

Views from Three Villages
(News from Maudlin, Westerton and
Westhampnett)



Everymans Garage, Stane Street

Happy 60th Everymans

February 1st marks the 60th anniversary of the Maudlin landmark, Everymans Garage. Brothers Les and Reg Brockhurst established the garage in 1946 and sixty years on their sons, Malcolm and Gerald Brockhurst, carry the business bravely forward into the 21st century on the same site in Stane Street.

Les came to the business with a background of working as woodsman and timber haulier for Greens (now Covers) and Reg from his years as an RAF engineer. They took over the premises of Everyman's blacksmith. The first tentative steps in the transition from blacksmith to garage had been taken before the brothers took it on. As the twentieth century advanced many rural blacksmiths found that they had to diversify and incorporate more contemporary technologies. Everymans Blacksmith was no exception dallying with bicycles and installing a solitary petrol pump. But it was Les and Reg who saw the real potential of the almost limitless growth of motor transport. This must have been something of a leap of faith in the austere early post war years of petrol rationing and limited numbers of cars and commercial vehicles.

Over the year the business has evolved and thrived by anticipating and rapidly responding to changes in the prevailing economy and incorporating technological advances. At the outset the Reg and Les focussed on supplying petrol and operating two taxis. The taxis were abandoned in disgust when the taxi Reg was driving caught fire going up Hat hill in the early 1950's.

At about this time Reg moved his family all the way from their Southside Cottages home on the opposite side of Stane Street to the house that adjoined what was then the much smaller garage. The business needed more space and the workshops started to be added at the back of the house before the house was finally subsumed by the business in 1980 and

converted into offices and stores. For the years that the house remained a house what is now the MOT parking area was then the garden. It would be nice to relate that this was where the cousins Malcolm and Gerald played gently as children. However, this would apparently be stretching the truth. They preferred to play on the roads.

Gerald's New Forest pony Joey, a fourth birthday present, was quickly pressed into service by the inventive Gerald pulling a homemade trap (roughly based on a pram). Gerald's carefully engineered structure disintegrated within 50 yards as unfortunately Joey hadn't seen the film that had inspired Gerald to construct the trap and didn't understand that he was only supposed to trot. Les, more understanding than many fathers, bought Gerald a second hand trap. Joey, Malcolm and Gerald became a common if disreputable and dangerous sight on the roads of the City and its environs. Joey obviously thrived on this lifestyle living to a venerable 32, ending his days grazing on the village green at East Dean.

Progressively coaches became the thing for Everymans, sallying forth from their Maudlin base to local and very distant destinations in their distinctive orange, brown and cream livery. The coaches finally came to an end in 1987 against the backdrop of the economic recession and new legislation regarding the operation of drivers. Typically this was a well thought out decision with Malcolm telling Gerald that perhaps they should give up on the coaches just as Gerald was setting out to purchase yet another one. The legacy of the coaching days lives on with Gerald leading an annual coach excursion to the Le Mans 24 hours Race.

By the 1960's the garage's business was truly diverse. Haulage, servicing, testing, repair, coaches were just a part of the strategy. Rapidly increasing traffic levels on the A27 saw more and more fuel being pumped although eventually the road become so busy that customers dared not refuel at Everymans because they feared that they might have to wait days for a gap in the traffic to pull out onto the road and resume their journey.

The business also involved the ownership and working of gravel pits in Slindon with a wide array of heavy machinery for excavation, haulage and ground works. Malcolm and Gerald turned their hands to most things including dynamiting clay to prepare the site for the new school in Claypit Lane. Quite how they blasted a 45 gallon drum filled with clay into the sky seriously endangering incoming aircraft to the airfield whilst engaged on this task is something of a mystery. Similarly the convenient appearance of sufficient bricks to build the shop and stores on the current forecourt is not entirely explained by the 'they were 'surplus' to requirements when they were doing major construction work at Lancastrians School'. It probably isn't worth enquiring too closely as to how they demolished the houses to make way for the building of Chartres Way.

By the end of the twentieth century the principal focus of Everymans had become the recovery, servicing, testing and repair of any type of vehicle. Over 60 years of selling fuel came to an end last year as the garage was buying in petrol at the price that the supermarkets were selling it at. The pumps were removed, and snapped up on ebay.

On its 60th birthday Everymans continues to embody the true spirit of bold motoring adventure and it seems to me totally fitting that this very local and lovable landmark now has Rolls Royce literally living in its shadow.

Mark Porter

Parish notes

First of all I would like to congratulate Claire McLeish and the contributors on producing such a good publication last time- particularly as it was her first effort.

The Parish Council met on Monday 16th January: I am pleased to say our two councillors Andrew Smith and Mike Hall were there together with Tony Maybury (Rolls Royce), Father Felix and Ruth Cumming, head of the March Primary School. Apologies were received from Peggy Wood.

Andrew Smith told us that from 1st April, off-peak travel will be free to those of us over 60 and that there is now a delay in planning applications being dealt with because of pressure of work!?!? Mike Hall is continuously pressing WSCC Highways boss Tex Pemberton, to look at flooding on roads in and around our parish. There will be further consideration in February!

Mike Hall also referred all parish members to WSCC- Material Resource Management Strategy- 2005/2035 Public Consultation. It seems that the Environment Agency are saying that there should be no digging of gravel south of A27 (except Kingsham) because of the dangers of flooding. I have to be surprised that digging a hole can create a flood-filling it with clay or other impervious material could- but digging a hole?? Because of this there will be increased provision on the Lavant area both east and west. Our main inland would be east of Lavant adjoining Dudman pit where a large area is included in the draft form. Anyone wanting more should obtain a form from the library (or Help Points and council offices or e-mail daphne.brown@westsussex.gov.uk) on which you can make representation- these have to be sent in by 31.1.06.

Planning: Our one man sub-committee for Westhampnett, Ken Franklin, has had a notable success in persuading the planners to refer the plans for Farringdon back to the developer because of the size and bulk of the proposed development and they have been asked to submit plans on the lines of the footprint which was allowed on appeal some time ago.

Recreation: It is hoped that the community generally will be able to make more use of the Sports Hall at the March School. Improvements need to be made to ensure this to happen- particularly the kitchen and storage areas. Moves are afoot to see if funds can be made available. The hall will be out of use until September because new classrooms are to be built and while this is going on, the hall will be used as a classroom. Quite a number of parishioners have expressed an interest in playing badminton and carpet bowls in the hall. Provided there is sufficient interest in this idea the Parish Council would be prepared to fund the initial cost-something over £1000. If the idea is of interest to you, please contact one of the parish councillors listed on the back cover.

FINALLY at the risk of being accused of being boring I mention horses. They are still using the footpaths, particularly between Sidengreen Lane and Rolls Royce roundabout. We are arranging to put signs up saying 'No horses' although these riders cannot read they are likely to have little or no effect. We shall talk to WSCC about installation of horse proof barriers.

A further point on the general condition of the parish-litter is becoming an ever-increasing problem- we used to have a 'Clean-up' day in the Spring. Could anyone interested in such a project please contact a parish councilor. I would anticipate, with enough volunteers, 1-1/2 hours on a Sunday morning would do the job. Please let us know if you can help.

Henry Adams

Congratulations

Rebecca George, starting her ninth year as a Maudlin resident, was awarded an OBE in the New Year's Honours list. The Prime Minister was 'minded' to put her name forward to the Queen in recognition of her services to the IT industry. Rebecca has been working for IBM for 18 years, the last four years of which have been as Director, UK Government Business.



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However, Rebecca's OBE is in recognition of the fact that in her spare time she has spent a lot of time encouraging more women into the IT industry. This has included speaking at schools, colleges and universities, conferences and to the media. Also writing papers and commissioning research and mentoring women (and quite a few men), and for three years Chairing the Women in IT Forum, sponsored by the Department of Trade and Industry. She would like to see all corporate cultures become more diverse and attractive to people of all ages and background.

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Remarkably diverse, Rebecca is also the vice chair Arun Roller Skating Club for which she is the vice chair. Every Saturday night Rebecca George OBE can be found gliding gracefully around the Arun Leisure Centre, whistle to the ready, calmly bringing order to the frenetic bustling 200 or more skaters. The whistle most commonly used to slow down the fast moving spinning blur that is her two sons Gregory and Felix.

It can only be hoped that the Queen isn't minded to present Rebecca with an OBE on a Saturday as this might present a very real dilemma.



Groan's page

Crossword
Puzzle

Fairy Tale

Across

1. The ____ Prince.
4. The ____ and the Pea.
5. The ____ Who Laid the Golden Eggs
7. The ____ Man (cookie)
8. ____ and Gretel.
10. The Elves and the ____
11. Creatures led away by the Pied Piper of Hamelin.

Down

2. Little Red ____ Hood.
3. The girl who lost her glass slipper.
6. Cinderella's Fairy.
9. What was baked by the Little Red Hen?
9. The Ugly Duckling was really a ____

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Knock knock!

Who's there?

Handsome

Handsome who?

Handsome spaghetti through the keyhole and I'll tell you.

Who's there?

Senior

Senior who?

Senior so nosy, I'm not going to tell you.

Dates for your diary

FEBRUARY 2006

- 1 *Wed.* Eucharist in Dovecote, 10.30 am
- 5 **Sun.** IV before Lent - Family Service 6 *Mon.*
- 12 **Sun.** III before Lent - Sun. School- Poverty Action n.
- 13 *Mon.* (School - Half Term holiday till 17th incl.)
- 14 *Tue.* PCC, 7.30 pm.
- 19 **Sun.** II before Lent
- 26 **Sun.** Next before Lent - Sun school
- 28 Shrove *Tuesday*

MARCH 2006

- 1 *Ash Wed.* Eucharist in church, 6pm.; (10.30 am in Dovecote)
- 5 **Sun.** I of Lent - Fam. Service
- 12 **Sun.** II of Lent - Sun. School
- 14 *Tue.* PCC, 7.30 pm
- 19 **Sun.** III of Lent - St Joseph
- 26 **Sun.** IV of Lent - Sun. School - Mothering Sun.
- 28 *Tue.* Easter Service for M. School, at 9.30

APRIL 2006

- 2 **Sun.** V of Lent - Family Service
- 9 Palm **Sunday,** Sun. School
- 11 *Tue.* PCC, 7.30 pm.
- 13 Maundy *Thurs.* Euch. in Dovecote, 10.30 am; Service in the Church, 6 pm
- 14 Good *Fri.* Service in the Church, 6 pm
- 15 Holy *Sat.* Easter Vigil, 8 pm
- 16 **EASTER**
- 19 *Wed.* (School - Summer Term starts)
- 23 **Sun.** II of Easter - Sun. School - Vocations Sun.; APCM
- 24 **Mon Parish Council meeting 7pm All welcome**
- 30 **Sun.** III of Easter- *Matins + Eucharist*

The March CE Primary School

Good news! We have just been given the go-ahead for the final building works in the school which is much earlier than we had expected.

As many of you will be aware the dilapidated hutted classrooms are becoming less and less habitable! Despite huge efforts from staff (and governors) to spruce them up and improve them, they are still not to a standard that we would ideally want for our children and staff.

The plan is to demolish both huts and to rebuild two new classrooms.

These will join the school next to the library and will run along in roughly the same space as Class 2's hut. In addition to the classrooms, the playground will also be resurfaced.

The work is due to begin at the beginning of the Easter holidays, April 2006. The work is expected to take 5 months and to be completed by September, 2006.

Unfortunately, in order for Classes 2 and 6 to have access to a classroom, the hall will be out of use whilst this building work is continuing.

We are delighted that the building work is to go ahead and will greatly improve the school.



Traidcraft pay fair prices for the goods they buy, enabling producers from poor countries to earn a living wage. It's not just the tea, coffee and cereal bars you see in the shops either. They offer a wide range of vibrant and diverse products (about 300!)

If you would be interested in having a look at what Traidcraft have to offer why not give me, Michelle Spirit, a call on 01243 536827

W.I. News

November we had our Annual General Meeting when Hermione Thorpe became our President, Shirley Russell is the Secretary and Joanna Ede the Treasurer.

December we had our Christmas part when we were entertained by the "Regtones" Tony and Reg. We enjoyed a good finger buffet and finished with presents and carols.

In January we have Mr. & Mrs. Hall talking on their "Alaska Adventure", February is our birthday meeting and in March we are 'circle dancing.'

We meet in the community hall at the March School on the third Thursday of the month and guests are always welcome.

Pat Adams 01243 773513

NEWS FROM ST PETER'S:

Thanks for the Carol Singing & Donations:

During the traditional Carol singing during last Christmas around our villages, a total of £495.41 was collected. As usual 50% of the total was sent to "Save the Children Fund".

The collections were as follows:

The Mill and Westerton	169.01	
Westhampnett/Maudlin	166.40	
At Sainsbury's	store	160.00
	=====	
Total		495.41

A big "Thank You" to all who have contributed, to Rob Newbold and others who organised the event, to all the dedicated and angelic singers

and particularly to Ralph Shooter for accompanying the singing with his ever melodic trumpet. We cannot forget to thank all those who kept our voices going with mulled wine and mince pies. We hope in the future more people will join us to make of it a "Happy-Christmas-Joyfully -Walking-event". Some said they had lost at least one pound to enjoy a bit more at Christmas!

A special note of this years carol singing was the singing at Richmond Park from where many join the Services in our U. Benefice of St. Paul and St Peter.

Christmas Services at St. Peter's were well attended. This year we had a surprise attendance of 77 adults at midnight Eucharist. During the last 3 years it was about 40. The Carol Service and the other Services designed particularly for children were well attended and very well performed by a large number of Sunday school children who now, on certain Sundays, number about 30. The hard work put in by those who take care of them is very much appreciated. With the number of Sunday school children growing, and the vestry being insufficient, we now have decided to create an additional space for a separate group.

St Peter's Church has a new architect, Mr Richard Andrews . He has advised us on the above matter of creating extra space. St Peter's being a Listed Building (Grade II), does pose a problem for any quick fix solution. Our immediate priority would be to carry out quinquennial repairs for which the PCC has been arming itself with necessary information, documentations and very shortly we will get to know the details. For time being two important committees, -Fabric and Fund raising- have been formed. If any one is willing to form part is most welcome.

Bishop John Hind to Preside on 12th Feb. We are going to have our bishop to preside on Sunday the 12th of February at 9.45. It would be a great opportunity for the congregation and for the bishop to know

one another. Everyone is most welcome to attend the Service on that day.

Lent Courses: Before the next issue comes to light we will be already approaching Easter on the 16th of April. As the Lenten season is a time of grace and learning, a Lent Course will be organised on the theme: "Fair's Fair". It is a five week, interactive, small group study course to encourage reflection and action on the issues of poverty, fair trade and trade justice, commencing from the first week of March. Those willing to join can call at 783010. The day, timing and place will be decided by those willing to join the course.

Produce Store: Every first Sunday of the month, we now have a Produce Store at the end of the Service. Sara Ward, the responsible has demonstrated great optimism and has high expectations in the future of this venture. The ideas, produce and sales have been magnificent. Do come and "taste and see" how good it is!

THE COLD WINTER?

They said it would - *there's still time, however* - be a cold winter. Probably it could be the warmest; but in the meantime the oil companies forced us to buy oil at the highest prices! Everyday I anxiously peep out of my bedroom window, hoping to find snow covered roof-tops and yet ... I see only children's sign boards "let it snow" on a hard and dark soil. The snow, I cannot see it even at the top of Goodwood hill. Did the weather forecast people make a deal with the oil companies?

With Christmas far gone and mince pies -*I hate them*- and turkey all digested and even melted, I wonder how much fire-wood I should save to keep the fire burning for the very cold winter days. Oh, the snow, I did see it in Turkey and in Kashmir when the item on avian bird flu and other disasters were on the news. The snow from there I would certainly wish it to be here, but not the cause of their being on the news.



More than cold winter our attention has now been shifted to the deadly H5N1 strain of avian flu. The chief medical Officer has said that the avian-influenza pandemic is a matter of "when and not if" and that at least 50,00 people in Britain will be killed.

I am gradually learning, that in spite of all the powerful weapons we have to fight the winter or the pandemics, we are always becoming less and less powerful against the nature. All this should teach us to live more wisely not as dominant destroyers of our surroundings to satisfy our insatiable needs, but respecting the god of nature with dependence and reciprocity.

With the ice melting on the Antarctic, are there any hopes to find any snow around here? And is there any sense to live without respect to the beautiful world around us? For me, it is not the question of fretting too much over snow, not even to worry too much, but to live and enjoy every day as it comes as the nature will get us in the end. To live thinking that we are in control is only a big delusion. The more we delude ourselves with power, the less human we become. So let it snow, when it will, let the children play and may we learn to live with full respect to the nature.

Femas

Westhampnett Remembered

In this section of the Newsletter residents of Westhampnett recall aspects of their lives in the parish. Any memories of life in Westerton, Maudlin or Westhampnett would be more than welcome. Would be contributors should contact Mark Porter (01243 789773) or Claire McLeish (01243 779553).

One resident who took interest in the story featuring Peggy Wood and her upbringing in Maudlin, was Polly Meynell. She recollects one of

her many conversations that she has had with Peggy Wood, but particularly one about her very early childhood. Polly takes up the story,

"We talked about the fact that she was born in her home -the pub- along with many other children at that time, and then had her children at home also. We discovered that my two children would probably have been the next children to be born in Maudlin after Peggy's some 40 years later in 2002, 2004. I wonder how many other children were actually born in the village, who was the last before the trend took expectant mothers into hospital, and who now are reversing the trend and doing what our grandmothers and many before them did without a second thought." Interesting- does anyone know whether anyone had a baby at home between Peggy and Polly's children? Please let us know (contact details at end).

Maudlin's Calendar Girls



Late November saw the launch party for the '40 something' charity calendar at the Old Coach House. Helen Gibson of Maudlin had somehow persuaded ten of her friends, including Mel and Carol also of Maudlin, to disrobe in the cause of the Midhurst based Dreams come True charity. Unfortunately this event had taken place in the privacy of a back garden in

Itchenor but happily was recorded for prosperity in a discreet set of photographs for the calendar.

Helen, who clearly has considerable powers of persuasion, had managed to produce the 1000 copies of the calendar for precisely nothing. Thus every penny of the money collected from the sales of the calendar will go to the charity. Jane and Kevin Philips- Hill generously hosted the memorable launch party at the Old Coach House providing a fabulous buffet whilst an 11 piece swing band from Portsmouth provided the very considerable 'swing'. A little disappointingly the calendar girls were entirely dressed albeit very elegantly, and the '40 something' tag seemed more than a little improbable.

Mark Porter

Swan Lake?



Rolls Royce has new residents making use of their lake.

A pair of swans have enjoyed the area so much that they have nested and produced a family of 6 cygnets.

The picture shows them enjoying a swim on the lake at Rolls Royce.

Nature Watch

Here we are again in the middle of January with weeks of potential winter weather before the birds are in full breeding plumage, setting up territories and singing fit to burst!

Whatever happened to the hard winter, the old saying 'if November ice do stand a duck, the rest of the winter will be slush and muck.' So far has a ring of truth about it.

Great Tits resplendent in their black bibs have already started their see-saw song so evocative of early spring. February and March is the best time to hear members of the dormouse family before they are downed out by a cacophony of spring migrants not to mention blackbirds and thrushes. Blue, great, coal and long tail tits are all common garden birds while the marsh and the willow tits (almost identical) spend more of their time high in the tree tops of more wooded areas. A good place to see marsh tits in our parish are in the oaks that border Claypit Lane and Stane Street. We have a male black cap feeding on the shrubs we have in our garden. Increasing numbers of black caps and other warblers such as chiff-chaffs are over-wintering instead of migrating south. A sign of global warming, the ever expanding Sahara making migration difficult or a winter food supply put out by us? Remember that these are insect eating birds so to survive our winters they have to adapt.

Walking back from the PC meeting on Monday last, we heard a tawny owl and in the distance a dog fox calling for a mate. Signs of Spring yet to come and yet we still have April two months ahead of us and possibly the most treacherous month of all.

Bob Holman



If you have any stories, articles, jokes, photographs or any comments about this issue, please send them to me at claire.mcleish@tiscali.co.uk or 01243 779553 by **Friday April 10th**. We would also like to encourage regular contributors and would consider adverts. If anyone has any items that they would like to sell, let me know and we will start a new section.

Thanks once again to Rolls Royce for their support in publishing this newsletter.

MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Please remember that members of the Parish Council can always be contacted on the telephone if there is anything going on in the Parish that gives you concern: -

Chairman of the Parish Council 01243 773513	Henry Adams
Vice-Chairman 01243 773897	Guy Knight
Parish Councillor 01243 786109	Ken Franklin
Parish Councillor 01243 782596	Peggy Wood
Parish Councillor 01243 789773	Mark Porter
Parish Councillor 01243 774381	Bob Holman
Parish Councillor 01243 779553	Claire McLeish
Clerk 01243 605814	Kate Gill