

The DOWNSMAN

April 2012



Get ready! Get set! Go!
The start of the Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile, Sunday 25th March
Photo courtesy of Tony Gibb

The Parish of Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge

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

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| | | |
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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 &

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The Prestbury, 55 Salisbury Street,

Shaftesbury..... 01747 852125

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Simon Hallam, Verwood Police Stn 07825 521761

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Middle School Cranborne Middle School 517348

Upper School Queen Elizabeth's School

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Secretary Andrea Meyer 552392

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Happy Nappy Club

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1st Woodcutts Scout Group

Group Scout Leader John Curtis 552397

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Secretary Maureen Penrose 01725 552022

Sixpenny Handley Sports Association

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Vice Chairman Patrick Taylor 01258 840231

Secretary/Treasurer Tracey Lownds 552414

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Sixpenny Handley Bowls Club

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Handley Sports Club

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Secretary Brian Hansford 552468

Team Manager Mark Young 552741

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Handley Sports Youth

Manager Adam Day..... 01258 452481

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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

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

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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 June 2012
Copy Deadline is Tuesday 15th May 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

April 2012

The Parish Council meets three times a month to discuss various aspects of looking after our local community in accordance with local government. Our agendas and minutes are published on the website and agendas are displayed on the local notice boards. If you have something you would like to talk to the Councillors about, please do not hesitate to drop into the office on a Tuesday morning or Thursday evening when Gill is available, or contact me on the above number. Alternatively, just come along to a parish council meeting!

Every month we report any Highway and Rights of Way defects to the County Council. We consider planning applications, tree applications the Recreation Area inspections. Councillors work hard behind the scenes to keep in close contact with the Sports Association, the Allotments' Association, the Village Hall Committee and the Community Events Committee who are busy organising the Diamond Jubilee and Olympic Celebrations.

April and May are busy months with end of the financial year, AGM and, of course, the Annual Parish Assembly. We welcome everyone as electors from the parish to come along. This is not a parish council meeting (although organised by us); it is an ideal opportunity for you to come along, listen and discuss anything you wish relating to the community we live in with Parish, District and County Councillors, the Police and other local representatives.

Annual Parish Assembly: Wednesday 16th May, 2012. 7.00 pm in the Sixpenny Handley Village Hall.

We look forward to seeing you there. Refreshments will be served!

Don't forget to keep an eye on the Parish Council website for up to date information
www.sixpennyhandleyparishcouncil.btck.co.uk

Members of public are always 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.

GEORGE MARSKELL

who died on the 8th March 2012 aged 83

Sylvia Marskell and her family would like to thank everybody who sent cards, donations and attended George's Memorial Service.

The kindness shown, and the lovely words said about George made a difficult time easier for us all.

We would also like to say special thanks to Mel and Richard Adlem for all their help and support.

THANK YOU

Pat Lockyer and family would like to thank everyone for their cards and support in their loss of Robert.

Many thanks, also, to all those who attended the service and for the donations given in Robert's memory.

CAN YOU HELP, PLEASE?

I am looking for someone to replace me as Editor of The Downsman. Due to my new work commitments, I am finding it increasingly difficult to manage my very busy day job, as well as Editor of The Downsman.

I have advertised in the last few editions of the magazine for someone to take over this role, but so far, no-one has come forward.

However, I know that I will become more and more pressured with my full-time job at the school where I work, and so I will step down as Editor after the June issue.

I do hope that someone in the community feels that they may be able to take on this very worthwhile job. Needless to say, I will still give every support and help for as long as is necessary to whoever takes this on.

If you are able to help, please contact me on 01725 553199.
Margaret Cornish (Editor)

AN APOLOGY FROM THE DOWNSMAN

It has been brought to our notice that a flyer was included in error in some copies of the last edition of The Downsman. As can be seen on page 3, we state that flyers cannot be included in the magazine, so would wish to apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Well done to our amazing Scout leaders and volunteers!

On the evening of 5th March (at about 9.00 pm) there was a nasty car accident on the road going from Sixpenny to Woodcutts, about 50 yards from the Scout hut. My neighbours were passing the scene and, knowing I was a nurse, came to get me about 20 minutes after it had happened. When I got there I was horrified at the damage to both cars and amazed at the condition of those involved. I am writing because, thanks to the calmness and competence of some of our local Scout leaders and volunteers, both of the injured are alive and well.

Rob Easton, Andy Young, Nigel Turton and Anthony Brown did an amazing job, both in terms of first aid and ensuring no further vehicles became involved. They very competently used their first aid kit and skills to manage some nasty injuries, they ensured both of the injured were warm and as comfortable as could be expected under the circumstances and, above all, they remained calm even through the long wait for an ambulance. My role was really only to provide re-assurance to the most seriously of the injured and keep an eye on their pulse - they had everything else organised outstandingly well!

As a healthcare professional, turning up to the scene I found was quite daunting, but for the others I mention above it must have been even more so and I want to ensure they don't remain 'unsung heroes'. I have no doubt that their actions saved lives and we should celebrate having them in our community.

Also, a gentleman, whose name I don't know, had been passing and he, too, stopped to help, so thank you to him too.

Julie Watkinson (Registered Nurse)

Village Hall News

It never rains but it pours - and normally on a Sunday morning just before half-term. The Bowls Club arrived to find the hall foyer awash and the water beginning to flow onto the wooden floor of the hall. Not just one burst pipe - but two, and they were the only ones in the loft; a third leak then occurred two days later just when everything was drying out! Thankfully some swift action saved the day; the committee were particularly grateful to Clifford Miles who found the leaks and then mended them and to Stella Symes for her help in cleaning up the mess. Thanks, also, to Simon Wallworth, David Adams and Patrick Rose who rearranged their schedules to help with the necessary remedial action. Sadly, the boilers also suffered, but within a fortnight all was back in order. By the time this is published the redecoration should also have been completed.

Sadly, the recent spring clean of the hall was not as well supported. The village hall is run for the benefit of the community and relies on everyone for their support. The Management Committee carry out the day to day running of the hall; however, there are occasions when help is needed as without it the hall will be in danger of becoming another financial burden on the parish; something it is currently not.

Forthcoming Events:

Wednesday 18th April: Village Hall Annual General Meeting at 7.30 pm. All are welcome.

Saturday 21st April: Jumble Sale in aid of hall funds – see separate advert.

Saturday 23rd June: Race Night. Who needs to go to Cheltenham when you can have all the fun on your own doorstep!

PARISH PLAN QUESTIONNAIRES

Many thanks to the 148 people from across the parish who completed and returned the questionnaires. The collation is almost complete and the results will be discussed at the Annual Parish Assembly on Wed 16th May.

One or two interesting things have emerged so far:

- The majority of people who completed the form were over 60.
- Several old chestnuts have been mentioned again; many have been discussed at parish council meetings.
- Several people said more should be done for the youth in the community. Sadly very few young people filled in the form. Thanks to those who did.

Dear Downsman

Once again our Post Office is under threat. Please write to your MP or call into the Post Office and collect an official postcard to register your opposition. We have a valuable facility in our village which most of us would not want to lose.

Rita Taylor

The Huge New or 'As New' Clothes Sale

Early last year I went to India – you may be wondering why I'm telling you this. Lots of people go to India. For me it was life-changing – I didn't go as a holiday maker, but to visit children's homes where fantastic help is being given to children who otherwise would have very little now, and even less hope for the future. I also visited a slum area where homes are being rebuilt in a way that will protect them from the monsoon rains. I came home determined to do what I can to help, and the reality is that the best way to help from a distance is to raise money.

When my mother-in-law died last year we discovered a wardrobe full of stylish new or virtually new clothes – some still with their labels on. From this has grown the idea of holding a New or As New Clothes Sale. Over the past few months, a small team of friends and I have been working hard collecting clothes and planning the sale, and we hope it is going to be a great event which will raise a lot of money.

The poster (on page 6) gives all the details, but please phone me (01725 552608) if you would like more information. I do hope that you may be able to come on one of the days, but for the moment we are collecting, sorting and pricing in readiness. Prices will be very reasonable, ranging from as low as 50p for a small item to £20 (or a little more) for a designer outfit. Come and scoop up some bargains!

But there's more: fantastic jewellery will be on sale, all individually made by Diana Butchers, and there will be a huge range of scarves and bags brought back from India. We hope, also, to have a cake stall, and good condition paperback books, a raffle and maybe a few more extras. Tea and coffee will be available all day, and at lunchtime The Shed will be selling light lunches. What more could you ask?!

It's not too late to donate anything. This is a good time of year to turn out your wardrobe, and I can't believe that I'm the only one with at least one new dress/jacket/or pair of trousers waiting to be slimmed into, or a sales bargain which turned out not to be such a bargain, or a special occasion outfit which won't be worn again! Anything from a ball gown to a bag to a belt will be accepted - hats, shoes (if new), coats, bags and gloves, and children's clothes. The only criteria is that everything must be New or As New.

I am happy to accept your gifts at any time, and if it is easier for you, we can collect them. We also need more clothes rails – if you have one or more which you are willing to lend just for a few days in the week of the sale, please contact me (01725 552608).

Thank you in anticipation,

Margaret Durrant

LITTLE PENNIES PRE-SCHOOL

Little Pennies Pre-School urgently requires a Chairperson.

This is a voluntary role for this small, successful pre-school which has the full support of a dedicated committee, including a secretary and treasurer.

No previous experience required

If you are interested and would like further information please contact Sarah Stonton on 01725 516939

Little Pennies Pre-School AGM will be held in the Town Farm Parish Office on **Tuesday 17th April**. Everyone is welcome to attend.
Contact Andrea for more information: 01725 552392

Save the Date: Little Pennies Pre-School is going to have a fund-raising **Pamper and Shopping Evening** at Sixpenny Handley First School on **Tuesday 19th June**. More details to follow.

THE TRUSSELL TRUST SHOEBOXES

FOR BULGARIA 2012

Thank you for the splendid total of 150 boxes in 2011

We have again been asked to fill boxes for

Teenage Boys (Age 12-15) & Men

Items suggested for the shoeboxes are listed below:

FOR WARMTH

Hat
Scarf
Gloves
Mittens
T-shirt
Socks
Underwear

FOR SCHOOL

Note book
Pencils
Sharpener
Crayons
Ruler
Pens
Eraser

FOR PLEASURE

Harmonica
Frisbee
Small Ball
Inflatable ball
Playing Cards
Wrapped sweets(Sell by date
2013 please)

FOR HYGIENE

Roll-on Deodorant
Cleaning Wipes
Shampoo
Toothbrush
Small Towel
Soap
For men only - Razors
Shaving Gel (In tubes/bottles only)

A LITTLE EXTRA

Small household tools
Torch (LED wind up one)
Mug
Drinks bottle
Watch LED
Calculator (Boys only)
Poncho (Plastic)
Candles (Men only)
Drinks bottle(Plastic)

No seeds, foodstuffs (except sweets), talcum powder, blades, glue, aerosols or medicines are permitted.

Covered boxes are available at £1 each* from Mrs Trish Chorley,
10 Sycamore Close, Sixpenny Handley. Tel:(01725) 552776

Filled boxes to be returned ASAP to Trish Chorley.

**This charge is to cover the cost of paper, glue sticks & sellotape.*

1st WOODCUTTS NEEDS YOU



**JOIN THE
ADVENTURE.**

An Appeal from John Curtis – Group Scout Leader

Since the opening of our New Headquarters, most of the sections have seen a big increase in numbers, especially in the Beaver and Cub sections with 30 and 34 respectively. The Beaver section will shortly be down to only one qualified leader, Willow, as Clare Easton, our Assistant Beaver Leader, will be on maternity leave and therefore out of action for some considerable time. With the number of young people in the colony, Denise needs to have an Assistant Leader to support her in the running of the weekly programme and to take charge if she is unwell or is unable to attend. Although the Colony is lucky to have several occasional helpers, some will be off to university in the not too distant future. Without an assistant Leader, I may find myself in the difficult position of having to ask Willow not to take in any more members and to do away with the waiting list. It may even be necessary to reduce the size of the Colony.

The Cub section has a total of three Leaders but is desperate for occasional helpers to assist them with carrying out their duties. The Scout and Explorer sections are fine for the moment but would never turn away any offers of help.

The Scout Association's view and, indeed, our view at 1st Woodcutts, is never to deprive a child from taking part in the activities provided by Scouting and in achieving the aims set out by Baden Powell 104 years ago.

I am appealing to all of you, whether parents, friends or members of the public, to come forward and offer your services, either as a Leader within 1st Woodcutts or as an occasional helper. If you wish to discuss this further, please feel free to get in touch with me, John Curtis, or any of the other Leaders. You can get our contact details either from the Downsman or from our website www.firstwoodcutts.org.uk. You may say, "What is in it for me? I know that Leaders are unpaid." As a Leader of some 50 years standing, what I can promise you is that you will get a warm welcome from all within our group, great enjoyment in taking part in the running of the activities and great satisfaction in seeing the youngsters enjoying themselves and achieving their goals.

Yours in Scouting

John Curtis

Burley Road Farm

Our short-term tenancy at Burley Road Farm, Sixpenny Handley has just expired and we wish to plead with villagers (fellow countrymen and women) to give the new tenant your best wishes and support as he starts, develops and progresses in this new venture.

One of the many roles of a County Council farm is to encourage ambitious and innovative new entrants to the industry, for the efficient and sustainable production of food which is often taken for granted.

The farm has history, which many of you who have lived in the village for a while will no doubt be

aware of. Our short experience of farming on the edge of the village has been challenging, frustrating and, at times, ludicrous as it would appear that the trade for which we have trained and practised for many years seems to be disregarded by a minority of 'self-assumed agricultural experts'.

A little knowledge is dangerous so we would encourage those who may wish to broaden their knowledge of our trade to attend the NFU 'Open Farm Sundays'.

Ben and Sarah King



News And Information

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

The February meeting, unfortunately, had to be cancelled owing to the inclement weather and lack of heating in the Village Hall.

On February 17th W.I. members and some husbands met at the Langton Arms for sausage and mash and several games of skittles. It was a very entertaining evening; the ladies' winner was Emma Gardner and the gentleman winner was Brian Staplehurst. We all had a great time.

The Annual W.I. Jumble Sale at the Village Hall on February 25th was a great success.

On March 12th the speaker was Mrs Vivien Graham. Her subject was Knitwear Design and Fulling and her enthusiasm for her subject came over very strongly. She told us that at the age of 9 years old her brother had bought her a set of knitting needles and wool for her birthday and over the years her love for knitting has grown, and after taking up machine knitting she took a course in Fashion Design. Certainly the garments that she brought along were made from very luxurious yarns, most definitely eye catching and in beautiful colours. A very interesting evening.

This year is a special year for our country with the celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and hosting the Olympics, but here in Sixpenny Handley during April, our W.I. celebrates its 90th birthday, so it's congratulations all round!

The Sixpenny Handley W.I. started in 1922; the first President was Mrs Mildred Cartwright who lived at Upwood House. The initial meeting was attended by 30 women for the purpose of setting up a committee, but this soon increased to 50 and later to 80 members. Working together in the W.I. it helped to break down the social barriers between countrywomen who had rarely met together in the past. Women had now received the vote and the National Federation of Women's Institutes was anxious to encourage women to become active citizens. The Institute met on the first Wednesday of the month, and the yearly subscription was 2/- and the cost for tea and cake was tuppence (2d). To celebrate this birthday the Members will enjoy a meal at The Shed on the 21st April, with the option of wearing twenties dress! Here's to the next ten years!

The Book Club and the Craft Club continue to meet monthly, very successfully. The Craft group have been making bonnets for premature babies at Salisbury Hospital.

Dates for the Diary

April 16th Annual meeting
 April 21st 90th Birthday Meal
 May 14th Resolutions meeting
 May 24th Spring Group Meeting, 6d Handley

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)

Mothers' Union

Thank you very much indeed for all the squares knitted by MU members and other people in the village. It looks as if we will have enough squares to make up into six cot / over-the-knee blankets for our overseas project when the last contributions have come in. I would like them in, please, by the first week in April. What a fantastic response this has been!

At our meeting in March, John Cullingford led us in a wonderful Lenten Meditation.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 12th April at 15 Paddock Close, when the speaker, Irene Burnett-Thomas, will talk about 'Nursing the mentally ill'.

Any enquiries, please contact Sheila 553133 or Mary 552041.

You are invited to a
FASHION EXTRAVAGANZA

in aid of Breast Cancer Care

Thursday 14th June

at Sixpenny Handley Village Hall

commencing at 7.30 pm

Tickets £4

Available from Sixpenny Handley Post Office and Stores,
Liz Coombs (01725 552362) or Stella Olsen (01725 552450)

Clothes supplied by Travelling Trends
All for sale after the show
Reputable High Street brands at 30% - 60% less than store price

TRUSSELL TRUST SHOP

New Salisbury shop to open in April

Work is under way at 50 High Street, Salisbury to turn it into a brand new Trussell Trust charity shop set to open in April. The shop in the centre of Salisbury is being launched to help raise essential funds for The Trussell Trust.

Specialising in quality clothing, handbags and shoes, the new shop will also have a boutique designer and vintage section. The shop on Bemerton Heath will continue to specialise in furniture, books and electrical equipment.

Mompesson House

Throughout the 2012 season, Mompesson House, a National Trust property standing in Salisbury's Cathedral Close, features a continuation of the late Barbara Townsend's delightful water colours displayed in the small drawing room, while upstairs a small selection of oil paintings, mainly 'still life', from Dutch artists is on show for the first time.

Open from 11.00 am to 5.00 pm, Saturday through to Wednesday, Mompesson House allows the visitor to step back in time to what some regard as a more tranquil age. After inspecting the contents of the eight rooms open to the public, the garden and tea rooms await, the latter offering a rich selection of sandwiches, home produced cakes and the usual beverages.

Bill Chorley

Bowls

This season should be a busy time for all of us. The plans for the new clubhouse are coming along nicely and everybody is working very hard to make this a success. We are now waiting for, and hoping to get, planning permission from the EDDC. Once we have that, the building will start.

We have made a start on the fund raising and several people have already been very generous and donated money, and there is a lot of thoughts going into ideas for this project. There are lots of good ideas floating around. Watch this space!

Our internal competitions have been played a bit later than planned because of the flood in the Village Hall, but we got there in the end. The winner of the singles was Clifford, runner-up was George and of the pairs, Colin and Bea, with

runners-up, Maxine and Doris.

On the 8th of March we had a party for Brian's birthday. Everybody enjoyed the game Bob and Maxine had organised and the impromptu "auction" of the cheese Norman did. That and the raffle made some more money for the building fund!

Both teams have nearly finished our league matches and the latest league tables show we are doing OK and, of course, we are now looking forward to playing outdoors again. Our opening day will be on the 22nd April I will send you all some more details. We hope you can all be there and that we have a good season and nice weather!

I would also like to remind everybody that the Bowls Quiz is on 19th May.

Cards

Whist: Despite what has been regarded generally as a 'mild winter' February's cold snap had a major impact on the village hall, thus forcing a cancellation of one of the competitive rounds. Fortunately, however, with a recent decision to continue the fortnightly whist drives through the summer what would have been the prize giving evening on May 23rd will now be the 17th round in the competition and prizes will be awarded on June 6th.

Since the turn of the year, the lead has changed several times and with the 'deadline' of this edition of *The Downsman* looming, the situation at the end of Round 11 shows Stuart Haskell top of the table by a single point over Gerald Trickey, their respective aggregates being 1783 and 1782 points. In 3rd place comes Doug Haskell (1754): Doug still retaining the highest individual score of '183' that he set on the 3rd round back in October 2011.

Scoring well throughout is Zoe Pike who has maintained 4th place practically throughout the contest, though with just 1 point separating Zoe from Susie White (both have played in 10 rounds and both have taken a mandatory '142' as a consequence of missing a round), the outcome of round 12 on March 15th could be crucial.

The second half of the top 10 reads in order: Doreen Leverton; John Bennett; Kingsley White; Syliva Thorne and Barry Park with neither holding a commanding lead over the other.

Thus far, only 12 players have contested all 11 rounds, and it is interesting to note that Rita Austin's aggregate of 1683 points is precisely 100 adrift of that recorded by the leader. However, as I have remarked on many an occasion, scores in whist can swing from high to low - even during the course of a single round. From personal experience a miserable first half can be brightened by recovery in the second, and vice-versa. Nevertheless, with the competitive rounds drawing down, it is going to be extremely difficult to dislodge the leaders for although most will return a below average score, the law of averages should ensure that a single poor showing will be well compensated for over the remaining drives.

Bridge: In a recent session at the sports pavilion, one table recorded 9 successive deals being bid to game-level. Although it is rare for all members to be present each week, attendance is averaging out at 10 thus ensuring 2 tables are employed. At Tarrant Gunville the average is 3 tables, though of late an extra table has had to be set up to accommodate those present. The standard of bidding and play is high and, I hope, a recent tutorial on conventions useful for responding to an opening of a weak 'No Trump' (12 to 14 high card points) will lead to an even higher understanding of this quite fascinating and testing game.

Bill Chorley

Book Review

At 10 minutes before midnight on April 14th, 1912, RMS *Titanic* of the 'White Star Line' on her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York struck an iceberg and less than three hours later this huge liner broke up and plunged to the bottom of the ocean. From a combined crew and passenger complement of 2,210 persons, only 711 (some sources quote 710) were saved. The grief felt on either side of the Atlantic was immense.

In the intervening years a myriad of books, films, television and radio documentaries have been produced, and in this centenary year it is a certainty more will follow. Thus, it has been my good fortune to have been presented with a copy of Ann Victoria Roberts' book on the subject for review.

Titled '*The Master's Tale - A Titanic Ghost Story*' and first published in 2011 by The Thorn Press, this, as its title implies, is a novel. In essence it charts the life of *Titanic's* master, Captain E J Smith and, as such, the author draws extensively on previously published material: 16 works are acknowledged in the Bibliography ranging from Colonel Archibald Gracie's '*Titanic*' of 1913, through to a quartet of books appearing in 2009, the most important being Gary Cooper's autobiography of Captain E J Smith.

It is, perhaps, not too surprising that much of the content follows a factual path with the fictional aspect being introduced by way of a group of ladies, one of whom, a Mrs Lucinda Carver, turns out to

be Captain Smith's daughter, the outcome of a passionate affair from his younger days when his service took him to Hong Kong.

The mixing of fact and fiction through the medium of books is not new: in Robert Harris's '*Enigma*' (see February 2012) and again with Alan Dearling's '*The Friendly Invasion*' (December 2011), the fictional aspect is clear from the beginning. In '*The Master's Tale*' it is not so apparent and herein lies a problem in that unless the reader is familiar with biographies of Captain Smith the establishing of what is fact and what is fiction becomes a little confusing.

Nevertheless, despite these misgivings on my part, Ann Victoria Roberts captures many aspects of the time, not least the considerable commercial pressures of the steamship companies as they competed for the lucrative trans-Atlantic trade. She also writes well on the social atmosphere of the latter half of the 19th century and the early part of the 20th when the class system played such an important part in everyday life; and, not least, the inherent dangers faced by all seamen as they braved the unforgiving expanse of the world's oceans.

My next review will report on Peter May's '*The Black House*', set on the Isle of Lewis and Robert Harris's latest offering, '*The Fear Index*'. Until then, continue to enjoy your reading.

Bill Chorley

Village Hall 100 Club Winners

January

| | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|----------------|
| 1st | £25 | 42 | Mrs Davidson |
| 2nd | £15 | 116 | Mrs Witt |
| 3rd | £10 | 14 | Clifford Miles |

February

| | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----------------|
| 1st | £25 | 173 | Doris Day |
| 2nd | £15 | 142 | Angela Gray |
| 3rd | £10 | 124 | Patricia Oxford |

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

Message to my HAT !

Mystery loss. Gone walk-about ? Elderly blue Harris Tweed hat, stupidly hung up on hat-peg in the village hall during the W.I. jumble sale on Saturday 25th February.

Sadly missed. All is forgiven.

Please phone home (01725) 552 345

Robin Raban Williams

Spring has sprung at Woodcutts

As I write this on the 14th March, spring is certainly with us, with flowers blooming, birds in their mating colours, lawns being mown and some trees already in leaf. However, the conditions aren't anywhere as near advanced as they might have been if we had not had that fortnight of a cold snap early in the year. Nature seems to become more and more unpredictable as time goes by.

On the second Sunday of January, I preached at evensong and, as is quite common, I borrowed a complete sermon to help in my preparation, in this case from Milton Jones' book entitled 10 Second Sermons, courtesy of David Salmons. I use it here in its entirety, "Christianity is like a Cornish pasty. There's something in it, but sometimes it's difficult to find out what it is exactly." If I substituted the word Christianity with the single word Nature I think that the resultant sentence would be equally appropriate.

Mother Nature certainly has her work cut out these days in keeping abreast of things. For example, who can remember hosepipe bans in April before? Or can anyone in living memory remember a water shortage during the winter months in any shape or form? In the December edition I wrote of winter crops, particularly oil seed rape going 'bananas' and coming into flower before Christmas which could have meant that some seed would have been produced in late spring on some plants, while others could have been several months later, which would have resulted in very poor crop yields. Thank goodness for the two cold weeks at the end of January and the beginning of February. This did bring back a degree of normality, which killed off the existing flowers and helped to regulate the situation. Let's hope that the crops will all flower and produce seed at the same time now, even if it is earlier in the year than normally expected.

It wasn't only the oilseed rape that flowered early this year. Snowdrops were with us from the last week of December and stayed with us until the first week of March. They were in wonderful abundance and of a very superior size and quality this year. They have been followed by a plentiful supply of bright yellow celandines, which are currently still flowering; possibly the best show in years. We must not forget the primroses either, which have also been of great quality and size this year, although I am not sure of their numbers compared with previous years. Nor must we forget the lesser periwinkle, which flowers throughout the year and in this particular winter has had an extraordinary amount of inflorescences throughout, especially on the south facing roadside bank just east of the manor here at Woodcutts.

The other spring flower of note here at Woodcutts is the white violet, which can be found almost anywhere in the hedgerow bottoms and in scrubby grassland. They have been in flower since the first few days of March and are more numerous than in a usual year. Back in the nineteen forties and fifties when I was a lad, we boys always were

out looking for the first flowers to pick and take home for our mothers or, in my case, for my grandmother. (Incidentally, she did not drink directly out of the bottle and did not touch alcohol at all. Please see the December Downsman for an explanation). It was certainly not considered at all cissyish for boys to pick wild flowers for their female relatives. In fact, there was great competition to be the first to pick the first bunch of primroses, etc. Unfortunately, today the laws have changed and the picking of wild flowers and trespass are not looked upon in the same way as they were in the past. We, as children, went anywhere and were very responsible when it came to observing the countryside rules.

One thing that was different for us was that on the north side of the South Downs where I grew up, in the pretty little village of Buriton, just east of Petersfield in Hampshire, white violets were a rarity. There were numerous blue sweet violets and blue dog violets, but white violets were very scarce and we would walk miles to find them. The same could be said of white bells and pink bells growing amongst the huge numbers of bluebells that loved the chalk land around Buriton. It looks as if it is going to be a good bluebell year here this year looking at the leaves that are showing in the surrounding woodland, many of which are looking very strong and vigorous. It is a shame that children of today can't go on countryside excursions, picking wild flowers as we did some sixty years ago, but things have changed dramatically, both in the countryside and of the children's pastimes. We were rarely indoors and would often be out all day, only coming home for meals, and without getting into trouble. At the annual village flower show there was always a class for wild flowers open to all children, and was won by the person who had accumulated the largest number of plant species in their collection, which would consist of all sorts of wild orchids as well as the more common species such as corn marigold, oxeye daisy, toadflax etc.

It is not only wild flowers that are blooming early this year; trees are showing early spring life, too. Already the blackthorn has produced flowers in many places and elder, willows and particularly hawthorn are in leaf. Yesterday, being the 14th March, I was driving just south of Wimborne and saw a whole hedge of hawthorn, green with leaves. At present, the water deficit that we are hearing so much about does not seem to be affecting us much: because of reasonably low temperatures and high humidity there is very little moisture-loss from the top few inches of the soil, but the aquifers well below the surface are extremely low, in many cases the lowest ever recorded for the time of year. As already mentioned, whoever heard of a hosepipe ban in April before? It will certainly be a case of not cutting the lawns as short as normal so as to prevent evaporation of soil moisture and the drying out of the top few inches of the soil beneath the grass roots. Like many other people I have had to start mowing because the grass was simply too long, but I

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do have the option that I use mulching blades on the mower and don't pick up the mown grass.

The only other comment to make about the plant kingdom is to mention the number of berries that are left on the trees. The cotoneaster along our front boundary is normally stripped of berries by the turn of the year, but it still has its full complement half way through March. Holly and ivy berries in the wild are still very obviously present, whilst in the past few weeks the wild birds have only just started to use the food put out in our feeders. As I write, I look out of the window and I can see a female greater spotted woodpecker helping herself to the fat balls that are hanging about twelve feet away. We see both male and female regularly now and, hopefully, in the not too distant future, their young ones, too.

Other regular visitors to our feeding station are goldfinch, chaffinch, greenfinch, blue tits, great tits, long tail tits, marsh tits, coal tits, robins, house sparrows, dunnocks, blackbirds and a single male black cap. This black cap is extremely aggressive and drives all the other small birds away, including the robins who are, themselves, fairly aggressive. We are waiting to see if a female blackcap (with a brown cap of course), turns up to share with him.

Others birds feeding under, rather than on the bird feeders are wood pigeons, collared doves, magpies, jackdaws and even the occasional rook. Outside of the garden we constantly see one, or even a pair of green woodpeckers floating in their undulating style up and down the lane. If they can't always be seen, they make themselves heard in the trees at the rear of the houses.

The other group of birds we see often are the raptors; namely the red kites, buzzards, kestrels and sparrow

hawks, which are in far greater numbers today than they have been for years. The first three are normally passing over, but the sparrow hawks can often be seen perched on fence posts above a piece of grass field where rabbits are known to graze. Seeing them perched on these posts reminds me of the past when gamekeepers would have used pole traps to control raptors, particularly around pheasant rearing pens where gin traps would be set up on the top of poles which would give a visiting raptor, intent on feeding on the young pheasants being reared, a clear view of the site. On landing, the raptor would be entrapped and would be there for the keeper to dispose of when he was doing his rounds. This is not, of course, allowed today but as a result, we see many more of these birds now than we have for many a long year. Obviously because there are more raptors about today small bird numbers suffer as a result, but we can't have it all ways.

The raptors are not the only killers of birds; foxes are also still prevalent today. Two days ago at 10.00 am on a bright, sunny morning, I was walking down the lane and on glancing up across the cornfield I saw what I at first thought was a deer. When I focused on it, I realised that it was, in fact, a dog fox of quite large proportions and it was heading away from the gardens where two separate lots of chicken are kept. It stopped, obviously aware of my presence, and then started off at a leisurely pace away from me across the field and through the hedge and out of sight. If only I had had my camera!

I have rambled on long enough and must say good-bye for now until the next time. God bless you all.

Ted Cox (March 2012)



THE CHASE GARDEN CLUB

The final two meetings of the 2012 Spring Programme of The Chase Garden Club, which are held at the 1st Woodcutts Scout HQ Common Road Sixpenny Handley Dorset SP5 NJ, are as follows -

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| 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 is as follows -

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Thursday 31st May | Manor House, Church Lane, Blandford St Mary DT11 9ND |
| Thursday 28th June | Braemore, Bleak Hill, Harbridge, Ringwood BH24 3PX |
| Thursday 26th July | 55 Lomen Road, Colehill, Wimborne BH21 7AT |

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

Deanland Telephone Box Update

I am delighted to report that the Deanland telephone box has been saved from disposal by the Parish Council as the result of a petition signed by nearly all the residents of Deanland submitted to the Parish Council. This is an excellent outcome, but it should not have been necessary, and I hope that in future the Parish Council will make more effort to consult with members of the community they represent than they have done in the past.

Now we have to decide how to put the telephone box to good use. There have been a number of suggestions, notably :

- As a sort of greenhouse with a display of tropical plants ? This is a very novel idea.
- As a local library. On a journey out to West Dean on the bus recently, I actually saw two similar telephone boxes which had been put to precisely that use. Shelves had been installed and a good selection of second-hand books were on display, no doubt donated by local residents and loaned out on a trust basis. I somehow doubt that there would be enough demand in our small community of Deanland for such a library, but it would be interesting to know whether other people in the main village would find it useful, and would travel

out to use it. If you would, then please let me know by emailing me at telephone-box@deanland.plus.com

- As a post box. With the threat of a second class stamp about to cost 55p, a time can be envisaged when sadly there may be insufficient use of the Royal Mail to continue with door-step deliveries, Heaven forefend. But if it did happen, could the telephone box be converted, perhaps, to a central collection point for Newtown and Deanland, with each house having a key to a post-box inside, as is the case in many countries abroad ? Perhaps this is looking too far into the future.
- As a mobile phone / internet repeater station. Mobile phone coverage in Deanland is very poor, and maybe there is a technology which would enable a repeater station to be installed to improve the local coverage.

Any other ideas would be most welcome. In the meantime, several people have kindly offered to help to re-paint the box. Obviously, now that the Parish Council has agreed to allow us to keep it, we have to accept responsibility for its maintenance. Let's hope we can do it before too long.

Nick Sherman

St Mary's Churchyard Update

Thanks to the Downsman, we have put together a small team to record all the headstones or memorials in the churchyard at St Mary's, and I must report that great progress has already been made, due to a lot of work by several volunteers. We must have already passed the half-way mark, but there is still lots to do.

Life was made a lot easier when we discovered that the W.I. had beaten us to it in the 1980s. They had already plotted more than 350 headstones, and recorded the inscriptions, although they had used some mystifying abbreviations which we first needed to decipher : things like "w.d.t.l." which stands for "who departed this life" or "b.w.o.t.a." which is "blessed wife of the above"! One of the most useful features has been the map of the layout of the churchyard which they prepared.

However, in the last 25 years, a lot has happened. Richard Adlem had also kept records of the stones which he laid himself, which was a great help as well. There were gaps in what had previously been recorded, and there are also a number of unmarked graves of course. So, all in all, I think we probably will have at least another 300, bringing the total up to nearly 700 when we have finished.

So what we have done so far is, firstly, to set up a new website, which eventually will be linked to the St Mary's website directly. We have uploaded the W.I. diagram and all the W.I. records onto it, which had, of course, all been recorded using an old-fashioned typewriter and typex, no doubt. What a work of art. They can all now be viewed on the website in the original version.

As we are in the digital age, we have also uploaded a template for the electronic records we intend in

Continued on page 25

time to maintain. Please understand that this template is only intended as an example of the sort of thing we would like to achieve eventually; there are only about ten entries so that you can get an idea of the way it will work. We have used genealogy software as the basis, which will allow anyone to search for names or dates of death, and birth where known. We intend to give each memorial a distinct number and, indeed, you will already see that many of the memorials in the churchyard already have a temporary number on a small stake driven into ground. Then the idea is to photograph each memorial and add it to the database, along with any other information which we can gather about the individual concerned, including any photographs of the deceased as well. As the memorials are historic, we cannot make any permanent markings, and we have to be very careful we do not damage them trying to decipher what they say.

The danger, of course, is that as the grass and undergrowth starts to take over again, some memorials may become difficult to find. To avoid that happening, we are going to use a sophisticated global positioning system to record the grid references which, hopefully, will allow any domestic sat nav to be able to identify approximately where each one is to be found. The grid reference will also be on the database.

One of the advantages of using genealogy software as the core of the database is that, besides having fields for names, dates of birth and death, it can easily group records into families. That means that we will sometimes be able to link families together just from information on the memorials, but if anyone in the village can identify families who belong together, we can link them that way as well. So if you are interested, the name of the website is www.stmarysyard.plus.com

Which brings me to the unmarked graves. As this is a memorial project, we should not just remember those whose names we know. We should also remember those whose names we do not know. In the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries, the headstones of unknown soldiers are inscribed with "Known unto God". So it is important that we record even these unmarked graves for the same reason and in the same way. The Parish Register, which is now kept in Dorchester, dates from 1736, and therefore it may be possible, eventually, to work

out to whom some of these unmarked graves refer, just by starting with the name on the closest memorial and then tracing the names in the Register, as they probably follow the same order.

But there is no doubt at all that there are still people in the village who may know where 'great grandfather' was buried in an unmarked grave, and it would be so useful to share that knowledge with us. So if you can identify an unmarked grave, then please get in touch. Alternatively, if you would like any information to be recorded on the database about members of your family, please also let us know.

If you feel that you can help with this project, then there are a number of ways in which you can :

- You may be able to help decipher some of the more faded and complex headstones which can be time-consuming for the main team.
- You can help with entering all the names and dates of birth and inscriptions into the database using your computer - this is going to be by far the largest exercise and will need the most volunteers.
- You can help with taking photographs of all the memorials.
- You can help with studying the Parish Registry and doing some detective work to identify some of the unmarked graves.
- You can help with dealing with people providing information about friends and family.

If you want to get in touch, then please email us at mail@stmarysyard.plus.com

The email address is on the website also. I would finally like to extend my thanks to all those who have already contributed so much to this project and got it off to a flying start.

Nick Sherman

1st Woodcutts News



EXPLORER

Wanna Meet Bear Grylls?

That was the question put to the Woodcutter Explorers last month. All said, "Yes", of course! Unfortunately, places were limited but from a list of over 50 District Explorers, 2 of the 8 at Woodcutts were successful in being allocated places. Along with a Woodcutts Leader (not me), they have got front row seats for his Mud, Sweat and Tears show in Bournemouth this month. They will also go up on stage with him for the finale of his show so, yes, they do get to meet Bear.

OK, so this is not an opportunity that comes along every year, but if you want a challenge and to see and experience things you might not normally come across and have fun along the way, then you should come along to a Wednesday evening Explorer meeting between 7.30 pm and 9.30 pm and find out more.

Our Explorer unit gets to go climbing, canoeing, caving and gliding and a whole lot more. These are some of the things that happen on Summer Camps; a week away somewhere in the UK every year.

Explorers do wear uniform every now and then, but most of the time we wear what is right for the activities. For instance, at the end of last term everyone wore what they felt comfortable in for a meal out at the Monmouth Ash in Verwood. This month it was hoodies and waterproofs for manning a checkpoint for a Scout night hike. Who knows what next? This summer sees the Scout Camp in North Wales, climbing Snowdon, riding toboggans down The Great Orme, high ropes swinging through the forest and trekking ponies across the hills. These are just a few of the activities for the week, all for £250 including all you can eat and the camp fees. This year, four of the Explorers are also working to complete their Duke of Edinburgh award; it does cost extra, but by using the Explorer evenings and weekends away it can be a whole lot more affordable whilst still maintaining the high standards of the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme.

If you want to know more and are aged 14½ to 18, then please give me, Andy Turner, a call on 01725 552735

1st Woodcutts hits a tonne!

Every year we have to submit a census of members to the Scout Association. As you may have read in the press, numbers of young people involved in Scouting are growing year by year and Dorset is leading the growth figures. During the census this year, the total number of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Leaders was 94. So, not quite a century...but wait: we also have an Explorers group of 8 as described above. Although technically they form part of District we feel fully justified in claiming that we now have over 100 Scouts regularly attending meetings and activities in Woodcutts. When Rob Easton first came to the village about 10 years ago he found his way to the Scout Hut, having at long last been allowed to progress from Brownies (ask him about it sometime), and found three enthusiastic young boys looking for Leadership. Two of those three are still involved with the Group as Leaders today and are testament to the fantastic growth story of 1st Woodcutts and the long-term benefits of Scouting. We hope that the next 10 years will be equally successful.



Rob with his 3 "originals" – some of them have grown!

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

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

1st Woodcutts News



Akela is flipping fantastic

Pancakes are always popular, especially when Akela manages to set off the fire alarm thereby invoking an impromptu fire drill and then follows this up by feeding his Cubs seaweed to celebrate Chinese New Year! The programme of activities has been as varied as always with fun activities as well as badge work being done at home and at pack meetings. A particular highlight was the Swimming Gala, where one enterprising Cub thought he had done brilliantly by finishing his length of frontcrawl before anyone else only to be disappointed to find out that the rules don't allow that in a breaststroke race! In spite of this very minor setback, the Cubs had a fabulous time and were commended for their enthusiasm and behaviour – if not their technique.

Christmas comes late in Woodcutts

Never ones to be hidebound by tradition, the Scouts were more than happy when their "Christmas" outing to Snowtrax took place in February. As if sliding down an artificial ski slope in a large rubber ring were not fun enough, even more enjoyment can be gleaned from watching the Leaders doing the same. Anthony excelled particularly in providing great entertainment value.

The Scouts are now planning their next outing which will be a one day expedition. The young people have chosen the route and how they will make it to the destination. The purpose of the expedition is to expose the Scouts to new skills, whilst showing that they have the ability to get out and about with a sense of adventure.

Paperwork

Nobody likes filling out forms. But the Leaders cannot plan and organise events and activities unless they get the necessary paperwork in place in good time. Every now and again please turn your Beaver/Cub/Scout/Explorer (delete as applicable) upside down and look through the debris for letters from the Leaders and then take a moment to read them and respond.

Please make sure you have seen details for both May and Summer Camps and have returned the forms before all the places have gone!

Car parking – please, please be careful

As many of you will know, we have very limited parking and manoeuvring space at the HQ, particularly during the busy changeover times on Wednesday evenings. Please can we urge you all to be prompt in delivering and collecting your children, to take care when driving in the car park and to be courteous in your use of space. And remember: a child can accelerate from a standstill faster than a Formula One car, so keep alert at all times.

AGM – Save the date

We have tentatively pencilled in Friday 25th May as the date for this year's AGM. We are hoping to combine it with a social activity but have not yet settled on the exact format. Watch out for notices from the Leaders nearer the time.

Fundraising

We cannot forget that we continue to need to raise funds for the group to support all the fantastic activities that take place, both at the HQ and away. We rely entirely on volunteers and Rachel Hiner is currently looking for people to help with the Blandford Jubilee Fayre. We will need as many bodies as possible to run our various stalls at this event on 4th June, i.e. Tombola, Punch the Pot, Face Painting, guess the weight of the object/person, skittles, stocks and more! If you can help on the day, then please contact Rachel on 01725 552189.



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

1st Woodcutts Scouts, Handley Common, Sixpenny Handley, Salisbury. SP5 5NJ
<http://www.firstwoodcutts.org.uk>

A SMOKE ALARM without batteries is ‘a useless piece of plastic.’



That is the message from Station Manager Karen Adams, manager of the

or replace smoke alarms, advise on the use of candles, unattended cooking, electric blankets, overloading sockets, chimneys, low energy light bulbs and much more.

Community Safety Task Teams based at Dorset Fire and Rescue Service HQ, Poundbury and Hamworthy fire station.

This is all free of charge with the aim of encouraging people to think about fire safety in the home.”

Karen leads a team of firefighters and officers, who are taking DFRS’s safety message out into the community, with a particular focus on educating vulnerable and hard to reach groups.

She added, "People need to consider their night-time routine – close doors, keep an escape route clear, and check they know where the door key is so they can let themselves out. Smoke alarms should be tested once a week to make sure they are still working and in good condition. A smoke alarm without a battery is useless piece of plastic."

When someone dies in a fire, as unfortunately happened at the end of February, it is always upsetting. At Dorset Fire and Rescue Service, our aim is to reduce all preventable fire deaths to zero. We want to see every home in Dorset with a smoke alarm and that means testing your smoke alarms every week! With the clock change fast approaching, when you go around your home changing the time on all your clocks, take the time to test your smoke alarms too!

To request a Free Home Safety Check for you, or someone who may be vulnerable and would benefit from a visit, please get their permission and contact us on 01305 252600 or use the new online form found at www.dorsetfire.gov.uk. Just fill out the form with your name and address details and click ‘submit’. Our new PinPoint technology will analyse whether or not we can make your home safer and you will either receive a FREE Home Safety Check or Home Safety Information Pack, containing a leaflet on safety and a checklist for the home.

Karen said, "We provide a free home safety check service to those in our at-risk groups. Firefighters and DFRS staff are able to visit residents in their homes and fit

Handley Sports League Champions!

Handley Sports men's side on 3rd March wrapped up the League title in superb fashion, beating Weymouth Spartans 7-0. The team has done amazingly well this season, and with one game left to play, their current season's record is: played 17, won 11, drawn 4, and lost only 2, scoring 73 goals in the 17 games and conceding 29. The season has provided some excellent moments, including a 10-1 win, 6-1, the mentioned 7-0 and many others. Not only have we topped the league table but also dominate the goal-scoring charts with 5 players in the top 15 and an all-Handley top 3: Adam Day (22 goals), Darren Munday (16 goals) and George Gibbs (10 goals).

It hasn't ended there, though, as on Saturday 10th March, Handley also won a very entertaining cup semi-final at the Recreation Ground 4-1. Over 100 people from the village, including past players, were there to watch and saw Handley storm into a 3-0 lead in the first 15 minutes. By half-time they had 4 goals and Handley now have their first Cup Final in years to look forward too. We would very much appreciate all support possible from locals at the Final, which is to be held at Wimborne Town Football Club on 4th April with a 7.45 pm kick off.

A big thank you from all the players goes to co-managers Mark Young and Stuart Haskell for all their hard work.

Handley Sports Youth season has also remained on target, and since the last write-up in the December edition they are still unbeaten! We have now played 15, won 11, drawn 2, and lost only 2. They, too, have had some fantastic results in a 9 match unbeaten run and closing in on 2nd and 1st.

In what can be considered our local derby with Blandford United, we really turned on the style and won the match 10 - 0, with the goals coming from Josh Iles (5), Jamie Steele (2), as well as Christian Gully-Smith, Brad Cox and Josh Davis. Other

results include beating Ringwood Town 5-1 with James Williams notching his first goal for us in that match. There were great wins, also, against Dorchester dynamos, both home and away (5-0 and 6-0) and an 8 - 0 win against Dorchester Rangers.

Probably the very best for us, though, was in our last match on the 11th March when we travelled to Wareham Rangers who sit at the top of our league and had, at the time, won 15 out of 16 games. We went there, dominated the first half, and eventually won 3-2, stopped them from winning the league for now. Having beaten them and with 3 games in hand we can get very close and push them all the way in the coming weeks.

The team is currently performing fantastically well, with special individual performances from many players. Our goalkeeper has come on in leaps and bounds, commanding his penalty area. New signings from Salisbury's Brad Cox and James Williams have added extra steel to the team; James recently scored his first goal in for us and Brad, who had never scored before in football, is revelling in being moved from defence to midfield and now has scored 7 goals for us, including a hat-trick! There is tireless work in midfield from Josh Davis and Angus Scully, and new signing, Callum Curry, has chipped in with 5 goals already with Josh Iles and Jamie Steele upfront scoring goals for fun! Our current top scorers are Jamie Steele (15), Brad Sando (8), Josh Iles (8) and Brad Cox (7), but not forgetting the others who have scored goals as well.

As usual, any support from the village would be greatly appreciated in what promises to be an exciting finish for the Youth team this year. Please friend us on facebook: Handley Spts Yfc, for all recent news and results.

Up The Sports!

Adam Day

| Mobile Library Schedule | | - | Visits on Thursday Fortnightly |
|---------------------------|-------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Woodyates – Cobley Close | 2.25 – 2.40 | | |
| Back Lane/St Mary's Close | 3.00 – 3.20 | | |
| Roebuck Inn | 3.25 – 3.45 | | |
| Dean Lane | 3.50 – 4.05 | | April 12th, 26th |
| Sheasby Close | 4.10 – 4.30 | | May 10th, 24th, June 7th |

Yet Another General Knowledge Quiz:
(Or as Monsieur Poirot would say, to test the little grey cells)
Answers to the quiz set in the February issue

- (1) Who introduced potatoes, and tobacco to this Country ? What famous Dorset residence was he given for services rendered?
The introduction of potatoes and tobacco was brought about by Sir Walter Raleigh, following his visits to Central and South America which at that time was under the control of the Spanish military invaders during 16th century. His Dorset residence was Sherborne Castle.
- (2) Where, and from what counter, would you purchase Stinking Bishop and what, exactly is it ?
Can be bought from the cheese counter of any upmarket Delicatessen. It is a cream cheese from Gloucestershire, being an acquired taste with a strong aroma, not much taste although that is a matter of choice.
- (3) Who was Harry Spencer Truman ? What momentous decisions did he have to make in his lifetime ?
Harry was Vice President to Franklin Delano Roosevelt during WW2. Roosevelt died, on April 12th 1945, and Harry automatically became the President of USA. The war in Europe was ending, but there was still the War in the Far East which would have cost the lives of thousands of service personnel. His "Momentous Decision" was the dropping of Atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki during August 1945, with the war ending 1946.
- (4) Who crossed Avon Gorge in a steel bucket at about 300 feet, and for what purpose ?
Isombar Kingdom Brunel , looking for a vote of confidence. This was to impress his financial backers that the building of a bridge over Avon Gorge at Bristol was possible and viable. His project needed the money.
- (5) What is a Prebend chair, and where would you be likely to find one ?
Most likely to be found in a Christian faith Cathedral. Firstly, Prebend was the stipend paid to a member of the Cathedral staff, possibly a Cannon who was resident and worked away on a Cathedral Estate in some other area. Could even be in a different county. The Prebend chair or stall, ornate and made of polished wood with a high back and in honour of a member of Cathedral staff. Situated to the rear of the choir stalls. One at Salisbury bears the name of Chardstock. Of interest to me, it being the starting place of my ancestors in the 12 century.
- (6) From a Thomas Hardy novel, who sold his wife and baby by Public Auction? Name of the novel, and name of the person concerned, please.
Novel "The Mayor of Casterbridge, fictional name for Dorchester. Circa 1882. The culprit, a highly inebriated Michael Henchard , a young farm hand who later prospered in life, becoming a man of means. "His Worship the Mayor."

Peter Bailey

DORSET COUNTY MUSEUM

PRESS RELEASE

NEW EXHIBITION COMING TO DORSET COUNTY MUSEUM

Landscapes of Thomas Hardy's Wessex

21 April to 16 June 2012

Landscapes of Thomas Hardy's Wessex is an exhibition of contemporary works, including charcoal drawings, prints, steel etchings and oil paintings, by Rob Pountney, Dave Gunning and David Inshaw. They depict the spectacular landscapes and ancient archaeological sites that feature in the novels and poems of Thomas Hardy.

Each artist has selected specific works which show their varied and eclectic response to the places described in Hardy's fictionalised 'Wessex'. The works focus attention on the physical and atmospheric qualities of the landscape, in much the same way that Hardy used prose to generate melodrama and set the scene in his work.

By personally selecting a small number of key pieces from their huge bodies of work, these artists give a unique glimpse into their own reactions to their art. They are showing what they consider to be their most revealing and emotional responses to a landscape they have got to know intimately, both through Hardy and through their own experience of it.

Rob Pountney is a highly accomplished artist who has always been fascinated by Thomas Hardy's work, and this intensified during his study of fine art and later doctoral research work in English literature. The use of dramatic contrasts of light and shade in his work captures the striking visual aspects of the geological and archaeological

features of the Wessex landscape, and his interpretation of Hardy's response to them.

Dave Gunning, awarded Year of the Artist Award in 2000-2001 by the British Arts Council, is an exceptionally fine artist, who has spent more than 25 years studying the prehistoric landscape in the West Country, particularly the ancient monuments within the World Heritage Site of Stonehenge and Avebury. Gunning's work goes far further than recording their existence and captures their spiritual and mystical presence, often in highly charged atmospheric environments. Thomas Hardy lived and travelled amongst the monuments Gunning has captured on paper and steel for this exhibition.

Thomas Hardy has also been a key figure in the work of one of Britain's leading contemporary artists, **David Inshaw**. His works are mainly large oil paintings, etchings and drawings, and one of his most famous pictures, 'The Badminton Game', painted in his Devizes studio, caught the public imagination at its debut exhibition in 1972. This piece is one of a number of pictures painted soon after his move to Wiltshire, and is inspired partly by his discovery of Thomas Hardy.

The exhibition runs at Dorset County Museum from 21st April to 16th June 2012. Entry is free.

For more information please Tel: 01305 262735 www.dorsetcountymuseum.org
Dorset County Museum is supported by Dorset County Council
Dorset County Museum High West Street Dorchester Dorset DT1 1XA Tel: 01305 262735

Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society Company registered in England No. 3362107. Registered Charity No. 1062400

Spring Fete, Saturday 28th April 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm

Ebbesbourne Wake Village Hall & Playing Field

Lots of stalls including arts and crafts, books, jewellery, cards & gifts. Plus pony rides, games, lucky dip, raffle, tombola, cakes, vintage vehicles and lots more. We will also be holding a Grand Balloon Release. Balloon Tickets can be purchased at £1 from the following; Broad Chalke Post Office, Broad Chalke CofE Primary School, Bright Sparks Nursery, The Horse Shoe Inn (Ebbesbourne Wake), Ansty PYO Farm Shop & Six Penny Handley Newsagents. Come and join in the fun and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a slice of cake. We hope to see you there!

Rob's Column

Trouble Is a Stepping Stone to Growth

Trouble is something no one can escape,
 Everyone has it in some form or shape.
 Some people hide it way down deep inside,
 Some people bear it with gallant-like pride,
 Some people worry and complain of their lot,
 Some people covet what they haven't got,
 While others rebel and become bitter and old
 With hopes that are dead and hearts that are cold.
 But the wise man accepts whatever man sends,
 Willing to yield like a storm-tossed tree bends,
 Knowing that God never makes a mistake,
 So whatever He sends they are willing to take.
 For trouble is part and parcel of life
 And no man can grow without trouble and strife,
 And the steep hills ahead and high mountain peaks
 Afford man at last the peace that he seeks.
 So blest are the people who learn to accept
 The trouble men try to escape and reject,
 For in OUR ACCEPTANCE we're given great grace
 And courage and faith and the strength to face
 The daily troubles that come to us all
 So we may learn to stand "straight and tall".
 For the grandeur of life is born of defeat
 For in overcoming we make life complete.

Helen Steiner Rice

Numerology: Birth Day 3**Born on the third day of the month**

If you were born on the third day of any month, you are expressive, creative and outspoken. Your vitality and creative imagination can lead you to any expressive writing or the performing arts, where you thrive in front of an audience.

You are stimulated by mental challenges and can easily turn mundane situations into humorous events. This sense of humour that is your trademark makes you a popular person to have around.

You have an easygoing nature and are able to make the most of unfavourable situations. Whilst you enjoy and desire your independence, you are well content with the companionship that a close relationship brings to your life. With your partner you are able to express your intense emotions.

A rundown of the year in the garden

January: ice and snow, won't encourage plants to grow, but frost you know improves the soil and makes digging much less toil.

February: days will get much longer and the sun will be much stronger, now's the time to look ahead and tidy up the garden shed.

March: is the time to plant some seeds, dig the garden, pull up weeds, make ready for the summer show when gardens will be all aglow.

April: with its many showers, welcomes us with lots of flowers. Daffodils and tulips gay make a wonderful display.

May: should be both warm and sunny, busy bees will make their honey; tourists, too, will soon be swarming round our streets so old and charming.

June: will see a willing band, map and notebook in their hand, judges will be coming soon to choose the winner of 'Britain in Bloom'.

July: will see our many shops putting out their plants and pots. Every year the standard's higher to win a cup they all aspire.

August: we can take a rest, admire the gardens at their best, keep the flowers watered well if we have a long dry spell.

September: here with autumn shades, tidy up the plants and shrubs, put out wallflowers in the tubs.

October: days much shorter, still the dahlias are aglow, blooming till the frost appears, save the tubers for next year.

November: comes round once again bringing with it fog and rain, smoking bonfires everywhere will pollute our good, fresh air.

December: comes round all too soon, Christmas roses start to bloom, the shortest day will soon be here to herald the end of another year.

(From Mrs I. Wilbourne of Salisbury in the paper this year)

Smiles

Whiskey is a liquid which will preserve almost anything, except secrets.

My inferiority complexes are not as good as your.

I bet you that I can stop gambling.

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

Continued on page 34

Green Healing

Green path beneath me
 Green trees above me
 Distant hills billow and roll
 Springtime revealing
 Her gentle, green healing
 Calming my heart and my soul
 Green in the hedgerows
 Green where the stream flows
 Joy in the winter's release
 Nature preparing
 Her beauty for sharing
 Filling my spirit with peace.

Iris Hesselden

If my body was a car, I would definitely be trading it in for a newer model. I've got bumps, dents and scratches and my paint job is splattered with varicose veins. My headlights are out of focus, my traction is not as graceful as it once was. My gearbox is just about seized up. It takes me hours to reach maximum speed. I overheat for no reason, but worst of all, is every time I sneeze, cough, laugh, either my radiator leaks or my exhaust backfires.

Words of Wit and Wisdom

He who does not think much of himself is greater than he believes himself to be.

Disappointment should always be taken as a stimulant and never as a discouragement.

The hard rubs of the world are what makes a man bright.

The curve that can set a lot of things straight is a smile.

Tiny Drops

We cannot shut the whole world out
 And live a full life just the same.
 And if we're feeling down and lonely
 It's not always others who are to blame.
 Friendship comes from being friendly,
 Greeting others with a smile,
 It's the tiny drops of friendliness
 That really make a life worthwhile.

Gordon H. Woodward

The Downsman

DON'T FORGET WHAT'S ON!!!

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| 19 Apr | Bingo | 12 | 24 May | W.I. Meeting | 13 |
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