

THE SEAVINGTONS' NEWS

April 2017



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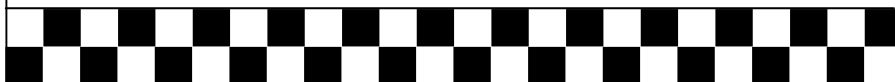
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The Seavingtons' News

Returning from a short break in a warmer climate I see that winter seems to be retreating and signs of spring are on the way. Hopefully, the ice storms on the East coast of North America will not make it across the Atlantic.

It is not only the weather which should be brightening our lives in the Seavingtons. Our Community Land Trust has got off to a rattling good start, as you will see from the report in this magazine. A Special General Meeting has now been called to elect the first group of directors to take the Trust forward. Work on the development of the Lift West site should start in May.

May I pass our community's thanks to both Andrew Whitehouse, of Lift West, for his generosity and to our Parish Councillors who have seized the opportunity for our community to have these three houses for the benefit of our community ? It is now down to the rest of us to build on this and, through the community land trust, takeover the responsibilities.

Another welcome feature of my return to Seavington has been the improved Internet performance in Seavington St Mary brought about by Openreach's installation of the new street cabinet in Church Lane. It may have taken a long time but we can now feel that we have made the space journey into the 21st century!

David Froome, Editor

DON'T FORGET

The Newspaper Skip!

**pm Friday 7th April
until am Monday 10th April**

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

is the 15th April

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*

30th March	7.00 pm	The Seavingtons' Community Land Trust Special General Meeting—p24
8th April	7.30 pm	Flix in the Stix at Hinton St George Village Hall—"A Street Cat Named Bob" - p7
10th April	noon	Seniors' Lunch in Village Café
10th April	7.00 pm	Gardening Club meeting at Brimsmore Garden Centre—talk & discount sales—p21
13th April	7.30 pm	Gardening Club talk—"Flower Arranging for Village Shows" by Myra Cox—p21
20th April	7.30 pm	RSPB Group talk—"Saving Nature in the South West" by Nick Bruce-White—p31
25th April	7.00 pm	Parish Council Meeting Please note new date—p9

Regular Activities

2 nd Monday	noon	Seniors' 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

2nd April	11.30 am Holy Communion (CW)
9th April	8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
9th April	11.30 am Palm Sunday—Meet at Seavington Café and walk to St Michael's Church
16th April	11.30 am Easter Day Family Communion
23rd April	11.30 am Matins
30th April	No service but at 8.00 & 9.30 am in South Petherton

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

The Seavingtons' News Team

Editorial:	David Froome & Maria Potts
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Village web-site: www.theseavingtons.org

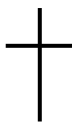
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Please do not hesitate to telephone David Froome on 01460 249445 if you have any questions.

Advertising Rates

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

Advertising enquiries to: adverts@theseavingtons.org



Monica Pye 1924 - 2017

Monica Pye, formerly of Rectory Cottage in Upton Lane, Seavington, died peacefully on 6th February, aged 92, in a nursing home near Bristol.

Moving to Seavington in 1982 Monica and her husband David were well known in our villages and played a full part in community organisations and activities. Monica particularly loved her garden and it was always immaculately tended.

She will be remembered for her service with the Neighbourhood Watch and as the organiser of the annual British Legion Poppy Appeal in our villages. As well as giving these services to our community Monica was an enthusiastic member of the Gardening Club and Seavington Stitchers as well as a member of the South Petherton Combined Arts Choir.

Monica leaves many happy memories in our community.

Help Shape the Next National Census

South Somerset has been specially selected as part of a large scale test of the census, run by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

This is an exciting opportunity for local residents to help shape the census which will happen in 2021. Test day is 9 April 2017.

Randomly-selected households will be sent a letter beforehand with a unique access code to enable them to answer their test questionnaire online quickly and easily – it should take about 10 minutes.

There will be census officers working in the area in April and May, and online and telephone help will also be available.

Your participation is hugely valued by ONS. It will help develop an online census for 2021 that asks the right questions and gets the maximum response. The more successful the census test is in South Somerset, the more we benefit in future.

For more information on the 2017 Test: www.ons.gov.uk/census

Internet Scam

Jackson of Seavington

As many of you in St Mary will know, there was a poor internet service during the week of 20th February, and in some cases for BT users, no service at all for several days.

On three separate days I received calls from India saying they were BT (although I am not a BT user) and their system indicated I had “router” problems which needed to be fixed. To do this, I needed to go online and they would talk me through the process by opening web sites which would “install the fix”.

This is a scam intended to obtain access to your PC, files and personal information, which once accessed, cannot be undone.

I have three solutions to the call; replace the receiver immediately; or, please hold the line whilst I connect you to the police fraud line to verify your call; or, I don’t understand as I do not have a computer. In each case the call was immediately closed.

These calls are made by sequential dialling, that is, they do not know your number (in fact they do not even know your name) but their equipment uses a cold calling system which automatically rings numbers within a given range. There is usually a delay in them speaking until they realise they have a response from a number.

Is it a mere coincidence or am I being cynical, wondering how they choose to ring at the same time an area is experiencing local internet difficulties, and the customer may be looking for help to resolve the issue.

County Council Election

May 4th 2017 is the date of the next election of County Councillors to represent us on the Somerset County Council.

You are urged to ensure that you are registered to vote and that you exercise that right. The election itself is managed by the District Council so you should contact them to register: 01935 462462.

Antiques Call My Bluff

(Marion Bennett 01460 249522)

What a successful event! Judging by the large amount of positive feedback the packed audience had a great evening. Just to make sure the event went with a swing Diane ran the bar with her usual efficiency and the audience had a preview of the pictures and objects which were going to be in the quiz.

Then the fun began. Three experts, Nic Saintey, Chris Hampton and Dan Goddard came from Bearnas Hampton & Littlewood Auctioneers and Valuers of Exeter. Each offered a "plausible" description of the picture or object. It has to be said that they were very adept at spinning a yarn and doing so with great humour. Even the true descriptions contained elements of the absurd! The objects included a cheeky porcelain figurine, a diamond necklace, a farmyard scene by Hunt, an early Royal Worcester vase by Barr and a fid - a bone object used by the naval personnel to untie knots (how many people knew that one?!). For most in the audience their answers were pure guesswork and Nic ramped up the excitement by asking for a show of hands for each of the explanations. On the whole this simply showed that all of the descriptions were possible! It was interesting to hear the value of each item and this ranged from a modest few hundred to thousands of pounds.

During the interval a wonderful buffet supper was served by Terry Gibson and her team. I came to think of them as "Terry's army". A large number of people prepared delicious salads and quiches followed by cakes for dessert. Terry was impressed and grateful that so many people were willing to contribute to the food. Our thanks go to all of them and to Terry for coordinating the operation.

So we all had a great time and we made a magnificent profit of £800 which will be put towards the match funding required to support the LEADER grant for air conditioning. Thanks to your support we will shortly be arranging the installation of air conditioning in the shop, cafe and kitchen - very welcome to all who volunteer, work in and use the Store.

Our biggest thanks must go to Nic, Chris and Dan. Firstly we are very grateful that they considered us a cause worthy of their support (incidentally they were tremendously impressed by our shop and cafe) and secondly for giving us such a memorable and entertaining evening.

Flix in the Stix

Andrew Overhill (01460 72563)

Hinton St. George 'Flix in the Stix' presents '**A STREET CAT NAMED BOB' (12A)**, on **SATURDAY 8th APRIL 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.

A true life tale of how a stray ginger cat changed the life of James Bowen (Luke Treadaway), a homeless London street musician and recovering drug addict.

The film follows his recovery from abuse and his flirtation with his quirky neighbour. The story is told humorously and addresses a few social issues along the way. The star of the film is unquestionably 'Bob' the ginger tabby and we follow his relationship with James and the adventures they have along the way. The film also stars 'Downton's' Joanna Froggett.

COME AND JOIN US AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, SEAVINGTON for the Flower Festival.

Saturday 27th May 10am -----5pm
Sunday 28th May 10 am -----5pm
Monday 29th May 10am -----5pm

Refreshments served

The church flower ladies are looking for donations of garden greenery to use to help decorate the church for the festival at the end of May. If your garden has anything you would be willing to donate we would like to come & cut it the week beginning 22nd May. Please contact me on the numbers below.

If you would also like to help with serving the refreshments, which we do on a rota basis, please contact the me on one of the numbers below.

Sheila Reyland. 01460 241238 / 07918714020.

Spring is now officially with us and on the lovely sunny days that now come along between the drizzly and gloomy ones this is easy to believe. The snowdrops have been wonderful this year and presently we have bright daffodils, crocuses and primroses to make all the gardeners in the Seavingtons smile.

Lots of smiles at the Shop and Cafe too because we have recently been awarded three grants – from LEADER, the Parish Council and South Somerset District Council – which will enable us to fit air conditioning in good time for the heat of this year's summer.

Many of you will recall how oppressively hot the interior of the building was last year, causing discomfort for customers and volunteers alike and spoiling some produce. Our chillers had to work overtime to maintain correct temperatures for the shop goods and, as a consequence, the chillers both added to the heat in the shop and cafe and had to be replaced sooner than we had planned for.

Now we will be able to regulate the temperature in the shop and cafe to make it a pleasant haven for everyone throughout a humid summer like the one last year. Praise and grateful thanks for this great achievement go to Marion Bennett whose hard work and determination won the day and grateful thanks also go to the three grant-funding bodies who have helped us to fulfil our ambition to make the shop and cafe more comfortable.

The Antiques Call My Bluff evening on 7 March was also a great success and raised just over £800 towards shop and cafe funds. The hall was packed, the supper was delicious and, if the laughter and noise were anything to go by, everyone had a grand time. Thanks go to all the volunteers who gave their time to set up and clear the Hall and to provide the feast and bar!

There are two new art exhibitions for customers to visit through March and April. Emma Logan's intricate and imaginative metalwork is a delight, and Liz Caires vibrant and striking artwork will attract all visitors.

New customers to the shop and cafe often comment on how spacious and light the aisles are, making it easy for people to browse. It is also

noted that our wide selection of gluten-free foods and great variety of locally made chutneys, jams and marmalades would please all tastes. The latter also make splendid gifts with a local flavour!

As usual, we have a selection of Wines of the Month, offering excellent value if you enjoy Cabernet Sauvignon, Muscadet and Sauvignon Blanc , priced between £6.49 and £7.29.

News from Shepton Beauchamp Pre School

Charlie Pattison (01460 241396)

March was a super fun and busy month with Egg Shackling, World Book Day, our Easter Fundraising Craft Morning and pancake racing in the church! During April the children will be preparing for Easter and making the most of the warmer weather to enjoy the garden without wellies and waterproofs.

The Duke of York are generously hosting our **BINGO** night on Monday 24th April, we have some fantastic house prizes and it is always a fun night. We have a joint fundraising **QUIZ NIGHT** with FOSS (Friends of Shepton School) on Saturday 6th May - lots of wine and delicious nibbles.

Toddler Group - our next session will be on **Thursday 4th May** (due to Easter Holidays) we will try an impromptu get together in April; check the website and Facebook for details - babies, toddlers and pre school children with 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 info@sheptonbeauchamppre-school.co.uk or see our FACEBOOK page or www.sheptonbeauchamppre-school.co.uk

Parish Council—Change of Meeting Date

Because of the late date for the Easter Bank Holiday the date of the next Parish Council meeting will be 25th April instead of the, previously announced, 18th April.

A view from the Field...

Chris Gough (spfa@theseavingtons.org)

First of all, a big Thank you to Nick Church who has come forward and volunteered his services as the new Premises Manager. Nick only moved into the village in January and has already been very helpful in sorting out a recent problem we had with the hot water and some other problems.

The Dog Poo bin at the top of the Playing Field now has an adjacent bag dispenser, kindly paid for and installed by the Parish Council and for which we thank them very much. There really is no excuse now for not picking up after your dog even if you used your last bag before getting to the field! If you notice that the bag dispenser is empty, please let me know using the email address above.

The SPFA lottery is also due to start its new season again from April and our team of collectors will soon be knocking on doors. Half of all the collected money is then handed out as prize money throughout the year.

The money raised from the Lottery is a valuable source of income towards the maintenance of the Playing Field. Each ticket costs £10 and there is a draw each month from June-March. There is no limit to the number of tickets you can hold and you don't need to live in the village to take part. So why not buy a ticket for your children or grandchildren and give them a chance of some extra pocket money, whilst supporting the SPFA and helping to maintain the facilities we have.

For your convenience there is a lottery ticket application form opposite which will allow you to renew an existing ticket or to purchase one for the first time.

Our small band of collectors would welcome some help, so If you have few hours to spare over the next few weeks, just drop me a line at the email address below and I'll pass you details onto our lottery co-ordinator.

The installation of the Village Defibrillator outside the Millennium Hall has unfortunately been delayed because of a change of supplier. We are hopeful that these issues will soon be resolved.

Seavington Playing Field Association Lottery

I / we would like to join / renew our lottery tickets for the year from June 2017 to March 2018 at a cost of £10 per ticket.

Name:

Address:

Name:

Address:

Ticket No(s) if known

Cash or cheque payable to Seavington Playing Field Association

If you miss the collector's visit please place your form and payment in the external letterbox on the left side of the Millennium Hall porch. If you have any queries or want further information please call our lottery organiser, Jackie Priddle on 01460 240734 or 07706 092578.

SPFA Village Lottery

Jackie Priddle (01460 240734)

Here are the winners of the March 2017 draw:

First	£35	Janet Pollock
Second	£20	Maggie & Tom Jones
Third	£15	Colin Male
Fourth	£10	Gwen Gough
Fifth	£10	Sally Cooper



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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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info@sheptonbeauchamppre-school.co.uk**

**or meet us at the
Village Hall.
We would love to
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St Michael's Church Seavington Trust

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Somerset Easter Cakes

(also known as Sedgemoor Easter Cakes)

Naomi Long (naomi_long8@yahoo.co.uk)

Somerset Easter Cakes are closely related to Easter biscuits but are specific to the West Country, and are traditionally much more a scone-like cake than biscuits but some variants go down the biscuit route. They were apparently once tied into bundles of three to represent the Holy Trinity and given as gifts around Easter time and eaten alongside hot cross buns and simnel cakes. Recipes vary greatly and most have been handed down through families over many generations so that even in Somerset there are different regional variations.

Traditionally Somerset Easter Cakes contain oil of cassia (a close relative of cinnamon) - across a region as far-ranging as Yeovil, Glastonbury and Bristol (which seem to be the three main centres for Somerset Easter Cake consumption) - but outside of Somerset this ingredient seems to be unheard of as a baking ingredient.

There are several links that tie these cakes specifically to Somerset, and specifically to Sedgemoor (the alternate, and probably original name for them is Sedgemoor Easter Cakes). According to one source, when the Duke of Monmouth was fleeing from the Battle of Sedgemoor (6th July 1685) he fell, and presumably lay for some time until a local woman found him and, thinking he was a tramp, gave him some of these cakes to help him recover.

However, the reason we use cassia oil locally for Easter cakes in Somerset also ties their origin to Glastonbury. According to one Street resident, the reason for the use of cassia oil in Sedgemoor Easter Cakes is because cassia oil was allegedly extracted from the Holy Thorn of Glastonbury – which grew after Joseph of Arimathea, commonly held to be Christ's uncle by Somerset legend, visited Glastonbury and thrust his staff into Wearyall Hill. According to other Somerset locals, it has an Easter link because oil of cassia was said to be used to embalm Christ's body and is one of the essential oils mentioned in the Bible (Psalm 45:8 ...all thy garments smell of Myrrh, and Aloes, and Cassia out of the ivory places, whereby they made thee glad...).

Cassia oil used to be sold in the local chemist's around Eastertime in Somerset along with an Easter cake recipe (according to one Yeovil resident this was still the practice in 2009, so it may well still be the

case), and some families seem to have kept their bottle of cassia oil for years and passed it down from one generation to the next.

You can replace the cassia oil with cinnamon, but most Somerset folk insist on it, and that the cassia oil “makes the whole house smell of Easter and flavours the biscuits beautifully”. It is widely available on the internet and you would certainly be able to find it at larger health food stores, or essential oil shops (such as Starchild at Glastonbury, if you wanted an authentic touch). Many recipes also add a drop of brandy.

Sarah's Grandmother's recipe (Bristol)

10oz plain flour,
7oz butter,
5oz white caster sugar,
2oz currants,
2 egg yolks,
8 - 10 drops of cassia oil

East Chinnock recipe (at least 80 yrs old)

10oz self-raising flour
6oz butter
6oz caster sugar
3oz currants
1 egg
½ – 1 teaspoon grated nutmeg
A little milk and extra sugar



Mrs Wyatt's recipe (Huish Episcopi)

225g plain flour
110g butter
110g caster sugar
110g currants
½ tsp mixed spice
½ tsp ground cinnamon or several drops cassia oil
1 egg
2 tbsp brandy

See the next page for the method of preparation noting that, whichever variant you make, the method is usually the same:

Somerset Easter Cake Method

1. Preheat oven to 180°C/350°F/Gas Mark 4.
2. Prepare a couple of greased baking trays (for biscuits) or use a bun tin (for cakes).
3. Rub butter into flour.
4. Add currants, sugar, and any spices you are using (cassia oil, mixed spice or cinnamon)
5. Beat the egg and mix in the brandy if you are using brandy and add to the dry ingredients.
6. IF MAKING INTO BISCUITS WITHOUT MILK: Mix into firm paste. Roll out to about ½ in./1 cm thick and cut into 3 ½ in./9cm rounds and spread out on tray. Brush with a little milk or egg, and optionally sprinkle with some extra sugar. Chill for 8-10 mins before baking.
7. IF MAKING INTO CAKES WITH MILK: Add milk until reaching a dolloping consistency. Add about a dessert spoon full of batter to a bun case. Optionally sprinkle with extra sugar at this stage or ice them with sugar glaze when cooled.
8. Bake for about 15-20 mins until golden brown.
9. Store in an airtight tin.

A Reminder:

County Council Complaint 'phone Number

The Somerset County Council now has a single telephone number through which you may report problems such as potholes, drainage issues etc:

0300 123 2224

HOLIDAY IN SPAIN

Beautiful 3 bedroom modern duplex apartment with communal pool, under 10 mins from beach by car - wonderful views from terraces, walking distance to local village of Palau Saverdera

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Apartment available from June until 2nd September 2017.

For more details contact **Sarah Lawton** at sarahlawton22@gmail.com or call 07901716819

We have stayed at this apartment in Northern Spain and it is beautiful. The apartment is large with three double bedrooms all with balconies and wonderful views. The sitting room has access to a large balcony which overlooks the communal pool and gardens. The kitchen is fully functional, so preparing supper using the fresh fish and seafood from Roses fish market is highly recommended however, if you wish to eat out there are a variety of restaurants in the village of Palau Saverdera which is a short walk through olive groves. Our favourite is "Nou Fusion" which is only yards away from the apartment and eating the gourmet food whilst looking out over the panoramic views.....stunning. Roses is a stylish sea front town where you can promenade for miles or hire bicycles or sit in the many bars and restaurants and people watch. We can highly recommend the apartment and Sarah is incredibly helpful and reassuring as she speaks fluent Spanish/Catalan and is only a phone call away. We love the area and are heading back in March for our third time to enjoy the seafront resorts and medieval villages in abundance, it's REAL SPAIN. Robert and Shirley Chapman

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Seavington Gardening Club

Kate Mulligan (01460 242023)

Thursday 9th March AGM followed by a talk on “Peonies and Irises” by Susannah Applegate

The last time Susannah came to give us a talk was in 2013 and fittingly it was on the same subject. Our club has gone from strength to strength since then and we now have 60 signed up members for 2017 so I am pretty sure there will be many people hearing it for the first time.

Susannah lived in Seavington from the age of seven to nineteen and used to cycle to Dowlish Wake to work on a farm there. She went on to apply for a job as a tractor driver at Kelways Nursery and there began a lifelong interest in irises and peonies.

Bearded irises are her speciality and over the years there have been tremendous developments in breeding programmes so the choice of shape and colour combination today is huge. Susannah gave us plenty of tips on looking after them and propagation. After flowering they should be left for 4-6 weeks then they can be dug up and individual rhizomes separated out. Each one flowers just once but it then produces more rhizomes so increasing the number of flowers.

Planting depth for irises is crucial and you get the feeling that having planted 15,000 every year by hand, working in a team of just four people at Kelways, she might just know what she is talking about. They need to be just below the surface of the soil otherwise if too deep they will not flower.

Peonies come from the foothills of the Himalayas and love cold weather. Their buds are tough enough to get through frozen soil and the stems are very strong on modern varieties so do not need support. Despite the myth that they do not like being moved, once established, peonies can be transplanted or potted on many times.

To breed peonies you do need patience as it can take up to 3 years for seeds to germinate and even then there is only about a 10% degree of success. Better to buy one from a garden centre or nursery to save time. You also need a sense of humour if you grow peonies as the emerging flower buds can be difficult to identify and the true colour is not always obvious until the bud is fully open.

Susannah went on to give a demonstration of splitting irises and re-planting them using her cats' litter tray to give a perfect example of depth in the compost. The rhizome needs to face south to get maximum sun on it. As the peonies are barely getting going at this time of year it would have been difficult to see anything in a demonstration. Probably just as well as her cats would certainly appreciate the return of their litter tray sooner rather than later!

Many thanks to Susannah for her fascinating and educational talk and I'm sure she will be back to give more expert advice.

Flower of the Month Competition:

1st Ann Clifford - hellebore
2nd Gill Beveridge - camellia
3rd Val Curtis - hellebore

Forthcoming Events:

Monday 10th April - Brimsmore Garden Centre 7.00 - talk plus 25% discount shopping evening.

Thursday 13th April 7.30 in the Millennium Hall - "Flower Arranging for Village Shows" by Myra Cox. There will be flower arranging materials for sale plus Flower of the Month Competition. All welcome - visitors £2 payable at the door. Refreshments and raffle available. For more information please contact Karen Day tel. 01460 249728

Notices:

The winter bulb growing competition will be judged at the meeting on 13th April so remember to bring along your "carefully nurtured" narcissus Pink Pride.

If you want to check out our Facebook page then go to Google and just type in Seavington Gardening Club Facebook. You do not have to join Facebook to see it.

Help Needed:

I am writing a brief history of the Gardening Club and thanks to some very impressive record keeping from Anne and David Wills and Julie Sibley I have plenty of information from AGM minutes and club meetings. If you have any personal anecdotes or reflections on meetings attended, talks, competitions or garden visits and where they took place I would love to hear about them. Please contact me on 01460 242023.

Spring

Annie (02460 241762)

When Daisies pied, and Violets blue,
And Lady-smocks all silver white,
And Cuckoo-buds of yellow hue
Do paint the meadows with delight,
The Cuckoo then, on every tree,
Mocks married men; for thus sings he:
"Cuckoo;
Cuckoo, cuckoo!" O, word of fear,
Unpleasing to a married ear!

William Shakespeare

The following birds are some of the ones that might migrate here, for the summer, from many parts of Africa. They mate here, make nests here and may have up to three broods before flying back in early autumn.

Cuckoo (Cuculus Conorus) 13"

Plumage: grey overall; wingtips darker; underparts whitish barred with grey; tail slate-grey with white; sexes alike.

Habitat: Farmland, woodland, moorland, reed-beds.

Food: Insects, caterpillars etc.

Nest: Lays eggs in the nests of the Meadow Pipit, Reed Warbler and Dunnock.

Song: Cu-koo-cu-koo

Swift (*Apus apus*) 6½"

Plumage: Long scythe-shaped wings; short forked tail; body all dark brown; whitish throat; sexes alike.

Habitat: Everywhere—especially near water and over towns—high in the sky, chasing each other screaming—"SREE".

Food: Insects caught on the wing.

Nest: House eaves, holes in walls, shallow and made with mud and feathers.

Arrives: Late April/early May and departs end of August. Will fly up to 500 miles in a day!

House Martin (*Delichon urbica*) 5"

- Plumage:* Upperparts dark metallic blue with contrasting white rump; underparts white; sexes alike
- Habitat:* Towns and villages
- Food:* Insects on the wing.
- Nest:* Attached to buildings—under eaves or an overhang—made with mud, grasses and feathers.
- Song:* A soft twitter and a strong “TCHIR RIP”.

Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) 7½"

- Plumage:* Deep steely-blue upper parts; creamy underparts with bluish breast band; throat and forehead reddish chestnut; long tail streamers—longer on male than female; white spots on tail; sexes alike.
- Habitat:* Farmland, meadows, town and villages. It likes to roost in reed-beds at night.
- Food:* Insects on the wing—especially over water—scooping up in the bill.
- Nest:* Mud and straw in farm buildings, under bridges; will venture into sheds and garages.
- Song:* You will hear and see them on telegraph poles preening and twittering.

White Throat (*Sylvia communis*) 3½"

- Plumage:* Greyish-brown upperparts; chestnut wings. Male—grey head and nape. Female—brownish grey head and nape. Both sexes have white throats and underparts; breast has touches of pink; outer tail feathers white.
- Habitat:* Hedgerows, scrubs, brambles, thorn bushes.
- Food:* Insects and berries.
- Nest:* Low down in thickets and hedges.
- Song:* The call is a sharp “Tak-tak” with a scolding “Churr”. The song, often emitted in a flitting, dancing, flight is a short scratchy warble of rapid notes ending in a shrill chatter.

Happy bird watching!

News from the Seavingtons' CLT

Nick Loxton (01460 242435)

On Thursday 2nd March 2017 an Open Village Meeting was held in the Millennium Hall to update residents about the Village Community Land Trust (CLT) project. The interim acting Chair, Nick Loxton welcomed all present and announced that the meeting had been called essentially to update residents of recent events concerning the Seavingtons' Community Land Trust Limited and to give notice of the first Special General Meeting of Members. (SGM)

Nick advised that the Contract had been signed between Andrew Whitehouse and the developer [Mark Thomas of Acorn Developments] and following successful completion at the end of April, it was likely that the development of the site would begin in early May 2017 and works could be completed within 12 months. A Deed of Covenant would also be signed between Andrew Whitehouse and the Developer to ensure that Andrew's wishes, with regard to the gifting of 3 houses to The Seavingtons' CLT, free of encumbrances, would be carried out. So having had little to report since almost this time last year, things are moving apace and the CLT now needs to gather momentum quickly if we are to be in a position to take on this exciting project.

It was emphasised at the Open Meeting that the Seavingtons' Community Land Trust was completely separate from the Seavington Parish Council, the only apparent connection was because in the first instance Andrew Whitehouse had made his first approach to the village by contacting the Parish Council, and it was reiterated that at the open meeting in April 2016 residents had voted for this separation and the formation of a CLT.

As explained at this open meeting, the CLT had been set up as a Benefit Society bound by a set of rules registered with the FCA [Financial Conduct Authority]. Under those rules, an SGM is required to be held within six months. The steering committee will stand down, and then a new Board of Directors will be voted in by members of the CLT. At the open meeting, it was suggested that a maximum of 9 Directors might be required to be elected by members.

After the meeting the date of the SGM was confirmed as Thursday 30th March – 7.00pm in The Millennium Hall. At this Meeting, open to all village residents, all paid-up members will elect the Board. Opportunity exists for residents to apply for membership at any

time before or after the meeting but not during it. Remember that if you're not a member you cannot vote.

Membership of the CLT is open to any resident of either Seavington St Michael or Seavington St Mary or anyone who works in either of the parishes, on payment of at least £1 for one share. No Member [shareholder] will benefit from the CLT. A Member only has one vote despite the number of shares held. The Chair explained that only Members of the CLT could propose and second a Director. These Directors would be elected at the SGM by Members. **At the Annual General Meeting (AGM)** which must be held within 15 months of formation of the CLT, at least one-third of the Directors will stand down, but can be re-elected.

At the meeting questions were asked with regard to the day-to-day management of the 3 properties; all were advised that it is currently envisaged that the Board will appoint a housing association in common with many other CLTs, but this and many more points would have to be discussed by the new Board of Directors and their decisions conveyed to the Membership.

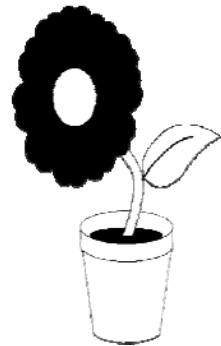
The final point made was to urge residents to sign up to become members of the CLT, and help the current membership carry this project forward.

Plant Sale

Saturday 13th May; 10am to 12pm
Seavington Millennium Hall

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vegetable plants.

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St. Michael's Church, Seavington

Easter Day

Sunday 16th April

Family Communion Service, 11.30 a.m.

Please come and celebrate with us

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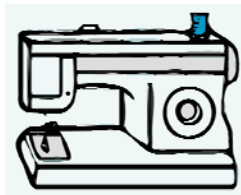
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Thursday 20th April - 7.30pm The Millennium Hall, Seavington St Mary
Entry: Group members £2.50, non-group members £3.50, under 18's free
(tea/coffee & biscuits included) – wheelchair access

NON-MEMBERS VERY WELCOME

For further details contact: Denise Chamings (group leader) on 01460240740
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Cafe Mon-Fri 10.00am-4.00pm, Sat 10.00am-2.00pm

Holy Week Services

Parish of South Petherton with the Seavingtons and The Lambrooks

Monday 10th April <i>Day of cleansing</i>	6.00 pm	<i>Meditation and Compline</i> St Peter & St Paul's, South Petherton
Tuesday 11th April <i>Day of teaching</i>	6.00 pm	<i>Meditation and Compline</i> St Michael's Church, Seavington
Wednesday 12th April <i>Day of waiting</i>	5.30 pm	<i>Meditation and Compline</i> St James', East Lambrook
Thursday 13th April <i>Maunday Thursday</i>	7.00 pm	TBA St Peter & St Paul's, South Petherton
Friday 14th April <i>Good Friday</i>	2.30 pm	<i>Reflection</i> St Peter & St Paul's, South Petherton
Friday 14th April <i>Good Friday</i>	2.30 pm	<i>Good Friday Liturgy</i> St Mary's Seavington*
Friday 14th April <i>Good Friday</i>	2.30 pm	<i>Good Friday Liturgy</i> St James's East Lambrook

* wrap up warmly

The Seavingtons' Weather in February 2017

This year—2017

Previous year—2016

Temperature

Average Minimum	3.97C	2.09°C
Average Maximum	9.62°C	9.20°C
Mean	6.79°C	5.64C

Rainfall

Monthly Total	48.3 mm (1.93")	88.3 mm (3.53")
Total for the year	125.8 mm (5.03")	205.5mm (8.22")



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