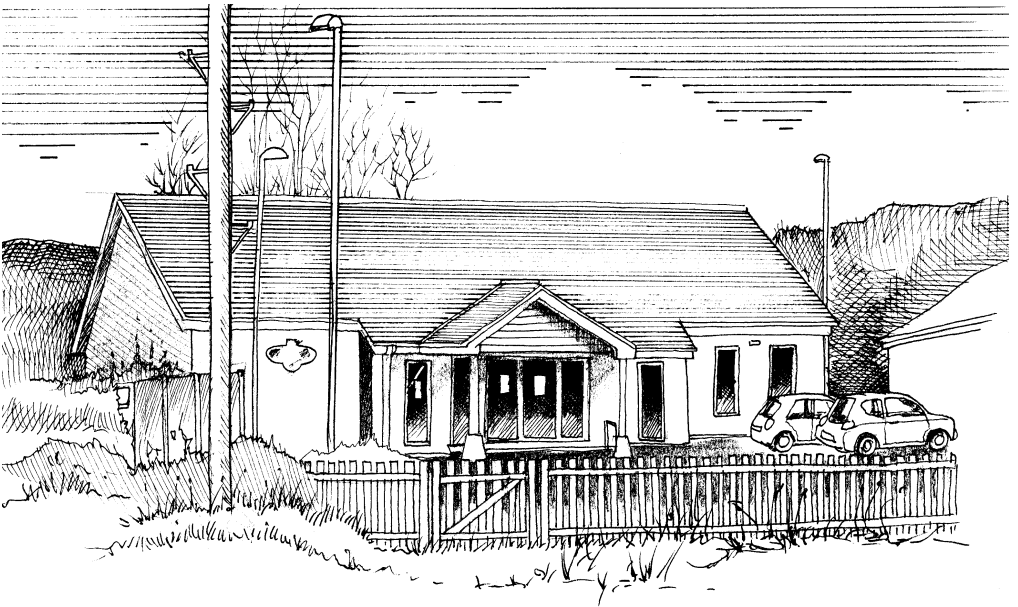


THE SEAVINGTONS' NEWS

February 2012



Seavington Village store & café

Inside: Village Store & Café Survey



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.

Alarms & Excursions by Michael Frayn: 21st—24th February
An IES production, directed by Bryan Hallet

Tickets £7.50; Concession £7
Students in full time education £4.50

Please note the change of dates for this show; we apologise for the necessity to change these dates. Further, there is no Saturday show.

Sir Graham Watson MEP: 10th February

Sir Graham Watson MEP is President of the Liberal Democrat and Reform Party. He will report on recent climate talks and other environmental issues. Stuart Wallis will also speak on “Good lives that do not cost the Earth”.

Tickets £5 / £4; more information from Joe Burlington—01460 55323

Both performances begin at 7.30 pm

Booking Information

**Tickets are available from Lanes Garden Shop, Ilminster or the
Theatre Box Office 07943 779880**

Ilminster Entertainments Society Ltd, Reg Charity No: 291977; Company No: 1882407

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The Seavingtons' News

This time last year I reviewed the year's progress with implementation of the village plan. I noted that this had gone well as far as the local initiatives like the Youth Club and Community Shop. On the other hand those areas that involved governmental, eg the County Council or Police, or other monopoly organisations showed no progress at all. I specifically mentioned speed limit enforcement, quality of policing and the provision of usable broadband.

On the policing front things have gone from bad to worse and beyond. I know that the Parish Council is tackling this but it is scandalous that the Police "Service" does not feel ashamed, but tucked into comfortable offices remote from their taxpayers there is little incentive for change.

On the broadband front you will have read that the County Council has obtained a share of the Government pot to fund credible broadband in "rural areas". The omens however are not good.

I have tried to get information from County Hall but the staff there are incredibly secretive, claiming commercial confidentiality. It soon became clear to me that County staff are completely out of their depth and the money will not go to small rural communities but to larger, semi-urban ones, who have more voters.

If people in our villages care about broadband then I suggest that you all start lobbying your County Councillor now. As you do this just remember that he has many more votes in the semi-urban areas than in Seavington.

Paul Maxwell: pmmaxwell@somerset.gov.uk

David Froome

DON'T FORGET

The Newspaper Skip!

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

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

is the 15th February

Editorial content and diary entries to:

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

Village Diary—February 2012

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

- | | | |
|---------------|----------|---|
| 6th February | 2.30 pm | NADFAS meeting—"The Fascinating World of Playing Cards". An illustrated talk by Yasha Veresiner. See p 14 |
| 6th February | 7.30 pm | The Queen's Jubilee Celebration. Meeting in The Volunteer Inn. See p 25 |
| 9th February | 7.30 pm | Gardening Club—"Hidden Dorset". An illustrated talk by Colin Varndell. See p 4 |
| 11th February | 10.30 am | Potato Day at Drimpton Village Hall. See p 14 |
| 16th February | 7.30 pm | RSPB Group. An illustrated talk by David Boag. See p24 |

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 | Toddlers group (temporarily suspended) |
| 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

29th January	11.15 am Matins
5th February	11.15 am Holy Communion
12th February	8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
12th February	11.15 am Family Service
19th February	11.15 am Holy Communion
26th February	11.15 am Matins

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

adverts@theseavingtons.org

Seavington Gardening Club

Secretary Ry Coffman (01460 240004 ry.coffman@virgin.net)

'Pulling together a Show Garden for Chelsea' – James Foster-Pegg, The Gardens Group

Ten years ago the Gardens Group took the plunge and decided to enter a small garden design for the Chelsea Flower Show. This is not as straight forward as it might sound – James had to submit his design to the RHS and hope to be chosen to exhibit. The paperwork is formidable, even to make a submission, and they managed to lose his design and he had to resubmit; with only 4 months to go he was given the go ahead. His design was based on some railway sleepers that had been lying around in his garden centre – 'Trains must run on Thyme'.

The railways theme was complete with rails of silver thyme as a small embankment with silver birch and rockery, ivy tunnel, planted luggage and a little shed. A mock-up was made in the garden centre yard, plants purchased, and stored in poly tunnels. Finally the day came when they had to transport it all to Chelsea. Organised like a military operation, hundreds of Chelsea exhibitors are given discrete timeslots to complete their exhibits. After a furious few days finally came the judging. James was delighted to win a Silver Medal and enjoyed the media spotlight, the celebs and the public for a brief moment. Then it was time to take it all apart again – put it back in the van and return to Dorset. The following year they entered the Hampton Court Flower Show and gained a Bronze medal. An exhausting experience but worthwhile!

Plant of the Month: 1st Kate Mulligan – Hellebore, 2nd Julie Sibley – Snowdrops, 3rd Roy Sibley - Iris

Next Meeting 7.30pm 9 February, 2012 Next Month photographer Colin Varndell will be taking us to 'Hidden Dorset'.

News from The Volunteer

We would like to thank everyone who came in and celebrated a wonderful new years eve with us. The winner of the special prize draw was Jenny and Mark Isaac.

The next new arrival of ale will be launched on Burns Night 25th January. This will be complemented with a haggis pie, so for this night we will be running a special pie and Burns Night ale deal (name to realised). We look forward in welcoming you to this event.

Allowing for Political Correctness... this is the Best I Can Do

Your editor

I wanted to send some sort of New Year greeting to our loyal readers, but it is difficult in today's world to know exactly what to say without offending someone. So I met with my lawyer yesterday, and on his advice I wish to say the following:

Please accept with no obligation, implied or implicit, my best wishes for an environmentally conscious, socially responsible, low stress, non addictive, gender neutral celebration of the solstice holiday practiced with the most enjoyable traditions of religious persuasion or secular practices of your choice with respect for the religious / secular persuasions and / or traditions of others, or their choice not to practice religious or secular traditions at all.

I also wish you a fiscally successful, personally fulfilling and medically uncomplicated recognition of the onset of the generally accepted calendar year 2012, but not without due respect for the calendar of choice of other cultures whose contributions to society have helped make our country great (not to imply that England is necessarily greater than any other country) and without regard to the race, creed, colour, age, physical ability, religious faith or sexual preference of the wishee.

By accepting this greeting, you are accepting these terms :

This greeting is subject to clarification or withdrawal. It is freely transferable with no alteration to the original greeting. It implies no promise by the wisher to actually implement any of the wishes for her / him or others and is void where prohibited by law, and is revocable at the sole discretion of the wisher.

The wish is warranted to perform as expected within the usual application of good tidings for a period of one year or until the issuance of a new wish at the sole discretion of the Wisher.

Best Regards (without prejudice)

Name withheld (privacy acts)

Celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Pauline Parsons (01460 240193)

As you already know there will be a 'traditional' fete on the playing field on Saturday 2nd June 2012. A marquee has already been booked and we would like to make this a 'Craft Tent'.

To this end there will be several handicraft and cookery classes that you can enter. The classes will enable all residents (and non-residents) to enter various craft items and we hope that you will all feel you can enter a least one thing.

Classes will be divided into different age groups for judging:

Under 3; 3 – 4 years; 5 – 7 years; 8 – 11 years; 12 – 15 years; 16+

All classes open to residents and non-residents – professionals and amateurs!!

All cookery items can be made to your own recipes. So put your thinking caps on now and start to make some of the things. Good luck to you all.

It has been suggested to the Parish Council that a Time Capsule should be buried during the celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee, with instructions that it is opened in say 50 years time.

We would like to invite everyone, particularly the children of the Villages. to write about life in The Seavingtons at the present time, take photos as it is now, etc.

Also we would like suggestions as to where the capsule could be buried. Initially we would like any items to be buried to be brought to the fete or the village luncheon and then perhaps we could bury the capsule on the Monday or Tuesday of the weekend. We are open to ideas.

Please use the Seavingtons' News or let your Parish Councillors know of any comments you wish to make.

We would like to put up as much bunting as possible to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. If anyone has any spare material and spare time could you please make some bunting. Any coloured material for the triangular shapes to be stitched onto tape or ribbon. If you have materials you would like to donate but not the time to make the bunting then please let Ruth or Pauline know. Many thanks in anticipation of your help.

Redwing

Turdus Iliacus (8¼")

Annie (01460 241762)

The Redwing, smallest of the Thrushes, is similar to the Song Thrush but is distinguished by chestnut-red flanks and underwings and a broad creamy eyestripe.

It migrates here around October, returning during March. Whilst here, the Redwing roams the countryside, in flocks with Fieldfare foraging in fields for worms and insects. When the weather becomes harder it will come closer to gardens and orchards to feed on fallen fruit and search hedgerows for yew, holly and ivy berries.

A distinctive call "seep" is uttered in flight. There is a "sort of" song which is a series of descending "fluty" notes, "Trill-trill-trill-trill)

St Michael's Church Seavington Trust

Registered Charity No: 1068251

Alastair Fyfe (01460 241977)

Some 28 intrepid villagers, accompanied by a good number of dogs (of all sorts!), turned out for the Boxing Day 'Walkies' – a stroll around our countryside which conveniently ended at the Volunteer for Brunch.

The Christmas spirit (or what was left of it!) flowed well for the next couple of hours! Many thanks to both Ruth and Colin for their hospitality and their generous donation to the Church Trust. Our thanks are due also to Annie Prichard for organising the occasion.

Following the huge success of the Music Quiz lat year, the Trust is organising a General Knowledge Quiz in the Millennium Hall on Saturday, 10th March 2012. Tickets costing £7.50 (£9 on the night) will be on sale in early February and will include supper.

It would be wise to purchase them quickly as we had a 'sell-out' last year. Teams must not consist of more than 6 people. Please see the advertisement in this magazine for further details.



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Neroche DFAS

Peter Hill (01460 67779)

The Fascinating World of Playing cards

A talk by Yasha Beresiner

Monday 6th February 2012 at 2.30 p.m.
Seavington Millennium Hall, Water Street, Seavington

Mr Beresiner is a lawyer and lecturer, a Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards, and has written eleven books on aspects of collecting.

Mr Beresiner was born in Turkey, has a Russian father and a Greek mother, and qualified as a lawyer in Jerusalem. So he regards himself as a 'citizen of the world'. He is also an expert on coins, maps, currency, and Masonic rituals. He will talk about early playing cards, their origin, and the part certain packs have played in English history. He will also talk about the taxation of cards, and about modern packs which produce an optical illusion. He has a reputation as an amusing and authoritative speaker.

Non-members welcome for a charge of £3

Potato Day—Saturday 11th February 2012

Drimpton Village Hall, 10:30 to 3:30 for food, fun and advice

Welcome to our 5th Annual Potato Day, with Pennard Plants, offering dozens of Seed Potato varieties for sale, by the tuber or in bags, with information on type, cultivation and disease resistance for each one. Our Potato Day is organised for gardeners, by gardeners; you will find plenty of help and information.

There will also be Heritage Vegetable seeds, a selection of Garlic, Onion and Shallot sets, plus herbs, fruit bushes, rhubarb and more. There will also be an opportunity to enter our popular Potato Growing competition, (classes for young people and adults – weigh-in on Show Day, Saturday 11th August)

There will of course be the renowned Drimpton food, with all day

Seavington Village Store & Café



The community owned & operated Seavington Store & Café has now been open for 18 months. As you know our aim is to provide a range of goods & services, and a meeting place in the café.

We would however value your views on how we are currently doing – are we stocking the right products, is the café meeting expectations etc? We would like you to tell us what you think is working well and, perhaps more importantly, what isn't working so well by completing the following questionnaire - please be as honest & realistic as possible in your answers.

We will call round in early February to collect completed questionnaires. In the meantime if you need any more information please contact either Laura Gowers (Chair) on 01460 240606 or Nick Ellis (Secretary) on 01460 241112. Thank you in advance for your time in completing the questionnaire.

Laura Gowers
Chair

February 2012

1 How often do you currently visit the village shop?

Daily		2-3 times a week		Weekly	
Fortnightly		Occasionally		Never	

2 If you do not use the shop, please give your reasons below (Remember the questionnaire is confidential unless you want to leave your contact details below)

.....

.....

3 If you don't use the village shop where do you do your "convenience" shopping?

.....

4 What amount do you typically spend at the village shop in *one* week?

£1 - £2.50		£2.50—£5		£5—£10	
£10—£20		£20—£35		More than £35	

5 What percentage of your weekly shop do you currently spend in the village shop?

0—5%		5—10%		10—25%	
25—50%		50—75%		75—100%	

6 What time of day do you use the shop?

8.30 am—12 noon		12 noon—2.00 pm	
2.00 pm—4.00 pm		4.00 pm—6.00 pm	

7 Do the shop's opening hours cater for your needs? **Yes** **No**

If no, please suggest times / days when you would like to see the shop open.

.....

8 On the scale of 1—5 below please show your view on the importance of having a shop in The Seavingtons by circling your answer:

NOT IMPORTANT <<< 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 >>> VERY IMPORTANT

9 From the following list of products please identify which products you currently buy from the village shop and any products you would like to see more of :

	now	more		now	more
Newspapers & Magazines			Bakery products		
Frozen Food			Dairy products		
Fresh Fruit & Vegetables			Sweets & Ice Cream		
Meat			Ready meals		
Packed groceries—tins, packets			Local produce		
Cigarettes & Tobacco			Beers, wines & spirits		
Gifts & toys			Greeting cards & wrapping		
Toiletries			Household goods & cleaning		
Sandwiches/lunch products			Stationery		
Organic/fair trade products			Locally made craft items		
Pet food			Coal or logs		

10 From the list of services below please identify which you use the most and any that you would like to see available in the future:

	now	future		now	future
Postal Services			Deliveries		
Advertisement board			Tickets for local events		
Photocopying			Internet		
Dry cleaning			Shoe repairs		
Photo processing / printing			DVD rental		
Café			E-top-ups for mobile phones		

11 Are there any other products or services not listed above that you would like to see?

.....

.....

12 Do you live here?

Full time

Part time

Occasionally

13 Do you currently use the café? **Yes / No**

14 If “yes”, does the café meet your needs? **Yes / No**

15 If “no” what would you like to see changed?

.....

16 Can you suggest any other improvements to the café?

.....

17 We want to make sure we continue to provide the products and services the community wants. Please use the space provided below for any comments or ideas you have for improving the shop, or any further comments

.....

.....

.....

18 If you are not currently involved in the shop project, would you or anyone in your household be interested in helping the community shop project in any way?

Provide professional advice/services (Please specify skill/profession)

Be involved in running the shop/volunteering

Making a donation

Joining the Shop Association by buying a share

19 If you have answered yes to the above question **or** you would like us to contact you, please provide your name, address and phone number:

.....

.....

20 Please state how many in each age range in your household:

0-16

17-25

26-45

46-65

Over 65

21 How many cars are there in your household (please circle)?

0

1

2

3

3+

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR TAKING THE TIME
TO COMPLETE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE**

If you haven't visited the shop or café in a while please do take the time to pop in

brunches, as well as warming drinks. As ever, the popular activities for young people will be here, so there's fun for everyone. Please join us, whether you are an experienced grower or just starting out on veggies, you will find this a friendly and useful event.

There is no need to book, but for further information please contact 01308 868843. We are on Chard Road (B3162), Drimpton, between Chard and Beaminster. For SatNav: DT8 3RF

Clapton, Wayford & District Horticultural Society - cwdhortsoc.blogspot.com

Village people – Adrian Day Fine Furniture

Adrian has lived in the village for 11 years now. In the last two years he has used his skills in engineering and design to take a different career route and launch a few furniture making business. He trained with David Savage, one of the top designers in the country on a year's course, as a cabinet maker and furniture designer. His speciality is solid wood and veneer work. If you are looking for a bespoke, top quality, Rolls Royce piece of furniture, where you can be personally involved in the design then Adrian is the person you should get in touch with. He will give you a quote for designing, making and delivering the item. (Adrian Day Fine Furniture – 01460 249291)

Adrian is part of a network of cabinet makers and designers across the country. His most recent commissions include a one off specialised computer desk and a table for a restaurant. He is also working with a local upholsterer, Sarah O'Mally who lives in Broadway.

Adrian's website is likely to be up and running in the New Year: www.adriandayfinefurniture.co.uk

He is also planning to display items at Yandles of Martock just off the A303.

It is always interesting to hear of the many and varied talents of people in the Seavingtons. If you would like an article about your work, hobby, event to appear in the Seavingtons' News get in touch with Seavingtons' Roving Reporter via the Editor!

Over the Counter:

News from The Seavingtons Community Shop & Cafe

Compiled by Laura Gowers and various volunteers!

We are a very lucky village.....

We have a fabulous village hall, a playing field and children's play area, a village pub (which brews its own beer), lots of village groups meeting regularly and a village shop and café. There are many, many villages in Somerset (and nationally) that would give their right arms for some of the facilities we have.

Having these facilities encourages a stronger sense of community, whether it's by serving on a committee, using the pub or shop or volunteering in the café we enrich our lives and those of others, we make new friends, stay healthier (Research -National and Community Service 2007) and catch up on the gossip!

Last year the shop and café were involved with various activities; a school cake sale; a Rotary Club coffee morning and bring and buy sale; an Active Citizens exchange programme where visitors from Latvia and Serbia came to the shop and café; apple day and the Christmas craft fair. We have had school leavers volunteering with us, gaining experience and then moving to paid employment; we have had (and still have) young people volunteering with us as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award, and retired people or those out of work brushing up old skills. We are a great place to meet new people, so if you're new to the village, come down and say hello!

We are your shop and café, and we would like to know what we're doing right, what we can do better and what we haven't got right at all. So, included in the centre of this months Seavington News is a questionnaire about the shop and café. We are a community shop – your community shop - so we'd like to hear from all of you. We'll even come round to collect your answers (no hiding behind the sofa!)

As a small thank you to everyone supporting the shop and cafe, we would like to offer you a free croissant with every hot drink consumed in the

cafe on any Saturday in February – between 10am and noon.

One event to put in your diary is a Tea Tasting on Thursday 9th February. Alison Miles of Miles Tea & Coffee Merchants, Minehead will be in the shop from 10am until 2pm offering tastings and samples of a variety of teas as part of our focus on their products this month.

Miles Tea is a family-run business which can trace its' history back to Henry Miles who set up the family's first blending business in Birmingham in 1888.

The current business has been based in North Somerset since 1974 and produces many distinctive tea blends including the blue-boxed Original Blend and 'Smugglers', a strong tea which is specially formulated for the West Country. We always have both of these in tea bags as well as the Original blend as loose tea in stock.

I hope to see you in the shop soon....

Fayre Do's

Phil Gordon-Smith (01460 242277)

It seems ages ago that the village shop hosted its first arts and craft fayre. For those with short memories it started at the end of November and ran up to Christmas Eve. Despite having to call on a few outsiders, the Seavington artisans were well represented and showed just what a talented bunch there is in the Seavingtons. The shop outside project will benefit with a boost to its funding just shy of £100.

Many thanks to all those who took the trouble to enter, and produce what was a great event in the shop. It was enjoyed by many and proved a good source of Christmas presents. I would also like to thank Jill for her organising effort, at times dealing with everything literally single handed, also to Sarah for back up help, and the promotional material design, and printing, also to Tony for designing and constructing the easels.

To all of you Crafty lot, please feel inspired and get creating, because a Spring show is in the offing, date yet to be decided. Just watch this space.

Local History Groups

South Petherton 2012 programme

25 January "Three families & how they shaped their local villages - Phelips (Montacute), Hebditch (South Petherton) and Southcombe (Stoke sub Hamdon). Presented by Ted Peacock, based on research by Carol Parker

22 February "The History of the Parrett Navigation Company", by Francis Farr Cox, the history of the company, how it was set up and operated, the families involved, investors, planners, engineers and cargoes

28 March "Deserted Medieval Villages in Somerset", talk by James Bond, landscape archaeologist & author

25 April "Glass in Somerset and Bristol; Romans, Vikings and Merchant Slavers" by Dr Francis Burroughes, with samples of glass from 1500 B.C. to the present day to show the history of glass in Somerset and Bristol

23 May AGM, then "The buildings of Somerset and South Petherton - why they look like they do", talk by Fergus Dowding of the Vernacular Buildings Research Group

27 June (evening, time tba) Walk led by Fergus Dowding looking at vernacular buildings in South Petherton as a follow-up to his 23 May talk.

26 September tba

24 October 'The Search for the Durotriges', a talk by the National Trust's Dr Martin Papworth based on his archaeological research into the late Iron Age communities of Dorset and South Somerset.

28 November tba

Meetings are at 7.30pm in the Methodist Hall, Palmer Street, South Petherton, TA13 5DB. Annual membership £5. Visitors £2 on the door

Norton Sub Hamdon 2012 programme

Wednesday 18 January Francis Farr Cox 'Where Naiads meet Dryads'

Wednesday 14 March Neil Eddiford 'Archery in History'

Saturday 26 May Study day on Elizabeth I

Wednesday 18 July Tony Brook 'Elizabeth I'

Wednesday 19 September Rev Peter Thomas 'The Making of the Book of Common Prayer'. Third talk in the James Pulman Lecture Series

Wednesday 14 November AGM

All talks start at 7.30pm and take place in Norton Village Hall except the lecture on 19 September which will be in Norton Church



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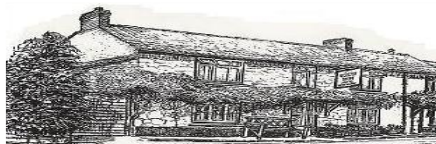
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An illustrated talk presented by David Boag, which tells the story of one of our most beautiful and spectacular birds and shows every aspect of this dramatic bird's life. David was the first person to photograph the kingfisher underground, diving for fish and grabbing a fish underwater.

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

NON-MEMBERS WELCOME

For further details contact: Denise Chamings (Group Leader) on 240740

www.rspb.org.uk/groups/southsomerset

Registered Charity: England & Wales No. 207076, Scotland No. SC37654.

St Michael's Church Seavington Trust
Registered Charity No: 1068251

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

Saturday, 10th March 2012 at 7.30 pm (Doors Open: 7.0 pm)
The Seavington Millennium Hall

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

Some Basic, Topical, Economics

It is a slow day in a little Greek Village. The sun is beating down and the streets are deserted. Times are tough, everybody is in debt, and everybody lives on credit.

On this particular day a rich German tourist is driving through the village, he stops at the local hotel and lays a €100 note on the desk, telling the hotel owner he wants to inspect the rooms upstairs in order to pick one to spend the night.

The owner gives him some keys and, as soon as the visitor has walked upstairs, the hotelier grabs the €100 note and runs next door to pay his debt to the butcher. The butcher takes the €100 note and runs down the street to repay his debt to the pig farmer. The pig farmer takes the €100 note and heads off to pay his bill at the supplier of feed and fuel. The guy at the Farmers' Co-op takes the €100 note and runs to pay his drinks bill at the taverna.

The tavern owner slips the money along to the local visiting midwife drinking at the bar, who has also been facing hard times and has had to offer his family services on credit. The midwife then rushes to the hotel and pays off her room bill to the hotel owner with the €100 note.

The hotel proprietor then places the €100 note back on the counter so the rich traveller will not suspect anything. At that moment the German tourist comes down the stairs, states that the rooms are not satisfactory, picks up the €100 note, pockets the money, and leaves town.

No one produced anything.

No one earned anything.

However, the whole village is now out of debt and looking to the future with a lot more optimism.

And that, dear reader, is how the bailout package works...

Queen's Jubilee Weekend

The next meeting will be on Monday 6th February - 7.30pm at The Volunteer Inn. Please come if you have any ideas or would like to help with events over the weekend.

From the Parish Council

Blocked sewage pipe

Pauline Parsons (01460 240193)

It has been brought to the attention of the Parish Council that recently a blocked sewerage pipe near Heathstones and Rooks Mead Lane led to sewerage spilling across the road and into private gardens.

The incident was attended to by Wessex Water and it would seem that the pipe was blocked by disposable nappies and wipes in the system. Can we please remind everyone to be aware of items that are flushed away.

On the packets of disposable wipes that can be used to clean a toilet it is stated that there should be no more than 3 wipes per flush. Invariably inconvenience is caused to those who are not directly responsible for flushing the wrong sort of items down the toilet.

With regard to the surface water that invariably lies in this area County Highways Department has been contacted and hopefully the problem will be sorted in the not too distant future.

Seavington Community Store and Café



We are entirely run by volunteers

We can offer:

- Local produce including Bonners' meat, Osborne's fruit and veg, bread from Bakery Roy-Al and Sally Anns Cakes
- A selection of Wheat free and Gluten free products
- Dry cleaning service – collections and deliveries Tuesdays and Fridays
- 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

Drink & Driving

Anon

For the benefit of everyone, I'd like to share an experience with you that I had this weekend regarding drinking and driving. Its relevant during the forthcoming festive season.

As you know, some of us have been known to have had brushes with the authorities on our way home from the odd social session over the years.

Well, a couple of nights ago, I was out for a few drinks with some friends and had a few too many red wines than maybe I should have had. It happens.

However, knowing full well I may have been over the limit, and knowing I'd just missed being pulled over by the breathalyser by a couple of cars the week before, I did something I've never done before - I took a bus home!

Anyway, I arrived home safely, enjoyed the ride and it was all free of worry about police pulling me over and testing me. I know we often avoid doing this and take the risk of using the car we came in to go home in, but...don't do it, the police will eventually catch you!

I'm sharing this experience with you because the incident was a pleasant surprise to me, particularly since I had never driven a bus before!

St Michael's Church Seavington Trust

Book, Plant & Bric-a-Brac sale:

4th February 2012

at 2, Winchester Cottages (Opposite The Volunteer)

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Congratulations

Charlene & Matthew on the birth of OAKLEY TREVOR REYLAND on 6th Jan 2012, weighing 6lb 1oz.

With all our love Mum, Dad , Ali & the rest of the family.

The Village History Project

Ry Coffman (01460 240004) & Carolyn Farler (01460 249192)

It has come to our attention from looking at other village web-sites how little we know about the listed buildings in the Seavingtons.

If anyone has old photos, history or stories about their old houses we would love to have access to them to include in the Web Museum. So far we have been concentrating on the people of the villages but it would be really interesting to build up a picture of the earlier properties.

Also if you have any photographs which show when significant changes were made to your locality with new houses or changes to the roads - we would be very interested.

The Seavingtons' Weather in December 2011

	<i>This year—2011</i>	<i>Previous year—2010</i>
<i>Temperature</i>		
Average Minimum	4.17°C	-2.54°C
Average Maximum	9.88°C	3.30°C
Mean	7.03°C	0.38°C
<i>Rainfall</i>		
Monthly Total	75.3mm (3.01")	27.0mm (1.08")
Yearly Total (to date)	559.3mm (22.37")	624.7mm (24.99")

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