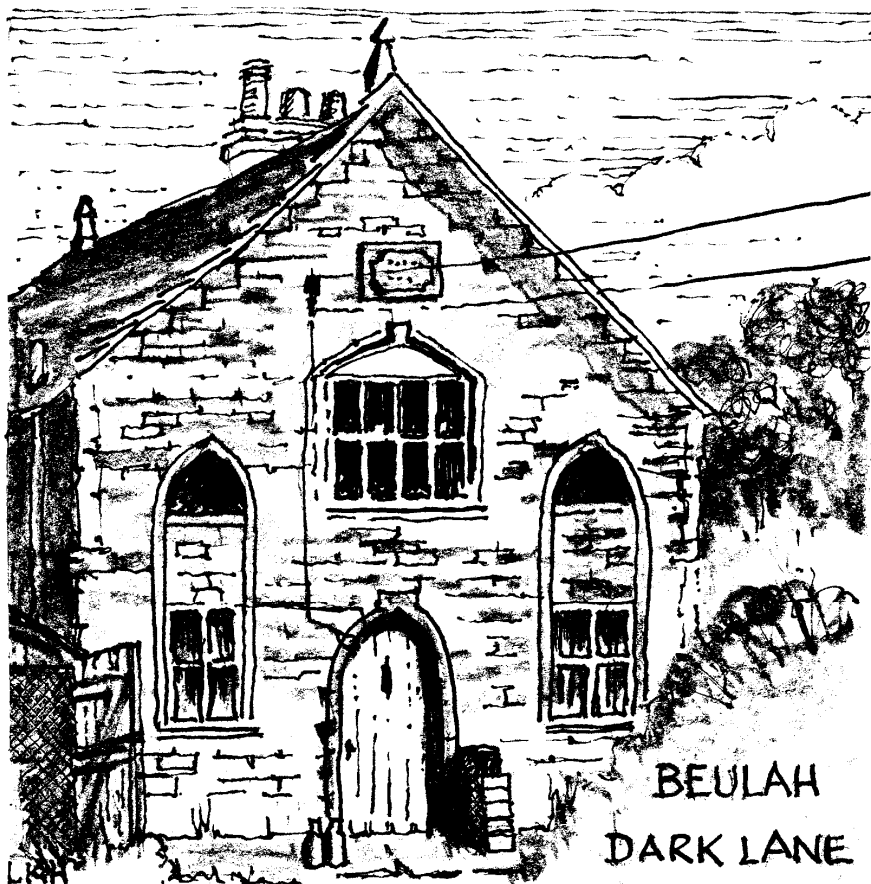


THE SEAVINGTONS' NEWS

January 2013



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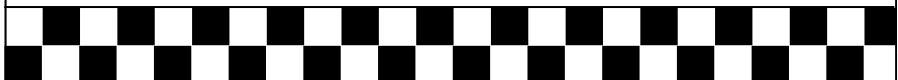
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The Seavingtons' News

Included as a centre section of this edition of your village magazine you will find some pages coloured green and labelled "The Seavingtons' News Year Book 2013". We urge you to detach this from the magazine and retain it when you discard the former. It comprises a handy reference to the various village organisations, clubs, Parish Council, etc together with contact details. It also includes information such as the dates of our monthly waste paper collections, Parish Council meetings and so on.

If you care to browse the Year Book and even compare it with last year's you will notice that many of this year's names differ from the earlier year. In particular you will see that Peter Ashley's name no longer appears as Chair of the Playing Field Association.

In last month's News there was a report on the showing of a video which covered the genesis and construction of our Millennium Hall, opened in 1998. Peter's name featured there alongside another village "elder" Bob Ash. Peter's work for the SPFA has spanned around 20 years of dedicated effort ranging from leadership to changing light bulbs!

Only those close to the SPFA know the full extent of Peter's selfless contribution to our community; I hope his example inspires his successors to a similar dedication. Through this page, on behalf of our entire community I would like to say "thank-you" and record our appreciation.

David Froome

DON'T FORGET

The Newspaper Skip!

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

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

is the 15th January

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—January 2013

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

For bookings call Pauline Eardley on 01460 240995

For other Millennium Hall matters call Pauline Parsons on 01460 240193

23rd December	4.00 pm	Christingle in St Michael's Church—p 7
29th December	10.30 am	Boxing Day Walkies—p 25
31st December	7.30 pm	New Year Dance & Party—p 28
7th January	2.30 pm	NADFAS talk: "Elizabethan Textile Furnishings" by Dr Gillian White—p 15
10th January	7.30 pm	Gardening Club talk: "Lift the Latch through the year" by Pauline and David Wright
14th January	Noon	Seniors' Lunch in Village Café (Reservations 01460 249730)
17th January	7.30 pm	RSPB Group talk: "The real wild and the seals on the Orkneys"—p 24
28th January	7.00pm	Wine Tasting in Village Café—p 27

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
2nd Monday	Noon	Seniors' Lunches in Village Café—booking essential, call 01460 249730
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 January	11.30 am Holy Communion
13th January	8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
13th January	11.30 am Family Service
20th January	11.30 am Holy Communion
27th January	11.30 am Matins

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

The Seavingtons' News Team

Editorial: David Froome & Maria Potts

Advertising: Heather Scott

Production: David & Wendy Eliot

Technical & web-site support: Eugene Mulligan

Graphics & Visual Support: George Brown

Village web-site: www.theseavingtons.org

Contributions are welcomed. You may submit electronically or by handwritten or typed manuscript to the editor at the address on page 1. The contents of this village magazine are the copyright © of the Seavingtons' News unless the item concerned carries an alternative copyright assertion. However, all information on village activities and events may be freely reproduced.

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)

The St Michael's Church Seavington Trust has had a very successful year. We have raised the healthy sum of over £2,600. We have also received two legacies (for which we are, of course, extremely grateful). This means that we have paid (or will be able to pay) for a number of works projects.

We have found the money to pay for the repair of the vestry window and for an extensive trimming of the large yew tree which tends to drop its berries on the church path! We are also in the process of paying for the repair of a stone gate pillar which has become a safety hazard and, even more importantly, the specialist repair of the two mediaeval glass windows on the south side of the church.

The Trustees and the Committee members join me in thanking all of you in the village who have supported the Trust, in one way or another, during the year. Without your support, we could not play our part in preserving the village church which so many of us cherish.

We wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy and enjoyable New Year.

SPFA Lottery Winners for December

Lesley Gudgeon (01460 240236)

1st	No 18	Ethan Ash
2nd	No 20	Mrs J Kyte
3rd	No 91	Mrs J Rice
4th	No 241	Peter Ashley
5th	No 154	Mr A Meadows

Over the Counter

Carolyn Farler (01460 249192)

As it is too early to report on the success of our Christmas events such as Clive and June's Christmas Raffle, the visit of Father Christmas and the Arts & Crafts Fayre, we thought it would be a good opportunity to let you know what the Management Committee are looking at to help reduce costs and improve the working environment for our volunteers in the new year ahead.

Amongst the many items on our to-do list, we are currently investigating the possible installation of solar panels on the store to hopefully achieve a significant cost reduction on our electricity bills. We have been talking to a number of companies about various building improvements, both internal and external, that will address safety, comfort and appearance issues. We are also in the process of applying for funds to provide additional kitchen equipment to help our cooks at busy periods.

To this end we will be having, and have had, various advisors coming into the store and café to help us assess the business case for all proposed changes, and decide the best way forward with a view to increasing the success of our community venture.

In December we also began a working relationship with Able 2 Achieve (a2a) based at Coombe Farm, to identify opportunities where their young people can help us with some of our projects. a2a aim to help young adults, with learning difficulties, to develop skills in realistic working environments and, initially, they are going to help us tidy up the outdoor space around the store – so do look out for them and welcome them into our community.

Looking ahead check out our programme of events for January with Seniors' Lunches, Farmhouse Breakfast Week and our special 'Introduction to Wine Tasting' Evening on the 28th.

And finally, we would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a **HAPPY, HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR** and look forward to seeing lots of you in the shop soon.

Tree Council Reception at the House of Lords

Launch of 'Friends of the Tree Council' Fund-raising Scheme

Three people were invited from South Somerset District Council to attend the launch by the Tree Council of their new 'Friends of the Tree Council' project: Cllr Henry Hobday, South Somerset District Council portfolio holder for 'Climate Change', Phil Poulton, Tree Officer SSDC and Ry Coffman, Seavington Tree Warden and voluntary co-ordinator designate.

The reception was in the Cholmondeley Room at the House of Lords with views over the Thames. Lord Richard Best OBE, who is on the Board of Trustees of The Tree Council, welcomed everybody with a champagne toast and explained how the new system for fund-raising for trees will work. People will be invited to become 'Friends of the Tree Council' by donating money to the Tree Council for their local area for trees which will be held by the Tree Council and made available to Tree Wardens for tree planting in that area.

Fifteen members of the Lords were present, along with many representatives of the Forestry Commission and related Charities. About 50 other tree wardens were present along with their tree officers and relevant Councillors. Later, tea was served and Jon Stokes, Director of the Tree Council, approached the SSDC delegates and asked if they would be willing to host the South West Tree Warden's Forum in Autumn 2013, which they were happy to do and Montacute House is likely to be the venue. The delegates left with packs of promotional material to help start promoting the new fund-raising project in their local areas.

Ry Coffman will be moving on from practical tree wardening in Seavington in March 2013 to take over the voluntary coordinator's post for SSDC covering 106 voluntary tree wardens in towns and villages. Phil Gordon Smith has volunteered to take over local tree wardening from Ry joining Alan Graham to look after the Seavingtons.

British Legion Poppy Appeal 2012

Monica Pye (01460 241861)

The total amount collected in the Seavingtons for the 2012 British Legion Poppy Appeal was £586 . 91p

The Chringle Service

On Sunday 23rd December at 4.00 pm

St Michael's Church



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

Up for grabs are: Mary & Joseph, the Mum and Dad of baby Jesus; three kings, who bring their gifts to baby Jesus, shepherds, who bring their love to baby Jesus and angels who guide them to baby Jesus. There are reading parts to do as well.

After the service there are mince pies and mulled wine at The Beeches by kind invitation of D and Alastair Fyfe.

Mums—there will be a rehearsal in St Michael's Church on Saturday 22nd December at 3.00 pm.

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

Household Waste & Recycling

Over the upcoming holiday period our collection days for household waste and recycling remain on the usual day ie Monday 24th December.

However, there will be no garden waste collection on Monday 31st December after which the collection will resume in the usual sequence.

For more information visit www.southsomerset.gov.uk



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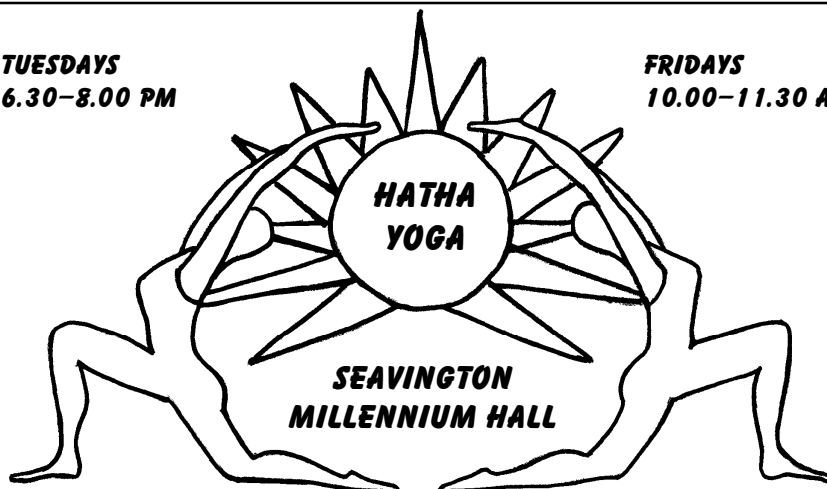
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Flood Prevention in Seavington

The recent interesting weather may have caused some anxious moments for some families in Seavington. However, things could have been much worse were it not for extensive work undertaken by the County Council back in 1995. Since many of us have moved into the villages since then we felt that it might be both interesting and helpful to give you some information from the archives.

After pressure from the Parish Council following some worrying flooding the County Council employed consulting engineers who proposed the *Seavington St Michael Flood Alleviation Scheme*. The engineers' proposals were presented at an open meeting of the Parish Council in February 1995 and comprised:

- ◇ Provision of a collector system at the junction of Upton Lane and the old A303, connecting via a 600mm pipe across the main road to a watercourse adjoining 'Buckrells'.
- ◇ Provision of a collector system at the bottom of David's Lane connected via a 600mm pipe to same watercourse at the rear of 'Hunts House'.
- ◇ Laying a 225mm outlet pipe at the southern end of School Lane to the watercourse.
- ◇ Improvements to the watercourse from 'Hunts House' to Winchester Cottages.
- ◇ Provision of a 600mm bypass pipe around Winchester Cottages to Water Street.

The estimated cost of the scheme was £125,000 (almost a quarter of a million pounds at today's prices), with a cost/benefit ratio of 1.6 being achieved.

As a result of questions from residents at the open meeting the engineers investigated the ditch between Orchard House and Swan Thatch which it was believed originally flowed into the old retting pond which had been filled in to create the car park.

As today, residents expressed concerns over silt and mud being washed from fields into the streets in Seavington St Mary.

Neroche DFAS

Peter Hill, Vice-chairman (01460 67779)

Embroidered with Woodbine and Eglantine Elizabethan Textile furnishings

A talk by Dr Gillian White PhD MA BA

Monday 7th January 2013 at 2.30pm
Seavington Millennium Hall

This talk looks at the designs, techniques and uses of Elizabethan textiles, as well as at the subject matter. The interiors of Elizabethan houses were given colour and glamour by textiles, which provided much symbolism. The speaker examines the Elizabethans' fondness for decoding hidden messages and devices. It is fully illustrated with a range of images, including tapestries, bed hangings, cushion covers, wall hangings and table carpets, as well as references from contemporary inventories and paintings.

Now only a fraction survives of the huge collections of textiles that once graced Elizabethan mansions and palaces. Gillian White previously worked for the National Trust, as Curator & Collections Manager at Hardwick Hall. She now gives presentations to various groups, including the Embroiderers' Guild, and teaches at several universities.

Visitors welcome (for up to 2 visits). Admission £3.
For more information see www.nerochedfas.org.uk

Articles Wanted

Whilst you are huddled round the fire on the long winter evenings why not write an article for The Seavingtons' News YOUR village magazine?

We would be delighted to receive articles about your hobby, local history or folklore or even an offer to contribute a series of articles. How about someone describing interesting local walks or rambles so that other readers may enjoy them.

Please think about it and don't be shy. Just contact us—see page 1

A Farmer's Diary

Farm Boy

I have to confess in spite of the continuing heavy rain through November I enjoyed myself by spending a lot of time working back on the farm. There are very few blessings in growing old, but there is at least one—you are no longer expected to carry the burden of responsibility and any useful input you can provide is considered a bonus.

I have been tackling some of the neglect on part of the fifty acres of land that my son purchased last March. My main weapons are the staff hook, hand-hook, chainsaw and matches. I also have on site a mobile rest room; this is a 360 degree four tonne tracked digger. But don't get carried away, one soon resists the temptation to spend too much time in it, it might seem as though it is an easy option for clearing scrub but in these wet conditions it is nigh impossible to burn the debris that it drags out because it gets caked in mud, however when the scrub is shorn by hand tools or chain saw you can keep it mud free so it can all be burnt.

Once the top growth has been removed, I can look forward to sitting in my rest room and removing the roots, leaving them exposed to the elements, then over the remaining winter months any clay clinging to the roots will start to disintegrate through frost or whatever else the winter may care to throw at them; this should make them much more manageable come the spring. *(Note I shall be keeping a very keen eye open that a younger family member does not suddenly occupy my rest room seat when it is time to remove the roots!!)*

Sixty years ago I began working for Abraham Green on top of the Blackdown Hills, now I can look back with affection and admiration, as he was the man who taught me the basic skills with farm hand tools. Abe was a very modest and neat man in every way, also very religious both in deed as well as thought; such high principles are not easy to find today, which is a huge loss to society. If only we had leaders that had practical skills combined with Abe's high values then I am sure we could all be looking at a much more stable future.

Individuals who claim to have qualifications but no practical knowledge

have never overwhelmed me, nor do Peerage or Knighthoods because in my experience far to many of these folk abuse their powers, this is something that I detest.

When I went to work for Abe in late autumn 1952 he had just purchased a neighbouring farm and was preparing to move in the following March.

For a good number of years he and a brother had split the family farm in half including the farmhouse, running two separate farming businesses, which was not ideal; now the opportunity had arisen for him and his family to move on. In many ways his brother had the better deal, for Abe's portion of the family farm was all very neat and tidy when he left, unlike the farm he had just purchased which was just the opposite rather scruffy and had been poorly managed. Having said that ,it had a great deal going for it, and two years later when I left Abe's employment it was already reflecting his very neat standards.

One way or another I seem to have continued to battle with nature over most of my working life since those early days with Abe, because when my father and I moved to Ham Hill Farm during 1955 this had also been rather neglected, so it was a case of starting all over again and almost every acre added ever since has required improvement. But at least the price was always what we could afford at the time.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Good Fortune for 2013



Redundant aprons welcomed back

A plea from the Village Store & Café—if you have an apron bearing our logo that you no longer use please drop it in to us ASAP. It will save us some money replacing it. Thank you.

Christmas

Annie (01460 241762)

Christmas is come and every hearth
makes room to give Him welcome now.
E'en want will dry its tears in mirth
And crown Him wi'a holly bough.
Though tramping 'neath a winter sky
O'er snow track paths and rimey stiles.
Neighbours resume their annual cheer,
Wishing wi'smiles and spirits high
Glad Christmas and a Happy Year.

John Clare (1793—1864)

Berries, such as hawthorn and holly, are a natural food for birds, especially in the winter. During harsh weather, birds are forced to rely on berries when their normal food supply is locked in the frozen ground. Well stocked bird-feeders are lifesavers.

Small birds, like the tit family love to be acrobatic on the nut-feeder or half coconut. Most birds will come to bird-tables for table scraps such as cooked bacon rinds, shredded suet, bread crumbs and diced cheese. Chaffinches and dunnocks feed on the crumbs beneath the tables.

Remember though, not to put out too much at any one time; it may go bad and spread disease amongst the birds such as Green finches. The rule is "little and often" if you can manage it. Fallen fruit, rotting on the ground, is welcomed by blackbirds, thrushes and wintering fieldfares and redwings.

During the freezing winter days it is important that bird-baths are kept free from ice. Birds always need drinking water but they also like to bathe in frosty weather to maintain their plumage in peak condition so as to stay warm.

During November a Barn Owl, in full flight, was seen at the top end of Upton Lane.

The village shop has a good supply of bird food, feed-balls, mixed seed, niger seed and nuts.

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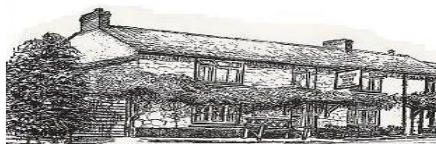
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SOUTH SOMERSET RSPB LOCAL GROUP

‘THE REAL WILD AND SEALS ON THE ORKNEY ISLANDS’

An illustrated talk presented by Chris Sperring, a well-known naturalist working in the South West. He is renowned for his ‘owl’ talks but on this occasion we are off to the Orkney Islands for what, we are sure, will be an entertaining presentation.

Thursday 17th January – 7.30pm – The Millennium Hall, Seavington St. Mary
Entry: group members £2.50, non-group members £3.50, under 18’s free.
(tea/coffee & biscuits included) Wheelchair access.

NON-MEMBERS VERY WELCOME

For further details contact: Denise Chamings (Group Leader) on 01460 240740
www.rspb.org.uk/groups/southsomerset

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



Coming Soon to The Warehouse Theatre Ilminster!

6th to 9th February 2013

KNIGHTS IN PLASTIC ARMOUR - Ilminster Entertainments Society present this first-class comedy written by Robert Shearman, best known as a writer for Doctor Who. Set in today's time, it revolves around six people preparing to re-enact battles fought during the Wars of the Roses. Directed by Gordon Neagle.

20th to 23rd March 2013

GOD OF CARNAGE - Ilminster Entertainments Society present this highly acclaimed play written by Yasmina Reza in which parents meet in a civilised manner to discuss their children and the evening degenerates into chaos. Directed by Philip Wells.

**Tickets available from Lanes Garden Shop, Ilminster
or call 07943 779880**

The Warehouse Theatre has seating for up to 155 people, a fully licensed bar, coffee area, disabled access and T-loop hearing system.

www.thewarehousetheatre.org.uk

“Sing-A-Long-A-Carol”

Please join Carol, Manda and Annie on Tuesday 18th or Saturday 22nd December (or brave both days!!)

Or Join us when you hear us!!

We will be ‘carolling around the Seavingtons and ending each time at the Volunteer for hot drinks and snacks.

Starting at the Millennium Hall at 6.30 p.m. for approximately 2 hours. For more information please ring Annie on 01460 241762 (answerphone).

In Aid of Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance

Boxing Day Walkies

Saturday 29th 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, lasagne and a vegetarian dish to choose from at “High Noon”?

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

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

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

In aid of St Michael’s Church Trust

Somerset Wildlife Trust's Barn Owl appeal

Earlier in the year Somerset residents were asked to help protect one of the counties most iconic species, this winter, with the launch of Somerset Wildlife Trust's barn owl appeal. The launch of the appeal marks the half-way point in the Trust's ambitious project to get a barn owl nest box in every parish of the county.

Thanks to the help of more than 500 volunteers, half of the project's 335 nest boxes are built, and being put in place by local communities. Seavington is amongst the parishes that has already installed its nest box at Manor Farm, appropriately on the gable end of a large barn.

The project has also seen more than 1,000 children learning about barn owl conservation, including pupils at North Town School in Taunton and Chilton Cantelo School, near **Yeovil**, who last week received a visit from Beau the Barn Owl and Chris Sperring MBE, Conservation Officer for the Hawk and Owl Trust and Vice President of Somerset Wildlife Trust.

As the three-year project enters its first winter the Trust has launched an appeal to raise £30,000 to support the Somerset Community Barn Owl Project over the next two years. Somerset Wildlife Trust's Project Manager Jessy Emery explains: "Winter can be a tough time for a lot of wildlife, not least the barn owl whose numbers can plummet during harsh weather. Extreme winters in the 1940s and 1960s wiped out over half the UK population and barn owls have struggled to recover ever since. More than 80 per cent of barn owls now nest and raise their young in man-made boxes like the ones going up in every parish of Somerset."

The project is a collaboration with the Hawk and Owl Trust, and all the farmers and landowners who are hosting parish boxes have received a visit and advice on habitat creation from Chris Sperring. The project has been supported with funds from Viridor Credits Environmental Company, and donations from local people will provide vital match funding.

Recent records indicate that there are currently just 200 breeding pairs

in Somerset, and their population in the UK has dropped by as much as 70% since the 1930s. The project aims to address this decline by providing nest sites and creating more rough, grassland hunting habitat. In October the project celebrated its first breeding success with four baby owlets photographed on the sill of a nest box which went up at a Viridor landfill site, near Puriton, in Sedgemoor. With so many boxes already in place the Trust wants to start a comprehensive monitoring and recording programme next spring.

The Somerset Community Barn Owl Project addresses two key causes of decline: Loss of traditional nesting sites within farm buildings and tree cavities and; loss of long, rough, grassland hunting habitat, due to intensification of agriculture. The total cost of the project when it finishes in autumn 2014 will be over £140,000. The Trust has already raised £110,000 through Viridor Credits Environmental Company; a charity that distributes money from the Landfill Communities Fund , individual donations and by volunteers giving their time for free – but it needs to raise another £30,000 to be able to complete the project. Visit www.somersetwildlife.org/barnowl

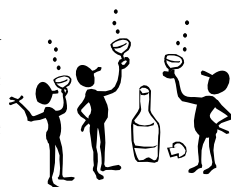


Monday 28th January
at 7.00 pm
in the Village Café



Introduction to Wine Tasting
With
David Chapman

Learn what to look for in a good wine. Sample a few wines. Explore the idea of setting up our own wine club! It will be fun!



Children's Hospice South West

New Year's Eve Dance & Party

Seavington Millennium Hall

31st December 2012

**Live 3 piece band
(not loud music)**

No bar: Bring your own; free tea & coffee

Tickets £9 from Carol Rogers: 01935 881510

Everyone welcome... dance, sit, enjoy the music

The Seavingtons' Weather in November 2012

This year—2012

Previous year—2011

Temperature

Average Minimum	4.50°C	9.75°C
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Average Maximum	10.61°C	16.82°C
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Mean	7.56°C	12.99°C
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Rainfall

Monthly Total	175.0mm (7.00")	51.5mm (2.06")
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Yearly Total (to date)	1041.1mm (41.66")	434.3mm (17.37")
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Believe it or not, this, just past, November was not the wettest November in living memory—in November 2009 we had 185.2mm but, in November 2004 we had only 28.1mm! Further, we had only 35.1mm in the first 18 days of the month with 146.9mm falling during the final 12 days.



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