

The Downman

February 2012



Tree planting at the new allotments
(see further details on page 13)
Photo courtesy of John Cullingford

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

Lisa Goodwin 01258 840935

Assistant 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
	Leanne Chick	552277

Happy Nappy Club

Helen Beesley	552172
Clair Brown	552814

1st Woodcutts Scout Group

Group Scout Leader	John Curtis	552397
Explorer Leader	Andy Turner	552735
Scout Leader	Rob Easton	552038
Cub Leader	Andy Young	01258 830861
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 Mothers' 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	01258 840231
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

**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 April 2012
Copy Deadline is Thursday 15th March 2012
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

Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge Parish Council
Unit 5B, Town Farm Workshops, Sixpenny Handley. SP5 5PA
Email: sixpennyhandley@dorsetparishes.gov.uk

Office 01725 552211/Clerk to the Council (Lisa Goodwin)01258 840935

February 2012

Thank you for all your completed 'Parish Plan & Youth Questionnaires' which were distributed with the last edition of The Downsman. We will now begin to analyse your responses to see how you would like your community to develop over the next 10 - 15 years. Next month, the Clerk and Councillors will be attending a seminar on the 'Localism Act'. The Act sets out a series of measures with the potential to achieve a substantial and lasting shift in power away from central Government and towards local people. It is to help people and their locally elected representatives to achieve their own ambitions. We will need to be prepared for how this will affect the Parish Council.

In December, Councillors agreed the 2012-2013 Budget and submitted the Precept Demand to East Dorset District Council.

On January 19th, Councillors were trained in the 'Power of Well Being', an additional power to promote the 'economic, social and environmental' well being of the area.

Councillors will be preparing to consider the forthcoming consultation on East Dorset District Council's Core Strategy 'pre-submission' document which will contain the planning polices for our area until 2028.

At the request of local parents, the Parish Council is currently looking at adding some play equipment for younger children (0-6 years) at the Recreation Ground. With the help of the parents, the Parish Council hopes to secure funding for additional equipment. We have however, arranged for the current play equipment to be re-painted in the spring and the zip wire repaired. We are also pleased to have been able to assist with the arrangements and costs to repair the wall at the Bowls Club. This is hoped to be completed during the spring.

Don't forget to keep an eye on our website which gives you access to a range of information including minutes of the meetings. If you have any questions for the Parish Council, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01258 840935 at any time or call into the office during opening hours (Tuesday morning and Thursday evening).

www.sixpennyhandleyparishcouncil.btck.co.uk

Members of public are welcome at our meetings to speak during the public open session prior to Council business. Our meeting dates are published on the website along with the agenda. Please note meetings may be subject to change so it is always best to check.

Village Hall 100 Club Winners

November				December			
1st	£25	133	Mrs J. Stevenson	1st	£25	51	Mr D. Salmons
2nd	£15	70	Mr & Mrs Petitt	2nd	£15	24	Mrs Mereweather
3rd	£10	109	Mrs L. Coombes	3rd	£10	1	Mrs Rivers

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

EDITOR REQUIRED

for The Downsman
with immediate start

Are you computer literate and would like to be involved in the local community? Then The Downsman magazine is looking for an Editor to take over the roll in the New Year, starting with the February issue. If you are interested and would like further information, please contact Margaret on 01725 553199.

Also, if anyone would like to join the committee, please contact Margaret for details of meetings, etc.

Village Hall News

The hall continues to be used on a regular basis and the committee are grateful to those in the community that support it. The 100 Club also continues to be well supported thanks to the efforts of Bea Boyland; this helps keeps the accounts in a stable situation. Thanks to Jaqui Blake for her efforts as Booking Secretary.

Regrettably there has been no allocation of live entertainment from Artsreach this year due to the reduced EDDC subsidy, but the committee will do everything it can to rectify this in the next season.

Any organisation which has left items in the loft in the hall is again reminded that they have to be removed by mid February when they will be cleared.

A reminder: Would hall users ensure that they return the keys to the shop IMMEDIATELY after use – there may be someone waiting to pick them up for a later session.

Dates for your diary:	Management Meeting	8 th Feb
	Annual General Meeting	WED 18 th April

PARISH PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE?

So far, over 120 people have kindly returned their questionnaire which was circulated in the last edition of the Downsman – thank you to them.

It is not too late; if you haven't handed it in please complete it and leave it at the Parish Council office. If you need another copy there are still some available in the office or on the website www.sixpennyhandley.org.

It is the future of your village that the council is keen to enhance. The results are now being collated and will be published in due time.



Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge Parish Council

Unit 5B, Town Farm Workshops, Sixpenny Handley. SP5 5PA

email: sixpennyhandley@dorsetparishes.gov.uk Office 01725 552211/Clerk to the Council 01258 840935

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STATEMENT OF INTENT - 26th January 2012

1. **Aims and Objectives**

Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge Parish Council aims to encourage and support the interest of the local community in consultation on issues which affect local people.

2. **Defining the Community.**

Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge Parish Council will seek to engage with all who live, work and participate in activities in the Parish.

3. **Provision of Information to the Community.**

Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge Parish Council is able to communicate with the community via:

- The parish council website (www.sixpennyhandleyparishcouncil.btck.co.uk)
- The parish magazine (The Downsman)
- The local press (Stour & Avon Magazine/Daily Echo/Blackmore Vale Magazine)
- The local churches
- Sixpenny Handley First School/Pre-school
- The parish notice boards
- Distribution of a newsletter
- Arrangement of special meetings
- The Annual Report
- Local groups & associations
- The village halls
- Any other method as may be appropriate

4. **Opportunities for Community Involvement.**

Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge Parish Council can discuss directly with the community by:

- Completing a householder survey eg to identify housing or transport needs.
- Holding Annual Parish Meetings of electors which gives residents the opportunity to speak directly to parish councillors, district/county councillors or other invited representatives.
- Inviting local groups/organisations or their representatives to parish council meetings for discussion/consultation.
- Publicising the monthly meetings of the parish council at which members of the public are welcome to attend to ask questions.
- Councillors acting as representatives on other groups/organisations.
- Any other such method as may be appropriate.

5. **Opportunities for Formal Representations to the Council.**

Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge Parish Council will consider any representation from individuals/groups/ or partner organisations. Any representation will be put before the next Council meeting and a response will be made within 14 days of that meeting.

6. **Involvement in Partnerships**

Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge Parish Council will engage in partnerships with other organisations such as Dorset County Council, East Dorset District Council and neighbouring parish councils. This involvement is vital for decision making which may influence the community and to provide services that meet the local needs of the Parish and its residents.

7. **Role of Council Members and Officers.**

The Council's telephone number and email address are widely publicised and members of the community can readily contact the Clerk, Mrs Lisa Goodwin or the Responsible Financial Officer, Mrs Gill Martin via these means. Councillors contact details are displayed on the website, in the Downsman and on the village notice boards.

8. **Specific Areas for Community Involvement.**

On matters which appear to significantly affect the community or on which the Parish Council has received a large number of comments, the Parish Council may hold public meetings / exhibitions / consultation events.

Thank You

Liz Coombs and Stella Olsen warmly thank all those who helped, and to everyone who came, on 3rd December 2011 to make our annual coffee morning in aid of Breast Cancer Care another resounding success.

We raised £777 on the day, and with further donations, have a grand total of £800.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL.

Penny Morrison

Wishes a fond farewell to Sixpenny Handley - to all her massage clients, friends and acquaintances including my yoga buddies, my landlord Richard, to everyone I met at Happy Nappy all those years ago, to old friends from Church, the Post Office, the local shops and school. I have lived there a long time, and my children have grown up there, and will miss the village and remember everyone.

love Penny, Matt, Seb and Grace Morrison

ENJOY COFFEE AND A CHAT

Come to the

COFFEE MORNING

On Saturday 31st March 2012

10.30 am to 12.30 pm

At The Sports Pavilion, Sixpenny Handley

In aid of Julia's house Children's Hospice

Raffle ~~ Cakes and Produce ~~ Bring and Buy

TRUSSELL TRUST UPDATE

Last year, a record number of shoeboxes were sent from Salisbury to Bulgaria - 5,887 - which included our 150 boxes. I thought you may like to read what Molly Hodson said in her email from Bulgaria last December when she went out to help deliver the shoeboxes to the various communities; this also shows that the shoeboxes really do get through to the people in need. I am sure we can do better this coming year, so please don't wait to be asked to fill a box. If you need help with wrapping a box please contact me. It is appreciated if they can be covered both inside and out as this makes them stronger. The boxes are treasured by the recipients and are used for long-term storage. It is a good idea to start looking now for goodies to fill them. As you will see in Molly's letter, the most important things are those items to keep folk warm. I have already been given a bagful of hand knitted scarves and if any one else would like to knit something to help fill the boxes, it would be much appreciated. We have again been asked to fill boxes for teenage boys or men, who are normally neglected by shoebox fillers! Their needs are just as great as children and women. A list of suggested goods that are suitable will appear in the Downsman later on in the year. You can collect a box from me at 10 Sycamore Close, 6d Handley anytime.

Letter from Bulgaria by Molly Hodson of the Trussell Trust - December 2011

'It's snowing in Bulgaria and the trees are white with frost. It's incredibly beautiful but I can't help thinking about the children we gave out Christmas boxes to yesterday who were barefoot in the cold, living in lean-to shacks with no heating. These boxes were received with such excitement and gratitude, not only because they are the only presents they'll receive, but because they contain essential items like gloves, hats, scarves and socks to help them get through the bitterly cold winter. And it's not just the boxes themselves that have an impact. Yesterday, Iva, who graduated from our House of Opportunity programme in April, set up a Christmas Box distribution at a poor rural school. Abandoned to an orphanage as a little girl and rejected again by her mother when she found her two years ago, Iva said that she was used to being treated like an animal that nobody wanted. Yesterday, in the van on the way back from helping us to give out Christmas Boxes, Iva told us, "When I left the house back in April I would never have believed that you'd still be in touch with me eight months later!" For the first time in her life, someone had cared about her when they didn't have to. What's more, thanks to the House of Opportunity, Iva, who wants to be a teacher, has developed the skills and confidence to approach a Director of a school and organise a Christmas Box distribution to transform the Christmases of children just like her.'

For more news of the Trussell Trust's work visit www.trusselltrust.org

Trish Chorley (Trussell Trust Ambassador) Tel:(01725 552776)

The Trussell Trust Foodbank

It is amazing how good news travels so quickly. Yes, 168 foodbanks are now open nationwide. The first one in Northern Ireland opened on December 19th in Newtownwards which is the latest at the time of writing.

How a Foodbank works

1. Non-perishable food is donated by the public.
2. Volunteers sort and pack food into emergency food parcels.
3. Frontline care professionals, such as doctors, social workers, the Job Centre and school liaison officers, give vouchers to people in crisis.
4. Foodbank vouchers are exchanged for at least 3 days of food at the foodbank. Up to 3 consecutive vouchers may be given.
5. Foodbanks take time to listen and signpost clients to further support.

A new Foodbank is open every 4 days. 3,000 people in Salisbury were fed in 2010-2011 (600 more than the previous year). 292 Christmas Hampers were given to Salisbury families. 61,500 people were fed nationwide in 2010/2011 and it is anticipated that 100,000 will be fed during 2011/2012. Food is given to families who struggle during school holidays and whose children would normally get free school meals. The Trust's vision is to have a foodbank in every UK town/city, creating a nation where no-one need go hungry. Remember: food parcels prevent crime so if anyone reading this can donate a packet or a tin of something, the Trust would be most grateful. Food can always be left at the rear of St Mary's church in the red box labelled Trussell Trust, which is then taken to the Trust's centre on the Ashfield Trading estate. This new centre was opened in the autumn.

Cards

Whist: Unlike 2010, the weather for the 2011 Christmas Whist Drive held reasonably fair; cold but dry. As is now the custom, the prizes were exceptional, both in value and variety with many kindly donated by our regular players. Thus, when play commenced on the 17th there for the taking were 25 whist prizes, an equal amount for the main draw and a further dozen or more displayed in the mini-draw, presided over by Peter and Mary Braithwaite.

It is, therefore, extremely disappointing for me to report that attendance was the lowest on record with just 38 players present. Sadly, this reflects the overall state of the game, not only here in the village but in general throughout the area where whist is played. It is with this in mind that on behalf of Stuart [Master of Ceremonies], Doug and Chris who work unstintingly in buying in the prizes for our drives, I ask you to consider joining us at the village hall, once a fortnight, for an excellent social evening playing cards. The cost for your whist card is £2 while .50p buys a strip of 5 tickets for the draw (where the whist prizes are duplicated).

But to return to the events of the 17th; Nora Davis carded the highest individual score at 171, followed by Peter Braithwaite and Olive Meaden each returning 168. And so it continued until 25 whist prizes had been awarded, followed by the 2 draws at the end of which very few of those present departed into the night with nothing to show for their involvement.

In the aftermath of this rather cheerless account, it gives me great pleasure to say that for our opening drive of 2012 [January 4 and round 8] not only were there 9 full tables but Richard White, youngest son of Kingsley and Susie, joined in the play and has indicated he may attend for the rest of the season. Doug Haskell who began the evening

with a lead of 5 points over Stuart carded a slightly better than average 160 and maintained his place at the top of the table. However, the two main beneficiaries of the evening were Gerald Trickey who returned 162 and in doing so moved into 2nd overall, a mere 4 points behind Doug and Chris Haskell who made her best score of the contest with 172 and climbed from 16th overall to 10th. Stuart, meanwhile, finished with 148 and slipped to 3rd, while Zoe Pike [160] slotted into 4th place. However, the best score of the evening went to Ness Park with 181 and but for a poor penultimate deal where she scored a lowly 3 points, Ness may well have bettered Doug's 183 which was returned at the end of the 3rd round.

Nevertheless, 181 elevated Ness from 27th to 16th in the general classification, while husband Barry [171] went from 17th to 11th and is now within touching distance of the top 10. Also with a smile on his face at close of play was David Brine who made his best score with 166 and climbed 6 places from 31st to 25th, and with 9 competitive drives remaining is still in with an excellent chance of finishing 'in the money'.

Finally, for his first drive at Sixpenny Handley, Richard White finished with 152 which was far from being the lowest score returned.

Bridge: Following a three week Christmas break, play resumed at the sports' pavilion on the 3rd, a day of driving rain and gale force winds which, thankfully, abated slightly during the afternoon. Ray Wise of Farnham took the honours with over 3,000 points but throughout the 20 deals the standard of bridge was of a high order with a number of game bids only succeeding by dint of careful and thoughtful play by declarer.

Bill Chorley

THE CHASE GARDEN CLUB

The Chase Garden Club's autumn and winter programme is now well under way with a variety of activities. Non-members are welcome at all meetings, which commence at 7.30 pm in the 1st Woodcutts Scouts HQ, Common Road, nr Sixpenny Handley, SP5 5NJ. At every meeting there is a raffle, plant sale and refreshments. Membership is £20 per annum or £3.00 per meeting for non-members.

The continuing programme for 2012 is as follows -

Thursday 23rd February 2012	'Sweet Peas'	Chris Hill
Thursday 29th March 2012	'A Year Through the Lens'	Paul Sturgess
Thursday 26th April 2012	'Annual Supper'	Members Only

The summer programme of garden visits for 2012 will be announced nearer the time.

For further information regarding the above please contact either -
Gill Carter on 01725 552030 or Louise Walford on 01725 516384

Tree planting at the new allotments

From first taking possession of the new allotments at Common Road, the seventeen families involved knew that the Council required a hedge planted around the perimeter. Thanks to the generous policy of the **WOODLAND TRUST** in supporting community ventures, the allotments were deemed eligible for a gift of 420 mixed saplings – rowan, hazel, hawthorn, dogwood, birch and cherry. These were planted by the group on the most perfect of tea-shirt November days.

Everyone brought something for a communal picnic of home made soups and fruit pies, much of it made from produce from the allotments. There was a table with tea and coffee and home-made cakes permanently available. It felt like a real Harvest Festival.

Thanks due to everyone involved, and especially to the **WOODLAND TRUST**. They included a Jubilee Oak as an extra gift. This will grow into a permanent reminder of a very happy day.

John and Gay Cullingford





News And Information

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

On December 12th at their Christmas meeting, Sixpenny Handley W.I. and their guests were entertained by the 'Tea Ladies' from back in the war years. It was greatly appreciated and enjoyed by everyone and there was much fun and laughter. There was, of course, the usual grand buffet supplied by the members; it was certainly a night to remember!!



On 13th December, two members attended Cranborne W.I. for their Christmas afternoon meeting. There was a demonstration of hand bell ringing from the ladies of St Mary's Church, Fordingbridge. Carols were sung and there were some seasonal readings. Refreshments were served and Christmas gifts were distributed. An enjoyable session!



Sixpenny Handley W.I attended the Group Advent Service, along with approximately thirty members from the Beacon Group, at Melbury Abbas on December 15th. It was a lovely service with traditional Advent Carols sung lustily from the members and accompanied by interesting and varied readings. The evening ended with ample supplies of tea, coffee and delicious mince pies.

On January 9th, Steven Oxford gave a very interesting talk called History of Baking. Oxfords bakery have been making traditional English breads since 1911 and are renowned in the south west for being one of the finest original traditional English Bakeries. The original 100-year-old Bakery is now open to the public, selling fresh bread and cakes straight from the oven. Steven talked us through the bread making process, with some amusing anecdotes along the way. Combined with the delicious 'billionaires shortbread', it was an extremely good evening.

Dates for the Diary

February 13 th	Mr. Ron Taylor	The Spice of Life
February 25 th	JUMBLE SALE in the Village Hall	
March 12 th	Mrs. Vivien Graham	Knitwear Design and Fulling

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)

Bowls

There are exciting times ahead for the bowls club in 2012 if all goes well!!

Sixpenny Handley is the only club of its type in Dorset that does not have its own personal clubhouse. At present, while on the green we use the marquee to gather, change, socialize, and have a drink.

It has now been proposed that we replace the marquee and build/erect a wooden clubhouse on the same site to blend in with its surroundings: somewhere to shade us from the sun on those hot blistering summer days, or even protect us from the sometimes unpredictable sudden downpours!

Costings have been made, plans drawn up and, hopefully, with the support of the Parish Council and the authorities, we will be given the go-ahead to commence with this project. Firstly, we need to raise approximately £10,000, but even in these difficult times with the enthusiasm of the club members I am sure this can be achieved.

We are in the very early stages of this project and are still open for suggestions and, of course, we will need all the help we can get, financially as well as help with the building, etc. If there is anybody who could help us in any way, or would like to sponsor us, please contact any of our club members as we would love to hear from you.

Bea

Mothers' Union

Our Christmas meeting was the usual enjoyable gathering at which members read out some seasonal story / poem, etc. which they had brought with them. The variation gave much pleasure and amusement.

The AGM was on 12th January, followed by questions on quotations from the Bible. It was a multiple choice paper for the answers, which was a good thing – a least one could offer a possible answer, even if it was incorrect!

Our speaker for the 9th February meeting is Anthony Brown from the Cranborne Ancient Technology Centre.

Our MU branch has agreed to knit squares to make up into small blankets, suitable for cots or for putting over the knees. This is an overseas project. If anyone has any unwanted DK wool (no other thickness) – part balls or full ones, please pass them to any MU member or give them to me to distribute. (Please leave them, in a plastic bag, on my doorstep if I am not in.) If anyone else from the village would like to knit a few squares, I will pass on the instructions to you. Number 8 needles are needed. We have had a kind offer from Bobby to sew the squares together.

Enquiries: Sheila 553133 or Mary 552041

Book Review

Robert Harris established himself as an author of outstanding merit with his first novel, 'Fatherland', a dark tale set mainly in Berlin during the spring of 1964. In my opinion, however, his second book, 'Enigma' is even better, for much of what takes place (as the plot unfolds) is historically factual. The background is Bletchley Park in Bedfordshire where, in the early months of 1943, the code-breakers are struggling to break back into the German Naval cyphers and thus regain the ground lost in the intelligence war against the U-boats. The Battle of the Atlantic has again turned in favour of the enemy and the Allied convoys crossing from west to east through the expanse of the North Atlantic are being hunted down with clinical efficiency. Supplies, vital to the continuance of the struggle against Nazi Germany, are being lost at a dangerously alarming rate.

Thus, Harris brings to the fore three main characters: Tom Jericho, mathematician and code-breaker now mentally exhausted but brought back from resting in Cambridge in the hope that he can break back into 'Shark'. The mysterious Claire Romilly with whom he had a brief affair before his health collapsed, and who goes missing from her work at Bletchley within days of Jericho's return. Then there is Hester Wallace, Dorset born of a vicar steeped in Victorian values who cannot come to terms with the ambitions of his very clever daughter and who is now employed at Bletchley. Interwoven into the lives of this trio are the pompous Skynne who heads the section where Jericho works and Wigram who arrives to investigate the leakage of a terrible secret which has been unwittingly stumbled upon by Jericho and Wallace. But, in more ways than one, it is the awfulness of wartime England that Harris so vividly captures as he weaves his gripping tale of suspense; the blackout, the rationing and the sheer drudgery of it all that has permeated its way into daily living. 'Enigma' is an excellent book.

In detective fiction, Colin Dexter's Morse and Lewis will always be synonymous with Oxford and, likewise, Brighton is fast being associated with Peter James's Detective Superintendent Roy Grace and Detective Sergeant Glen Branson. First introduced in 2005 in 'Dead Simple', Grace and Branson have now appeared in a further six books, the latest being 'Dead Man's Grip'. This time the duo are up against a Mafia hit-man who has arrived

in Brighton, contracted by the parents of a young American student killed accidentally in an horrific road accident involving three drivers of which only one is culpable. Whereas Dexter's Morse displayed great leaps of imagination in pursuit of the perpetrator, and frequently having to back-track as a result, James's Grace employs a methodical but steely approach to the crime. Although it is not imperative that either series are read in order, a thread linking each book is employed by both writers. With Morse it is his penchant for drink and with it his slow decline towards a premature death (duly arriving in the quite disturbing 'The Remorseful Day'), while with Grace it is the disappearance of his wife, Sandy (whom James tantalizingly reveals is still very much alive) and the implications this is having on his relationship with Cleo who works in Brighton's mortuary.

My final recommendations for this review are Philip Kerr's 'The One from the Other' which has similarities with 'Fatherland' and, in fact, uses some of the factual characters that appear in Robert Harris's book but whereas with 'Fatherland' we are asked to imagine a victorious Germany, Philip Kerr's story of Germany in 1949 captures the mood of a country trying to come to terms with its very recent past. And last of all, a book by an author I had not previously read, Brendan DuBois. Titled '6 Days' the narrative takes you along at an almost breathless pace as the shadowy forces of America's influential right-wing pursue two walkers who have stumbled, quite innocently, into a situation that if brought to fruition will topple the President of America and his administration.

All are available either from bookshops or on-line retailers.

Bill Chorley



Sixpenny Handley

Sixpenny Handley Homewatch June 2011



Sixpenny Handley

The Homewatch Coordinators held their regular quarterly meeting on 9th January with Safer Neighbourhood PC, Simon Hallam, in attendance representing Dorset Police. PC Hallam was able to give us a full update on recent criminal activity in the parish and police moves to counter it. You will understand that there is a limit to what can be published here in advance of any potential court action but the coordinators were encouraged by what the police had to say.

In short, a spate of crimes in the village, including vandalism, criminal damage and the continuing and very dangerous theft of wheel nuts from vehicles, appears to have a very local origin. Several interviews with individuals have already been undertaken and overnight surveillance and sophisticated police technology have been deployed to gather evidence. The Housing Association are also involved and have emphasised that their tenancies depend on good behaviour. If the problems do not stop, legal proceedings and Housing Association decisions seem likely. Dorset Police and Simon Hallam in particular, would be very pleased to hear any further information that may be linked to this unfortunate phase in our village life. They are determined to bring it to an end as soon as possible. Anyone who wishes to report anything may call Dorset Police on 101 (the new force non-emergency number) or, if they wish to remain anonymous, Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

There has also been a noticeable increase in the use of cannabis and, on occasion, other drugs in the parish. The numbers of people involved are not large but even recreational use is an offence. Several sites where drug taking occurs in the surrounding countryside have been identified and some individuals involved are now known to the police, who intend bringing people to justice. No 'blind eye' will be turned. Any reader believing this

to be an empty threat should perhaps reflect that PC Hallam made 58 arrests in all in 2011 across his patch of North East Dorset, against a typical average for an officer of, perhaps, 15.

Poaching, particularly hare coursing and taking deer at night, has been occurring again, with two recent arrests of individuals who had travelled from Surrey, indicating the importance of a coordinated police response. Significant anti-poaching operations are being planned, involving neighbouring forces as well as farms and estates. The 'Stop That Thief' campaign that local farmers joined in with last year does appear to have worked, with increased security now in place on many rural properties and the use of surveillance equipment on loan from the police resulting in fewer crimes and some useful arrests.

On the downside, Dorset Police cuts have resulted in 4x4 vehicles being withdrawn from daily use, with the inevitable result that officers in rural areas cannot operate to maximum efficiency. Sixpenny Handley Homewatch is writing to the Chief Constable about this, pointing out that the Government's guarantees on front line policing apply equally to rural areas as to towns and cities and asking for appropriate vehicles to be made available. There is also a move being made towards having an independently sponsored 4x4 available exclusively for the use of our local Safer Neighbourhood policing team.

Finally, Andy Downs, who was until recently our local Police Community Support Officer, has completed a job swap to return to policing in Winton, so our new PCSO for this area is Kate Wakely. She loves the countryside and is a fanatical cyclist, so we can expect to see a uniformed officer back on two wheels in the parish from time to time, something that residents with long memories will particularly welcome.

Mobile Library Schedule		Visits on Thursday Fortnightly
Woodyates – Cobley Close	2.25 – 2.40	February 2nd, 16th March 1st, 15th, 29th, April 12th
Back Lane/St Mary's Close	3.00 – 3.20	
Roebuck Inn	3.25 – 3.45	
Dean Lane	3.50 – 4.05	

*** PRESS RELEASE ***

CHURCHILL'S SECRET ARMY ENCOURAGED TO RESURFACE AFTER 70 YEARS OF SILENCE

Wiltshire Lady is appealing for information on the Sixpenny Handley Auxiliary Unit

In the dark days of 1940 with the Nazi army poised across the Channel after the Dunkirk evacuation, Britain stood alone with its defences stretched. Amongst those vital to Britain's defensive plans were a group of civilian volunteers made up of all layers of society most of whom had an intimate knowledge of their local area.

They were given intensive training in guerrilla warfare and were to attack the enemy supplies and reserve troops once the invasion was under way. They were all willing to leave their families, and give their lives. The average life expectancy of an Auxilier was predicted to have been two weeks after going into action in order to defend their country. So seriously did they take their signature on the Official Secrets Act, that many veterans never even let their closest family members know what they had been trained to do.

Wiltshire Lady, Paula Sykes, is a member of The Coleshill Auxiliary Research Team (CART) who are a non profit organisation set up in 2009 to specifically research the Auxiliary Units. CART has very little knowledge of Patrols in Wiltshire so

Paula has made it her personal mission to research Units in her home county.

"Many Auxiliers are either unaware that they are now allowed to talk about their experiences or believe that no one is interested – nothing could be further from the truth. Also we are very keen to hear from relatives who know or suspect that family members might have been involved. As former members start to pass away it is a real shame that their stories and experience, as well as the opportunity to recognise their commitment and willingness to sacrifice so much, is lost for ever."

If you were a member of the Auxiliary Units in Sixpenny Handley (or surrounding area) and would be willing to come forward, or if you have any information regarding a local Unit, please contact Paula at cartwiltshire@gmail.com or on telephone number 01793 765393 (after 5pm).

You can find more about CART and its work here <http://www.coleshillhouse.com/>.

Contact: Paula Sykes
01793 765393 (After 5pm)
Email: cartwiltshire@gmail.com

Sixpenny Handley First School News

Christmas Fun



We celebrated Christmas with lots of exciting events! We performed our Christmas Show, 'The Stars Come Out for Christmas' to a packed audience who enjoyed watching as a whole Christmas dinner, Christmas trees, Christmas cards and even a boogie woogie Santa appeared on stage. We all enjoyed ourselves and made everyone very proud.

Our Decorations Day was great fun and we all went home very glittery!

We made crackers, table decorations, biscuits and much more. We had lots of Mums and Dads helping us on the day...thank you very much. We all enjoyed a Christmas lunch in the hall. We made our own party hats to wear and even had crackers and music. Christmas at Sixpenny Handley First School was great fun!



During our first week back at school we had an exciting ECO week. We made a pond with little stones and big stones. We added some pebbles, flower pots and rain water for the frogs. We check it everyday to keep an eye on it and see if we have any frogs.

We walked to the allotments and looked at some plants. We saw green and purple sprouts, leeks, parsnips and beetroot. We smelt the herbs, like sage. We saw bumpy caterpillars and curly worms. On our nature walk we collected lots of leaves, twigs, rocks, flint, shells and berries. We made rubbings of the bark on trees and we looked at our findings through magnifying glasses. We used it to

design our new wildlife area so that we knew what plants we needed to attract butterflies, bees and birds.

On the 6th – 8th January the children of Sixpenny Handley First School made some fantastic posters to advertise their next Bag2school event on 12th March. Bag2School is a fundraising event to help the school raise money and recycle old clothes. All you need to do is fill up a bag with your old clothes and bring it in to school. Also all the children made their own bird feeders to attract wildlife to the school grounds. We mixed up lard, seeds, bread and raisins and hung them in trees. All the children went outside and got mucky and pulled all the weeds out of our beds and cleaned the greenhouse so our vegetable patch area is ready for spring. We are hoping to sell our produce in the summer at our school fete.



An invitation to the big brew!

The children of Sixpenny Handley First School have been working hard to maintain our Fairtrade status, organising events and selling fair trade goods on our school Fairtrade stand.

The children would like to invite you to come and join us on the 2nd March at 2.30pm for our Fairtrade 'Big Brew' and enjoy a cup of Fairtrade tea or coffee. The 'Big Brew' is an event held during Fairtrade Fortnight that raises awareness of families that are less fortunate than us.

There will also be a chance to buy some of the

delicious Fairtrade goods and beautifully hand crafted gifts for sale. Our stall will be promoting awareness of Fairtrade to enable families producing these products to receive a fair price. and to give them the support they need so that they can flourish. By coming to our Fairtrade stall you might be able to buy yourself a treat whilst helping others!

The children would be very pleased to see the community of Sixpenny Handley support the school with their promotion of Fairtrade, so do come along and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit!

We hope to see you on Friday 2nd March at 2.30pm.



Woodcutts Awaits Winter

Like so many other areas of the United Kingdom, we have not experienced any "proper" winter weather as yet. We are several days into the New Year and we haven't had a real frost, nor have we had the slightest trace of snow. We have, of course, had some heavy rain and strong winds, especially at the beginning of the year, when we experienced some wind damage. On the 3rd January, the winds managed to completely blow the roof off the horses' field shelter in the meadow at the end of the lane, with one sheet of roofing ending up on top of the bird table in Roy's garden some sixty yards away! As we were away, like a good neighbour, Roy collected the remaining sheets and placed large pieces of wood to await their reinstatement. The stable at the end of the garden also had half its roof lifted off and the greenhouse was shifted some nine inches from its wooden base, luckily without breaking one sheet of glass.

Despite the high winds, nature has been continuing to confound us with her unusual happenings as the year starts. (I was going to write unnatural happenings, but decided not to). We constantly hear on the radio and television and see in the press that numerous garden and wild flowers are in bloom, in some cases months earlier than usual. In the past ten days, the first of the New Year, I have seen daffodils, snowdrops celandines and primroses in bloom; the latter three, in a group in the churchyard at Turner's Puddle just west of Bere Regis. Around here, at Woodcutts, snowdrops are in flower everywhere as they are in the churchyard at St. Mary's. Lesser periwinkles flower all the year round normally, but this year here at Woodcutts they are flowering in profusion. Other flowers I have seen in bloom here at Woodcutts include charlock, normally expected from June onwards, herb bennet, fumitory and a wild strawberry.

Usually the two factors which decide spring growth and flowering times are the increase in day length and the prevailing temperatures, which should increase as the days draw out. This year the temperatures have been high enough to overcome the need for more daylight hours and flowering has occurred regardless. In the gardens, roses are still in bloom, fuchsias have not stopped flowering since last summer and yesterday I saw a geranium in flower in a garden in the village.

Plants are not the only living things taking advantage of the weather conditions. Bird song is already up to springtime levels and there is an old saying, which says:-

"If the birds begin to sing in January,
Frosts are on the way."

Also the birds' natural feed supplies appear to be adequate. Our bird feeding station is certainly not attracting anywhere near the numbers of visitors it normally does. The berries on the holly, cotoneaster, ivy and berberis have, as yet, hardly been touched and are still here as a reserve, when or if the bad weather, with lower temperatures does materialise in the next three months. One bird species that does avail itself of our hospitality is the gold finch; a species we are seeing much more than usual, taking niger seed at an unprecedented rate. While on the subject of birds, I must mention that red kites are back in the area and have been seen gracefully soaring over Woodcutts. We also have a very vocal, tawny owl living at the back of us, which can be heard each evening and possibly during the night, too, for anyone wishing to stay up to listen for it.

The days are passing now (it is the 14th today), and we have experienced our second night of frosts, so the old saying above is speaking the truth. What will happen to all the wild and garden flowers in bloom and all the buds of shrubs and trees that are about to burst is a subject of conjecture, especially if we are to have a series of hard frosts. However, Mother Nature normally has a way of righting things but this year it is unprecedented; for example, some winter oil seed rape crops are already knee high, with some of the plants in flower. This is four to five months in advance of what it should be and these plants will be well past maturity and seed time before the usual time for harvesting. It will mean that early flowers will produce unfertilised seed, as there are no insects about to pollinate them and they will have shed long before the main crop is ready for harvest, resulting in possibly very poor yields. Also, pollinating insects will loose out as they, if they stick to their normal time table, will not be around to collect nectar, which they usually rely on to feed themselves and/or their larvae. The honey bees are an example here, especially as many apiarists rely on the oil seed rape crops to provide them with a source of honey every year. Many other insects also rely on the oil seed rape and numerous other flowering

plants to supply them with nectar. If their life cycles are out of synchronisation with these plants' flowering time, not only will seeds not be fertilised, many insects and their progeny will go without food and die without producing virile replacements.

However, not everyone is a loser when weather conditions change. I know of at least one farmer who decided, because he had an unexpected flush of grass when the New Year came in, to turn out his herd of beef cows in the first week of January to exploit the situation. Normally he wouldn't expect to turn out until mid-April at the earliest, but he took the gamble and out they went. He said that the food saved would put him in very good stead for next year and that he was already a little worried that his winter food supply for the current year, which under average or poor weather conditions, would not be sufficient to see him through. Another old farming saying is:-

"In the barn on Candlemas day,
Should be half the straw and half the hay."

Candlemas Day is on 2nd February, and this particular farmer did not think that he would not be in that situation so 'he took the bull by the horns' and out went the cows.

So much for the livestock farmers, and I have already involved the arable farmers when writing about oil seed rape, but what I didn't mention was how well the autumn-sown crops of cereals - wheat, barley and oats, as well as the oil seed rape, had managed to get so well established compared with other years. In my last article I wrote about doubling the seed rate for winter cereals when I worked on the Wexford Slobs in southern Ireland. This was half for the crop and half for the over-wintering, visiting geese and swans. However there is another old English saying concerning seed rates in farming, which is as follows:-

"One to rot and one to grow,
One for the pigeon and one for the crow."

This last year, conditions were so good that very few seeds rotted and very few were eaten by pigeon or crow, which has resulted in very high plant populations in most winter sown fields. High plant densities cause the plants that are present to push upwards and form flowering heads, as we have already seen in the oil seed rape crop of last autumn's sowing, but it does have another knock-on effect. These conditions are ideal for fungal

diseases, high plant density, poor ventilation and high humidity, which means that high rates of fungicides will have to be used later in the year. Certainly, the farming press is already mentioning what this will mean to the farmer and to the environment generally.

I could go on and on, but I must send in this copy or the editor will be wondering what has happened, but before I do I must wish my readers a very Happy New Year. I have a good reason for being late and that is I broke my glasses and was wearing an old pair, until I realised that by taking the screw out of the old pair I could repair my current ones. I must mention my grandmother - who even at the age of ninety didn't use glasses - she drank straight from the bottle!

Good bye and God Bless.

Ted Cox (Jan. 2012)

Continued on page 29

1st Woodcutts News

15th January 2012

Closing out 2011

The end of the year brought with it the usual flurry of activity.

In early December the group held its Christmas Service in the church and we thank the Vicar for leading us and Anthony for the planning of the service.

The various groups held Christmas parties, meals and the traditional Film Night, which were much enjoyed by all. The Explorers had been working on cooking, making the most of the new facilities, and concluded the term by planning, cooking and serving a delicious meal for our illustrious Group Scout Leader, John Curtis, and the District Explorer Leader, Leslie Osman, both of whom enjoyed it immensely.

During the Christmas break, the Beavers and the Cubs were taken to see the Pantomime at the Tivoli in Wimborne. An extra special thanks to the Beaver Leaders from Akela for looking after his Cubs on the trip.

Looking forward to 2012

The group is looking forward with excitement to the challenges this year will bring. As mentioned before, the various sections are all running at near capacity and we want to make sure that anyone who wants to join will be offered a place. This requires a lot of effort from the Leaders, who are all volunteers, so remember to offer a word of thanks when you see them and perhaps volunteer to help out in some way.

Planning is already under way for Summer Camp and, subject to all the arrangements being completed, will be in North Wales. A fantastic week of varied and exciting activities and adventure are being planned and it really will be an opportunity not to be missed.

We will be opening up the HQ for camping bookings for groups from the District and even further afield. It really is a fantastic facility of which the whole village should be very proud and we look forward to making the most of it. The first Scout Group to overnight there will be 10th Romsey, who are organizing a Night Hike with the HQ as their base.

The return of Bob-a-Job! Scout Community Week (14-20 May)

Most readers will remember a Scout or Cub painting a fence, mowing a lawn or going shopping for a neighbour to raise money for the group in the days when it was still considered safe to allow young people to knock on doors and offer help. Post-decimalisation this was re-branded as Scout Job Week.

Scout Community Week takes the best bits of Scout Job Week and offers sections, groups and districts the opportunity to design a fundraising project that delivers real benefits locally. If you have an idea for a project that would benefit our community and think that the Scouts could help, then we would love to hear from you. Please talk to any of the leaders or visit our website.

Fundraising

For many years, Simon Meaden (or Badger as he is more usually known in Scouting circles) has been leading many of our fund-raising efforts. Over the years he has put in a huge number of hours for the group and we owe him a huge debt of gratitude. He has now passed the baton to Rachel Hiner (along with a long list of established contacts) and she has already got stuck in to the task. There will be many of the usual efforts (litter picking at Larmer Tree, clothes recycling, Blandford May Fair) and some new ones, starting with a "Jamie at Home" party in February. Rachel will also have the challenge of encouraging volunteers to help at events so please let her know if you can help in any way or have a suggestion for a fund-raising event or activity.

1st Woodcutts Scouts, Handley Common, Sixpenny Handley, Salisbury, SP5 5NJ

<http://www.firstwoodcutts.org.uk>



Age 6-8

Wednesday 5 to 6pm
Denise Turner (Willow)
01725 552735



Age 8-10½

Wednesday 6 to 7.30pm
Andy Young (Akela)
01258 830861



Age 10½-14

Monday 7 to 9pm
Rob Easton
01725 552038



Age 14-18

Wednesday 7.30 - 9.30pm
Andy Turner
01725 552735

Group Scout Leader
John Curtis
01725 552397

Yet Another General Knowledge Quiz

(As Monsieur Poirot would say, 'To test the little grey cells')

- (1) Who introduced potatoes, and tobacco to this Country ?
What famous Dorset residence was he given for services rendered.?
- (2) Where, and from what counter would you purchase Stinking Bishop,
and what exactly is it ?
- (3) Who was Harry Spencer Truman ?
And what momentous decision did he have to make in his lifetime ?
- (4) Who crossed Avon Gorge in a steel bucket at about 300 feet, and for what purpose ?
- (5) What is a Prebend chair, and where would you be likely to find one ?
- (6) From a Thomas Hardy novel, who sold his wife and baby daughter at a Public Auction?
Name of the novel, the status and name of the person concerned

Answers in the April edition of The Downsman

VALLEY'S GOT TALENT !

**A new event in Bowerchalke Village Hall on the evening of
Saturday 25th February.**

Open to contestants of all ages from across the Chalke Valley (including Coombe Bissett, Sixpenny Handley and Ebbesbourne Wake). The top 3 contestants will receive generous cash prizes (1st prize a minimum of £100). Each contestant to perform for a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 8 minutes. A suitably qualified panel will introduce each contestant and offer constructive comment and advice at the end. A friendly, appreciative and packed audience is guaranteed! All members of the audience and the panel will vote on each performance. To ensure fairness, each contestant will be limited to 2 family members in the audience. For contestants, there will be no fee to enter, but they will be required to submit a returnable deposit of £10 to reserve their place in the line-up. Ticket for all other attendees will be £12 each for adults and £10 for under 18s, available in January from Broad Chalke Post Office and Clare Golden (01725 552384). This will include a hot meal during the interval and a quiz during vote-counting at the end. There will also be a cash bar and a raffle.

The Salisbury Journal will be invited to cover the event.

The hall will be available for rehearsals on the evening of Friday 24th February.

Prospective contestants should contact the organiser,
Tom Stevens (01722 781040 or 01980 672801)
by 8th February.



www.regard.co.uk

Cranborne Day Service

Town Farm Workshops "Cranborne Day Service" was established in 1998 (then known as Cranborne Chase Communities) to teach weaving and, more recently, ceramics to adults with learning disabilities. Some live in the village of Cranborne in different care settings provided by The Regard Partnership; others live elsewhere and attend the workshops on a daily basis. This unique project has enabled individuals to develop their creative skills with exceptional results and in the process, to gain increased self confidence and a great sense of achievement. The artists have quite a wide range of age and ability but all enjoy these activities with the support of staff and volunteers.

In March of 2011 "Cranborne Day Service" expanded to encompass 'Number 5'. A Grand Opening was held with BBC Time Team's Phil Harding cutting the ribbon. This was well attended and gave the opportunity for artists to demonstrate their skills and for visitors to try their hand at weaving, pottery etc.

Activities such as Music Therapy, Photography, Art and Craft, Adult Literature, Craft Enterprising, and Computer Skills are held in unit 5, and this is also a point for everyone to gather before setting off to activities such as Horse Riding, Rambling, Drama, Swimming, Gym and any work placements that they may attend. Individuals are supported through the activities to develop skills such as planning, time keeping, motivation and well-being in preparation for working life.

Artwork that is produced here at the workshops is taken by the individuals, with support, to craft fairs, music festivals, exhibitions and shopping events where it is displayed and sold. The Workshops are also open to the public Monday to Friday 09.00-16.00 for visitors to come and see the artists in action, set commissions or purchase work on display here. The artist receives half of

the sales value and the other 50% goes back into buying more materials for further projects.

We have recently embarked on a new project; Rushmore Estate lease a beautiful walled Victorian garden to us where the 'Garden Gang' with the support of Clare (Stig) hope to transform it back to it's former glory as well as growing vegetables to sell in a veggie box scheme to local care homes, schools and any others in the community that are interested. The groundwork is taking a lot of time and hard work. However efforts are paying off – the poly tunnel is in place, as are raised beds, compost bins and a planning/learning room, all ready for use. Sowing and reaping are next on the list, and we'll be well on our way to providing ourselves and our community with their "5 a day".

Our Countryside Skills Group has recently embarked on a project in conjunction with DCC clearing local footpaths and bridle ways. This is something that the staff here have been very enthusiastic about, keen to link the project with our rambling groups who could take advantage of the clear paths. However, those individuals taking part in countryside skills felt that they would like to leave the project until the warmer weather in the spring, so the path clearing is on hold until warmer days. We would be glad to receive suggestions from the parish in the spring as to which paths we could help to maintain.

We are a privately run organisation and the wonderful opportunities and services we provide here are very much dependent on donations of materials and volunteer support. We are always in need of and grateful for: textile materials – yarn, fabric, stuffing; gardening - equipment, bulbs, seeds, pots. If anyone has an interest in textiles, art, craft, photography or gardening and would be interested in volunteering their time to offer guidance and support to our staff and individuals alike we would very much like to meet you.



Rob's Column

Danny

Danny was a donkey, who lived on Newlands Farm,
 His coat was grey and woolly and it kept him very warm,
 His ears were thirteen inches long and stood up nearly straight
 Above his fluffy pointed poll and some queer stroke of fate
 Had made his back a sagging shape and crooked as a bow
 With tail apologetically tacked slyly on below.

Our Danny was no beauty, and as stubborn as a mule.
 He grazed on upper pennens when the children were at school.
 He longed for bread and carrots that the grown-up people bring,
 And when he saw them coming, he would prick his ears and sing.
 The cows would gallop madly when they heard the frightful sound
 And jump the gates and fences, just to get out of the ground.

Now Danny had a heart of gold, then 'carat' you would say.
 And as he cropped the clover in the pennens one fine day
 He saw a frightened rabbit, fast encompassed in a snare.
 The rabbit's name was Bertie and he happened to be there
 Because he needed spectacles and couldn't really see,
 So he had walked into the trap and struggled to be free.

So Danny cocked his woolly ears and snorted at the sight.
 Although he had a brain of fluff he knew it was not right
 That Bertie should be suffering and waiting for his fate,
 And knew he had to act at once before it was too late.
 He looked around and scanned the ground o'er hill to silver sea,
 But nothing that would help poor Bert could worried Danny see.

There on the ground amidst the grass the trembling rabbit lay
 Resigned to death, no more to see the welcome light of day.
 A tear dropped down the donkey's nose; it burned his heart to find
 A friend of his so sorry tried, in torture so unkind.
 He bared his lips and drew his breath and with no more ado,
 A snap of jaws—a crunch of teeth—he bit the wire in two.

Bertie got up, and shook his ears to wipe away the sweat;
 His neck was stiff, his legs were tired, his tummy cold and wet.
 And looking up Danny's face, his heart was full of bliss,
 Young Bertie stood upon his toes and gave his nose a kiss.
 And off they trotted happily, as fast as they were able,
 The rabbit to his bunny hole, the donkey to his stable.

(From H.T. Simpson)

(Jess went with the new born lambs to five nativity plays this year.
 Two plays had over 200 people, old and young, watching, then stroking
 and patting and having photos taken with them. It brought a tear
 to many an eye to see the enjoyment he gave and received. He did
 leave his 'calling card' at two events, but this was a small price to pay
 for his services to all).

Taken from a Christmas card
from Scotland

Time was -
 thou canst not it recall
 Time is -
 thou hast to employ thy portion
 small
 Time future -
 is not, and may never be
 Time present is the only time for me
 Make time, save time
 While time may last
 All time is no time
 When time is past

What goes up but never goes
 down?
(Your age)

Why are ghosts so bad at lying?
(You can see right through them)

Do you know the joke about
 butter?
*(I am not going to tell you because
 you will spread it around)*

What do you get if a sheep walks
 under a cloud?
(A sheep who is under the weather)

Share and Share Alike

"All men are equal", quoth farmhand George.
 "Share alike," said he,
 "And if you've got what someone's not,
 Half you should give him—see?"

Said Sam: "If you'd a million pounds,
 Then you would gie I 'half?"
 "You're right, old man, you've got the plan,
 You share your wealth—and laugh!"

Said Sam: "If you'd two motor cars
 You mean you'd gie I one?"
 "You're right again" (young George explained).
 "We're equal—share your fun!"

Said Sam: "If you'd a girt fat pig
 Then 'alf you'd gie to I?"
 George thought this out then gave a shout—"No!
 I've got a pig—goodbye!"

(From J.E. Massabolla)

Let us now praise Dorset men

If you've never been to Dorset,
 What a treat you have in store,
 There you meet a type of English man
 You have never met before.
 They welcome every stranger,
 Both in village and in town,
 They're honest and they play the game,
 And will never let you down.

When England was in danger,
 How they rallied round the cause
 And fought their country's battles
 In the last two awful wars.
 Then, back to dear old Dorset,
 To the wife and kids at home,
 And prayed to God to keep them there
 They had no more wish to roam.

Thomas Hardy came from Dorset,
 Made a name of word renown,
 He lived and died in Dorset
 In his lovely County town.
 And in the villages and hamlets,
 Where the Union Jack's unfurled,
 There is no doubt about it,
 Dorset men can beat the world!

(Robert Fletcher)

Visitors

We welcome all birds who visit our way
 And rejoice to hear them sing.
 Could we learn their tongue and know what they
 say,
 What joy each message would bring.

"Oh, cheer up, cheer up! Don't grizzle or mope."
 Is what they all seem to say.
 "Life has much sunshine, and always there's hope
 To make up a lovely day."

How happy the day when the tits come back
 To sport on the terrace front,
 To clamber on strings and monkey-nuts crack
 And make it a daily stunt.

As active as sailor boys on a ship,
 Here, there and every where.
 And if by chance their claws fail to grip,
 Wing safely away on air.

Sweet little pipits, like fairies at play,
 Flashing about on their wings.
 With plumage adorned so ornate and gay,
 What pleasure their company brings.

A split coconut hung dangling on string
 Appeals to their fond intent.
 And upside down to its edge the tits cling,
 And feed to their hearts content.

The singing of birds, their beauty and charm
 Provide a wealth of pleasure.
 Scorned be all those who would do them some
 harm
 And thus rob life of this treasure.

(by the late A.F. Roberts)

The posties of the parish would like to
 thank you all for your generosity over the
 Christmas period and would like to wish
 you all a Happy New Year.

Rob

The Downsman

DON'T FORGET WHAT'S ON!!!

DATE	FUNCTION	PAGE	DATE	FUNCTION	PAGE
2 Feb	Mobile Library	23	1 Mar	Mobile Library	23
8 Feb	Village Hall Management Committee Meeting	5	2 Mar	Big Brew, Handley First School	27
9 Feb	Mothers' Union Meeting	19	12 Mar	W.I. Meeting	15
13 Feb	W.I. Meeting	15	15 Mar	Deadline	3
16 Feb	Mobile Library	23	15 Mar	Mobile Library	23
16 Feb	Bingo	25	25 Mar	Sport Relief Mile	17
23 Feb	Chase Garden Club	13	29 Mar	Chase Garden Club	13
25 Feb	W.I. Jumble Sale	8	29 Mar	Mobile Library	23
25 Feb	Bowerchalke Valley's Got Talent	32	31 Mar	Coffee and Chat for Julia's House	7
			1 Apr	Next Issue	3