Berwick Newsletter Dated December 2008

BERWICK ST JAMES

We wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

We would like to invite everyone to come to our Christmas Services, all children are especially welcome. The services are a peaceful time in such a busy schedule, where we can consider the real meaning of Christmas.

Candlelit Carol Service

There will be a candlelit carol service in St James' Church on Sunday 21st December at 6pm. There will be mulled wine and mince pies on completion. Should you wish to attend please do not bring handheld candles. Anyone who came last year will know how wonderful and beautiful this service was.

Christmas Day. Family Communion at 10.30am taken by Jane Charman.

POSADA

Advent is advancing – time when Mary and Joseph are looking forward to spending a night or two in your home. Would all those who were so hospitable last time be willing to repeat the experience again this year? May I assume you would, unless you contact me to the contrary.

Any newcomers who would like to share the experience please contact Jane Rowe on 790575.

CAROL SINGING

The Village Carol Singing (an old tradition in Berwick – though it used to be done on Christmas morning) will take place on **Saturday December 13th** starting at 6pm in the Church and finishing at the Guide Headquarters (The Old School) for mince pies and mulled wine. We welcome everyone to come along and sing, accompanied children especially. Please bring torches or lanterns. The Brownies who are staying at the Guide HQ are joining us and we are delighted that they are coming. We will be collecting for the Air Ambulance. We intend to sing at various points around the village and so, if you would like to have us come to you please could you ring Ian Fisher 790214 or Nicky Street 790309.

BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

The Poppy Appeal raised £257.67 in Berwick, with many thanks to the collectors, and to the Boot Inn and The Farm Shop.

BERWICK MILL

On the 14th November, a guide on one of the uprights supporting the hatches in Berwick Mill gave way. The hatch crashed down with the pressure of the water behind it, and the water rushed down the river, washing silt and mud from above the mill into the river below. As those people who have gardens down to the river above the mill have found out, the Mill holds back a lot of water! The river is flowing well at the moment so there is still a reasonable amount in the channel, and will quite quickly return to normal once new guides are put in and the hatch is put back. As I write we have not yet found the hatch – it is probably in the bottom of the mill pool – and will be difficult to get out and even more difficult to put back as it is very heavy. Hopefully, as you read this at the start of December, everything will be back to normal.

JAMES HAGGATY. West Indies Tour 09

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to my tour. For me to raise the monies (£1995) in such quick time was very humbling. A special thank you must go to my granddad Pete Whitfield. My tour is in April 09 from the 4th to the 16th. You will be able to read about my exploits in the June (or July) addition. Those of you that have the internet the West of England have a web site which is www.southanndwestregionalcricket.webly.com I have just joined Hampshire Academy and will now play my club cricket for the academy, and youth cricket for Hampshire leaving behind happy memories with Wiltshire. Once again I would like to thank everyone and wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year. James.

THE BOOT PLOT

Vegetable growers wanted to join a team setting up a gardeners' co-operative using Kathy and Giles' plot at the Boot Inn. For a small regular commitment of time you could be part of this project which would benefit growers, the pub kitchen and the Village. Work will

need to start soon so please contact Chris on 792800 or Anne on 790355. If anyone can offer greenhouse space for seedlings etc or a rotavator to do the hard work we would be pleased to hear from you. Any age, ability and expertise (or lack of it) very welcome.

CHRISTMAS AT THE BOOT INN

Kathy and Giles would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas. The Christmas Party Menu is available from 2nd to the 24th December, Tuesday to Saturday for lunch and dinner for bookings only. Telephone 01722 790243.

Our Christmas Opening is;

Christmas Eve 12noon to 2.30. 6pm to 10.30pm (Kitchen open Lunch and Dinner)

Christmas Day 11am to 2pm. Kitchen closed.

Boxing Day 12noon to 4pm. Brunch served 12noon to 3pm.

27th – 30th December, open as usual.

New Year's Eve. 6pm to 1am (Dinner served at 7.30pm, booking is essential).

New Year's Day 12noon to 4pm (Buffet lunch available).

PIE & PINT Evenings at THE BOOT INN

Come and enjoy a delicious homemade Pie and a Pint of beer each Tuesday evening for just £10. Choose from our pub favourites menu and enjoy a pint of IPA, Carlsberg, or Cider (Fruit Juice and House wine also available). Booking is essential, so please call 790243 to avoid disappointment.

BERWICK FARM SHOP

Buy your Christmas goodies here – Dorset Lamb, Somerset Beef, Free Range Chicken and Duck, our local Pork, Sausages, Ham and Bacon, Vegetables from Bromham, Pies, Cakes, Jams, Local Free Range Eggs. Order early for Christmas – come in a have a chat with Marilyn about your requirements.

Order for the New Year and then you can collect on 30th or 31st (see below for opening times).

The Christmas Opening Times are;

Open; Sunday 21st December, Monday 22nd, Tuesday 23rd. On Wednesday 24th Christmas Eve the shop will shut at 2pm.

The Shop will be closed until Tuesday 30th 9am - 12 noon. It will also be open Wednesday 31st and Friday January 2nd 9am - 12 noon (but shut Thursday 1st). It will then remain closed until Tuesday 6th when normal opening times resume.

Happy Christmas to you all.

WILTSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES GREAT RIDE AND STRIDE

The 25th Annual Cycle Ride and Walk in aid of Historic Churches was a great success in Berwick this year. Together, Jane Rowe, Nicky and David Street, Robert and Lucy Crossley, Laura and Isabel Jacks (with Liz Crossley) – cyclists, and Peter and Gabrielle Smith – walkers – raised a marvellous £314, half of which comes to Berwick Church and half to the Historic Churches Trust. We visited churches from Heytesbury to Harnham, from Sutton Veny to Salisbury Cathedral, and had a lovely day. Many thanks to all who took part and to those who "manned" the church, sitting in the sunshine. As someone who took part, I really appreciated being greeted at churches – and nice to be able to have a drink too, one church we visited was locked, and there wasn't even a sheet of paper in the porch to write our names on! Thank you to everyone.

BERWICK ST JAMES WEBSITE

we would love contributions to it, just go to the Contact Us page. It would also be great to have details of what's on in the village, meetings and anything else. Please have a look and see if you can help! Have a look and see what is new – and don't forget to look on the "New and Notices" to see what is on in the village at the moment. The Neighbourhood Watch includes a profile of our new PCSO Will Todd, and you can read the Neighbourhood Watch newsletters.

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WILDLIFE WATCH

A Hobby has been seen regularly in Winterbourne Stoke, it perches on the top of the telegraph pole and hunts in the Billy Goat Field.

There is an unusual flower blooming in a garden in Berwick St James. It is a Common Broomrape. This is unusual in that it was flowering in mid November as its usual flowering is in early summer. It has rather pretty mauve flowers along a single stem but entirely without leaves or any green part. It is parasitic, living on the roots of another plant, in this case, Anchusa, although it can feast on a variety of other plants. It is unlikely to do any significant damage to the host. It spreads by very small seeds.

There have been lots of reports of Egrets. I have seen the one in the river in south Berwick, another has been seen in Stapleford, and five at once in the trees in the field to the east of The Bell Inn at Winterbourne Stoke, and a pair is almost certainly nesting in these trees.

Deer have also been seen in the Billy Goat Field in Winterbourne Stoke. Can rabbits live with myxymatosis? There is a blind wild rabbit in Winterbourne Stoke which isn't skinny and appears to be feeding well – it will take food from a hand.

Reports from any of our villages most welcome. Thank you for the very good ones this month. Nicky Street 790309 The Dairy House or email chstreet@btinternet.com indicating it is a magazine entry. Many thanks.

Berwick Newsletter Dated November 2008

Best Wishes to all who have been ill, or in hospital, and those having tests and we hope all procedures are successful. We are also thinking of those who have recently lost friends and members of their families. Our thoughts are with you.

Sylvia Seymour-Taylor

Sylvia would like to say that she is very sorry that she can't come and say goodbye to all her friends here, she very much wanted to, but was unable to do so. Contact Nikki for her new address. It is a lovely place, and Sylvia is very upbeat and positive about the future where she will be near her family. Sylvia came to the village over 20 years ago with her late husband John, they both became essential parts of the village very quickly, and after John's death, Sylvia continued to be both active and generous. She will be very much missed, and we all hope that she will be very happy in her new home.

Happy Birthday to Mrs Josie Emm who will be 80 on 2nd November. Congratulations and best wishes to her from all of her family, and the same from her many friends.

A Note of Appreciation for the Village and The Village Shop.

This month is the second anniversary of living in Berwick – and thinking back we feel we are so lucky to have made so many lovely friends, and to have the Village Farm Shop open again with smiling Marilyn to provide us with our essentials – so much better than plodding off to Salisbury (expensive in terms of time and energy!). I feel everyone in Berwick should support this valuable asset and insure its continued existence. Not every village is fortunate to have a farm shop. From George Campbell-Johnson.

A Friend of Berwick.

Mrs Hilda Mary Rogers was a regular visitor to village events over the last few years, alongside Christine. On the 21st of September Mary passed away peacefully at her home in Harnham and will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Blake

Oliver Baines is a member of the group "Blake" who sing crossover – a mixture of pop and classical – the group has recently featured on Classic FM, and in OK magazine. They won a Brit Award for their first album, and their second album "And so it goes" has been recently released. They are doing a series of concerts around the country singing with Katherine Jenkins and Natasha Marsh, including the Albert Hall. Oliver Baines is the grandson of David and Honor Baines who lived in the village until recently, and Oliver spent a great deal of his childhood here! Good Luck to him and his group. Do have a listen to them, they are very good!

Dog Fouling on the Pavements

The pavements through Berwick have been particularly bad recently. Please pick up after your dogs – try to think what happens to the wheels of a pushchair, or the shoes of a child.

Great Cycle Ride – the report is held over until next month due to too much this month!

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The Annual CHRISTMAS BAZAAR is on SATURDAY 22nd NOVEMBER at 2pm in the Reading Room. Come and buy your Christmas Cards and Wrapping Paper, have a go on the Tombola and The Raffle, buy a cake and some jam or other produce, have a browse through the Bric-a-Brac and have a cup of Tea or Coffee and a lovely chat with your friends.

The Reading Room will be open at 10.30am to receive any gifts you may like to bring. The Bazaar is in aid of Reading Room Funds.

For collection ring Nicky Street 790309 or Anika Lange 790122

READING ROOM

The Reading Room will be holding the Christmas Bazaar (see above), a market stall has been booked for 12th September 09. We need to use the Reading Room more – does anyone have any ideas? Ring Nicky or Anika (see above). To hire the Reading Room, or the furniture or crockery please see Jean Hibberd 6 High St 790806

HARVEST SUPPER

The Harvest Supper held on Saturday 27th September at the Guide HQ was great fun, with loads of people there, and a wonderful time had by all. Thanks must go to Jane Rowe for the really tasty lasagne, and all her hard work in organising the event and the kitchen on the night, thanks to all her helpers in the kitchen and elsewhere, to all those who provided salads and puddings, to Jacky Webb and Roland Castlemaine for the Raffle, to Marilyn at the Shop for collecting the Raffle items, to those who put out the tables etc and decorated, and to those who packed up and cleaned up. And a special thanks to everyone who came and made it such fun.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

The Church looked especially lovely dressed for Harvest Thanksgiving on Sunday 28th September. Thank you to all who decorated, and to those who brought the fruit and vegetables.

R2 MONEY

The R2 money that the village receives when there is development in the village, amounts to £1583.02 – see the Parish Meeting notes below. What do YOU want the village to use the money for – we can add to it with grants etc if people are keen – see in the Parish Meeting Report for some ideas, what other ideas would you like. Ring Tina Woodford 790444

BERWICK ST JAMES STONEHENGE PETITION

At our village meeting on 24th September, it was suggested that in response to the Stonehenge World Heritage Site Management Plan, villagers might wish to sign a petition in support of our local councillors plan for the dualling of the A303 along or close to the line of the current road from the end of the dual carriageway west of Amesbury to the Longbarrow roundabout and then to bypass Winterbourne Stoke to the north to join up with the dual carriageways at Berwick Down. Their plan locates the Visitors Centre just to the west of Stonehenge along the A344. Signatures were given by 106 people (all aged over 18) from our small village. Every household in the village was visited and at least one person per household signed the petition. The occupants of only 2 houses could not be contacted due to being either away on business or holiday. The strength of feeling on this matter is enormous and is demonstrated by the overwhelming support for our councillors' plan which is the cheapest, quickest to be constructed and the most sensible way forward of all possible options. Responses were required by 17th October and a letter accompanying the signatures has been sent to the English Heritage, Mr Robert Key MP, The South West Rural Development Agency (2), and Salisbury District Council.

BERWICK FARM SHOP

The Vegetables from Bromham Growers has been outstanding – especially the purple Cape Broccoli and the Romanesque. And as we get into winter with more things appearing and Christmas fast approaching, perhaps time has come to talk to Marilyn about your Christmas Order – Meat (Turkeys, Chickens, Beef – and of course Pork), sausages (we will be doing cocktail sausages too), cakes, puddings, mince pies etc.

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HEATING OIL

Wessex Petroleum is committed to helping the local community and the community related Incentive Scheme is an ideal way to achieve this. Now that the cold weather is coming you may need to refill your oil tank, so please remember that **WESSEX PETROLEUM** will donate ½ p per litre of domestic heating oil ordered under **reference D14** to Berwick Reading Room. Please consider using **Wessex Petroleum** and phone **0800 980 6172**, if you need any heating oil. You will need to quote **ref D14** every time you order, even if you have ordered before. Many thanks to everyone who buys their oil through Wessex Petroleum and remembers to quote **D14**.

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Glennis. Please can you put this bit in the all villages part- to encourage everyone!

WILDLIFE WATCH

The Egret has been seen in the meadow in south Berwick, as well as near Asserton. A squirrel with a lot of red colouring was seen in Winterbourne Stoke churchyard. I thought I saw a Muntjack deer in the woods above Asserton – it was a very brief glimse – could I have been right? Has anyone else seen them here? I have also had reports of badgers in Grovely Woods. This mild weather means that ladybirds and catapillars have been seen up to 11th October – have you seen any later? It seems that it has been a poor year for butterflies with the terrible summer (although the cabbage whites seem to have been active!) but I have had reports of Red Admiral, Skippers and Orange Tips. Reports from any of our villages most welcome. Nicky Street 790309 The Dairy House or email chstreet@btinternet.com indicating it is a magazine entry. Many thanks.

Berwick Newsletter Dated August 2008

JAMES HAGGATY for the second season in a row has been selected to represent the West of England at Cricket, this fourteen boy squad is selected from 8 counties plus Wales. James will now go to Loughborough University and play against the North, the South, and the Midlands. At the end of August James will play in a West of England trials match where a squad will be picked to go to the West Indies in February for 16 days. For the last year James has been in Gloucester Academy but because of fuel costs and long travelling James has now joined Hampshire. James at the moment plays his county cricket for Wilts under 14, and 15. He is captain of the 14's.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mike Last (grandson of Barbara Last) as he got a 1st class degree in Ancient History from Leicester and two special awards – from a very proud Grandma. CONGRATULATIONS to all who took GCSE's, A levels and degrees – we hope you received the grades you needed for the next stage, we do know how hard you had to work!

CONGRATULATIONS to Martin and Rosie Gairdner on Martin's 70th birthday, their 40th Wedding Anniversary, on the marriage of their son Julian to Mel – and they had a huge party to celebrate these, and that all their six children and grandchildren were in the country at the same time!

GET WELL SOON to all who are presently in hospital or who have recently been in, and to everyone who is a bit under the weather, and especially to Sylvia Seymour-Taylor who has broken her wrist (is there something in the water in Berwick?) and is in Odstock as I write.

As I write this, the Olympics are on in Bejing. Did you know that we had a connection here in Berwick? Joe Meyer who rode in the New Zealand team which got 5th place in the Eventing, used to work for Scotland Lodge, and lived in Berwick for a couple of years – we knew he was good then!

There have been more problems with **DOG MESS**. Please do not allow your dog to foul the grass by the Reading Room – it is easy to bring a plastic bag and take it home again.

SCHOOL TRACK The right of way that runs up from the Guide HQ (the old school) to Druids Farm is the track. The fences were removed and it now makes a very pleasant walk, but the cattle there have been disturbed by dogs running loose amongst them, even when the cattle are several hundred yards away from the track. Please remember to keep your dogs under close control through or near any livestock – this means on the lead, or at heel. The right of way is really the track, not the field too, although many of us enjoy walking or riding on the short grass, but if we abuse a privilege given to us, it might not continue to be available in the future.

HARVEST SUPPER

This is on **SATURDAY 27th SEPTEMBER** at 7pm at the Guide HQ (The Old School). It is free to all Berwick Residents and everyone is welcome especially the children. We will pay for it by the Grand Raffle – so remember your money and a prize! We have decided that if anyone from outside Berwick would like to come we would need to charge £5 for adults, and £3 for OAP's and children.

You will receive a flyer with a tear off slip – please reply, it makes the organization so much easier. We are providing the main course and are asking for salads, puddings, cheese etc, as well as help (setting up, decorating the room, washing up, tidying away etc). Please bring your own bottles of wine etc, and glasses too, if possible.

For more information, offers etc please phone Jane Rowe 790575

Our Harvest suppers are always good fun, we do hope you can all come.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

The Harvest Festival will be on Sunday 28th September at 10am. It will be a family service with no communion. We would very much like to invite the children to bring gifts of produce to the service so that these gifts can be presented by the children during the service. We very much welcome fruit and vegetables to decorate the church at Harvest Festival – please bring anything you can on Saturday. However, we have not found anywhere we can donate these items, so please come back after the service to collect your fruit and vegetables.

THE BOOT INN.

There is a fun Quiz every Sunday evening at The Boot Inn. It starts at 7.30pm. It is for teams of 4 or less, with £2 entry per person of which £1 will go to Cancer Research and the other for half time munchies. A 4 pint jug of beer for the winners (or a bottle of house wine if preferred). Please book your tables for your teams in advance as tables are limited. We look forward to seeing you – Giles and Cathy. 790243

GREAT CYCLE RIDE Saturday 13th September.

This year the Great Cycle Ride – the Sponsored Ride and Stride in aid of the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust – is celebrating it's 25th Anniversary. Over the 25 years walkers, cyclists and riders have travelled between churches to raise money for Historic Churches, and for their own churches. Over those years £915,000 has been raised. This year they would like to make it £1million!

So can you take part? Or if not would you be able to sponsor someone? If you would like to then speak to Lyanne, or see me as I'll be doing it again, and welcome all sponsors! Nicky Street. Last year Berwick's walkers and cyclists raised about £420. Half went to Berwick Church and half to the Historic Churches Trust (who make grants to churches who need the money, if we take part, then we can apply for grants!) The ride/walk is great fun and well worth doing.

If you would like to take part please get your sponsor forms from Lyanne Street 790544 The Briars.

READING ROOM

The Reading Room had the Market Stall outside in Guildhall one cold Saturday in July. We made a profit of £113 (all from people outside the village!) even though several of the Committee were unable to help due to other commitments (like being away on holiday!) and so our very grateful thanks must go to Ian and Jackie Fisher who organized it, filled a trailer with books, and their car with Bric-a-Brac, and, with the very useful help of Sophie Colthurst and Olivia Marchant, sold the remains of the fete, and quite a lot of other stuff too! All that remained was taken to the Salisbury Hospice shop.

BERWICK ST JAMES WEBSITE

New on the website: under "New & Notices" are details of The Wylye and Nadder Valley Neighbour Policing Team, with the latest Neighbourhood Watch Bulletin with our local PC John Wyeth, and PCSO Tracey Holloway. The address is www.berwickstjames.org.uk Please have a look at the site – we would love contributions to it, just go to the Contact Us page. It would also be great to have details of what's on in the village, meetings and anything else. Please have a look and see if you can help!

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Wessex Petroleum is committed to helping the local community and the community related Incentive Scheme is an ideal way to achieve this. Thank you for your continued support – we received £50.99 this quarter. THANK YOU.

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WILDLIFE WATCH

On Friday 8th August, in the garden at the back of 4 High Street, Barbara Last's extensive knowledge was needed to identify the large caterpillars that were feasting on the leaves of a willow bush. There were about seven of them, up to four inches long, distinctive yellow diagonal markings on a vivid green body, a prominent upward spike at the rear and a strangely flat, slightly darker green front. They are very impressive now, but Barbara believes that they'll reach twice their current size before burying themselves in the ground to emerge as Poplar Hawk Moths next year. From Anne Hughes.

Adrian Simmons the River Keeper on the lower Wylye watched a Hobby "hawking" Mayflies on the 2nd June, catching them in it's feet and eating "on the wing" consuming over 30 in the space of 10 minutes, he also saw a Red Kite on Oak Apple Day drifting over the whole village procession in Great Wishford, it's been seen 3 times this summer. An unexpected sighting on the 8th July flying up the river near Stapleford was an Oystercatcher, far from it's normal haunts. Also two Salmon were seen at Great Wishford on 13th July a few days after the heavy rain.

A stoat was seen killing a leveret on the byway road through Druids farm, are stoats becoming more common? – I have also seen them crossing the road between Stapleford and Berwick.

The House Martins nesting in our garage successfully fledged three or four youngsters (I could never make out exactly how many there were, even though the nest was just above head height). Many people buying eggs would have met the parents flying in or out!

Reports from any of our villages most welcome. Nicky Street 790309 The Dairy House or email chstreet@btinternet.com indicating it is a magazine entry. Many thanks.

June 2008

WELCOME to **GILES and CATHY DICKINSON** at The Boot Inn. We are all looking forward to having you in the village, and hope that you enjoy living and working here, even though you have a very hard act to follow.

We held a party for **KATHY DUVAL** at The Boot Inn on Friday 18th April, to wish her good luck in her new life in Berwick. There were lots of people there to celebrate and to drink Kathy's health with the beer so generously provided by Wadworths. Charles Street thanked her for all she has done for the village and presented her with a lovely Garden Lamp and some vouchers from everyone in the village. Many thanks to all who made it such a good party, and especially to Richard Brasher for all his work.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING and Meeting of Parishioners.

At the Annual PCC the churchwardens Stephen Bush and Jane Rowe were elected, and were thanked for all their hard work last year, especially with the Christmas services.

Everyone who helps to keep Berwick Church so active and thriving was thanked too, all those who clean, do the flowers, lock the church, are sidesmen and readers, play the organ, are on the PCC etc – everyone!

The next APCC will be on Wednesday 22nd April 2009 at 7pm in the Church.

BERWICK FARM SHOP

On the **Sunday 22nd June** from 10 - 3.30pm we will be having a Tea Tasting from The Wiltshire Tea Company. They are a specialist supplier of high quality teas both loose leaf and tea bags. It is a family run business supplying an over 45 blends of high quality teas based in Corsham. There will also be tastings of the Berwick Farm Shop sausages, bacon, pies and cakes etc. Come along and see what we have!

The shop sells our own free-range pork, sausages, bacon and soon our own ham. Also free range chicken from Crediton, local Berwick free range eggs, lamb from Dorset and vegetables from Bromham near Devizes. We also have a nice selection of Jams, Chutneys, Pickles, bread, biscuits etc as well as our own cakes, pies etc. Have a look at the selection of Marmalades – specially made in Wilton for the shop.

BERWICK GUIDE CENTRE.

Wiltshire South Guides received a legacy of £15,000 in 2007. It was decided to add a conservatory to the back of the building, mainly to be used for storage of coats and footwear especially in wet weather. Building took place during the wet weather in January 2008, looking more like an indoor swimming pool rather than a conservatory. It has dried out now and we only have to tile the floor to complete this brilliant addition to our property.

We have recently fallen foul to thieves who have drained our oil tank, leaving one Brownie pack without heating when they came to stay. Could we ask residents of Berwick St James to keep a lookout for us and report anything suspicious happening at the Centre, to the Wilton Police. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

We are looking forward to meeting many villagers at the Fete in June, when we will be doing face painting during the afternoon.

Rosemary Douce.

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