

THE SEAVINGTONS' NEWS

February 2011





What's on at the Warehouse Theatre, Brewery Lane, Ilminster
www.thewarehousetheatre.org.uk

THE EXAM – February 2nd – 5th

A comedy by Andy Hamilton looking at the pressures put on young people by parents and teachers anxious to see their children succeed. A show for all ages.

DICK WHITTINGTON (Act 1) – February 11th – 12th

Come and support Ilminster's vibrant youth theatre as they present this classic pantomime

AN EVENING WITH JULIE FELIX – March 6th

A chance to bring back memories as the well known folk singer visits Somerset

St. PATRICK'S EVENING WITH DIASPORA – March 17th

Sing along with Somerset's best known "Irish" band

THE SORCERER - March 18th

Somerset Opera bring this well known Gilbert and Sullivan show for one night

Ticket Prices for IES productions.

£7.50 adults £7.00 concessions £4.50 child/student.

Box Office

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Monday – Saturday between 10am and 4 pm

Theatre box office please telephone 07943 779880

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The Seavingtons' News

First, may I wish you all a very healthy and prosperous New Year?

From time to time I glance back at previous issues on our village magazine. Looking back five years I see that, in February 2006, we were discussing the Parish Council's recently published Village Plan. The plan was meant to reflect residents' vision of how they would like their community to be in ten years ie by early 2016.

Looking back at the published plan at what is, effectively, the mid point of the visionary period, a lot seems to have been achieved. However, significant outstanding issues include proper enforcement of speed limits in the villages, provision of adequate policing and provision of useable broadband Internet services.

On the positive side we now have youth club facilities for our young people and we have a new village shop and café as well as many other more minor improvements to our lives.

What you will note is that the simple things which need to be undertaken by large "governmental" or monopoly organisations have not been completed but for the more difficult things, such as the shop, our community has got down to basics and pulled together—a clear message!

David Froome

DON'T FORGET

The Newspaper Skip!

**pm Friday 11th February
until am Monday 14th February**

**The Latest Copy Date
for the March 2011 issue**

is the 15th February

Editorial content and diary entries to:

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

Village Diary—February 2011

12th February	7.30 pm	St Michael's Seavington Church Trust—Multiple Guess Music Quiz—see pp 4 & 8
17th February	7.30 pm	South Somerset RSPB Group—Talk on English Wildlife—Spring & Summer—see p 8
20th February	9.30 am	Seavington Breakfast in The Café—see pp 16 & 28
22nd February	7.30 pm	Parish Council meeting
26th March	10.30 am	Youth Club “Cake Morning” - see p 14

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 Café
Thursday	1.00pm	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—Services

23rd January	11.15 am Matins
30th January	11.15 am Matins
6th February	11.15 am Holy Communion
13th February	8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
13th February	11.15 am Family Service*
20th February	11.15 am Holy Communion
27th February	11.15 am Matins

* A 45 minute service for children to join in or to amuse themselves in the play area

The Rev David Jasper's office telephone number is 01460 240377
Curate: Rev D Fyfe: 01460 241977

The Seavingtons' News Team

Editorial: David Froome

Advertising: Heather Scott

Production: David & Wendy Eliot, Angela Englefield & 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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St. Michael's Church Seavington Trust

Registered Charity No: 1068251

Alastair Fyfe (01460-241977)

Our first fundraising event of the year takes place on **Saturday, 12th February 2011**. We will be organising a Multiple Guess Music Quiz in the Seavington Millennium Hall. Doors open at 7.0 pm and the Quiz will get under way promptly at 7.30 pm. The Quiz will cover all types and forms of music.

The cost of a ticket is £7.50 (or £9 on the evening) and this will include supper which will be provided for everyone at about 8.30 pm. There will also be a licensed bar, open all evening and a raffle. Details of the event, including how to obtain tickets, are included elsewhere in this magazine.

It is recommended that teams should consist of 4-6 people (they must not exceed 6 people). Come along with your team, or simply come as an individual (in which case we will make up teams on the evening).

Please help us to raise much needed funds to keep our village church in good order. Two years ago, we held a Music Quiz which turned out to be a very enjoyable and entertaining evening with a lot of fun and friendly rivalry!

Share Dealing Group

Ken Lake (01460 249304)

Is anyone interested in meeting with like minded souls to discuss and decide on buying and selling shares. There are a number of similar local groups in existence and if there was enough interest we could get someone to come and speak to us. The group would decide on a regular small monthly contribution to a bank account and use those funds to buy shares and sell when agreed by the group.

If you might be interested please contact Ken Lake on 01460 249304 or email ken.lake46@gmail.com

Village Store & Café—Christmas Draw

The winner of the seasonal hamper in the Village Store and Café's Christmas Draw was Andrea Patch from Seavington St Mary.

A Message From Your Parish Council

Pauline Parsons (01460 240193)

We would like to thank those residents who turned up for the Open Parish Meeting on 6th January when we were informed, by our District Councillor Paull Robathan, the implications of the cuts that have to be made to both County and District Budgets due to cuts in their funding from Central Government. At present Parish precepts are not being capped by Central Government.

After a very interesting discussion and taking into account the views of those present, your Parish Council has made a decision to increase the precept for 2011/12 to £10,000. This will enable us to fund some of the services that are being withdrawn. Our main concerns were to continue the services of 'The Lengthsman' Scheme and also ensure that our footpaths are maintained at the present standard.

As you are all probably aware Communities are being asked to do more for themselves and in this context Parish Councillors would like to know if there are any volunteers who would be willing to work with the Lengthsman and our Parish Paths Liaison Officer. We would also like to know what other skills you may have that could be used to enhance the villages generally. Please contact any Parish Councillor to show your interest.

Can you help?

The village shop is looking for someone to help the Treasurer in maintaining the accounting records, principally recording takings and suppliers' invoices and paying suppliers.

The accounts are computerised and use a simple free accounting system "TAS Books" so some familiarity with using a PC is desirable. Full training in the use of the accounting system will of course be given so previous bookkeeping knowledge is by no means essential.

If you think you could help please contact Tony Beresford on 01460 240268 who will be pleased to explain more about what is involved.

Barking Mad

Phil Gordon-Smith (01460 242277)

Last summer some of you may have seen me wandering the lanes and fields with different coloured, sized and aged Labradors. Apart from my two dogs, all the others have one thing in common, they have been rescued, and I was fostering and assessing the dogs for The Labrador Rescue Trust, before they went to their new homes.

Now you may think that this is a popular breed of dog and does it really need to be rescued. Unfortunately, the sad truth is yes. Well over 45,000 Labrador puppies are registered with the Kennel Club, every year, and this is just the tip of the iceberg. Many more are bred, mostly money motivated, by the chap or woman down the road or in remote farms and locations across the country and sold as home bred puppies. It therefore shows that with such large numbers, it is inevitable that some will need help.

The Labrador Rescue Trust has been running for some 22 years, and the number of dogs coming into rescue increases year upon year. The Trust now handles 600 to 700 dogs a year (12 per week). Many of the dogs coming into care are much-loved family pets whose owners' circumstances have changed. Many cannot cope or have fallen on hard times: others come when owners are divorcing or emigrating, also many Labradors are brought by people who wrongly assume the loving little puppy will remain a furry bundle, and then find they cannot cope when it grows up, (usually without any training or socialisation). There are also the trained working dogs, which have retired or are unable to continue through ill health, even some gun dogs who fail to make the grade. Many owners take on a Labrador, go to work all day and then wonder why the dog becomes bored, destructive and over the top. Some get little or no exercise, are over-weight, even extremely obese and some require extensive veterinary treatment, (which the Trust will cover for the remainder of the dog's life). Moreover, there are the inevitable strays, which probably are just kicked out of their home and end up in Pounds; the Trust also helps other rescue organizations who are unable to rehome Labradors.

Since its inauguration, the area the Trust covers has grown. It now operates in 16 counties, going from Cornwall in the West across to Dorset and Hampshire in the east, northwards up to Northamptonshire and Leicestershire. The Trust has no paid employees, but relies on a band of over 100 unpaid volunteers, who have a wealth of knowledge and experience in dealing with Labradors.

As with most charities, the Trust is only funded through donations from the public and its sale of merchandise. Of course, like the entire charity sector this last year has greatly affected the amount of money available from donations. Those of you who own dogs will know how expensive veterinary treatment is; the Trust currently supports over 200 Labradors for drugs and treatment. It runs a policy of neutering all the Labradors that it takes in, (depending on their age), and will re-home any age from 0 to 16 or more if need be.

The ideal way for the Trust to rehome a dog is if it can go from its original home straight to its new home. However, that is not always possible and the next best is to put the dog into foster care. This can be on a short-term basis, i.e. a few weeks, or on a longer term, maybe where an old dog is involved, the rest of its life. The Trust is always looking for people to foster dogs. The last resort is to put the dog into kennels, until a home can be found.

If this article has interested you and you think you can help, by fostering, fund raising or dealing with merchandise sales etc, then use the contact information given. The Trust would love to hear from you.

Help!! Your village shop needs you!

The Seavington Village Shop and Café has been offered a small amount of funding if we run a couple of “Intergenerational Projects”

What are they?

These projects have been running across Somerset for most of 2010 and finish soon. The idea is to bring the over 50's and under 25's together in some form of activity.

We could run any kind of activity, as long as we have a mix of ages – so what do you fancy?

A Skittles or Darts match

Could we produce a “What Granny Used to Bake” booklet?

Can we get a group together to knit blankets ?

Does anybody fancy an African Zumba class?

Do you have any better ideas?

Please ring me, Laura, if you would like to get involved 01460 240606

Go on – let's get together and have some fun!

St Michael's Church Seavington Trust

Registered Charity No: 1068251

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT MUSIC?

MULTIPLE GUESS MUSIC QUIZ (FOR ALL TASTES!)

Saturday, 12th February 2011

The Seavington Millennium Hall, at 7.30 pm (Doors Open: 7.0 pm)

Teams of 6 maximum

Make up a team beforehand — or just turn up and join a team on the night

Raffle and Licensed bar

Tickets: £7.50 or £9 on the evening (including supper) available from:

Alastair Fye (01460-241977) Annie Prichard (01460-241762)
N & D News, South Petherton

SOUTH SOMERSET RSPB LOCAL GROUP (formerly Crewkerne LG)

ENGLISH WILDLIFE – SPRING AND SUMMER

An illustrated talk presented by David Kjaer, who is a professional wildlife photographer and a popular speaker with our group. 80% of the fauna he will be talking about can be seen within a 60 mile radius of the Seavingtons.

Thursday 17th February – 7.30pm – The Millennium Hall, Seavington St. Mary

Entry: group members £2.50, non-group members £3.50, under 18's free.
(tea/coffee & biscuits included)

EVERYONE WELCOME

For further details contact:
Denise Chamings (Group Leader) on 240740
www.rspb.org.uk/groups/southsomerset

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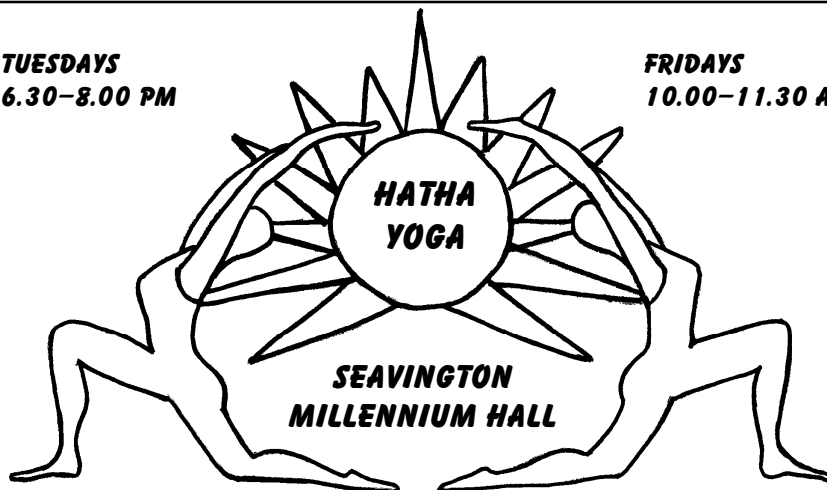
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12th February 2011

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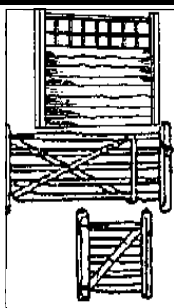
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Seavington Youth Club News

Youth Club is back after a cold Christmas break and the wet January means lots of fun activities for the children inside, to keep them occupied!

We ended last year with a Christmas party for the children and we think they enjoyed the fun and games, as much as we all did!

We will be having a cake morning on **Saturday the 26th of March** which will be held at Jenny and Mark Isaac's house. Beginning at **10.30** until the cakes are all sold or eaten!

Any donated cakes or prizes for the raffle, would be greatly appreciated.

Suzanne Pippard - Chair

Youth Club times are 6.30 to 7.45, most Mondays.

For more info: Julie Ginno 01460 249099 or Jenny Isaacs 01460 240550
Or you can email me on suzthompson@talktalk.net

Visit Seavingtons' Community Shop and Café



There's always a warm welcome in the café and a choice of delicious cakes, teas and coffees, as well as freshly –made light lunches.

In the shop we sell **A**pples, **B**read, **C**hocolate, **D**og food, **E**ggs, **F**rozen meals, **G**reetings cards, **H**ummus, **I**ce creams, **J**elly, **K**etchup, **L**oo roll, **M**ilk, **N**ewspapers, **O**range juice, **P**asta, **Q**uorn, **R**ice, **S**tring, **T**ea & coffee, **U**nsmoked (and smoked) bacon, **V**egetables, **W**ashing powder, **X**tra strong mints, and **Y**azoo. But we don't sell **ANYTHING** beginning with **Z** !

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

Lapwing

Vanellus vanellus (12")

Annie (01460 241762)

It is the foliage of the woods
That winters bring—the dress
White Easter of the year in bud
That mixes with the winter spring
Thr frost and snow his posies bring
Natures white spirits of the spring

John Clare (1793-1864)

Lapwings form large groups in late autumn and stay together through the winter and break up in late February or early March when mating starts. They are highly mobile and a steady stream of them are seen in the daytime going from one feeding ground to another. They feed on farmland, pastures and wet grassland; anywhere which has earthworms, beetles, ants and suchlike.

The Lapwing's call is a shrill "pweet-pweet-peewit-peewit". It is quite a wheezy sound. They use their noisy wing beats, in flight, to add to their calls. In spring their dramatic tumbling display are part of the mating rituals. As well as these displays the male makes several scrapes in bare ground for his chosen mate to choose from. A scrape is lines with grasses and leaves. Lapwings nest in small groups relying on camouflage for safety.

From late March to early April 3-4 buffish, blotched with black, eggs are laid. When hatched, the youngsters more or less feed themselves straightaway as the soil around them contains many invertebrates.

It has broad, rounded, black and white wings and the back is glossed with green and bronze. The underparts and face are white and the undertail is orange-brown. There is a long up-sweeping black crest on the back of the head.

Several flocks have been seen around the Seavington reservoir this winter.

Over the Counter: News from our Community Shop and Café

It is now more than six months since our community owned Village Store and Café opened for business on 14th July 2010. Since then a team of almost 40 volunteers including a handful from outside our immediate community have been beavering away trying to create a smooth running operation. We have got better at it but would openly admit that there is a little way to go before we achieve perfection.

It was never intended that we would compete with the major supermarkets; the intention was always to create a convenience store which was available for your top-up shopping and daily requisites such as bread, milk etc. That said, a number of customers have remarked on just how competitive our pricing is with some items cheaper than you can find them on shelves in Ilminster town centre or other local shops!

Where possible we try to offer you local foods which are not only fresher than the supermarket offerings but which have incurred far fewer “food miles” to bring them to you. Thus, our bread comes fresh daily from Bakery Roy-al in Martock, meat comes via a local Q-Guild butcher from local farms; there are many other examples of our commitment to reduce food miles and deliver quality.

Our Café is beginning to earn itself a reputation with not only our own community—recently we hosted a walking group who used us for its lunchtime target and we regularly attract cyclists. Our village breakfasts, usually on the third Sunday of the month are beginning to attract a regular clientele—local eggs, bacon, sausages etc all presented in the traditional generous Somerset style— all for a fiver!

We also have free Internet access—either bring your own laptop and use our Wi-Fi or sit in the café at our computer and do your on-line shopping, browse the World-wide-web as you enter competitions or just learn how to use a personal computer and the Internet. If you feel that you don’t have the required computer skills, warn us in advance and we will have someone there who can help you.

So, if you have never visited us, or are one of the doubters, please drop in and see for yourselves what your community has achieved, try us for your convenience shopping, have a cup of coffee and reflect on how good life was when you last had a village shop!

Seavington Gardening Club

Secretary: Ry Coffman (01460 240004)

Thursday 13 January 2011 – Talk with slides :
'Plants Worth Knowing' with Michael Pollock

Our Chair Julie Sibley welcomed old and new members and wished members a Happy New Year reminding them that it's time to get thinking about the Plant Sale in May, our main fundraiser – so it's out with the seed catalogues and get planting! Members were also reminded about our 30th Anniversary Tea Party event on 25th June 2011 for past and present members – a date for the diary! Julie also treated us to a delightful funny poem about gardening she had found on the subject of gardening tales of woe!

Ry reminded members about our club's membership benefits of The Gold Club (The Gardens Group – with garden centres at Brimsmore, Poundbury and Castle Gardens at Sherborne). Club members are eligible for discount vouchers in the spring and autumn plus Pre-Spring Orders for large items (e.g. compost) all for 25% discount and free delivery. If any members were not at the meeting and have not yet had their discount vouchers, either pick one up from Ry at the next meeting or, if you need them before then, give Ry a ring.

The evening's talk by Seavington's own Mike Pollock was a romp through Mike's list of the most attractive and useful plants for gardens that he has come across in his long career in horticulture, starting with an explanation of how plant names work, then a little plant hunting, with garden design history thrown in for good measure as we went along. As glorious photos taken at Wisley or in Mike's own garden of the shrubs, trees, herbaceous plants, ferns, annuals, climbers and bulbs and corms flashed up, it transported us to summer days of warmth and colour and inspired members to perhaps plan some changes to their garden, and include a few of Mike's excellent choices, many of which have the Award of Garden Merit. Our thanks to Mike for an inspiring evening.

Flower of the Month:

1. Witch Hazel – Julie Sibley
2. Skimmia – Kate Mulligan
3. Winter Jasmine - Jackie Hann

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be **at 7.30pm on 10 February**. The talk will be on **Low Maintenance Gardening** by a member of the Gold Club staff. There will also be plants for sale!

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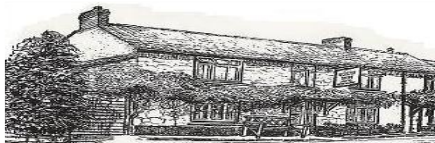
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Contact: Fiona Madge on 01460 279519 or
fionamadge@coombefarm.com

Waste Paper Collections at the Millennium Hall

Heather Scott (01460 241437)

Here are the amounts of waste paper we collected in The Seavingtons during the last quarter:

October: 2,200 Kgs; November: 2,300 Kgs; December: 2,340 Kgs

Congratulations on the steadily improving figures (each month an increase on the previous quarter!), particularly at a time when it was difficult to get out of the house in December.

Remember, every scrap of your paper counts - (don't leave it out for the Somerset collection as we don't get money for recycling in this way. Support The Seavington News by donating your paper to the monthly skip at the Millennium Hall! We look forward to a bumper recycling year!

The Easter Flower Festival at Seavington St. Michael's Church

Carol Talbot (01460 241478)

We are holding a Flower Festival at St. Michael's Church over the Easter week-end. We haven't had one for many years, and if like me, you're no flower arranger please do not be put off, your help is still important and you can still contribute. We hope that in some way everyone can feel included in this wonderful project celebrating both Easter and Flowers.

We begin with setting-up on Saturday 23rd April in and around the Church. Then the Flower Festival will take place on Sunday 24th and Monday 25th April.

At the moment we are looking for help in the following three ways:

We are hoping to offer a selection of lovely home baked cakes and biscuits, if you could provide us with one (or two!) please ring Sue Dewsbury on 01460 241155.

We will also be needing some 'greenery' or foliage for the arrangements, so if you feel your garden could spare some, please ring Sheila Reyland on 01460 241238.

Also if anyone could spare some time to help with various things over the week-end, please contact Sheila Riley on 01460 242778.

I know that the ladies helping to organise this would appreciate hearing from you with any offers of cakes, greenery or help as soon as it is convenient. Help us make this a real Seavington Celebration of Easter

“Girl Friday” (or any other day!)

I'm 15 and saving money for a trip to Italy to celebrate the end of my exams this summer. I'm looking for part-time work. I am willing to; babysit, walk dogs, pet-sit, clean cars, do ironing, do local shopping, or anything else you require. I am able to supply references. Please call me on 01460 240554—Naomi Jagers

From our PCSO

Rachel Napper (0845 456 7000)

Crime Statistics

For the month of December there have been no crimes reported for the Seavingtons and the good news is that there also hasn't been any anti social behaviour reported. If you do have any concerns or questions then please contact me at rachel.napper@avonandsomerset.police.uk or on 0845 4567000.

Have your say in Seavington

In due course you will see a post box which has been kindly bought by the Parish Council put up in the village shop which is to be a place where you can leave me messages to either book appointments or to pass me any intelligence or suspicious behaviour.

There will be post cards available next to the box and you do not have to put your name on there if you do not want to.

I hope you will find a use for it.

Beat Surgery

I will be holding a beat surgery on Saturday 29th January at South Petherton Community Centre and Police post at 9am until 10:30am. Please come along to meet me or to pass on any concerns.

Beware of Bogus Callers

Police are warning people across the force to beware of bogus callers, as criminals take advantage of the increase in burst pipes and water mains caused by cold weather. Over the last week, a number of offences have been reported to police across the force where bogus "Water Board" and Dyno-Rod officials have tricked their way into homes before stealing cash, purses and wallets.

A common theme in these offences is that victims are being told that there is blue dye in the water, and they need the victim to run

the kitchen taps to check the system. If someone knocks on your door and you hear these things, alarm bells should start ringing. There is no longer a Water Board, it is a term used only by bogus callers. Water companies also never put dye into the water.

If you believe that you have seen or been visited by these offenders then please report it to the police on 0845 456 7000.

Reports of suspicious phone calls

I have had a number of reports of people in Seavington and the surrounding villages receiving phone calls from people offering free burglar alarms or crime prevention surveys. If you receive such calls and you are not expecting them, then please just put the phone down. Do not allow them to arrange to come to your property as the call is more than likely a scam.

If you require crime prevention advice then contact the Police on 0845 4567000 or for alarms use a reputable company. If you wish to limit the number of unwanted sales calls then you can also register with the Telephone Preference Service which is free of charge. You can do this by ringing 0845 070 0707 or by visiting <http://www.mpsonline.org.uk/tps/>

If you have any questions or comments then please do not hesitate to contact me at rachel.napper@avonandsomerset.police.uk or on 0845 4567000. I hope you all have a happy and safe new year.

Seavington Mums and Toddlers Group

Fiona Day (01460 241596)

The Seavington Mums and Toddlers Group will no longer be meeting on a Wednesday afternoon but with effect from January 20th 2011 will now be meeting weekly (term time only) on a Thursday from 1pm to 3pm in the Seavington Village Hall. The mums (and grannies!) in the village hope that you will be free to come along and join us. This is a very relaxed get together where babies and pre-school children have a chance to play and have fun in our huge village hall and the mums get a chance to catch up with each other, drink coffee and eat biscuits!

We hope to see you on Thursday afternoons!

Lost & Found

Lost: A ring of three small keys. Two are 'Yale' type, one of which has a plastic handle, and the third is a cabinet key in brass. If you find these please give them to either Janet Goode on 01460 240220 or Peter Ashley on 01460 240353. Thank you.

Found: I know it is a bit of a long shot, but I found a bunch of keys at the top of Scotts Hill on Thursday January 13th. They looked as if they had only just been dropped. If they may be yours please contact Mandy Elborn on 01460 241664.

Editor's Note: This looks like an interesting coincidence but the keys found are not the ones that were lost!

Seavington Village Store and Café



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in the Café on Sunday 20th February from 09.30 until noon

Bring the whole family (and friends too!)

The Seavingtons' Weather in December 2010

This year—2010

Previous year—2009

Temperature

Average Minimum	-2.54°C	0.76°C
Average Maximum	3.30°C	6.90°C
Average Mean	0.38°C	3.83°C

Rainfall

Monthly Total	27.0mm (1.08")	83.3mm (3.33")
Yearly Total (to date)	624.7mm (24.99")	881.2mm (35.25")

The driest December since 2001; the driest year since 2003—rather short of rain and very cold as well!



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