

THE SEAVINGTONS' NEWS

DECEMBER 2015



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The Seavingtons' News

I am delighted with the news, reported on page 4, that the Chairman of the Somerset County Council has recognised the years and quality of the service given to our community by Simon Madge. Twenty years of voluntary service in a very public position is more than sufficient for a lifetime!

Staying with the theme of our two villages may I draw your attention to the notice on page 5 of an “Open Parish Meeting”. From time to time there are occasions when our elected representatives need to discuss significant issues with residents. To judge from the agenda for this meeting, that time has come.

Once elected we expect our Councillors to work quietly in the background; this open meeting is an occasion when they need our input. Can we please ensure that we are all there on January 11th, both to make sure that they get the guidance they seek and to demonstrate our support and thanks for their work on our behalf?

May I draw the attention of our contributors to the 12th December deadline for the January 2016 issue of our magazine? This deviation from the norm is to ensure that our army of volunteer distributors can pop the magazine through your letterbox in good time for the New Year.

This is a good opportunity for me to thank our production team and distributors for their continued support in ensuring a smooth process from my keyboard to your doormat. Your contribution is very much appreciated, thank-you.

David Froome

DON'T FORGET

The Newspaper Skip! pm Friday 11th December
until am Monday 14th December

The Latest Copy Date is the 12th December
for the next issue

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 07914 710926

7th December	6.30 pm	Seavington Youth Club –p7
10th December	Noon	Gardening Club Christmas Lunch —p15
12th December	7.30 pm	'Flix in the Sticks' at Hinton St George-p29
13th December	11.00am	Family Carol Service –p21
13th December	3.00 pm	Carols at the Village Shop & Café – p20
17th December	Noon	Seniors' Christmas Lunch in Café –p31
20th December	4.00 pm	Christingle at St. Michael's Church –p30
22nd December	7.00 pm	Parish Council Meeting –p23
28th December	10.30 am	Boxing Day Walkies –p30
11th January 2016	7.00 pm	Open Parish Meeting –p5

Regular Activities

1st & 3rd Tuesday	2.30 pm	Sport 50 in the Millennium Hall
2 nd Monday	noon	Pensioners' Lunches 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

6th December 11.30 am Holy Communion (CW)
13th December 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
13th December 11.00 am Family Carol Service at St. Mary's Church
20th December 4.00 pm Chringle
25th December 11.00 am Christmas Family Service
27th December Services in St Peter & St Paul's, South Petherton
Rev Tom Handy telephone: 01460 240377; revdtomhandy@hotmail.com

The Seavingtons' News Team

Editorial:	David Froome & Maria Potts
Advertising:	Tony Beresford
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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.

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

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County Council Award for Simon Madge

The Seavingtons' News is delighted to report that the Chairman of the Somerset County Council has made an award to Simon Madge for service to the community.

Simon has served our community as a member of the Parish Council since 1995 and as Chairman since 2001. Since then he has not only supported Parish Council activities, but those of the Community Shop, Seavington Playing Fields Association and other village organisations, giving valuable help and advice when necessary.

Simon has spent most of his life in Somerset. He attended Schools in Ilminster and Taunton enjoying any form of sport, particularly rugby. After his 'A' levels Simon spent a year working on various farms in the Somerset area and in France in order to gain experience before studying agriculture at college.

He studied at Harper Adams College in Shropshire for one year and then did a further three years at Seale Hayne College in Devon. Following this he worked for more than a year in London, Hampshire and East Anglia.

In 1992 Simon returned to his home – Manor Farm, Seavington St Mary – and was married to Fiona in 1995. They now have three children – aged 18, 17 and 14.

Soon after this Simon took over the tenancy of Manor Farm from his father, being the third generation to do so. The farm at that time grew cereals, potatoes, daffodils and had a dairy herd. However, after a few years Simon concentrated solely on organic dairy farming and the farm now extends to approximately 900 acres including land at Ilton, Ashill and Allowenshay as well as in Seavington St Mary.

It was in 1995 that Simon was first elected as a Parish Councillor for Seavington St Mary. In May 2001 Simon took on the Chairmanship of the Grouped Parish Council of The Seavingtons and retained this position until he made the decision not to stand for re-election at the May 2015 elections.

During his time on the Parish Council Simon helped to drive forward many initiatives. In particular he spent much time in assisting in getting a piece of land, formerly known as The Village Pond and now as The Village Car Park, registered in the name of The Parish Council, doing much of the negotiating with residents.

In 2012 Simon also took on the role of Chairman of The Seavingtons' Community Shop which was in its third year of operation because no member of the new Committee of Volunteers was confident to take on the role of 'Chair'. During this time Simon introduced several initiatives which led to improvements in many areas.

Simon was, and in fact still is, always willing to lend machinery and time when works are needed to be done on Seavington Playing Field or elsewhere in the villages.

The Community Shop, Seavington Playing Field Association as well as The Parish Council were very sorry when Simon decided that he had to take time out from village activities to concentrate on his business and family

Open Parish Meeting

**Monday 11th January 2016
7.00pm in The Millennium Hall**

At the moment there are several issues that are being discussed by the Parish Council and it is felt that all residents should be invited to make their views known. Topics to be discussed will include:-

- ◇ Parking in all areas of the villages – to include 'The Village Car Park'
- ◇ Up-date on Lift West development and setting up a Community Land Trust
- ◇ Neighbourhood Watch Scheme
- ◇ Village Precept for 2016/17
- ◇ Continued use of SSDC Ranger
- ◇ Maintenance of general areas of village to include footpaths
- ◇ Maintenance of areas no longer supported by either District or County Councils
- ◇ Grants to village organisations

Please attend this meeting so that the Parish Council can make their decisions taking into account your views.

If there are any other topics that you feel should be discussed at this meeting please let the Parish Council know by the end of December. Please e-mail parishcouncil@theseavingtons.org or contact any Parish Councillor.

Parish Council Support for Local Organisations

It is at this time of year that the Parish Council starts to discuss the village precept – the monies that stay within the Parish for use within the Parish.

Several organisations already receive annual grants from the Parish Council but these have not been reviewed for some time.

Consequently will all organisations who already receive grants, or any organisation that may require funding by way of grant or support for any applications to other Grant aiding bodies please let the Parish Council know what support you would like and why. Please use the Parish Council e-mail parishcouncil@theseavingtons.org. Any request should be received by the end of December 2015.

Grants for Village Projects

As readers will know, the Seavingtons' News is funded by a combination of funds from the monthly waste paper collection and the fees received from advertisers. From time to time we find that we have more cash in the bank than we need for our immediate needs. When this happens we use the surplus funds to make modest grants to village clubs and organisations.

We are now in a position to offer such grants. Any village club or organisation may apply for grants by setting out:

The name of the project

The purpose of the project

The total cost

The amount already raised

The amount they would like as a Seavingtons' News grant

Please send your requests for a grant to the Treasurer at adverts@theseavingtons.org or by post to The Seavingtons' News, Permain House, Upton Lane, Seavington, Ilminster, TA19 0PZ.

Litter Picking

The Parish Council has received a request that a 'Litter Picking Group' – or 'Groups' should be set up to keep the village tidy. If anyone is interested in this please contact the Parish Council. It has been ascertained that equipment can be obtained from SSDC for this purpose.

Any Old Iron? or Metal for Mpongwe?

David Froome, Editor (01460 249445)

In my editorial to the October edition of the Seavingtons' News I moaned about the curious restrictions over the items collected by the Council's kerbside re-cycling scheme.



I have now been pointed at a local scheme that will collect any metal objects, except refrigerators and television sets. The collection includes any items containing metal such as washing machines, dishwashers, electrical items, car batteries and so on.

Further, the proceeds from this collection go to support the Mission Hospital and Orphans at Mpongwe in Zambia. The scheme is called "Metal for Mpongwe" and is organised locally by Phil Andrews.

When you have items for recycling in this way just call Phil Andrews on 01460 240243.

Seavington Youth Club

Janine Lewis (07922 181948)

This term we have enjoyed crafts and games inside. We just had our Halloween party where we apple bobbed, took part in the 'coffin challenge', enjoyed hotdogs and played 'forfeit pass the parcel'. We all dressed up too! It was a fun evening.
Holly Lewis.

A massive thank you to Sheila Reyland who did an amazing job at decorating the hall and to Jenny and Mark Isaacs for the loan of their disco lights for our party.

We have two dates left this term: Monday 30th November and 7th December.

Next term's dates are all Mondays (6.30 - 7.45) : 18th and 25th January, 8th and 22nd February, 7th and 21st March

All welcome between ages of 8 and 16 years old. Volunteers always needed!

Just for Fun - Fifty Years Ago

A quiz by Jackson

1. Who was the 36th President of America?
2. Who was the first ever professional footballer to be knighted?
3. What was the stage name of the British born American comedian Arthur Stanley Jefferson?
4. Which American male singer died in March this year?
5. The millionth car of which iconic model rolled off the production line?
6. Who became at the age of 26, Britain's youngest MP in March this year?
7. Which horse won the Grand National?
8. Who escaped from London Zoo?
9. Which British statesman died in this year?
10. Who won the 5 Nations Rugby Union Championship?
11. Julie Andrews won an Oscar for her role in which film?
12. Which team won the FA Cup for the first time?
13. What important document had its 750th anniversary?
14. Which actor played Dixon of Dock Green?
15. Why did some recipients return their OBE awards?
16. Who was the first American to walk in space?
17. Who were the men's and ladies Wimbledon champions?
18. Who was elected Tory leader in August this year?
19. Which country won the Eurovision Contest?
20. Which German born French doctor, theologian and missionary Nobel Prize winner died?
21. What was the tallest building in London at 620 feet high?
22. Who was Prime Minister in 1965?
23. What was the bestselling record of the year?
24. Who was Archbishop of Canterbury?
25. Who was the Sports Personality of the year?

Answers will be given next month. There will be a £10 cash prize to the person with all the correct answers or the highest score. In the event of a tie the winner will be the first drawn at random from those eligible. Answers please, by 30th December to: Quiz, The Seavingtons' News, Middlefield Barn, Seavington St Mary, Ilminster, TA19 0QP



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Robin

Erithacus Rubecula 5½"

Annie (01460 241762)

Therefore all seasons shall be sweet to thee
Whether the summer clothe the general earth
with greenness, or Redbreast sit and sing
Between the tufts of snow on the bare branch
of mossy apple-tree,

S.T. Coleridge (1772—1834)

The Robin is one of the most familiar of garden birds, especially in mid-winter. The sight of a puffed-up Robin on a cold frosty morning will bring a smile to your face. Though much-loved, may-be aggressive and not tolerate intruders to its territory.

Usually a plump bird with a distinctive red breast and face and a white underside.

Its head, wings, rump, tail, bill and legs are all brown. Sexes are alike, apart from the brown forehead which is 'V' shaped in females and 'U' shaped in males. Sings all year round but more gusty in the winter months—high-pitched and warbling. The alarm call is a sharp 'TIK' 'TIK'. Frequents bird-tables and feeders; loves fruit-cake and nuts and has been known to take meal-worms from the hand. Most gardeners know, when you are using the spade the friendly Robin will be hovering for any juicy grub or worm you may just dig-up!

Feeling Christmassy yet? Have a good one!

Posada

Annie (01460 241762)

“Posada” is the tradition in South America where the crib figures, Mary, Joseph and the donkey travel daily from house to house on their way to Church in time for Christmas.

Posada starts on the first Sunday in Advent, which this year is Sunday 29th November. If you would like to have the crib figurines for a night, please call me on the number above and I will be happy to explain more to you.

Seavington Gardening Club

Kate Mulligan (01460 242023)

Thursday 12th November 2015 “Yeovil in Bloom” - a talk by Steve Fox

If you've been driving through Yeovil then you couldn't fail to notice the floral displays on the roundabouts and the hanging baskets in the town, but have you ever wondered who planted them all?

Well, members of Seavington Gardening Club can now tell you. We were thoroughly entertained by our speaker, Steve Fox, the man who is responsible for the very successful Yeovil in Bloom. He is the principle horticulturalist for Somerset County Council and has been their senior officer since 1998. He and his team are responsible for the one thousand hanging baskets which appear each year and the one and a half million daffodil bulbs planted by hand in the last ten to twelve years.

Yeovil is lucky that it still retains its own nursery and is able to grow, from seed or cuttings, most of the plants required for such displays. If extra plug plants are needed they can always be sourced from local commercial growers. This year in particular, the emphasis has been on planting bee friendly species, so small changes had to be made with some areas having a more relaxed wildflower theme. Better still, if you looked closely at some of the displays in town you might have noticed the odd vegetable plant taking centre stage, particularly courgettes and runner beans, and we are assured that members of the public were allowed to pick them.

The sheer scale on which Steve operates leaves us lesser gardeners in awe but he readily admits he has his favourites and looks to include these year upon year but they have to meet his exacting demands for toughness and flower power. Some of his tried and tested recommendations include Darwin or Triumph species of Tulips, the Amazon series of Dianthus and the “Blotch” series of Pansy.

A fitting testament to his and his team's hard work must surely be the fact that Yeovil has received the Gold Award for the South West in Bloom Competition for the seventh time this year. You can find their nursery in Artillery Road in Yeovil and it is open to the public if you wish to buy any of their plants - that is if they have any left after all that planting for displays! They will even plant up your hanging basket for you, so that is something worth knowing too.

A very knowledgeable and enthusiastic speaker who inspired us all to begin planning our colour schemes for next year.

Forthcoming Events:

Thursday 10th December - Members' Christmas Lunch at Monks Yard - 12 noon arrival for 12.30pm. (For further information please contact Karen Day on 01460 249728)

Thursday 14th January 2016 - Talk by Neil Lovesey about "Twelve Months of Colour" at 7.30 in the Millennium Hall with refreshments available. New members welcome or visitors £2 payable at the door.

Volunteer drivers needed to provide lifeline service

Somerset County Council is appealing for more volunteer drivers to help provide a vital lifeline for vulnerable adults and children. The County Council currently provides transport for eligible non-emergency NHS patients and social care users, ranging from the elderly to young children. This includes trips to hospital for medical appointments, or transport to day centres. A dedicated army of nearly 200 fantastic drivers across the county currently act as volunteers, but the ageing population in Somerset means demand for transport is growing and more volunteers are needed.

Volunteer driving is a rewarding opportunity to get out and about, helping others and meeting new people, while providing a vital lifeline in your local community. Anyone can be a volunteer – the only criteria is that drivers must be over 18, have use of their own four-door vehicle, and hold a full UK driving licence with no more than six points. Mileage expenses will be reimbursed at up to 50p per mile.

To find out more about volunteer driving, please contact Somerset You Can Do by phoning 01278 664180 or visit www.somerset.gov.uk/volunteering.

Poo Bins

There are several 'Poo Bins' in the villages sited at:

- ◇ The verge adjacent to The Community Shop
- ◇ Top of Playing Field
- ◇ Junction of Rooks Meade Lane and Sawpit Lane
- ◇ St Mary's Orchard
- ◇ Townsend at beginning of footpath adjacent to Southernaways

We would ask that these bins are used for the disposal of dog waste. Waste (including babies' nappies) should not be put in bins that do not have an additional plastic liner – this includes the small bins in the play areas on the playing field.

Seavington Gardening Club Programme 2016

Thursday 14th January at 7.30pm

Talk: 'Twelve months of Colour' Neil Lovesey

Plants for sale

Flower of the month competition



Thursday 11th February at 7.30pm

Talk: 'Trug Maker (a miserable old trugger) on Trug making, Gypsy Flowers and Besom Brooms' Carl Sadler

Flower of the month competition



Thursday 10th March at 7.30pm

AGM

Talk: Gold Club 'Hanging Baskets' Louise Purks

Plants and hanging basket kits for sale

Flower of the month competition



Thursday 14th April at 7.30pm

Talk: 'The Scented Garden' Janet Merillion

Flower of the month competition



Monday 18th April at 7.00pm

Visit to Brimsmore Garden Centre for a talk and shopping with 25% discount



Thursday 12th May at 7.00pm

Visit: Moorland Cottage, Moor, South Petherton

TA13 5LS – Helen & Dick Gale

Entry & buffet £7 per person



Saturday 14th May at 10.00am

*******PLANT SALE*******

At Seavington Millennium Hall



Thursday 9th June at 7.00pm,

Visit: Picket Nursery, Picket Lane, South Perrot, Dorset, DT8 3HA—Neil Lovesey

Free Entry, Refreshments TBC



Thursday 14th July at 7.00pm

Visit: Bradon Farm, Isle Abbotts, Taunton,

TA3 6RX – Mr & Mrs Thomas

Entry, tea & cake £8 per person



Saturday 13th August at 2.30pm

*******FLOWER SHOW*******

At Seavington Millennium Hall



Thursday 8th September at 7.30pm

Talk: 'Agapanthus' Chris Smith – Pennard Plants

Plants for sale

Flower of the month competition



Monday 12th September at 10.30am

Visit to Castle Gardens (Garden Centre), Sherborne

For a talk and shopping with 25% discount



Thursday 13th October at 6.30pm

Guest Night Buffet

Talk: 'Tales from a Potting Shed' Katherine Kear

Flower of the month competition and annual presentation

of Irene Williams Memorial Plate



Thursday 10th November at 7.30pm

Talk: 'Making of a Dorset Garden' Paul Atterbury

(probably best known for his many appearances since 1979
on the BBC TV programme *Antiques Roadshow*)



Cristmas Lunch

Details TBC



Membership £8.00 p.a. payable in January

**Meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month in the
Millennium Hall, Seavington at 7.30pm (except for Guest Night –
6.30pm)**

Visitors always welcome, £2 payable at the door

For more information please contact

Karen Day: 01460 249728

A Farmer's Diary

Farm Boy

During October and the school half term holidays we spent a week away at a holiday home in Suffolk along with my son, daughter in law and their three youngest children. In common with every family with children they face the same problem, this is fitting in family holidays out of school term time.

So, we left the farm on the day that the clocks were due to change and in the almost certain knowledge that there would be a likely substantial increase in rainfall. It was not the ideal time for the boss because the milking cows were within the transitional period when they would be moving from the fields into their winter housing by day, where they normally remain until spring arrives once more. That said, as long as the ground conditions are reasonable there is always the temptation after the morning milking to open the yard gates and allow the cows to wander out into the grazing areas, delaying the inevitable, and fortunately on our departure this was still the position.

For John this was first time that he had spent days close to the Broads since he was a child. I knew he had been hankering for sometime to return because of shared memories of happy holidays we spent as a family in the area during the latter part of his childhood. I have visited the area many times since, because of a close friendship with a farming family near Harlestone Norfolk, which was only fifteen miles from where we were staying. It was not long before John was taking his youngest kids on a voyage of discovery with a hired self drive boat and reliving a little of past joys out on the broads. Whilst we headed off to catch up with old friends.

The passing of time brings many changes and this visit was yet another stark reminder that our lives are just a journey with a start and an eventual end. My friends Eddy and Audrey are slightly older and their health in recent times has provided problems, both have coped remarkably well, but now Audrey is almost wheelchair bound and this can change a complete life style, but we still went out for Sunday lunch together and joined them at their local church for a Sunday afternoon service based on "Songs of Praise". Audrey sat in her wheelchair at the end of our pew whilst Eddy took his place in the choir stalls, he has been a very keen chorister for years singing at all types of occasions and this goes to show that farmers can be as diverse as others in their choice of hobbies.

As well as growing cereal crops, and running a modest herd of beef cattle, Eddy and his son Simon keep free range turkeys. This means each evening

just as darkness falls hundreds of turkeys have to be rounded up and gently persuaded back into the large shed where they will be secured away from predators like the fox, who it seems is still artful enough to secure the odd one or two who stray from the confines of the fenced field during daylight or miss the evening roundup because they had escaped. I enjoy nothing better than helping Eddy and his aging Border collie with this ritual as it reminds me of my childhood.

My father was a fully qualified poultry man and during the war poultry was our main source of family income. From a very early age during the winter I was tasked with shutting in the hens whilst dad hand milked our four or five cows. In those times nearly all laying hens were kept out in the fields mostly within wire netted fenced areas with possibly two or three portable poultry houses either on small cast iron wheels or wooden skids, each capable of providing shelter for around fifty birds.

As I walked away into the early gloom from the homestead it seemed a big lonely World when you were seven or eight years old, as there was no visible light, other than that provided by nature, because of the blackout. Hens were normally very sensible and made their way back into the houses as darkness fell so they could huddle together on rows of perches and sleep the night away. Securing them was just a case of unhooking a chain and releasing a sliding shutter down over what was known as a pop hole.

Turkeys seem far more stupid than hens so rounding them up can be laborious and frustrating if you are in a hurry. I think every time I have helped Eddy over the years at least one or two have managed to escape the confines, so in the ever encroaching darkness the odd one can be detected creeping along outside the fence trying to find a way back in. This time I managed to grab a stray by the wings and recover it back into the compound, Eddy was well impressed so I reminded him of my early upbringing.

I know it was a sad time for dad when the poultry industry went into decline as he had known it before the introduction of the battery cage and the huge egg empire that was built by Sir John Eastwood. It just goes to prove one man's dreams can be another's nightmare.

Now the wheel of time has turned and battery cages are far from popular among a large percentage of today's egg buyers and the free range egg can command a worth while price premium.

On our return from East Anglia it was obvious that you had endured considerable rain fall in this area and the first thing for the boss to arrange was confining the cows to the yards by day as well as night. It seemed as though we had left home in the autumn and a week later returned to find winter.

Survey results: We now have the survey results in and analysed. Firstly thanks to all those who responded. Over 25% of households contributed which means we have significant data to work with. Firstly it would appear the community shop is more valued now than 3 years ago with 98% of respondents feeling it is needed (84% 3 years ago) and 16% of these respondents stressing it was essential. Shop usage was reported as 48% using it less than 2 to 3 times a week whilst 40% of respondents use it 2 to 3 times a week. Only 8% never use it which is down from 12% 3 years ago.

You will be unsurprised to hear that post office services remain the most popular service desired by over 18% of respondents. This we are currently actively progressing. Hopefully the climate is right to develop this service. Many other desires/suggestions and wishes have been forwarded to the committee and purchasing team which are working to provide many of these. Watch this space.

Christmas quiz: Another chance for you to both show off your scholarly knowledge whilst at the same time contributing to the financial success of the shop. Quiz sheets will be available at the till for the price of £1.00 from Dec 1st. Last answers received by close of play on 6th Jan.

Carols at the shop Sun 13th Dec: Carols will be sung, Father Christmas will attend (hopefully driven in by a dog sled), mince pies & grog will be provided free of charge and the Christmas grand draw will all be at the shop this year on Sun 13th Dec at 1500 - 1630. This is just after St Mary's morning carol service in order to ensure it does not clash with other village Christmas events. A busy period for all but please try and make it. Last year we had the biggest attendance yet and we are hopeful that this year, this festive family affair will be enjoyed by even more villagers.

Christmas raffle & Grand Draw: We are now selling tickets for the grand Christmas draw. If you have anything you would like to donate as a prize then please leave it in the box in the shop which is by the notice board. Draw tickets are on sale at the till for 50p each. The draw will be made on 13 Dec at the carols at the shop function. Last year we made over £250 for the shop and are hoping to better this in 2015.

Children's Christmas Colouring Competition: This year we will be running a Christmas colouring competition for children. There will be four age groups: 3 and under, 4 to 6, 7 to 10 and 11 up. Entries are free and will be judged by Santa when he visits the village shop in the afternoon on Sun 13th Dec and there will be a prize for each age group. The colouring sheets can be collected from the shop. Once they have been completed please add your name, age group and contact details to the back then return the coloured pictures to the shop, where they will be displayed for everyone to admire until Santa arrives.

Christmas display: Our Christmas goods are now on display and for sale in the shop and the building is beginning to look rather festive. Please pop down and see if any of these goods will be of use to you this Yule season.

Wine stock: Remember, there is still time to pick up a wine bargain and it's not too late to order your needs for Christmas so if you want a case or just a couple of bottles then please let Ian Gibson know (leave him a note in the till).

Quote of the month: Merry Christmas to you all (both customers and readers) and our best wishes to you for a prosperous new year.

Community shop contact no 01460 249730

**No café Church this month
but:**

Don't forget...



There is a Family Carol Service at

**St Mary's Church, Sunday 13th December
At 11.00 am**

**Wrap up warm!
Come & enjoy seasonal carols & readings**

News from the RSPB

Michael Wilson (07774 620879)

Winter is an exciting time for wildlife on the Somerset Levels and Moors with thousand of Ducks and Waders flying long distances from northern Europe and even from beyond the Arctic Circle to make the surrounding fields their home for the next few months.

We see a big influx of ducks such as teal, wigeon and pintail together with large flocks of lapwing and golden plover who are coming to enjoy the (would you believe it) milder climate that Somerset has to offer.

These huge numbers of birds also attract predators such as peregrine falcons and even marsh and hen harriers as they drift around looking for an easy meal.

Be sure to visit our Greylake reserve on the A361 between Taunton and Street to get some great close up views of some of these amazing birds.

One of Somerset's biggest wildlife spectacles is starting to get in to full swing with the starling murmuration at Ham Wall swelling in numbers. This is an amazing sight as tens of thousands of birds swirl around the reed beds of the Avalon Marshes at dusk before swooping in to the reed to roost.

To find out more about the amazing murmurations visit the RSPB Ham Wall Website www.rspb.org.uk/hamwall or phone the Avalon Marshes starling hotline 07866 554142 to find out their latest movements.

If you would like to visit West Sedgemoor in winter to see some of the amazing wildlife that visits then we have 3 exciting walks to choose from.

Big Wetland Duck Watch at West Sedgemoor

Saturday 19 December, Wednesday 20 January, Saturday 13 February—10 am - 12 pm

In the winter tens of thousands of ducks and waders visit the fields at West Sedgemoor. Along with the chance to see hunting marsh harriers and peregrine falcons and perhaps catch a glimpse of the Somerset cranes, this all makes for an unmissable experience!

Join local RSPB guides for a rare opportunity to witness this winter wildlife spectacle.

£5 per adult (£4 for members) £3 per child

Booking essential: email: west.sedgemoor@rspb.org.uk; Phone: 07774 620879

Parish Council Meeting—Change of Date

The date of the December Parish Council meeting has been moved from Tuesday 15th December to Tuesday 22nd December. The place and timings remain unchanged,

Lampshade Workshops

You will make your own rolled edge lampshade

To be held at Seavington Millennium Hall

3rd December at 7.00 pm and 19th December at 9.30 am

**‘phone Jacqui on 07510 587105
for more information and to reserve your place**

Refreshments will be included



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The Warehouse Theatre Ilminster

is a little gem which can be found right in the heart of the town. It brings high quality entertainment throughout the year to audiences of all ages, as well as running a thriving youth theatre and being a venue for local groups and clubs to hire.

Run by Ilminster Entertainments Society (IES) it represents one of the best equipped, professional-standard amateur theatres in the county and facilities include:

Seating for 150 people, fully licensed bar, coffee area, disabled access and T-loop hearing system.

Details of future productions can be found in the local press or on our website: **www.thewarehousetheatre.org.uk** (plus details of audition nights, youth theatre, IES Membership and more) or call **01460 62739** 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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Shepton Beauchamp Art & Craft Evenings



We are a small friendly social group that meets on a Friday evening in Shepton Beauchamp Village Hall. We paint (using all media) Knit, Sew, Jewellery making to name a few.

The choice is yours.

The session is a Pay-as-you-go £2.50pp. Doors open 7.00pm – 9.30pm

If you would like to join us, you will be made very welcome.

Please contact Eileen on 01460 249086 or Gill on 01460 240649

for more details, or just 'turn up'!

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For more details call David Froome on 01460 249445 or just turn up—you will be welcome

SPFA Village Lottery

Lesley Gudgeon (01460 240236)

Here are the winners of the October and November 2015 SPFA Lottery

		<i>October 2015</i>	<i>November 2015</i>
First	£35	Fred & Chris Ginger	Gill Keene
Second	£20	Brenda Lake	Mr & Mrs Bleby
Third	£15	Alistair Ross	Marion Beresford
Fourth	£10	Ruby Ash	Jill Bolton
Fifth	£10	Alan White	Graham Parsons

‘Flix in the Sticks’

Andrew Overhill

Hinton St. George ‘Flicks in the Sticks’ presents ‘AMELIE’ (15), on Saturday December 12th in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Tickets £5 in advance ONLY for this special evening from the Village Shop and Dorothy’s Tea Room. To reserve Tickets please contact Bob Kefford on 01460 72563.

Boxing Day Walkies

Monday 28th December

After the “Indulgence” of Christmas and before the “Over-Imbibing” of New Year’s Eve why not enjoy a stroll around the fields and lanes of The Seavingtons, ending-up at The Volunteer for Brunch-Sausage and bean feast, pasta dish and a vegetarian dish to choose from at “High Noon!”

Please met at the Millennium Hall at 10.30 a.m. Dogs are welcome. If you don’t fancy the walk, join us for brunch!

Tickets Adults £7, Children £3.50p To help with the catering please purchase tickets in advance from:

The Volunteer—01460 240126 or Annie Prichard—01460 241762

In aid of St. Michael’s Church Seavington Trust

The Christingle Service

St Michael’s Church

Sunday 20th December at 4.00 pm

Children—please come and take part in a short Nativity Scene. Fancy dressing-up and/or reading parts?: There will be plenty of carols to sing as well.



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

After the service there are mince pies and mulled wine at The Volunteer Inn by kind invitation of Ruth and Colin Turner.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AT CHRISTMAS!

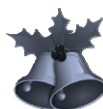
Stocking fillers, cooking essentials, deli specials, panettoni, Christmas crackers, cake decorations, gift wrap and labels, calendars, luxury biscuit selections, Christmas cake, nuts and spices, gluten free goodies, stollen, stuffing, chocolate novelties, dried fruit, party items, jams and pickles, nougat, gingerbread men and reindeer, bite size games

and the "must have" item - a herbal hangover comforter!

ALL THIS AND MORE ON YOUR DOORSTEP!

CHRISTMAS WINE SELECTION Case of 6 bottles £45.00

Order by **December 10** to guarantee delivery for Christmas,
in the shop or email Ian Gibson at igchichester@gmail.com



SENIORS' CHRISTMAS LUNCH THURSDAY 17 DECEMBER

Please ask at the shop for remaining vacancies. **BOOKING ESSENTIAL**

Seavingtons' Village Store & Cafe, Water St, Seavington St Mary. 01460 249730

DON'T FORGET

Seavington Playing Field Association
Registered Charity No: 268986)

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday 28th November
The Volunteer Inn—10.00 am 'til noon

**Stalls include: Home made chutneys & preserves, Bread, Jams,
Jewellery, Cushions, Youth Club, RSPB and a Raffle**

Tables still available at £5; Set-up from 8.30 am
to book one call Annie: 01460 241762 (Answerphone)
Do come and join us—bring your family & friends

Bus Services & Concessionary Fares – A Consultation

The County Council is facing major budget challenges. Falling funding and increasing demand for our services mean we have to review our future transport funding. This includes reviewing the bus services we subsidise and our concessionary fares policy.

As part of this we have launched two consultations on the future of our bus services and want you to Have Your Say by Monday 11 January 2016.

For full details of the proposed changes and to complete the surveys online, visit the web links below. Or phone 0300 123 2224 to have the surveys posted to you.

www.somerset.gov.uk/concessionaryfareconsultation

www.somerset.gov.uk/bussubsidysurvey

The Seavingtons' Weather in October 2015

This year—2015

Previous year—2014

Temperature

Average Minimum	7.25°C	9.52°C
Average Maximum	15.27°C	16.08°C
Mean	11.26°C	12.80°C

Rainfall

Monthly Total	71.9mm (2.88")	119.0mm (4.76")
Total for the year	568.3mm (22.73")	931.2mm (37.25")



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