

The DOWNSMAN

June 2012



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

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

Advertising Costs

The rates to advertise in The Downsman are:
 Full page - £16
 Half page - £10
 Quarter page - £5

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

The magazine offers excellent value in reaching your local customers.

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

We regret that flyers cannot be distributed within the Downsman.

The next edition of this magazine will be published on the
1st August 2012
Copy Deadline is Sunday 15th July 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.

Annual Report of the Parish Council and Audited Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2011

The Parish Council has had another busy year including the election of councillors last May. New councillors took part in training by DAPTC to help bring them up to speed with their new roles and in addition to on-going updates, all councillors have undertaken training qualifying the Council to gain the Power of Well Being. The Power of Well Being allows the Parish Council to spend money to improve or promote the social, economic and environmental well being of the Parish in ways not possible without this power. This could not have been achieved without our new Clerk, Lisa Goodwin, who joined us in September and who is qualified in Local Government Administration. Lisa has been an invaluable addition to the Parish Council team.

Sixpenny Handley entered the Dorset Best Kept Village Competition and was Highly Commended.

Council Facts and Figures:

- 10 councillors
- Electorate – 1173
- Precept 2011-2012 - £37,527
- 3 meetings per month starting at 7.30 pm – members of the public welcome to attend
 - Full Parish Council Meeting – average attendance by Councillors – 78%
 - Finance and General Purpose
 - Planning Applications – there have only been a small number totalling about a dozen, however, there have been a couple of tough ones including support against an enforcement order.
- Agendas are published on the Parish Council website and notice boards in advance
- The Parish Office open hours are Tuesday morning 1000-1200 and Thursday evening 1730-1930

Other responsibilities include

- Village Hall – owned by the Parish but administered by a self-funding Management Committee
- Sports Pavilion and Recreation ground – owned by the Parish but administered by the Sports Association who are heavily subsidised by the Parish Council, including repayment of a £45K purchase loan
- Community Events Committee - Jubilee and Olympic celebrations
- Representative attendance at relevant committee meetings of other councils i.e. Great Dorset Steam Fair and parish community organisations i.e. Sports Association
- Play area maintenance and improvements
- Monitoring of trees
- Parish grass cutting
- Reporting highway and rights of way defects
- Emergency planning

Councillors also put in a considerable amount of additional administrative work associated with their specific responsibilities as well as practical voluntary work to effect minor repairs and clean ups.

The Council have continued to work with and support the Sports Association; obtaining quotes and arranged for a major repair to the wall for the Bowls Club; for mower maintenance and servicing, and a new clubhouse for the Bowls Club only recently approved and which will be sited within the confines of the bowls green. The Bowls Club are raising the funds and will be responsible for the upkeep although the Parish will own the new facilities.

This year has seen the establishment of the new allotments on Handley Common and the Council is working with the Allotment Association to enable allotment holders to place sheds on their plots.

The Parish Council has arranged regular inspections of the play area at the Recreation Ground and, as well as regular maintenance after 10 years of use, all wooden play equipment has been treated with wood preserver to smarten up its appearance and ensure its good condition for years to come. Particular thanks should go to Councillors Gibb, Meaden and Chick for the repairs they have carried out on behalf of the Parish Council. After representations made by Sarah Styles and other Parishioners, quotes have been requested for additional play equipment for younger children and the Parish Council is looking at how this may be funded.

Recent vandalism of the bus shelter next to the Parish Office has been tackled, thanks to the vigilance of a nearby resident and a quick response from the police. It is hoped that this intervention will prevent reoccurrences of this antisocial behaviour.

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THANK YOU FROM THE EDITOR

As I am sure you are aware, this is my last edition of The Downsman as editor. However, I am very pleased to let you know that Naomi Booth will be taking over as editor, starting with the August issue. I'm sure many of you in the village will know Naomi, so you will know the magazine is in safe hands!

May I take this opportunity to thank you, the residents of the parish, for all your support during the past four years whilst I have been editor. Without your articles and contributions the Downsman would not be such a brilliant village magazine, so please support Naomi by continuing to send in your articles. The email address of the magazine will remain unchanged—editor@thedownsman.org.uk

My thanks must also go to the Downsman team for all their help and support with the proofreading, for dealing with advertising and invoicing, and to the willing team who print and collate the magazine and to the Homewatch for distributing it.

Have a wonderful summer!

Margaret Cornish

THANK YOU

To all of the residents of Sixpenny Handley and surrounding villages, James, Brit, Tamzin, Tatiana and Tilly would like to thank you all for the most incredible and selfless support you have given us as a family. We are truly humbled by what you have done. Unfortunately, there are too many individuals to mention by name, but you know who you are. Thank you all. Love from the Harrison Family xx

THANK YOU!

To everybody who supported the New and As New Clothes Sale in April. A fantastic £1,860.50 was raised. The children in Madurai, south India who have few of the advantages and opportunities we take for granted will be so grateful for this effort. A special thank you to all the helpers, management of The Shed, and everybody who generously donated clothes to sell.



Village Play Equipment

A few months ago, a small group of parents approached the Parish Council to seek their advice and assistance with the development of the play area at the recreation ground. It was felt that, although this play area was adequate for older children, it would benefit from additional pieces for younger age groups. The parish council was keen to assist with the development. So far, a plan and quote for equipment and installation has been received and the parish council is looking into possible funding and grants.

We are now looking at raising some money to go towards this project and would appreciate the support of any parishioners, parents or grandparents that are interested in improving this play area. We would love to hear from any one that thinks they could offer fundraising ideas, help with fundraising events or provide us with a donation. Plan details are available from the parish council.

For more details contact Sarah Styles: 01725 552544 sperrott200@hotmail.com

Continued from page 4

Consultation is ongoing with SEC regarding the improved street lighting which is being redesigned after residents' concerns were originally ignored. Hopefully the new designs should be available soon and the upgrades completed to a satisfactory standard.

Work has been started looking at the implications of East Dorset District Council's Corporate Strategy, the Localism Act and the responses to the Parish Questionnaire and this will be ongoing over the next year. As always, the Parish Council welcome the public to attend meetings and add their voice to what is going to be important work for the future of the Parish.

NOTES FROM THE VILLAGE HALL

The Annual General Meeting saw the same team of volunteers re-elected to head up the management committee of the hall. The hall has recorded a small loss during the last year despite robust bookings; some of this was due to the excess on the insurance policy following the winter damage. We are grateful to all those who use the facilities and we hope that the redecoration will encourage others to make use of it.

Thanks to those who kindly supported the jumble sale on 21 April. Whilst the profit was down on previous years, it all goes to help the upkeep.

To help those planning to use the hall, the regular bookings are:

SIXPENNY HANDLEY VILLAGE HALL WEEKLY REGULAR BOOKINGS							
DAY	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
AM	Happy Nappy 1000-1200	Action for Children 1000-1200		Yoga 1130-1300 (term time)	Line Dancing 1015-1115		
PM	Pilates 1645 - 1745 (not bh)		Home Education 1300-1700		CCF 2nd Fri 0930-1500		Bowls 1430 - 1630 (Sep - Apr)
EVE	WI 2nd Monday 1900 - 2130	Bowls 1900-2130 (Sep - Apr)	Whist Alt Wed 1900 - 2130	Little Pennies Bingo 1830 - 2100 (3rd Thurs)			
				Gardening Club 1900-2130 last Thu (Sep - Mar)			

Please make all bookings with Jaqui Blake on 552362

RACE NIGHT – Saturday 23rd June – see separate advert. A great night out.

VIGILANCE PAYS OFF – THANK YOU

A vigilant parishioner spotted the bus shelter being damaged one evening and alerted the police. A quick response prevented further costly damage and resulted in the culprits being caught that evening. Thank you for your help in looking after our village.



News And Information

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

April 16th was the Annual meeting and commenced with the singing of Jerusalem. After the ordinary business, the new Committee was introduced, the ballot for the new President was held, Maggie Staplehurst gave her address and the annual report was adopted. The result of the year is the 90th birthday of the Institute and the members celebrated with a glass of sherry and a birthday cake, made and beautifully decorated by the secretary, Bobbie Carter. The annual competition was to make a headband, 20's style, to be worn at the party to be held on Saturday to mark the occasion; the winner was Bobbie Carter, with runners up Jean Maidment and Maggie Staplehurst. The Flower of the Month cup winner this year was Meg Cox. It was a very enjoyable and social evening.



On Saturday 21st April, the 90th birthday party was held, with invited guests from the Parish Council, the church, the doctors' surgery, Village Hall Committee and Mrs Angela Lawes and Mrs Ann Livingstone from the Dorset Federation. Many of the W.I. members wore twenties style dress and it proved to be a very enjoyable evening.

Our meeting on May 14th was a Resolutions Meeting. This year, the subject being debated at the AGM on May 30th, held in the Royal Albert Hall, concerns the chronic shortages of midwives and calls on the Government to address this in a number of ways. Jan Gibb will represent us and an additional three W.I. Groups at the meeting.

We also enjoyed a short talk by Maureen Penrose on the London to Brighton Car Rally, which was first held in 1896. This was very informative and amusing as Maureen had taken part in two such rallies.

Mothers' Union

In May, we held our last meeting of our Mothers' Union branch before the summer, when we suspend monthly meetings until September.

It was called a 'Hannah Day'. The Vice President of the Diocesan Mothers' Union, Mrs Jane Lax, came to Sixpenny Handley to celebrate with us our talents, both personal and relating to our work done for the MU. The theme followed the story of Hannah in the book of Samuel in the Bible. We had a service, led by Rev Paul Skinner, including readings and prayers spoken by members.

Following this, there were workshops to take part in. We were joined by the Lower Stour and Blandford branches and it was a very good afternoon: what an excellent turn-out there was, despite the awful wet weather that day!

In June, we have planned a 'Quiet Day' at Green Pastures, Branksome, Poole and in July a trip to Athelhampton.

Enquiries to: Sheila 553133 or Mary 552401.



Sixpenny Handley

Sixpenny Handley Homewatch June 2011



Sixpenny Handley

The arrival of summer has brought its usual seasonal crimes.

There have been more thefts from vehicles, typically in the usual beauty-spot car parks, but also some involving break-ins to cars parked in the village and one very opportunistic theft from a car left unlocked in the High Street for a just a few minutes by someone going into a shop. The message is clear and not new: always lock your car and don't leave valuables in it, particularly where they can be seen.

Travellers have been on the move throughout the region and in our Parish this has led to the usual offers to tarmac drives, and also some door to door selling of cheap tools. None of this is necessarily illegal, but buy at your peril. The goods and services offered are invariably of the lowest possible standard.

Before the crops grew too high, seven hare poachers were arrested near Woodcutts and they will be appearing in court soon. This was an impressive arrest 'against the odds'. The transport problems within Dorset Police on which we reported last time have been resolved to a degree and officers are now able to travel more freely once more to get to the locations where they need to be.

Residents may have noticed a police surveillance operation in progress in the bottom of the village. This followed a certain amount of antisocial behaviour and criminal damage in that area recently.

Finally, we have one change in personnel among the Homewatch Co-ordinators. Chris Stokes has handed over responsibility for the lower half of the High Street and the Paddock Close/Sheasby Close area to David Chick. We thank Chris for his efforts over many years and look forward to seeing David at our quarterly meetings.

Sixpenny Handley in Jubilee Concert!

SATURDAY JULY 14TH 7.30pm – St.Mary's Church.

Following on from the successes of previous years, we are, once again, calling on all performers in the village to share their talents with the community, and help put together an evening of entertainment, fitting for this special Jubilee Year. We are looking for singers, instrumentalists, and those capable of a comic turn; we are looking for young and old; we want all styles of music and a real variety show!

There is a plan to form a Community Choir to sing John Rutter's 'For the Beauty of the Earth'. This will involve three rehearsals in the three weeks before the Concert. For this, and for all other details please contact: John and Gay Cullingford 01725 516453 or email: jfcul3@hotmail.com

If you have performed before, expect a phone call! If you would like to be involved please make a phone call or email. All proceeds from this event will be divided between the Church and one of our Village Charities. Thank you.

John Cullingford

Mobile Library Schedule - Visits on Thursday Fortnightly

Woodyates – Cobley Close	2.25 – 2.40	
Back Lane/St Mary's Close	3.00 – 3.20	
Roebuck Inn	3.25 – 3.45	
Dean Lane	3.50 – 4.05	June 7th, 21st
Sheasby Close	4.10 – 4.30	July 5th, 19th, August 2nd

The 148 responses received covered 424 people, including children, of whom 274 were adults. There could have been some duplication where more than one response was submitted from a household. 115 were retired people.

A few other statistics:

73% were home owners

13% work at home

20% work within 20 miles

24% do voluntary work

76% say they use recycling

48% say that the population should remain as it is

28% say that the village could grow by 10%

78% say there should be sheltered accommodation for those who wish to remain in the village

50% want to see more homes for first time buyers

Police: 56% do not see enough of the Police

Buses: 46% consider the buses adequate

55% would support the parish council subsidising the service in order to keep it running

53% consider there are road safety issues in the parish mainly due to speeding.

Play: 55% consider the play areas to be sufficient

71% say they get sufficient information about the village life

85% say they read the Downsman - most like its formats and the adverts

Church: 66% say they attend St Mary's

72% supported the "living churchyard" policy to encourage wildlife.

The vast majority of people who replied are very happy living in the parish due to its surroundings, excellent facilities and its community spirit.

A few things that people want to see in the village:

- A decent pub
- A dentist at the surgery (or elsewhere)
- Cardboard recycling
- Less speeding
- A bypass – this is very unlikely to ever happen because the project was so far down the priority list in the DCC budget in about 2005 that it was removed with parish council consent. As a result the painted pavement was being pursued until this, too, was removed in last year's savings measures
- More speed control by the police
- Youth club
- The village hall needs a face lift – this has already been done this year.

The results of the youth questionnaire are still be analysed.

Village Hall 100 Club Winners

March

1st £25 16 Mr R. Jesse

2nd £15 57 Mr Burke

3rd £10 60 Mr D. Salmon

April

1st £25 1 Mrs Rivers

2nd £15 123 Mr P. Taylor

3rd £10 29 Mrs B. Styles

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

Cards

Whist Rarely has the whist competition arrived at the close of the penultimate round with one player holding a lead of such magnitude that it will take a near impossible score from his closest opponent for him to be overtaken. At the end of the 24th deal on May 9th, Gerald Trickey's aggregate stood at 2596 points, 42 points ahead of Stuart Haskell.

Although huge swings in whist are not unheard of, the drama of the 2011-2012 contest now centres on who will be runner up for Stuart's position on the leader board is by no means assured. Close on his heels are three players who are very well placed to overtake him in the final round - providing that they get a good run of cards. Thus, 6 points adrift of Stuart comes John Bennett [2548] followed by Susie White [2538] and Zoe Pike [2522] [Ness Park at 2513 will require a massive score in order to leap from 6th to 2nd].

Below Ness, the remaining prize money places are held by Sylvia Thorne [2511]; Kingsley White [2510]; Barry Park [2504] and Edie Langley [2502], all of whom are threatened by a quartet of contestants whose scores exceed 2480 points [best placed to get into the prize money is Doug Haskell [2501] still retaining his place as the player returning the highest individual score '183' which, if not surpassed, will win him 'a fiver']. The final round will certainly be one of great interest.

Finally, I am pleased to report that since the turn of the year attendance has improved to the degree that eight tables have been in play for each drive and this has ensured the continuation of whist at the village hall for the foreseeable future. Furthermore, in order to raise funds to support the village football teams, Stuart [Haskell] has arranged for play to continue, on a fortnightly basis, throughout the summer. Drives for this purpose will be held on Wednesday June 6th and 20th; July 4th and 18th; August 1st, 15th and 29th, after which the 2012-2013 competition will commence. For the seven summer meetings cash prizes [determined on attendance] will be given and it is hoped as many competitors as possible will turn up to support Stuart who, along with Mark Young and others, commit themselves to the many hours necessary for the efficient running of village football.

Bridge The Bridge Club continues to meet on Tuesday afternoon's at the sports' pavilion. The standard of play has continued to improve and this is reflected in the partnership of Gerald and Julie Trickey who attend the club at Shaftesbury and are usually well placed by the end of the Friday afternoon duplicate sessions. Playing E-W they have secured at least one top percentage.

Bill Chorley

Bowls

We finished our indoors season with a bowling day at Sherborne, where we met all the players we had played throughout the season. Sixpenny Handley and the Tanners both left by lunchtime as we were knocked out early, along with quite a few others. Both our Leagues finished in about the middle of our Leagues, so it wasn't too bad.

Our Open Day in April started well with a bowl of soup and roll. Then we went out and played Spider to start our season. After that, a few hardy men played a couple of ends before it got too wet and cold, so it was back indoors for a cup of tea.

The men's first match was a washout, but the Mxt had a nice evening to start our season, although neither of us won; better luck next time.

On May 5th we had a successful sale at the White House by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Snape. It was very cold so many thanks to all the helpers and customers. We made nearly £400 to go

towards our new building at the Bowls Green. Hopefully, we will know by the time this goes to print if we have all the final permissions from the 'powers that be'.

We have one new member at the moment, but hopefully we can get some more as the season continues. We are quite friendly and it doesn't always rain. Having said that, the men got wet again on Monday, but at least they won.

I have just heard the good news that we have permission passed for our new building. Well done, Bob and Patrick. However, more work and fund-raising will need to be done, so if anyone has any more ideas to raise money, please get in touch with one of our members.

To prove we don't always get wet, we had a good match on Saturday. It was lovely weather when we won two rinks and lost three. Good luck to all our players.

Captain Pat

Book Review

Over the past eight weeks I have read four books, two of which were a disappointment - despite being penned by two well established writers, namely Ruth Rendell and Robert Harris. By coincidence, the underlying plot of both books dwelt on the central character descending towards a state of mental breakdown. As is to be expected from two such esteemed authors, the writing is impeccable, but as I reached the final page of their work I had no affinity with either Guy Curren in the case of Ruth Rendell's *'Going Wrong'* or Alex Hoffmann in Harris's *'The Fear Index'*.

The former, first published by Hutchinson in 1982, but still available, is the story of a youngish man (we learn he is approaching his 30th birthday) who was born, in poverty, of a feckless mother but grows up into a streetwise schoolboy who, with others, embarks on a series of petty crimes, during which they are joined by Leonora Chisholm, from a middle class family, and with whom Curren falls head over heels in love. Likewise, Leonora is smitten by the smooth talking Guy and despite the misgivings of her family, continues the relationship, despite having come to the decision that they can never be together, either in marriage or just living together. However, Curren, who has now become extremely rich and has moved away from his earlier life of dealing in drugs and into the respectable business of organizing the sale of mass-produced paintings, club and travel agency ownership, continues to pursue Leonora with an intent bordering on the obsessive. The outcome is, of course, destined for failure, but what I found difficult to reconcile was the fact that Guy is also in a relationship with the stunningly beautiful Celeste who not only has a love for him, but is, in every way, compatible to his lifestyle, whereas Leonora is the opposite. Into this mix comes a very complicated contract killing, initiated by Guy, and for which at the end of the book he is arrested, but by which time I had become indifferent to them all.

Likewise, Robert Harris's *'The Fear Index'* (Hutchinson, 2011), is an elaborately constructed tale compressed into a timescale of little over a day in the life of Alexander Hoffmann, a mathematical genius and head of Hoffmann Investment Technologies, a Geneva-based hedge fund overseen by Hugo Quarry. Its *raison d'être* is to make vast amounts of money for an exclusive

client list already so rich that one wonders why they want to increase their already overflowing bank balances. The book is littered with the jargon of worldwide share dealings and the intricacies of very advanced computer systems, while into this world of high finance comes a mysterious intruder who, having broken into Hoffmann's house, is subsequently pursued - and killed - by Hoffmann whose mental state deteriorates with each passing hour. Unlike with *'Fatherland'* and *'Enigma'* (see the February edition of *The Downsman*), I was unable to form any bond of sympathy with any of the characters - except, perhaps, for Hoffmann's artistic wife, Gabrielle.

My third read, Peter May's *'The Black House'* (Quercus, 2011) is set on the Isle of Lewis and, as its title implies, really is a dark tale centred on a murder investigation carried out by a mainland detective, but who was born and brought up on Lewis. It is not a book for the squeamish, particularly the section explaining the procedures of the postmortem carried out on the murder victim. Nevertheless, it is an enthralling story, with many a twist and turn, as Fin Macleod (the detective) delves into the lives of the islanders, all of whom are known to him, and for various reasons now resent his presence on the island.

Book four, *'Bad Boy'* by Peter Robinson (Hodder, 2011) features his well-established character, Chief Inspector Banks (this is the 19th, and latest, in the series) who, on his return from holiday in America, is permitted to assist in the pursuance of a suspect with whom Banks' daughter, Tracy, may either be a willing partner or is being held captive. It is crisply written (though I do wish the author would not pad out his plot with constant reference to the musical tastes of his main character) and Robinson carries the reader along at a cracking pace.

Bill Chorley

More Upheaval at Woodcutts!

A few weeks back we had the pleasure of a council worker inspecting the laneway here at Woodcutts, known as Between Gates, and encircling all the potholes with a white aerosol paint which, of course, created much interest as to why this should be happening. Was it, in fact, to prepare this piece of roadway for the potential Olympic traffic? Was the Olympic torch to be borne along our main thoroughfare? Or was it to be a follow-up of General Pitt-Rivers' archaeological digs for the Romano-British settlement known to have been here? What people generally don't understand is how important Woodcutts is or know as to where the extent of the bounds of Woodcutts stretch.

The name Woodcutts is, as I am sure I have mentioned in the past, derived from the 'Woodland Cottages' or the Cottages in the Woods, and it extends from just south of the Rushmore Golf Club along the chalk ridge south-eastwards down as far as the main Salisbury to Blandford road, the A354, where the notorious, but gentlemanly smuggler, Isaac Gulliver's bride-to-be, Betty Beale, lived in what was then a well known pub, the Blacksmith's Arms, at Thorney Down, a hostelry of which her father was mine host. Betty and Isaac were married at St. Mary's, Sixpenny Handley on the 5th October 1768, where it is believed that Isaac used a tomb to enable himself to carry out another of his illegal ventures; the storage of venison, possibly provided by the woodland around Woodcutts. There is a tombstone adjacent to the rear gate of the churchyard which is inscribed with the details. Since the hostelry was some thirty miles from the nearest spot on the coast where contraband could be landed, it seems only sensible that he, i.e. Isaac, should have a local enterprise.

Presumably in the not too distant past, the area before it became the arable farmland it is today, was downland scrub with yew, juniper, hazel, hawthorn and the occasional clumps of beech, oak or even lime woodland and the occasional, isolated cottage. What could be better for both stalking deer and moving contraband goods in from the coast? I am not proposing that the markings that were placed on our lane had to do with anything as drastic as smuggling or poaching today or to facilitate anything else illegal. Today's inhabitants of Woodcutts are true, upright, country people, who like to be able to drive to and fro with the

comparative ease as do their counterparts in the metropolitan regions of Sixpenny Handley. Hence, our interest in the white circles around the pot holes.

As you probably know, there has been considerable rain of late and so the pot holes have been filled water and the edges broken down, so that the white paint has disappeared completely. Does this mean that when the contractors come in, they will resurface the road completely or simply not do anything? If the first is the case, a helicopter will be needed to ferry residents living at the western end down to reach their homes, or failing that, a supply of wheel barrows will be necessary for the younger family members to transport their seniors and shopping, as going across country isn't an option because of hedges, fences and muddy ground.

At this moment in time we are experiencing a dry spell of three sunny days; however more cold, wet weather is forecast. It certainly is not good gardening weather, nor is it good for wildlife. I did hear the cuckoo almost three weeks ago and on several occasions, but not since, and I have seen very few swallows as yet. In the early part of the year we thought that we were going to have a year without a spring, going directly from winter to summer but this has certainly changed dramatically. At the time of hearing the first cuckoo, butterflies were in evidence, including the brimstone, orange tip, small blue, red admiral, small white and occasional peacock. The wet, cold spell soon put paid to that and it wasn't until today, Saturday 12th May, that I have seen butterflies again and with cold, wet weather promised by Monday things don't look too good. However, we have had a wonderful display of wild flowers so far this year, starting with the best ever year for snowdrops, followed by a wonderful display of celandines and dandelions and now still a huge crop of bluebells which seem to have flowered early but extending their stems at a later stage to bring the inflorescences above the leaves. An interesting old Dorset name for the bluebell was cuckoo's boots, which I assume came about because of the timing of the coming of the cuckoo and the flowering of the bluebell.

What I saw that gave me great pleasure last weekend was a great showing of white-flowered periwinkles close to the bank of the River Piddle at

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Turnerspuddle, east of Bere Regis. I mentioned in the April Downsman that the light blue periwinkle had been flowering all winter along the hedgerow here east of the manor, but even considering myself to be a keen amateur botanist I did not know that there was a white variant of what is believed to be a possible native species, *Vinca minor*, having been mentioned by Turner in his herbal of 1562, (the older you get, the less you realise you actually know), whereas *Vinca major*, the larger purple flower is certainly non-native and has escaped from the garden. According to Culpeper's Complete Herbal 'the periwinkle is a great binder, staying the bleeding both at the mouth and nose, if some of the leaves are chewed'. Whereas in the Englishman's Flora by Geoffrey Grigson, he says that the lesser periwinkle, *Vinca minor*, if powdered with earthworms produces a powerful aphrodisiac. So, you see, no garden should be without its periwinkles.

Added to that, we are seeing a tremendous variation in the emergence of the leaves of trees, with the horse chestnut and sycamore being well ahead of all the other bigger trees and the oak being ahead of the ash, so we will only get a splash! Beech trees, even in close proximity to each other, are showing tremendous variation in leaf buds bursting. This is all I have time to say about the

plant life around Woodcutts and must turn to the animal kingdom.

Firstly birds: from where I am sitting I can see numerous birds feeding at the bird table on the front lawn which include a greater spotted woodpecker, greenfinch, goldfinch and chaffinch, dunnocks, house sparrows, tree sparrows, blue tits, great tits and underneath, feeding off the ground, a pair of red-legged or French partridges, a pair of yellow hammers, a pair of wood pigeons and a robin. At the moment there are no fat balls out so we aren't being bothered by jackdaws and magpies.

Now, for our four legged friends: in the April issue I mentioned seeing a fox moving away across the corn field to the west. He has been back, but this time he scaled a six foot wire netting fence and killed five of Paul's hens next door and I can assure you that all reasonable precautions had been taken. The only other news about four legged animals is to say that Meg and I are now for the moment dogless, having lost our last border terrier to diabetes and are without a pet of any kind for the first time in our marriage. Now to meet the deadline I must say adieu and God bless you all

Ted Cox (14th May 2012)

10 Minute Coffee Break Quiz

All questions connected in some way to music

- 1 Alpine flower featured in the film "The Sound of Music"?
- 2 John Sousa-type march relating to a military gentleman of standing.
- 3 Where did Mademoiselle come from?
- 4 If you danced to the band with the curious tone, of cornet, fiddle, cello, big bass drum, bassoon, flute, and euphonium, what English town and county would come to mind?
- 5 Where would I be standing in the north of England without a hat?
- 6 Daisy, Daisy give me your answer do, I'm half crazy over the love of you, It won't be a stylish marriage, I can't afford a carriage. A carriage now unaffordable, what alternative transport was proposed?
- 7 Isn't it rich Are we a pair? Me here at last on the ground. You in mid air. Send in ? ...complete this line please, and name of the show it came from?
- 8 Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture commemorates a great military victory. Where was this? And whose army was defeated and retreated ?

Peter Bailey

Answers on page 28

A Son of the (Sixpenny Handley) Soil

Forgive the intrusion by a "foreigner" – I live in Verwood. I thought that you might be interested to learn about a native of Sixpenny Handley who achieved some recognition in the Horticultural field in Victorian times.

The information about this native of Sixpenny Handley came to light during my family history research. My family moved to Dorset in 1985 and, as far as we were aware, had no connections with the County. In 2006, following the death of the eighth and last of my father's siblings, I began research into my family history. (Warning to those who have not yet indulged in this particular pastime – don't! It is addictive and can easily occupy every spare moment.)

A few months into my research, I found one maternal great great grandfather. His name was William Snow and, according to the 1851 and 1861 Census returns in which he appears, was born in "Dorsetshire". I was using Ancestry.co.uk for much of my research and in the 1871 Census return, William's birthplace was transcribed as "Wandley Dorset". Careful examination of the original image of the return showed that William's birthplace was "Handley". More research using the International Genealogical Index (igi), Ancestry etc produced a family of Snows born in Sixpenny Handley between 1784 and 1808, parents William Snow and Anne (nee Hardiman) Snow. I believe that William snr was baptised in Wimborne St Giles, but due to the fact that many local records perished in the Great Blandford Fire, I cannot really make much progress on this line.

Curious to know if I have any distant relations in this area, I searched the census records for Sixpenny Handley. I found one family of Snows but found that they are not descendants of William and Anne. I shelved the research on this branch of my family for a while. When I returned to it, I found that William (my great great grandfather) had married in Kent and some of his children were born in Eltham (now South London). I searched for William's siblings and found some of them in the same area. Several seemed to be gardeners, as was William.

It took a little longer to find one sibling, Seward, one of William's elder brothers. He was also a gardener and I found him in Bedfordshire. I suspect that I would have had a more difficult task but for

Seward's unusual name and birth place. I recorded what I had found and moved on to another part of my tree. Every so often, I go back and look at William's wife, Sophia Burgess. She has proved quite a "brick wall", partly due to being described as born in Kent in two Census returns and in Hampshire in at least one other.

A short time later, I received a message via Ancestry from "Martin" asking me what I know about Seward Snow. The answer was "not a lot" and it was basically what was visible on my (public) tree on the website. I asked Martin if he is a distant relation and received a very surprising reply. "Martin" turned out to be Dr Martin Hann, Senior Buildings Historian at English Heritage. Seward was Head Gardener at Wrest Park in Bedfordshire (which is now in the care of English Heritage). He was a successful exhibitor at Victorian Horticultural shows and developed "Snow's white sprouting Broccoli", the Hamburg Muscat grape and a variety of lettuce. He was succeeded as Head Gardener at Wrest Park by his nephew, George Ford, the son of his sister, Elizabeth Makrell Snow Ford.

In December 2010, Dr Hann told me that there would be an exhibition at Wrest Park starting in August 2011. I did not investigate Wrest Park or its Head Gardeners any further for some time, but made a mental note to try and visit Wrest Park after the start of the exhibition.

Half watching BBC News 24 one evening in early August 2011, I had quite a shock. There was a long feature on Wrest Park, its more recent history and information about a 20 year restoration project of its very important gardens. Wrest Park was opening to the public at the end of year 1 of the 20 year project. Included in the feature were some photographs of the gardeners in the 1880s. I realised that the central figure must be George Ford, nephew of Seward Snow, son of Elizabeth Makrell Snow Ford and cousin of my great grandmother Elizabeth Maria Snow Brooker. I had not understood the importance of Wrest Park's gardens until that night.

I visited Wrest Park in October 2011 and was thrilled to find much information about Seward Snow and George Ford included in the exhibition. I have quite few photos of the exhibition and was

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particularly pleased to see that Seward Snow's birth place was mentioned in his biography. Several of the volunteers manning points in the exhibition and in other places at Wrest Park gave supplementary information which included the fact that Seward Snow planted a Giant Sequoia which is now reputed to be the largest specimen of the species in Bedfordshire. The tree was identified for me and I brought home a special souvenir of my visit to what is a special place for me – 7 cones from the Giant Sequoia.

The Snows are proving to be fascinating if infuriating. I have researched as many of my 3 x great uncles and aunts (William's siblings) and found that they moved around! One of the elder siblings, James, appears in Flitton Beds, Swinton Yorks, Wales and finally retired and described as "of independent means" in London. He, too, was a gardener and Bailiff. He married a Yorkshire Lass,

Elizabeth Lumley. They appear to have had only one child, a son Herbert Lumley Snow. Herbert Lumley Snow turns up in 1881 in London described as a surgeon. This was also a surprise and further research has shown that he was a pioneer in surgery for skin cancer.

There may be other "stars" of this family. I have found descendants of my great great grandfather's siblings in several parts of England. The next mystery I shall try to solve is the origin of the name "Seward" which occurs frequently through the generations. I suspect it was the maiden name of one of my female forbears, being preserved through use as a first or middle name, as "Mackerell", my 4 x great grandmother's maiden name has been used. If anyone reading this has any information I would love to hear from them.

Lindsey Dedden

New Forest & Hampshire County Show – 24th to 26th July at New Park, Brockenhurst

Last few weeks to get 20% off all visitor tickets - ends on July 11th so do get them soon so as not to miss out!. Entry for under 5's is free. There is literally something for everyone to enjoy no matter what age you are with a packed programme of events of country pursuits, woodland activities, livestock competitions and equestrian displays. The theme of the show is 'The Best of British' and we have some really well-known people running demonstrations showing their skills and letting the public have a go, too, so don't forget to visit the new 'Best of British' Pavilion. Other highlights include the return of the Shetland Pony Grand National, the largest Heavy Horse Musical Drive ever and the Solent Dog Agility display to name just a few. Don't forget the international Show jumping, the best of the cattle, sheep, pigs and horses to see and some of the best selection of craftsmen in the UK.

Enjoy tasting the best in the Food Halls, inhale the wonderful scents of the Flower Show, go back in time and see the working steam engines, or watch and wonder at the terrier and ferret racing! If you love finding a bargain, the show has over 600 stands for you to browse through, and there will be all-day entertainment for children in the Forest Fun Factory, plus a treasure trail around the show ground.

The Discovery Zone for children is running continuous activities; the show farm will no doubt again be a magnet for small children to handle the animals, and cookery demonstrations surrounded by the New Forest Marque produce they are using is bound to tempt your taste buds.

On Thursday, for the first time, in the exclusive hospitality marquee, we have a Ladies' Day for those wanting to dress up and make it a really big occasion. Starting with a Champagne Reception, this will be a day to remember and there are magnificent prizes for the Best Dressed Couple, Best Dressed Lady and Best Hat. Special events include wine tasting with TerraVina, cocktail-making with Bacardi to name just a couple. At the end of the day you will go away with a fantastic goody bag. For more information and how to get tickets, email Jackie@neylon.co.uk

Whatever your interests, you are guaranteed to have a great time at this show, so don't miss it. Look at www.newforestshow.co.uk for information, discounted tickets and the best way to travel to this popular event, by car or let the train take the strain. Access roads have been improved and better signage in the car park so you won't lose your car! Tickets also available now by ringing 01590 622409.

1st Woodcutts News



Spring Camp a Huge Success

The Cubs and Scouts enjoyed Spring Camp at PGL, Osmington. In total 37 young people from Woodcutts took part in a jam-packed weekend of challenging and fun activities - the hands-down favourite being Dragon Boating at the Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy. We shared the water with the British Wind Surfing team as they prepared for the Olympics. All the Scouts and Cubs earned the Dragon Boating Proficiency Badge, which has to be one of the rarer ones to get! Other activities during the weekend included quad biking, mountain biking, giant swing, fencing, zip wire and aeroball. There was orienteering on the Friday night and a disco on the Saturday. In a break from tradition, the Cubs and Scouts stayed in dormitories, with en-suite bathrooms. The young people enjoyed this luxurious camping (sometimes referred to as glamping), but we will be back to our normal tents for the next camp. Thank you, as always, to the leaders that made the camp happen and gave up their weekend to go away, and thank you to the Cubs and Scouts for being such great fun.



Treasure Hunt in Garston Woods

For the last meeting before Easter the Beavers met up at Garston Woods for the traditional Treasure Hunt. After being split into 4 colour-coded teams they set off in different directions to search for a set of 4 matching coloured keys. Upon returning to base the keys were then used to open the treasure chests and everyone received an Easter Egg for their efforts.

And now for Summer Camp

Plans are well in hand for Explorer and Scout Summer Camp which will take place from 22nd to 29th August in North Wales. Activities will include a Guided Walk up Snowdon, Travel on the Great Orme Steam Railway, Visit to Great Orme Copper Mine, Ski Bobbing & Tobogganing, Wild Horse Tracking and visits to the Smallest House in the UK, the National Slate Museum and Electric Mountain. And lots of fun, frivolity and food will be included in the package.

Visitors to our HQ

We have now had a number of groups camping at the new HQ including Scouts from Romsey doing a night hike, Explorers from Christchurch doing a practise Duke of Edinburgh expedition and our own District leaders who are completely cuckoo and using Woodcutts as practice for a trip to Switzerland.



Age 6-8
Wednesday 5 to 6pm
Donise 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>

ROB'S COLUMN

Books

A book to pass on, a book to treasure,
Each in its way will give much pleasure.
All life is contained within a book
If those seeking guidance take a look.
The hopes, the problems of every age
Spring to life as we turn each page.
Escape into fantasy, expand the mind,
They cater for people of every kind.
History, romance, a heart-rending tale,
A few lonely hours? A book will not fail
To be a companion, uplift or guide,
You're never alone with a book by your side

By Madeleine Croll

Greengrocer's lament

I am so melon cauli, dear,
since you have been away.
The thyme has been so very long,
I pine for you each day.
No sugar beets your sweetness,
don't turnip your nose at me,
But take this is carrot ring and
lettuce married be.

The Gift

"Hello", and "How are you?"
May not sound much
But it means such a lot
To those out of touch
A smile
A wave
A word of cheer
A hand to touch
A voice to hear
You hold these gifts to give away
To make another person's day.

By M. Sparvell

Some people are like clouds. Once they go, it's a great day.

The cup that cheers

When you wake up in the morning
And you're feeling quite low-key
Just head off to the kitchen
And make a cup of tea

At funerals and at weddings
Or in maternity
You feel a whole lot better
With a nice hot cup of tea

An outing in the country
The views are grand to see
But where's the nearest café
For a welcome cup of tea?

The news is most distressing
Nearly world war three
But it doesn't seem half so bad
When you've had a cup of tea

Whatever the situation
You can keep your wines and beers
Let me relax with friends and kin
And a steaming cup that cheers

Riddle of Bygone Age

What goes when the wagon goes
Stops when the wagon stops
Is of no use to the wagon
But the wagon cannot go without it?

(A horse)

Time

Time calms and soothes our memories
And takes away the stings
Of the hurts and disappointments
In our rememberings
I'm grateful that it's possible
That time can set us free
From all the cruel shackles
Of a hurtful memory.

When I was 18, I thought I had all the answers. Now I am old, I realise I didn't even know what the questions were!

Words of wisdom

"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."

There were six chickens in my garden yesterday carrying a set of jump leads. Could they be battery hens?

My friend said he couldn't think of another word for stitch. I say, "Is that sew?"

Birthday 4th Day of the Month

If you were born on the 4th, you are a well-balanced, level-headed and practical person. These strengths, with your organisational skills and methodical approach, make you indispensable to have around. This strength in planning and your affinity with nature can open up a career in any area where practical skills and the produce of the earth merge. In your work you exercise discipline and are prepared to work yourself to the bone. You take pleasure in relaxing with nature, or following creative outlets. When it comes to your partner, you exercise great responsibility and loyalty, and the pragmatic qualities of your nature will allow you to build a solid and secure base for your loved ones.

Make sure you come to the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations on Saturday 2nd June, the Olympics on 7th July and make a date to come along to Rob's Auction on 13th October. Please try to support the village.

The Downsman

DON'T FORGET WHAT'S ON!!!

DATE	FUNCTION	PAGE	DATE	FUNCTION	PAGE
7 June	Mobile Library	11	5 July	Mobile Library	11
14 June	Fashion Extravaganza	12	6 July	Handley First School Fete	8
17 June	Open Farm Sunday	12	7 July	Handley Community Day	17
21 June	Mobile Library	11	14 July	Handley Jubilee Concert	11
21 June	Bingo	20	15 July	Deadline	3
23 June	Race Night at Village Hall	6	19 July	Mobile Library	11
23 June	Open Gardens of Pentridge	14	26 July	Chase Garden Club	16
24 June	Open Gardens of Pentridge	14			
28 June	Chase Garden Club	15	1 August	Next Issue	3