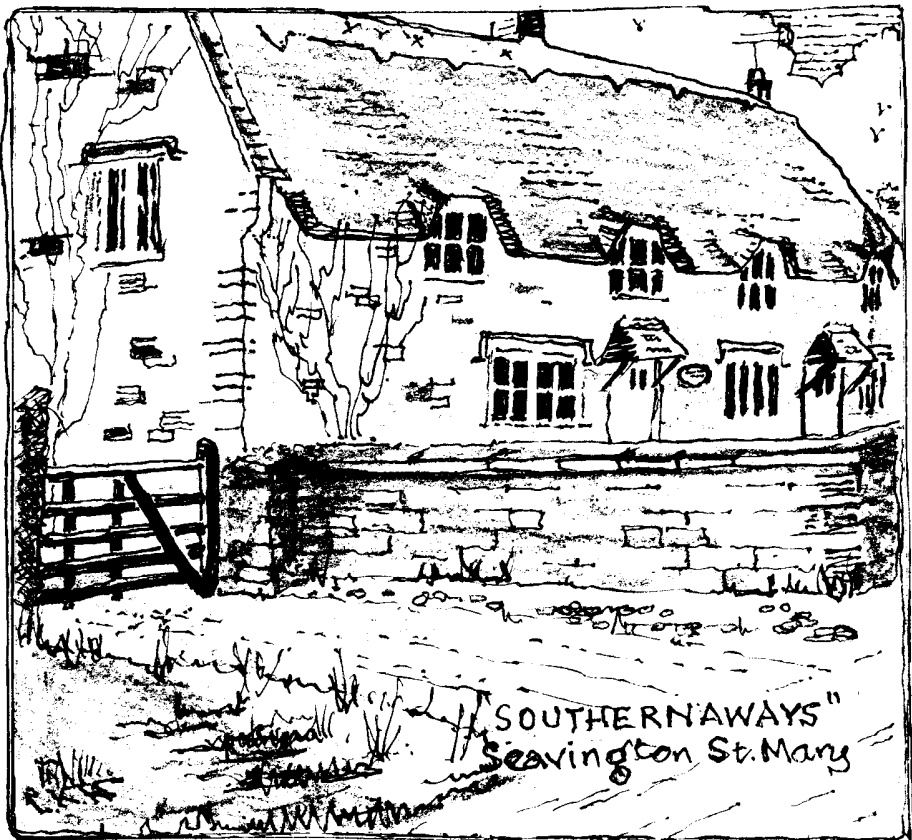


THE SEAVINGTONS' NEWS

July 2012



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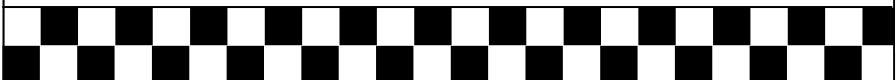
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The Seavingtons' News

What a memorable and enjoyable holiday weekend! With this issue of The Seavingtons' News you will receive a sixteen page colour souvenir of the Seavingtons' celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of the accession to the throne of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

Our villages' ad hoc committee, meeting in The Volunteer since the end of last year, created four days that offered something for everyone. Further, we all entered the spirit of the moment and participated—over 60 scarecrows, 12 box carts and full support for the other activities showed that we are a community that cares.

On behalf of us all may I offer our thanks to the members of the celebrations committee for their work over the past months and congratulate them on a job very well done?

May I suggest that the constructive spirit of their contributions to our community should act as an inspiration to each of the rest of us to consider supporting our community with the same dedication? A few hours a week supporting the SPFA, Millennium Hall, Community Shop or your favourite club could make all the difference. Perhaps I should draw your attention to the Parish Council's note on page 28 of this issue which offers an immediate opportunity.

In the meantime, I repeat our thanks to members of the Jubilee Committee and wish you all a splendid summer; perhaps you could consider reconvening to offer us more next year.

David Froome

DON'T FORGET

The Newspaper Skip!

**pm Friday 13th July
until am Monday 16th July**

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

is the 15th July

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—July 2012

All events, unless otherwise shown, are held in the Millennium Hall
Temporarily, for bookings call Elaine Edwards on 01460 241601
For other Millennium Hall matters call Peter Ashley on 01460 240353

28 June	7.30 pm	“The Beekeeper and the Bee” illustrated talk by Kate Lynch—p 5
2 July	6.30 pm	NADFAS talk “Medieval Masterpieces” by the Rt Rev Christopher Herbert—p 6
5 July	7.30 pm	Seavington Playing Field Association Annual General Meeting
12 July	7.00 pm	Gardening Club visit to Southmeade, Seavington—p 16
14 July	Midday	Lunchtime Birthday Barbeque at Village Store & Café—p 17
14 July	7.00 pm	Seavington Hunt Kennels Open Evening at The Kennels—p 24
2 August	7.30 pm	“Ham Hill: Recent Excavations” talk by Niall Sharples, Excavation Director—p 18

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

1st July	11.15 am Holy Communion
8th July	8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
8th July	11.15 am Family Service
15th July	11.15 am Holy Communion
22nd July	11.15 am Matins
29th July	11.15 am Holy Communion

Rev D Fyfe telephone: 01460 241977

The Seavingtons' News Team

Editorial: David Froome, Advertising: Heather Scott

Production: David & Wendy Eliot & Anne Kinch

Technical & web-site support: Eugene Mulligan

Graphics & Visual Support: George Brown

Village web-site: www.theseavingtons.org

Contributions 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.

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A Farmer's Diary

Farm Boy

We sure do live in a wonderful part of the World, just three weeks ago after a wet and cold April I closed my Seavingtons' News contribution by saying "I hope by the time you read my comments spring will have truly arrived and that our dairy cows would be comfortable out in the fields by day and night."

When I arrived at the farm Sunday May 20th I was delighted to discover the cows had stayed out in the fields overnight, this made it far better for us all. Yes, spring had arrived!

Sunday May 27th just a week later spring had gone and summer is here. I confess I cannot recall another spring quite like this. Nor can I remember such a sudden massive leap in the growth rate of the hedgerows and crops in the fields, the mild winter and warm spell during March must have warmed the soil.

First cut grass silage making is now well underway, mown fields have already been quickly cleared on the outskirts of our villages, and by the time you read this they should be green again with advancing new growth.

As you will have gathered the main part of my involvement on the farm these days is limited to helping out on Sunday mornings.

I had very little routine yard work to do this week, which coincided with John wanting to go and cut more grass for silage, one of the areas he was to mow was separated by an electric fence line from some winter sown wheat, so I used the farm Land Rover to go ahead and remove the fence to make sure it did not get caught up in the machinery.

I was surprised to see that the ryegrass was already in flower and even more when I saw the first of the ears of wheat were starting to appear beneath the flag leaf.

This area of our farm is heavy clay and very different to the type of sandy soil we enjoy here at Seavington, so the crops are still showing some signs of the check brought about by the cold wet April, but I have seen them look far worse after a long wet winter.

More joy, whilst at the farm I caught the sound of a cuckoo, which brought back memories of my childhood during World War two when they were a far more common visitor.

The Bee-keeper & the Bee

An illustrated talk by Somerset Artist Kate Lynch
Seavington Millennium Hall, Thursday June 28th 7.30 pm
(doors open 7.00 pm)

Kate will speak about her latest rural art project, the paintings, drawings and first-hand accounts of the bee-keepers' year collected during the project, culminating in an exhibition at the Rural Life Museum and a book containing 40 paintings and drawings.

Relax afterwards with a free drink and talk to Kate, who will be available to sign books bought on the night. This is a fabulous chance to talk to the artist. The exhibition of the work is at the Rural Life Museum in Glastonbury and opens on June 16th.

Tickets £7.50 (U16s £5) available from June 4th at Seavington Village Store; N & D News, South Petherton; or from Jo Mills (01460) 241886

Seavington Millennium Hall

Has vacancies for:

1. ***Cleaner*** – wages £7.00 per hour with minimum of 7 hours per week. (Hours will be dependent on the number of bookings.)
2. ***Booking Clerk/Key Holder*** – wage to be negotiated

(These posts could be amalgamated)

Closing date – Thursday 19th July.

Please apply, in writing, to:

Peter Ashley, Caravelle, Upton Lane, Seavington St Mary, TA19 0PZ

New Rector for South Petherton with the Seavingtons

Manda Jagers (01460 240554) and Carol Talbot (01460 241478).

We are delighted to inform you that the Archbishop of Canterbury has approved the appointment of Rev Tom Handy to the post of Rector of our parish. Tom currently lives in Shepton Mallet and will be moving to the Rectory in South Petherton in August, with his wife, Becky, and their two young children.

Some of you will have met Tom in May when he spent time in Seavington preparing for his interview. He says he likes real ale and good coffee, so he will be well catered for in our village. His Service of Induction will be in early September and we are sure he and his family will be warmly welcomed to the parish.

Neroche DFAS

Peter Hill (01460 67779)

Medieval Masterpiece – The Hotel Dieu at Beaune by the Rt. Rev. Christopher Herbert

Monday 2nd July 2012 at 7.15pm
Millennium Hall, Water Street, Seavington St Mary

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PLEASE NOTE This lecture will be preceded by a wine reception and the Young Arts presentation. Doors open at 6.30pm.

Visitors welcome. Admission £3 (first two visits only). For more information see www.nerochedfas.org.uk



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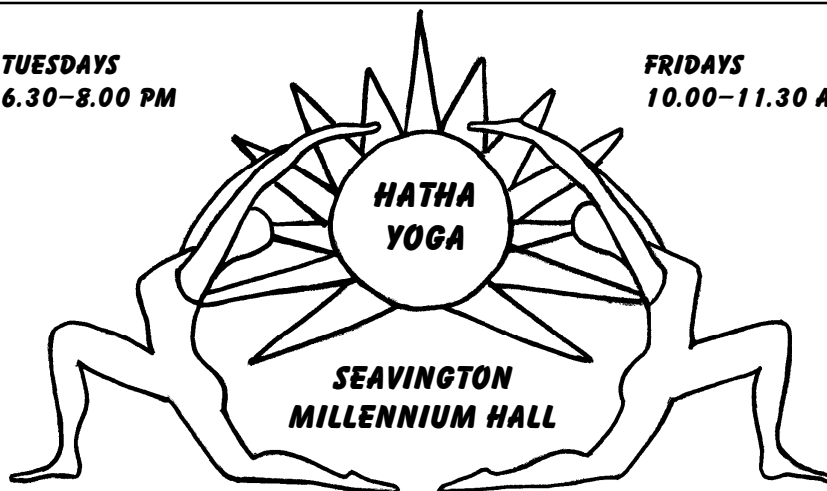
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Sponsors of The Jubilee Weekend

The organising committee for the Jubilee weekend celebrations wish to thank:

Branstons	Donation of children's Rides for play area
Norman Reyland	Commemorative Mugs for village children
Ash Bros	Craft Marquee – Hire of Marquee and all prizes
N T Engineering	Skittle Board – Hire of Board and prizes
Dillington Estate	Scarecrows - prizes

The organisers would also like to thank:-

Bonnings Transport	Trailers for the Caravan Concert Band
Wishing Well Cup Cakes	Carrot cake made for Sunday Tea
Joy Madge, Janice Ash	
Sheila Reyland	Bunting that was displayed in the village
Gill and Brian Lawrence	Supplying and making the Jubilee Rosettes
The Breadmakers	Bread supplied for Quiz evening
Simon and Fiona Madge	Quiz Evening Cheese & site for Beacon
Classic Car owners	Display on the Playing Field on Saturday
Wyvern Jubilee Morris Men	For entertainment
Ken Osborne	For acting as official photographer

The numerous people who donated prizes for the Grand Draw

A big thank you must also go to the Caravan Club Concert Band who made the weekend a truly memorable event.

Diamond Jubilee Commemorative Mugs

The original order purchased has sold out but the mugs can still be obtained. If you would like to order any (at a cost of £6.55 each) can you please do so through the Community Shop or The Volunteer or by phoning Pauline Parsons (01460 240193).

Monies will have to be paid when ordering. We will need a minimum order of 36 to be able to do this.

Diamond Jubilee Box Cart Race

Nick Loxton

The idea of the Seavington Diamond Jubilee Boxcar race came initially from a casual conversation while propping up the bar in the Volunteer. Ruth mentioned something about a pram race that had been held some years before, I recalled that during this year's Jubilee celebrations Her Majesty was going to lead a flotilla of various nautical craft along the Thames in London, we had our own stretch of water here in Seavington aka *Water Street* and so the concept of a maritime boxcar race was born.

Fairly soon it was obvious that a race as such was tempting fate, as the bottom of Upton Lane was certainly not wide enough for many competitors abreast! So then it was decided on a two-stage timed trial, first stage down Upton Lane, an orderly supervised crossing of New Road, and then the second leg timed to the chequered flag at the bottom of Water Street where it meets Meade Lane. To be honest the idea of the final head to head of the three fastest overall came to the Organisers as they were conducting the briefing on the day of the race!

Award categories and their Prizes Winners were as follows:-

Fastest overall Time Andrew and Luke Harker with “**F4RANKY**”

Best Looking Entry Sally and Steve Gilbert/Whitehead with “**Family Affair**”

Most Innovative Entry Matt Manders and Pete with “**Rafters**” aka “**PALLET on WHEELS**”!!!!

Village Memorabilia

Pauline Parsons (01460 240193)

On clearing out the Millennium Hall in readiness for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations the SPFA found the old photographs of the Silver Jubilee celebrations, that had been in the Old Pavilion but have not found anything, apart from a programme, in connection with the Golden Jubilee, the opening of the Jubilee play areas and also the opening of the Millennium Hall. It has been agreed that a selection of photographs etc, should be hung in the Millennium Hall so if you have anything that may be of interest please bring it to the Playing Fields AGM or contact a member of the Committee. Many thanks.

The Caravan Club Concert Band

Sally Gough

As you know, The Caravan Club Concert Band came to Seavington for the Jubilee celebrations weekend. The band came to Seavington in 2010 and we were the first choice for a new venue after its Jubilee venue became flooded.

A Concert Band is the same as a Military Band with both Woodwind and Brass Instruments as well as a full percussion section.

Formed in 1993 as The Musicmakers, the Caravan Club Concert Band has grown in strength and numbers over the years. It now numbers well over 100 musicians from all over the country, with members travelling from north of Glasgow and from the Channel Islands to play with the band. Not everyone is able to get to every event but we can usually get a viable band together. (In Seavington, we were lucky to be able to persuade a couple of orchestral colleagues to help us out in the flute and trumpet sections). Currently, ages range from pre-teens to late seventies and the band actively encourages its younger members with book tokens and congratulations cards when they pass an Associated Board Grade Exam in their band instrument.

With three rehearsal weekends every year, usually in a central location with a school or village hall in which to rehearse, the band puts together a programme of music which is then performed at the National Caravan Club Rally and various events throughout the summer. The Proms Night at the National Rally is usually a sell-out event with 1000+ tickets sold. Although the Caravan Club gives financial support to the band to purchase music etc., members pay the same as everyone else to attend rallies, and travel to rehearsal weekends and rallies at their own expense. Our music ranges from Military marches and arrangements of Classical favourites to film music and pop.

The original Musical Director was an ex-Military Bandmaster, Brian Smith, then more recently Brian Newland conducted the band and we made two CDs, before the baton was taken over by Chris Moore from Doncaster in 2010. He is a professional musician, conductor and teacher and the band continues to grow and develop under his leadership.

Over the last two years, the band has held holiday rallies in Seavington in 2010 and in West Bergholt, Colchester in 2011. Playing for Lifeboat Week in Lyme Regis, the CLIC day at Henstridge and for the West Bergholt Vintage Vehicle Show, we have raised several thousand pounds for charities including Macmillan, Breast Cancer, Guide Dogs for the Blind, RNLI, CLIC and Help for Heroes. This has enabled us to fulfil our role in promoting The Caravan Club to a wider audience.

Seavington Gardening Club

Secretary: Ry Coffman – 01460 240004 ry.coffman@virgin.net

Visit on 14 June – Frankham Farm, Ryme Intrinseca, Dorset

The weather forecast was dire, the grey clouds gathering, but we just managed to look round the beautiful gardens at Frankham Farm before the real deluge began! The gardens at Frankham Farm were the project of Jo Earle who died in 2007. The Earle family arrived at the farm in 1959 and have developed the garden from scratch. Over the past 50 plus years a very significant garden has been planted along with a wonderful selection of specimen trees, leaving the open paddock view in the front of the house. They have also grown many of their trees and shrubs from seed, creating shelter belts to frame the gardens. Mr Earle is very elderly now and his gardener Andy, who has worked for him for 52 years, first on the farm and now in the garden, showed us round. The plants and trees are all carefully labelled which was much appreciated by members. The garden is open again on the 24th June and hopefully some will return to look around the garden again in better circumstances! A really wonderful garden to look round and there are also plants for sale.

Afterwards members from Over Stratton Gardening Club who joined Seavington members for this visit enjoyed a buffet at the White Hart in Yetminster as the rain moved in.

Jubilee Weekend: The Gardening Club made over £70 at their plant stall at the Jubilee Fête and would like to thank everyone for their support.

Visit: 7.00pm 12 July – South Meade, Seavington St Michael – Robin and Charo Ritchie.

Gardening Club members Robin and Charo, who have had their garden open for the NGS in June, are opening it to members of Over Stratton and Seavington Clubs for the evening. £4 entry. Refreshments will be provided. Names to Ry by 6 July.

Coach trip to RHS Wisley: The Club will be running a coach trip to the RHS Wisley Flower Show on Sunday 9th September which we will open up to other local clubs. The trip is on the Sunday to take advantage of the plant sell-off at 4.30pm. The cost will be £21.50 per person to include coach trip and entrance. Please contact Ry with names if you wish to go; money will be collected nearer the time.

Over the Counter:

News from The Seavingtons Community Shop & Cafe

Compiled by Laura Gowers and various volunteers!

I hope you all enjoyed the Jubilee weekend. It was a bumper weekend for us and with the Caravan Club Band staying in the village and with a village garden open as part of the National Garden Scheme, the café did a roaring trade. Thank you to everyone who worked extra shifts in the shop and café to allow us to stay open that little bit longer.

We plan to open the shop and café on Sunday mornings, starting on Sunday 1st July from 9am – 12 noon. Why not pop down and collect your Sunday paper and have a coffee and croissant. We won't be serving full breakfasts on these days, just a selection of pastries to soak up your coffee or tea. If you would like a Sunday paper we will be taking orders - just ring the shop.

Community shops across the country will be celebrating during the first ever Community Shops Fortnight from Saturday 23rd June – Saturday 7th July 2012.

277 rural communities around the UK have rallied round and saved or re-opened their village shop and in an economic climate that sees 400 commercial village shops per year close, this is worth celebrating.

Community Shops Fortnight marks the hard work, commitment and pride that ensures a community shop succeeds.

Saturday 14th July is our shop's second birthday. It is slightly outside the Community Shops Fortnight, but we plan to have a BBQ at lunchtime on that Saturday to celebrate. Keep an eye out for notices confirming the times and join us to celebrate our shop and café.

One last thing, we have planned an Indian meal (kindly being cooked for us by a willing volunteer) on Thursday 5th July. Unfortunately this clashes with the SPFA AGM so we have postponed the Indian meal. At the time of writing we haven't got a re-arranged date, so again, keep an eye on the notice board in the shop and around the village.

Have a good month and we hope to see you in the shop or café soon.

Seavington Playing Field Association

Annual General Meeting

(for the year ending 31st March 2012)

Thursday 5th July 2012

At 7.30 pm in The Millennium Hall

The SPFA desperately need more Members on the Committee so would anyone prepared to join the Committee please submit their names to: Mr P Ashley, Chairman, Caravelle, Upton Lane, Seavington, TA19 0PZ

By Wednesday 13th June 2012

Also, would Village Organisations please submit the name of their nominated representative to serve on the SPFA Committee for the next year to Mr Ashley, as above.

Ham Hill: recent excavations

An illustrated talk by Excavation Director Niall Sharples,
(Head of History & Archaeology at Cardiff University)

at

**Seavington Millennium Hall, Thursday August 2nd
7.30pm (doors open 7.00pm)**

Niall is a well-respected archaeologist with extensive experience in excavation and research into Britain's Iron Age. He will talk about Ham Hill in its widest context and the latest news from the 3 year excavation project being run by Cardiff and Cambridge Universities

Relax afterwards with a drink, talk to the speaker and see some of the recent finds.

Tickets £5 (U16s £3) available from Seavington Store;
N&D News, South Petherton; or from Jo Mills (01460) 241886



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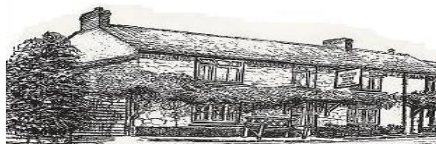
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Village Voice—letters to the editor

The Seavingtons' News wants to hear and publish your views on both the "News" itself and topics of importance or interest to our community. Please send your letters to the address on page 1. All opinions and views expressed are the sole responsibility of the writer and do not reflect the views of The Seavingtons' News. For legal reasons we must have the name and address of the writer but can normally publish over a pseudonym on request.

Dear Editor,

I am writing on behalf of the Caravan Club Concert Band to thank everyone in the village, and especially the Volunteers in the shop and café who made us all so welcome over the Jubilee Weekend. It was great to have the shop and café open daily and I hope that the rest of the village also benefitted from the extended opening hours.

Thanks are also due to The Seavingtons' Playing Fields Association for the use of the Millennium Hall and Playing Fields and to Bonnings Transport for the use of the trailers for the Street Party (and potentially for the Proms in the car Park).

We all thoroughly enjoyed being part of the village celebrations in spite of the poor weather and the fact that the Proms in the car Park had to be relocated to the Millennium Hall. Nevertheless, the retiring collection for Macmillan Cancer Support raised £369+, a very respectable sum.

Thanks again,

Chris and Sally Gough

Dear Editor,

As occasional residents in Seavington we felt fortunate to join the village Jubilee celebrations on Sunday and Monday. Congratulations to Pauline and the committee, the CC Concert Band and to all who had any part in the organisation.

The Community Lunch and Quiz were the highlights for us and the creative flair shown by the scarecrows and boxcars was brilliant. And thanks to the volunteers for keeping the shop open.
A weekend to remember; well done Seavingtons!

John & Jane Henson

Dear Editor,

Congratulations to everyone who put so much time, effort and originality into celebrating the Diamond Jubilee in the Seavingtons, from static scarecrows to moving box-carts. Moreover, as we remember from the Golden Jubilee, it is the organisers who 'bear the heat and burden of the day'; they deserve a big, big Thank You from us all for arranging such an enjoyable & successful programme of events, despite the dodgy weather.

David & Wendy Eliot

Dear Editor,

I would just like to say a massive 'thank you' to the hardworking committee members who organised such a fantastic Jubilee Celebration for the Seavingtons. Although a bout of chicken pox hindered some of our attendance, events we did manage to get to were great and really encapsulated the spirit of the celebration.

Thank you,
Janine Lewis

Dear Editor,

As a "responsible dog owner" I too am somewhat dismayed by the amount of dog faeces around the village. The bottom of Easterdown Hill is a particular black (or should I say brown?) spot despite the fact that there is a bin provided at the entrance to Dark Lane. It may be outside the 30mph limit but it is still a road used by adults and children on foot and by bicycle. I am concerned that the irresponsible actions of a few will lead to the rest of us having nowhere to exercise our dogs off the lead.

The Playing Fields Association, (rightly, in my view), has argued that dog owners have as much right to use the Playing Field as anyone else, **providing they act responsibly and clean up** but others feel that, with all the countryside around, people shouldn't need to exercise their dogs on the Playing Field. SPFA relies on income from football and, if there is dog faeces on the pitch, the referee can call the game off (with a loss of revenue for SPFA).

Now notices have gone up asking people to keep their dogs on leads in fields where crops are grown for animal feed. I must admit that I read the article in the Western Gazette last year about cows aborting calves because of a new toxin in dog faeces with some incredulity. Unfortunately, it appeared on April 1st and I must admit that, at first, I thought it was an April Fool! I took the trouble to look it up on the Internet and found it to be true. If, as responsible owners, we worm and flea/tick treat regularly and clean up after

our dogs, the risk is presumably minimal? What about wildlife? Is their faeces free of this toxin?

I am sure I am not the only one who is a little confused here and perhaps it would be useful for the Parish Council and/or the Playing Fields Association to arrange a meeting and invite all dog owners in the village so that the health risks to animals and humans can be properly understood and any questions answered. It's likely that, (as teachers always say with parent's evenings), the ones you really need to talk to won't be there but at least the rest of us would understand the issues...

Sally Gough

Dear Editor

I have read the correspondence in the last two editions and feel it has all been very one sided and would like to redress the balance on behalf of the considerate dog owners.

All of us either human or animal needs regular exercise, which is more than just strolling round the garden. Considerate dog owners will walk their dogs at least once a day, often keeping them on a lead when walking along the roads. However best exercise is free running and what dog is not pleased after chasing a rabbit, pheasant or deer (but not cows or sheep). They never catch them but the best exercise comes from the chase. Unfortunately most dogs are unable to read or speak so they do not keep precisely to the footpaths. Their owners should keep to the footpaths and will call their dog back under control. When the dog is close by the owner will bag any deposits but when the dog is away it is not possible to see if anything has been deposited. Some may say that this means dogs should never be off the lead, but how cruel would that be?

I agree that all dog mess should be picked up and deposited in bins. There are several bins around the Playing Field but how many are there in St Michael, are there any? We have raised this subject with the Parish Council but I have not seen any change. About 15 dogs are resident along School Lane and our nearest dog poo bin is at the Playing Fields. It is not very pleasant having a chat with somebody who is holding a very smelly bag while on a dog walk. Can we get these bins more evenly distributed?

Finally it is not just dogs and their poo that should worry us, what about badgers and cats. Cats go into garden and leave a horrible mess. What does slurry contain?

I am not looking to prolong this debate, just want to make it a more balanced one.

Nigel Key

July 2012

A Message from your Parish Council

Pauline Parsons (01460 240193)

Over recent months the Parish Council has become concerned that the Playing Field Association has been struggling to manage two important facilities in the village. The Millennium Hall and the Playing Field and play equipment.

On reviewing Parish Council spending at the end of the financial year it was clear that the cutting of the Playing Field grass amounted to a quarter of the annual precept – which is your money - (some £2,500 excluding VAT which the Parish Council can reclaim.) The SPFA have taken steps to find the most competitive tender and costs have been slightly reduced as the field was not cut during the winter months. Without Parish Council support the field would not be cut as the SPFA do not raise sufficient funds to cover this. The Millennium Hall is not supported by the Parish Council as we feel that this should be self sufficient.

There is now an opportunity for you to become involved with the SPFA by attending the AGM which will be held on **Thursday 5th July at 7.30pm in the Millennium Hall**. PLEASE TRY AND ATTEND THE MEETING AND ALSO GIVE SERIOUS THOUGHT TO JOINING THE SPFA COMMITTEE. An idea has been expressed that the committee could be split into two – one managing the Hall and the other the Playing Field so it may not be as onerous as you think.

The Seavingtons' Weather in May 2012

This year—2012

Previous year—2011

Temperature

Average Minimum	6.92°C	7.19°C
Average Maximum	17.87°C	16.80°C
Mean	12.40°C	12.00°C

Rainfall

Monthly Total	45.0mm (1.80")	33.0mm (1.32")
Yearly Total (to date)	273.8mm (10.95")	190.6mm (7.62")



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