

No. 124

SPRING 2007

BRANSGORE NEWSLETTER

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

BRANSGORE PARISH COUNCIL

I sometimes think that being a Parish Councillor is a bit like the weather we are having. One minute the sunshine is out and all is well within the Parish, the next minute a little shower of simple problems occur and then out of the blue, a concern which knocks the village like a bolt of lightning.

To start with some sunshine. Please make a note of "The Grand Village Quiz" being held in the village hall on the first Wednesday in September, Jane Safe, the Quizmaster, or should that be Quizlady, will make sure that our brains are given a good workout.

The Parish is also holding a competition to name a new close in the village. You maybe aware that Western Challenge is building affordable housing behind Merrick Close. If you would like to enter please do so before June 1st, just drop your suggestion into the Parish office or send a letter/e-mail.

Now a little shower. Unfortunately we seem to be losing some of our mature trees, this sad affair, which spoils the character of our Parish seems to be happening more and more. If you have concerns or would like to try to protect trees near you or on your property please contact New Forest District Council and ask if it is possible to put on a tree preservation order.

Now the thunderbolt Well lets not spoil it, sometimes no matter how hard we try, nature will do it's own thing.

Finally, if you would like to be a Parish councillor please remember the May election (see page 3 for details)

Ann Hickman, Chairman.

Council Meetings

1st Tuesday Planning

2nd Tuesday Amenities

3rd Tuesday Parish Council

(The above meetings are not held in August, unless there is urgent business)

All held in the new Small Hall at the Village Hall, as is

4th Tuesday Community Plan - Your wishes for the future of Your Village

Changes to Newsletter. The newsletter has grown considerably in size and cost. The

Council are now seeking a new editorial team and to update their lists of contributors. Please contact the Clerk with your name and contact details if you can offer help.

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Councillors for the Bransgore and Burley Ward can be contacted on the following numbers

Peter Greenfield	01425 654358
John Penwarden	01425 673637

Bransgore School Association News

For anyone unfamiliar with the Bransgore School Association, we are the parent body of Bransgore Primary School. We raise funds for the school through organized events and smaller fun activities. We aim to hold one main fundraising family event every quarter.

The BSA Fireworks Night at the Three Tuns was an excellent show and well-attended by school families and the community. The School Christmas Fair was also a great success, complete with mystery Santa in his grotto, mulled wine and mince pies, and a secret room for children to shop. We would like to thank all those who helped organize and run these events and to everyone who came along to support the school.

We have been able to help finance several recent projects for the school including digital cameras, homelink maths games and colourful playground benches.

BSA/ School Diary dates:

Thursday 29th March, School Music Concert, St. Mary's Church, 3.30-4.15pm - Come along to hear the choirs, recorders and soloists

Monday 7th May, BSA supporting the Village May Fair with stalls

Saturday 7th July, School Summer Fair, 1.00-4.00pm

If you would like any further information on the BSA, would like to hold a stall at our Summer Fair or would like to help in any way, please contact Mrs Mayall at school, on (01425) 672272. We look forward to seeing you at one of our events. Many thanks for your support.

Alison Mayall - BSA Chair

Bransgore Primary School Newsletter

I believe this is the first time the school has placed an article in the Bransgore Newsletter and the pace of school life makes it hard to know what, or what not to include.

Firstly, a big thanks to those who attended the Christmas fair. Once again the Bransgore School Association managed to raise a large sum of money to support our school. It was fantastic to see so many parents and pupils of the past adding their support. Recent funding has improved the school grounds, purchased digital cameras and helped set up a library of maths games for children to play at home.

The school has just achieved a sports "Activemark" in recognition of the emphasis we place on Physical Education at school. We were delighted with this, particularly as we were nominated by the New Forest Sports Partnership.

Golden Time on Friday afternoons, a reward to children for keeping the Golden Rules, is proving

very popular. There is an enormous variety of activities for children to choose from. Parents and friends of the school have put in a huge amount of hard work to make learning fun. If you have an expertise or interest you would like to share with children on Friday afternoons please phone Mr Revell, our Deputy Headteacher, (01425 672272).

Reading skills at school are going from strength to strength and again we thank volunteers from the St Mary's Reading Well who listen to and support our young readers.

Events at the school in 2007 include;

Music Concert at St Mary's - Thursday 29th March 3.30-4.15

Summer Fair - Saturday 7th July 1.00-4.00

Christmas Fair – Saturday 8th December 1.00-4.00

Thank you once again to the community for supporting Bransgore Primary School.

Ian Swain – Assistant Headteacher.

DIARY OF EVENTS

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

MARCH

- 17th Jack and Jill Bingo Night- St Mary's Resource Centre 7.30pm
- 20th Friendship Club - Mystery Tour, Cream Tea
- 22nd Bransgore Flower Club - AGM followed by "Pot Luck"
- 24th Has been designated Clean-up Day. Do your bit for Bransgore Parish.
- 26th Townswomen's Guild - AGM
- 27th Friendship Club - Joan Kimber - Music & song
- 28th Bransgore Croquet Club -Open Evening in the cricket pavilion, opposite the Village Hall 7.00
- 29th School Music Concert, St. Mary's Church, 3.30-4.15pm – Come along to hear the choirs, recorders and soloists
- 31st Horticultural Society - Spring Show at the Village Hall, Burley Road 2.00pm

APRIL

- 4th Bransgore & Thorney Hill W.I Speaker Roger Sired- NFDC Recycling
- 5th Bransgore Horticultural Society - lecture "The Countryside Through The Seasons" by David Poynter. 7.30p.m. NOTE QHANGED VENUE - for this lecture only at the Community Centre, Thorney Hill.
- 17th Bransgore Parish Annual Assembly. Small Hall, Village Hall, 7.30pm.
- 21st The Parkinson's Party (everyone invited)The Resource Centre 4.30 - 7.30
- 23rd Townswomen Guild- Barber Surgeon – Mr McCreadie
- 26th Bransgore Flower Club - Demonstration by Eileen Witt - "In the beginning".

MAY

- 2nd Bransgore & Thorneyhill W.I - Resolutions
- 3rd. Elections for all Councillors in the Parish & District take place
- 4th & 5th Bransgore Horticultural Society - Plant Sale - Village Hall.
- 7th Bransgore and District Rotary Club - Fun Day
- 8th The Lunch Club - AGM will take place at 7.00 p.m. at Ann's Lodge.
- 11th Bransgore Youth Cricket annual Quiz night takes place in the Village Hall.
- 15th Bransgore Parish Council Annual Meeting. Small Hall, Village Hall, 7.30pm.
- 21st Townswomens Guild - Beach Party – Friars Cliff
- 24th Bransgore Flower Club - Fun afternoon - In-house Workshop ""Ready Steady Orange"

June

1st to 3rd Bransgore Horticultural Society - Three Day Visit to some gardens of Cornwall
 6th Bransgore & Thorneyhill W.I Speaker Dr D Brown - Healthy Ageing.
 7th Bransgore Horticultural Society - Lecture "Drought Gardening and Recycling in the Garden" by
 Kelvin Mason. 7.30 p.m. at the Resource Centre, Ringwood Road.
 16th A Coffee morning will be held at 10.30 a.m. at Herons Gate (opposite the shopping parade) in aid
 of First Response.
 26th Bransgore Friendship Club - The annual rose show
 27th Bransgore and District Rotary Club - Charity Golf Day

St Marys and All Saints Churches

PS EASTER 2007 SUNDAY APRIL 8TH 10am St Mary's – A celebration of Life and Love!

HOLY WEEK 2007

April 1st Palm Sunday :- 8am St Mary's Holy Communion BCP 9am All Saints Holy Communion BCP
 10am St Mary's The Liturgy of the Palms A Service of Holy Communion & reading of the Passion Narrative.
 Monday in Holy Week:- 10am St Mary's Quiet Holy Communion
 Tuesday in Holy Week:- 10am – 4pm St Mary's Church PARISH QUIET
 Wednesday in Week:- 10am St Mary's Holy Communion
 Thursday in Holy Week:- 11am The Chrism Eucharist- A Service of Holy Communion for the people of
 Diocese of Winchester in Winchester Cathedral.
 6pm St Mary's Resource Centre PASSOVER SUPPER & Holy
 Communion.

Followed by an hour's Maundy Watch in church.

GOOD FRIDAY 10am – 12 noon GOOD FRIDAY WORKSHOP
 CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BRANSGORE THE WAY OF THE CROSS – A SERVICE FOR GOOD
 FRIDAY STARTS 2PM METHODIST CHURCH
 8pm St Mary's Church THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST A film by Mel Gibson
 Saturday in Holy Week 8pm St Mary's Church – THE FIRST LIGHT OF EASTER
 EASTER SUNDAY – HE IS RISEN! 8am St Mary's Holy Communion BCP 9am All Saints Holy Communion
 BCP 10am St Mary's ALL AGE HOLY COMMUNION

Parish Council Meetings

1st Tuesday - Planning 2nd Tuesday - Amenities 3rd Tuesday - Parish Council
 4th Tuesday Community Plan - Your wishes for the future of Your Village
 All held in the new Small Hall at the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

PARISH CLERK'S UPDATE.

Projects completed. The gate to the Village Hall Car Park was installed and has helped reduce anti-social behaviour substantially in this area. The cost of this was met by the Community Safety Strategy Group, who the Parish thank for their welcome contribution to the safety of the Parish.

Projects currently underway:- The Community Plan Steering Group are currently analysing the responses and drafting an action plan.

The slide and larger swings will be replaced this year.

Projects in the pipeline:- Lottery Funding for new play facilities through NFDC has been granted. These will be a skateboard/BMX park and a ball game area (to practice football, basketball, tennis) at the recreation ground. We are hope to top this up from developers funds to complete the project this year.

It is hoped to have two SIDs (Speed Indicator Devices). One by the school and one on Burley Road. The poles cost about £300 each. Bransgore Youth Football Club raised funds for the pole at the school, and BPC will fund the other.

On the Cricket Pavilion site we hope to provide cricket site screens, a cage for the football nets, and a fence to separate the different sports on site. The bulk of the cost to be met from Developer's funds.

The Probation Service is assisting with maintenance of the recreation grounds. The scheme allows Community Service workers to put something back into the community via unpaid work. The Parish Council would like to thank them for all their hard work. They have cleaned all around the recreation ground and removed heavy rubbish. They will be involved in painting play equipment, clearing the Pavilion site, and other works. They do not take work away from local contractors as the works are those that would not be done, or would be undertaken by the Hall Warden outside his normal hours.

Elections:- If anyone is interested in becoming a Councillor for the Parish please consider what you could offer the Parish in both time and expertise. If you wish to stand contact me, a councillor or NFDC for further information/application form. Further information from NFDC is on the opposite page. Some of our existing Councillors will not be restanding for election. Elections for all Councillors in the District take place on May 3rd.

Current office opening hours:- Monday and Friday 11am – 12.30pm, Tuesday and Thursday 9.30am – 11am. Phone enquiries for Hall Bookings 10am – 11am weekdays, except Wednesday. Requests for appointments and/or home visits by the Clerk or a Councillor should be made to the Clerk **Contact** :- Mrs S Clarke, Clerk, Village Hall, 116 Burley Road, Bransgore, BH23 8AY; Telephone: 01425 674155; e-mail council@bransgore-parish.gov.uk or visit our website www.bransgore-parish.gov.uk .

NEWSLETTER

Contributions for the **SUMMER 2007** issue of this Newsletter to Bransgore Parish Council by **MONDAY, 21st MAY** please. Entries can be hand-written (maximum 100 words), typed, on a disk or sent by e-mail (preferably as an attachment) to council@bransgore-parish.gov.uk In the case of a disk, it is helpful if you use Word, Times New Roman typeface and 12 font, enclosing a printed copy just in case the original cannot be read. Please make a note of this date and get your contributions in. Remember you don't have to wait for the last day.

Entries for the Diary of Events should **NOT** include dates in the first two weeks of **JUNE 2007** but should include those for the beginning of **SEPTEMBER 2007**. This is because there is sometimes quite a delay between production, printing and delivery. Sometimes this delay exceeds two weeks. The Diary of Events will be passed as soon as possible to the Parish Council to be included on its web site.

No charge is made for entries to the Newsletter, the cost of printing being met by the Parish Council, but regular contributing organisations are asked from time to time to nominate one of their members to help with delivery, which is all done by volunteers.

The object of the Newsletter is to keep all residents in the Parish aware of the various clubs and organisations which operate in the village. Unfortunately it is not possible to accept advertisements for commercial ventures. Letters are not usually included unless they are deemed to be of special interest or importance.

To the best of our knowledge the information in this newsletter was correct at the time of going to print. Details and further information can be confirmed with the organisation or venue concerned. Whilst every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information Bransgore Parish Council cannot accept liability for any errors, omissions or inaccurate information contained in this newsletter.

ELECTIONS 3 MAY 2007

Elections for all district and parish/town councillors in the New Forest District Council's area will take place on Thursday 3 May 2007. Polling stations will be open from 7.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m.

The poll card you will receive before polling day will give details of the polling station where you should vote.

A total of 60 District Councillors, representing 34 District Council wards, and about 350 parish and town councillors, representing all of the 37 parish and town councils in the District, are to be chosen.

Our parish falls within Bransgore & Burley District Ward. Our parish council comprises 10 members, and we have 2 District Council representatives.

All of the district councillors and parish/town councillors will formally retire in May and, even if they are willing to continue to serve, they have to put themselves forward for re-election. The closing date for nominations for anyone wishing to stand for election is noon on Wednesday 4 April 2007. If you are interested in standing for the District Council and would like some information, visit the District Council's website. You can also contact the District's Electoral Services on (023) 80285445. If you would like information about standing for the Parish Council please contact Mrs S Clarke, Clerk on 01425 674155.

To be able to vote at the elections you must be on the electoral register. To find out if you are registered telephone Electoral Services. If you are unable to get to a polling station on 3 May or would find it more convenient to vote by post, you can apply for a postal vote. You may also appoint someone (a "proxy") to vote on your behalf. Forms are available to download from the District Council's website, from any of the District Council's Information Offices or by telephoning Electoral Services. The deadline for applying for postal votes is 5 p.m. on 18 April, and proxy votes 5 p.m. on 25 April, but please apply as early as possible.

The next full Council elections will not be until 2011, so don't miss this opportunity to have a say in who represents you over the next four years.

Contacts: New Forest District Council's website:

www.newforest.gov.uk

New Forest District Council's Electoral Services:

Tel: (023) 8028 5381

E-mail:

electoralservices@nfdc.gov.uk

Bransgore Community Plan

New Forest District Council are funding a Community planning project to support local Parishes in producing an action plan for their local communities; based on what the residents would like to see improved in their village in the future. The Bransgore Parish Community Plan will consider all aspects of community life, identify the local issues and then develop an action plan based on the improvements that have been widely suggested. A Community Plan - Steering Group Committee has been formed, representative of the community and members were elected at a public meeting on 28 March 2006.

As Chairman, I make no apology for repeating the above paragraph from our article in the last Bransgore Newsletter, as there will be those who will be reading my reports perhaps for the first time.

The Community Plan resident's questionnaire has now been successfully collated. No less than 803 households sent back their completed questionnaires - a 44% response! This indicates the level of interest that residents have in supporting improvements within their village. The responses gave us valuable reaction to some of the solutions proffered on the various Community Action Network (CAN) topics. To recap, the topics were community safety, traffic management, the environment, transport, leisure, youth and older people's aspects and housing issues.

From the information gathered priorities are being identified which will form the basis for the construction of our Community Plan, which will include an action plan for the village. The Plan is on schedule for public viewing in the Spring.

I can reveal however at this stage that we received strong support for CCTV monitoring in the village centre and also a "blanket" 30mph speed limit throughout the village. The redevelopment of the Crown Inn crossroads was also very strongly supported.

Since we can only recommend the actions that you have supported sometimes the complexity of the topic in question demands that more detail must be sought before the final workable solution is discussed with experts. This was the case in the Transport and Leisure topics, when we will recommend that a detailed financial survey be conducted on our transport links and the options for improved leisure facilities.

There is a wealth of detail in the questionnaire results on all topics which will be reflected in our final

Community Plan which will have accompanying recommendations. These will be reviewed by the Lead persons representing each CAN topic within the New Forest District Council, and of course by our own Parish Council.

Your support has been magnificent! You have enabled the Steering Group Committee to identify a consensus of opinion; then form a Plan to help overcome perceived local difficulties. This will lead to an improvement in the quality of life in our village. Thank you! Douglas J Clare, Chairman, Community Plan Steering Group.

VILLAGE HALL USERS

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 been operating successfully for 30 years! The group caters for children aged from 2 yrs 9 mths up to school entry age.

[\[Obj\]](#)

* aimed at children starting school the following September.

- Registered with Ofsted (who compiled a positive report in October 2006 which can be viewed at www.ofsted.gov.uk).
- Government funding for children from 3 yrs
- Bi-annual visits **to** Bransgore Primary School to ease transitions for both parent and child
- Regular visits **from** foundation teachers of Bransgore Primary School
- Provisions for special needs
- Local outings and events
- Outside play (weather permitting)

Member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance who awarded us in October 2006 with an accreditation for achieving high standards of care and education for children under 5 years of age.

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.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO VISIT US ANY MORNING. ALTERNATIVELY PLEASE CONTACT OUR REGISTRATION SECRETARY, SAM DAY (01425 672983)

Bransgore & Ringwood "PLAY & AWAY"

TOY LIBRARY AND PLAY TIME

**Come in for a coffee, chat & play
then take your chosen toys away!**

Every 2nd & 4th Monday, am-12noon Bransgore Village Hall

Huge variety & selection of toys for babies & children of all ages.

ALL WELCOME TO JOIN!

Contact Jane Rickman 672327 for more info.

PILATES

I will be running Pilates classes in the Village hall on Thursdays mornings from the 19th April

2007 between 9.00am and 10.15am and 10.30am to 11.45am. Places are limited and must be booked in advance. Please contact Liz on 07763 115347.

Anyone wishing evening classes please give me a call.

TAE KWON DO

Classes for children on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Contact Gordon Fearn, 07970 951156.

Email: dorsettkd@aol.com. Website: www.dorsettkd.co.uk

BRANSGORE AND DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Spring seems to have arrived very early this year. Over the village we can see not just snowdrops, but daffodils, crocus and masses of camellias. It must make us all realize what a beautiful part of the country we live in and how lucky we are to be in a village such as Bransgore. With that thought in mind it is important that we all play our part in keeping this village as clean and safe as possible for all its residents.

Next month Saturday March 24th has been designated Clean-up Day. Some of you may already be involved with groups in the village, but it would be a good opportunity for people to come along, make a few more friends and clean up the litter that seems to be a part of life today. Make a note in your diaries — 2pm, Village Car Park.

Most of you will be aware that a new set of plans has been submitted to NFDC for housing on the former car park site at the Carpenters Arms. Sadly for John and Lynne this is back to haunt them yet again. We will keep everyone informed of progress via the notice board outside the Post Office. We do still have one unlike people who have lost their Post Offices, keep using yours!

Many of us will no doubt be off on holiday again soon and oh how easy it is to depart from Hurn Airport. We are however keeping an eye on flight paths and hoping the operators will ensure their pilots do not fly directly over the village. There are of course two sides to any coin and Hurn Airport will without doubt expand in future years, bringing with it more holiday destinations and more planes. We hope there will always be a balance.

We at the Residents Association will always help in any way we are able, so please contact us if you have any queries or problems.

June Richards Bill Bowling

Chairman Secretary

01425 67218301425 672875

BRANSGORE LUNCH CLUB

Christmas lunch is now a distant memory but was enjoyable, lively and somewhat different from previous Christmas lunches. The Bransgore butcher, Martin Neal brought a large, ready-cooked turkey to Ann's Lodge to be carved on the premises. Everyone agreed that the turkey was delicious and as an added bonus Martin kindly donated both the bird and his time to the Lunch Club, a gesture which was greatly appreciated.

The 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 (although we do still have vacancies in both areas) 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, either as a diner or a helper, please contact Shirley Tobias on telephone number 01425 673078 or Pat Newman on telephone number 01425 673678.

A social evening will be held on Thursday 15th February at the Resource Centre to enable everyone involved in the running of the Lunch Club to meet each other. Since each team is in action on a specific day many of the eighty or so helpers do not know each other. The social evening is an attempt to rectify this.

The Lunch Club AGM will take place on Tuesday 8th May 2007 at 7.00 p.m. at Ann's Lodge. Everyone is welcome to attend.

As ever, our grateful thanks go to all those helpers, drivers and cake-makers who continue to

support and contribute to the Lunch Club.

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.

Telephone Sam Day, 672983, for full information.

BRANSGORE & DISTRICT ROTARY CLUB

Fun Day Monday 7th May

Our members are busy planning this years Village Fun Day which takes place on 7th May. Apart from the Childrens' Rides and Sideshows we welcome back from last year The Spilt Milk Youth Band and hopefully a return of the popular Sheep Shearing stand. Look out for the posters nearer the time for the full programme of events. It really is a great family afternoon so make a date in your diary.

We will be selling Raffle Tickets every Saturday for five weeks before the Fun Day in front of the village shops – please buy some tickets, you could win the £250 Cash Prize. Remember that all the proceeds go towards projects in our Village.

Charity Golf Day 27th June

Also coming up is our Charity Golf Day, now in its 11th year on Wednesday 27th June. If you would like to know more about how to enter a team ring Alan Alford on 01425 673987.

New Members

We are pleased to welcome Bill Casey to Bransgore Rotary Club. Bill has been a Rotarian before moving to Bransgore, and I am sure he will make a valuable contribution to our Club.

We meet most Mondays at The Carpenters and enjoy a variety of speakers, sports and social events and raise thousands of pounds for many worthwhile causes. If you want to know more about joining us then ring Richard on 01425 672487 or visit our website on www.bransgorerotary.co.uk.

BRANSGORE PROBUS CLUB

Our December meeting is a very friendly luncheon giving our President, Douglas Christie, the chance to meet the members and their wives. Now asking a writer what he thinks about critics is like asking a lamp- post what it thinks about dogs. Our speaker of the day Nick Thomas had worked with some of the very best comedy writers and he kept us full of laughter.

The January luncheon was upset because our visiting speaker went down with the flu. Once more we came to Doug Patterson for help and once more he obliged with a delightful talk about China full of very fine snapshots. I wonder how many more times will Doug be able to help us out. Major Mike Allan came to us on the February meeting and taught us how floating barracks were

built in and around various ports of the UK and were carried down to the Falkland Islands after the war. This was an amazing talk as it was so new to all of us.

Alisdair Murray

BRANSGORE ART CLUB

Every Wednesday morning at 10 am a group of us get together to produce various types of art. Some of us work in oils, some in water colour and some in pastels. It is all good fun.

If you think that you might be an artist in waiting, then come and join us.

ALASDAIR MURRY (01425 274686)

JOHN GERWAT (01425 673723)

BRANSGORE EVENING ART SOCIETY

We meet for the first three Mondays in the month in the St Mary's Resource Centre . Members feel the two hours spent is an excellent way of relieving tensions of the working day Those who are retired enjoy the company and one of the most pleasant pastimes. The society has been in existence for some 9 years . Members use varying art media - watercolours , acrylics and pastels mainly. From time to time we hold courses but none is planned at the moment. Advice is given (where sought!)

Phone 01425 274446 for further details.

this years New Forest Show which are about to start. Quizes and Walks continue to be enjoyed by all who take part and so as you can see there is never a dull moment for W.I. members.

Another thing we are involved in is the continuation of the Village Scrapbook and we are currently looking for anyone who could help with rebinding of old volumes to preserve them for the future. If you could help or know of someone who could please contact me .

Janet Cox 01425674995

BRANSGORE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

SPRING EVENTS

Spring, it's surely everybody's favourite time of the year, and no wonder because, having done virtually nothing in the garden for the last few months (except for clearing up the leaves) and seemingly without any prompting from us winter weary gardeners, wham! there are masses of flowers everywhere. For the remainder of the year, a bent back and dirty finger nails is the order of the day if a colourful garden is to be had. ...

All of which leads me nicely into the following:

SPRING SHOW - March 31st - Village Hall.

It's the very best time for us novices because let's face it, in addition to the gardens, the hedgerows too are full of flowers and it's dead easy to get a few daffodils for the show, so why don't you have a go this year? (Flowers must be from your own garden, hedge or allotment though).

There are classes for most interests including art, photography (get that new digi-camera going), handicraft, cooking, floral art and a section for juniors under 17 years of age.

Should exhibiting not be your thing, just come and have a look around the show. It's a good place to meet neighbours and have a chat over a cuppa and a biscuit. Do come, you will enjoy it.

The staging of exhibits is from 9a.m. until 10.30 a.m. and the hall is open to the public from 2p.m.

PLANT SALE - at the VILIAGE HALL

Friday evening 4th May 6.30 until 8 p.m. and Saturday morning 5th May 9 until 10.30 am.

WRITE THESE DATES LARGE IN YOUR DIARY for you will find it difficult to buy quality plants at such bargain prices elsewhere. We will have choice plants from MacPennys and a wide range of excellent bedding plants from a local nursery, all at discounted prices, and our own society plant stall offering even more value for money.

Don't be tempted to buy bedding any earlier and suffer frost damage - wait for our sale on **4th** and 5th of May.

Lectures:-

April 5th - The Countryside Through the Seasons, by David Poynter. Community Centre, Thorney Hill

June 7th - Drought Gardening and Recycling in the Garden. by Kelvin Mason.

Oh and just a mention about the February lecture in which Patricia Elkington introduced us to some wonderful gardens that are open from time to time as part of the **National Gardens Scheme**. There are some lovely days out to be had by visiting these 'Secret Gardens' so do look out for the Yellow Book which gives details of all the gardens open in Hampshire in 2007, you will find them in a number of local garden centres. All the proceeds go to worthy charities.

THREE DAY TRIP - TO GARDENS OF CORNWALL June 1st to 3rd.

Visiting gardens at St Austell, Helston and Falmouth and staying at the 3 star Falmouth Beach Hotel. A fantastic away break for garden enthusiasts with good company, good food, good accommodation and almost door to door transport.

Jim Dudley. Publicity 01425 673202

NEW FOREST DISABILITY INFORMATION SERVICE

FREE monthly **DROP IN** sessions at

Twin Oaks Medical Centre, Wednesdays: 9 – 11am

Free confidential information and advice to those of any age affected by disability. Including: Arthritis, Stroke, Bad Back, Diabetes, Epilepsy, Breathlessness, Dizziness, Walking/Hearing/Sight/Learning difficulties. Related issues include: Caring, Access, Blue Badge, Benefit Applications, Equipment, Holidays, Transport etc. **Call in for a chat - no appointment necessary. Please ask at reception**

**DON'T FORGET:- The DROP IN sessions at Twin Oaks Medical Centre - 9 till 11am
HELPLINE 01425 628750**

STEPPING STONES OF SOPLEY PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

EACH MONDAY (TERM TIME ONLY) FROM 9.30AM TO 11.00AM AT ANN'S LODGE (Opp. the Scout Hut, Burnt House Lane) BRANSGORE. COME ALONG WITH TODDLERS AND BABIES FOR STRUCTURED PLAY, CRAFTS, 'SING SONG TIME', 'STORY TIME' AND LOTS OF FUN!!

We look forward to seeing new and old friends. Need more details? Just ring Anne Collins on 01425 674204.

FRIENDS OF SOPLEY SCHOOL

1PM SATURDAY 23 JUNE 2007

**So much more than a school event, this is a
32 year community event for all in Sopley
and the surrounding parishes.**

Live music and arena events throughout the afternoon to

entertain you lovely stalls to buy and play games
DETAILED POSTERS WILL GO UP IN MAY

PLEASE ADD THIS DATE TO YOUR DIARY NOW

*FUNDS RAISED GO DIRECTLY TO THE SCHOOL'S CHILDREN THROUGH THE
PARENT AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION,
"FRIENDS OF SOPLEY SCHOOL"*

From Anne Collins, 2007 Fete Co-ordinator

SOPLEY WI

Rockbourne Roman Villa, Exploring the Jurassic Coast and the Life of a Diplomat, these are some of the topics on the programme for our monthly evening meetings this year, other events planned for the year are a summer outing to Uppark House, a garden party and a visit to the local television studios.

Besides meetings, we also enjoy a monthly morning walk in the forest or besides the sea (usually followed by lunch at a pub) afternoons spent playing Mahjong and much more besides.

We are a very hospitable group and visitors and new members will be made very welcome, we meet on the second Tuesday of every month (except August), in the Scout Hut, Burnt House Lane. For more information, (or if you require a lift), please ring Doreen Stubley, our secretary, on 01202 476611

From Brenda Morgan, Press Officer, telephone 01425 672007

NEWS FROM AVON TYRRELL ACTIVITY & RESIDENTIAL CENTRE

If you want to catch up with news, events and jobs available, take a look at our websites at www.ukyouth.org and www.avontyrrell.org.uk, it's all on there. Alternatively, please call us on 01425 672347 during office hours for further information.

Regards

Sharon Mackintosh, Income Development & PR Coordinator

OTHER ISSUES/EVENTS

Savour the local flavour at Hampshire Food Festival!

With around 100 different events held at dozens of different locations across Hampshire, the fortnight long Hampshire Food Festival (23rd June to 8th July) celebrates all that is great about food and drink from Hampshire.

Join farm walks (from cheese and water buffalo farms to vineyards and lavender fields), talks, demonstrations, cookery workshops, tastings, open days, feasts and barbecues.

Bransgore Community Church

The last few months have been quite busy for us as we've started a couple of groups in the church and seen others develop. This month we're starting a 20s and 30s Group for the growing number of people within the church that fit into that category and for their friends. The Men's Group is also developing with an expanding leadership team (due in part to the fried breakfasts!), and the Worship Group has also undergone big changes to incorporate an extra evening service and a few new musicians. And finally, a major change will be the development of our building as we seek to expand what we are able to do for the community seven days a week.

Phil Cole (Church Leader)

BRANSGORE METHODIST CHURCH

Minister - Rev R. Clarke. B.A. Telephone 673304

ADJOINING PARISHES

THE CHILDREN'S HOSPICE, NAOMI HOUSE

Dear Friends and Supporters

I will be relocating to Ringwood and will not be able to take your bric-a-brac, stamps, etc after mid March. Thank you for all the support you have given to **NAOMI HOUSE** over the years.

I will still be a part of Bransgore Village Life as I will continue as Chairman of the Lunch Club until May, and continue as one of the Tuesday Team Leaders for some time.

Janet, Ian and I will still be running the Book Stall on Fun Day, which is Monday 7th May 2007. My very good friend Janet, 3 Meadow Close (off West Road) will be storing the books for us. More information about that nearer the time.

Once again my grateful thanks to Lynn, John and Ben at the Carpenters' Arms, and Paul and Connie at Fish & Chips.

I wont say "Goodbye" just "Au Revoir" to you all and again many thanks.

Shirley Tobias **01425 673078**

SOPLEY WI

Our evening WI has a range of speakers and entertainment arranged for 2007, covering subjects of local as well as national interest. We are a very hospitable group and if the winter months seem long and tedious and if you would like to see what we can offer, just come along.

Besides the meetings, we enjoy afternoons playing Mahjong, a monthly morning walk in the Forest or beside the sea (usually heading to a pub for lunch), and several visits, such as trips to TV studios and much more. Tempted?

Just come along to a meeting on the second Tuesday of every month at 7pm at the Scout Hut in Burnt House Lane. You will be made very welcome. For more information (or if you require a lift), please ring Doreen Stublely our Secretary on 01202 476611

STEPPING STONES OF SOPLEY PRE-SCHOOL

The Scout Hut, Burnt House Lane, Bransgore, BH23 8DD

Registered Charity No: 1077865

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR EXCELLENT LOCAL PRE-SCHOOL CARE AND EDUCATION OFFERING THE FOLLOWING? AN OFSTED CHECKED PRE-SCHOOL FOR 2 TO 4 YEAR OLDS. OPEN 50 WEEKS A YEAR, MONDAY TO FRIDAY FROM 8.30AM TO 4.00PM. PEACEFUL, PICKET-FENCED OUTSIDE PLAY AREA. A LOCAL PRE-SCHOOL RUN BY LOCALS TO OFSTED STANDARDS SINCE 1997. 50 LOCAL FAMILIES ALREADY USING THIS OFSTED CHECKED PRE-SCHOOL WITH A PARENT & TODDLER GROUP EACH MONDAY NEXT DOOR FROM 9.30AM.

*For a copy of our prospectus and to have a chat about your child attending our Pre-school and to arrange a visit please contact:- **Marie Waugh or Julie Smith on 07724 876456***

<http://www.stepsstonesofsopley.co.uk/>

BRANSGORE FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The club started 2007 with two lively meetings. The first was the Pwits pantomime. Then Bill Boyde came with his keyboard and we danced and sang away any winter blues

The first outing of the year was a pub lunch in Feb. Outings takes place every 3rd Tues of the month. March there is a mystery tour & cream tea. April we are off to Shaftsbury. May is Seaton. June is Loseley House& Gardens. July Swanage & Lulworth.If you are not a member & you would like to come on any of these trips provided there are spare seats you are most welcome. The coach picks up at several points in the village. A notice is placed outside the post office of all the clubs events.

Our spring program has plenty of music with Joan Kimber on piano, The Conchord Choir, Gordon

Hadden & choir.

The annual rose show will be June 26th, with all you gardeners trying hard to get your hand on the cup.

The club meet the 2nd & 4th Tues of the month 2pm -4pm at the village hall. Would love to see some new faces, come and give us a try.

Esther Harris: (Secretary)

BRANSGORE YOUTH PROJECT

The Bransgore Youth Club regularly attracts 30-40 youngsters between 11-16 years old. It meets from 7-9pm on Wednesday evenings, during school term times, in the Village Hall in the Burley Road. The sessions are led by Clare Donnell our Hampshire Youth Worker, ably assisted by local Youth Support Workers Isabel George and Gemma Latham. We also benefit from the invaluable support of parent Volunteer Workers who give assistance on a weekly rota basis.

From our appeal in the last Bransgore Newsletter we recruited Gemma Latham who joined us in January. She has a wealth of experience in working with youngsters and enjoys a complementary job in leisure management.

The growing numbers of 11-16 year old young people attending means we also need the support of more parents as **Volunteer Workers**. Each session is three hours long (6:30 till 9:30pm), but you will only be needed for a session one week in four, or five, or more if we can get enough support. Your job will be to support the regular Youth Support Workers who run each evening by helping with the varied activities for boys and girls. We welcome both men and women as **Volunteer Workers** and skills training can be provided and a CRB check must of course be undertaken.

Through arranging activities which youngsters like to undertake, our aim is to maintain a regular dialogue with young people in the village which will indirectly lead to the general benefit of the community at large. The range of our indoor activities is increasing, and includes basketball, badminton, pool, table tennis and skittles. In addition we organise music, dancing, karaoke and computer games, while face painting, tee-shirt printing and jewellery craft also remain popular. So if you have a youngster who seeks company then bring him or her along on a Wednesday evening and see for yourself what we are doing.

Our Tuck Shop facility remains popular and we continue to promote a friendly, relaxed atmosphere where there is mutual respect between Youth Support Workers, Volunteer Workers and the youngsters themselves. Unless there is a specifically organised outdoor activity the young people are encouraged to remain within the Village Hall, but as the Youth Club is necessarily offered on a "drop-in" basis we cannot insist or make a young person stay within the building.

So Mums and Dads ! --- tell your children and your friends about our Youth Club! We have some super young people in this village and they thoroughly deserve your support!

Douglas J Clare - BYP Chairman - 01425 673958

NEW FOREST DISTRICT MODEL ELECTRIC TOURING CAR CLUB

Fancy a go at remote control car racing? We meet on Monday evenings at Bransgore Village Hall, Burley Road We commence racing at 7.30 pm and everyone of all ages and abilities is very

welcome. We race 1/10th scale touring cars and minis and 1/16th scale buggies. Please feel free to come along, alternatively find out all about us on our website www.freewebs.com/bransgoreracing or contact Gary on 01202 593336 for any further information. We look forward to seeing you.

OTHER PARISH ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Bransgore & District Community First Responders – Spring '07 Update

As I sit typing our contribution to the village newsletter (mid-Jan), we are facing the first seriously cold snap of the new year, the area is still awash from the downpours we have had since before Christmas. That long hot summer of 2006 is hard to recall! Let's hope that by the time this goes to print we are looking at some better weather. Our responders attend calls they are sent to, whatever the weather, and faced with a medical crisis, people are invariably pleased to see us. But it makes life easier if we can feel our fingers or do not arrive dripping with water. Oh yes.....we too, long for those long hot summer evenings and nights!

Following on from our success in meeting the objectives we set ourselves for last year, we have again set ourselves some challenging targets. Full details of our aims, objectives and projects can be seen on our website at <http://uk.geocities.com/bransgorecommunityresponders>

In summary though we seek to:-

Operate a credible Community Responder scheme for the benefit of the community in Bransgore. Secure advanced life support training, for **our volunteers, using funds we have already obtained through a grant.**

Raise vital funds by holding fund raising events, operating a website, increasing awareness of health related issues and current ambulance service public awareness campaigns.

Please visit our website; the content does change regularly and in particular you may be interested in our "Links" page where you can visit the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance website, listen to the radio ad for the British Heart Foundation's "Doubt Kills" campaign, and read about the 007 Community Responders campaign to name but a few. Go on... give it a try.

We still have two vacancies for volunteer responders within the group so if you are interested or just want to know more please contact Adrian, our co-ordinator, on 07855 331360. Remember though that if you need emergency medical assistance you must **dial 999** and ask for the ambulance. If appropriate, they will contact us at the time they send the ambulance.

Remember ! A chest pain is your body saying Call 999. Doubt kills. Call 999 immediately.

Bransgore & District Community Responders

Life savers stunned by theft of charity box

Members of the Bransgore & District Community Responders team have been left stunned by the news that one of their charity collecting boxes has been stolen from the bar of The Carpenters Arms Public House in Burley Road, Bransgore.

Bransgore community responders are a team of volunteers who attend medical emergencies and provide life support and care, prior to the arrival of an ambulance. Their collecting box has been on the bar at the Carpenters Arms for some time, but in the last few weeks someone has taken it and the cash it contained.

Bransgore Responders spokesman Mike Jukes said, "Enquiries were made in case it had just been moved but it now looks like it has been stolen. I am somewhat surprised that someone would sink so low as to take charity money donated to our group by the pub customers. Maybe if the thief realises it might be their family who could need our help one day, they will think again. We just hope that their conscience gets to them"

Anyone with any information about the theft is asked to contact the police at Ringwood on 08450 454545 or if they wish to remain anonymous, to ring Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. If anyone finds the box which, is bright yellow, with the group's details and green and yellow chequered band, please contact Mike on 07976 465890

THORNEY HILL COMMUNITY CENTRE

New Heritage Area building in pleasant National Park setting
With large Function Hall seating for 100, plus office and store,
ample kitchen facilities, large car park, very reasonable rates.
Enquiries: Violet Doe – 01425 673554, 254 Burley Road.

After School Club for children aged 5-16 years
Mondays between 4.00pm and 5.30pm
Games etc and simple cooking lessons

Bransgore Twinning Winter Newsletter 2006

Christmas has come and gone and the year 2006 is now history, but we can certainly continue to enjoy many lasting memories of what has been a very exciting year for the Twinning Association during 2006. I have not the slightest doubt that we can with every confidence look forward to yet another successful and happy year during 2007.

The last main event of 2006 was the invitation, once again kindly extended by Judith & Malcolm Allebon, to a Christmas Soiree held at Ty Gwn on December 18th at which they were delighted to warmly welcome members with a glass of delicious mulled wine and we later enjoyed a spread of seasonal goodies prepared by our hosts and other members.

Lusty voices enthusiastically endeavoured, without success, to produce more decibels than Gordon's excellent piano accompaniment, ably assisted by Jackie Cole on Clarinet, with renditions of traditional Carols (sung ?) in French of course.

Bransgore Twinning association have very much enjoyed their winter programme and we are now looking forward to our next visit to France at the end of May. So without further ado I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of events that have been scheduled and those that we can look forward to over the next few months.

The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday 3rd March 2007 in the Scout hut at Burnt House Lane commencing at 7.30 p.m.

At the A.G.M. it is of course necessary to conduct business that is essential for the successful continuity of the Association but it is always predominantly organised as a social event, which this year promised to be no exception.

Formal matters were followed at 8pm by "An Evening in France" which set the theme with evocative music led by Monsieur Gordon Hadden and his Ensemble. Members prepared a meal "a la française" which consisted of Chicken Chasseur followed by typical French desserts to be thoroughly enjoyed by all. In addition to the French style cuisine arrangements were made for further entertainment and guests were invited to dress in typical French costume. More on this in the next edition of Newsletter.

Future Events

We are all looking forward to our return to St Georges Montcocq during the weekend of May 26th/28th when a group of some 45 Bransgore twinners will be travelling to France to celebrate our friendship with our French friends and we are once again looking forward to a relaxing weekend in Normandy

As usual our resident photographer Richard Evans (thank you Richard!) will be applying his photographic skills to record the occasion which will be displayed on our excellent web site at www.bransgoretwinning.org.uk. Everyone can both view and enjoy a full visual record of our latest activities as well as catching up on the latest news of both past and future events.

Bransgore residents of all ages are most welcome to join the Bransgore Twinning Association which can easily be arranged by contacting Peggy Green on 01425 672989 who will be delighted to provide you with details of membership. You do not need to speak French but simply to be able to enjoy France and acquaint yourself with French lifestyle and cultural interests.

DAPHNE M. CRISP, Publicity Secretary 01425 673684

THORNEY HILL & BRANSGORE WI

President: Mrs Vera Murray

Following a very enjoyable Christmas Party in December when the Starlight Singers again entertained us ,the new year began with a very interesting talk on the Jewish way of life in January and this was followed by a talk in February by one of our Community Responders Mr. Adrian Tindall who gave us an overview of the important role they have in the village.

Mellipership continues to rise with new members joining but we have been saddened by the loss of some longstanding members in recent months.

The next few months promise to be very busy with members attending the Spring Council meeting in Portsmouth in March, a proposed visit to the B.B.C.in London in April and our preparations for

BRANSGORE SPORTS FACILITIES USER GROUPS

BRANSGORE YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

At the time of this report we still have many teams sitting on or around the top of their leagues with the latter part of the season to go.

The Under 16's have now played all their games and are in the course of signing to join the four senior Bransgore Teams. There have been a number of good players who have now left the Youth Team and are more than capable of taking the big step up to senior football. Many of the players of this team have been together since the Under 8's and have served the Youth team so well and I know will do the same for the senior teams.

It was great recently to work with the School and the Parish Council in raising funds for the SID (Speed Indicator) to be erected outside the School. The Club were very appreciative of the support it received from the Parish Council and for the support that it received from the village as a whole. Over 170 supporters attended a match between the Youth Mangers and AFC Bransgore "B". Great fun was had by all and a great deal of money was raised for the School. Well done to all those involved. .

We have just finished putting our Club's Business Plan to the Football Foundation and hope to be able to receive some financial backing from them to help us keep the Club moving forward in both Child Protection and Training to which we are totally dedicated. All coaches in the Club will receive assistance in obtaining their coaching badges and all assistant coaches and helpers will be placed on the Child Protection Workshop and will be CRB checked as recommended by the Football Association. However, all of these checks and courses are expensive and that is why we must continue to find ways of getting funding from anywhere possible. We are committed as a Club to providing the safest environment possible for our youth teams.

By the time this report goes to print I will have left my many positions within the Club, to include Press Secretary. I would like to wish the Club and everyone associated with it all the success in the future. I look forward to reading about the Club in the future. It is a fantastic club and thrives on the support of all those involved in the Club and of course the village itself. Your support is always welcome and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our annual tournament or in any other way possible,

Arf Scaife, Press Secretary

AFC BRANSGORE

Contact Mr Lance Dalton, Club Secretary. 01425 673592.

THE BRANSGORE CROQUET CLUB

The lawns which will be ready for play from the first Monday in April. Prior to the season there will be an Open Evening in the cricket pavilion, opposite the Village Hall on Wednesday 28th March at 7pm. This will be for Club members and anybody who wants to find out more about the game. Three training sessions will be offered to newcomers before there is any need to make any commitment These will be free of charge and all necessary equipment will be provided.

Club days are on Monday and Thursday afternoons. Members are also able to play at any other time. During the season there is the opportunity to play 'in house' competitions in both Golf and Association Croquet games. As time goes on there will be matches with other clubs. Do come and join us on Wednesday March 28th and learn more about this fascinating game, which is suitable for all ages.

For further information please phone Jane on 01425674465,
or Miles on 01425 672776

SESSION TIMES		
Mornings	09:00 – 11:30	<i>Mon - Fri</i>
Lunch Club	11:30 – 12:30	<i>Mon - Fri</i>
Afternoon*	12:30 – 15:00	<i>Mon, Wed, Thurs</i>

BRANSGORE CRICKET CLUB - YOUTH

Of the sides playing in the indoor leagues at Hurn this winter, both the Under 13 and Under 15 squads reached the knock out stages. Unfortunately both lost in the quarter finals. For many of the younger players, this winter was their first taste of indoor cricket so congratulations to all who played, especially the Under 12's who beat the runners-up, Poole, in their first league match.

The indoor nets have started on Thursday evenings at Hurn. The club has two nets between 6.00 p.m. and 9.00 p.m. every Thursday up until 12th April 2007 when practices will switch to outdoors. 6.00 p.m. until 7.00 p.m. is Under 10's; 7.00 p.m. until 8.00 p.m. is Under 11's and Under 12's; 8.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. is Under 13's and Under 15's. Older youths and adults practice from 9.00 p.m. until 10.00 p.m. also on Thursday evenings.

We will again be holding sessions in the Easter holidays for Under 9 children who want to 'give cricket a go' – details will be sent via the school nearer the time. The sessions held last summer at Bransgore School were great fun, and I hope that some of the children who attended them will come at Easter and play for the club during the summer.

League squads for the coming summer have been entered at Under 9 (Two sides on Friday nights), Under 10 (Sunday mornings), Under 11 (Saturday mornings and Sunday mornings), Under 13 (Saturday mornings and Thursday evenings), and Under 15 (Monday evenings) – that's seven sides in all!. The older lads and lasses will be welcomed into the adult mid-week side which plays on Wednesday evenings.

It is very pleasing that a number of the youth players have been selected for district squads, both East Dorset and New Forest – good luck to them and all the other players who went for trials.

The club AGM takes place at 8.00 p.m. on Wednesday 14th March in The Carpenters' Arms. I would be most grateful if as many parents/guardians as possible could attend.

Our annual Quiz night takes place on Friday May 11th in the Village Hall. Details and tickets will

be available nearer the date.

As ever, if your child would like to play for any of our teams, please contact me on the number below. We would welcome new players of all ages and abilities.

Dave Lay - Bransgore 673242 or e-mail lay_dj@btopenworld.com

BRANSGORE CRICKET CLUB ADULT

The club's indoor side, which plays in the New Forest Indoor League on Sundays at Pennington School, were not as successful as last year, but did progress to the second round of the cup before losing to a very good Fawley side.

Senior nets have started on Thursday evenings. The club has two nets from 9.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. on every Thursday evening until 26th April 2007 inclusive.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, both the club's senior sides consolidated their positions after gaining promotion in 2005. The first XI will again play in Division 2 – South West and the second XI will play in Division 3 – South West of the Hampshire Leagues on Saturday afternoons. In addition a mid week side will play on Wednesday evenings in Division 3 of the Wimborne Evening Leagues.

If there is anyone in the village with experience of looking after sports pitches or would like to help the club maintain its playing surfaces and could spare an hour or two a week, the club would like to hear from them

Please contact Richard Jones on 673880 or Dave Lay on 673242 if you would like to play for one of the club's senior sides. We look forward to welcoming you.

Visiting celebrity chefs include BBC2's Ready Steady Cook regular Gino D'Acampo at Basingstoke's Festival Place on July 6th and food writer Prue Leith at The Point in Eastleigh on July 4th. Join Stockbridge Trout Festival on the River Test on June 30th and July 1st, Hampshire Water Festival in Andover on Saturday July 7th, and the Festival of Beekeeping on the 7th and 8th July at Sir Harold Hillier Gardens near Romsey. Hampshire Farmers' Markets will be in full swing at weekends and Hampshire's own chefs will be giving cookery demonstrations and serving special local themed menus at restaurants and pubs. Request your free festival programme (available early May) on 01962 845435, hampshire.fare@hants.gov.uk or visit www.hampshirefare.co.uk

A PARTY FOR PARKINSON'S

A party to raise money for the Parkinson's Disease society.

I know of at least five people suffering from this Disease who live in Bransgore and prompted by their magazine I hope to raise funds to further their work both nationally and locally.

Nationally the society funds research into the cause and treatment and hopefully cure of Parkinson's Disease. Locally the Christchurch Branch supports local sufferers of Parkinson's Disease and helps with funding two Parkinson's Disease Specialist Nurses at Christchurch Hospital. I hope to raise enough money to give help to both causes.

THE PARKINSON'S PARTY (everyone invited)

AT THE RESOURCE CENTRE, Adj St Mary's Church, Bransgore

SATURDAY 21ST APRIL, 4.30 - 7.30

Games, Quizzes for all ages- Music and fun all the way!!!- Raffle and Sideshows, Stalls.

A good Party tea. Tickets £3.50 adult £1.00 children.

Please contact **Dee Mead 01425 673149** or **COFFEE BEANS**.

New Forest District Council – Veterans’ Week 17 – 23 June 2007

The council is drawing up plans to support the government-backed national veterans’ celebrations. The event, which was introduced last year, is in addition to and not instead of the Remembrance Day commemorations held in November.

The big day nationally is on Wednesday, June 27, but the council will be running a series of events in the build-up to that, from June 17 to 23. It is keen to hear from service and ex-service groups and individuals, including civilians, who have been involved in all conflicts including the World Wars, the Gulf War, the Falklands Campaign and all recent and current conflicts such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

The events, are being held in recognition and respect for the unique contribution ex-service people have made towards the security of the United Kingdom and the fabric of its communities.

New Forest Veterans’ week will begin with a special civic commemoration service at Lyndhurst Parish Church on Sunday, June 17, which will be a celebration of the lives of the people who have served or are still serving their country and their communities. That will be followed by a ‘Meet the Veterans’ event at *The Water’s Edge*, Dibden golf course, on Thursday, June 21. There will be an exhibition of memorabilia and invited children from local schools will have an opportunity to put prepared questions to a panel of veterans, who will later be able to share their memories with one another at a special lunch. And there will be a further chance for reminiscing at a garden party, by invitation, for veterans and their families in the picturesque grounds of the council’s Appletree Court headquarters at Lyndhurst, on Saturday, 23 June.

**Veterans’ groups and individuals are being asked to indicate their interest in the events by contacting NFDC’s communications department on:
023 8028 5479 or by e-mail to: dianne.bailey@nfdc.gov.uk**

SCALLYWAGS

Scallywags is a Parent/Carer, Baby 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 serve drinks and biscuits. It is a friendly and information environment offering Mums, Dads, Grandparents, Carers and Children an opportunity to get to know each other. For more information, telephone Rachel on 674647.

BRANSGORE DISTRICT

Rainbows	Sharon Knight	673432
2 nd Brownies	Kate Diment	674755
3 rd Brownies	Ann Dean	673445
1 st Guides	Rev’d Barbara Jeffries	673212
Rangers	Claire Stokes	07879 685006

JENNY CARR, District Commissioner

673490

BRANSGORE EVENING TOWNSWOMEN’S GUILD

Our AGM will be on Monday March 26th at the Resource Centre Ringwood Rd at 8.00 when we

will present our cheque to a representative of the Kidney Dialysis Unit at the Royal Bournemouth Hospital. This will be followed by a talk by Adrian Tindall on the local First Responders Team.

At Christmas we wrapped presents for mothers and children at the Women's Refuge in Bournemouth, took part in the Table Top Sale at the Village Hall in aid of the Oakhaven Hospice and enjoyed a pre-Christmas meal at the Carpenters Arms.

Plans are now afoot for our 21st Birthday party which will take place in June at Mount Stuart Chapel Lane.

New members always welcome. Contact Melissa on 674065.

March 26 th	A.G.M. and talk by First Responders
April 23 rd	The Barber Surgeon – Mr McCreadie
May 21 st	Beach Party – Friars Cliff

Gill Green, Secretary

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU -

An outreach service provided by New Milton and District CAB

You don't know where to turn, turn to your local CAB

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

TWIN OAKS SURGERY, BRANSGORE

1st MONDAY in the month, Appointments only from 2 pm

Call in or phone for an appointment

Tel: 01425 672741

Bransgore Community Care Group.

Started in 1979, Bransgore Community Care Group is one of 12 similar voluntary organisations in the New Forest. The object of the Group is to provide and co-ordinate voluntary assistance (other than financial or the responsibility of the Health and Social Services) to persons in and about Bransgore; including transport, and community support through a Lunch Club.

We are always glad to know of any situations where 'good neighbour' support is needed – and we are also grateful to learn of volunteers willing to join us.

The Group can be contacted through the Medical Centres. Alternatively, for help with Transport, please phone 01425 672505, and for other assistance please phone 01425 673058 or 01425 673484.

A Coffee morning will be held on Saturday June 16th at 10.30 a.m. at Herons Gate (opposite the shopping parade) in aid of First Response.

6th CHRISTCHURCH (BRANSGORE) SCOUT GROUP **CELEBRATING **THE CENTENARY OF SCOUTING****

Scouting today, is as strong as ever, in the Christchurch District (in Dorset) there are some 720 members and each and every one of them will have some part to play in the Birthday Celebrations that started on January 1st 2007.

Every month throughout the year there are activities taking place. There is to be a County St Georges Day Parade in Dorchester in April. A Centenary Camp, held at the local Campsite – Braggers Wood situated on the edge of the New Forest in Bransgore and a celebration BBQ in May. The district Sports Day in June, a Special County Camp called 'Goose' in August which will include involvement in the International Sunrise Ceremony on 1st August, which marks the 100th Anniversary to the day, of the start of the original camp where BP tried out his concept of "Scouting". This is just the start, as part of the movement, there is so much more!

So what does this mean to you?

You can get involved too, log on to the local web site at www.christchurchscouts.org.uk to find out more.

On 14th July 2007 on Christchurch Quay, you can come to our Centenary Celebrations Event which will be Free of Charge. Come and see and experience what Scouting has to offer you in Christchurch. Be entertained throughout the day and try your hand at some of the skills that are on offer.

The Centenary Celebrations event has been fortunate enough to secure some major sponsors. If you feel that you or your Company are able to provide sponsorship for this event, by way of donation or by placing an advert in the special souvenir programme, then you can obtain an application form by ringing 0800 015 3299 or by emailing info@christchurchscouts.org.uk.

COME AND EXPERIENCE THE LIFE CHANGING WORLD OF SCOUTING

Enquiries:-

Graham Pedder

Group Scout Leader 01425 672914

BRANSGORE FLOWER CLUB

The new year opened with an exciting and resplendent display of wonderful blooms provided by demonstrator Mrs Janet Newman. Her colourful arrangements together with her warm and lively personality made for an exciting afternoon for all to enjoy.

Our February meeting featured an in-house workshop conducted under the watchful eye and enthusiasm of our Vice Chairman, Mrs Carole Norman. This was an afternoon of fun and provided an opportunity to acquire new skills. Spectacular results were produced by all.

March is AGM time and there will be a few changes to the Committee. Mrs M. Neil (Treasurer) and Mrs Y. Shipway (Secretary) are standing down. We send our grateful thanks to these ladies for all the time and energy they have given to the club over the last few years. The afternoon will finish with refreshments.

Dates for your diary

April 26th Demonstration by Eileen Witt

May 24th Fun afternoon - In-house Workshop ""Ready Steady Orange"

June 28th Demonstration by Christine Stevens

You are most welcome to join us as a guest or perhaps as a new member.

Enjoy a cup of tea and a warm and sociable afternoon. We meet on the fourth Thursday each month at 2 p.m. in the Resource Centre, Ringwood Road, Bransgore.

Carol E. Reed, Chairman (Tel: 01202-470139)

CHURCHES

Hello everyone and welcome to the Church of England page!

Someone told me recently about a little boy who would say his prayers every night. He was asked if he said any prayers in the morning, "no", he said, "I ain't scared in the morning!"

Fear is often an emotion which can lead us to prayer; "Help me God, please!!!!" and there are many things which can make us afraid. Scanning the international horizon we see fear and terror lurking in many different areas. Closer to home I worry about the health of many people, including those I really love. Being a parent of children of any age can in itself make us concerned about present circumstances or fearful of the future. We all exist and live in a whole myriad of situations which can cause fear and concern: money, housing, employment, family, safety..... Many of these concerns are the subject of prayer for many of us because, to put it quite simply, we would like some help!

I am a great fan of the Simpsons. In one episode Bart sells his soul to his friend for \$5! He loses his ability to laugh and begins to think that he really has "sold his soul". When he reaches the lowest point in his life he gets on his knees and starts to pray. When he has exhausted all of his own efforts to put things right, he eventually decides to pray. "Are you there God?" he begins, "It's me. Bart Simpson. I'm sorry that we haven't spoken for a while but I'm really scared! Somebody has got my soul and I really want it back!"

"Are you there God?" Is God "there"? "Is God here?" "What is God?" "Why is God?" "Who is God?" "Where is God?" Many of us will have asked such questions from time to time ourselves. For some of us our search and thirst for answers has led us upon a journey of faith. For some the question remained a casual thought, something on the "back burner", something only ever spoken about in the pub or after dinner. Often such questions are met by the inevitable humbug who will always state with arrogant authority that you shouldn't ever discuss religion or politics! What boring lives such "humbugs" must lead!

A new opportunity is presenting itself to all of us in our villages to think about and engage with these questions. It's to be called "GODTALKS!?" It starts on Tuesday May 8th at 8pm in St Mary's church and will be led by me. Each session lasts for 90 minutes, includes the usual snacks and will be very informal, friendly and hopefully lots of fun! Everyone of any age, background, faith etc etc is welcome, all you need is a questioning, open mind and a desire to explore spirituality and life.

"GODTALKS !?" will run for 9 weeks, finishing in July. Its flexible, unique program and open approach to questions of God and faith will enable everyone enjoy the sessions. "GODTALKS!?" is open to everyone, regardless of where you are on your journey.

In each of the sessions we will be considering some of the bigger questions concerning God, life, faith and spirituality. We will be thinking about aspects of the Christian faith, what do Christians believe in and why? In the last census 72% of our nation called themselves a Christian, how can that be and what might that mean? Into the melting pot we will put ourselves and our questions. We will talk about God and let God talk to us. "GODTALKS!?" Don't miss this unique opportunity!

So don't be a "humbug"! Let's talk about these big questions! Bring yourself, your questions, your experiences and your stories to "GODTALKS!?" every Tuesday from May 8th.

For more information and pre-course questions, contact me, Peter Rickman, on Bransgore 672327 or pizzarev@aol.com More information can also be found on www.stmarysbransgore.co.uk

Thanks for reading this far! Have a great Spring and may God bless you and yours! Blessings, Peter.

PS EASTER 2007 SUNDAY APRIL 8TH 10am St Mary's – A celebration of Life and Love!

HOLY WEEK 2007 See Diary of events on back page

**GOOD FRIDAY CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BRANSGORE
THE WAY OF THE CROSS – A SERVICE FOR GOOD FRIDAY
STARTS 2PM METHODIST CHURCH**

This service begins at 2pm at the Methodist Church reflecting upon the last few hours of Jesus' life. We too shall walk with Our Lord along a symbolic "Via De La Rosa" as we journey at 2.20pm to the Community Church walking in silent procession via the commercial heart of the village. We shall pause here for a Bible reading, song and prayer and then conclude the service from approximately 2.40pm at the Community Church. Those preferring not to walk from one church to the other are invited to drive the distance between the two churches. This is hoped to be a very special part of Holy Week and all are warmly invited and encouraged to attend.

Revd Peter Rickman
St Mary's Church Bransgore

All Saints Church
Thorney Hill

www.stmarysbransgore.co.uk

24
24

Note
April 17th Annual Assembly
May 15th Parish Council Annual Meeting