

THE SEAVINGTONS' NEWS

March 2013



Includes Annual Flower Show Schedule

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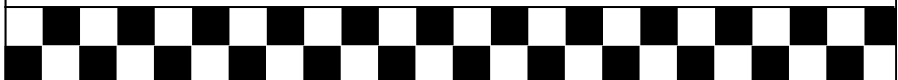
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The Seavingtons' News

It is curious how themes can emerge from various individual's quite separate, and apparently unrelated inputs to our magazine.

This month we see a resident's letter (p 32), our farming correspondent (pp 18 & 19) and our Parish Council (p17) all alluding to failings of the higher levels of local government. Sadly, they are all valid criticisms and it is only our complacency and failure to hold these organisations to account that allows them to continue raising the level of our council taxes whilst their services deteriorate.

Another example is the County Council's programme under the Government's "Broadband UK" banner. For two years I have been pressing the County to say whether Seavington will be a beneficiary of the millions of pounds of taxpayers money going into this scheme. I have always been stalled on the basis that nothing can be said until the contract is in place. You will have seen the press release marking the contract signing. The reply to my latest enquiry is: *"... now that the contract has been signed, BT will begin the detailed survey work that will enable the roll-out schedule to be determined. The project scope is extremely detailed and requires careful survey work before roll-out details can be confirmed and implementation can begin. Given that we are in the early stages of this contract, we are unable to advise what will happen with individual premises or locations yet."*

How can you place a contract that does not define what is to be provided? Only local government can do this. I think that our case for incompetence can rest!

David Froome

DON'T FORGET

The Newspaper Skip!

**pm Friday 8th March
until am Monday 11th March**

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

is the 15th March

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—March 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

4th March	2.30 pm	NADFAS talk: L S Lowry—A visionary artist by Dr. Michael Howard—p 17
5th March	2.00 pm	Book Group Meeting—p 8
9th March	11.30 am	Playing Field –Photos by New Tree—p 5
9th March	6.45 pm	Easter Bingo—p 30
10th March	11.30 am	Mothering Sunday—p 15
11th March	Noon	Seniors' Launch—p 30
21st March	7.30 pm	RSPB Group talk: -National Trust Work with Wild Life in Wessex—p 28
26th March	7.30 pm	Parish AGM—p 17
31st March		Closing date for NADFAS young person's bursary—pp 6 & 7

Regular Activities

Every Monday	6.30pm	Young People's Group—all ages
2 nd Monday	Noon	Pensioners' Lunches in Village Café
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
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

3rd March	11.30 am Holy Communion
10th March	8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10th March	11.30 am Mothering Sunday service with baptism
17th March	11.30 am Holy Communion
24th March	11.30 am Matins
31st March	11.30 am Family Communion

Details of Holy Week services are not yet confirmed. Call Manda (240554) or Carol (241478) for information.

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

adverts@theseavingtons.org

St. Michael's Church Seavington

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

The Diocese of Bath and Wells requires a new Electoral Roll this year. This asks that everyone actively supporting the Church in anyway completes a new application form.

The forms are available from Annie Prichard on 241762 (Answerphone). Alternatively pick a form up from the Church. Please can these be returned by Easter, in time for the Church APM. Many Thanks, Carol & Manda (Churchwardens).

Also ...

This month the family service will be a special 'Mothering Sunday' Service. Sunday 10th March, at 11.30 St. Michael's Church, Seavington. We'd love to see you there.

Shepton Beauchamp Primary School – Ofsted Report

Alison Drayton (01460 240793)

Two weeks before Christmas we received the call from Ofsted to advise us of our inspection on the 11th and 12th of December. As you may be aware the new Ofsted Inspection Framework that came into place in September 2012 is very rigorous and the standards required from Ofsted are exceptionally high. We were therefore thrilled to be told that we were 'Good' in all areas with some outstanding features.

Jesse Pattisson, Chair of Governors, said "It is a huge step forward for our School and to achieve a rating of Good across all areas is something that the School should be extremely proud of". Below is a summary of our Report, but please look on our School Website, Ofsted Website or contact Mrs Alison Drayton at the School 01460 240793 for the full report, or to make an appointment to have a look around.

The Report highlighted that Pupils of all abilities including those with special needs, achieve well in all areas of learning. The Inspector praised the exciting and creative tasks, the high quality resources, including iPads, and stated that the curriculum is effective in providing memorable experiences for pupils. These include the close links with the Church and exciting visits and residential experiences.

The Report praised the quality of teaching, stating that all teaching is at least good and some is outstanding. The pace of learning in lessons is good and where the teaching is outstanding pupils work at a very fast pace. Very skilful questioning by the Teachers and Teaching Assistants, extend pupils understanding and thinking skills. Marking of pupils work is effective enabling pupils to understand how to improve. The Report also highlighted the outstanding progress in Phonics in Reception and Years 1 and 2 and this ensures that Pupils make rapid and sustained progress.

Shepton Beauchamp Primary School has always valued it's mixed aged classes, and the Report states "Relationships are very positive, and older pupils work very closely with the younger ones. Younger Pupils benefit from the good role models provided by the older ones in their class". Pupils say that they felt safe in School, and the Inspector commented on their good behaviour.

Parents spoke to the Inspector during her visit and said that they are happy with the quality of teaching at the School, their children love coming to School, and parents held the School in high regard and felt welcome in the classrooms.

The Governing Body was recognised in taking an active part in the School's day to day life, and evaluating the Schools strengths and areas for improvement. All levels of leadership across the Federation have been involved in raising the standards of education.

Karen Brooker, head teacher, told parents "We are really pleased with the Report, and I would like to thank all the staff and governors for working so hard to continually develop our School's high standard of education".

New Tree on the Playing Field

Pauline Parsons (01460 240193)

In late 2012 the Parish Council were given the opportunity to have a tree from Waitrose to mark their 75th anniversary of joining the John Lewis partnership. This tree has now been delivered and as it is a *Betula pendula* Tristis - ie a weeping birch - it has been planted at the top of the playing field.

To mark this occasion the Parish Council invite all children in the village (and children of children who once lived in the villages but have had to move away for various reasons) to gather near the tree on Saturday 9th March at 11.30am to have a photograph taken. It is then hoped that these children (or at least some of them) could repeat this every 10 years.

Redpoll

Carduelis Flammea
(Finch Family—Fringillidae—5")

Annie (01460 241762)

Along these blushing borders, bright with dew,
And in you mingled wilderness of flowers,
Fair-handed Spring unbosoms every grace;
Throws out the snowdrop, and the crocus first;
The daisy, primrose, Violet darkly blue,
And polyanthus of unnumbered dyes;
The yellow wall-flower, stain'd with iron brown;
And lavish stock that scents the garden round.

James Thomson (1700-48)

The Redpoll is mostly resident in Northern Europe, including Great Britain. During the winter months, flocks move to southern parts of our country. It is smaller than the house Sparrow and is distinguished from the Linnet by its red forehead. The male's breast and rump is pinker than the female. Both have black chins and two whitish wing bars.

It is a sociable 'mixer' with other finches. Frequents open woodland, heaths and hedgerows; but favours alder, willow and birch, Redpoll behaviour sometimes recalls that of a 'Tit' as it hangs from a slender branch in search of food. It feeds on seeds, weeds and insects; and will visit the bird table for sunflower seed. The song is a series of long twitters and tilling sometimes including the flight call which is a rapid, nasal 'chuck-uck-uch'.

Like the waxwing, the Redpoll has been seen locally.

Calling Budding Young Artists and Musicians

The Neroche DFAS Bursary

The Neroche Decorative and Fine Arts Society is once again offering a bursary for young people active in the field of painting, drawing, textiles, decorative glass or metal work, pottery or any other medium such as music, dance or performance arts.

The aim of the bursary is to help students further their studies and/or work experience during the academic year 2013/2014. The bursary this year is £500 and may be awarded to an individual or a group. The student who received our last award says she has found it very helpful as she needed extra money to help pay transport costs involved in college interviews and auditions.

Any young person under the age of 21 who lives in Chard, Crewkerne, Ilminster, Yeovil or any of the surrounding villages, and who plans to further their studies or follow a career in the arts can apply for this bursary.

Candidates who are short-listed will be invited to interview during April 2013 and will be asked to demonstrate their skills and say how they would use the proposed bursary. A portfolio of work, where appropriate, may be submitted and a letter from someone responsible for the applicant's art training would be expected.

An application form and guidance notes can be obtained by contacting Robert Hartley 01460 55843 or robert1600@lineone.net The closing date for applications is 31st March 2013.

St. Michael's Church Seavington Trust

Registered Charity No: 1068251

Alastair Fyfe (01460-241977)

During the period of the next 12 months, the St Michael's Church Seavington Trust will have vacancies for Trustees which will need to be filled. If anybody feels that they would like to become involved, please contact Alastair Fyfe (telephone number above). It is not a requirement that a Trustee should be a regular church-goer. What is important is that a Trustee should be somebody who recognises and values the importance of a 'working' church within the village. The commitment is not onerous. Just 3 meetings a year and a couple of major fundraising events.

The Trust would also very much appreciate any regular monthly, quarterly or annual donation. It has to be ready to pay the bills for routine maintenance and minor repairs. It can only do this, if it has the funds (a blinding glimpse of the obvious!). Any donation, however small, given on a regular basis, would be extremely welcome.

Finally, a reminder that the Avon & Somerset Constabulary Male Voice Choir will be performing in the Church of St Peter and St Paul in South Petherton on Saturday, 18th May 2013 at 7.30 pm.

The Seavington Book Group

By Andrew Sutton (01460 249338)

The new, revived Seavington Book group has been meeting for about eight months. We meet up, every six weeks or so, in the wonderful Village Café, where we can also enjoy an indulgent coffee and cake as we discuss the chosen book.

We are a very mixed but also very homogenous bunch of people with a shared love of reading and find that our discussion of the chosen texts really aids our understanding and appreciation of the chosen book. We take it in turns to choose a book and give ourselves about six weeks to read each novel.

So far we have discussed writers as diverse as Stella Gibbons, Shena McKay, Marcus Zusak, John Fowles and Daphne Du Maurier and each time we have had a most enjoyable and spirited discussion. We also find the time to discuss other books that we might have read over the previous six weeks and always come away with good suggestions of books to read.

It's important to add that you do not need a degree in English Literature to join us; everyone's opinions are respected and appreciated.

If you would like to join us, the next meeting will be on Tuesday 5th March at 2.00 for 2.30 and we will be discussing 'Wild Abandon' by the much respected and up and coming young English writer Joe Dunthorne, which is widely available (and reasonably cheaply) on Amazon.

Up until now, members have been buying each chosen book but from the April meeting, we will be availing ourselves of the excellent service provided for book groups, by the South Petherton public library and the next book will be chosen from their lists.

If you would like more information about the Book Group, please ring me on 249338 or email me on andrewmjsutton@hotmail.com.



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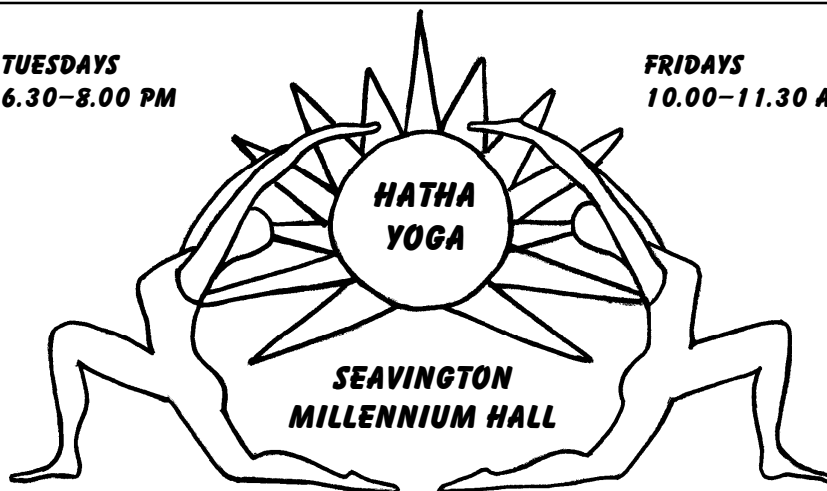
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Seavington Playing Field Association

Pauline Parsons (01460 240193)

As you are all aware there have been changes in the Committee of the SPFA. We are now looking at trying to draw up a 5-year plan for improvements not only to the playing field and equipment but also to the Millennium Hall. The Committee have become aware recently that grants are becoming few and far between and in many cases are only on offer for a short period of time. Accordingly we think that if we can prioritise things to be done then we may be in a better position to apply for such grants. Some ideas are:-

1. More play equipment in the large play area – but what would you like to see there?
2. A skate/scooter park
3. A Crazy Golf Course
4. Improvements to the parking space alongside the hard track.
5. A pathway from this parking space to the Hall Car Park, with suitable lighting
6. Solar panels on the Millennium Hall roof
7. Refurbishment of the Hall kitchen
8. An extension which would incorporate a Meeting Room that can be accessed through its own entrance
9. Better lighting in the Hall Car Park

And we are sure the list could go on and on.

PLEASE LET US KNOW WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE preferably through the News letter as then we can all see what ideas are out there.

Calling All Children

**Mothering Sunday 10th March
at St. Michael's Church 11.30 a.m.**

Please bring Mum, Family & Friends. There will be bunches of flowers for you to give them.

A Message from your Parish Council

Simon Madge - Chair (01460 242437)

Parish Councillors wish to advise you that once again a decision has been made to increase the Parish Precept. This will mean a rise in your Council Tax Bill for 2013/14. As many of you already know the Parish Precept is monies paid to your Parish Council and stays within the parish to carry out works that are needed to be done and to support village projects.

As a Parish Council we already pay for the grass cutting of the playing field, maintain all but one of the footpaths and give grants to Youth Club, Tree Wardens, the Millennium Hall, Community Shop and support the up-keep of the Churchyards. We also 'buy-in' to the Lengthsman Scheme which started some years ago with support from both the County and District Councils.

Unfortunately this support has been withdrawn and the five parishes within our Group now have to find the total sum required. We pay £1,500pa and have the Lengthsman for a day a fortnight. Many may say what does the Lengthsman do but others will have seen him in the villages picking up litter, grass cutting and in recent months trying to clear blocked drains. It has become obvious over the past few months that the Lengthsman is going to have to be used more and more for trying to keep our drains free of muck and sludge thus keeping much of the water off the highway and hopefully preventing further flooding of properties. The County Council have advised that drains within the villages will only be cleared on a two-yearly cycle but when blocked connecting pipes will be jetted is another matter.

You will have noticed that works were carried out by Swan Thatch to clear the blocked drains in early January. As County Highways could give no date as to when this would be done, despite properties being flooded, the Parish Council employed and have paid the contractor and are in discussions, through our County Councillor, to try and claim the monies back from County. The Parish Council will be looking for a contractor to keep various areas of grass cut. A contract has already been negotiated with the SSDC (Streetscene) for the cutting of the main area of the playing field and the SPFA are trying to find ways of having the play areas cut at a reduced cost. At this point we will not mention the number of potholes that need attention and the problems in Park Lane – all of which have been notified to County Highways.

The Parish Council are sure that there are residents in the villages who have information regarding old drains, gullies, soakaways, natural water

SEAVINGTON FLOWER SHOW

Organised by

SEAVINGTON GARDENING CLUB

At the

SEAVINGTON MILLENNIUM HALL

On

August 10th 2013

Judging at 10.00am

Show open to the public at 2.30pm

Awards to be presented by
Julie Sibley
at 4.00pm

**REFRESHMENTS
AWARDS
CERTIFICATES**

Cups for each division on points
Cup for overall winner on points
Cup for Best Floral Exhibit
Prizes for children's classes

Entrance fee 20p per exhibit
Children's classes free

DIVISION ONE – FLOWERS

Class			
1	Roses	<i>Mixed Hybrid Tea</i>	3 blooms
2	Roses	<i>Floribunda</i>	3 clusters
3	Roses	<i>Single Specimen Bloom</i>	
4	Annuals		3 stems
5	Pansies		4 blooms
6	1 Vase Mixed Flowers		6 stems
7	1 Vase Mixed Perennials		6 stems
8	1 Vase Single-headed Flowers		6 stems
9	Penstemon		3 stems
10	Oriental Lily		1 stem
11	Dahlias	<i>Decorative</i>	3 blooms
12	Dahlias	<i>Misc.</i>	3 blooms
13	Gladioli		3 blooms
14	Gladioli		1 specimen
17	Flower Arrangement in a Basket	<i>12 inches overall</i>	
18	Flower Arrangement	<i>Miniature in egg cup (mixed arrangement)</i>	
19	Sweet Peas		5 stems
20	Foliage Arrangement	<i>15 inches overall</i>	
21	Cacti or succulent		
22	Mixed Shrubs	<i>3 varieties</i>	3 stems

DIVISION TWO (A) – VEGETABLES

Class			
30	Potatoes		3 white
31	Potatoes		3 coloured
32	Onions	<i>As pulled</i>	3
33	Largest Onion		
34	Shallots		5
35	Shallots, pickling	<i>Max. diameter 1 inch</i>	5
36	Beetroot		3
37	Runner Beans		6
38	Longest Runner Bean		
39	Dwarf French Beans		6
40	Collection of 3 Salad Vegetables	<i>One of each</i> Display not more than 12 inches square	
41	Cucumber		2
42	Chilli Peppers		4
43	Courgettes	<i>4 to 6 inches long</i>	3
44	Arrangement of Different Herbs in Water	<i>Named</i>	6 max
45	Carrots		3
46	Tomatoes		5
47	Tomatoes (cherry type)		5
48	Five tomatoes on the vine	<i>Some may be green</i>	
50	Trug of mixed vegetables	<i>Keep within trug area</i>	
51	Garden Freak		
52	Lettuce, a pair of any variety – with roots in water		

DIVISION THREE

Class

- | | | |
|----|--|--|
| 59 | Homemade Jelly (preserve) | |
| 60 | Homemade Lemon Curd | |
| 61 | Homemade Jam | |
| 62 | Homemade Marmalade | |
| 63 | Homemade Chutney | |
| | <i>Photographs and drawings may be mounted on a plain paper or card background for wall display.</i> | |
| 64 | Photograph – Seavington Building | <i>No larger than A5</i> |
| 65 | Photograph – Seavington Tree | <i>No larger than A5</i> |
| 66 | Drawing or Painting (any medium) – A Tulip | <i>No larger than A4</i> |
| 67 | 4 Cheese & Chive Bread Rolls | <i>Recipe in May Seavingtons' News</i> |
| 68 | Somerset Cider Apple Cake | <i>Recipe in May Seavingtons' News</i> |
| 69 | Handmade Greetings Card | <i>A6 (4" x 6")</i> |
| 70 | Craft Item Miscellaneous | |
| 71 | A Man's Cake, men only | <i>any recipe</i> |

DIVISION FOUR

CHILDREN OPEN CLASSES – 12 years and under (must be child's own work)

Please state age on exhibit

(1st prize £1.50, 2nd prize £1, 3rd prize 50p)

Class

Age: Up to 6 Years

- | | | |
|----|---|-------------------|
| 75 | Sock Puppet | |
| 76 | Collage on a paper plate – 'A Clown's Face' | |
| 77 | 3 Decorated Rich Tea Biscuits | <i>On a plate</i> |

Age: 7 – 12 years

- | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------|
| 78 | Hand Drawn Treasure Island Map | <i>No larger than A4</i> |
| 79 | Monster – made from fruit and vegetables | |
| 80 | Homemade and decorated gingerbread person | <i>On a plate</i> |

Age: Open

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 81 | Photograph – A Farm Animal | <i>No larger than A5</i> |
|----|----------------------------|--------------------------|

RULES FOR EXHIBITORS

All ADULT exhibitors must live within 2 miles radius of the parish of Seavington or be a member of the Seavington Gardening Club.

Division Four, children's class is open and must be their own work.

All entries of flowers and vegetables must be grown in the exhibitor's own garden or allotments (with exception of classes 17 and 18).

Only one exhibit may be entered in any class.

All entry forms to be handed to:

Mr John Tudor, Middlefield, Church Lane, Seavington St Mary

Miss Lis Tope, 1, The Pheasant, Water St, Seavington St Mary

Miss Annie Prichard, 2, Winchester Cottages – opposite The Volunteer

All entries to be received by **AUGUST 7th 2013**

NO entries will be accepted after this date

The fee for entry is 20p per exhibit (children free)

All exhibits must be staged between 7.30am and 9.30am at the Seavington Millennium Hall on **AUGUST 10th** and not removed until 4.00pm.

Exhibitors must provide their own containers

THE DECISION OF THE INDEPENDENT JUDGES IS FINAL

Name.....

Address.....

Class Nos.....

.....

.....

.....

Total Entry Fees.....

courses, etc which have probably not been used for sometime as they were superseded by modern systems. However, we all know that there are numerous Springs in The Seavingtons and with the water table being so high at the moment and our changing climate probably leading to more flooding more frequently the Parish Council would like to investigate these old systems to see if they are still operating and if not see whether they can be brought back into use. Any information can be given to any Councillor or sent by e-mail to parishcouncil@theseavingtons.org Thank you

The Parish Council are aware that many of the works they pay for now were at one time carried out by either the County or District councils but because of Central Government capping of Council Tax Bills cuts have been made to what is perceived as non-essential works. At present Town/Parish Councils are not subject to this 'capping' but it is believed that this will happen in the not too distant future.

Parish Councillors would like to invite you all to attend the Parish AGM on Tuesday 26th March, 7.30pm in the Millennium Hall when concerns can be aired and further discussed.

Neroche DFAS

Peter Hill, Vice-chairman (01460 67779)

Lowry: A visionary artist
A talk by Michael Howard

Monday 4th March 2013 at 2.30 p.m. (please note earlier time)
Seavington Millennium Hall

Lowry is one of Britain's most popular artists – yet this fact has stopped us looking as closely as we should at his extraordinary life and work. He was a painter not only of the mills of the industrial north-west, but of soulful landscapes and magnificent seascapes – which are his masterpieces. He is one of the great painters of the human condition. But can he be ranked with the likes of T.S.Eliot, or Vincent Van Gogh? The speaker, Michael Howard, has curated many exhibitions at The Lowry, Manchester Art Gallery, and the Imperial War Museum North. Himself a practising painter, sculptor and ceramicist, he is a university teacher who has written many books on European art.

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

A Farmer's Diary

Farm Boy

As January drew to a close it was obvious that it had done little or nothing to ease the pressure on the average farmer, but no doubt it could have been worse. Any hope on the part of the arable farmers in this area that there might be a window to sow some of that winter wheat seed still in store is slipping by, I am reliably informed that certain varieties can be sown as late as February, I fear the majority of the winter wheat seed still held in stock may not fall with in this category.

28th of January found my son confined to the farm office going through the annual carbon footprint audit with a representative of his milk buying company. Fortunately such time wasting never fell on the farm desk in my day, I am not sure what purpose this kind of exercise serves, other than to provide another cushy little number for a pen or computer key presser, who on this occasion had driven all the way down from Bristol. I am sorry but as one of the millions in this country who lived through the war years and went on to help pick up the pieces, I find observing the stupid antics and statements coming from our politicians, and the representatives of our County Halls almost unbearable.

I was amazed to learn that County Hall now expects the parish councils to provide maintenance for the minor roads. I also find it a contradiction that on the one hand the politicians are warning folk they will have to work on past the old retirement age of sixty-five, then learn that any fit, able, self employed contractor of sixty-five is deemed by our County Council to be too old to take out his equipment snow clearing. I have known one particular contractor since he was twelve years old, ten years my junior and I will go so far as to say he ranks among one of my most admired individuals because of his achievements. The son of a local tenant farmer, he started his business by buying second hand clapped out plant because of a shortage of capital, yet after long hours burning the midnight oil in his father's stone barn the old junk was reborn, this allowed an ambitious man to get started. Today he owns his own premises and his contracting business has a large arsenal of top of the range modern machinery.

During his development years he gained such a good reputation that he has now provided his two sons with a great future, they currently, along with the father who trained them, provide a first class service to farmers and other businesses in the region. I know one thing, if I was in a tight corner and needed help, I would rather turn to that guy, than some younger policy maker.

Going back to the rural by-roads, in the main they are in a shocking state. During January I have been hedge laying beside one of these roads at the newly purchased land situated by a hill. I noticed that there were neglected open ditches either side of the road; the ditch on the far side suddenly ended because it ran out of grass verge and when it rained some of the water disappeared at this point whilst the rest overflowed and ran down the road, eroding the edges before crossing and dropping into the brook.

On our side the ditch also stopped a few yards lower down the hill because the hedge and bank takes a seventy-degree turn with no visible outlet for the water, so the water built up and then soaked through the bank and made its way down across the field to the brook. I decided that it would be a good idea, once the hedge was laid, to dig an open ditch inside the field from the brook which is about fifty yards away from where the road ditch ends and then dig through the bank at the seventy-degree turn so as to channel the water directly to the brook preventing it flooding across the field.

Once this was completed I started to clean out the roadside ditch and soon spotted where the water was soaking under the road from the other side, after following the seepage for about a yard from the edge of the ditch I discovered a concrete tube, this outlet has been buried for years. Thirty odd years ago Les Hooper our local roadman would have known the whereabouts of all the drainage outlets on his patch and kept them free.

There still is a need for the likes of Les, and it would be a good idea if they were brought back, each accompanied by a trainee school leaver. I can hear the pundits, "O they wouldn't do it" How the hell do they know that? They are not offering them the opportunity. Cutting practical jobs and creating paper projects will not cure our long-term problem that's for sure.

On two consecutive days last week a Highways van from the Somerset County Council passed through where I was working, the first contained two men, a driver wearing his reflector jacket, whilst his passenger made notes on his electronic note pad, a major cause of concern was a falling tree that was leaning across the road from a neighbour's field and was prevented from falling by resting on a large oak on our side. I had a few words with the occupants of the van and mentioned the neglected maintenance of the road and the fact that the rainwater was causing lots of erosion. Much of this could have been rectified in minutes had they carried a shovel with them, by just cutting some channels through the grass verge and allowing the water to run freely into the ditches. Of course this was obviously not part of their remit. Why the other van came through the next day I have no idea? Out of interest, our neighbour dealt with his falling tree a couple of days later.

Dates for your 2013 Diary

Pauline Parsons (01460 240193)

First, may I tell you that the magazine Somerset Life is proposing to publish a feature on The Seavingtons in its March 2013 issue. The reporter and photographer has already visited our two villages.

St Michael's Church, Seavington will be holding a Flower Festival again this year, from Saturday 25th May to Monday 27th May. Refreshments will be served in the Church garden on all three days, times to be confirmed nearer the time. In tandem with this the village Scarecrow competition will also take place - Theme for both RURAL LIFE.

Initial plans are that scarecrows should be in place for the start of the Flower Festival and that they will be up for the rest of the week culminating in judging and awarding of prizes on Sunday 2nd June (60th anniversary of the Coronation)

The SPFA will be holding a Quiz evening on Friday 31st May but other events have yet to be planned.

Please get your thinking caps on now and make the Scarecrow competition as successful as last year.

Also other dates for events planned by the SPFA:

Saturday 9th March - Easter Bingo - in The Millennium Hall - eyes down 7.15pm

Saturday 5th October - Games evening - in The Millennium Hall

Tuesday 5th November - Village bonfire night

Saturday 30th November - Christmas Market

More details of all of the above will be published nearer the time.

South Petherton Photographic Society

Meets in the Methodist Church Hall, Palmer Street, South Petherton, TA13 5BD. Cost including refreshments is £1.50 for members and £2.50 for non-members. The next meetings are:

Wednesday 6th March 2013

Presentation: Tonight will be a "Practical Studio Night" including techniques such as light painting

Wednesday 20th February 2013

Presentation: Stephan Boucher will give a talk on the photographs he took on his recent cruise around the Alaskan coast.

Literary Talk & Tea

Brenda Lake (01460 249304)

The Rotary Club of Ilminster is holding a Literary Tea and Talk by James Crowden on Thursday 7th March at the Shrubbery Hotel Ilminster. James will be talking about his new book Literary Somerset and will answer questions at the end of the session. This promises to be an exciting afternoons entertainment.

The cost of a ticket, including tea is £12.00 and the money raised will go to Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance. Tickets are available from Lanes in Ilminster, or contact Brenda on 01460 249304.

Flower Festival Teas

On Bank Holiday weekend at the end of May in conjunction with the flower Festival at St. Michael's Church the GET2GETHER ladies group are organising afternoon teas on Saturday, Sunday and Monday 25th, 26th and 27th May, and any help on these afternoons would be appreciated.

If anyone would like to donate a cake or cakes we would be very grateful. If you are able to do so please contact Sue Dewsbury on 01460 241155.

Seavington Gardening Club

Secretary: Ry Coffman (01460 240004 or ry.coff13@gmail.com)

14 FEBRUARY 2013 - 'PROPAGATION – PART 1' with Neil Lovesey, Picket Lane Nursery, South Perrott

Propagation always seems such a wonderful something-for-nothing exercise! Neil's very enthusiastic approach (he propagates 50,000 plants a year!) to the general rules and observations for success were extremely encouraging. Neil convinced us that it was easy as long as we understand how plants grow. We decided to book Neil on the spot for 'Propagation – Part 2' next year!

Members were invited to join in a new Growing Competition sponsored by the Garden Group's Gold Club: to grow a geranium – 'Bull's Eye Scarlet'. Plug plants, compost and pots will be distributed to members during our March meeting free of charge. The results will be judged at the Flower Show in August. Plants will be ordered for all members – so if you weren't able to make the meeting you can still get a plug plant if you wish to join the competition.

Members were also reminded that it is now time to get our seeds planted – the Plant Sale is not far away!

Flower of the Month winners

1. Jenny Deubert – White Hellebore
2. Linda George - Mauve Hellebore
3. Kate Mulligan – Purple Hellebore

Forthcoming Events

7.30pm 14 March – Peonies and Irises – Susannah Applegate. Don't forget to bring your 'Flower of the Month!'

Saturday 30 March 2013 10-5pm Early Spring HPS Sale at East Lambrook Manor.

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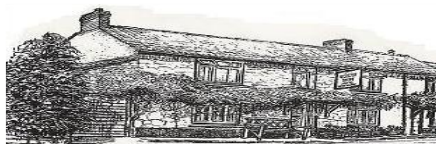
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If I can be of any help to you, please call me after 6pm on 01460 241614.



Coming Soon to The Warehouse Theatre Ilminster!

20th to 23rd March 2013 - THE 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. £8.50 (adults), £7.50, £7.00

12th April 2013: Mrs Gerrish's Guesthouse.

Ministry of Entertainment present this highly enjoyable play set in 1958. The summer season at Weston has ended but Mrs Gerrish's Guesthouse is still full. Come and meet the guests!

Tickets are available from Lanes Garden Shop, 17 Silver Street, Ilminster or phone 07943 779 880.

The Warehouse Theatre has seating for up to 150 people, fully licensed bar, coffee area, disabled access and T-loop hearing system.

www.thewarehousetheatre.org.uk

SOUTH SOMERSET RSPB LOCAL GROUP

THE WORK OF THE NATIONAL TRUST WITH WILDLIFE IN WESSEX

An illustrated talk presented by Simon Ford, wildlife and countryside advisor for the South West region. Simon will take us on a tour of NT properties explaining the wildlife that is resident on the sites – birds, butterflies, flowers, trees etc.

Thursday 21st March – 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

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Calling all musicians, Singers or Speakers!

Mid Summer Music in St. Mary's Seavington

Chris and Sally Gough (01460 240897)

Having played for many carol services in St. Mary's Church when it has been warmer outside than in, we thought it might be nice to organise a mid-summer evening of music and monologues in warmer weather!!

Plans are at a very early stage at the moment but the likely date is 29th June 2013 and we'd like local groups of musicians and singers to be involved. Alternatively if you can't sing or play an instrument but would like to deliver a monologue or recite a poem, we'd love to hear from you too! Our aim is to have enough different groups and individuals to make up an interesting evening.

So if you would like to take part (young/not so young, experienced or just starting out) - please get in touch before the deadline for the next magazine so that we can gauge interest.

SPFA Lottery Winners for January 2013

Lesley Gudgeon (01460 240236)

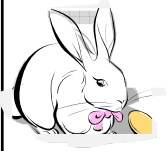
1st	No 141	Mr T Williams
2nd	No 134	J & S Forrest
3rd	No 195	Jenny Froome
4th	No 202	Mr & Mrs J Cowan
5th	No 109	Lorrie Ensor

Neighbourhood Watch

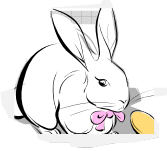
Carolyn Farler (01460 249192)

Following a robbery of bottled gas cylinders in Dowlish Wake can I remind people to check their cylinders regularly and make sure they are secure. Not only were the cylinders taken, but quite a lot of damage was done to the fittings and some of the pipework.

Seavington Playing Field Association



Easter Bingo



Seavington Millennium Hall

Saturday 9th March

Doors Open 6:45pm; Eyes Down 7:15pm

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Village Mart

Village Mart is offered as a free service to residents of The Seavingtons for sales of a non-commercial nature. Just contact the editor—see page 1 for details.

For Sale: Three Tier Electric Hostess Trolley with three glass dishes. Mounted on castors and 28" high by 29" long & 14½" wide. £40—call Mary Wyatt on: 01460 241546.

Over The Counter

Carolyn Farler (01460 249192)

This time of year is quiet everywhere with us all waiting for the sunshine, but the café has been doing well especially with the Senior Lunches.

The Café has been able to qualify for a grant from Somerset Community Fund to support this important community service over the winter months as part of their drive to help vulnerable people keep warm and not feel isolated. Included with the grant were winter survival packs which included advice leaflets, blankets, socks, and an insulated mug. These have been distributed as appropriate. The Café has also been given a grant to help update the kitchen with equipment to cope with these larger events.

This month sees the introduction of gluten free products into both the store and café, so those of you on a special diet can now enjoy a biscuit with your coffee or even a bacon roll.

There have been a number of newcomers in the villages over the last six months and it has been very encouraging to hear that having a successful village store and café contributed to their decision to move here. Even better is the fact that some of them have been keen to join the team of volunteers that work hard to keep this a warm and welcoming destination for all.

MISUNDERSTANDING OVER THE WINE TASTING EVENT

Following a last minute technicality, this event was cancelled in its original format.

Unfortunately, due to a misunderstanding, a complaint was wrongly attributed to Ruth Turner and apologies are due for the subsequent rumours and ill-feeling that resulted. It is hoped that this will end any further speculation and that all residents can now move forward in supporting all future community venues and events.

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,

Can you please convey my thanks to the Parish Council & persistent residents for the proactive approach recently undertaken in deciding to tackle the ongoing problem of drain clearance along New Road head on by enlisting the services of an independent contractor. I am told that it could have been months before the council arrived in the village probably armed with nothing more than a tatty shovel by which time I am sure that a serious accident would have occurred given sufficient freezing conditions and with the amount of standing water seen.

This example of the village Council helping itself certainly made me think about where our Council Tax monies go and how much better things could be if we had more control over those funds at village level rather than see it wasted on worthless projects in the neighbouring towns. I am not at all politically astute so will leave the debating to others who I'm sure are better versed, but will read with added interest. Next, who would like to discuss pot holes and the damage caused to vehicle wheels and tyres.

Kevin & Sarah Francis, *'The Wishing Well'*

The Seavingtons' Weather in January 2013

	<i>This year—2013</i>	<i>Previous year—2012</i>
Temperature		
Average Minimum	2.10°C	3.34°C
Average Maximum	7.66°C	9.54°C
Mean	4.88°C	6.44°C
Rainfall		
Monthly Total	128.9mm (5.16")	41.6mm (1.66")
2013 Total for the year	128.9mm (5.16")	41.6mm (1.66")

The wettest January since 1995 which had 170.7mm; January 1990 had 133.3mm



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