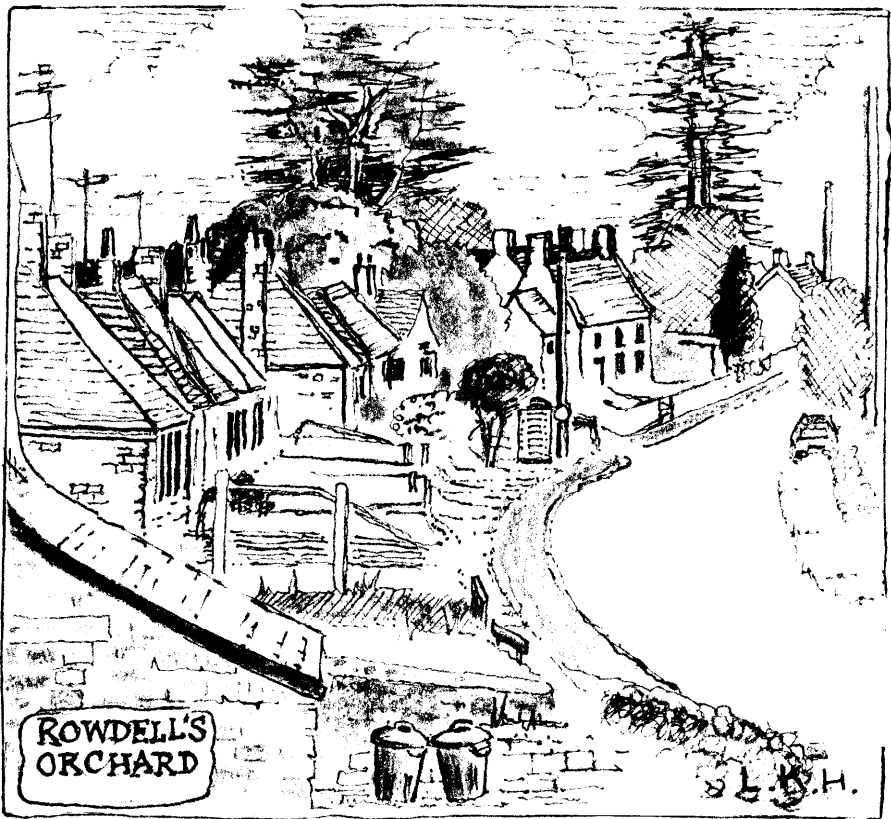


THE SEAVINGTONS' NEWS

February 2017



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The Seavingtons' News

A New Year often brings new challenges and opportunities for many of us, and for The Seavingtons' 2017 promises to be no exception.

Before looking forward to the potential developments for 2017, let me go back to last summer, during which time much work was done and meetings were held in support of the very generous gift given by Andrew Whitehouse, of Lift West, of 3 houses for the benefit of our community.

At the Village Open Meeting held on 4th April 2016 the attendees unanimously voted for the formation of a Community Land Trust to manage the gift houses, and The Seavingtons' Community Land Trust Ltd was registered as a Community Benefit Society with the Financial Conduct Authority in August 2016, ready like a coiled spring for the start of the development of the former Lift West site!

Fast forward to now, and recent developments would indicate that we are moving closer to commencement of the project, which means that under its constitution, The Seavingtons' CLT embryonic Committee needs to stand down, an Open Meeting needs to be held, and the necessary Officers from as wide a membership as possible be elected to carry the work of the CLT forward. To that end it is intended to hold a Village Open Meeting at:

The Millennium Hall, at 7pm on Thursday 2nd March 2017

At this meeting, and subsequently, you will be offered the opportunity to become voting members of the Society by purchasing a minimum of one share to the value of one pound. Members must by the CLT's rules be aged 16 or over. I would ask that as many of you that are able to attend this meeting do so, join the Society and help in the launch of this most generous and exciting project.

Nick Loxton, The Seavingtons' CLT

DON'T FORGET

The Newspaper Skip!

**pm Friday 10th February
until am Monday 13th February**

**The Latest Copy Date
for the next issue**

is the 15th February

Editorial content and diary entries to:

David Froome, Middlefield Barn, Church Lane, Seavington St Mary, Ilminster,
TA19 0QP Tel: 01460 249445; e-mail: news@theseavingtons.org

Village Diary—Forthcoming Events

*All events, unless otherwise shown, are held in the Millennium Hall
For bookings call 07905 215993 or hallbookings@theseavingtons.org*

9th February	7.30 pm	Gardening Club talk: Growing fruit & vegetables on your patio –p8
11th February	7.30 pm	‘Flix in the Stix’ at Hinton St George Village Hall –p5
13th February	Noon	Seniors’ Lunch in Village Café –p27
16th February	7.30 pm	RSPB Group talk:” RSPB work on the Somerset levels” -p27
18th February	10.00 am	Tree pruning in St Mary’s Orchard by Tom Nancarrow of Pip and Stone –p10
20th February	6.00 pm	Seavington Youth Club –p9
27th February	6.30 pm	Seavington Youth Club –p9
28th February	7.00 pm	Parish Council meeting –p19
2nd March	7.00 pm	Village Open Meeting to discuss the community Land Trust—pp 1 & 28
7th March	7.30 pm	“Call My Bluff” -pp7 & 10

Regular Activities

2 nd Monday	noon	Pensioners’ Lunch in Village Café
3 rd Wednesday	10.00am	“GET2GETHER” Group in Village Café
2 nd Thursday	7.30pm	Seavington Gardening Club

To keep up to date, check out the village web-site which is updated regularly and brings you the latest information on village matters, the programmes of village organisations and much more. Pass the address to your friends and relatives and let them keep in touch as well.

www.theseavingtons.org

St Michael's Church, Seavington

5th February	11.30 am Holy Communion (CW)
12th February	8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
12th February	11.30 am Café Church at Seavington Café
19th February	11.30 am Holy Communion (CW)
26th February	11.30 am Matins

Rev Tom Handy telephone: 01460 240377; revdtomhandy@hotmail.com

The Seavingtons' News Team

Editorial:	David Froome & Maria Potts
Advertising:	Tony Beresford
Production:	Brian Edwards & Roger Clampitt
Technical & web-site support:	Eugene Mulligan
Graphics & Visual Support:	George Brown

Village web-site: www.theseavingtons.org

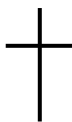
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Please do not hesitate to telephone David Froome on 01460 249445 if you have any questions.

Advertising Rates

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Full Page	£ 100	£ 12
½ Page	£ 50	£ 6
¼ Page	£ 28	£ 4

Advertising enquiries to: adverts@theseavingtons.org



Barbara Moizer 1925—2016

A long-term resident of Seavington, Barbara Moizer died on November 28th 2016. Barbara and her husband, Stan, were well known in the village and, until the last few years, she contributed greatly to many of our village activities.

Born in Cardiff and educated in Barry, Barbara was, for many years, editor of the *Barry and District News*. She put this experience to good use when, at the end of the 1990s she took over as editor of *The Seavingtons' News*.

Once settled in Seavington Barbara wholeheartedly supported village organisations acting as Secretary to St Michaels' Church Trust, leading the team that ran car boot sales to raise funds, which she named "Ripley's Rovers" after the vicar of those days, and helping on the church cleaning rota.

Both Barbara and Stan were keen budgerigar fanciers and were considered experts, being invited to judge budgerigar shows all over the world. They co-authored a number of books on the birds, one of which is considered the definitive work, some were translated into other languages, *Il Pappagallino Ondulata Guida Completa* being one.

In later years Barbara's eyesight began progressively to fail through macular degeneration. She bore this infirmity with stoicism, gradually adapting her lifestyle and domestic arrangements with such gadgets as a pc that read her e-mail messages to her, kitchen scales that spoke the weight and a talking watch which regularly announced the time, sometimes during the sermon in church.

With these arrangements, as many will testify, she managed to entertain, regularly cooking excellent three course meals for her guests although, finally, age and the blindness took its toll and she was forced to accept support from full time carers.

Throughout this final period of infirmity Barbara maintained her cheerful view of life. Any enquiry about her wellbeing would elicit the same response—"I'm fine...". She will be missed.

Volunteer Wanted

Millennium Hall Technical Support

An interesting and varied opportunity has arisen to help the local Seavington community by volunteering to oversee the technical fabric and services of the Millennium Hall.

This is a new position which could be developed and adapted to suit personal skills and time constraints. The type of responsibilities that we're looking to cover include:

- 1 Being the focal point for any reported faults and deciding upon an appropriate course of action, be it a DIY-repair, researching solutions and then appointing / liaising with other volunteers or contractors as appropriate.
- 2 Ensuring that any routine checks and services are carried out at the appropriate times (e.g. Boiler servicing, fire extinguisher checks, fire alarm service etc.).
- 3 Periodically review the fabric and condition of the building and make appropriate proposals / recommendations so that we can maintain and enhance the Hall's facilities for the benefit of all our current and future users

If this is of interest, please do contact me, Chris Gough, Chairman by email: spfa@theseavingtons.org in the first instance so we can arrange to have a chat.

‘Flix in the Stix’

Andrew Overhill (01460 72563)

Hinton St. George ‘Flix in the Stix’ presents **‘BRIDGET JONES’ BABY’ (15), on SATURDAY 11th FEBRUARY 2017** in the Hinton Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Tickets £5 in advance from the Village Shop and Dorothy’s Tea Room, or £5.50p on the door. To reserve Tickets please contact Bob Kefford on 01460 72563.

Bridget has everything completely under control in her life: 40 something, single again and focusing on her new top job. What could go wrong? Her love life intervenes once more: Bridget meets a dashing American (Jack) and suddenly becomes pregnant but who is the father Jack or ex-husband Darcy? All the old cast are back in this funny and very successful movie.

Although January is now well underway we would like to wish you a Happy New Year and we look forward to being of service to you in 2017.

You may wonder why my name is at the top of this article. At our December Management Meeting we decided to spread the load for this task and for each member of the Committee to take a turn at writing Over the Counter. We hope you will enjoy the variety of articles.

Volunteer news. As you will know Ian Gibson has taken over as Chair of the Shop Association. This means we say goodbye to Mark Ellis. We would like to say an enormous thank you for his three years of service.

He has given unstintingly of his time and shown immense determination in facing the challenges of the post. The Shop and Cafe have gone from strength to strength and this is in no small part due to his leadership. Those of us who have served with him on the Committee are very grateful for all his support and encouragement. Bon voyage to Mark and Nick!

We are also saying goodbye to Jo Mills. She has been involved with the Shop from the start and many innovations have been the result of her initiative and fundraising. Our excellent selection of local food is due largely to Jo and we all enjoy the art and craft exhibitions she has set up. Thank you Jo for all your efforts and our best wishes to you.

Lastly we say a fond farewell to Anne Kinch who died on New Year's Eve. She too has been involved with the Store from the start. It has always been a pleasure to be served by her at the till and we are very grateful for her help in the Cafe. We will always remember her cheerfulness and kindness. Thank you Anne for being such a lovely friend and neighbour. We will miss you.

So on to the New Year. Ian continues to choose a great selection of wines for us. There's something for all tastes from Europe and the New World and our prices compare very favourably with the high street. Treat yourself!

The Christmas Quiz raised £48 for Shop funds and we hope you had fun solving the clues. Your marked copies are available at the till. Well done to the four people who had full marks - Shirley Farrington, Jenny Froome, Nicky Wotton and Doreen Hardman. The £10 prize was won by Jenny. We hope she will enjoy spending it!

Antiques "Call My Bluff" on March 7th @ 7.30pm in the Millennium Hall. This will be just like the television quiz. We are very lucky to have three experts from Bearnas, Hampton & Littlewood Auctioneers of Exeter. Nic Saintey has even appeared on Bargain Hunt and Flog It! The experts will give three very plausible and witty descriptions of the antiques BUT which one is true?? Tables will be for 6, tickets will be £10 and this includes a full buffet supper. Don't be disappointed. Buy your tickets early!

News from Shepton Beauchamp Pre School

Charlie Pattison (01460 241396)

We are having such fun this term and appear to be heading towards Easter at an alarming rate! Our new two year olds have settled into pre school life very happily and are enjoying their time with us.

After a busy time fundraising last term we have been able to spend some of our money and have bought some much needed replacement farm toys and fire engines and new games for the computer. Thank you so much to everyone who has supported our events we do appreciate it and the children are so excited by the new toys.

We have a few fundraising events planned for this term including a **Pancake afternoon** on Monday 27th February in the village hall. We also have another Charity **Clothing Collection** at the end of March but if you have any bags of unwanted clothes please drop off at the village hall anytime. We are also planning a Coffee and Easter Craft morning in March.

Toddler Group - our next session will be Thursday 2nd February - babies, toddlers and pre school children and parents/carers very welcome at anytime during the morning for crafts, play and singing.

We do have spaces at our lovely Pre School please call Shelley or Kath 07765 437301 or pop in to The Village Hall in Shepton Beauchamp - we'd love to meet you! jesseandcharlie@hotmail.com or see our FACEBOOK page or www.sheptonbeauchamppre-school.co.uk

Seavington Gardening Club

Chris Ginger for Kate Mulligan (01460 242023)

January 12th 2017, Sally Nex, “Behind the Scenes at Chelsea”

What a great start to 2017. We had 44 members attend, on a rather unpleasant evening, and welcome to all the new members.

We were well entertained and informed by our speaker, Sally Nex, with her talk entitled “Behind the Scenes at Chelsea”, giving us an insight to the journalist’s back stage view over the weeks building up, (literally), to The Chelsea Flower Show.

Sally, who lives in Somerset, is a qualified hands-on gardener, designer and journalist who began working with the BBC, becoming eventually a Chelsea reporter. This allowed her access to the gardens, the designers, the growers and the nursery-people before the public were allowed in.

We were told of the borehole drilled to supply the show with water. Also whilst the cost of most show gardens is approximately £250,000, they can, (and have), ranged from £200.00 to £20 million. So something for everyone!

Sally told us of interviewing Cleeve West in his award winning "drought" garden during a thunderstorm, and of a plant that puzzled many, but was a parsnip, that had gone to flower, he had dug up from his allotment. She also mentioned the thousands of a single type of plant a nursery will grow, so a designer can choose 10 or 12 perfect examples and she described how many of the plants are sourced from all around the world.

We heard of the years, months, days and indeed the very last minutes dedicated to preparing every tiny detail of the perfection that the public see. Which after the event finishes is cleared, cleaned, re-turfed and restored...in a week! Ready for next time.

Flower of the Month

1ST, Chris Ginger – Geranium, 2nd, Gill Beveridge – Camellia

Forthcoming Events

Our next meeting is on Thursday 9th February 7.30pm in the Millennium Hall: A talk by the Gold Club entitled "Growing Fruit and Vegetables on the Patio".

There will be plants for sale. Refreshments available plus a raffle.

Please remember that Membership subs are due and if you haven't renewed you will be able to at the next meeting.

New members always welcome. Visitors £2 payable at the door. For further information contact Karen Day tel. 01460 249728

Seavington Community Land Trust

Don't Forget The Village Open Meeting at:

The Millennium Hall, at 7pm on Thursday 2nd March 2017

Come along and be a part of this exciting village venture—see page 1

Seavington Youth Club

Janine Lewis (07922 181948)

It has been great to see our numbers increase lately - with lots of new younger members. We are now regularly getting up to twenty children attending. A massive thank you to Craig Rice and Bob Brunt who have been on hand to offer some new sporting activities like curling, archery and other indoor games - we hope to be able to offer some similar activities into the new year.

Our meeting time continues to be two Mondays per month, we do not meet in school holidays (dates for the rest of the academic year below). We currently rely upon just three volunteers - all who are working mothers and kindly invite anyone to consider whether they could offer us some time and help - even if it was to just run our tuck shop.

6.30 - 7.45 pm

January- 16th and 30th; February - 20th and 27th

March - 13th and 27th; April - 24th

May - 8th and 22nd; June - 12th and 26th

July - 10th

Please contact Janine Lewis on 07922181948 for further information or follow our Facebook page - (Seavington Youth Club)

Orchard News

Karen Sutton (01460 249339)

Firstly I'd like to thank all of you who came along to the tree planting before Christmas. It wasn't the best of mornings, weather-wise, but we managed to complete the celebrations before the rain came. As many of you know, we lost some of the old apple trees in the last year or so, partly due to high winds which blew them over. This happened because they had become overgrown in the crown and therefore top-heavy.

To reduce this risk in our remaining old trees, they are to be pruned in February to minimise this happening again, but also to improve fruiting in the longer term. The pruning is to be carried out by Tom Nancarrow of Pip And Stone who came and helped us plant our new trees last year. This is to take place on Saturday 18th February. Anyone who would like to come and see an expert at work is welcome to come along and watch.

Tom will be arriving at about 10am and will be there until the job is complete. He will also be advising us on what we need to do to encourage good growth in our new fruit trees. If you have any of your own queries about fruit trees, Tom is your man. Do come along on Saturday 18th February from 10 am.

Interest in our orchard is growing and giving increasing pleasure to those who live nearby or walk through it regularly. If you have any further ideas for developing the orchard, the Parish Council is interested to hear your views.

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Details of future productions can be found in the local press or on our website: **www.thewarehousetheatre.org.uk** (plus audition nights, IES Membership, Box Office and more) or call **07943 779880** or email: **info@thewarehousetheatre.org.uk**

Your theatre needs you! *The Warehouse is run entirely by volunteers and we would love to hear from anyone who would like to get involved by helping backstage or front of house during show weeks, or simply by becoming a member of IES. Can you help?*

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St Michael's Church Seavington Trust

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Valentine's Day for cynics

Naomi Long (naomi_long8@yahoo.co.uk)

Very few people welcome the thought of Valentine's Day with any kind of real enthusiasm, and it's not that hard to see why.

For the singletons of England, it's a day to mark this year's relative success or failure to find a significant other. In January, you were still optimistic, holding out hopes of losing that extra pound or five that you put on during Christmas and meeting somebody, anybody, in time for Valentine's Day. By 11 February however, the pounds are still with you in terms of your bathroom scales but not when it comes to your bank, and you are still single and there's no sign of anybody to relieve your marital status.

At this point your only recourse is to dive into that tin of Quality Street left over from Christmas (there's still a few of those round toffees in the gold wrappers left) and watch Bridget Jones or one of a million other date night films that movie makers churn out every February for a quick buck. There's usually at least one; in fact the Valentine's Day film is becoming an institution in its own right. Every year now at this period you see the same awkward English has-beens wash up like shipwrecks in film after insipid film, paler and increasingly jaded-looking as you and they go through the annual dance of getting to the end of a film as bland as an all-porridge diet.

If you were to play all of these films, one after another and speeded-up, you'd have a time-lapse record of one man (usually Hugh Grant) slowly realising the horror of their inescapable career, as they first play the awkward boyfriend, followed by the reluctant dad, then the sheepish single parent divorcé, then finally the self-conscious granddad with a wife in her Hollywood forties (about twenty-seven).

And then there's the cards. It's the same every year, either big soppy ones with little grey trademarked bears holding hands or a watercolour portrayal of chocolates and wine flutes in front of the Eiffel Tower. They're so fake they make Katie Price look like the girl next door. But then you can't really blame Clintons. After all it would be hard to make money out of cards with moments of genuine, garden-variety love on them.

How could you depict the deep appreciation you feel when your other half makes a cup of unsolicited tea? How could you convey those halcyon evenings watching Grand Designs together and agreeing with one accord, as if you were both halves of the same whole that a) the house is a monstrosity b) Kevin McCloud thinks so too but is concealing it beautifully and c) the woman will have a baby before the show is over (they always do...).

These heart-warming moments of life just aren't commercially viable enough for the big money-makers of St V though. The Christmas model has been so effective for them that they are trying to roll it out across every high day and holiday. They are forcing you to celebrate it bigger and better every year. Just look at Waitrose. There's a seasonal aisle for the least celebration now, with appropriate decorations with which to clutter up your home and never use again and matching St Patrick's Day-shaped chocolates to match.

The latest thing of course these days is the unspoken rule that, if you don't go out for a meal on Valentine's Day, you've got to stay in and cook a meal that you will be judged on every bit as harshly as your Yuletide turkey.

Your house has to be decked out like an Aladdin's cave of love, with streamers of gingham hearts on jute string and large wooden letters that spell LOVE taking up all the room on a single shelf - and what modern two-up two-down is complete without its random wooden letter shelf - although I did recently notice in a shop in Yeovil that some joker had rearranged said letters to read VOLE, which would at least provide a talking point, unless your guest thinks it points to a rodent fetish, which at least means they'll leave early.

As well as the grandiose feast you're expected to provide, in surroundings that show how much you can't wait to get hygge* with your swain, there's now an expectation that you buy each other presents. And not the time-honoured box of Milk Tray or bunch of scraggy carnations from down the petrol station. Not even two dozen roses will suffice. No, now it's a new phone or some dreadfully expensive yet somehow tawdry-looking bracelet that you're supposed to add miscellaneous charms to every year so that your wife can jingle a bunch of silver anchors, Egyptian cats and shamrocks at her envious friends like some harem inmate.

It's not just the rank commercialism that makes Valentine's Day off-putting though. It's the fact that we have what amounts to an almost mandatory day to express romance. And it's so unnaturally forced and stereotyped that it almost accusingly makes you out to be an undemonstrative wretch the rest of the year.

And you just can't win. For single people it's a day to reflect on how single and lonely they are, and to count off how many Valentine's Days it's been since they were last in a restaurant with their significant other fending off rose-sellers. It's a time for them to dwell on the fact that another year has gone by and that they are not getting any younger, a day for them to potentially wonder despairingly if their mother is ever going to be a gran and not just a cat sitter.

For everyone else it's a formulaic day of clichés, full of awkward new couples where one of them gets the other a card or a present only to meet the stricken gaze of somebody who has arrived empty-handed. Especially if the lady was hinting that she wasn't bothered about Valentine's Day (she doesn't want to appear clingy) but now her boyfriend has turned up without anything... one of them is worrying about being too intense and the other is feeling guilty, or trapped, or possibly both. It's a minefield for new relationships.

For well-established couples, there's always a chance to compare previous years' large, lustrous be-glittered cards with the 59p effort this year and ponder where all the (albeit trite) romance has gone. Basically, you aren't truly safe until you've mutually established to what extent you will celebrate this arbitrary day, (which is not at all reflective of the real nature of your relationship), and decide how much you're going to spend on each other. And if that doesn't take all the zest out of it, nothing will.

All in all, it's the weirdest, most intrinsically disturbing, pressurising, hackneyed and frequently awkward event you'll have to undergo all year. Unless you start inspecting all the other holidays too closely... don't get me started on the Easter bunny. Merry Valentine's Day, God bless us every one.

*hygge – (pronounced 'hue-ga') a Danish concept currently embraced wholeheartedly by hipsters. It represents a mood or quality of comfortable, cosy togetherness which creates a sense of wellbeing, especially during the winter season. Examples include curling up by a cosy fire with a book, or a candlelit, rustic meal with good friends – and most likely posting Instagram photos of it on social media throughout.

A view from the field

Chris Gough (Chairman SPFA) - spfa@theseavington.org

Happy New Year to you all from the SPFA.

January is always that time of year when we tend to look back and reminisce about the year that has just past and look forward with anticipation to the time ahead.

In our case, 2016 was a fairly difficult year for the SPFA which culminated in both the Chairman and the Booking Clerk resigning during the summer. When I then accepted the nomination of Chairman, I hoped that we could settle things down, and over the past four months or so, with the appointment of our new Booking Clerk, Claire O'Neill together with the continuing excellent support from our Honorary Treasurer, David Bennett and our diligent and hardworking Cleaner, Jackie Priddle, we're certainly progressing in the right direction.

As with all village organisations, there is always a myriad of things that need to be done to keep everything up to scratch, legal and safe! So that no one person becomes totally overloaded, I have a New Year's request for more volunteers to come forward and lighten the load for us. There is no need to become a member of the SPFA committee, but just to offer your services and perhaps take on one of the responsibilities to keep everything running smoothly.

At the present time, we'd really like some more help with maintaining the fabric and services in and around the Hall. Ideally it will be someone (or perhaps more than one!) who is technically knowledgeable / capable in basic DIY / building skills and would also be able to research, instruct and then liaise with other volunteers / local contractors when work needs to be undertaken. Please do have a look at the advert for this voluntary position elsewhere in this month's magazine.

As I have previously mentioned, both our Playgrounds are over 16 years old now and becoming a little tired. The general recommendation from the authorities is that playgrounds such as ours should be "refreshed" and updated every 15 years or so, so the time is right to start a new project and continue the wonderful legacy of SwingPark 2000. A number of people have already come forward and said they would be willing to assist: - so all that is needed now to start this all off is a volunteer to become the Chair / Leader of a working party. I've already spoken to the Home Education Group who use the Hall every Friday about the playgrounds, and they would also be very interested in becoming involved and assisting wherever

possible. If you are at all interested in this project and would like to be involved and continue the legacy of having interesting playgrounds for the children (and grandchildren) of our village, please do come and have a chat.

During 2017, I'm hoping that we'll also be in a position to review some options for enhancing / updating / modifying the catering facilities in the Hall. Joy Madge has kindly volunteered to investigate some options that will bring the kitchens up to a modern day standard.

Finally, if you have any other ideas that could enhance the Millennium Hall and / or Playing Field, and you are able to develop it into a workable plan for our committee to consider, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

Seavington Community Land Trust

Don't Forget The Village Open Meeting at:

The Millennium Hall, at 7pm on Thursday 2nd March 2017

Come along and be a part of this exciting village venture—see page 1

Seavington Parish Council

Pauline Parsons (01460 240193)

The Parish Council is changing its regular 4th Tuesday of the month meeting date to the 3rd Tuesday [apart from February which will stay as the 4th - because I would be away for the 3rd !!!]

The dates have been confirmed as booked in the Millennium Hall as follows:

Meetings are in the Meeting Room apart from the March meeting which is the village AGM. Meetings will still start at 7.00pm

Tuesday 17th January; Tuesday 28th February

Tuesday 21st March - in the Main Hall as this is the Parish AGM

Tuesday 18th April; Tuesday 16th May; Tuesday 20th June; Tuesday 18th July

NONE PLANNED FOR AUGUST

Tuesday 19th September; Tuesday 17th October; Tuesday 21st November

Tuesday 19th December

Tawny Owl

Strix aluco 15"

Annie (01460 241762)

Of all the birds that I ever see,
the Owl is fairest in her degree,
for all the day long she sits in a tree,
and when the night cometh away flies she,
To-whit! To-who! Says she, to-who!
Cinnamon, Ginger, Nutmegs and Cloves,
And brandy gave me my jolly red nose.

Anon

The Tawny Owl is a nocturnal bird and therefore more often heard than seen. It has a remarkably well-developed night vision and acute hearing. The astonishingly flexible neck allows it to turn its head almost full circle, so that its face is kept towards the observer all the time. The presence of a sleeping Tawny Owl, in a tree, is often betrayed by a flock of small birds flying around and mobbing it. Neither the mob nor human presence will dislodge it from its cosy roost!

The Tawny Owl flies on soft, silent wings which are broad and rounded. Feathers are mottled chestnut-brown; deeply set brown eyes which, unlike most other birds, are forward facing like humans. The tail is short and the talons are curved and strong.

It is often found in mature woodland and also seen in wooded parks and gardens. It will even venture into cities. In Autumn it will establish its territory of approximately 60-70 acres; with much calling and hooting. The male, in its attempt to attract a mate, may well clap its wings in display. No nest is built. The Tawny Owl will lay in an old tree hole, building or, maybe, in a deserted squirrels' drey.

One brood of 2-4 white, round eggs are laid between March and May. The female incubates the eggs for 28-30 days. When hatched they are mainly fed by the male. Both parents, though, will feed the young up to three months after leaving the nest before they are able to catch prey for themselves.

It is a night hunter; feeding on small mammals such as moles, mice voles and birds and, from time to time, will catch fish and amphibians. It will

also turn to earth worms which are easy to find on damp, warm nights when they come to the surface to feed and mate.

There is a pair of Tawny Owls in the area. Listen for the “hooting song”, an eerie “hoo-hoo-oo-oo-oo”

The male will call and the female replies with a sharp “Kee-wick”

Happy listening and watching in 2017!

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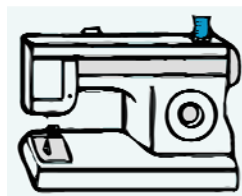
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SOUTH SOMERSET RSPB GROUP

‘Wet, Wet, Wet! The RSPB’s Work on the Somerset Levels and the Severn Estuary’

An illustrated talk presented by Richard Archer (RSPB Conservation Officer) who leads the work programme, off reserves, on these internationally important wetlands. Richard will tell us about some of the RSPB’s priority work including breeding wader conservation and the on-going success of the common crane re-introduction programme.

Thursday 16th February - 7.30pm The Millennium Hall, Seavington St Mary
Entry: Group members £2.50, non-group members £3.50, under 18’s free
(tea/coffee & biscuits included) – wheelchair access

NON-MEMBERS VERY WELCOME

For further details contact: Denise Chamings (group leader) on 01460240740
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Village Voice—letters to the editor

The Seavingtons' News wants to hear and publish your views on both the "News" itself and topics of importance or interest to our community. Please send your letters to the address on page 1. All opinions and views expressed are the sole responsibility of the writer and do not reflect the views of The Seavingtons' News. For legal reasons we must have the name and address of the writer but can normally publish over a pseudonym on request.

Footpaths: I would like to say thank you and congratulate Phil Gordon-Smith and Andrew Gillard for the sterling work they have carried out on several areas throughout our delightful villages. Many people, I'm one of them, walk the footpaths of our village nearly everyday. It is so good to be able to do this without being ensnared by brambles or trying to climb an unstable style.

As a Parish Councillor, I would also like to thank the two gentlemen on behalf of the Parish Council.

Elaine Edwards

Seavington Community Land Trust

Don't Forget The Village Open Meeting at:

The Millennium Hall, at 7pm on Thursday 2nd March 2017

Come along and be a part of this exciting village venture—see page 1

The Seavingtons' Weather in December 2016

This year—2016

Previous year—2015

Temperature

Average Minimum	3.51C	7.25°C
Average Maximum	9.73°C	15.27°C
Mean	6.62°C	11.26°C

Rainfall

Monthly Total	24.8 mm (0.99")	71.9 mm (2.88")
Total for the year	741.2 mm (29.675)	568.3 mm (22.73")

The driest December since 1991 when we had 1 only 6.7 mm (0.67") of rain



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