552042.

Rita Taylor (Committee Member)



On Sunday, July 3rd the Dorset Federation of Women's Institutes held a Flower Festival at Milton Abbey. Six members from Sixpenny Handley W.I. worked on their entry entitled 'Ascot'. It was a great work of art, involving plenty of artistic flair and imagination; certainly we have some very talented ladies!! Unfortunately the result of the competition will not be known until

October when it will be announced at the Autumn Council Meeting in Poole.

On 6th July,



Independence for Woodcutts?

For twelve years now I have been passing on to the readers of the Downsman important information concerning the *status quo* here at Woodcutts, and in that time there has never been such an important issue as this. We constantly hear of peoples throughout the developing world fighting for their right of freedom and democracy and overall independence in their native lands. This occurs in such wild and distant places such as Scotland and Wales, so why not Woodcutts?

Much thought has been given to this very serious proposal; financially, territorially, commercially and ethically. For example, how could an independent Woodcutts survive financially? Obviously the first step would be to broaden our horizon - that is, we would nationalise all land in the parish and surrounding areas as far as we could without opposition. We would create toll booths at each entry point into the "country"; for example, the border to the east on Common Road would be at New Barn, which would mean that the toll collection would be added to considerably by those visiting their new allotments. The western boundary would be just to the east of the junction of the Tollard Royal/Farnham road and the Sixpenny Handley road to enable tolls to be collected for all those members of the golf club as they visited their course. The same could be done to the north of the golf course so that there would be no favouritism shown to people living in a different direction. A further toll barrier would be situated at the end of the lane from Gussage St Andrew. It would have to be south of the 'Little Church' as this would be the religious centre of the 'nation', although there is also an unused chapel in the metropolis itself for non-conformists.

Additional revenue would come from the renting out of the farms within Woodcutts, tourism (nature rambles, guided woodland walks, deer stalking, bird watching and various other natural activities) and, of course, the sale of local natural products, such as oil seed rape oil, excess vegetables from locals' gardens and honey, if we can produce enough to sell in the Post Office at Sixpenny Handley, at least until Steve produces his own.

So you can see that a lot of thought has gone into this project, but of course with every new venture there has to be a *piece de resistance*. In this case it takes the form of our parliamentary buildings. Where would parliament meet? It is quite obvious when you think about it! The answer is there for all to see. It is the new, fantastic Scout Hut! After all, Parliament wouldn't meet in the evenings, weekends or during the school holidays when the scouts and cubs would use it, and a rent would be paid for its use so it would be a win, win situation.

It is appreciated that this could come as a shock to many people as nothing has leaked out prior to this and

no work has been done on the telephone concerning the project to prevent phone tapping or hacking. So, with a little further planning and agreement on certain parties, it is a 'go ahead' for a Free Woodcutts.

Now we must return to the more immediate things in life, like the situation of the wildlife of the neighbourhood. To start with, I must mention the swallows that have nested in the stable. At three o'clock today, Meg said that the young swallows were making a lot of noise and were peering over the edge of their nest and that I ought to photograph them. I went up immediately and took some shots and came back to download them onto my computer. By the time I had done this, Meg returned to tell me that the brood had fledged and was no longer there. I am forwarding a picture of the fledglings with this article; however I am not sure how it will look in black and white and have to leave it to our editor to decide if it is worth printing.



Other bird news concerns the food supply. Up until three weeks ago, I was having to refill the mixed seed feeder on a daily basis, but quite suddenly all the tits and finches that were feeding from it stopped coming and I haven't had to refill it for more than two weeks. The niger seed supplied especially for the gold finches has not been used for almost a month now. We were having at least five of them visiting us on a regular basis. Whilst on the subject of finches, Paul, our neighbour, has seen a pair of bull finches in his garden and a few days ago Meg saw one in our front garden. Unfortunately, I haven't been lucky enough to see this magnificent finch myself yet this year.

Even the magpies, jackdaws and our friendly pheasant have deserted us, presumably because there is sufficient wild food about now. Another cause for wonder at the present time is the lack of colour in the countryside; everywhere is mainly green with a distinct lack of coloured flowers except for the occasional splash of red, where rose bay willow herb can be seen. This is not taking account of the red poppies seen in many corn and oil seed rape crops. This year, because of the very dry spring the poppies had not germinated when herbicide applications were made and because these herbicides rely on contact and have no residual effect, the later germinating poppies have had a field day and in some cases have taken over for a limited period but will have negligible effect on the yields of the harvested crops, although they do brighten up the countryside.

Continued on page 29

The Ancient Technology Centre, Cranborne

Newsletter August / September

Open Weekends – Ancient Days – Storytellings – Tours – Volunteering projects – Corporate Days

School visits – Residentials – Outreach to Schools – Learning Centres – Ancient Skills Courses

About twenty five years ago a group of Cranborne children and volunteers built a roundhouse in the top corner of their school field. This marked the start of work at the ATC. Recent inspections have revealed that it's become unsafe. So, time to rebuild! The demolition phase has commenced and in normal ATC spirit we are reusing as much as possible. The thatch is being re-bundled, the rotten bits trimmed and our cob wall is being thatched. The daub will be removed and put in a pit for re-puddling and all the rotten timber chopped up for fire wood. In the winter we will be harvesting new timbers and rebuilding. If you are interested in helping out, please give us a call.

OPEN DAYS:

'Ancient Apple Day - Autumn' - Saturday 10th SEPTEMBER (10am - 4pm) A celebration of Autumn. Join the staff and volunteers and help harvest the crops and prepare for them for storage. Bring your own apples (and bottles) for pressing on our ancient apple press. Tea, homemade cake and local beef burgers will be available in the Longhouse. Tickets on the door: Adults £4.00 /Children £2.00.

STORYTELLING AND MUSIC:

'STING IN THE TALE' Festival of Storytelling 2011: 20th -29th AUGUST
A fantastic opportunity to enjoy storytelling for all ages - a few of which are taking place here at the ATC:

Saturday 20th AUGUST: SITT Festival Launch Party: New Forest Storytellers:
'The Cyclops' Other Eye' - A collection of Greek Oddities of love, laughter, war and wisdom from Ancient Greece.

Sunday 21st AUGUST: Storytelling Workshops - come and learn about the art of storytelling - 11am - 4pm.

Saturday 27th AUGUST: SITT Event: Storytelling with Kate & Corwen and The Travelling Talesman:
'Bosi and Herruad' - Dark Ages tale full of magical beasts, cunning escapes and witty seductions.

Tickets for all SITT events available from East Dorset Heritage Trust on 01202 888992: £10 for adults; £5 for 16 and under - suitable for children 12 years and up.

'JAMINAROUND' - Saturday 3rd SEPTEMBER 2011 Jaminaround returns to the Cranborne Earhouse with a special one-off evening of music and storytelling in this unique and magical setting. Internationally renowned Storyteller and Jaminaround favourite - Jan Blake, plus "Europe's premier Brazilian percussionist" Bosco D'Oliveira leads a 6-piece band playing traditional Samba songs, plus Zimbabwean Mbira Maestro - Linos Wengara Magaya, and more.... NOT TO BE MISSED!!!! Advance tickets £10 or £15 on the door. Advance tickets available via www.jaminaround.com or from Square Records in Wimborne), Food and Drinks will be available. For more info email jam_in_a_round@yahoo.co.uk Or visit the Facebook event page for Jaminaround.

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I remember my botany teacher telling us when I was doing 'A' levels some twenty or more years ago now, that some members of the Kew Gardens staff had taken some of the seeds of wild flower that had been stored there in their herbarium for over a hundred years and found that they germinated. So looking at some of the red poppy fields about this year, we are unlikely to lose them in the near future. Other prolific flowering plants this year have been the white and bladder campion which have graced our roadsides, for example, the road to Cranborne, and our hedgerows with great prolificacy. In the gardens everybody must have noticed how roses of all types, have blossomed prolifically since the rains came in late spring and early summer.

What we haven't seen yet are many butterflies, but with only a few wild flowers to supply food this is not surprising. Now, somewhat belatedly, the buddleias are beginning to bloom which will guarantee some return to normality of garden butterfly numbers. Elsewhere in the garden, soft fruit has yielded extremely well this year. This was due to the rain in late spring, which was extremely well timed for both soft fruit and our apple trees, which also look well and should give us a good yield. In the vegetable garden, like so many other gardeners this year, we had problems with the germination of parsnip seed despite watering. This, of

course, is not unusual but carrots were also a problem, and this *is* unusual. Early potatoes on the other hand have yielded very well - in fact the average size of the tubers have been nearer to tennis ball size than what would normally be expected. Old Bob's saying about his spuds of, "Somes as big as marbles, somes as big as peas and the rest is li'l'uns", would certainly not be applicable this year.

There are several other things I was going to mention, but I am sure I have used up all my allotted space. However, I must mention that grassland farmers have been very relieved to get the rainfall, which has meant that they have more grass for grazing and conservation than they thought they were going to get in early May, but the situation is still very serious and straw will be needed to supplement hay and silage. This will mean that arable farmers selling straw will need to apply more fertiliser, which will push the fertiliser price even higher than it is now. This increase can only mean one thing: higher food prices in the year to come, especially if the yields of cereals are below average, which they could be because of that very dry start to the year.

I must stop now and wish you all a happy summertime and God bless you all.

Ted Cox (10.07.11)

Sixpenny Handley First School News

It has been a busy year here at Sixpenny Handley First School. We started the year off by opening the new Extended Schools' building and with an 'Outstanding Ofsted'. Along the way we have put on shows, been on trips, sung to the Chase Community Friends, and received numerous visitors and much, much more!

We have developed and established a link with Tshifudi Primary School, Limpopo Province in South Africa and the children have loved sending and receiving letters/photographs with our new friends.

We have achieved our Silver Eco-Schools Award and are awaiting the outcome of our Rights Respecting School Level 2. We have been recognised across the county as a leading school and have delivered many conferences/workshops to other Dorset schools, where we have shared our creative curriculum and pupil voice.

As the academic year comes to an end we are busy planning ahead for September and we welcome Miss Judi Osborne who will be teaching the Year 1 class. Mrs Hampshire and Miss Bradshaw will be continuing the excellent work and leading the school forward in my absence as I take maternity leave. I very much look forward to hearing what the children achieve and know that they will have a great start to the term. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff, parents, governors and friends in the community for their support this year in making our school such a special place. Wish you all a very happy and safe summer.

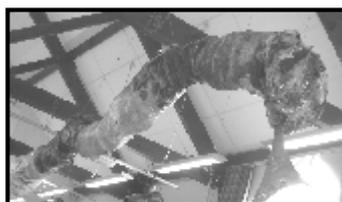
Mrs Clare Hewitt (Head Teacher)

A trip to Moors Valley!



On Friday, the whole school climbed on board a double decker coach to go to Moors Valley Country Park! We went for a fun day out to celebrate all of our achievements this year. When we arrived, we walked across a wooden bridge, keeping an eye out for the troll, to get to the train station. It was great fun on the train, especially going through the tunnels and seeing who could be the loudest! We had a good time climbing and playing in the park and the zip wire was our favourite. It was very fast! Some of us were very brave and climbed all the way up to the top of the rock! We had lunch by the lake and then explored the play trail. We all enjoyed a yummy ice cream in a teddy bear cone. Then it was time to hop back on the coach to school and some of us even had a sleep! What a fabulous day at Moors Valley Country Park.

Australian Arts Week



For this year's arts week, the children learnt about Australian art!

We started the week with a visitor, Chris Holland, also known as the 'Didgeridoo Man', who played the didgeridoo and told some amazing dream-time stories. He taught the children how to play the didgeridoo, making some weird but wonderful noises!



The week was full of creative opportunity from making a giant rainbow serpent inspired by an aboriginal dream-time story, learning the arts of aboriginal dance and creating aboriginal dot paintings!

Chris Holland also showed us how earth and soil can make wonderful paints. The children learnt how to create aboriginal art using paints made from Sixpenny Handley's grounds. The children used their fingers to design and paint onto strips of calico.

Mr Meyer kindly made the children all a wooden boomerang that they then decorated in preparation to fly. After an exciting demonstration from Mr

Meyer the children all had the opportunity to fly their boomerangs; however, not all returned in the same way!

After a jammed packed week the children of Sixpenny Handley First



School celebrated all their learning with a traditional Aussie BBQ lunch!

Summer Fête fun!

What a fantastic evening was had by all on Friday 1st July! The children opened the fete with two lovely songs and wowed us with their energetic 'Wake and Shake'. Then there was a chance to buy fresh strawberries and cream or have a go on the 'Guess the Teacher' stall before being entertained again, this time by the lively Line Dancing Club and the small, yet perfectly formed, school choir. Off for more fun on the bouncy castle and a chance to cheer on the teachers as they braved the water chair! The sun shone long into the evening, giving our guests the chance to browse the many stalls supporting our fete. Finally, we rounded off the evening with our raffle and a huge range of prizes waiting to be won! Everyone worked so hard to make this evening a success!

Sports Day

Sports day at Sixpenny Handley First School was on Friday 24th June



and everyone went up to the football pitch for some competitive challenges between classes. All the children in the school took part in a sprint race in their classes and worked together as a team to compete in a relay race. The children were also put in groups within their classes to compete against each other in both skills and novelty races. In the skills race, the children showed off what they had learnt throughout the year with Coach Ben.

The most enjoyable events were the novelty races. The Robins became animals and had fun on the farm. The Wrens were hoola-hooping at the circus. The Kestrels had a Mexican Mayhem and the Woodpeckers got soaked on the Cat Walk. After the children had completed their challenges, the Mums, Dads, toddlers and even the teachers had their own races! We then all headed back to the school for a picnic and ice creams.



Rob's Column

Make Somebody Happy

We can all make somebody happy,
 We can all dry somebody's tear,
 We can all help someone through hard times,
 And calm their desperate fears.

We can all give somebody courage
 To take just one step more.
 We can all help someone, somehow,
 That's what we're all here for.

We can all make somebody's troubles
 A little easier to bear.
 We can all hold someone's hand
 As they pass through deep waters of care.

We can all give some words of comfort
 When folks are in dire distress.
 We can all do something, my friends,
 to touch living with happiness.

For we can all make somebody happy
 on every day that we live
 So don't let us think of this and that
 When our hearts are prompted to give.

Just let our soul have its freedom
 To live and grow and expand,
 And remember, our gifts to our fellow men
 Will all pass through God's own hand.

Silent Friends

Books are special kinds of friends.
 In fact, they are unique.
 They tell us all we want to know
 through words that never speak.
 They can be dropped along the way,
 but never seem to mind.
 And to the clues our questions seek
 their answers we shall find.
 Books speak volumes in their way,
 each word exactly meant.
 Well-versed, of course,
 in happiness,
 and full of deep content.

How are kids expected to listen to
 their parents when Cinderella stays
 out 'till midnight, Pinocchio does
 nothing but lie, Aladdin hangs around
 with a bunch of thieves, Batman drives
 at 320 mph, Sleeping Beauty is nothing
 but lazy, and Snow white lives with
 seven men?

Keeping Children (The economical method)

First of all you will need a well-prepared and warm home in which to store them and this is the recipe.

Ingredients:

A generous infusion of God's tender love
 One large grassy field, with a sprinkling of sturdy trees
 Half a dozen small children
 2 or 3 small dogs
 A pinch of brook, mud if available (not necessary) but does enhance the flavour)
 Some pebbles
 Warm affection
 Love and laughter
 A deep blue sky (a spattering of clouds won't harm the mixture)

Method:

Mix the children and dogs together and season generously with love (this mixture can never be too well seasoned). Put the mixture into the field stirring constantly, and here I would encourage the use of trees,. Sprinkle the field with flowers and add the pinch of brook. (For a richer mixture, add the mud and pebbles at this point). Spread all over with a deep blue sky and bake in the sunshine, but do keep a watch on the mixture as it can burn very quickly. When turned a nutty brown, set in a tepid bath and when dry and still rosy and warm, saturate with God's tender love and pack away between sheets of mummy's cuddles and daddy's bear hugs. This display of affection is vital as it will ensure that the preserve will absorb God's love, the all-important ingredient, more readily. Store in a home of love and laughter. This preserve is guaranteed to keep under any conditions (indefinitely). It works for granddads as well to enjoy children having fun.

Don't catch the misery bug

Do you have a partner who's constantly moaning, or work in a grumpy office? Then watch out - misery is contagious! A Harvard study shows unhappiness, and all moods, can be infectious. That's because our brains have 'mirror neurons' that mimic the expressions of the people we're with causing 'contagious thinking', and if our faces are 'arranged' into a certain emotion - like a frown - the feeling soon follows. All the more reason to change jobs if you're in a negative environment - or ditch that miserable partner. If not, then you'll only end up following the same as them. *(No chance of any of these if you read Rob's Column).*

I bought a litre bottle of Tippex yesterday. Big mistake!

Life's a Puzzle

Life's a jigsaw puzzle,
 We solve it day by day.
 Bits of life we're given
 To use in our own way.
 The pieces are so varied,
 Each one a different hue,
 Each from a different moulding
 That's formed for only you.
 At times you'd like to change them.
 You wish for better luck.
 But, in spite of all your crumbling
 You find, with them, you're stuck.
 But if you'll do the best you can
 To solve life's puzzle here,
 Some day you'll be surprised to see
 A picture, crystal clear.
 R. Hartnett

Why did the toilet roll run down
 the hill?
 (To get to the bottom)

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

Last time, I told you about the swallows who chose to create a new nest on the crossbeam of my workshop. They finished the nest and sat in it for a couple of days before moving back to last year's nest, which was the best solution as far as I was concerned. They, along with the other five pairs, have reared their broods which are now sitting on the electric wires chattering away to each other. I wonder what they talk about; perhaps they are discussing the long haul flight to Africa which lies ahead. Something like, "Dad, my wings are tired." "You'll know what tired is when you fly to our summer quarters, son!" When you think how small and light-weight they are and how young the second broods are when they start the journey south, it is amazing that they manage to get there. We have a bird table just outside the kitchen window, and we put feed out all year round. In the morning when I am eating my toast I watch the antics of the fitches, tits and sparrows. This year we have had a number of goldfinches, a bird which had not graced our table before. They were with us for about four weeks and then disappeared as suddenly as they came, and our mornings were less bright after their departure. I still don't understand why they came and stayed; I am just pleased they did, and I hope they will visit again next year.

When I was young most of my Saturdays were spent with my grandparents and, like most children, I had a box of toys there. At the end of the day, if I hadn't put them away, my Nan would say, "Who do you think is going to put those away? The fairies?" I feel like asking the same question to the drivers who go along the road outside our house throwing litter out of the car window. Because we are on the only straight bit of road between two villages the detritus seems to be blown along until it finds a gap, which is our drive. In addition to the plastic bottles, cardboard meal boxes and drinks cans, I have found pornographic magazines, items of clothing and pieces of timber. So, the next time you see someone throwing something out of the window, think of the fairy that is retrieving it.

Finally the serious topic: dogs being left in cars. Many of you will have seen the report of a policeman who, for a second time, left dogs in a car for a prolonged time and who died as a result of their experience. Dogs can only sweat through their tongue by panting; they cannot take off their fur coat if they are hot. We are now in the season of summer shows and fairs. Most of the bigger shows have people patrolling the car park to spot dogs that have been left, and if they think that the dogs are in distress they will break your window. Leaving one or both of the back windows slightly ajar is not sufficient as a car heats up very quickly and, in direct sun, becomes so hot that you are cooking your dog alive. So, if you are going to a show, make sure that you can take the dogs in with you, and if you can't, leave them at home.

Richard Harwood

The Downsman

DON'T FORGET WHAT'S ON!!!

DATE	FUNCTION	PAGE	DATE	FUNCTION	PAGE
4 Aug	Mobile Library	21	1 Sept	Mobile Library	21
8 Aug	W.I. American Supper	26	4 Sept	Pets' Thanksgiving Service, St. Mary's Church	16
9 Aug	M.U. 'Mary Sumner Day'	11	8 Sept	M.U. Meeting	11
12 -14 Aug	Endorse it in Dorset	13	10 Sept	Dorset Historic Churches Trust Sponsored Cycle Ride	13
14 Aug	Garden Party, Woodcutts Farm	20	12 Sept	W.I. Meeting	26
18 Aug	Mobile Library	21	14 Sept	Whist competition starts	15
27 Aug	RNLI Front Path Stalls	9	15 Sept	Copy Deadline	3
28 Aug	RNLI Front Path Stalls	9	15 Sept	Mobile Library	21
			15 Sept	Bingo	25
			29 Sept	Chase Garden Club	25
			29 Sept	Mobile Library	21
			1 Oct	Next Edition	3