

# THE STOURTON CAUNDLER

ISSUE NO. 90

MAY 2011

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## The Stourton Caundler team

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**Please present all contributions for the next issue to the Editor by 12 noon on 19 May 2011 by e-mail if possible. E mail address : [thecaundler@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:thecaundler@hotmail.co.uk). Please use only "Word" document format (.doc) when sending contributions.**

## Ancient map of Stourton Candell

Thanks to Tony Stainer of Bishop's Down, the cover of this month's issue depicts part of an Elizabethan manorial map of the Sherborne district on which can be seen details of the village. It is the oldest representation of the village and its surroundings known to exist. The map has changed hands several times, it first being passed to the ownership of Queen Elizabeth I in 1599 when Henry Cotton, Bishop of Salisbury gave the Sherborne estates to Her Majesty. It was subsequently transferred from the Royal Collection to that of George Legge, who was Master-General of the Ordnance to James II. It looks to have been sold at auction by Sotheby's in 1948 to Cyril Kenney before again being sold a second time by the same auction house in 1964. It now resides in safe keeping at the British Library in London.

The original map is almost 3ft square and shows a wealth of detail for such an old document with land belonging to individual manors colour-coded. That of our village is in pale blue and is ascribed as "Landes of my Lord Stourton". One interesting feature marked on the map is "gorforde gate" situated midway between "Stourton Candell" and "Bishoppes Candle". Such 'gates' can be found marked on many of the main routes at the boundaries between manors. The forest depicted in the lower part of the map is named, "holte wood", which still exists but is much less extensive some 440 years on.

*Richard Miles*

## A mixed bag

There is a mixed bag of articles for your delight and information this month. The workings of the Parish Council are explained on page 13 while gardening has been getting into full swing with the lovely weather we have been enjoying – just look at the rainfall and temperature figures on page 14 for factual evidence. Many took the opportunity to visit Manor Farm and Grange Cottage gardens when they were open a few weeks ago, while the Garden Club has been learning how to grow vegetables without digging! Is this what is happening on the allotments? There are signs of growth there but we cannot yet persuade the 'allotmenters' to tell the rest of us how they are setting about it!

Margaret Waddingham brings us up-to-date again on nature as spring takes hold; she sings the praise of butterflies but does not say how we could have stopped their associated caterpillars shredding our perennial (and rather tough, we thought) geraniums in the last few days! While those looking to add spice to their lives need only turn to Lorraine's Goudge's recipe on page 22.

On the personal side (in its widest sense), we conclude the account of Tosca the goshawk's day hawking pheasants and have a report on a day in the life of Mark Lewis, who although living in Stalbridge Weston, is frequently seen in the village and auctioned two properties here a few months ago.

There is also a foretaste of things to come; a Big Breakfast, a Villagers' Day and some expeditions to interesting places. There is plenty to look forward to. Finally, don't forget to check the website ([www.stourtoncaundle.org.uk](http://www.stourtoncaundle.org.uk)) for up-to-date news.

*Tim Villiers*

## Village Hall '100' Club monthly draw

The draw for April 2011 took place in The Trooper on 13 April. The winners were:

<i>First Prize:</i>	<i>£15.00</i>	<i>No.223</i>	<i>Vernon Robjohn</i>
<i>Second Prize:</i>	<i>£12.00</i>	<i>No.162</i>	<i>Anna Lillie</i>
<i>Third Prize:</i>	<i>£10.00</i>	<i>No.110</i>	<i>Julian Shardlow</i>
<i>Easter Bonus Prize:</i>	<i>£25.00</i>	<i>No.53</i>	<i>Euphan Scott</i>

The first draw of the new 6-month period will take place on Wednesday 18 May at The Trooper at about 9 pm.

Very many thanks to my collectors Delia and Fleur who have made sure that we have all the half-yearly subscriptions gathered in, and to all those of you who are contributing by your membership to our Village Hall funds.

*Anna Oliver*

### **Bluebells / Woodland Walk – Change of Date!**

Please note that, given the very early start to Spring this year, the date has been brought forward to:

**Monday, 2 May at 3.00-5.00 pm**

This will be a great opportunity for a nature ramble around the ancient woodland of Bilcombe Copse to see the bluebells and spot other flora and fauna followed by a cup of tea and a slice of cake/biscuit in the barn at Woodrow Farm afterwards. A donation of £4.00 per adult and £2.00 per accompanied child is suggested with proceeds going to St Peter's Church. Parking will be in the farmyard and stout walking shoes are recommended as the woods are located across a couple of fields from the parking area. If anyone feels they can't manage the longish walk then do still call by for a cuppa and a chat.

*Lizzie Fenwick*

## Naturally Thinking

Driving around in mid-April was like driving through a bubble of blossom. As far as the eye could see, verges and hedgerows were a mass of Blackthorn mixed with wild, white Cherry and the fat, pink buds of rogue Apples that make small, unexpected orchards here and there. In the verges, spring grasses were already covering Violets, Primroses were being overtaken by Stitchwort and Bluebells, and Cow Parsley was frothing over it all. Things had got a bit out of kilter. The Blackthorn was late and the Bluebells early, but who cares? It made a heady mix.

Cowslips are one of my favourite flowers and it's always good to see so many of them round here. Did you know the name is a polite form of cowslop or cowpat? I'm glad someone had the good sense to alter it slightly. My book tells me that to make the best wine, collect the flowers in May or June. Interesting that. It was only reprinted with amendments in 1988, but doesn't it just go to show how our seasons have changed recently? I think you'd be hard put to find even one flower out in June these days.

The swallows are back in the village. At the beginning of April, a friend rang to say one had arrived in her stable and was sitting on a beam looking rather out of breath and relieved that his journey was over. Most of these little birds keep up an average speed of 30mph, though apparently they can reach 100mph when they're after a good meal. Since they catch insects on the wing, I suppose they need this turn of speed. Their large wings and tails enable them to change direction rapidly and they have a particularly large mouth behind their bill which enables them to snap up insects in the air. So far, no house martins have been spotted, and, of course, the little swift will be the last to arrive.

Early butterflies have been around for a few weeks; Yellow Brimstones, Orange Tips, Small Tortoiseshells and Peacocks, and this week the first Large White flitted idly through the garden. Butterflies are some of our most beautiful creatures and undoubtedly the least destructive, though there are those who like to grow cabbages without holes who may disagree. Trouble is, you can't have a butterfly without a caterpillar. There are over 70 different species found regularly in Britain and they can live from a week to a year in butterfly form. Many are masters of camouflage. In India there is a Leaf Butterfly that you would sweep up with the rest of the garden rubbish and not notice until it flew away; there is an Owl Butterfly from Africa that looks more like an owl than an owl, and our own Peacock butterfly has those startling 'eyes' on the wings that fool any predator into thinking that it had better not tangle with it.

Mining Bees are busy in our front lawn again. These are similar to Honey Bees but they are solitary, smaller and less furry. They are sometimes called 'Lawn Bees' for obvious reasons. Each female makes a nest which can sometimes be up to an incredible two feet. She digs this with her fore feet, brushes the earth behind her with her hind feet and the earth left scattered around the entrance helps to conceal it. Every time she visits a flower she can bring back her own weight in pollen, which she rolls into a ball with nectar. On this she lays an egg and then closes up each cell. After she has made about six cells, she returns to the surface and dies. She is an important pollinator of fruit trees so I'm glad we have ours. Our two small apple trees do remarkably well – presumably thanks partly to them.

*Margaret Waddingham*

## Garden club

### Latest meeting

A large audience gathered in the Village Hall on 13 April for the latest Garden Club meeting. The speaker, Charles Dowding, is well known from his weekly column in the BVM, and was to talk on 'New Ways of Growing Vegetables'. He is an advocate of organic growing, but his real enthusiasm is for 'no dig' vegetable production. This is not quite as easy as it sounds, since it is necessary to cover the plot with 4-5 inches of organic mulch every year. Nonetheless, the illustrated talk proved the benefits of the approach, with larger, cleaner crops emerging from the carefully monitored experiments carried out on Charles's one-acre plot in south Somerset. Charles had just the right mixture of expertise and enthusiasm, and happily fielded questions throughout. Whilst not everyone in the club will immediately give up on their pesticides and double-digging, we all left the hall at least *thinking* about changing our ways.

### Future events

The last meeting of the year will be at Castle Gardens in Sherborne on Wednesday 11 May. Following a short talk we will be given the run of the garden centre, with 25% off all purchases. The meeting will start promptly at 7.00pm, and everybody is asked to be there by 6.45pm. Subsequent garden visits have been arranged at Corton Denham and Nyland, both on 1 June. Anybody wishing to attend should contact Howard Ffitch. The Garden Club will have a plant stall at the Village Day on 12 June. Plants and helpers are both urgently wanted. Finally, anybody interested in entering the sunflower competition who has not yet received their seeds should contact Mark Paull as soon as possible.

*Broken Nails*

## A day in the life of..... a 'property' auctioneer

I learnt the art of auctioneering at a very early age. My father was a well-respected local auctioneer and I followed him into the profession after spending most school holidays, from the age of 5, in his firm. My debut came at the age of 17 and, after a two year stint in Cheshire getting away from being 'the boss's son', have been auctioneering in the region ever since.



My auction day starts at 6.15am with a walk with the dog around the fields of Stalbridge Weston which enables me to focus on the day ahead.

I rehearse my notes as soon as I arrive in the office; every auction is tightly scripted and this will probably be the third or fourth re-write; the latest one after a read-through in front of my wife the night before. She is my fiercest critic.

Our properties spread from the New Forest, Wiltshire, Somerset, Dorset and into East Devon. We hold most of our auctions in Sherborne, the train brings the London and Home Counties buyers in, and I arrive at midday to set up.

Usually the production team from Lion Television who film for the BBC1 programme *Homes Under the Hammer* will be present and we have enjoyed working with them for the last six years now. They are very discreet and unobtrusive and once the auction starts we are not really aware of them filming.

Buyers, sellers and solicitors arrive from about 1pm and the auction starts at 2pm sharp. We get a crowd of between 100 and 700; we do not sell tickets so you never quite know until the day how many people will be present.

With so much tension 'the room' needs to relax and I can usually tell how the sale will go after the first 'light' comment. Too much mirth and people present are there for some entertainment; a sober crowd, however, means they are concentrating on doing business.

We have anything from 10 to 30 lots in the catalogue and the sale lasts between 30 minutes to an hour.

There are inevitably winners and losers but fate always plays a part. Those who are disappointed often return to the market again and one of the under-bidders on Greenway Farm, Stourton Caundle, which you may remember, was a property for improvement with barn and 5 acres, has just agreed to buy a property from us that requires no work, has no outbuilding and no land!

The auction over, the post-mortem amongst our clients and my partners goes long into the afternoon and even after so many years on the rostrum there is always something to be learned.

By the time I get home I feel relieved but exhausted, especially if there have been the inevitable last minute problems. Time for a few glasses of wine therefore and a good night's sleep, hopefully to dream of the next auction.

Mark Lewis

### Garden tip

Slugs and snails are the bane of most gardeners' lives and controlling them becomes more and more of a challenge. If you have to resort to chemical means, try using a liquid concentrate, available at most garden centres. This has the effect of killing off a lot of these slimy little critters beneath the surface and is therefore less damaging to friendly wildlife

### Weather report for March

Rainfall	2011	2010	18-year average
	8mm /0.31in	46mm /1.81in	64.8mm /2.25 in

Temperature (°C)	Maximum		Minimum		Average
	High	Low	High	Low	
2011	17.5 (25th)	5.2 (3rd & 5th)	10.1 (31st)	-3.8 (8th)	7.6
2010	13.0 (27th)	5.0 (7th)	6.9 (29th)	-4.0 (5th)	5.6

## Village Concert 2011

That time's coming round again! As yet, I have not finalised a date for the event, but hopefully it will be sometime in October – keep your eyes on the Caundler calendar. As soon as I have the date, I will be approaching all the usual suspects who always entertain us so well, so please get your thinking caps on and come up with something. And if you haven't taken part before and would like to know more, just give me a call on 362890 or email [jhnwaltham@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jhnwaltham@yahoo.co.uk).

This is the night we forget the television, etc and pass some time in the same way villages like ours did years ago – by getting up and doing a "turn" to entertain each other. There will also be a need for a few volunteers to help on the door and as sceneshifters, so let me know if you'd like to be involved in any way. It'll be a great night!



## The Village Big Breakfast

**aka Maggie's Big Breakfast**  
**SATURDAY 28 May 2011**  
**9.00 - 11.00 AM**

**STOURTON CAUNDLE VILLAGE HALL**  
**Adults £5.00 Under 16's £3.00**



**Please come and support this appeal for a memorial bench**

### Recipe

#### **Spicy Prawn Pilaf** - *prep time 20 min; cooking time 25 min*

2/3 tbsp olive oil	1 red chilli - seeds removed and finely diced
2 red onions finely diced	50g basmati rice
2 garlic cloves peeled and grated	sea salt and ground black pepper
grated zest of 2 lemons	1 litre hot fish stock
2 sprigs of thyme	250g raw tiger prawns
chorizo ring diced	handful of basil
pinch of cayenne pepper	pinch of saffron (optional)

1. Heat oven 190/gas mark 5.
2. Cut a circle / square greaseproof paper slightly larger than ovenproof pan / casserole dish, snip a hole in the middle for vent.
3. Heat the pan with the oil, add onions, garlic, lemon rind, thyme, chorizo, cayenne pepper, saffron and chilli until they soften, add rice and toast for a couple of minutes.
4. Season with salt and pepper, pour in hot fish stock and bring to the boil, cover with greaseproof paper and transfer to oven.
5. Cook for 15 min, take pan out, remove paper and add prawns and basil, cover with paper again and return to oven for a further 5 min, until prawns are cooked and rice is tender.
6. Remove from oven and leave to stand with paper on for 5 min, then fork through mixture and serve.

*Lorraine Goudge*

# STOURTON CAUNDLE VILLAGERS' DAY SUNDAY 12 JUNE

Exhibition  
Arts & Crafts  
Dog Show  
BBQ  
Raffle  
Books  
Maypole Dancing  
Cakes  
Table Tennis  
Treasure  
Colouring Competition  
Cream Teas  
Face Painting  
Rounders Competition

## STOURTON CAUNDLE 'VILLAGERS' DAY'

12<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2011

**Dog Show (4.15 pm to 5.15 pm) - For all shapes, sizes and ....makes!  
Prizes and doggy treats**

**Let's have some fun and parade all our wonderful dogs – spectators to help  
judges select**

Best dressed dog – Summer attire – lots of imagination!

Dog with the waggiest tail

Obedience classes – sit, walk to heel with and without lead, lie down, stay down,  
and call forward, sit.

Dog that judges and spectators would most like to take home.

***Entry is £2 per dog per class or £5 for all four classes***

*Any money made will go to our Village Hall Charity*

Rules and details will follow closer to the time -

Queries to David Keenan on Tel: 01963 - 363409 or 07854 685671

**Come and join us – it's a definite must!!**

## **Calling all Maypolers**

We are hoping to give a Maypole demonstration at

**The Villagers' Day on 12 June 2011**

Any children interested

please contact Marie Martin 01963 364755

## Parish Council

Stourton Caundle Parish Council comprises seven members who are elected every four years. If there are more than seven applications, an election is held. This process is now complete for 2011; as just seven names have been put forward, all will automatically become Parish Councillors from 5 May. Occasionally a vacancy will become available and this will be advertised in the village and co-option takes place at a meeting, with a vote at the meeting if there is more than one candidate. The Chairman is elected every year at the A.G.M.

The main business of the Parish Council is dealing with planning applications which are circulated to all the members, and neighbours are contacted. Plans usually have quite a short deadline which means that meetings may be arranged at short notice, but they are always advertised on the three village notice boards, in The Stourton Caundler when possible and now on the website ([www.stourtoncaundle.org.uk](http://www.stourtoncaundle.org.uk)).

The Parish Council is supported by two District Councillors, Bill Batty-Smith and Graham Carr-Jones who attend meetings alternately. County Councillor David Fox also attends occasionally. All three councillors advise us and will follow up matters brought up; they are an invaluable resource! Bill Batty-Smith also holds surgeries in the Community Office in Stalbridge. The Parish Council is also a member of the Dorset Association of Town and Parish Councils who provide advice and legal support. We were able to use their legal advisers free of charge for the recent play area improvements. There is also access to a huge amount of local information, so do ask!

The Parish Council organises and pays for grass-cutting in the cemetery, churchyard and the play area; also, it is responsible for managing the play area. An annual grant of £200 is paid to the village hall and £100 to The Stourton Caundler magazine, if required. Funding comes from the precept which is part of the council tax; expenditure has to be of benefit to all residents. The accounts are rigorously audited annually. The main expense currently is the collapsing wall around the cemetery which the Parish Council will pay to have repaired.

Highway problems are reported as they arise and grit supplies have now been arranged for next winter. Rights of Way are monitored. The Parish Council would also respond to any emergencies which might occur. The Parish Council insurance provides public liability cover to such events as the Royal Wedding street party.

Members of the public are very welcome at all meetings and there is an Open Forum session when the meeting is closed so any questions and comments can be raised "off the record." We do ask that complaints or requests are sent in writing, rather than dealing with "hearsay".

The last meeting, held on 29 March, approved a change to the planning permission for the barn at Greenway to use appropriate to a small holding. The next meeting (one of those short-notice planning meetings,) will be held on Wednesday 4 May at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall to discuss the detailed plans for an agricultural worker's dwelling at Brunsell Farm. This already has outline permission.

The meeting on 16 May will start at 7.30 pm with the A.G.M and be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting, which is a round-up of all the village activities for the year. This will be followed by a brief business meeting.

*Sue Harris*, Clerk Tel: 01963 362864. e-mail: [stourtoncaundle@dorsetparishes.gov.uk](mailto:stourtoncaundle@dorsetparishes.gov.uk)

## Sky at night

The month of May starts and finishes with the moon almost 'new'. This is when our moon is so close to the sun in the sky that it appears as just a very thin sliver of light in the shape of a crescent. In the Moslem world, the time when the new moon is first seen in the sky with the naked eye is very important as in the ninth month of the Islamic calendar it marks the start of the month of Ramadan when participating Muslims refrain from eating or drinking between the hours of sunrise and sunset and engage in spiritual pursuits linked to the teachings of the Islamic faith.



Over the years there have been many disagreements about the date of the start of Ramadan. This is because the time taken for the moon to wax from 'new' until it becomes visible as a thin crescent varies depending on the season of the year and the geographical location of the observer. It is not an easy task to spot a faint crescent of light in the bright sky soon after sunset and so various committees have suggested an astronomical definition of the start of Ramadan. This has been adopted by the UK but not by some other countries, notably Saudi Arabia.

This year Ramadan starts in the UK on Monday 1 August. In subsequent years it shifts 11 days earlier each year. By 2015 the date will have shifted to 18 June when the days will be longest. A Muslim living in say Inverness will only be able to consume any food or drink between 10.25 pm and 4.11 am, whereas on the same day someone in Mecca will have the relative luxury of being permitted to eat or drink between 7.05 pm and 5.36 am. If the U.K. were to accept the recent proposal to shift Summer Time to GMT + 2hours then observers of Ramadan in Scotland will have to wait until after 11.30 pm before they can quench their thirst! Quite an ordeal.

*Richard Miles*

## **A day in the life of Tosca.. the goshawk - Part 2**

*The story so far:*

*A day hawking in West Sussex with pheasants as the quarry. Tosca has been spotted sitting half-way up the trunk of a crack willow, after pursuing a woodcock, Pat has gone to look for his lost thumbstick and Chloe has called on her mobile to say her wellies are stuck in the mud.....*

One of the best aspects of falconry as a field sport is that during the hunt, no quarry is ever left injured. Either they get away scot free, or they get taken. And usually they get away; to take one pheasant in every five flights one has to be exceptionally lucky and to have a very good hawk indeed. On this occasion as with many others during the afternoon, a few feathers on the ground and the discovery of an irate hawk, eyes ablaze and panting hard are signs that once again the pheasant has beaten her. Tosca flies across the river and up into the top of some beech trees, two hundred yards away. Time to call her back. The gloved fist is raised, the hawk is called and after a few moments hesitation, she drops out of the tree and comes in fast on set wings, pulling up hard at the end to grasp the fist, and her food reward. In the low sunshine, this simple flight back to the Austringer is breathtaking, and an extraordinary example of the strong bond between man and bird.

We work on; Mocha tries the stream bed and the bracken, the rhododendrons and the brambles, and the light starts to drop away as the afternoon progresses. The hawk flies with great exuberance and style, and we witness in stunning close up, the extraordinary sight of one of nature's most exciting predators hunting its natural quarry in its natural habitat. We feel very privileged.

Three hours have passed and we turn at last toward the end of the estate, and where the cars are parked. Mocha is covered in mud and bits of bramble and there is a scratch down his nose; this applies to the central members of the field also, although certain others of the field seem to have remained completely unscathed, a point of continuing and traditional banter between us. 'Twas ever thus!

Pat, new thumb-stick in hand (it was his Christmas present), suggests one last bit of 'cover' on the way back, and Mocha is told to "get on". Almost immediately one can tell from his behavior that there is something in there. Tosca is thrown one last time off the fist, and she flies strongly, 'throwing-up' into a cedar at the edge of the wood. A loud calling from a cock pheasant as it explodes out of the laurels below stills us. Incredibly, everything is perfectly set up, and once again the strange, slowing down of time seems to occur. The eye freeze-frames the moments as the hawk drops vertically from twenty feet out of the tree, twisting and turning, as she makes minute corrections to her attack position. An audible thump accompanies the contact between hawk and pheasant, twenty feet above the ground, but this time the quarry does not break away. This time in a cacophony of flapping and gyrating, the spinning vortex of birds lands on the ground amongst the brambles, and Tosca has it. The Falconer 'makes-in' to administer the 'coup de grace', and the afternoon is finally, dramatically concluded.

Even on this small scale (it's not the Serengeti), it is always a stirring, and yes, perhaps a shocking sight. The hawk with her quarry has to be approached very cautiously. She is very excited, and this is Her Moment. She stands over her prize, wings 'mantelling', whilst glaring with those mad, marigold eyes! "No one is going to take this away from me!" she seems to say.

Well actually, My Lady, that is not quite correct. A good reward of meat from the falconer's bag is brought on the glove between her and her kill, and in steadying her meal to feed, she steps onto the fist, and the game is surreptitiously placed into the hawking bag. Hawks are not very bright when it comes to this kind of subterfuge fortunately. Tosca is given her due reward. She will not be flying tomorrow, so we can risk a full crop. She will be 'fed-up' and won't feel like doing anything for a day or two, as indeed we also, when we are 'fed up'!

But we aren't fed up, and as we gather in the dusk, drinking coffee and perhaps devouring a cake or two, discuss the afternoon's fun. Tosca, jesses changed, swivel and leash attached, jumps back into her travelling box, ready to depart on the drive back to Dorset.

And what happened to Chloe? Well she was hauled out by Peter who, conscience pricking a little, eventually went back to find her! We roared with laughter at his description of finding her "alone and palely loitering" at the edge of the sedge. I well remember thirty years ago, in that very same place, having to dig out our guest for the day (who should remain nameless), after he had sunk up to his waist in mud and leaf mould. He was a wildlife cameraman, and had just returned from six months filming polar bears in winter snow at their den in the Arctic. He had survived blizzards and minus-60 degree temperatures, only to be sunk by a good, deep bit of Sussex bog! You would think he would have known better.

*Austringer*

## Welcome Club

31 members attended the April meeting of the Welcome Club. The guest speaker, Chris Shaw, gave an interesting illustrated talk on a gorilla safari in central Africa. The Mgahinga Gorilla National Park is located in the far south-western corner of Uganda, which combined with the adjoining national parks in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda creates a conservation area of 434 km<sup>2</sup>. The huge cones of the Virunga volcanoes dominate the landscape. Only when the leader of the family group, the male silverback, feels comfortable in the presence of the trackers can a proper study and communication with the mountain gorilla group begin. Chris was fortunate enough to view a family of gorillas feeding on bamboo shoots and to get within touching distance of a male silverback gorilla.



The guest speaker at the next meeting on 18 May will be the Shaftesbury town crier, Cliff Skey. New members welcome.

The outing to Bowood House, near Calne in North Wiltshire, is on 20 May, with the coach leaving at 9am. Capability Brown designed the gardens, including a two-mile long Rhododendron Walk, with plenty of seating along the route. Non-members welcome; please contact Helen for further information

*Phil Knott*

## Village tidy-up report

On the morning of Saturday 26 March, more than 30 folk gathered at the Village Hall car park to take part in a village tidy-up. As has often been the case this spring, the weather was kind, making the job of visiting all of the highways and byways around the parish with a view to collecting litter that much easier. Thanks to the loan by NDDC in Blandford of lots of litter-picker devices, high-visibility jackets and suitable gloves, the job was very straightforward and we managed to collect 24 full bags of litter and rubbish of all sorts, some of which was sorted so that items such as metal and glass could be collected for recycling. A discarded car battery was amongst the items found. A dead badger which had been killed in a collision with a vehicle along Caundle Lane was subsequently buried in a deeply dug grave. My particular thanks to everyone who took part – I think they all went away with the feeling of a job well done. BTW: Some details of the tidy-up can be found on the Web at:

[http://www.thebigtidyup.org/tidyups\\_group.aspx?id=14505](http://www.thebigtidyup.org/tidyups_group.aspx?id=14505)

*Richard Miles*

## Homewatch

### Theft

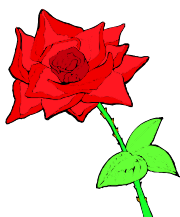
Blandford Police report an overnight theft in Tarrant Hinton; a commercial unit was broken into and monies and petrol cans stolen. In Blandford St Mary tools were stolen from a secured garage overnight. All residents are reminded to be vigilant and aware of what is occurring around them and to secure their property.

### Scam

Please be aware of a very convincing email sent by someone purporting to be from HM Revenue and Customs stating 'you are due a tax rebate'. This is believed to be a scam. Please ignore the email.

## National Gardens Scheme Open Gardens

(in aid of charities)



**MANOR FARM**

and

**GRANGE COTTAGE**



**Sunday 5 June, 2.00 – 5.00 pm**

Both gardens £7, children free. Teas and plants for sale.