

THE SEAVINGTONS' NEWS

January 2012





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: 1st—4th February
An IES production, directed by Bryan Hallet

Blithe Spirit by Noel Coward: March 28th – 31st 2012
An IES production directed by Scott Waldie

All performances begin at 7.30 pm

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

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

As I sit at my desk the pile of back copies of our village magazine tells me that I have now been editor for seven years. Whilst that seems a long time it has passed in a flash and has been very enjoyable—often giving me an insight into village life and the occasional scandal, that is not always recorded in print, that I would not otherwise have had.

A recent family illness has however brought home to me the magazine's vulnerability through having only a single editor; there was very nearly no Christmas issue!

For this reason I feel that it is timely to find someone to partner me as co-editor to both ensure continuity and, hopefully, to bring some new ideas and breathe some extra liveliness into our monthly package.

Such a person needs only simple computer skills, we would provide the software to match mine and we have excellent technical back-up for when our computers don't behave as they should. May I ask you all to ponder this and get in touch with any questions?

It is also worth reminding you that we are not the "Church Magazine" as some folk think, although we try and keep our readers informed on church activities. There is an excellent church magazine—you should contact Annie Prichard on 01460 241762 if you would like to subscribe.

It just remains for me to wish you all a happy and prosperous 2012—don't let the national and international news get you down!

David Froome

DON'T FORGET

The Newspaper Skip!

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

**The Latest Copy Date
for the January 2012 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 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

- 27th December too early! Put out wheelie bins and recycling bins
- 27th December 10.30 am Boxing Day Walkies—see p 7
- 3rd January too early! Put out recycling bins
- 6th January 8.30 am Village Store Christmas “Clear Out” sale -
see p7
- 9th January 2.00 pm NADFAS “The Ancient Olympic Games
and True Olympic Spirit” talk by Andrew
Kershaw—see p 6
- 19th January 7.30 pm RSPG Group “Five go off to The Gambia”
talk by Lynn and Steve Osborne—see p 24

Regular Activities

- Every Monday 6.30pm Young People’s Group—all ages
- 1st Saturday 9.00 am—
2.00 pm St Michael’s Church Seavington Trust Book Sale
at 2, Winchester Cottages (opposite The
Volunteer)
- 3rd Wednesday 10.00am “GET2GETHER” Group in Village Café
- Tuesday 9.30 am Toddlers group (temporarily suspended see p 6)
- 2nd 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 January	11.15 am Holy Communion
8th January	8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
8th January	11.15 am Family Service
15th January	11.15 am Holy Communion
22nd January	11.15 am Matins
29th January	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

Village Waste Paper Collection

Heather Scott (01460 241437)

Many thanks to everyone in the villages for bringing your waste paper and cardboard to the skip on the second full weekend of each month. The skip dates for 2012 are given in the Seavingtons' Year Book in the centre of this issue of The Seavingtons' News.

In November I noticed a family walking to the skip with a wheelbarrow stacked high with cardboard and paper. This must have contributed a lot to the 2,480 Kg we collected that month.

The waste paper collection not only allows you to receive this monthly village magazine free of charge but allows us to make occasional small grants to village organisations.

Please remember to get in touch if you need help to get your paper and cardboard to the skip.

Thank you again; Best wishes to everyone for the New Year!

Neroche DFAS Christmas meeting

Peter Hill (01460 67779 peter@polscribe.co.uk)

Two talented young musicians entertained an audience of around 100 at the Seavington Millennium Hall on Monday night with a programme of lively folk music and dances, interspersed with a touch of Mozart. Anne Allen on the flute and Sarah Freestone on the guitar provided a programme that mixed the rhythms of the Argentinian tango –works by Piazzolla and Pujol – with a suite by Togobitsky, and Roumanian Dances by Bartok.

The music was at times light and delicate, at other times lyrical, and Anne on the flute or piccolo skilfully matched the speed of some of the dances. For the encore Sarah's guitar came into its own with a strong flamenco beat.

Members, reinforced with a pre-concert Christmas drink and delicious finger-food, were in a mellow mood. This live music was a departure from the usual programme of cultural talks and lectures enjoyed by the society, but for many was a welcome innovation.

Family Service Sunday 8th January 2012 11.15 at St Michael's Church, Seavington

Manda Jagers (01460 240554) & Carol Talbot (01460 241478)

The next family service at St Michael's Church will be in January, when we will be celebrating Epiphany. If you would like to make a crown or dress up as a king or wise man, it would be lovely. And, if Father Christmas brings you any lovely new toys or gifts, perhaps you would like to bring one of your old ones as a gift, which we could give to people who aren't as lucky as us (or you could bring dog or cat food or toys for animals in one of the local rescue centres?)

Here is a quiz about Epiphany, bring along your answers to the family service in January – and remember to bring your family and friends, and stay for a drink and snack afterwards, to catch up on everyone's news. Hope to see you there!

Quiz

- 1 What made the wise men start their journey?
- 2 Who did they give presents to?
- 3 What were the presents?
- 4 How many wise men were there?
- 5 Why did they bring gold?
- 6 Why did they bring frankincense?
- 7 Why did they bring myrrh?
- 8 Which Old Testament prophet told that something great like this would happen?
- 9 What does the Greek word Epiphany mean?
- 10 How can a star lead you to a house in a town?
- 11 What did the wise men do when they got home?

Remember to bring your answers with you on 8th January!

Happy Christmas!

Seavington Toddler Group

Janine Lewis (01460 242884)

Toddlers get older and go to school! The Seavington Toddlers Group has been meeting in the Millennium Hall on Tuesdays during school term from 1pm until 3pm and providing an opportunity to meet other local Mums and for toddlers and babies to meet and play.

However, this generation of toddlers has grown up and gone to school. This means that there is a host of super toddler toys and games at the Millennium Hall just aching to be used by the next generation of toddlers.

Will any Mums interested in using these superb facilities please contact me, Janine Lewis (01460 242884), to find out all about it?

Neroche DFAS

Peter Hill (01460 67779)

The Ancient Olympic Games and the True Olympic Spirit

A talk by Steve Kershaw

Monday 9th January 2.00 p.m.
Seavington Millennium Hall, Water Street, Seavington

Dr Kershaw is a former Oxford Classics tutor, and has travelled as guest speaker on Swan Hellenic Cruises for many years.

In this important Olympic year, Dr Kershaw will look at the religious aspects of the ancient Olympics, at the concept of 'sport', and at athletics as an inspiration for artists. He will talk about the mythical and historical origins of the games, and cover the main athletic events of the ancient festival. His talk will include video and ancient Greek music. He has unrivalled knowledge of this period, having travelled extensively in Greece and edited what is now the *Penguin Dictionary of Classical Mythology*. He has also written brief guides to classical civilisation, and some of his former students have become Olympians themselves.

Non-members welcome for a charge of £3

Over the Counter:

News from The Seavingtons Community Shop & Cafe

Compiled by Laura Gowers and various volunteers!

How can it be Christmas already?

I hope you all have your trees up, lights lit, presents purchased, stockings hanging by the fire and cupboards stocked with Christmas goodies.

However, if you suddenly realise that you've forgotten the goose fat, cranberry jelly or a gift for the long lost relative suddenly appearing on your doorstep – don't forget that we're open Christmas Eve. In the last "Over the Counter" we put an incorrect closing time for Christmas Eve. Please note that we will close the shop at **1pm Saturday 24th December.**

The craft fair has been such a success that we have extended it until Christmas also. It's been a fabulous way for local people to show how amazingly talented they are – thank you all for exhibiting and helping to raise a little bit of money to tidy up the outside of the shop.

We will finish the Christmas period off with a Christmas clear out on January 6th (which is also Twelfth Night). We will be marking down any Christmas stock left with us and there will be a few other bargains as well.

Miles Tea will be our promoted line in January/February. Miles Tea have their head office in Porlock and blend and pack tea in Minehead. Derek Miles started his business blending tea at the kitchen table of his Porlock cottage and it is now a thriving enterprise producing and blending tea and coffee that is enjoyed all over the world.

We will have a tasting of Miles Teas in February – watch this space for the date.

All that is left for me to say is thank you to everybody who has volunteered in the shop over the past year and also thank you to everybody who has shopped with us or visited the café. It's been a really good year; let's hope the next one is even better.

Happy New Year



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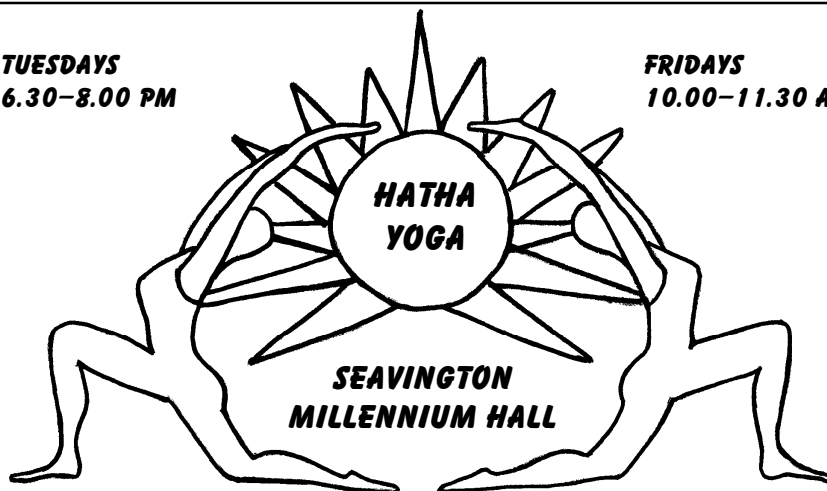
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All Seasons Shall be Sweet

Annie (01460 241762)

Therefore all seasons shall be sweet to thee,
Whether the summer clothe the general earth
With greenness, or Redbreast sit and sing
Betwixt the tufts of snow on the bare branch
Of mossy apple-tree, while the nigh thatch
Smokes in the snow-thaw; whether the eve-drops fall
Heard only in the trances of the blast,
Or if the secret ministry of frost
Shall hang them up in silent icicles
Quietly shining to the quiet moon.

S T Coleridge
1772—1834

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, breadcrumbs and diced cheese.

Remember though, not to put out too much at any one time; it may go bad and spread disease amongst the birds; the most susceptible are Greenfinches and Chaffinches. The rule is “little and often” if you can manage it. Fallen fruit, left on the ground, is welcomed by Blackbirds, Thrushes and wintering Fieldfares and Redwings.

During freezing winter days it is important that bird-bathes 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.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy, New Year to one and all!

Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Pauline Parsons (01460 240193) & Ruth Turner (01460 240126)

The fund raising started at the Christmas Bazaar with

1 Guess the Weight of the Cake

The weight was 2lb 10 1/2 oz and the winner, Sue Collard, guessed 2lb 10 3/4 oz. Many thanks to Barbara Wensley for making the cake.

2 Guess the number of sweets in the Jar

The answer was 178 - Winner - Elaine Edwards. Many thanks to the Youth Club for providing the jar of sweets.

3 Also we started to sell 'The Somerset Quiz Sheet' at £1

These are still available from The Volunteer Inn, the Community shop or Michael Harrison (Flat Holme, Moor Lane, Watgore) - so why not buy one and put your 'little grey cells' to work whilst resting after the festive activities. There are three prizes, £15, £10 and £5; completed sheets should be returned by 21st January - so you have plenty of time.

We have now received a number of requests for a 'Celebration Mug' but would like to remind those who have not returned their form that they can still do this. Also if there is anyone who would like to purchase one, eg for grandchildren who do not live in the village, then please let Ruth or Pauline (see above) know.

We have arranged for a marquee to be on the playing field and it will still be up for Monday 4th June 2012, the Committee has no ideas for this at the moment, but can anyone else think of something that could be done to 'round-off' the celebrations.

Holiday Waste Collection

Waste collections over the holiday period will be:

Dry waste ie wheelie-bins, and recycling—Tuesday 27th December 2011

Recycling only—Tuesday 3rd January 2012

The Changing Countryside

Farm Boy

By the time the January issue of our parish magazine drops through your letterboxes Christmas will be upon us, we should by then have some idea if it will be a white one.

As a child the only White Christmas I enjoyed was Irving Berlin's song sung by Bing Crosby. I consider that song one of many musical landmarks of the war years. At that time to wake up on Christmas morning to a heavy fall of snow meant the most dreadful consequences as far as I was concerned because it could put paid to the most looked forward to event of the year.

I suppose every one looks back on their childhood for the fondest memories of Christmas, but I cannot help but think may be in this developed World of wealth we are missing something.

I do not recall the gifts that were showered upon me or that of my childhood friends as material gifts were few, what I remember is the wonderful family parties.

Such as Christmas night 1942 with a large family gathering at Manor Farm Pendomer, the old rambling house which was so often cold and draughty glowed with warmth from fires burning in grates within rooms normally unused.

At least seven farming families were gathered, our hosts were an uncle and aunt aided by uncle's brother and family who farmed nearby. Goodness knows how my aunt and her sister in law with food rationing produced such a wonderful spread with food rationing as it was then.

The menu as I recall was goose, venison, ham, Christmas pudding, mince pies, trifles, Christmas cake and no doubt other forgotten treats. The house was decorated with holly, ivy, mistletoe and home made trimmings made by the children.

Men enjoyed glasses of cider and beer whilst crowding in groups close to the open fires. sherry, gin and home made wines were available for the ladies who were all busy one way or another to and froing down the corridors to the kitchen or entertaining the children with all sorts of party games, later on in the evening uncle managed to produce a bottle of whisky, glasses were raised for many toasts, among them one "For absent friends" this temporally altered the mood as all thoughts turned to those fighting the war.

After enough cider, beer and Whisky the reluctant men were dragged into

the children's games which eventually finished up in roars of laughter.

But there was a farm chore to be undertaken during the festivities, my father along with my Uncle left the party so as to water the cows. Back in those days I was my father's shadow, although not strong enough to carry the steel buckets of water I just had to be there.

The shock of the cold air outside was soon replaced by the warmth of the cowshed, the farm was the largest run within the family network and had the best cow housing for around thirty to forty cows. However it was not equipped with automatic water bowls so the cows tethered with chains by their necks relied on the farmer for water. There was a stand pipe midway on the back wall behind the cows, where, one by one, the buckets were placed and skidded noisily by the toes of boots under the constant flowing tap, filled and refilled as father and uncle plodded backward and forward between the waiting cows.

On average a cow needed something like ten gallons (45 Litres) of water per day; the modern dairy cow needs considerably more because of their potential to produce far larger milk yields. My mind still hears the thirsty cows slurping at the bottom of the emptied buckets trying to get the very last drop and the rattle as they tossed the empty aside with their nose, but it was of no matter for every cow was allowed to drink her fill before the bucket was eventually passed to her neighbour.

By the time our watering party returned to the house some one was at the piano and the old house had come alive with the sound of songs and Christmas Carols,

Then around midnight all those congregated joined hands for Auld Lang Syne in a circle around a room but it converted into a crumbled figure of eight as the jolly participants rocked and stumbled toward the middle of the room singing as loud as they could.

Then hats and coats were sought and the front door opened amid hugs and kisses. Rugs and blankets were quickly removed from car bonnets that had been placed to prevent the water in the engines from freezing, the clatter of starting handles and slamming of doors filled the night air, replaced by the sound of engines that emitted plumes of white condensation from the exhausts as they departed on the homeward trips powered by concessionary red petrol and illuminated with shrouded headlamps with a visibility of almost nil.

As I curled up on the cold back seat, I was able to look forward to four more parties as long as it did not snow, but none ever equalled that Christmas night.

Reprinted from our January 2006 edition.

Local Bus Services Consultation on Reduction in Subsidies

*Nicholas Margison, Somerset County Council (01823 358122)
Business Development Quality and Performance Manager*

Following on from a reduction in subsidies to evening and weekend bus services in the current financial year, over the next two years Somerset County Council needs to further reduce the amount of money spent on supporting bus services in Somerset due to the reduction in the amount of funding the Government provides to Councils to run local services.

Early consultation has already taken place with key stakeholders and various options have been explored. Three of these options have now been worked through in detail and we would now like to consult more widely. With this in mind SCC would like to consult with as many Somerset residents as possible to gain their views on these proposed reductions before any final decisions are taken.

One of the ways we aim to collect opinions is through a public survey, for which I have included the internet link at the bottom of this document.

Please complete the survey using the link and information supplied on the Transporting Somerset web page via www.somerset.gov.uk/bussurvey to assist you in your answers.

Deadline for responses is 15th January 2012

St Michael's Church Seavington Trust

Registered Charity No: 1068251

Alastair Fyfe (01460-241977)

The Trustees and the Church Committee members would like to thank all those who have, in any way, supported the Trust during the past year.

Our first fundraising event in 2012 will be a **General Knowledge Quiz** in the Millennium Hall on **Saturday, 10th March**. Please put it in your diary now!

In the meantime, we wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



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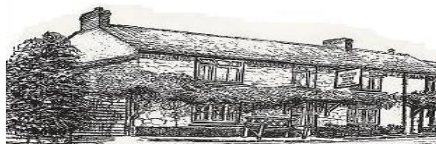
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FIVE GO OFF TO THE GAMBIA!

An entertaining talk presented by our members Lynn & Steve Osborne. Join them on a journey around this small African country where colourful and exotic birds abound. Also an insight into the culture of the friendly Gambian people. The talk will be accompanied by high quality digital photographs.

Thursday 19th January – 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.

Shepton Beauchamp Pre-school

Heather Copeland (0776 543 7301)

A Happy New Year to you all! Thank you to everyone who came and supported or helped in any way with our Crafty Christmas event, it was a great success, making a profit of just over £300 for pre-school funds.

Our Christmas festivities all went well, thanks again to all who donated towards the raffle, made costumes and came along to see our performance in Church and to the residents of Buttle Close and village friends who came to hear the children at the Common Room.

Thanks to Fr. Geoff for his continued support and for coming to read to the children each week, they really look forward to your visits.

We have several fund raising activities arranged for the New Year, there will be Bags2School collections again and our ever popular Wine and Wisdom event in the Spring Term and hopefully another similar Quiz over the Jubilee weekend. Lots of exciting things in store!

Welcome to the new children who have joined us this term, for those who have just moved into the village and one who is actually a second generation member for certain members of our staff!! Hope you all enjoy your time with us. Also, Congratulations to Shelley who is celebrating 25 years with the Pre-school this year!

Places available at -3s and pre-school; we are open Monday to Friday from 9am to 12.45pm with longer sessions to 3pm available. Pre-three sessions Tuesday and Friday morning 9am to 11am from the age of two. Toddler Group Thursday mornings 9.15am to 11.15am For more information please call us on 07765437301

Waste Collection in Inclement Weather

Our District Council has passed responsibility for waste collection to the Somerset Waste Partnership who, in turn, subcontract the task to a private company. The Seavingtons' News has been asked to pass on information regarding collections in the event of inclement weather affecting roads etc:

Safety of the public and collection crews is the key issue that will decide if services need to be suspended but efforts will be made to complete collections when conditions improve.

In severe weather, recycling and refuse crews will try to keep collecting if it is safe. If your collection is missed, please be patient; we will try to return once conditions improve, working late and on Saturdays to catch up.

Please put out recycling and refuse by 7am for the next three working days; if we have not been back by then, please take it back in and put out by 7am on your next usual collection day.

If your collection is delayed, extra amounts of regular waste will be accepted: please put rubbish in black sacks, recycling in carrier bags and food in covered buckets or in black sacks with other rubbish.

In very bad conditions, we may have to suspend collecting garden and bulky waste to give priority to the main services. If our clinical waste service is interrupted, we will get back as soon as possible.

In the event of severe weather, guidance and updates will be posted on www.somersetwaste.gov.uk, our Facebook page www.facebook.com/somersetwaste and Twitter feed @somersetwaste, and sent to local radio and district council customer services.

S P F A Lottery Winners

Peter Ashley (01460 240353)

November 2011

First Prize £40 No 25 Sian Sainsbury
Second Prize £20 No 266 Gwen Gough,
Third Prize £10 No 74 Ken Callow

December 2011

First Prize £40 No 9 Adam Gough
Second Prize £20 No 70 Mrs Murray
Third Prize £10 No 25 Sian Sainsbury

Christmas Draw

First Prize £40 No 242 Carol Ashley
Second Prize £20 No 76 Julie Sibley
Third Prize £10 No 157 Rachael Meadows

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

Boxing Day Walkies

Tuesday 27th December

A perfect antidote to the over indulgence of Christmas is a stroll around the fields and lanes of The Seavingtons, ending up at The Volunteer for brunch—Lasagne, Sausage & bean feasts 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

The Volunteer Inn: Opening times over Christmas.

Christmas Day 25th open drinks only, 11.30am - 1.30pm.

Closed All Day Boxing Day 26th.

Normal hours from Tues 27th.

Closed New Year Day (sun).

Closed Bank Hol Mon lunch. Mon evening opening @ 6.30 pm.

Don't forget if you require our real ales you can purchase these as a 5 pint take away box—They make good Christmas presents.

You are invited to a New Year's party—The theme is black and/or scarlet masks or fancy dress. There will be prizes for the best dressed and a raffle. There will also be special priced drinks on offer during the evening. Present this copy of The Seavingtons' News when you buy your first round and your name will be entered in a special draw.

Colin, Ruth and family wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Belated Happy 18th Birthday wishes to ALISTAIR REYLAND on the 8th December 2011.

Good luck with your forth coming university choice.

Love Mum & Dad, Matthew & Charlene & Bump & all the family.

Youth Club News

Jenny Isaacs (01460)

As we approach the end of another year it's a good time to say thank-you to all the youngsters for their good behaviour, great personalities and regular attendance to Youth Club, without you all we would be nothing. The Christmas party was a great success, food, music, quiz and lots of noise!!! Thanks to all who helped make it a fun evening. Thank-you to The Volunteer who have donated some much needed funds; they will be well spent. We hope to see you all in the new year and we all wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy 2012.

The Seavingtons' Weather in November 2011

This year—2011

Previous year—2010

Temperature

Average Minimum	8.68°C	6.96°C
Average Maximum	13.58°C	11.82°C
Mean	11.13°C	6.49°C

Rainfall

Monthly Total	49.7mm (1.99")	95.4mm (3.82")
Yearly Total (to date)	484.0mm (19.36")	597.7mm (23.91")



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