

# **BRANGORE NEWSLETTER**

No 116

MARCH 2005

Published by Brangore Parish Council and distributed throughout the Parish (Brangore, Thorney Hill, Neacroft, Godwincroft, Holmsley South, Heathfield, Hinton & Beckley)

## **BRANGORE PARISH COUNCIL**

Hope you have all had a good start to the New Year. The snowdrops and crocuses are out and Spring is on its way, with Summer to look forward to.

In February, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, there was a further enquiry into the Bridleways on Guss Common. This is to decide finally whether they should be Byways Open To All Traffic (BOATS) or to stay as they are.

On 7<sup>th</sup> March the new Garden Waste Recycling Scheme will be launched in Brangore.

The new School Crossing Patrol layout seems to be working well. In the near future a coloured anti-skid surface will be applied to the road at the Crown junction with flashing lights on the Burley Road to warn of the crossing. A new sign saying "SCHOOL" will be erected between the Crown junction and the school. Flashing warning lights will be installed before the River Mude and Church on the approach from the Cat and Fiddle.

I have no news with regard to the Old Vicarage site for affordable housing, but will ensure that I keep you posted when I do.

Chris Packham's visit on 17<sup>th</sup> February was a huge success. A total of 140 people attended. All went well after a shaky start to the afternoon with a power cut and a water leak at the Village Hall. Slides were shown and tales were told about animals from the size of elephants to snakes and spiders – the theme being in what way are they harmful or not harmful or dangerous to humans.

New Forest Pride Week is to be in August this year – not April.

The Parish Council has been given permission by the Deputy Prime Minister's Office to obtain a loan to build the extension to the Village Hall. This will not put money on your rates this year 2005/6 as provision was made for this in 2004/5.

Please note that the Parish Council meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup> will be the Parish Assembly when it is planned to have a speaker from Hampshire County Council to talk about Waste Disposal, and the April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting is the Annual Meeting.

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 very happy Easter.

SALLY OWEN                      Chairman 672596

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL DOG WALKERS**

Please read the contribution from the Clerk to the Parish Council regarding the new Dog Byelaws which came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2005 in this Newsletter.

To summarise the main points:-

NO dogs are allowed on the Brangore Playing Field 'School Site'

NO dogs are allowed on the pitches and children's play area on the main Recreation Ground

ALL dogs are to be kept on a lead on the main Recreation Ground and in the Clare Lodge Woodland

All canine faeces are to be removed from the main Recreation Ground and Clare Lodge Woodland

## SCAD (Sopley Camp Anti-Development) COMMITTEE

Those who live near the camp have been witness to the sounds of chanting and drumming that carried on until the early hours of the morning once or twice during the winter months. The volume was such that it necessitated a number of residents complaining to the Council. [ *The next sentence of this report removed from this web-based copy of the newsletter by order of the Parish Council, dated 6/4/05* ] SCAD therefore remain watchful of any further developments and are grateful for the continued support of the Bransgore community.

The Committee is also advertising for the post of Treasurer: If you are interested, please contact the Chairman, Deryck Blythe 672504

## NEW DOG BYELAWS

Bransgore Parish Council's new dog byelaws came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2005. Booklets giving full details of the new byelaws are available from The Information Office at 1A Oaktree Parade at a cost of 20p each

### **Under the new byelaws:**

The dog prohibited areas (Section 1) are:

Bransgore Playing Field 'School Site' – Burley Road, Bransgore.

Pitches and Playing areas – Bransgore Recreation Ground – Burley Road, Bransgore.

The offence created is that of bringing a dog into a ban area, or allowing it to remain there.

The canine faeces removal areas (Section 2) and dogs on leads areas (Section 3) are:

Bransgore Recreation Ground – Burley Road, Bransgore.

Clare Lodge Woodland – Brookside Road, Bransgore.

The Section 2 offence created is that of failure to clear up after the dog forthwith without reasonable excuse. It is not a reasonable excuse that the person in charge of the dog did not have with him any means of removal of the faeces.

The Section 3 offence created is that of allowing a dog not on a lead to enter or remain in these areas.

The maximum penalty? For an offence created under these byelaws is set at level 2 on the standard scale. This is currently £500.

Who commits the offence? This is the person in charge of the dog at the time of the offence. This is either the person who habitually has control of the dog, or the person who has control of the dog for the time being.

Any officer of the council or any constable may remove any person offending against the byelaws from the area.

These byelaws have been brought in for the health and safety of those people, and dogs, using these areas. Whilst most dog owners are considerate there appears to be an increasing number of dog owners not 'poop scooping.' This is occurring not just in these areas, but also in other public open spaces, particularly footpaths. If you are in charge of a dog please be considerate of others. The Council provides 'poop scoop' bins in these and other areas of the village, and free 'poop scoop' bags (packs of 10) are available at the information office. Let's keep the village a clean and pleasant environment.

MRS S CLARKE,

### **Bransgore 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 Friday of the month, 10.00 – 11.00am 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

### **BRANSGORE TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

Many thanks to Malcolm and Judith Allebon, members of the Twinning Association were treated to a very special evening when we were all invited to join them for an evening of mulled wine, mince pies and other goodies and to sing carols on the Monday before Christmas. Some houses just lend themselves to particular times of the year and their cottage, with the jars with night lights lining the path to the front door, the twinkling lights in the windows, the log fire, lots of candles and a real Christmas tree, was a perfect setting for Christmas.

After our AGM at the beginning of March, when Janet Burn will once again be with us to show more of her wonderful slides, we will really be getting down to planning our Association's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations when our French friends visit us at the end of May. Unfortunately their visit will be short – they are coming very late on the Friday evening and leaving at lunch time on the Sunday. Therefore we will not be having a group outing on the Saturday but we will be having a Civic Reception followed by a dinner and musical entertainment.

JUDITH ALLEBON

Publicity Secretary Bransgore 672867

### **FRIENDS OF AVON TYRRELL**

Once again our Carols for Christmas proved to be a great success, the tickets being oversubscribed. We were fortunate to have members of the Ringwood Salvation Army Band to play for us in the Hall after the supper. The House really does look especially nice at Christmas with log fires in the Drawing Room and Lounge, the decorated tree and lots of holly and greenery everywhere. We would like to thank the members of staff who help us on these occasions to ensure a great evening for everyone.

With the funds raised on the evening we have been able to purchase of 2 wheelchairs for the House. Although disabled guests do bring their own chairs whenever possible, it is good to have a spare in case anything goes wrong. The other one is a model suitable for rough ground for easier access to the activity sites.

By the time you read this we will have had our Victorian Evening, a new venture for us but one which we hope will have been enjoyed by those supporting the event.

### **BRANSGORE LUNCH CLUB**

With an enjoyable and lively Christmas Lunch now a distant memory, the Bransgore Lunch Club continues to be well supported by existing members at the start of another year. We have been pleased to welcome both new members and helpers over the last few months, and our current diners continue to enjoy and appreciate the lunches provided in a friendly and social atmosphere. If you are interested in joining us, please contact either Shirley Tobias on 01425 673078 or Pat Newman on 01425 673678.

Preparations are currently under way for the Lunch Club AGM which will take place on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00 pm at Ann's Lodge. Everyone is welcome to attend. The Annual Coffee Morning will be held on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> July this year and will also be at Ann's Lodge (formerly the Boys' Brigade Hut) starting at 10.30 am. There will, as usual, be stalls and activities including tombola, a bric-a-brac stall, a cake and produce stall and a raffle. The entrance fee of 50 pence includes coffee and biscuits. Any contributions to the stalls would be gratefully received. Everyone is cordially invited to the coffee morning, and we look forward to welcoming you all.

We still need helpers, drivers and cake makers to keep the Lunch Club running smoothly. If you feel you could spare between **2 and 3 hours ONCE A MONTH** to assist in any way whatsoever, please ring Shirley (673078) or Pat (673678). We would be delighted to hear from you.

As ever, our grateful thanks go to all those helpers, drivers and cake makers who continue to support and contribute to the Lunch Club

### **ST. MARY'S CHURCH and ALL SAINTS CHURCH**

Welcome to the St Mary's and All saints Church page!

Do you remember the old adverts for the TV Times back in the 80's? The slogan was "I never knew that there was so much in it!" This is my first article for the Bransgore Newsletter and I have to begin by expressing the same sentiment! There is a lot going on in Bransgore!

My family and I (Jane, Daniel (2) and Toby (11 months)) arrived in January when I took up the post of "Vicar" of St Mary's and All Saints Thorney Hill. We are delighted to be here; this is a wonderful place to live and work in, and from what we have experienced so far, the people here are wonderful people to live and work amongst too.

I grew up in Lymington but left home in 1988. The journey back to the New Forest has been via (in chronological order) the banking & finance industry of London, a homeless charity in New York, Theological College in Oxford, a curacy in Southampton, school chaplaincy/teaching/soccer coaching in New Zealand and for the last half of 2004 chaplaincy at HM Prison Winchester.

Being the new “vicar” of Bransgore and Thorney Hill is a real privilege and one which I am enjoying very much. I was invited to speak at the Bransgore Residents Association in January and chose to speak on the topic “The Church in the Community”. One of my main aims for this year is to get to know the community, to visit all the groups meeting here (if invited!) and to ensure that the church is at heart of the community and with this special community in its heart. This a good place to be and I want to thank so many of you for your warm welcome.

Spring and the celebration of Easter will soon be upon us. It’s a time to think about new life and new possibilities. Christians will be celebrating Jesus’ victory over the grave and the hope that His resurrection offers to our needy world. The Easter message is for all people, come and celebrate this message this Easter at a church near you.....

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life”

## **BRANSGORE & DISTRICT ROTARY CLUB**

What was to have started as a year of celebrating the 100th anniversary of Rotary International instead began with the terrible news of what was probably the worst natural disaster to strike our planet within the one hundred years of Rotary’s existence.

However, the response from Rotary International within Great Britain and Ireland to the Tsunami is arguably, one of our organisation’s finest moments. Within these islands alone, Rotary has, so far, raised over £5 million towards disaster relief. Much of this has already been spent on the provision of tangible aid in the region, through the various ‘Rotary Box Schemes’ of which over 4000 Aquaboxes and Shelterboxes were almost immediately dispatched. Other aid has been provided though direct Rotary contacts which were in existence prior to the disaster.

This has given us the opportunity to demonstrate that Rotary is at work (not at lunch or as in our case, at dinner!!!!)

Bransgore Rotary decided to redirect its existing charitable funds. We have therefore sent £2000 to the Rotary Club of Patong Beach in Thailand, who will oversee the provision of longer term relief for orphans and widows in the disaster area; £1000 has gone to the Disasters Emergency Committee for immediate use in the disaster area and the remaining £1000 is being split between Shelterboxes and the provision of basic equipment such as fishing nets, so that the survivors in the effected regions are given back their livelihoods.

Regretfully our intended centenary project of ‘a village clock’ is to be rescheduled to the autumn and our donation to the ‘Thorney Hill Community Centre Association’ was made 'in principal only' - the money following when we’ve raised it!

To continue to help support similar local, national and international causes, Bransgore Rotary continues its busy programme of fund raising activities. These include the Annual Boxing Evening on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2005 to be held at Bashley Park and presented by the St. Lawrence Boys Club. Our annual Golf Day at Dibden Purlieu on 29<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **BRANSGORE YOUTH PROJECT**

We have now been successful in obtaining from the Local Network Fund for 2 years for the Bransgore Youth Project which will have its first meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> April, so look out for posters and flyers advertising nearer the date giving details of place and time, etc. The Project will meet weekly and we hope to employ a qualified Youth Worker who will be assisted by volunteer parents on a rota basis. Please do support this initiative which is much needed in the village.

In the meantime we held a Valentine's Disco at the Village Hall on 16<sup>th</sup> February which was attended by some 70 youngsters. It was a great evening and the numbers attending reaffirmed our commitment to providing a meeting place and activities for our young people.

**For further information, please phone Stella on 674207**

### **BRANSGORE YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB**

As I write this newsletter many of the teams have either finished their season or are near to doing so and I would like to congratulate all those who survived another season, especially the Managers! It is a really satisfying feeling coming to the end of another season.

As for my team, the Under 14's, they excelled in the Bournemouth Cup this year reaching the Semi-Finals for the first time in the Club's history. They deserved to go all the way to the final and were only narrowly beaten by a team competing for honours at the top of the division above that of Bransgore.

I would like to wish a farewell to the Under 16's Manager, Geoff Palmer, who has taken his lads to the end of their term with the juniors. Some will now filter into the senior teams. In fact, Luke Stubbington has already made that switch and is making a great impression in the third team under the guidance of our Chairman, Keith Wheeler. The exchange of skills and help between the Youth and Seniors continues with Dan and Will Stones still assisting in training and with Matt Parker not just helping with training but also helping in the capacity as Ref and Assistant Ref. In return, the Seniors get fanatic support from the Youth even on the coldest of Sunday mornings.

Russell Beardsmore and the ever present Matt Parker also continue to bring AFC Bournemouth training days to the village, which is a great advert for the Community.

So far this year, the pitches have held up well. This has been helped by the weather and the careful way that the Seniors and the Youth have looked after the pitches. Let's hope that it lasts to the end of the season.

I mentioned in the last newsletter how we are always looking for sponsorship and next season will be no different. I was asked after the last newsletter, "how much"? Great question. Normally we look for a figure of £500.00 to be a shirt sponsor but this is not a hard and fast rule. If you wish to sponsor the

training jackets this would be nearer £250.00 depending on the size of the squad involved. If you are interested, then please contact Lyn Wheeler on 01425 674462.

While on the matter of a certain Mrs Wheeler, I couldn't end the letter without a special mention to her for all her hard work throughout the whole of the season. She keeps the Club running smoothly and more than anyone else in the Club really realises. She just deals with the problems thrown at her by many sections of the Community and the Football Association and believe me they are never nice problems to deal with. Thanks again, Lyn, from all the Players and Staff - there would be no Youth Football in Bransgore without you.

ARF SCAIFE

Press Secretary

### **NEW MILTON AND DISTRICT BRANCH**

Once again some kind person has made his or her contribution to Lifeboat Funds by stealing the box, this time from The Crown.

On Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Coffee Morning to be held at the Resource Centre. There will be the usual stalls – souvenirs, cakes, books, etc. REMEMBER ELLEN MacARTHUR and make it a bumper morning.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

01425 274686

### **BRANSGORE METHODIST CHURCH**

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

Once more we are approaching Spring, the lighter nights and the joys of the early flowers and the growth of nature are with us. Easter is early this year, and it seems but a short time since we were rejoicing in the Birth of our Lord and Saviour.

By the time you read this, we shall be well into Lent, that time when we prepare for the sadness of Our Lord's Passion and ultimately, His Death on the Cross, followed by the Glorious Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Once again, we shall be listening to the age-old Gospel story and singing the Easter hymns of which we never tire. "Christ the Lord is Risen Today, Alleluia" – What a joyous hymn with which to greet the Risen Lord, and we welcome you all to join us in our Easter worship – we invite young and old to share in our services – we would love to see you!

On Good Friday, we shall hold a Meditation in the afternoon – please check the time - and our Sunday services will be at 10.30 am and 7 pm. Sunday School takes place at 10.30 am – children of all ages are most welcome.

We send our love to you all in the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### **Social Events**

Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 pm in the Church Hall

**Beetle Drive with Fish and Chip Supper** £5.50 (or £2.50 without supper)

Booking essential – please contact Jean Pearson (01425 673122)

Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30 am in the Church Hall

**Jumble Sale** – Entrance 50p to include Coffee and Biscuits

Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June at 7.30 pm in the Church Hall

**Quiz and Ploughman's Supper**

Booking essential – please contact Jean Pearson (01425 673122)

All profits from these event for Church Funds.

Why don't you come and join in our fun? We shall enjoy your company – we are a happy and welcoming crowd!!

ARNOLD MASON  
Bransgore 672788

**THORNEY HILL & BRANSGORE WI**

**President: Mrs Mavis Bennett**

Fifty one members and six guests celebrated the culmination of a very successful year on 1<sup>st</sup> December at the Christmas party. The speaker on this special occasion was Mrs Appleby, who entertained everyone with her “Christmas Capers”, jokes, amusing poems, a quiz and songs, in which the audience participated with their usual noisy expressions of enjoyment – all great fun. Following this Father Christmas distributed presents to everyone and the 2004 Committee generously provided delicious sandwiches and cakes for tea.

Members gave a big round of applause for Pam Foulds who scored the most points in competitions during 2004.

Retiring President, Vera Murray, was presented with a basket of flowers in recognition of her five very successful years in office. Flowers were also given to Committee members Shirley Bates and Pam Moynihan in recognition of their contributions over many years as Committee members.

The Institute's first meeting of the New Year got off to a good start when Mavis Bennett welcomed two new members, the first of her many new duties as President of the Institute.

As the Institute's Village Project, a decision was taken by the members to give financial support towards the restructuring of Bransgore Primary School garden, a project being undertaken by parents and friends of the school.

As in much of Britain, discussion centered on the tsunami disaster. Like many people, members were eager to help and were invited to donate lightweight clothing and bedding in “ready to use” condition as laundering facilities are not available. The contact number is Brian on 07973156134.

Vera Murray has agreed to continue as the Institute's social secretary, a role she filled admirably during her recent presidency. With such an experienced social secretary, members look forward to an interesting, varied and enjoyable 2005.

In January our speaker was Kate Greenway, her subject “My Many Occupations”. Kate can transform what initially can seem to be the most unlikely material into an hilarious presentation, which was very well received.

On a fairly mild February day, it was again almost a full house with fifty three members and three guests attending the regular meeting. The noisy but very enjoyable pre-meeting chatter was brought to order by the President who welcomed the guests and introduced the business of the day. A reminder was given to members of the Spring Council Meeting, which will be held in the Portsmouth Guildhall on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. James Wight, son of the famous James Herriot, will be the main speaker on this occasion.

Our own Janet Cox was speaker this month – her Subject “The Air Ambulance”. Members were surprised to hear that the service largely relies on donations for funding an average of three flights daily at a cost of £2000 to £3000. Janet's talk was informative and very reassuring to hear that this valuable service is “alive and well” thanks to the hard work of many people.

Members also listened with great interest to Helen Bennett, a young resident of Bransgore, who will be leaving for Peru in May of this year. She will join a group of other young people on a sponsored trek to

Machu Picchu. All proceeds of the trek will go to Cancer Research. Good to hear that adventure and good causes can go hand in hand. We hope that on return Helen will be able to share some of her experiences with us.

The quiz continues to flourish; visitors are welcome to join in the fun of this fairly lightweight and definitely friendly quiz. Please refer to Diary of Events for dates.

Our meetings are held on the first Wednesday in the month starting at 2.15 pm at the Resource Centre. You would be very welcome to come and join us.

BARBARA MALONE Bransgore 672795

### **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 FRIENDSHIP CLUB**

The Friendship Club has entered its 31<sup>st</sup> year – so a big thank you to all the members, old and new, for supporting the Club.

2004 ended with a Christmas Lunch at the Avonmouth Hotel with 53 members enjoying a three course meal with coffee and mince pies, which was followed by the regular Christmas draw with so many lovely prizes. Thank you to Mary Melville and her helpers for all the hard work they put in. The last meeting was a Carol Concert with Joan Kimber at the piano, followed by tea and a present for everyone.

In spite of the very wet day for the first meeting of 2005, 50 members enjoyed a concert by the PEWITs. They are regulars at the Club coming every January for many years now. This time we were taken back to the war years with some 40s memories. Congratulations to Mavis and her merry band of players.

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.

ESTHER HARRIS Secretary 01425 673589

### **BRANSGORE AND DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

Bill Bowling, Secretary, 672875 Mike Burridge, Treasurer, 672900

In October we held our AGM, which was well attended in the light of the recent "Battle of the Carpenters Arms". One outstanding feature this year was that for the first time in more than 10 years the present committee opted to remain in place for the year ahead. In all other years we have had to sweet-talk people at the AGM to raise hands to indicate they would join the depleted committee. A thousand thanks to the committee members and to all at the meeting who supported them.

Our first Open Meeting of the year was held at the Community Church on Monday, 31st January. Over 40 people attended and we were fascinated to listen to Rev. Peter Rickman, the new vicar of Bransgore

and Thorney Hill, on his chosen theme: The Church in the Community. Peter detailed the difficulties which the Church faces in modern Britain, but also outlined some of the ways in which an increasing gap could be lessened. Our next Open Meeting: Monday, 11 April.

Aircraft Noise over Bransgore. We were pleased to receive an article from Ian Foulston relating to the continued problem of Aircraft flying over the village, and felt it should be made known to the public. It is a lengthy article so we will display it for three weeks on the Association Notice Board by the Post Office.

BILL COTTON Chairman 673261

## **6<sup>th</sup> CHRISTCHURCH (BRANSGORE) SCOUT GROUP**

### **Beavers**

This has been a very exciting period with many interesting activities. We have been making lots of highly original and colourful thumb pictures. We really do have some talented young artists within the colony. We have learnt how to pitch a tent and what to take in readiness for the move to Cubs. We joined forces with the Cubs and attended the Pantomime, Alibaba and the Forty Thieves at Twynham. The boys loved it.

LESLEY MANLEY Beaver Leader 672667

### **Cubs**

Another busy term with a packed programme. We are very proud of the boys who retained the District Scrap Heap Challenge. This is the second year that they have won the event. They now go on to represent the District at the County competition. We wish them good luck. This term we have been focussing on the Fitness Zone of our training programme. We had a pancake evening which was very popular, and enjoyed our trip to the Pantomime with the Beavers.

We joined the Scouts on the visit to Osmington Activity Centre where many new and exciting activities were on offer. We are currently planning and looking forward to our May Bank Holiday Camp at Harry's Island.

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 term.

Ginny Hebden (Akela) 01425 674721 Trudi Butcher (Chil) 01425 672830

### **Scouts**

We have had many new members join the troop over recent months, and the troop is now very young. We competed in the five a side football competition and were very pleased to come 3<sup>rd</sup>. This was against teams with much older boys. This bodes well for subsequent years. We took part in the District Cooking Competition, and although not winning, again have learnt a lot for next year.

We have had a number of patrol challenges which require a lot of thought and ingenuity which have been solved by the patrols. One took another troop all 3 hours to solve, but was solved by ours in 10 minutes. We have been working on our map reading skills in readiness for the District Night Hike, and enjoyed an orienteering morning one Saturday, organised by Simon Whipple, one of the parents.

24 of the boys enjoyed the trip to Osmington Activity Centre, where the activities range from Abseiling, Mountain wall climbing, Archery, Quad Bikes etc! Very much an action packed weekend.

MIKE MANLEY Scout Leader 672667

### **Scout Hut and Ann's Lodge Hire**

Both our halls are proving to be popular venues for all the community to hold events. For enquiries and to make a booking please contact Liz Holroyd on 01425 673398

### **And finally a message from our Group Scout Leader**

As can be seen from the above reports, we have a thriving Scout group which is providing a challenging and interesting programme of activities for the young boys of the village. A great deal of effort is put in by all the leaders and helpers to make this possible. All the leaders and helpers are

volunteers. We could always do with more help; even just 2 hours a week or once a month would be welcome, either with the committee, looking after the finances and infrastructure of the group, or with the individual sections. If you would be interested, or like more information, please give me a call.  
GRAHAM PEDDER Group Scout Leader 01425 672914

### **BRANSGORE PROBUS CLUB**

Once again our December meeting was a light hearted affair heralding the start of the Christmas holiday. As usual we entertained our ladies and hopefully a happy time was had by all. Our speaker was Kate Greenaway, a delightful Irish lady with a great sense both of humour and the ridiculous. Her act – for act it was – was very educational. Her 47 jobs gave her a good base to work on.

Our first talk of the New Year was by Alma Bostock – the wife of a wartime Spitfire pilot. Alma's husband was shot down over the Pas de Calais and managed to escape eventually over the Pyrenees into Spain and then to England by way of Gibraltar. All this raised a very strong desire in Alma to fly in a Spitfire, a desire which was eventually fulfilled.

Our February talk was by one of our own – John Hughes. He reminded us of the life story of Horatio Nelson and his part in the defeat of Napoleon by the Royal Navy.

PROBITY II

### **BRANSGORE THEATRE GROUP**

We closed 2004 with a most enjoyable visit to The Lighthouse, Poole, when we were entertained by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and their presentation of The Last Night of the Christmas Proms, which set the mood for the festive season.

January 2005 saw approximately 80 members journey to Salisbury Playhouse for a production of Noel Coward's "Relative Values", which was voted "the best yet!" It reinforced the view that Coward was a master of acerbic wit. He fully understood the art of poking fun at the relationship between a mother and her son's intended wife, and enabled the audience to draw parallels with their own experiences. We all recognised the humour inherent in what can often be a difficult situation.

In a totally different, but nevertheless in an equally perspicacious vein, "Journey's End" brought home the useless waste and horror of war. The author had himself served in the trenches in 1914-18 and drew first hand on the tensions and emotions experienced. When first written the play was thought unpalatable for an audience so close to the conflict, but in time it received worldwide acclaim and has only very recently concluded a long run in the West End.

We are now looking forward to Tom Stoppard's "Inspiration of Love" on 7<sup>th</sup> March followed by "Arsenic and Old Lace".

Our Group continues to flourish, so much so that for the moment we are placing a restraint on new membership until we can assess the situation – our problem being that small numbers in excess of 54 (1 coach) are difficult to cater for.

Our loyal band of representatives deserve a special mention and they are :- Joan and Bryan Skyrme, Rob and Jean Pearson, Austin Alden, Barbara Challen, Ernie Stokes, David Hargreaves, Penny Bates and Reg Eaton (who continues to exercise wise counsel), Bryan Skyrme who designs and prints our

most attractive circular and Alisdair Murray, our banker and provider of financial services. Thanks to all.

LESLIE SEWELL

Hon. Secretary 01425 674026.

### **BRANSGORE EVENING TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD**

Many thanks to all those ladies from the village and beyond who made our Fashion Show at the Resource Centre on 2<sup>nd</sup> February such a success. We were entertained with a catwalk show of 'superior' clothes donated to the local Oakhaven Hospice shops by ladies aged from 16 to infinity, accompanied by three very dashing male escorts. These clothes and many others were then offered for sale. Much hilarity was caused when trying on the clothes, especially the vast assortment of hats. If anyone is going to a wedding and doesn't want to fork out on a hat to only wear once, give the hospice shop a try – most hats £5 each! We understand that the Hospice made a profit of nearly £400 from the sale of the clothes and the Guild raised £300 from ticket sales and the raffle for our charity of the year – First Opportunities Special Needs Playgroup in Ashley. It is hoped to have another fashion show in October in time to buy your party outfits.

The Guild continues to meet on the fourth Monday in the month at 8 pm at the Resource Centre and new members are always welcome. The AGM will be held in March when we hope to hand over a cheque to First Opportunities and then meet the new vicar of St Mary's. Later in the year will be a talk entitled 'A Diplomat's Lot', a talk about the New Forest and in June an account of an expedition to South America. Watch the notice board outside the post office for more information.

Anyone requiring further details, please contact MELISSA SHEPPARD (Chairman) on 674065.

### **BRANSGORE FLOWER CLUB**

Our first meeting of the year on the 27<sup>th</sup> January was a demonstration by Jill Deeley entitled "Contrasts". In the five lovely floral arrangements, colour, texture and design all lived up to the title of Jill's demonstration. It was an enjoyable afternoon to start the New Year programme.

At our workshop in February, members will have made an Easter Wreath under the tuition of Vere De Menezes. Also that month a team will have taken part in the Highcliffe Castle flower festival "Retreat from Winter". Their exhibit "Children's Corner" was staged in the drawing room. Our Junior Flower Club "The Bransgore Beechnuts", under the guidance of their founder Pat Clark, will also have contributed to the exhibit. They have been busy at their meetings making pieces from plant material to form a giant jigsaw puzzle – Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary.

**There are now eleven budding flower arrangers in the Junior Club, which was formed last year. Any girl or boy interested in joining would be most welcome. The Junior Club meets on the second Thursday in the month from 3.30 pm – 4.30 pm at the Resource Centre.**

Our first fundraising event this year is a Flower and Craft Exhibition/Coffee Morning being held on Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> March at the Resource Centre from 10.30 am – 12.30 pm. Members will be exhibiting a variety of crafts they have made, complemented by flower arrangements. The Juniors' jigsaw puzzle will also be on display. Some items will be for sale, plus flower and cake stalls.

March 24<sup>th</sup> is our AGM meeting and in April we look forward to a demonstration by Anne Neal entitled "Here comes Spring".

Diary Dates

April 28<sup>th</sup>

Anne Neal – Demonstrator "Here comes Spring"

May 26<sup>th</sup> Outing to Wilton House  
June 23<sup>rd</sup> Anne Syrad – Demonstrator “Changing Times”  
July 21<sup>st</sup> Garden Party  
August No meeting  
September 22<sup>nd</sup> Dodie Stevens – Demonstrator “Great Expectations”

A warm welcome awaits new members and guests at our meeting which are held on the fourth Thursday in the month at 2 pm at the Resource Centre, Ringwood Road, Bransgore.

MARGO CROUC Chairman 01425 672612

## **THE CHILDREN’S HOSPICE, NAOMI HOUSE**

My 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 and whiskey bottle.

Thank you to all who visited our stalls at both the St Mary’s Church Fair and the School Christmas Fair. Thanks too to Jo Jo’s Hairdressers and Harlequin for selling our “Flashing Badges”. They were very popular. Thanks Julie and Glen.

The *NAOMI HOUSE* Shop has opened in the Sovereign Centre, Boscombe and is worth a visit. If anyone has items they would like to donate, please let me know and I’ll arrange collection. We can take furniture, electrical goods, as well as good clothes and saleable bric-a-brac. We are collecting MILK BOTTLE TOPS and USED PRINTER CARTRIDGES. PLEASE SAVE THEM AND RING ME.

We are Raffling a new “SMART” car which can be seen at the Carpenter’s Arms and Christchurch Market. Tickets are £1 and there are other good prizes too.

SHIRLEY TOBIAS

Bransgore 673078

## **Bransgore C/E Primary School** **Creativity Project**

Our school has been identified as a successful school in the delivery of creative arts and has received a small grant from Hampshire County Council to further develop creativity in the county.

One result has been working alongside Bournemouth Arts Institute to support their Elephant Festival held on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March. This included a multicultural arts and dance project involving all our children.

By the end of the summer term we aim to further develop our outside environment. This has already been enhanced due to the generosity and support of the Bransgore School Association with improvements in the front playground.

We are looking forward to an exciting whole school ‘Talking Heads’ with 3D outside sculpture being our main focus.

We look forward to sharing our work with the community and are hoping to have an open day in the summer.

If anybody can support us in providing gardening materials and labour please contact Ian Swain, Assistant Head, on 01425-672272.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Ian Swain, Nikki Pollitt and Diane Graves

The Creativity Team

## **FRIENDS OF THE NEW FOREST AIRFIELDS**

Registered Charity No. 106 36 48

[www.winkton.net/fonfa.htm](http://www.winkton.net/fonfa.htm)

### **LOCAL AVIATION HISTORY FAIR**

One of the objectives of the Friends of the New Forest Airfields is to help anyone with an interest in the history of the New Forest Airfields to develop that interest. We have our web site, we speak to local organisations and we plan to produce and issue a CD Rom to local junior schools with information relevant to the local history portion of the Key Stage 2 History curriculum. We have a longer-term ambition to have an interpretation centre that would act as a source for research.

In accordance with our Charity's stated obligations, we are organising an educational activity in the form of a Local Aviation History Fair. It will take place on 20<sup>th</sup> March. The owners of Merryfield Park have offered to host the event. Exhibitors will include aviation enthusiasts' groups, local history and field study groups with a known interest in aviation, authors, artists, veterans, museums and modellers.

JOHN LEVESLEY  
Secretary, FONFA

## **Stepping Stones Pre School of Sopley**

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

## **BRANSGORE CRICKET CLUB - YOUTH**

The indoor season is now over. The Under 11 side won two and lost two games but did not qualify for the knock out stages; however, their strong showing bodes well for the outdoor season. The Under 13 squad enjoyed an excellent season but lost in the quarter finals, as did the Under 16 side. The Under 15 teams found success difficult to come by but can only improve in the summer.

Indoor nets have already started in the Cricket Centre at Hurn. We have two nets booked from 6.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. every Tuesday night until the end of April. The first hour is for the Under 11 and Under 13 squads and the second hour is for the Under 15 and Under 17 squads. The colts practise on Wednesday nights from 9.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. along with the adult squad. Outdoor nets and training sessions will be announced later in the spring.

The club A.G.M. is booked for Friday 18th March in the back room of “The Carpenters’ Arms” starting at 8.15 p.m. If your son or daughter plays for the Club, please make every effort to attend.

### **This summer we will be running the following youth teams: -**

<u>Squad</u>		<u>Play On</u>
Under 10	-	Sunday mornings
Under 11	-	Saturday mornings
Under 13	-	Saturday mornings
Under 15/16	-	Monday evenings
Under 17	-	Thursday evenings
Colts		Saturday afternoons

Seasons will commence in May. In addition, a side has been entered into the Wimborne evening league to play on Wednesday evenings to give a chance for lads too old for the youth squads to experience competitive cricket.

The colts will again be playing on Saturday afternoons in the Hampshire League and will also be combining with the adults to play a number of Sunday afternoon friendly matches.

The skittle evening held on February 19<sup>th</sup> was a great success and our next social event will be a quiz night to be held in May – please watch out for publicity.

If your child would like to play for one of the above teams, please contact me on the number below.

Dave Lay - Bransgore 673242 or e-mail lay\_dj@btopenworld.com

## **BRANSGORE CRICKET CLUB – ADULT**

The Club's first foray into indoor cricket, in the New Forest Indoor league, has been great fun if not entirely successful. The older members struggled with the speed and physicality of the game but we managed to win two games.

Indoor nets have commenced and take place from 9.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. every Wednesday night until the end of April at the Cricket Centre. A decision has been made to merge the adult and youth cricket clubs and with this in mind, the adult A.G.M. will precede the junior A.G.M. at 7.45 p.m. on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> March in "The Carpenter's Arms". Please will all members make every effort to attend?

The adults will again be playing on Saturday afternoons in the Hampshire League and will also be playing a number of Sunday afternoon friendlies.

If you have just come into the village or used to play and would like to play cricket again please feel free to contact Richard Jones on 673880 or Dave Lay on 673242. We look forward to welcoming you.

### **BRANSGORE COMMUNITY CHURCH**

When I was writing the last article for the Newsletter it was all tinsel and glitter in the shops but these have now been replaced by eggs and bunnies so it must be spring, with Easter just around the corner! Eggs and bunnies are a wonderful picture of God because it portrays a God that isn't mean with his creating but loves to create in abundance (just like the bunnies!). If we take time to look at what's around us we can see that God doesn't do anything by half – he didn't create just a few stars - he made billions of them! Flowers, birds animals, fish, and plants fill the earth just because our God is a God of plenty and abundance.

This time of the year we see the abundance of God everywhere as new life is springing up all around us.

This is a true story speaking about new life. Stephen was eight years old and it was obvious that his mental retardation was becoming even more severe. His Sunday school teacher did her best to include Stephen in the classroom activities and to avoid situations which might prompt his classmates to make fun of him.

In March, she gave each of the eight children in the class an empty plastic egg and instructed them to place inside the container an object that represented new life in spring. Fearing that Stephen might not have caught on, and not wanting to embarrass him, the teacher had the children place all the containers on the desk so that she could open them.

The first had a tiny flower in it. "What a lovely sign of new life," said the teacher. One of the students couldn't help but erupt, "I brought that one!"

Next came a rock. The teacher assumed this must be Stephen's, since rocks don't symbolize new life. But Billy shouted that his rock had moss on it, and moss represented new life. "Very good, Billy," agreed the teacher.

A butterfly flew from the third container and another child bragged that her choice was the best of all. The fourth container was empty. This must be Stephen's, thought the teacher, quickly reaching for a different one.

"Teacher, please don't skip mine," interrupted Stephen.

"But its empty, Stephen." said the teacher gently.

"That's right," said Stephen. "The tomb was empty, and that represents new life for everyone."

Later that summer, Stephen's condition worsened and he died. At his funeral on his casket, mourners found eight plastic eggs containers - one from each of his classmates - and all of them empty.

This story reminds us that the God who loves to create abundant new life wants us to experience the hope which new life can bring. By becoming a man and entering our world he was showing how serious he was about making it possible for us to have that new life and have it to the full.

In the story above Stephen recognised that the empty tomb meant that Jesus had defeated death and that by following him we too can share with him in the new life that he promises.

If you are able to come to any of our services (at our church in Shackleton Square) over the Easter period we would love to give you a warm welcome.

25<sup>th</sup> March Good Friday 10.30am (Quiet meditative service)

27<sup>th</sup> March Easter Sunday 10.30am (All age service)

After Easter on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm, Paul Jones (ex Manfred Mann) and his wife Fiona will be performing at BCC, singing some of their latest material and sharing with us some of their life story. If you would like to come along and listen to them please contact Lesley Perkins 01425 672160 to reserve a seat.

Then on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May 7.30 – we are beginning a five week spiritual discovery course called “Journeys”. This will be an informal discussion time with a video presentation preceded by a complimentary meal. If you would like to attend please contact Phil Cole 01425 673245

Have a great summer and enjoy the abundance of weather that we’ll get!

PHIL COLE  
Church Leader

## **FRIENDS OF SOPLEY**

### **Thank you from Friends of Sopley School – Summer Fete**

Another “thank you” from Friends of Sopley School to all in Bransgore parish who came along and supported the Sopley Primary School Fete in June. As in years gone by a mammoth effort by the children, staff, parents and friends of Sopley School has enabled the school to continue with the children’s outdoor teaching and environmental areas. In addition, new sports equipment is to be purchased shortly – basketball and netball hoops and nets for the after-school activities.

Notice then that the 2005 Summer Fete will be on **Saturday 25 June at 1pm** and will be the school’s 30<sup>th</sup> as it all started in 1976. As mentioned before, the editor of this very newsletter, Jane Safe, organised the first fete which sadly turned out to be held on the only wet Saturday in that long hot summer; hence a marquee has been hired ever since! The 1976 Summer Fete was though a great success as the grand sum of £230 was raised. Being the 30<sup>th</sup> year, we are hoping to hear from some of you – are you a former pupil or member staff who would like to contribute to a ‘memory stall’? We have in mind to put up photographs, newspaper articles and other memorabilia for people to view during the fete (in the marquee) looking back over the entire history of the school, not just the past 30 years. Please do get in touch with me with your ideas – telephone 674204.

The 2005 programme is coming together - along with a welcome return by the (original) Plonkers and Ivo the Clown, planned arena events include a dog agility display, judo display as well as the traditional Maypole dance. And last but by no means least, if you saw the aerial display last year you’ll be sure to want to come along and see a repeat performance this year! Fund raising this year is now confirmed as being to completely upgrade the ICT (computer) suite for the children.

COLLINS

ANNE

## **Jack and Jill Pre-School**

Bransgore Village Hall, Burley Road, Christchurch, Dorset, BH23 8AY

Tel:01425 673903 Registered 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)

We are now open for 3 afternoon sessions as well:

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 also have regular visits from a Ringwood Librarian.

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

### Dates for your diary:

- |                                   |                                    |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 80's Adults Disco at Village Hall | - Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> March  |
| Trip to Longdown Dairy Farm       | - Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> March |
| Easter Egg Hunt                   | - Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> March  |
| Summer term begins                | - Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> April    |

## **PROJECT RUSOVA**

Last May Bank Holiday we had our first stall at a Bransgore Fun Day, even though it was in the rain the event was well attended and £128 was raised for the project. This total came both from the sale of goods and from receipts on the Skittle Alley run by the Bransgore Community Church who are major supporters of our work.

Almost immediately after the Fun Day a team made the trip to Romania and by the time we will be holding this year's Fun Day event a further two trips will have been made.

Each trip, though different, has its similarities, every journey is the same (about 1500 miles each way) but every border crossing is different (we never know if we will be waved through or have to empty the

van for a thorough investigation – over the past 15 years we have experienced both!). Every trip varies in the type of goods we are carrying for the villagers, clinic, hospital, schools etc. but the response is always the same – one of extreme gratitude.

One of our main focuses during the past three or four years is the sponsorship scheme that we have running for under privileged village children to have a high school education. This scheme started by ‘accident’ when we had the request to help one boy with his transport cost to school – then he went on to university and we raised a number of sponsors to pay for his accommodation / food / travel costs etc. for his four years of advanced study. Currently we are supporting a total of eleven children through high school and know of a further three who need sponsorship from September.

Any money made at this year’s Fun Day will go towards the support of the project in the five Romanian villages that run along the border and have affectionately become known as ‘our villages’.

For more information please call Brian or Christine on 672495, but please make sure you pay us a visit on our stand alongside the skittle alley run by the Community Church on May 2nd.

## **BRANSGORE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

### **February Lecture – Winter into Spring**

It wasn’t quite Spring when Tim Lowndes of MacPennys entertained us as only he can, with his excellent talk to a packed house, but as he said, “The plants seem to think it is and dozens of them are flowering weeks earlier than normal. Beware when the frost comes as it could yet do”. How fortunate we are to have such a wealth of plant knowledge on our doorstep! And Tim is always happy to advise on anything to do with plants, siting, soil requirements, diseases, etc. I had always wondered why the nursery name “MacPennys” doesn’t have an apostrophe, well Tim explained why that was in his little interesting potted history of its origin. Why don’t you ask next time you go there.

### **SpringEvents**

Winter with its short days and long nights has gone. Hurrah! At least I hope that by the time you read this it will be well and truly behind us and at last we can joyfully sing out the words from the well known song “It’s Spring, Spring, Spring!” And to celebrate this wonderful season we have planned a really full programme of events for the next three months. Three lectures, the Spring Show and Plant Sale plus a three day visit to gardens in Kent.

### **The Lectures are ....**

April 7<sup>th</sup> ‘Roses’ by Tom McKinley, a member of BBC’s Top Soil team

June 2<sup>nd</sup> ‘The Fascination of Herbs’ by Ann March, who returns to give us another glimpse into the remarkable world of herbs

### **THE SPRING SHOW – April 9<sup>th</sup>. Village Hall**

This year’s show is a week or so later than usual so we will have a little more time to prepare our exhibits. Don’t forget, there is an entry class for every flower and shrub in your garden plus all the Homecraft classes for cooking, photography, art and handicraft. There is also a floral art section and a junior section. A class, we hope, for every interest and a jolly good event (whether exhibiting or not) at which to meet your friends and neighbours for a pleasant cuppa and a chat in the refreshment area whilst awaiting the presentation of awards at 3 pm. The staging of exhibits is from 9 am. To 10.30 am. By the way, the titles for the photographs are – ‘A Means of Transport’ (6” x 4” max. unmounted), and ‘Wild Things’ (12” x 8” max. mounted). We hope to see you there. JIM DUDLEY

Publicity Officer 673202