

BRANGORENEWSLETTER

No 114

December 2004

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BRANGORE PARISH COUNCIL

Hope you all had a good summer. The weather lately has had a very wintry feel but I must admit that I prefer crisp winter mornings to wet ones. The colours in the Forest are beautiful at this time of year.

It has been a busy quarter. Sam Clarke is settling into her job as Parish Clerk. I am sure lots of you have met her. We have had to modify her "opening hours" to allow her to concentrate on her workload. She is coping well but finds it very different from anything she has done before!

We have had one more footpath walk, which was well attended, and Cllr Lockyer is hoping to arrange more in the future.

The "Titfield Thunderbolt" arrived in October and all who attended enjoyed the ride. We all took part in the proceedings and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. We could have done with more passengers!

Chris Packham will be here in the February half term week to talk on "Jaws, Claws, String N Things". Do come.

There is a Youth Project in the village, which is working hard to get a Youth Club up and running in 2005. A management committee has been formed but more helpers are needed. If you would like to assist in any way, please contact Stella Bogis, Bransgore 674207.

WINGE Would the person who repeatedly "cuts" the fence into the playing field, please stop and use the entrance. It costs time and money to repair.

You must all by now be aware that the proposed housing development on the Carpenters Arms car park was refused by New Forest District Council. With regard to the proposal for affordable housing in the village, your Council will pursue this matter with your interests utmost in our minds.

COUNCIL MEETINGS (at 7.30 pm)

Planning - first Tuesday of the month
Amenities - second Tuesday "
Parish Council - third Tuesday "

No meetings in December.

Sub-Committees meet in the Committee Room of the Village Hall. Full Council Meetings will be in the Main Hall if it is not required.

All Parish Council Meetings are open to the public

Clerk to the Parish Council : Mrs Clarke – Office number 01425 674155

Have a Happy Healthy Christmas and New Year.

SALLY OWEN
Chairman 672596

BRANSGORE PARISH WEBSITE [www.bransgore-parish.gov.uk]

The Parish Council was delighted to learn that its Website was placed in the top ten of all Council Sites by the 'Website of the Year' competition.

An extract from the Local Council Review stated 'while many entries were utterly professional, the quality that marked the winners out was the content. The sites showed that the Councils were at the centre of their village, with information on all aspects of community life' .

As Chairman of the Council Sub- Committee, I would like to thank Cllr Hickman & Robin Hoad for their commitment resulting in our national success.

CLLR D. STODDART

Bransgore Church of England Primary School

Dear Villagers

We have a problem at our Village School. Skateboarders are using the grounds in the evening and are now causing a lot of damage. Often the playgrounds are left in a dangerous state, wood with nails, broken benches, concrete and bricks etc. Most of the children's play tables are smashed and now pose a health and safety risk.

The parents, children and staff are working extremely hard to improve the school grounds and create a very special learning place for young children. A small group of skateboarders are threatening to spoil that achievement.

Some parents have been seen dropping off skateboarders by car outside the school, or even into the car park! I have involved the Police and regular checks will be carried out. **NO ONE** has permission to use the school grounds after school. I have, in the past, written to the parents of skateboarders when neighbours have identified individuals. I don't wish to make a big deal out of this, or spoil teenagers fun, but my children are now at risk. I will not allow them to be hurt or their environment to be ruined by a small group of older children. Parents of skateboarders **please** warn your child and check up where they go to skateboard. The Village School is definitely **out of bounds!** Thank you.

PETER PRETLOVE
Head Teacher

BRANSGORE YOUTH PROJECT

Bransgore Youth Project are hoping to open a Youth Club in Spring 2005 for secondary school age young people, opening one evening a week at the Village Hall.

The project is supported by Hampshire Youth Service and Community First, but will be run by local volunteers. At present we are applying for funding.

In October half term we held a Halloween Fun afternoon – thanks to local businesses and volunteers for supporting. Additional ‘taster’ sessions to follow.

More volunteers are needed to help staff sessions and activities; we are hoping to operate on a rota basis with volunteers working an average of one session a month.

For further information, please phone Stella on 674207.

REFUSE COLLECTION - CHRISTMAS 2004

Week commencing 20 December 2004 **REFUSE COLLECTION AS NORMAL**

Mon 27 to Fri 31 December 2004 **NO COLLECTION**

From Monday 3 January 2005 **REFUSE COLLECTION AS NORMAL**

Please don't forget to recycle

Customer Service Helpline 01590 646123 Website: www.newforest.gov.uk

ST. MARY the VIRGIN with ALL SAINTS, BRANSGORE

The Parochial Church Council are delighted to announce the impending arrival of our new Vicar. The REVD. PETER RICKMAN has been appointed as our new Priest in Charge. Peter served his curacy at Bitterne Park before going to New Zealand where he worked for three and a half years at a boarding school as a Chaplain and Head of Religious Studies. He is married to Jane, and they have two young sons, Daniel aged two and Toby who is six months of age. They will be officially welcomed into the Parish on Saturday, 15th January 2005.

We extend a warm welcome to you at St Mary's and All Saints and hope that you will be able to join us in our celebrations for Christmas.

ALL SAINTS CAROL SERVICE	- Sunday	12 th December	6.30 pm
ST. MARY'S CAROL SERVICE	- Sunday	19 th December	6.30 pm
THE CHRISTINGLE SERVICE	- Friday	24 th December	4 pm

CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION - Friday 24th December 11.15 pm
CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION - Saturday 25th December 8 am (BCP) 10
am (CW)
ALL SAINTS CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION - Saturday 25th December 11.15
am (BCP)

During the interregnum, please contact :

Following on from the Christmas celebrations, we invite you to the Resource Centre on WEDNESDAY, 5TH JANUARY AT 7 PM FOR FELLOWSHIP AND FUND RAISING. We will eat a seasonal mince pie with mulled wine, sing some of our favourite Carols, followed by a Presentation by DR. CHRIS MANNING. There will be a Bring and Buy Stall and a retiring collection in aid of St Joseph's Hospital, Masaka. We hope to collect through this and other fund raising events money to purchase much needed equipment that Dr Manning can take with him when he returns to practise at St Joseph's Hospital in Spring of 2005.

RED CROSS – BLUE PETER APPEAL

The Blue Peter Welcome Home Appeal is to help reunite families in Angola. The civil war in Angola lasted almost 30 years. During this time more than four million people left their homes and another 500,000 fled to neighbouring countries. In the chaos of war thousands of families were torn apart.

The Red Cross in Angola is helping to reunite families – thousands of children who have become separated from their families during the conflict. Blue Peter will broadcast information and updates regularly during their programmes.

Please take bags of clothing to Red Cross Charity Shops (labelled 'Blue Peter Appeal') or bring them to St Mary's Resource Centre between 10 am and noon or 2 pm and 4 pm on Thursday 13th January 2005.

The Churchwardens and members of St Mary's and All Saints wish you a joyful Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

The telephone number for any enquiries is Bransgore 672327.

DEE MEAD
P.C.C. Secretary

ST MARY'S MOTHERS' UNION runs this really lovely afternoon – Tuesday in term time, between the hours of 2 – 3 pm for Mums, Dads and Carers to meet and chat with their toddlers before picking up their children. It is a great opportunity to meet new friends, and, for the little ones to play with toys. – at no charge to them.

We have given out these cards to parents in the Primary School, but feel we might be missing another group of carers in the village, hence the inclusion of this item in the Newsletter.

A warm welcome is waiting there as well as tea/coffee, with fruit and juice for the little ones, from Yve, Margaret and Doreen. Come and meet us all.

BRANGSORE & DISTRICT ROTARY CLUB

The Rotary Youth Leadership Award Course, a challenging programme of indoor and outdoor activities, was recently held at the Avon Tyrell Activity and Residential Centre in the New Forest. Naomi Fitzpatrick, sponsored by Bransgore Rotary, said "It was a great experience and developed team building, listening and communication skills." The benefits of the course were demonstrated when Naomi boldly described her experience to the Rotary Club in the presence of District Governor David Pike..

Local projects that the club have recently contributed towards include £1000 for new curtains in the refurbished Bransgore School Hall. A further £1000 has been given towards the much needed improvements to the Christchurch Scouts Activity Centre at Braggers Wood. Bransgore Rotary has also committed a substantial sum towards Thorney Hill's new community facilities.

To help fund similar local, national and international causes, Bransgore Rotary continues its busy programme of fund raising activities. These include the Annual Boxing Evening on 4th March 2005 to be held at Bashley Park and presented by the St. Lawrence Boys Club. Our annual Golf Day at Dibden Purlieu on 29th June 2005 and, of course, Bransgore's Fun Day held on the May Day Bank Holiday. Bransgore Rotary is very grateful for the enthusiastic support given locally for these events and looks forward to your continued participation. Further details of these and other club activities can be obtained from our club's president: Mike Phillips on 674487 or from our PRO: Johnnie Parry on 476930.

Regretfully, our past president Malcolm Austen, a frequent contributor to the Bransgore Parish Newsletter, and his wife Jenny have now moved from Bransgore to live in the Oxford area to be closer to their family. Malcolm has been a fierce competitor in Rotary's sporting activities and a 'stickler' for precision and accuracy in the club's business matters. Malcolm and Jenny have been very active in local community matters and their contribution will be greatly missed. They promise not to lose touch with Bransgore's community and friends.

NEW FOREST DISABILITY INFORMATION SERVICE

HELPLINE 01425 628750

Enquiries for the Travelling Service/Village Links, please contact Kate Goldsmith on 07909-868307 or 01425 623485 (admin line).

THE CHILDREN'S HOSPICE, NAOMI HOUSE

Our thanks once again go to Lynn, John and Ben and their generous customers at “**THE CARPENTERS ARMS**” as well as to Connie and Paul and their generous customers at “**FISH & CHIPS**” for filling the *NAOMI HOUSE* collection boxes

By the time you read this we will have had stalls at St. Mary's Church Christmas Fair and the Bransgore School Christmas Fair. We hope you found something to buy and thank you for your continuing support.

If anyone has items they would like to donate to the Hospice, please let me know and I'll arrange collection. By the way, a *NAOMI HOUSE* Charity Shop is due to open in the Sovereign Centre in Boscombe in the every near future – hopefully before Christmas! Watch the Village Notice Board for more information!!

SHIRLEY TOBIAS
Bransgore 673078

BRANSGORE METHODIST CHURCH

Minister – Rev. R. Clarke. BA. Telephone: 673304

It is hard to realise where 2004 has gone. So many things have happened in the life of the Village, and also in the life of the Church. Happily, these two areas have come together very closing in a number of ways during the year.

Two major events were, of course, the Flower Festival held in June, and the Methodist Open Gardens a few weeks later. The weather was very kind to us, and the sun shone for both events. Over 500 people crowded into our little Chapel over the weekend of the Festival, and a Thanksgiving Service on the Sunday evening brought the whole few days to a very appropriate ending. The Open Gardens weekend made us realise just how many keen gardeners there are locally and further afield, and I wonder just how many ideas were exchanged (and to what effect!!). But what was most important, was the social atmosphere, the friendly discussions between folk whom perhaps we knew by sight, but had never spoken to – God's Creation certainly brought His people together.

But now we are approaching Christmas once more. Again, our thoughts turn to the Babe of Bethlehem, and the picture is tinged with sadness as we see the fighting and devastation, the hunger and misery. Still, however, we sing our carols, and pray for peace on earth, and as we gather together with family and friends, let us spare more than a passing thought for those who suffer, and, together with thousands upon thousands of folk throughout the world, ask for God's blessing on this weary world.

We at the Methodist Church wish all readers a Holy and Happy Christmas and a Joyous New Year, and invite you to join us for our services – you will receive a warm welcome.

Wednesday 15 th December	Carol Concert at 2.30 pm in Church
Sunday 19 th December	Nativity and Toy Service at 10.30 am
	Carol Service at 7 pm
Christmas Eve	Christmas Communion at 11.30 pm
Christmas Day	Family Service at 10.00 am
Sunday 26 th December	Morning Service at 10.30 am (No evening service)

Social Events

29 th January	Skittles Evening
15 th April	Beetle Drive with Fish and Chip Supper

(Details of all Social Events from Jean Pearson – telephone 673122)

ARNOLD MASON
Bransgore 672788

BRANSGORE YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

The period since the last newsletter has been a difficult one for the club as we have lost another age group. Sadly, the Under 13's have suffered the same fate of the Under 12's and have had to fold. To think that we will have a two year gap within the Bournemouth Youth Football League is a great blow. We would like to thank the all those Coaches and Parents who tried in vain to keep the teams running.

It is the age old story, I am afraid - we just cannot get anyone to come forward and run these teams. I know as much as anyone of the commitment needed to run a team but I cannot tell you the reward that you get out of working with these youngsters in training and during their matches. If you think that you have what it takes to be such a person then please contact Lyn Wheeler on 01425 674462 for more information.

We are however having great success with regards to our close bond with the senior teams. Firstly, coach Matt Parker, has returned from his assignment in America where he taught them to 'bend it like Parker' at one of the soccer camps over there. He is a great asset to the youth set up and has now joined the seniors where he is making a great impression playing under senior coach and Club Chairman, Keith Wheeler.

We have also gained the coaching skills of Bransgore twins Dan and Will Stones to the youth team. They both played for us when they were juniors and now line up alongside Matt in the seniors. Maybe these three will become Managers of the future.

As the winter kicks in, it gets tougher and tougher for all concerned. It is not just trying to keep your squad fit, it is also trying to keep the pitches playable. The two main pitches can have up to 4 games played on them on a Sunday. Keeping them in playable condition is no mean feat. It doesn't help when someone decides to rip the goals out of their sockets. The goals are very expensive and are heavy and difficult to replace. If you see any such mindless acts taking place on either Rec. then please report it straight away.

At a recent FA meeting Lyn and I were shocked to discover that up to 400 matches in the Bournemouth league are not refereed by a qualified referee. This is a problem that affects all our teams every week. If you would like to help either ref a game or be an assistant ref then again please contact Lyn on the above number.

We are still struggling to get funds into the Club. We have just received a shirt sponsorship deal from "The Newsagents" in Bransgore and would like to thank Peter for his support. I would also like to thank Club Coach Russell Beardsmore for his help in arranging this deal. Our ties with AFC Bournemouth also continue to grow thanks to Russell. We have also received sponsorship from "Just Add Mud" and local builder, Chris, who has sponsored the Under 7's kit this season.

We are always looking for sponsorship from local businesses and again if you are interested but want more information please contact Lyn. These kits last 2-3 years and therefore is a small investment for long term advertising.

ARF SCAIFE
Press Secretary

BRANSGORE FLOWER CLUB

With the Village Hall decked in flowers, Bransgore Flower Club celebrated its 15th Anniversary in style on the evening of 22nd September. Over a hundred members and guests were welcomed with a glass of wine and an array of tempting nibbles. This was followed by an innovative demonstration by National Demonstrator, Susie Edwards – "Doing What Comes Naturally". Susie used branches and twigs twisted in all shapes and sizes as foundations for her flower arrangements. By the end of the evening the stage was a blaze of colour and design. The arrangements were among the many prizes that were won in the raffle. With money raised from this successful evening, plus other fund raising events, we have been able to make donations of £250 to each of the two medical centres in Bransgore and the Fortune Centre of Riding Therapy.

It was twigs again for our workshop at our October meeting. Tutor Tracey Griffin showed us how to make a basic frame of twigs for an unusual hand tied bouquet. We all went home thrilled with the results of our afternoon's work.

Also in October for the first time we entered an exhibit in the Club class at the N.A.F.A.S. Wessex and Jersey Area Show held at Highcliffe Castle. It was congratulations to our team of three – Carol Dove, Marcia Neil and Carole Norman. They were awarded Silver for their exhibit "Let's Surf".

At our November meeting we were able to sit back and enjoy a Christmas demonstration by Jan Meloy.

To complete the year on December 9th we have speaker Marion Emery, whose talk is entitled "A Victorian Christmas". This will be followed by a Christmas tea.

To start the New Year on January 27th, we have a demonstration by Jill Deeley entitled "Contrasts". Do come along and join us – a pleasant way to spend a Winter's afternoon.

Our meetings are held on the fourth Thursday in the month at 2 pm at the Resource Centre, Ringwood Road, Bransgore.

N.A.F.A.S motto 'Fr iendship through Flowers'.

Diary Dates :

January 27 th	Jill Deeley – Demonstrator "Contrasts"
February 24 th	Workshop – Tutor Vera De Menezes
March 19 th	Flower and Craft Exhibition/Coffee Morning – Resource Centre 10.30 am – 12.30 pm
March 24 th	AGM followed by 'Pot Luck'

MARGO CROUCH
Chairman 01425 672612

NEW MILTON AND DISTRICT BRANCH

It was nice to see the RNLI hack in Bransgore on the 16th October for a coffee morning at the Resource Centre. £87 was raised plus £210 from souvenirs.

Please remember that Christmas cards, calendars, etc., are on sale at the Off Licence on Oaktree Parade.

It is hoped to run a Coffee Morning at the Resource Centre on Saturday, 16th April 2005.

Collecting boxes are still on show throughout the village in the three public houses and various shops. Please be generous as the costs on the lifeboats increase every year.

ALASDAIR MURRAY
01425 274686

WINKTON ADVANCED LANDING GROUND – OUT OF THE SHADOWS

Since I last wrote about the old temporary airfield that straddled Derritt Lane in 1944, a great deal has happened. Thanks to Dan Tanner there is now an information board and map of the old airfield in the car park of Sopley Pick Your Own farm. The board was unveiled in early June by Hal Shook, who commanded a squadron of American Thunderbolt aircraft at Winkton. The board was designed and made by the Lyndhurst aviation author and historian Alan Brown. It marks the culmination of Alan's twelve year project to have a memorial, plaque or information board placed on all the New Forest airfields. There is also a plaque to Winkton aerodrome on the New Forest Airfields' Memorial on the old Holmsley South aerodrome, sited on Black Lane which runs along the north side of Heathfield caravan site. The Memorial was raised

and is maintained by charity ‘the Friends of the New Forest Airfields’ (FONFA). In September a memorial plaque to the Americans who served at Winkton, the 404th Fighter Group, was presented to FONFA by a group of former pilots and the plaque will be displayed within the enclosure to the Memorial.

The aerodrome was built for D-Day and so has featured some of the 60th anniversary activities that took place in 2004. The magazine ‘Flypast’ published a single page feature plus photographs and a map in its special D-Day edition. The D-Day exhibition at the Red House museum in Christchurch featured several local airfields including Winkton. The Daily Echo published a series of photographs taken by one of the pilots including local views and scenes, some in colour. Over twenty visitors from the US, including former pilots and their families, have visited the old airfield and the memorial this summer, many staying at the Fisherman’s Haunt – which made them very welcome. Lunches were often taken in the Lamb Inn or the Woolpack, both popular watering holes for the Americans in 1944.

A small exhibition on the history of the old aerodrome has been set up for the last two years at the ‘Days Gone Bye’ event at Ibsley in early August. The Winkton aerodrome web site ‘Built only for Battle’ has been developed and relocated to a much simpler address which is www.winkton.net. Other local aviation Internet sites readers may find interesting are www.winkton.net/fonfa.htm and www.winkton.net/pages/sopley. This last site is a history of RAF Sopley.

For those with an urge to have some physical reminder of the old airfield, the only source is a choice of model aircraft or their accessories or to install Winkton on your computer as an airfield in Microsoft flight sim. Details are on the web site. In addition, keep a look out for the old ‘Matchbox’ plastic model of a P -47 Thunderbolt, it is of a Winkton Thunderbolt – try Plastic Pastimes, the collectors’ plastic kits emporium in Parkstone. If you have lots of room there is a 1:18th scale Toy Thunderbolt called ‘the Blond Angel’ made by 21st Century Toys. It can be bought cheaply over the Internet from the USA, and this aircraft flew from Winkton in 1944.

JOHN LEVESLEY

BRANSGORE SUPPORT GROUP

Do you need a listening ear?

This Group exists to support anyone suffering bereavement or loss. Please join us at the monthly support meetings which are held in the Methodist Chapel room, Chapel Lane, Bransgore, on the third Thursday of each month from 10 am. Dates for the next few months are :

16th December - 20th January - 17th February - 17th March - 21st April

If you would like someone to visit you at home, in complete confidence, please ring one of our leaders - Christine – 672495 or Melinda – 673915.

THORNEY HILL & BRANSGORE WI

President: Mrs Vera Murray 01425 274686

Our meeting on 1st September marked the resumption of regular monthly gatherings after our customary recess in August.

Extending the summer theme, our speaker for September, Mrs A Booth, presented a biography of Punch and Judy beach entertainment. A jump in time, from secular entertainment to religious events of the Festive Season, took place at the following monthly meeting on 6th October, addressed by Mrs M Emery. Both talks were lively presented and very much enjoyed by those members attending.

The meeting November was our AGM, where our new President, Pam Bennett, was duly elected to take office in January, and our retiring President, after five years' service to the Institute, was given a resounding vote of thanks for all her hard work and dedication on behalf of the members.

On 2nd September the rising anticipation of the Institute reached a crescendo as members boarded a coach to take them on a conducted tour of London's heritage concluding with an unforgettable 'flight' on the London Eye, offering spectacular views. This highlight event was made possible on the initiative of our President.

In October the Institute attended a hospitality evening at Marks and Spencer where they freely aired their individual views to the management on what clothing they thought their stores should be providing for the more mature customer. This proved mutually helpful to all concerned as well as being an enjoyable event.

To mark the eighty-fifth anniversary of our Institute a party of members and their partners dined sumptuously in the Escoffier Restaurant at the Bournemouth and Poole College.

Our News Quizzes continue monthly – our November Quiz was dedicated to the 'Children in Need Appeal'.

Our monthly meetings for the ensuing years will be held as usual at the Village Resource Centre on the first Wednesday in the month starting at 2.15 pm. Members also meet informally at the Carpenters Arms for lunch on the second Tuesday of the month at 12.30 pm.

MRS J WOOD

BRANSGORE FRIENDSHIP CLUB

After the August break, the Club members were all glad to be back again on September 14th to enjoy an afternoon of songs from the Starlite Singers.

On September 28th Mr John Coombes, a newcomer to the Club, came with a slide presentation of natural history which everyone enjoyed immensely, so he will be returning again in 2005.

The 30th birthday party in October was attended by 60 members, enjoying an afternoon of songs from the Cranborne Chase Group Choir. Dolly Frampton made a delicious cake once again – thank you, Dolly. She also presented a bouquet to Jessie Keehner on her 90th birthday.

Also thank you to Janet Henson for the beautiful table decorations, and for all she has done for the Club now. Now she has retired from the committee we hope she will continue to enjoy the meetings.

At the AGM, Barry Hendon was elected Chairperson by a show of hands. Brenda White is now Vice-Chairperson. Josie Peters and Carol Coker are to become Committee members, so we now have a full committee.

We are going from strength to strength with over 70 members. With the entertainments almost fully booked for 2005, we are looking forward to some happy Tuesdays.

December 21 st <u>2005</u>	Carols, mince pies
January 11 th	Variety Concert with the Pee Witts
January 25 th	Palladium History with Mr Woodward
February 8 th	Slides, Ann Pitt
February 22 nd	The Rev Trimbell
March 8 th	Variety Concert – Tee Gees
March 22 nd	Musical World

The Club meets at the Village Hall on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month (except August) at 2.00 pm for 2.30 pm. All over 50's welcome. £1.50 per meeting; six month membership £6.00.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

ESTHER HARRIS
Secretary 01425 673589

Bransgore Community Church

Congratulations if you are reading this edition of the Bransgore Newsletter before Christmas. It means you've managed to have a few minutes off from all the Christmas preparations to catch up with what is happening around the village. What's Christmas all about anyway? Is it about decorations and parties, presents and children, or is it about the humble brussel sprout that seems to make its annual appearance at the side of most people's plates? Probably not!

Let's eavesdrop in on a family somewhere in rural England, maybe Bransgore to get some answers.

It was a snowy Christmas Eve. Inside the warm house, the Christmas tree was cheerfully ablaze with lights and surrounded by dozens of presents. The man's wife and children were dressed and ready to leave for church. "Come with us," they urged.

"Not me," he snapped. "I don't believe all that religion garbage."

For many years the man's wife had been trying to tell him about a relationship with Jesus and how he could help him live life in all its fullness and find perfect peace and freedom. How God's Son had become a human being in order to show him the way to heaven.

"Nonsense," the man always said.

The family left for church and the man was all alone in his cosy country home. He glanced out the window at the cold snowy scene outside. He turned to warm himself by the fire.

But as he turned, his eyes caught a movement in the snow outside. He looked. Cats! Three young cats were walking slowly past his window.

"The fools," he thought. "They'll freeze for sure!" The man put on his hat and coat and opened the door. A blast of wintry air sent a shiver through his body.

"Come here, cats! Come inside where there's warmth and food. You'll die out there."

But the cats ran away, frightened by the stranger at the door.

He walked outside. "Come back! Don't be afraid, I want to save you."

But the cats were gone. It was too late.

"Well, I did everything I could for them," the man muttered to himself. "What more could I do? I'd have to become a cat myself in order to help them and save them. They would have to believe me then, unless they were fools."

Just as he reached the door, the church bells rang in the distance. The man paused for a second and listened. Then the thought suddenly hit him, "That's what God did for me!"

This is what Christmas is really all about. The Creator of the universe loving us so much that he came to earth in order that we could find forgiveness and can have a loving relationship with him: our perfect heavenly dad. And if we listen to him and follow him, we will not die, but instead will be given everlasting life.

Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year

PHIL COLE

BRANGORE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

December again already and Christmas just around the corner. Time I thought to look back over the last four seasons, think of all the horticultural lectures I've been to, the TV gardening programmes I've watched and the gardening magazines I've read. I looked at my garden and thought "How much has it benefited from all this imparted wisdom? How well have I done?" Then I thought "Oh, well, let's enjoy Christmas – I can always try again next year." I'm sure you did better and your gardens really benefited from your activities during the year.

We do wish you all a very relaxing and happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year. Hopefully we will have been you at the Christmas Party (December 2nd). If not, we will see you at the lecture "Winter into Spring" by Tim Lowndes on 3rd February.

AUTUMN LECTURES

September – "The Small Greenhouse" was by W Simcox

- Tips - Aluminium frames cheaper than wooden and allow more light in
- South facing for maximum light and heat
 - North side bubble wrap
 - Temperate greenhouse for pot plants etc. 10 to 13 degrees centigrade day, 7 min night
 - Frost free for half hardy plants. 5 to 10 degrees day, minimum 2 degrees C at night
 - Must have good ventilation to avoid fungal growth

October – "Pot Plants" was by D Paton of Pinetop Nurseries

- Tips - To avoid over watering, drill a small hole in side of pot 1 inch up from bottom
- Rainwater better than tap water
 - Good garden soil plus 1/3 peat is adequate
 - Try using a number of small plastic pots within a patio container so individual plants can be replaced easily

November – "Container Plants" was by Bob Sawyer of Stewarts Gardenlands

This lecture followed the AGM and was excellent. Packed with information, delivered in interesting packets by an accomplished professional. Not a talk to miss. Watch out for a repeat visit.

- Tips - Benefits of containers - Can create perfect soil conditions for each plant
- Quick impact, create colour anywhere in the border instantly
 - Easy to experiment
 - Can protect when necessary
 - Try to ensure terracotta pots have been fired at high temperature as these absorb water more slowly and are not so easily damaged by frost
 - Glazed pots withstand frost much better but there is a wide range of qualities
 - Water little and often but do let water run through the container
 - Peat-free composts are very difficult to wet once allowed to dry out completely
 - Don't forget to feed regularly as the plant has nowhere to get food from, it's trapped in the pot dependent on you

Annual General Meeting (November 4th)

For those of our members who were unable to make it to the AGM, here is a short summary of the main items :

- The Chairman, John Snelling, thanked the committee and members of the Society for their enthusiastic support which had seen all our events so well attended over the year. He thanked Ethel Hargreaves for her work on the committee and wished her an early recovery from the ill health that had forced her to resign.
- The Treasurer, Philip Bloy, distributed copies of the audited accounts and highlighted one or two points of particular interest including the fact that due to the generous sponsorship of Denisons Estate Agents we had for the first time made a small profit of £11 on our shows. The membership fee, which has been unchanged for six years, will be increased for 2005.
- The Committee and officers of the Society were, with the exception of Ethel, re-elected.
- The new rules of the Society (which had previously been distributed to members) were adopted
- Following the business of the AGM, Bob Sawyer of Stewarts Gardenlands gave an interesting talk on container plants (See November lecture above.).

Future Events and Dates for your Diary

We hope the following events will brighten the winter months for you. First an early reminder that the Spring Show is on 9th April so you artists, photographers and handicraft people can use the winter months to plan and prepare your entries. (The titles for the photographs are 'A Means of Transport' – unmounted and 'Wild Things' – mounted.

December 2nd Our Christmas Party will have gone by the time you read this; we hope you enjoyed it.

February 3rd Lecture 'Winter into Spring' – by Tim Lowndes of MacPennys

March 3rd Lecture 'Preparation for the Flower Show' – by Peter Collett

The above lectures will take place at the Resource Centre, St Mary's Church at 7.30 pm.

JIM DUDLEY
Publicity Officer 673202

6th CHRISTCHURCH (BRANSGORE) SCOUT GROUP

BEAVERS

So far this has been a very eventful term. We attended the District Adventure Day and amongst other things learned Sign Language. All the boys were able to sign a few words in Sign Language the following week. We all enjoyed making the Guys for the Bonfire and I would particularly like to thank Sam Evans and Beth Allebon for all their hard work but particularly making the Salt Dough, which we used for modelling and painting over two weeks. What a talented group we have!

LESLEY MANLEY Beaver Leader 672667

CUBS

Yet another busy year has passed with many activities and District events.

Our summer Camp at Harry's Island in Burley was themed 'Around the World in a Summer Camp' and we 'visited' many countries in readiness for our Global Challenge badge for the Autumn Term. We all had great fun and some of the activities included bungee jumping, toss the Caber, limbo dancing, skiing and snowball fights to name but a few, and we also had BBQs and a cream tea.

We entered the District Sports Day and Bransgore came first in all seven events, including the Group Relay Competition. We also entered the District Swimming Gala where we came third. At the 5-a-side football competition we got through to the semi-finals. A big thank you to all the boys who participated!

As part of the Cub programme this term, we have completed the Global Challenge which has included an around the world game, where the cubs learned about different cultures, making models, a very amusing talk about the Scout Jamboree to Taiwan, a visit from a recycling officer, which was very informative and included some excellent games. We also had a lot of fun dressing up and playing Halloween games and each Six made a Guy for Bonfire Night. Red Six won first prize. We are about to visit Serendipity Sams and with Christmas looming we are looking forward to our festive events, including a Christmas party for the boys.

We would like to thank the rest of the team for their continued help and support and a big thank you to all the parents who have helped us this year.

GINNY HEBDEN
(Akela) 01425 674721

TRUDI BUTCHER
(Chi) 01425 672830

SCOUTS

Goose 2004 was held at Buddens Farm, near Wareham, from 7 – 14 August. Eleven boys from Bransgore Scout Troop joined the Christchurch District contingent at this activity camp for around 800 scouts and Explorers from around the world. The young people had the opportunity to take part in a wide range of activities including

abseiling, climbing, rafting, canoeing, sailing, archery, shooting, quad biking and power boating!

Here's what some of the Bransgore Scouts had to say about their time at Goose:

"The shooting was the best!" Peter

"I made loads of new friends!" Alex

"Nothing beats diving backwards off the high ropes course!" Oliver

"The food was great!" Walter

The young people learnt new skills, tried new activities and made lots of new friends. For them it was the greatest opportunity of scouting – ever!

PS The boys would like to thank all those who helped to plan and run this camp and make it such an enjoyable experience for them.

MIKE MANLEY Scout Leader 672667

SCOUT HUT AND ANN'S LODGE HIRE.

Both our halls are proving to be popular venues for the local community to hold events. For enquiries and to make a booking please contact Liz Holroyd on 673398

COMMITTEE REPORT

As you may well know the Scouts have taken over the old Boys Brigade Hut. The committee have invested a great deal of time and effort into updating this building. We have achieved our goal of turning a third of the building into a much-needed secure store but still have a sizeable hall for community use. We are also demolishing the old Venture Hut, which has been an eyesore for several years. We have achieved an awful lot this year and I would like to thank everyone who has made this possible.

SUE BOYES – Chairman 674156

SCAD (Sopley Camp Anti-Development) COMMITTEE

The Committee met on the 20th September and, as a result of new membership, has now re-configured.

During this meeting and since, attention has been drawn to further planning applications: one for day and residential training and the other, for an alternative exit/entrance to the camp site on Derritt Lane. Objections have been lodged against both applications.

SCAD's ongoing commitment is to ensure that the New Forest District Council's planning policies are adhered to in relation to the use of the camp and to prevent residential development.

We would therefore be grateful for residents' continued support as regards to further advancements.

There is also a vacancy for another Committee Member, who would provide support to the Main Committee. Please telephone [01425] 674178 if you are interested.

May we also wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

JULIA BUCKINGHAM
Publicity Secretary

BRANSGORE THEATRE GROUP

In the spirit of the season we will be going to the Lighthouse, Poole, a week before Christmas Day to hear the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and the 'Last Night of the Christmas Proms' – a rollercoaster of Christmas favourites will be on offer, as well as songs from 'Beauty and the Beast' and 'Phantom of the Opera'. Audience participation will be encouraged and decorations galore will create a party atmosphere.

Prior to this we enjoyed "A Passage to India" by E M Forster. The production team at Poole contrived to provide atmospheric staging which more than complemented the story and produced a highly visual masterpiece capturing the explosive tensions that exist when two cultures collide.

The Mayflower at Southampton was home to "High Society" and although the summery pool scene inevitably took place "off stage", the cast came close to emulating the consummate skills of Grace Kelly, Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby and Celeste Holme. The leading lady, in particular, gave a polished performance and the enthusiasm of the roué who chased the lady reporter was a tour de force.

We will now enjoy a brief rest before the end of January when our year will commence.

The annual subscription of £2 per person is now payable as soon as possible.

Dates for your diaries are :-

31 st January	"Relative Values" by Noel Coward
13 th February	"Journeys End" by R C Sherriff

Happy Christmas to all.

LESLIE SEWELL
Hon. Secretary 01425 674026.

SCALLYWAGS

Sallywags is a Parent/Carer and Toddler Group which meets at the Community Church, Shackleton Square on Thursday mornings in term time between 10.00 am and 11.30 am. We have various toys and activities for the children to enjoy and an informal atmosphere for Mums, Dads and Grandmas to get to know each other.

We make a nominal charge of £1.00 per family.

For more information, telephone Ruth on 673147 or Liz on 674231.

BRANSGORE PROBUS CLUB

Our speakers have entertained us on varied subjects during the last session, beginning with Don Chipchase talking about the American Civil War. He confessed that Robert E Lee was a particular hero of his and his talk showed this as well as lending understanding to the very short history of the USA.

The October meeting was our AGM. Unfortunately our President, Ernie Stokes, was not well, so David Hargreaves stepped into the breach. Our new President is Brian Skyrme who duly took over as to the manner born. After the AGM, Jeff Chase talked about the love of his life – motor cycles. It was surprising to find during question time how many of us in a faraway youth had actually owned a bike – one member even confessed to owning a Lambretta!

Our November speaker was Jim Palmer, our favourite spy. This time he was talking about the French Resistance and how by spying and carrying out acts of sabotage they contributed towards the successful Allied liberation of the continent in 1944-5.

PROBITY II

JACK AND JILL PRE-SCHOOL

Bransgore Village Hall, Burley Road, Bransgore
Phone 01425 673903. Charity No. 1028854

Jack and Jill Pre-School is a community based, committee-run group, which has now been successfully operating for 30 years! The group caters for all children from 2.9 years to school entry and is registered with Ofsted as well as being a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance. We receive Government funding for three and four year olds .

We had a very positive Ofsted report earlier in 2004, which made particular reference to the strong partnerships between the group and its committee, staff and parents.

Due to a continuing increase in numbers, our sessions are now:

Monday to Friday 9.00am-11.30am (with optional lunch club 11.30am-12.30pm)

Wednesday 12.30pm-3.00pm

With effect from January 2005, our afternoon sessions will increase to:

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 12.30pm-3.00pm

The afternoon sessions are for our children who will be starting school in the following September. We take the opportunity of visiting Bransgore Primary School in the Spring and Summer terms to ease the transition into mainstream school for both child and parent.

Your child can be offered a safe, secure and stimulating environment, with a full curriculum leading to the Early Learning Goals. We have a high adult to child ratio including parental involvement. In the warmer, dry days we also have outside play. Wherever possible, we invite visitors to the group, e.g. doctor, lollipop lady, fireman and we also organize trips out, such as to Blashford Lakes, Moors Valley Park, the candle factory and to the Regent Centre. We have recently had a visit from a Ringwood Librarian and we look forward to another visit in January.

We would like to thank everyone in the village for their tremendous support with our Chocoholics fund-raising event this autumn. We sold over £2,000 worth of chocolates, which has enabled us to buy all the children a Christmas present and has paid for an entertainer at our Christmas party at the end of term.

Thank you also to everyone who has supported our fund-raising events this autumn, specifically the visit from Hallet's Photography, the Quiz Night and our Christmas Fayre.

You are welcome to visit us any morning, or contact our Registration Secretary, Elaine Waters, on 672719.

The Spring term starts back on Tuesday 4th January 2005.

KIDDIWINKS PLAY GROUP

KiddiWinks is a voluntary-run Play Group meeting at Bransgore Methodist Church on Chapel Lane every Wednesday during term time - 10 a.m. until Noon.

We offer a warm and friendly environment for the whole family!

A range of toys and activities as well as light refreshments.

And all for 75p per family!

Telephone Sam Day, 672983, for full information.

BRANSGORE LUNCH CLUB

The Lunch Club re-convened at the beginning of September after its summer break. We were delighted to welcome back existing members and helpers and to meet a sprinkling of new ones. Everyone was very appreciative of the work that has been done on the former Boys' Brigade Hut, Now Ann's Lodge, in respect of the upgrade to the hall and related facilities.

Planning and preparation are currently under way for the Lunch Club Christmas Lunch, which will be held on Wednesday, 8th December. We look forward to welcoming both members and helpers on that day and confidently expect that both the meal and the atmosphere will be as festive and enjoyable as ever.

There is still a shortage of helpers, drivers and cake-makers. If you feel you could spare the time to assist, we would be delighted to hear from you. Likewise, if you would like to become a member, we do have some vacancies. For further information please contact Shirley Tobias – telephone number 01425 673078 or Pat Newman – telephone number 01425 673678. We look forward to hearing from you.

As ever, grateful thanks go to everyone who continues to support the Lunch Club and ensure its ongoing success.

BRANSGORE EVENING TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

Our year is continuing well. We have had a Garden Party enjoyed by well over 80 people on a very cold summer's evening. Some of our members went to 'High Society' at Southampton which was very entertaining. We have also had a very good social evening of skittles at Ringwood Football Club.

Speakers have been amusing. We started back after the summer break with an excellent talk on 22 years on the road with Sooty. Last month we relaxed with yoga and in November we took to the air with the Air Ambulance, which takes us up to bingo for our Christmas social.

Our big fund raising event of our year will be a Fashion Show given by Oak Haven Hospice and that will be on February 2nd – so be on the look out for tickets on sale in the New Year.

We continue to meet to meet at the Resource Centre next to St Mary's Church. Anyone requiring further details, please contact MELISSA SHEPPARD (Chairman) on 674065.

BRANSGORE TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Thank you to all who supported our Coffee Morning in September. Although the weather could have been better, it didn't rain and thanks to the hospitality of our hosts, John and Jean Harrison we had a successful time.

We had a very lively Skittles evening on 19th November. This was advertised as having a 'Cornish' flavour and it certainly lived up to that. Our Secretary, Spike Laugher, and his wife, Judy, really did come up trumps by transporting some 70 mouth-watering Cornish pasties back from Falmouth on the day together with fresh farm clotted cream to go with the apple crumble.

We were delighted with the support we received for this event both from our members and many friends.

Our AGM will be held on 5th March next and will be followed – by popular demand – by a magic lantern slide presentation by Janet Burn. If you would like to come, please make a note of the date in your new diaries for 2005 – we can guarantee a memorable evening.

We now have a date for the 2005 visit of our French friends which will take place during the first weekend in June. Unfortunately it will be a short visit, but we mean to pack in as much as possible to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the twinning between the villages of Bransgore and St Georges Montcocq. We have members who were in at the beginning, as well as new families who have joined over the years, and we are all still enjoying our friendships and the benefits of twinning.

JUDITH ALLEBON
Publicity Secretary

FRIENDS OF AVON TYRRELL

And now for something entirely different

On Saturday, 26th February, the Friends of Avon Tyrrell will be holding a Victorian Evening in the House –a Grade I Listed Building. Guests will be greeted with a welcoming drink on arrival, followed by a six course meal ending with cheese and port. All the dishes will be to recipes which might well have been served when the House was completed in 1891. This will be followed by a magic lantern show of authentic photographs taken locally at that time and a musical entertainment. Tickets will be limited and are priced at £30.

So if you would like to take a step back in time, dress up (not obligatory) and enjoy an evening out of the ordinary, why not make up a party. For tickets or further information, telephone 67019 or 672640.

BRANSGORE & RINGWOOD TOY LIBRARY

The Committee Room, Village Hall, 116 Burley Road,
Bransgore, Christchurch, Dorset. BH23 8AY

Sessions are run from Bransgore on the first and third Fridays of the month, 10.00 – 11.00 am in the Committee Room at the side of Bransgore Village Hall. We have a wide variety and selection of toys including Special Needs and are in the process of expanding by buying Game boy Playstation games. Membership is £4.00 per year and you may rent the toys for a month at a time - rental prices vary from 30p - £5 depending on the cost of the toy.

You may also come for a coffee and a chat while the children play and you need not feel obliged to take out a toy at every visit. We are open to everyone - Mums, Dads, Carers, Grandparents, Childminders and Playgroups etc.

We are a registered Charity and are members of the National Association of Toy and Leisure Libraries.

For more information contact Julie Clark 01425 674520

STEPPING STONES OF SOPLEY PRE-SCHOOL

Sopley Village Hall, Priest Lane, Sopley
Telephone: 07773 237667
Charity No. 1077865

Stepping Stones pre-school offers education and care for children between 2.9 years and school age. We have a specially tailored curriculum aimed at achieving Early Learning Goals whereby your child will learn through play. We have a computer and an outdoor play area.

We recently had an excellent Ofsted report. We are registered for 26 children per session and we can offer your child a stimulating, happy environment with our friendly, dedicated staff supported by an enthusiastic, parental-based committee.

Our term-time sessions are on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings from 9.15am - 12.15pm, with a very popular Lunch Club following each session through to 1pm.

The 'Rising School' sessions operate in the Spring and Summer terms on Tuesday afternoons, which help to prepare children for Primary School the following term. We have strong links with all the Primary Schools in the local area.

If you would like a copy of our prospectus or to come along and visit us, please give Marie Waugh a ring on 01425 673259.

STEPPING STONES OF SOPLEY PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

A warm welcome awaits toddlers and babies as well as their Mums, Dads, Grandparents and carers at the Stepping Stones Parent and Toddler Group on Tuesday mornings 10-11.30am at Sopley Village Hall. Babies and toddlers are welcome to come and play, join in with story-time, singing, running races and creative activities. Everyone can also enjoy a drink, biscuit, fruit and a chat during snack-time

Note Please enter events in diary in Post Office and check other entries to try and avoid class of dates

DECEMBER

8 th	Lunch Club - Christmas Lunch
9 th	Flower Club – Speaker and Christmas tea
10 th	Avon Tyrrell – Christmas Supper and Carols
12 th	All Saints Carol Service
13 th	Jack & Jill Pre-School - Children's Christmas Party
14 th	WI lunch – Carpenters Arms
15 th	Methodist Church – Carol Concert
16 th	Support Group at Methodist Church
18 th	Theatre Group outing
19 th	St Mary's Carol Service
	Methodist Church – Nativity and Toy Service; Carol Service
21 st	Friendship Club – Carols and Mince Pies
23 rd	Christian Aid – Carol singing on Oaktree Parade
24 th	St Mary's – Christingle Service
	St Mary's – Christmas Eve Communion
	Methodist Church –Christmas Communion
25 th	St Mary's – Christmas Day Communion
	All Saints – Christmas Day Communion
	Methodist Church – Family Service
26 th	Methodist Church – Morning Service

2005

JANUARY

4 th	Jack and Jill – Start of new term
	Parish Council - Planning
5 th	WI meeting
	St Mary's – Fellowship and Fund Raising
11 th	WI lunch – Carpenters Arms
	Friendship Club -Variety Concert with the Pee Witts
	Parish Council - Amenities
13 th	St Mary's – Collection of bags of clothing for Red Cross Blue Peter
Appeal	
15 th	St Mary's and All Saints – Welcome to the new Vicar
18 th	Parish Council Meeting
20 th	Support Group at Methodist Church
25 th	Friendship Club -Palladium History with Mr Woodward
27 th	Flower Club – Demonstration
29 th	Methodist Church – Skittles Evening
31 st	Theatre Group outing

FEBRUARY

1st Parish Council - Planning
2nd WI meeting
Townswomen's Guild – Fashion Show
3rd Horticultural Society - Lecture
8th WI lunch – Carpenters Arms
Friendship Club -Slides, Ann Pitt
Parish Council - Amenities
12th Theatre Group outing
15th Parish Council meeting
17th Support Group at Methodist Church
19th Last day for entries to Spring Newsletter
22nd Friendship Club -The Rev Trimbell
24th Flower Club – Workshop
26th Avon Tyrrell – Victorian Evening

MARCH

1st Parish Council - Planning
2nd WI meeting
3rd Horticultural Society – Lecture
4th Bransgore Rotary' s Boxing Evening
5th Twinning Association AGM and Magic Lantern Show
8th WI lunch – Carpenters Arms
Friendship Club -Variety Concert – Tee Gees
Parish Council – Amenities
15th Parish Council Meeting
17th Support Group at Methodist Church
19th Flower Club – Flower and Craft Exhibition
22nd Friendship Club -Musical World
24th Flower Club – AGM

APRIL

5th Parish Council - Planning
9th Horticultural Society – Spring Show
12th Parish Council - Amenities
15th Methodist Church – Beetle Drive and Fish & Chip Supper
16th RNLI – Coffee Morning
19th Parish Council Meeting
21st Support Group at Methodist Church

MAY

2nd Bransgore's Fun Day - Rotary

JUNE

29th Bransgore Rotary's Golf Day