A THOUGHT FROM THE VICARAGE
Suppose you lost it

There is a saying, "Until you have lost something, you never appreciate its true value". Experience tells us that this has a certain truth about it.

From birth, we accept things as our 'right'. We are loved by our mother; we are fed; we are cleaned and clothed; we have people smiling and making clucking noises at us. One cry, and the world comes rushing to our aid.

Gradually, as time goes by, we begin to realise that life is not always going to be like this. That day comes when we go to 'big school'. It's a shock. We are no longer the centre of the universe. From then on, we begin to experience the cold.

Still, in our privileged and cushioned society, things are pretty good. We are loved, we are fed and watered, we have warmth, and we have an almost inexhaustible supply of luxury. The years pass. We become teenagers and our whims are met. To be unfashionable is the ultimate degradation. Love, food, warmth, indulgence, pleasure: all these things are ours. We are accustomed to them. They become our 'right'; they are part of the material world.

The years pass. We are healthy, our love for someone is reciprocated, we join the fashion parade, we have our own transport. We may marry; we may have children; the years pass. We do relatively well. Life is good.

Then one day, we step to think. "Just suppose I were to lose all this." We see a film of the secure Jewish families of Germany in 1938. They are loved, fed, watered, have warmth, and they have inexhaustible luxury. In a moment, they lose everything, even their life. We think 'just suppose that was to be me. Just suppose I was to lose my home, my spouse, my children, my job, my possessions, my photographs, my health, my dignity, my freedom to say what I want, and my freedom to move.'

The thought is a nightmare. We pray God that it will remain a nightmare. Some days we should contemplate that nightmare. Not because we want to become depressed, but because awaking from a nightmare makes us appreciate reality. To awake to the fact that we are so blest, so fortunate, so rich, so fat, so warm, so loved and so free, must make us so thankful and so grateful.

All this is not our 'right'. It is a right which we have not earned. It could easily have been so different. It could easily be so different.

Just suppose we lost it.

The Venerable Graham Robin OBE
The Vicarage, Bere Regis,
BH20 7HQ
Tel: (01929) 47 1252

February 1998

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BERE REGIS (01929) 471932 (24 HRS)
Church Officials - Bere Regis

The Vicar
The Venerable Graham Robin OBE
The Vicarage, Bere Regis, BH20 7HQ
Tel: (01929) 471282

Sunday 1st February
Presentation of Christ in the Temple
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Affpuddle)
9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (Bere Regis)
11.00 a.m. Mattins and Communion (Affpuddle)
6.00 p.m. Evensong (Bere Regis)

Sunday 8th February
Septuagesima
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Bere Regis)
9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (Affpuddle)
11.00 a.m. Young People’s Service and Baptisms (Bere Regis)
6.00 p.m. Evensong (Bere Regis)

Sunday 15th February
Sexagesima
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Affpuddle)
9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (Bere Regis)
11.00 a.m. Affpraise (Affpuddle)
6.00 p.m. A Service of Thanksgiving for Marriage
within the service of Evening Prayers (Bere Regis)

Sunday 22nd February
Quinquagesima
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Bere Regis)
9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (Affpuddle)
11.00 a.m. Mattins and Communion (Bere Regis)
6.00 p.m. Regis Praise (Bere Regis)
6.30 p.m. Village Service (Briantspaddle Village Hall)

Wednesday 25th February
Ash Wednesday
7.30 p.m. Evening Communion (Bere Regis)

Church Officials - Affpuddle

Lay Reader
Mrs B Pitfield - 471391

Church Wardens
Mr J House, Lower Stockley Farm - 471255/551266
Mr J England, 10 Southmead - 471469

Deputy Warden
Mr R Comben, Beechmast, Whatcombe Lane,
Winterborne Whitechurch - 01258 881143

Secretary of PCC
Cdr C Mauder, 15 North Street - 471342

Treasurer of PCC
Mr G Phillips, 102 North Street - 471525

Choirmaster
Mr F Pitfield, Hillbuts, Butt Lane - 471391

Organist
Mr D Holloway ARCM, 1 Cyril Wood Court - 472228

Lay Pastoral Assistants
Mrs Di Phillips - 471423 Mrs Mary England - 471469
Mrs Kay March - 471883 Mrs Dorrie Barnes - 471531
Mrs Eileen Bangay - 471724

Church Officials - Affpuddle

Lay Reader
Mr J Haigh - 471768

Church Wardens
Captain P Badcock, Cruck Cottage, Briantspaddle - 471297
Lt Cdr W Thornley, Raithby Cottage, Briantspaddle - 471497

Secretary of PCC
Mr R Eklerton, Greatfield House Affpuddle - 01305 848331

Treasurer of PCC
Mr R Eklerton, Greatfield House Affpuddle - 01305 848331

Organist
Mr I Mullins, Grasmere, 12 Parmiter Road, Colehill,
Wimborne. Tel: 01202 889227

Lay Pastoral Assistants
Mrs Lindy Ventham - 471215
Mrs Penny Haigh - 471768
BERE REGIS CHURCH ROTAS

Bere Regis Sidesmen
February 1st  9.30 a.m.  Mr House / Mr Bates
            6.00 p.m.  Miss Frampton / Mr Dashwood
February 8th  11.00 a.m.  Mrs March / Mrs England
            6.00 p.m.  Mr Barnes / Mrs Jutting
February 15th  9.30 a.m.  Mrs Hazelrigg / Mr Strange
                6.00 p.m.  Mothers' Union Members
February 22nd  11.00 a.m.  Miss Chesney / Miss Miller
                6.00 p.m.  Mrs Ward

Sanctuary Flower Guild
February 1st  Mrs J Clarke  Mrs M England
February 8th  Mrs Owers  Mrs Wood
February 15th  Mrs B Cobb  Mrs D Barnes
February 22nd  Mrs N Scott  Mrs D Croome

Readers
February 1st  Mrs C Lewis
February 8th  Mr I Ventham
February 15th  Mother's Union
February 22nd  Mrs P Ward

AFFPUDDLE CHURCH ROTAS

Flowers and cleaning
1st February  Flowers  Mrs Thornley
             Cleaning  Mrs Thornley
8th February  Flowers  Mrs Thornley
             Cleaning  Mrs Nicholson
15th February  Flowers  Mrs Thornley
                Cleaning  Mrs Russell
22nd February  Flowers  Mrs Thornley
                Cleaning  Mrs Sanderson

Sidesmen, Readers and Readings

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VILLAGE PRAISE IN BRIANTS PUDDLE VILLAGE HALL

Sunday 22 February 6.30 p.m.

Our special winter evening services on a theme of 'Unity' on the fourth Sunday of the month continue. This month, on 22 February, we have a visiting speaker, the Rev Jimmy Hamilton-Brown, whom many of you will remember from the help he gave us in keeping the parish's services going during the interregnum.

Do join us in the village hall for this informal service.
**CHURCH NEWS**

**a daily prayer**

glory to god who has so blest me

 glory to god who has lavished such love upon me from my birth, through family and friends.

 glory to god for nourishing me with the fruits of the earth and sea.

 glory to god for kindness, generosity and affection

 glory to god for loving me personally and for his son jesus, who died for me.

**THANKSGIVING FOR MARRIAGE** (Bere Regis Church)

You would think, judging by the newspapers and television and radio that none of us are happily married. Actually most of us are. It has been suggested that many of us might like to give thanks for this (see ‘Thought from the Vicarage’). In the autumn, we held an evening service to remember those who had died, and this proved a very helpful service for those who came.

As a result of this, we are going to hold a Service of Thanksgiving for Marriage at 6.00 p.m. on 15th February. It will be within the framework of the evening service that we normally hold, but the hymns and reading and prayers will be relevant to the theme of thanksgiving for our marriage.

So many in the parish were married but now have sadly lost their spouse. A thanksgiving for the memories of that time and those years may be helpful. Do know that the service will include you. And if you are anxious about coming on your own, bring a friend who may be in the same situation. We have so much to be thankful for.

**BERE REGIS BELLRINGERS**

Our visit to the Whitechapel bell foundry is booked for 10.00 a.m. on Saturday 19th September 1998. There is a charge for the tour - £5 per head, and there is a strict minimum age of 14.

Anyone is very welcome to join in the visit and we are planning to add an afternoon visit to the Chelsea Hospital before returning home. The total cost including coach, will depend somewhat on numbers. Names to John England please.

**LENT LUNCHES in Bere Regis**

Last year, following our delight at having kitchen facilities in Bere Regis Church, we had Lent Lunches every Wednesday. This proved very popular. We have therefore decided to repeat this.

Our Lent Lunches are for charity - Christian Aid. We offer Soup, Bread and Cheese, and Coffee. We hold them in the South Aisle of the church. They are from 12.30 p.m. - 1.30 p.m. The cost is (only) £2.50. The Church will be warm!
LENT TALKS

Several people asked me if I would do another ‘course’ of talks during Lent. I have agreed and am preparing 5 talks on what we do and what we mean in the service of Holy Communion. This service has many names because it is the central service of the main Christian Churches.

It is called The Mass, The Eucharist, The Liturgy, The Lord’s Supper and the Holy Communion. But what is it?

If you would like to hear about it, come on Wednesdays in Lent.

These are the dates and the places, every talk starts at 7.00 p.m. and ends by 8.00 p.m.

The Vicar

BERE REGIS GIFT DAY - 14TH February (St Valentine)

The Parish Church in Bere Regis is one of the gems of England. It is not only the unique roof carved in 1486, or the awesome font, created in 1130, or the altar slab first used in the 13th century that makes it a gem. Somehow the whole building has an atmosphere that speaks to people of our heritage and of our own spiritual gift.

Those of you who have lived here for years will perhaps take it for granted, though I have not found this. Those of us who have come into the parish recently are normally astonished to find this treasure in the middle of a small village. Whoever we are we can be proud of our church and wish it well.

Sadly, money is needed to keep it alive and in good repair. We need to rewire and re-light the building. The wiring has been condemned. You know what this costs in your own home, so I don’t need to spell out the cost of this in respect of a large church.

The walls are beginning to flake and crumble inside, and we need to plaster and lime wash. This is a very expensive business. So it goes on.

The regular church goers are quite anxious about the financial burden so I am asking the parish generally to help if you can.

A Great Dean of Belfast inspired me once by sitting outside his cathedral hoping for offerings. The colder and wetter the day, the more people gave.

I foolishly told the church wardens about this, and now they sit me outside the Post Office in West Street in the coldest and wettest month!

If you would care to contribute to the financing our our glorious church, please bring an offering to me between 10.00 a.m. and 12.00 noon on St Valentine’s day (14th February). An envelope will be put through your letter box for this purpose. Should you not be able to do this at this time, please give it someone who you know will bring it to the church, or to the Vicarage or to a church service.

And do know that it will be deeply appreciated.

A HEARTFELT PLEA FROM THE EDITOR

As most of the regular contributors to the magazine know, the deadline date for copy to be received is the 15th of the month (13th to Martha Tucker in Affpuddle).

There are more and more occasions when I am receiving copy several days after the deadline - sometimes as much as a week! This month is no exception.

This makes it very difficult for me to get the artwork to the printer in time for him to have the magazines ready for collection by the 26th of the month, so that the distributors can deliver your copy at the beginning of each month.

I don’t wish to appear a ‘mooching Minnie’ but compiling and typesetting the magazine is quite a complex task, taking at least fifteen hours of work. I have a demanding full time job too, so fitting it all in can be very difficult.

Please, please, therefore, could I ask you to get your articles in on time. I really don’t want to have to say “you’re too late” and I’m delighted to be as accommodating as possible, but I may have to ‘enforce the rules’ in the future.

Thanks so much.
BERE REGIS NEWS

MOTHERS' UNION

Our January meeting took place in church and members were encouraged to support our campaign to attract new members.

Mary Fagan, our Media representative asked for our written comments on how marriage is portrayed in TV 'Soaps' or other programmes.

A letter of thanks has been received from the Salisbury Women's Refuge following our response to their appeal for Christmas presents etc. for the women and children.

Christopher Rose of Christian Aid had recently visited the Sudan and met MU members whom he had given MU badges. Other MU members in the Sudan would like badges so our branch will consider supporting this request.

The main part of the meeting was a discussion on gambling in all its forms. Information and guidelines including biblical teaching were provided by Eileen B. Members concluded that human nature has not changed and the temptation to "get rich quick" has always been there.

A gift exchange took place raising £7 for funds. Some subscriptions are still outstanding, please could these be paid as soon as possible to Christine.

An outing to Mary Summerhouse is being considered during August. This will be a deenery event. Would those interested please give names to Eileen B.

Next month's meeting will take place on 4th February at 7.30pm in church when the speaker will be Mrs Jane Harrison. Her subject will be the Holton Lee project.

Brenda Pittfield - 471391

RURAL POST OFFICE - A MESSAGE FROM THE POSTMASTER

Over the last fifteen years that I have been Postmaster of Bere Regis, I have, like many of you, seen the decline of many rural Post Offices and the shops that they are situated in, closing down. All too often support comes too late when closure is imminent.

Huge changes to the way we live and shop, have resulted in local shops having to fight harder for their survival. Experience has shown that local people can work together to save the local Post Office and shop, and I thought a better understanding on how the Post Office works would help you to maintain this Post Office and shop in the village.

First and foremost, a Post Office works on a points system. These points are generated by the amount of transactions that are carried out over the Post Office Counter. Over the years I have seen a decline in transactions, due to the increase of business being done by Direct Debit.

The combination of higher overheads in maintaining an office with less business coming in, inevitably means that the Postmaster does not find it viable to maintain his office. Many of you will have heard the saying "use it or lose it". It's up to you.

What I would like you to do is to think of all the bills that you pay by post. Could these be paid at the Post Office, saving you a stamp? The following services are available at this office:

- Alliance and Leicester Girobank - Cheque book facility and 24 hour free banking
- National Savings Bank - Savings Accounts
- Foreign Currency
- Travel Insurance
- Motor Tax

and a wide range of bill paying - BT, Southern Electric, British Gas, Council Tax, Rent, TV Licence. These are free of charge and savings stamps for many of these accounts are available to spread the cost.

The Post Office alone could not survive without the shop, likewise the shop could not operate without the Post Office. Please use both.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continual support, and in return, I myself will be investing and upgrading my office to take account of the new technology that will shortly be available.

Red Hamilton-Brown

An addition by the Vicar

I asked Mr Hamilton-Brown to write the above message after I had been to see him when the Briantspuddle Post Office was closing. I was quite ignorant as to how a rural Post Office worked and was surprised to find that the Postmaster relies on performance related pay, and on the transactions carried out over the Post Office Counter. Unlike the people working in a General Post Office or those who collect and deliver the mail. They are paid a set annual salary.

For two years now, Mr Hamilton-Brown has taken a cut in pay. So it's up to us to use our Post Office as he suggests. To lose this personal, friendly and efficient facility in Bere Regis would be a severe loss to us all.
THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, YOUTH SECTION

The section continues to meet on Wednesday evenings each week at the legion club in North Street from 7.15p.m. until 10p.m.

Just before the Christmas holiday ten members of the section undertook a twelve hour overnight Sponsored Poppy Pool Marathon. The event got underway at 10.00 p.m. with the youngsters trying to play more than 100 frames of pool before 10.00 a.m. the following morning. The target was to beat the number of frames played the last time the section completed this event in 1995. After twelve long hours as the clock reached 10a.m. the 102nd frame was just completed.

To date just over £100 has been collected in from sponsors with a few other amounts still to be gathered. A cheque will be handed over to the Poppy Appeal by youth section chairman Mr Paul Fripp, on Wednesday 28th January.

News has just been received from legion headquarters that the section has been judged the "Runners-Up" in the Windsor Spinks Memorial Youth Trophy for 1997. This competition is to find the legion’s national Youth Section of the Year, which the section won for a second time last year. Since the section won the competition at the first attempt in 1990 it has never finished outside the top three. The competition, open to all the Legion’s 150 youth sections, was first held in 1989.

Apart from the weekly evening programme, the section are also undertaking a number of other weekend activities during the year. To date the following have been confirmed.

On the 22nd - 25th May a small group plus two qualified leaders and assistant leaders will be heading for North Wales. There the party will be climbing Mount Snowdon along with other neighbouring peaks in the area.

In the summer, when the rain gets warmer, the section will be heading off for Avon Tyrrell in the New Forest for a camping and activity weekend. This is a very popular weekend with section members who enjoy taking part in canoeing, orienteering, night walks, swimming in the outdoor heated pool, as well as the many other games on offer.

At the start of winter, the section is making its annual trek to the bright lights of Blackpool. The weekend of the 2nd - 4th October will see the youngsters visit the popular seaside town with its illuminations but more importantly to enjoy the famous Pleasure Beach. There they can spend hours at the Amusement Park on the exciting White Knuckle rides. On the way home the journey will be broken by spending the day at Alton Towers and another session on the famous rides there, when the Black Hole, The Beast, The Ripsaw, Nemesis and as yet an unknown new ride will be visited.

Due to the retirement of Miss Helen Stockley who left the section on reaching the upper age limit of 18, a vacancy now exists for the position of Youth Section Standard Bearer. This is an important position as the standard attends many parades across Dorset and at other important events in the south. During her time carrying the standard Helen appeared on BBC television twice. Firstly on the BBC’s "Songs of Praise", from Sherborne Abbey then at the 'RBL Festival of Remembrance' from the Royal Albert Hall in London. So there are plenty of opportunities for any would be volunteer for this position to get involved in.

The section, which the legion formed in 1987, is open to all young people in the 12 to 17 age range. Anyone who would like to join the section is welcome to come along on any youth night and have a look. Membership is open to both male and females and costs just £2.50 for the legon year (October - September).

T M Vine, Youth Leader.

BERE REGIS CARNIVAL COMMITTEE

Thank you to the people who supported the Treasure Hunt that took place on Sunday 28 December. A total of seven cars took part and we covered a fifteen mile course from Bloxworth, around Sandford and back to Bere Regis via Wareham. Ted Steele did a sterling job setting the course and with 43 clues our brains were kept busy.

The winners were Russel and Andrea Phillips, with Bev and Pete Denney in second place. We could have done with a few more entries but perhaps we will have more success running this type of event in the better weather.
At the time of writing we are in the process of organising the Skittles Knock-out for the 16 January. Thanks to Mike and Laura at the Royal Oak for their help and support. Let’s hope this turns out to be a good night.

The quiz planned for 22 February is now organised. Thank you to Sue Stone for doing the questions. Posters will be in evidence around the village. If you would like to enter a team the cost is £2 a team with teams consisting of up to 4 people. Just turn up at the Sports Club by 8 pm. Their will be prizes for the winners and we will also be holding a raffle.

**CARNIVAL DIARY OF EVENTS**

- **22 February** Carnival Quiz at the Sports Club
- **9 April** Easter Bingo - Bere Regis R.B.L. Club
- **4 May** Tug of war, car boot sale, fancy dress dog show, Wellie wang at Court Green complete with licenced bar and fish and chips.
- **23 May** Duck race and wheelbarrow race followed during the evening with the Carnival Prince/Princess and Drag Queen disco at the Legion.
- **14 June** Sponsored horse ride and mountain bikes starting from Court Green
- **18 July** Carnival Day

If you have any ideas on fund-raising events that you would like to see organised, please contact me.

Please remember that if the events organised are not supported by local people the carnival may be in jeopardy.

Wendy Johnson - Secretary - 01929 471803

**PARISH COUNCIL**

At the January meeting each year the Council finalises the budget for the forthcoming year. During the previous couple of months the members have discussed the priorities which they consider should be included. The Council has financial responsibilities concerning the Play Area, the Cemetery and the General Administration. Funds need to be set aside for the maintenance and repairs to equipment, grass cutting etc.

The Councillors were all very conscious of the need to restrict any increase in the precept - the sum that the Council requests from the District Council to run the village affairs - as this money originates from the Council Tax. At the same time the Council is having to make some difficult decisions as their funds have been reduced and the Parish Councillors were advised that cuts in some services were likely. After some very serious studying of estimates the Councillors were able to restrict the increase in the Parish precept to around 4% on the previous year.

The Council is very conscious of the general lack of provision in the village for the young. The Play Area is provided for the toddlers. Some years ago we had a very good Youth Club but due to lack of support that had to be closed down. The Royal British Legion took on the work and run a very good Club for the young. However, that obviously does not meet the needs of all and the Council feels that something should be done for the older young people. The Council would welcome suggestions from the young people as to what is, in their opinion, required.

**DRAX HALL**

This is a quiet time in the Activities of the Hall, but the good old regulars continue to help the Hall. My particular thanks go out to the Saturday Mini Markets. These are held on the second Saturday each month and there are stalls selling all manner of items. Particularly, lovely cakes and floral items for the gardens. Please try to support this surviving village activity. It means as much as £100 each year to the Hall from the stall rentals of just £2.00 per session. If it is not supported, we will lose it at the end of this year.

Please make a note of Thursday, April 2nd when we shall be hosting the Forest Forge Theatre Group. This time we have another Hardy classic - the Mayor of Casterbridge. This play is on tour before going on to Salisbury where you could see exactly the same performance for at least twice as much per seat! So please come along and join in the fun.
BERE REGIS W.I.

Our Speaker for our February meeting will be the Rev K S Timbrell with a very unusual and interesting subject namely - 'The Herbs and History of Medicine'. So come along and find out more. Could we have eternal youth?

Also Shrove Tuesday will be celebrated again - the date being the 24th February - with our now famous pancake race and coffee morning. Starting point as usual 101 North Street, by kind permission of Mrs Sally Cheeseman.

So come along and cheer the children from the junior school and also the senior participants who race down the 'Track'.

Welcome refreshments and mouth watering cakes etc. all available at a reasonable cost. Come along and enjoy a happy hour, renew an old acquaintance or strike up a new friendship! It only takes a smile to help someone's day.

Zena Rogers

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION GARDENING CLUB

The AGM on 6 January was very kindly chaired by Terry Vine who reminded us of the sad loss of Percy House and Dennis Maitdment in 1997.

With Brian Murray and John Wrixon standing down from the committee after much valued service, we are most grateful to Sheila Leigh for volunteering to join us. It's not too late for others wishing to join the committee, so if you would like more information call Andy on 472343 or Megan on 471627.

Our thanks go to Mike Truck for preparing our accounts and presenting them in John Wrixon's absence.

The AGM was followed by an extremely interesting pictorial quiz. Yet another local talent in Mr Corbett-Marshall showered us with verbal clues as well as slides in a most entertaining evening.

Our February meeting on Tuesday 3rd is again superb value for money with two talks for the price of one by Albert Wason: Wild flowers around Wareham and district - plus Look where you walk - a talk on fungi

We look forward to seeing all our old (and young!) members and would welcome any visitors or new members.

Andy Morrison - 472343

IT'S PANTO TIME AGAIN!

The D'Urbanville Amateur Dramatic Society are presenting Old King Cole, a pantomime by Eric Fowler, on the 12th, 13th and 14th February 1998 (including a matinee on Saturday) at the D'Urbanville Hall, Wool.

Lots of fun and laughs for all the family! Everybody Welcome!

For more information and tickets, please contact Ruth Gregory on Wareham (01929) 556234.

AUTUMN LEAVES OVER '50's' CLUB

We had a lovely afternoon at our New Year Party. There were lots of laughs, amusing games, a present for every member from pass the parcel, and a delicious tea. A free raffle and a beautiful polyanthus plant for each member to take home.

Our speaker at the next meeting of Wednesday 11th February, will be Tony Bates, which is always a very enjoyable afternoon.

We will welcome new members to our club, with no fee for joining.

Mary England - 471469  Kath Jeeves - 471175

100 WATT CLUB

1st prize - £10
Mrs E Jutting - 95

2nd prize - £10
Mrs L Bartlett - 26

3rd prize - £10
Mrs R Angell - 20

4th prize - £5
Miss S Kinahan - 203

5th prize - £5
Mrs P House - 41

Shares still available from Gordon Phillips - 471525
DORSET LATVIA LINK

ALESJA - I am very happy to report that all did go “according to plan” (as outlined in the December ’97 Parish Mag) and our latest news from Latvia is that Alesja is now wearing mini-skirts, visiting friends and family and enjoying life like any other 16 year old young lady. She will however remain under medical supervision and physiotherapy will continue in Latvia. It is anticipated that she will return to Dorset within the next 12 months for further adjustments to her prosthesis. So many folk worked hard to ensure a trouble-free visit for Alesja and although it was hectic, exhausting, and at times traumatic, the sight of her walking tall on both feet without the need for crutches (with MIKE clutching in her arms) waving goodbye at Gatwick, was an emotional moment which made all the hard work of the past 2 years worthwhile. Our heartfelt thanks go to Bob Watts, our expert and his team at the Dorset Orthopaedic Company; Wimborne Hospital Physiotherapy Dept.; The Crows Nest Inn, Swanage - donors of MIKE, among other things; Hartley’s School, Marek and Janet, our host family; other Link members and non-members, who gave of their time so freely and finally, all our friends and supporters who helped us to raise the money to make it all possible. We could not have done it without you. THANK YOU. We are in the process of putting together a report of this project and copies should be available in the near future.

Our stall at the Briantspuddle Christmas Fair, raised the marvellous sum of £64 - a record for this event for us. Alesja and Dace, her interpreter, spent the afternoon meeting folk from the village and generally enjoying a very “English” afternoon. It was a lot of fun and a great start to the Christmas Season. The Chairman and committee of the Link wish you all a Prosperous and Happy 1998.

Jenny Silvas, Hon Sec

BERE REGIS FIRST SCHOOL

The children at Bere Regis School, often take part in fund-raising activities to help them develop a sense of concern for others. At the end of January, the pupils are being sponsored to keep fit with aerobics. The money raised will go to ‘Lepra’, an organisation which aids the victims of leprosy. Expect to see very fit and healthy children around the village in February!

This term, we are working towards a performance of dance, drama and music as part of the arts programme run by our ‘cluster’ of schools. The pupils will join those of Winfrith, Wool and Lulworth in the production.

POP IN PLACE NEWS

Thank you to all who contributed to the £165 and the box of food taken to Michael’s. They were very well received. Michael’s Night shelter and day centre has been nominated as the Pop in Place’s Charity for this year. Our chairperson, Alison Bennett visited Michael’s at Christmas and reported that the staff and volunteers are carrying out caring and sensitive support for the homeless. On Christmas Eve, there were 88 residents, both men and women at the shelter. Michael’s is a church building with the top storey as a church, the middle - a day centre and the basement converted into a dormitory to sleep the homeless. It was moving to see how this church had opened its doors to the needs of people and how it serves a real and vital part in its community”. June Edgar is coming to give a talk in March to tell us more about the work of the shelter.

Forthcoming Events

Valentine Family disco - Saturday 14th February at the Drax Hall. 6.00 p.m. - 10.00 p.m. Dancing to the ever popular Flashback - the disco for all ages. Everyone is welcome and entry is by ticket only £1 each, also soft drink and snack bar and prize raffle. Please support this event in aid of PIP funds.

Friday 20th March - There will be a talk from June Edgar, the Manager of Michael’s Day/Night shelter for the homeless. 11.00 a.m. - Everyone welcome.

Good Friday 10th April (and the previous Monday) We will have an Easter Egg raffle. So, please, if you are able to donate an egg we would be very grateful. Part of the profits from this raffle will go to PIP funds and part to Michael’s.

The Pop in Place Coffee Evening is on Wednesday 29th April at 7.00 p.m. We will hold a short AGM as part of a social evening of coffee, bring and buy, cakes and raffle etc. All welcome.
The Pop in Place has been open now for 16 months. Some newcomers to the village or new readers of this magazine may not be aware of what the Pop In Place is all about. We are open on Monday and Friday mornings from 9 until noon. Everyone is welcome to Pop In. We offer a friendly meeting place with refreshments, a well equipped children's play area, the opportunity to play music or radio of your choice.

There is an extensive library of books, videos and audio/talking books for loan, free of charge. We have notice boards containing community information, 'for sale' and a village 'what's on'. The 50/50 new to you scheme is very popular. This is where we sell good quality clothing and second hand small household items (not electrical) and share the profit with the vendor. This enables us to pay our rent to the Drax Hall and to develop the Pop In Place further with new books, videos, etc.

During the school Summer Holidays, the Pop in Place will, once again, repeat the summer activities for children. More details of this will be published in due course. There will also be the Christmas Party and entertainment on Saturday 12th December at 3.00 p.m.

Now at the Pop In Place. We are now able to offer a computer facility, so if you need to produce a typed letter, call in and you can produce it yourself or one of our assistants will do it for you. Youngsters can develop their skills and the not so young can experience the exciting world of the computer!

We are also able to offer a mobile phone facility so if you are, for example, a carer and have called in for a break you can be contacted by telephone. This enables the Pop In Place to be contacted directly during opening times. These are just some of the ways that the Pop In Place is meeting your needs. To assist us further with development, please take time to answer and return the questionnaire overleaf.

Just to give you an idea of the number of people who are now regularly attending the Pop in Place, on the 3 sessions after the Christmas break, when we would expect it to be very quiet, we welcomed 132 visitors to the centre, of all different ages.

So if you haven't called in yet, why not give it a whirl in 1998.

If you support the concept of the Pop in Place, but are working then why not donate some items for us to sell to raise funds for further developments.

Thank you for your time to read this.

The Pop in Place Management Committee

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**POP IN PLACE QUESTIONNAIRE**

Are the opening times suitable to you

Yes/No

Would you attend the PIP at another time more suitable to you, if so when?


What material would you be interested to borrow from the library?


Would you like to become a volunteer?

Yes/No

Would you be interested in donating good quality clothing to be sold in aid of PIP funds?

Yes/No

Any further comments or suggestions?


Name


Address


Telephone number


Please return to the Pop in Place on Monday or Friday mornings or to 3 Rye Hill Close, Bere Regis.
THE CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL
BUTT LANE, BERE REGIS

Have you heard the story of the thief, who for a prank, broke into a Superstore during the night and switched all the price tags. The next morning a diamond ring and a mink coat went for a ‘song’, but a pair of socks and a handbag cost the earth. Suddenly overnight everything had, without warning, either lost or enhanced its value. But who had set the value? The thief, of course!

We all have values of one kind or another, but who sets them? How did we acquire them? By what measure of standard can we judge them? Governments, society and individual families set their standard for themselves, but unless an absolute higher authority and standard are recognised as measuring line, standards will inevitably gravitate to the lowest common denominator.

Just as the manufacturers and the management in a superstore set the value of the articles that are for sale, so, I believe, God our Maker and Creator, has set His high standard of values and commands by which nations, society and individuals should live. These are set out in the Bible and have never been changed or rescinded. To ignore or reject God’s Word is to allow another power to come in and change all the values of life.

"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people" Proverbs 14:34. The values a society gives its children today are the foundation on which the next generation builds its life tomorrow.

Jesus Christ said, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I am come that you may have life in all its fullness”. John 10:10. To receive that special quality of ‘life’ come to Jesus and tell Him you want to turn your back on your old life and values, and make a new start with Him in charge of your life. Then you really will see the difference!

Rev. Ray Healey, 12 South Mead, Bere Regis. Tel: 471443

BERE REGIS SPORTS CLUB
Football results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 Dec</td>
<td>BERE REGIS</td>
<td>3-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Dec</td>
<td>BERE REGIS</td>
<td>7-2</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Jan</td>
<td>Dorset Saturday Junior Cup Quarter Final</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Jan</td>
<td>BERE REGIS</td>
<td>0-2</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Jan</td>
<td>GEORGE HOTEL</td>
<td>1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Jan</td>
<td>BERE REGIS</td>
<td>3-2</td>
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A glorious victory in a vital table top clash at home to early pacers Linthorpe, gave Bere a lift and a succession of victories elevated them to the position of Yuletide table toppers. Although Bere have played more games, points are far more beneficial. The fearsome scoring trio of Burt Stramack, Wayne Cope and Ricky Cummins inflicted maximum damage to the former freemen hopes. The latter has hit form at the right time hitting six goals from three league games. Bere remained top of the league after a complete performance dismissing their old rivals’ challenge. However the bulk of the run in to the title, is away from home, and many tricky encounters follow.

All eyes focused on the cup as Bere competed in their second successive quarter final. This time it was at home to Chickereell, from the South Western Conference. On match day Bere entertained some 50 to 100 away spectators adding to a breezy but enjoyable January afternoon. A full blooded passionate game was played out on a near perfect pitch reaping the benefit from some essential drainage work. It was a tribute to the hard working groundsstaff in the face of unseasonal downpours coupled with high winds. In the first half, Bere held on grimly as they were handed out a lesson. Chickereell’s deft and pacy midfield ran affairs, and helped themselves to an early advantage from a long throw catching Bere cold. It wasn’t until the final minutes of the half that Bere carved opportunities with Kev Cox and Wayne Cope being instrumental. A half time roasting almost transformed lacklustre Bere, and on a day when chances were about as rare as an England cricket victory, Bere missed two gift wrapped openings. Despite camping themselves in their visitors’ half, Bere could not find their way through a rugged, well drilled defence. The league is now their goal, with testing times ahead.
A plethora of injuries beset Bere’s Sunday manager Staffor Macklin, but his side managed to emulate their Saturday counterparts, and Bere football rode high once again in the halls of Dorset football. The Iron Man was in the line up for the visit of Mountbatten Arms. It was an audacious bid to lower the average of the team, but nevertheless the team’s enormous potential sprung to life in the great Sunday promotion push. They brushed aside the meek challenge of their opposition, with Darren “The Spiv” returning from exile to reinforce the defensive ranks with his unique brand of Mid-Dorset pass and move play.

Lead front man Andy Curtis had a field day benefiting from some incisive moves and shambolic defending. Comic moments included Hristo Orum uprooting a corner flag whilst attempting to float over another teasing centre, and near the end a Mountbatten forward sparked a future following an Olympic dive. The eternally alert Darren Spiv picked out Andy Curtis with a crossing pass who added his fourth, completing the rout. A Whitecliff excursion against lowly George Hotel was in the balance, until a mid-morning pitch inspection passed the pristine surface fit for a banquet of morning football. Three penalties were awarded, with one being converted by each side, unfortunately for Bere Mark Gale uncharacteristically blasted over, narrowly missing a kebab van some distance behind the goal. The Iron Man levelled affairs with a crisp volley on forty minutes. A successful Mark Gale penalty initiated a George slide. Central defensive pairing Steve McElaney and Gary Jeff joined the scorers, the first capitalising on a mesmerising run and pin-point cross from re-born player-manager Nick Macklin. He hauled himself off the bench to ensure victory. He cashed in later on from a cross from the rampaging Gloves Rogerson, from 10 cm out.

Finally the club would like to pay a tribute to the youth cricket team, who under the guidance of General Gordon, made steady progress in their inaugural season in an indoor league hosted by the Dorset Cricket Association. The standard is high, and our youngsters acquitted themselves well. It appears the future is in capable hands.

BERE REGIS FLORAL GROUP

At our AGM in January, officers were elected as follows:

President: Mrs Jean Herridge
Chairman: Mrs Pat House
Vice-Chairman: Mrs Jennifer Champion
Secretary: Mrs Jill Atkins
Treasurer: Mrs Ann Pollard
Programme Secretary: Mrs Diana Holman

On 10th February, we have Pamela Lewis from Devizes and her subject is Springtime.

AFFPUDDLE/BRIANTSPUDDLE NEWS

BLADEN SOCIAL CLUB

In November, we handed over £1,150 to the MRI Scanner Appeal at Dorchester. Half of which was raised from the sale of waste paper. So please, keep bringing your newspapers along.

We have so far raised over £500 for the children’s ward at D.C.H. plus we have already given them a TV.

When our year is up for collecting for the children’s ward, we will be doing another year for the MRI Appeal.

Future Events:

Wednesday, 18th February, 8.00pm. A.G.M.
Saturday, 7th March, 8.00pm. Birthday Reunion Party, (all past and present members welcome)
Wednesday, 18th March, 8.00pm. Village Quiz, (teams of four wanted)
Saturday, 4th April, 8.00pm. Easter Bingo
Friday, 15th May. The Yetties, (tickets will be on sale in April)

May we remind people that the recycle bins in the yard should not be used on Sundays.

Sue Jeames

AFFPUDDLE & TURNERSPUDDLE PARISH COUNCIL

The January meeting was held in the pleasant and warm surroundings of the Social Club, with your kind permission.

The main topic for discussion was the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant to develop the Village Hall.

Firstly, a report was given on the progress of the village shop/post office. Several options had been considered for the siting of the shop. The current use of the granary as a part time shop and post office was working reasonably well and getting local support. However, it was considered not practical for the long term. Another option, was to purchase a pre-fabricated structure (e.g. a ‘Portacabin’) but although relatively inexpensive would not fit in with the village surroundings. A third option was to incorporate the shop into the proposed Hall development and the area currently occupied by the store and garage could provide an ideal space. A tenant would need to be found and the premises would be leased by the P.C., as owners of the buildings.
The P.C. agreed to carry the costs of the shop for a further three months when the Shop Committee would present a written report on the long term proposals.

Plants had been drawn for the proposed Hall development and these were presented and explained.

The plans had attempted to include the wishes and views put forward by the Hall Committee, the Social Club and the village Shop Committee.

The proposal was to make an entrance off the car park leading to a lobby with ladies, gentlemen’s and disabled toilets off. Also, leading off was the Social Club, the hall, a store and the kitchen. Adjoining the kitchen was a small meeting room. New roofing would be tile rather than thatch and the cost of the project had been calculated to include repairs/maintenance of existing buildings and provision for re-thatching the Hall roof when the time came.

The budget cost would mean that 75% would be available from Lottery Funds and the remainder would need to be raised. It was not, however, necessary to raise the money before making the application.

It was clear from the comments made at the presentation that discussion would need to continue on the details of the plan which must represent a democratic view of the village. Nevertheless, as an outline, it appeared to be sufficiently feasible to satisfy the wishes of the village and the proposals were generally well received.

Further meetings would take place over the next few weeks to discuss the details and timing of the application for lottery funds.

CHRISTMAS ‘THANKS’

Very many thanks to all those people who gave money towards the purchase of flowers to decorate the church for Christmas. £47.50 was collected and white spray chrysanthemums were purchased from Piddle Valley Nurseries at Culeaze. At the time of going to press they are still fresh and usable. It is hoped that they will last until at least the end of January.

“Thank you” too, to everyone who brought gifts to the Gift Service on 21st December. These were taken into Dorchester to Cheshire Homes where they were much appreciated.

VOLUNTEER TIME - THE NEW CLEANING AND FLOWER ARRANGING ROTAS

The new rota list starts in April and I prepare it during the first week in March to be ready for inclusion in the April Parish Magazine. Unless, I hear to the contrary I am assuming that all those at present on the two rota are prepared to do flowers/clean for the forthcoming year.

However, I always need new volunteers to (a) replace those who have moved away or are no longer able to do these jobs and (b) to lighten the load of the existing volunteers so that they do not have to do so many duties.

Flower arranging

This consists of making sure that the flowers in church are fresh and attractive. Skill is not a prerequisite though obviously, we welcome those who are masters in this field.

Cleaning

This consists of sweeping and dusting the church during the week allocated.

In addition to the weekly dusting and sweeping the church is given 4 special cleans during the year when depending on the number of volunteers, the pews, other furniture and floors are polished and the hassocks and mats are vacuum cleaned and the stone floors washed and if numbers permit the windows are cleaned. Please note the dates when these special cleaning sessions take place and turn up together with dusters and polishing cloths.

Just a final thought, the time you give to these tasks is equivalent to giving the church between £3.50 and £4.00 for every hour you work.

Offers of help with cleaning and flower arranging should be given to Phillipa Thornley (Bere Regis 471497) before the end of February 1998.

Church Yard Mowing

We have a most attractive church in Affpuddle which is maintained by the villagers who also live in Bratspanuddle, Throop and Turnerspuddle.

The mowing of the Churchyard is carried out by volunteers who give up their time to ensure that the grass is cut from April to November. The grass is cut by groups of three people who are responsible for doing it once in 14 days during the summer season. A lawn mower is provided with petrol, but some people prefer to use their own machines. (The church is more than willing to reimburse the cost of petrol in these cases.)

The Vicar, Churchwardens and Parochial Church Council are most grateful to all those who do this work.

We still need more volunteers to ensure that the churchyard is maintained to its normal high standard. Even if you are not a regular member of the church congregation you may wish to use the church for christenings, weddings and burials. Some people who live here have relations buried in the churchyard who would wish to see their resting place looking tidy and cared for.
I would be grateful for those who are able to assist in carrying out this work to give me their names so that I can add them to the roll. Names please by the end of February. Many thanks.

Bill Thorniley

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Progress is being made with the lottery application and the matter is being considered by the Parish Council (the hall Landlord) at their January meeting. At the time of going to press it is not possible to give a report of any decisions, as the material for the February magazine has to be submitted before the date of the meeting.

The next Art Reach Production will be “Life in the Freezer” by Ben Osborne. The tickets will cost £3.50 and will be available from Philippa Thorniley from the beginning of March.

Ben Osborne was the stills photographer for the BBC TV series “Life in the Freezer” and has visited Antarctica three times in pursuit of his wonderful visual images of wild life and the unique landscapes of this continent. This astonishing illustrated talk draws on these experiences to provide a spectacular, entertaining and informative view of the continent very few people have visited, and tells the story behind the filming of the award winning BBC TV series. Two audio visual sequences, with specially commissioned music, add drama and atmosphere to the show which is based upon a series of stunning images of a world out of this world.

REPLACEMENT CHURCH ORGAN

Work to replace the organ is scheduled to start immediately after Easter, when the existing instrument will be removed. The replacement organ will start to be installed in week commencing 21st April with all work being completed by 15th May, in time for Whitsun. This means we shall be without our organ for services on 19th April and 3rd May but alternative arrangements for providing a musical lead to our singing will be made.

VILLAGE SHOP

With the removal of the loft ladder and the provision of some shelving the Granary is looking altogether more spacious. The Committee is most grateful to Mrs Crimrod for the gift of both a refrigerator and a freezer which will allow the range of goods stocked to be widened. Further improvements are planned in the forthcoming weeks.

The experiment of opening on Friday evenings in January was not a success and was discontinued before the end of the month. However, the possibility of extending the hours beyond Monday and Thursday mornings will continue to be pursued.

The investigation into potential premises for a permanent shop continues and the result will be announced in due course.

Paul Badcock

BRIANTSPUDDLE W.I. JUMBLE SALE

There will be a Jumble Sale on Saturday 28th February in the Village Hall at 2.00 pm.

If you would like us to collect your jumble, please contact Martha Tucker on 471358. Alternatively, please leave your jumble at the Hall on Saturday 28th

PRE-LENT SUPPER

Saturday 21 February 1998
7.30 for 8.00 p.m.
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Forthcoming Events:

** February **
- 7 February: Quiz
- 14 February: Black Magic Disco
- 21 February: Super League Darts
- 28 February: Sue Francis

** March **
- 7 March: Function
- 14 March: Bullseye - 8.15 p.m.
- 21 March: Disco
- 28 March: Sue Francis

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CHURCH AND VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

Age Concern 2.00 p.m. Thursdays, Turville Court
Ancient Order of Foresters Friendly Society 7.30 p.m. 1st Monday, British Legion Hall
Autumn Leaves (over 50s) 2.30 p.m. 2nd Wednesday, Drax Hall
Beavers 6.30 p.m. Monday, Scout HQ
Bingo 7.45 p.m. Monday, Drax Hall
British Legion Club 7.15 p.m. - 11.30 p.m. Tuesday - Saturday
British Legion Women's Section 7.15 p.m. - 10.30 p.m. Sunday
British Legion Youth 2.00 p.m. 3rd Wednesday, HQ
Brownies 7.00 - 10.00 p.m. Wednesday, HQ
B.R.S.C. 6.00 - 7.15 p.m. Wednesday, Scout HQ
Winter season opening times: Tues, Wed, Fri
Briantspuddle Singers 7.00 p.m, Sat - 4.25 p.m., Sun - 7.30 p.m.
Choir Practice 7.45 p.m Tuesdays, Village Hall
C.A.B. 6.00 p.m. Junior, 6.45 p.m. Full Choir, Fri in Church.
Wareham - Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 10.00 a.m.-
C.A.B. 2.00 p.m. (closed Wednesday)
Bere Regis Surgery (for patients of the surgery only)
Wednesdays 9.00 a.m. - 12.00 noon
Camera Club 7.30 p.m 1st and 3rd Thursdays, Cyril Wood Court
Congregational Church 10.00 a.m. Sundays, Butts Lane
Cubs 6.30 p.m. Thursdays, Scout HQ
Dancing classes 6.30 p.m. - 8.00 p.m. 10.00 p.m.
Dorset/Lativa Link 1st Mon 10.15 a.m. - 11.00 a.m. Bere Regis P.O.
Dorset/Lativa Link Secretary - Jenny Silvas - 01929 471577
Floral Group 2.00 p.m. 2nd Tuesday, W. Kingston Village Hall
Guides 6.30 p.m. Tuesdays, Scout HQ
Kingsbere Quilters 3rd Wednesday, Drax Hall
February 1998

**Mini Market**
10.00 a.m. 2nd Saturday, Drax Hall

**Mobile Library**
Every Friday 2.00 p.m. - 3.35 p.m., car park

**Mothers' Union**
7.30 p.m. 1st Wednesday, the Church

**Parish Council**
7.00 p.m. 2nd Thursday, Drax Hall
Sub-committees on Post Office notice board

**Playgroup Bere Regis**
Five mornings, Bere Regis School - Tel: 01305 848792  Wednesday/Thursday PM

**Pop in Place**
9.00 a.m. - 12.00  Mondays and Fridays, Drax Hall

**Rainbows**
4.30 p.m. Tuesdays, Scout HQ

**RBL Gardening Club**
8.00 p.m. 1st Tuesday, Club House - Elaine 471774

**Scouts**
Junior - 7.30 p.m. Mondays, Scout HQ
Senior - 7.00 p.m. Fridays, Scout HQ

**Swimming Club**
Teaching sessions - Saturdays 6.00 p.m. - 7.30 p.m., Blandford L. C. Bob Holman, 01305 848262

**Toddler Group**
1.30 p.m. Mondays, Congregational Church

**Turberville Court**
2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m. Social afternoon each Tuesday
10.30 a.m. Coffee Morning, 1st Friday

**W.I. Bere Regis**
7.30 p.m. 3rd Tuesday, Drax Hall

**W.I. Brianspaddle**
7.30 p.m. 1st Wednesday, Brianspaddle Village Hall

**Woodbury Hill Singers**
2.30 p.m. Mondays, Larkspur, Snow Hill

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**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**February**

12/13/14th D'Urberville Amateur Dramatic Society - Old King Cole
14th Bere Regis Church Gift day, outside Post Office 10.00 a.m. - Noon
14th Valentine Family Disco, Drax Hall in aid of Pop in Place 6.00 pm-10.00 pm
18th Jubilee 2000 meeting, Cyril Wood Court 7.30 p.m.
21st Pre-Lent Community Supper, Brianspaddle Village Hall 7.30 p.m.
Tickets - £7 from Robin and Jane Gainsford - 471419
22nd Carnival Quiz, Sports Club
28th Brianspaddle WI Jumble Sale, Village Hall 2.00 p.m.

**March**

20th PIP talk from June Edgar, Michael's Day/Night shelter 11.00 a.m.
31st Blood Donor Session, Drax Hall

**April**

2nd The Mayor of Casterbridge - Forest Forge Theatre group, Drax Hall
9th Easter Bingo - RBL Club
10th Pop in Place Easter Egg Raffle (and the previous Monday)
17th Gilbert and Sullivan Concert in Church
29th Pop in Place Coffee Evening and AGM

**May**

4th Dorset Children's Show, Bovington Tank Museum
4th Tug of war, car boot sale, wallie wanger - Court Green
22nd Barn Dance at Lower Stockley Farm
23rd Duck race and wheelbarrow race, Carnival disco

**June**

14th Sponsored horse ride and mountain bikes
27th Official Twinning Reception
27th Garden Party at the Vicarage

**July**

18th Carnival Day

**September**

19th Bellringers visit to Whitechapel Bell Foundry 10.00 a.m.
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