

THE SEAVINGTONS' NEWS

DECEMBER 2011

MERRY CHRISTMAS





Forthcoming Productions at The Warehouse

Ilminster Entertainments Society's policy is to produce five plays and a Christmas production every year as well as bringing to the Warehouse Theatre, from elsewhere, the best of theatre and music—both amateur and professional—for the enjoyment of Ilminster audiences. We hope there is something for everyone in our performances.

The 12 Days of Christmas: 14th—17th December

An evening of Christmas festivities in music and word

An IES production, directed by Phil Wells

Alarms & Excursions by Michael Frayn: 1st—4th February

An IES production, directed by Bryan Hallet

Blithe Spirit by Noel Coward: March 28th – 31st 2012

An IES production directed by Scott Waldie

All performances begin at 7.30 pm

Tickets £7.50; Concession £7

Students in full time education £4.50 unless otherwise stated

Booking Information

**Tickets are available from Lanes Garden Shop, Ilminster or the
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The Seavingtons' News

As a start to this editorial may I offer my congratulations to Nigel England on his award for service to our communities? I have personal experience of Nigel's dedication through working with him on the village plan and community shop project and know how well deserved the award is.

It is a commonly accepted wisdom that today's young people are lazy ne'er do wells who laze on street corners causing trouble. I have commented before that my experience of the youngsters in our two villages is quite different. In this issue of your magazine two articles help to demonstrate this difference.

First, on page 7, there is an article demonstrating a young person's commitment to helping those less well off than herself, in this case overseas. Olivia is not looking for grants or other corporate help; she is trying to raise funds through personal hard graft. I hope that the villages will rally round and find her the jobs that she needs.

Second, in the report from the Youth Club (page 26) you will learn how youngsters who, a couple of years ago, were benefitting from the, then brand new, Youth Club, are now contributing to it's success for the following generation.

So much for the accepted wisdom!

It just remains for me to wish you and all your families a very happy and relaxing Christmas season

David Froome

DON'T FORGET

The Newspaper Skip!

**pm Friday 9th December
until am Monday 12th December**

**The Latest Copy Date
for the January 2012 issue**

is the 12th December

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—December 2011

All events, unless otherwise shown, are held in the Millennium Hall

For bookings call Janet Goode on 01460 240220

For other Millennium Hall matters call Peter Ashley on 01460 240353

November 21st to December 3rd		Arts & Crafts Fayre at Village Store—see October magazine or call at the store
November 26th	9.00 am	Christmas Bazaar—see p 31
November 28th	11.30 am	Bulb Planting—see p 30
December 15th	6.30 pm	Carol Singing & Mulled Wine at Village Store—see p 18
December 18th	9.00 am	Seavington Breakfast at the Village Café— see pp 19 & 26
December 18th	3.00 pm	Christingle in St Michael's—see p 32
December 27th	10.30 am	"Boxing Day Walkies" - see p26

Regular Activities

Every Monday	6.30pm	Young People's Group—all ages
1 st Saturday	9.00 am— 2.00 pm	St Michael's Church Seavington Trust Book Sale at 2, Winchester Cottages (opposite The Volunteer)
3 rd Wednesday	10.00am	"GET2GETHER" Group in Village Café
Tuesday	9.30 am	In term time: Parents, Babies & Toddlers Group
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

27th November	11.15 am	Matins
4th December	11.15 am	Holy Communion
11th December	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
11th December	11.15 am	Carol Service at St Mary's Church
18th December	11.15 am	Matins
18th December	3.30 pm	Christingle
25th December	11.30 am	Christmas Day —Holy Communion

Rev D Fyfe telephone: 01460 241977

The Seavingtons' News Team

Editorial: David Froome

Advertising: Heather Scott

Production: David & Wendy Eliot & Anne Kinch

Technical & web-site support: Eugene Mulligan

Graphics & Visual Support: George Brown

Village web-site: www.theseavingtons.org

Contributions to both the Seavingtons' News and the web-site are welcomed. You may submit electronically or by handwritten or typed manuscript to the editor at the address on page 1. Please do not hesitate to telephone David Froome on 01460 249445 if you have any questions.

Advertising Rates

	Annual	Monthly
Full Page	£90	£10
½ Page	£45	£5
¼ Page	£25	£3

Advertising enquiries to: Heather Scott, 01460 241437

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Nigel England Receives Award

County Council Chairman's Award for Service to the Community

Simon Madge (Chair, Seavington Parish Council)

Earlier this year Nigel England decided to retire from the Seavington Parish Council after more than 30 years uninterrupted service. Following this, Nigel was awarded a Somerset County Council Chairman's Award for Service to the Community. Early in November Nigel and his wife Pam were invited to attend the Presentation Evening.

At the presentation venue, Taunton Rugby Club, some 60 people from across Somerset received their awards. Each person in turn was called forward to be greeted by the Chairman of Somerset County Council, whilst an abbreviated statement from the Parish Council's submission was read out. The recipients were then presented with an Illuminated Address, a County Tie and a County Badge. After this ceremony a buffet supper was served.

Nigel was born in the village of Seavington St Mary some 58 years ago and has lived there all his life.

Nigel attended the local primary school in Seavington St Michael until he moved to the Secondary School in Ilminster at the age of 11. As a boy Nigel helped his father, who worked on the village farm. After marrying, Nigel and his wife, Pam, decided to stay in Seavington St Mary and it was in his late 20s that he was asked to join the Parish Council.

He then served the villages for an uninterrupted term of office, of more than 30 years. It was only this year that Nigel decided not to stand for re-election. During his time on the Parish Council he acted as Chairman, Vice Chairman and also unpaid Clerk. It was to Nigel that the new Parish Councillors would turn as he had such knowledge of not only the villages but also of the workings of Parish Councils. His knowledge will be greatly missed by the present Councillors, but as he still lives in the village that knowledge has not been lost.

However, it was not only the Parish Council that Nigel has served on. For a number of years, whilst his children were young, he worked hard for the Seavington Playing Field Association, and was particularly involved in the fund raising to initially purchase the field and then to raise monies for the new Millennium Hall. Recently Nigel has served on the

Committee formed to bring a Community Shop to The Seavingtons and this was realised in July 2010. Nigel lives in an area of Seavington St Mary where many of the elderly of the village live and they know that they can always rely on Nigel being there if they need him for any reason.

Nigel has reported back to the Parish Council that it was a very enjoyable evening but that he felt humbled by some of the other Award winners.

St Michael's Church Seavington Trust

Registered Charity No: 1068251

Alastair Fyfe (01460-241977)

The Trustees and the Church Committee members can reflect on a successful year, raising funds to help preserve the fabric and well-being of St Michael's Church – your village church. The accounts for the year have not been finally drawn up, but about £4500 has been raised during the past 12 months.

This excellent figure is largely due to the hard work of a few stalwart people who have given up much of their time and effort for the good of the Church. It is also due to the support which we have received from you, who live in the village, and, it has to be said, from others who live outside the village, but who recognise the importance of a church for a village community such as ours.

The Trust has been able to fund some important work during the year. This includes handsome new iron railings (installed by Mark Isaacs), the repair of a crumbling and dangerous wall, and extensive hedge cutting in the churchyard (carried out by Phil Gordon-Smith). This still leaves some money in the 'kitty' for emergency and unforeseen work.

Once again, thank you for your support.

St Michael's Church Seavington Trust

Book, Plant & Bric-a-Brac sale:

3rd December 2011

at 2, Winchester Cottages (Opposite The Volunteer)

New and Second-hand Books

Selection of bric-a-brac

A great selection for children of all ages from stories to study!

NB—Open 9.00 am to 2.00 pm—please come and browse

Biggles flies zipped up!

John Henson

(no similarity to ‘Biggles – flies undone’, a local spoof production)

Many readers of Seavingtons’ News will have attended the talk given by Brian Grant at the Millennium Hall to celebrate sixty years in service of the Hawker Hunter and the Sea Vixen in aid of the St Michael’s Church Trust. A sealed bid auction was held for a flight with Brian in his Tiger Moth – a seventy year old fabric covered biplane which had served the Cambridge University Air Squadron throughout and after the war as a training aircraft. I was jointly successful together with Air Vice Marshall Sir John Severne and Brian generously offered flights to both of us.

Arrangements were made for Brian and me to meet at the Frensham Ponds Hotel at noon on Saturday 15th October with many provisos about weather conditions but fortunately we had wall-to-wall sunshine with light winds. I was joined by my family and having made the rendezvous in good time we followed Brian to the nearby hangar and grass strip. The Tiger Moth was already outside and looked in concours condition – silver with RAF roundel and the C.U. Squadron badge on the cowling.

Having donned the leather helmet, goggles, gloves and flying jacket I really did feel more Biggles than ‘Top Gun’. Once I was shoehorned into the front open cockpit, Brian swung the propeller and the engine fired first time. We taxied to the end of the strip, Brian got out and lifted the tail round to point us in the right direction for take off and opened the throttle. We bumped along the grass, the tail came up and shortly afterwards we were airborne. Somewhat disconcertingly Brian asked me to point out any other aircraft in the vicinity as he had a very restricted view!

Our flight was south over Frensham Common and the Surrey Hills with the sea just visible over the South Downs in the distance. A couple of passes over the airfield and half an hour later a smooth landing and taxi back to the hangar. Son-in-law had taken photographs, which to my delight, turned out brilliantly. A picnic by the Great Pond followed to conclude a wonderful day and the fulfilment of a boyhood dream.

Thank you Brian and also Jim Lawton for organising the initial event in the Hall.

Can you help Olivia?

My name is Olivia Llewellyn, I am 19 and live in the village.

I go to Strode College and as a member of the Strode College Society "The Gambia Project", would appreciate you taking the time to keep reading!

For five years, Strode College has raised money for The Gambia Project. This charity's objective is to raise money for a village in Gambia called Tujereng, to afford better resources of economic value. Tujereng is a poor village where there would usually be little or no chance of being able to afford a project of this kind. Unemployment is very high and the average income for those lucky enough to be employed is less than 50 pence a day.

So far the Project has raised enough money to provide an internet cafe, a volleyball court and various other revenue generating venues.

I have so far been fundraising in a group with the other members of the society. The money we raised went to building a sturdy wall around the compound. This will not only ensure safety but will also enable them to charge admission for people entering the venue to use the facilities, which in turn will make them self sufficient. We have raised this money!

We each now have the opportunity to go out to Gambia and see first hand where the money we raised went and how it has changed peoples' lives. The total sum is £1200 per person. The trip is February 10th 2012, I aim to have raised the sum by the end of January.

So my question is, do you need any odd jobs doing? house work, garden work, decorating, pet sitting, dog walking, baby sitting, car washing, anything you can think of!

OR

Do you want to learn to play the guitar? I would love to take on some beginner students!

If you simply don't need any odd jobs doing, then any donations would be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Olivia Llewellyn - 07955 251574 or hearcomethedrums@googlemail.com



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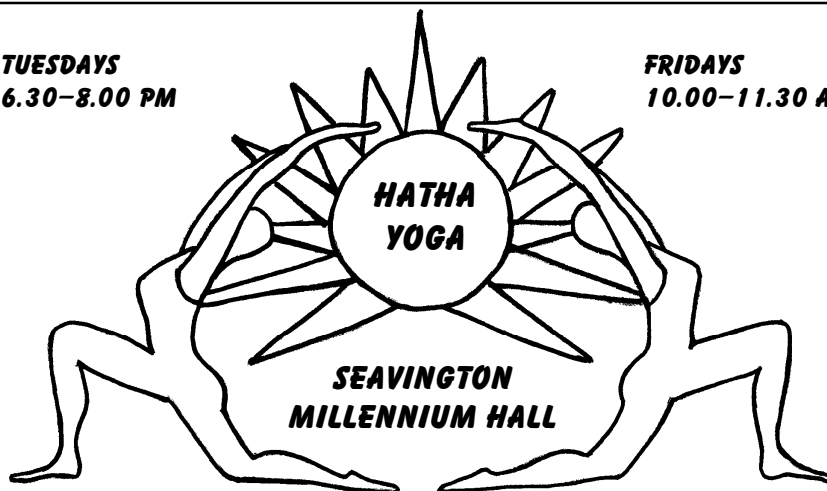
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Connecting Devon and Somerset

David Froome, Editor (01460 249445; david@dfac.demon.co.uk)

The Internet is playing an increasingly important role in our lives; we now use it for tax returns, car license renewal, entertainment, shopping etc as well as maintenance of our social lives and contacts. Nevertheless, I am sure that you, like me, are increasingly frustrated by the poor Internet connectivity and speeds in our villages. You will have read in the press that Somerset County Council, in partnership with Devon County Council has secured government funding to provide superfast broadband to at least 85% of homes and businesses in the two counties. The information in this article is drawn from an information leaflet published recently.

BDUK “framework”

The Government has decided to procure superfast broadband through a national “framework” of approved suppliers to be overseen by its agency, Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK). Devon and Somerset are working closely with BDUK. The first stage of discussions with potential suppliers will begin later this month and will be led by BDUK in partnership with Somerset, Devon, Wiltshire and Norfolk. This first stage will be to appoint suppliers to the framework and will conclude in May 2012. At this point there will be a competition between the successful qualifying suppliers. It is anticipated that a broadband partner will be appointed to begin the roll out of superfast broadband across Devon and Somerset in September 2012.

Devon and Somerset requirements

The counties are working on the requirements and an implementation plan that will schedule the roll out of improved connectivity across our area. This will be based on objective criteria such as current levels of speed, business performance, levels of demand, rurality and deprivation.

There is an open mind about the technology or mix of technologies that will be used. The roll out will be guided by the economic, social and public service transformation aims set out in the Local Broadband Plan and private sector investment plans. It will achieve at least 85% of premises receiving superfast broadband. The roll out plan will be the basis for negotiation with broadband suppliers and the final deployment schedule and levels of improved connectivity will only be known in September 2012.

Working with communities and business

There have already been a number of community and business engagement activities which have shown outright support for the programme and the ongoing work. The county will shortly be appointing communication specialists to support the marketing of the programme, raising demand and take up levels and keeping all partners up to date with the latest programme developments. The website www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk is the main source of programme information.

Tackling the funding gap

Investment of £31 million from the Government via BDUK together with a £22 million commitment of capital and revenue funding from Devon County Council, Somerset County Council, North Somerset Council and other public sector partners has already been secured. A further significant contribution is expected from the private sector supplier who wins the contract. However, there remains a potential funding gap.

The two counties are looking for further funding from a new DEFRA Community Broadband Fund and, possibly, the European Union.

Editor's Commentary

The scheme clearly has the potential to offer a significant benefit to local businesses and individuals. However, we should remember that we were amongst the last areas in England to receive broadband and our telephone exchange has still not been updated to the latest BT broadband standards. We are a small community with relatively few votes!

Thus, when we read that the aim is to benefit 85% of homes and businesses in the County we can be pretty certain that Seavington falls in the 15% who will see no benefit although paying for it through central and local government taxation.

The project is surrounded in secrecy (on the grounds of commercial confidentiality) and, by the time the roll out plan is published next year it will be too late to change it.

Thus, I suggest that we should all be lobbying our elected representatives now to ensure that we get a fair hearing and are not, yet again, seen by the politicians as mere peasants.

Seavington Gardening Club

Programme for 2012

All meetings unless stated are on the 2nd Thursday of the month with indoor meetings, except April, held at Seavington Millennium Hall.

Annual Sub: £7.50 – Visitors £1.50

Free Refreshments at indoor meetings. Please do come along

Date	Time	Event
12 January	7.30 pm	Talk with slides: “Pulling together a Show Garden for Chelsea” - The Gold Club
9 February	7.30 pm	Talk with slides: “Hidden Dorset” by Colin Varndell
8 March	7.30 pm	Talk with slides: “Roses Old and New” by Dinah Linton Crichley
Monday 16 April	6.45 for 7.00 pm	25% Discount shopping evening at Brimsmore Garden Centre including a talk and coffee/tea (with Over Stratton Gardening Club)
10 May	7.00 pm	Visit: Whitelackington Manor— Lady Caroline Cameron—£4. Buffet to follow to be arranged.
12 May	10.00 am	Plant Sale—Seavington Millennium Hall
14 June	7.00 pm	Visit: Frankham Farm, Ryme Intrinsica, Sherborne. Entry £4. Following Buffet to be arranged.
12 July	7.00 pm	Visit: South Meade, Seavington St Michael Entry £4 including refreshments.
11 August	2.30 pm	Flower Show at Seavington Millennium Hall
13 September	7.30 pm	Fun Garden Quiz with Mike Short; followed by AGM
11 October	6.30 pm	Guest Night: Talk with slides—”The Year Round Border” by Michael Pollock
November/ December		Christmas Lunch—venue to be arranged

Chair: Sarah Day, Vice Chair: Fiona Day

Secretary: Ry Coffman (01460 240004), Treasurer Joy Madge

Joint Show Secretaries: Sarah Day & Fiona Day

Executive Members: Charo Ritchie and Liz Tope

Seavington Playing Field Association

Peter Ashley (01460 240353)

Annual General Meeting

My Committee have asked me, and I join them, in expressing our extreme concern and disappointment that not a single villager attended our recent AGM with only one pair of apologies and no-one had come forward to actually join the Committee.

You currently have a dedicated, but depleted, Committee who by all accounts run a very popular and successful Village Hall and Playing Field but nevertheless would like some help on numerous occasions and certainly some encouragement. Another fact is that some of us are well past our 'best before' date and on occasions only 5 members attend meetings which means that future plans are difficult to make.

Are we missing something or is there a good reason for this lack of support?

We all would very much appreciate villagers comments and if we are doing something wrong then let us know. The next SPFA meeting is on Thursday 24th November in the Hall. If you want to learn more about us please try and attend.

Finally, I can add that the Hall and events on the Playing Field are proving very beneficial to the Community Shop and we do our best to encourage this to the advantage of all concerned.

Peter J Ashley
Chairman, SPFA

SPFA Lottery 2011/2012 Season

October Winners

First Prize £40 - No 174 Nicky & Mark Ellis

Second Prize £20 - No 154 Andy Meadows

Third Prize £10 - No 266 Gwen Gough

Over the Counter:

News from The Seavingtons Community Shop & Café

Compiled by Laura Gowers and various volunteers!

Did you manage to get into the shop or café on October 21st? For those of you who didn't, this was Apple Day and our first Apple Day celebration at the shop. We must thank Jo Mills who brought it all together to make it such a success. It was a great adventure and brought customers to the shop who hadn't managed to find us before.

The Apple quiz was very successful and raised £44 towards shop facilities - in the end there were joint winners each with a massive 39 points each! The signed book will be awarded to Becky Cotterill of South Petherton and the Shopping Voucher and Appley delights will be awarded to Mrs. Naunton Davies of Lopen. For those who are interested the answers are posted on the notice board in the shop. Thank you all those who bought the sheet, and everyone else who contributed to such a successful day (you know who you are!).

Now that the clocks have changed all thoughts seem to turn towards Christmas.

Clive and June Reeves have put together a superb Christmas raffle which includes a turkey from Bonners! Tickets are only 50p and available in the shop now.

The shop and café will be open the following hours over Christmas:

December 24 th	9 am - 16.30
December 27 th	9 am - 12.00
December 28 th , 29 th & 30 th	normal hours
December 31 st	9 am - 12.00
January 2 nd	9 am - 12.00

A few dates for you:

Thursday 15th December - Carol singing & mulled wine 6.30pm

Join us for mulled wine and minced pies and then head out with us around the village to sing carols.

Thursday 15th & Thursday 22nd December

Late night shopping—open from 08.30 am until 8.00 pm

Sunday 18th December – Breakfast. 9 am – 12 noon.

Our popular breakfast is back one last time before 2012. Egg, Bacon and all the trimmings. Toast, Coffee/tea, (juice for the children) all for £5.80

We have been assured that the breakfast team will be wearing silly hats! I wonder if we can persuade them to dress as Santa and his elves....best join us for Sunday breakfast to find out!!

Our seasonal promotion is for Sally Ann Cakes. Sally Ann Cakes are based in Dowlish Wake and specialise in traditional home-made cakes, desserts and chutneys.

They believe in using only the best natural and wherever possible local ingredients in their products. The wholemeal flour comes from one of the only working watermills in Somerset, the eggs are all free range and come from a nearby flock and the dairy produce from a local farm. All the cakes are handmade, incorporating traditional methods, no additional additives or preservatives are used. Definitely worth a try!

For those of you who aren't aware, Colin and Ruth at The Volunteer have set up their own microbrewery. The new "Windy Brewery" has had a successful launch with two excellent beers: "Tornado" and "Flurry". The brewery is key to safeguarding the pub's future and we look forward to supporting The "Volly" by stocking bottles of the beers very soon. Cheers!

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations 2nd - 5th June 2012

Pauline Parsons (01460 240193)

The Jubilee Committee members were a little disappointed to receive only a few requests for a Celebration Mug, and only two entries to the Prince and Princess Competition.

However, we understand that for most next June seems a long way away but without some indication of numbers the Committee cannot forward plan. To this end we have extended the deadline for returns (see the middle of the November newsletter) to 10th December.

The Village Website

Eugene Mulligan (01460 242023)

It may not look too different, but our village website has recently undergone a major overhaul behind the scenes. The reason for this is because the old version of the website was cumbersome to update and offered no real scope for adding new functionality. This new version is built on a content management system. This will make it much easier to maintain everything and add new features.

Since the upgrade we have already updated all the Village Store and Café pages and are now adding the minutes of meetings. And there is a new section that contains links to the websites of our neighbouring towns and villages. In the near future we hope to add two calendars. One will cover local events beyond the Seavingtons, and another will show the availability of the village hall.

An additional benefit is that we can consider getting more people involved in looking after the bits of the website that are relevant to them. No technical knowledge is required, just good basic PC skills.

One part of the website that has been particularly neglected is the Picture Gallery. It is already better because the pictures can now be viewed more easily and consistently. But we need more pictures. Not just for the Gallery section but to put throughout the website to freshen it up. So if you have any pictures that you'd like to share please email them to website@theseavingtons.org.

Seavington Playing Field Association

Car Parking on the Playing Field

The unauthorised parking of cars on the Playing Field was discussed at a recent meeting and it was agreed that this would be allowed on condition that permission was sought on behalf of the Playing Field Association from the Chairman, Mr Peter Ashley on 01460 240353, that the vehicles were fully road legal and insured and that owner (or owners representative) details were given in case contact was required.

In any event no responsibility can be accepted for any damage or loss caused whilst the vehicle is on the playing field.



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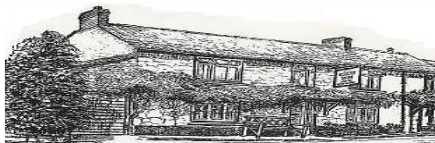
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Invites you to enjoy



A “Seavington Breakfast”

in the Café on Sunday 18th December from 09.00 until noon

The whole works £5.80p per person

Bring the whole family (and friends too!)

News from the Youth Club

Jenny Isaacs (01460 240550) & Julie Ginno (01460 249099)

There have been some changes in the organisation of the Youth Club. At our AGM Sue Pippard resigned. We all thank her very much for all the hard work she has put into the Club over the past three years. We wouldn't be where we are today without Sue's work. We would also like to thank Anthony and Sarah Smith and Theresa Baker for their support running the Youth Club.

October 31st saw the annual Halloween Party, apple bobbing, the flour game, what's in the box and the mummy game—it was hilarious to see Jenny and Aggy all wrapped up in a toilet roll! There was food, drink, music and goody bags to go home with. A huge thank you to Sheila and Ali Reyland and Naomi Jagers for putting them selves out to decorate the hall—it looked fantastic.

While we are on thank-you's, a huge thank-you must go to The Seavingtons' News who donated money to enable us to buy a Kinect and two games for the X-Box. This will make a huge difference for Club members during the winter months.

It is now time to re-enrol and registration forms will soon be going out. There is an annual subscription of £2 which covers our insurance costs. There is then a 50p per week subscription and our ages cover 8—16 years old.

If you fancy coming down to see what we are all about we would love to see you at Seavington Millennium Hall from 6.30 pm to 7.45 pm on Monday evenings, excluding the first Monday of each month.

Boxing Day Walkies

Tuesday 27th December

A perfect antidote to the over indulgence of Christmas is a stroll around the fields and lanes of The Seavingtons, ending up at The Volunteer for brunch—Lasagne, Sausage & bean feasts and a vegetarian dish to choose from at “High Noon”.

Please meet at the Millennium Hall at 10.30 am. If you don't fancy the walk, join us for brunch! Dogs welcome.

Tickets £7; children £3.50. To help with catering please purchase tickets in advance from:

The Volunteer (01460 240126 or Annie Prichard (01460 241762)

In aid of St Michael's Church Trust

The Volunteer Inn: Opening times over Christmas.

Christmas Day 25th open drinks only, 11.30am - 1.30pm.

Closed All Day Boxing Day 26th.

Normal hours from Tues 27th.

Closed New Year Day (sun).

Closed Bank Hol Mon lunch. Mon evening opening @ 6.30 pm.

Don't forget if you require our real ales you can purchase these as a 5 pint take away box—They make good Christmas presents.

Fieldfare

Turdus Pilaris (10")

Annie (01460 241762)

The cheerful holly, pensive yew,
And holy thorn, their trim renew;
The squirrel hoards his nuts:
All creatures batten o'er their stores,
And careful nature all her doors
For ADORATION shuts

Christopher Smart 1722-71)

The beginning of November has the gradual arrival of the Fieldfare. It migrates here for the winter. Listen out for the contact call—a harsh “CHACK-CHACK” as it flies overhead. Similar to the Song and Mistle Thrush and, along with the Blackbird, they love berries such as hawthorn, holly, rowan, pyracantha and cotoneaster. In the winter it feeds in flocks on open farmland on a diet including earthworms and insects. When the weather becomes harsher the Fieldfare will venture into orchards and large gardens for windfall apples.

The Fieldfare has a blue-grey head and rump, rich chestnut-brown back and black tail. The underparts are buffish streaked and mottled with black. The legs are brown and it has a yellowish bill.

Other than the chuckle in flight, it does have a song—a soft, high-pitched, slightly squeaking, warbling sound.

Amongst the flocks of Fieldfare will be the Redwing, a smaller member of the Thrush family and another winter migrant.

Seavington Playing Field Association

Peter Ashley (01460 240353)

Village Bonfire and Firework Night 5th November

The night was what must be the most successful yet. Despite dodgy weather predictions earlier in the week and a very wet day before, the day and the evening were dry, pleasant and almost warm!

Because of the rain the day before the Bonfire was reluctant to get going on time but eventually was superb and consumed all that was on it. Thanks

to Ash Bros for tidying up the site.

Although we had allowed for more food and drink we ran out of everything! Thanks to the Volly for donating the beer and to everyone for helping both inside and out.

Lest We Forget on Friday 11th November

Some 35 people had a very enjoyable evening with monologues, readings and sing along to traditional songs of wartime days.

The evening was supported by spine chilling sound effects.

Seavington History Project

Carolyn Farler (01460 249192)

We are back after our summer break so look out for some new additions to the web-site in the near future. In particular background information on some of the sports clubs that existed in Seavington provided by Michael Harrison. Also some interesting articles from the Chard & Ilminster News from 19th May 1983 including an old picture taken when the bells of St. Michael's needed to be rehung.

We have also been given an archive of material about the West Street Farm by the Jeffrey family which includes some lovely photographs of their prize winning Dorset Horn sheep and Friesian cattle.

Don't forget if you have anything interesting in your attic please let us know. Carolyn Farler 249192 Ry Coffman 240004

News from PCSO Kym Rudge

There was one reported incident in the Seavingtons during October, the Criminal Damage to Motor vehicle and theft of Diesel.

As the dark nights draw in, criminals and opportunist thieves think there is less chance of being caught, so we are asking residents to be vigilant and look out for one another. By giving a little extra thought to security and adopting simple routines, householders can secure their property and help us make life difficult for offenders.

Neighbourhood Policing Teams are available to give individual crime prevention advice for local residents and businesses and listen to their concerns.

Notes from the Parish Council

Pauline Parsons (01460 240193)

Preparing for Winter

The Parish Council have collected a supply of de-icing materials from Somerset County Council. Stocks will be held by various Parish Councillors:

West Street, St Mary's Close - Elaine Edwards

Scotts Hill, Townsend, Rowdells Orchard, Church Lane, Dark Lane and to junction with Meade Lane - Simon Madge

Water Street - Brenda Lake

Upton Lane - Peter Ashley

Old A303 (now C5021!!!) - Ruth Turner

David's Lane and School Lane - Pauline Parsons and Sally Cooper

Should icy conditions set in and it is thought that any of our rural roads need gritting then please contact a Parish Councillor. We must remind you that this salt only needs to be used very sparingly and is for use only on public areas and not personal residential driveways.

Parish Bulb planting

The Parish Council has again managed to be part of the SSDC's Parish bulb planting scheme. To this end SSDC representatives will be in the village on Monday 28th November meeting at the Millennium Hall Car Park at 11.30am. If you can spare sometime to help with the planting please meet us there.

Many thanks in advance.

New Notice Boards

As many of you have now probably seen a new notice board has been erected at the top of Water Street. Many thanks to Tony Tolman for all the work done in connection with all of the new boards.

A decision was made that the new boards would be lockable, to try and keep control over what is posted. Notices can be left with Janet Goode (Rowdells Orchard), Peter Ashley (Upton Lane) or in the Village Shop. There is still one board on the Millennium Hall which is not locked. The very old notice board on the Car Park will be removed shortly.



Seavington Millennium Hall

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday 26th November
Seavington Millennium Hall 9.00 am to 12.00 pm
with

Tombola, Youth Club & Numerous other stalls

6 foot Tables available at £5; Set-up from 8.00 am
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- A warm welcome in the café, offering good coffee and freshly made snacks.

Why not pop in and see for yourself.

Opening times:
Monday – Friday 8.30am – 6pm; Saturday 9am – 3pm
01460 249730

The Christingle Service

On Sunday 18th December at 3.00 pm

St Michael's Church



Children—fancy dressing-up or reading a part and taking part in a short nativity scene?

Up for grabs are: Mary & Joseph, the Mum and Dad of baby Jesus; three kings, who bring their gifts to baby Jesus, shepherds, who bring their love to baby Jesus and angels who guide them to baby Jesus. There are parts for everyone. If you would prefer just to read please let me know.

Mums—there will be a rehearsal in St Michael's Church on Saturday 17th December at 3.00 pm.

For more information please call Manda (01460 240554), Carol (01460 240748) or Annie (01460 241762). There are answerphones so you can leave a message and we will call back.

The Seavingtons' Weather in October 2011

This year—2011

Previous year—2010

Temperature

Average Minimum	9.75°C	7.00°C
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Average Maximum	16.82°C	14.90°C
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Mean	12.99°C	10.95°C
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Rainfall

Monthly Total	51.5mm (2.06")	75.6mm (3.02")
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Yearly Total (to date)	434.3mm (17.37")	502.3mm (20.09")
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Sooner or later we will have to pay for this mild autumn (brr... brr...)!



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