

THE SEAVINGTONS' NEWS

May 2017



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The Seavingtons' News

In the last few years pre-planned road works have resulted in multi-mile diversions around Crewkerne and Chard. The official response to complaints has been that the County Council and police are obliged to use “A & B” roads for such diversions.

Regularly, and twice in the last fortnight, Seavington has been brought to a standstill for many hours, by traffic diverted from the A303 following accidents—following clearly pre-planned contingencies.

When the Ilminster By-pass was built, the old A303 route, passing through Seavington as “New Road”, was downgraded to a “B” road. Later, the County Council downgraded the road’s classification further to the C5021. The motivation for this further degradation in the road’s status was never published but I imagine it was done because the maintenance standards for a “C” road are lower than for a “B” road and money could be saved.

Certainly the road is badly maintained and nowhere near the standards required for the traffic from the A303. Neither does it meet the County Council’s rules that pre-planned diversions should be on “A & B” roads.

Suitable diversions that meet the rules are readily available. Why are the authorities, including our County Council, so selective in applying their own rules?

David Froome, Editor

DON'T FORGET

The Newspaper Skip!

**pm Friday 12th May
until am Monday 15th May**

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

is the 15th May

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—Forthcoming Events

*All events, unless otherwise shown, are held in the Millennium Hall
For bookings call 07905 215993 or hallbookings@theseavingtons.org*

6th May	10.00 am	St Michael's Church Trust: Book Sale –p 13
8th May	Noon	Seniors' Lunch in Village Café –p 27
9th May	8.30 am	White lining car park –p 8
11th May	5.30 pm	Gardening Club Visit to Hillcrest at Curload, Stoke St Gregory –p 7
13th May	10.00am	The Gardening Club Plant Sale –p 21
13th May	7.30 pm	'Flix in the Stix': "A United Kingdom" at Hinton St George Village Hall –p 8
18th May	7.30 pm	RSPB Group: The Secret Life of the Tawny Owl –p 27
27, 28 & 29 May	10.00 am	Flower Festival in St Mary's Church—p 4
3rd June	10.00am	Bug Hotel Building –p 4

Regular Activities

2 nd Monday	noon	Seniors' Lunch in Village Café
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

7th May	11.30 am	Holy Communion (CW)
14th May	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
14th May	11.30am	Café Church at Seavington Café
21st May	11.30 am	Rogation Service at Manor Farm, Seavington St. Mary –p28
28th May	11.30 am	Songs of Praise at St Mary's Church –p19

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

The Seavingtons' News Team

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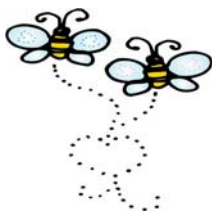
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Please do not hesitate to telephone David Froome on 01460 249445 if you have any questions.

Advertising Rates

	Annual	Monthly
Full Page	£ 100	£ 12
½ Page	£ 50	£ 6
¼ Page	£ 28	£ 4

Advertising enquiries to: adverts@theseavingtons.org



Bug Hotel

Children's help needed!!!

Seavington Gardening Club are planning to build a bug hotel which will be situated in the wild area located in the top left hand corner of the playing field. We would like to invite children (and adults!!) to come along on Saturday 3rd June at 10am to fill the bug hotel.

If you have any bamboo canes, small logs or sticks, old roof slates, pine cones etc. then please bring them along for us to fill the bug hotel.



The wild area in the playing field was developed to encourage wildlife and provide an area of long grass, which owls find particularly beneficial for hunting. At the same time as filling the bug hotel we are also hoping to gather together a work party to prune some of the trees in the wild area and cut back the couch grass.

All of this will be done with the expert guidance of Phil Gordon-Smith so if you can lend a helping hand then please come along at 10am on Saturday 3rd June.

FLOWER FESTIVAL

THEME — TEA PARTIES

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ASCENSION, PENTECOST AND THE SPRING BANK HOLIDAY

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Shepton Beauchamp Pre School News

Charlie Pattison (01460 241396)

What a sunny Easter holidays we have had – perfect to return for the Summer Term. During this term some of the children will start spending some time with Mr Baker at Shepton School as they prepare for the transition to ‘big school’ in September. We are still working through the alphabet and we have nearly made it to the end – the adults are learning too – we now know all about a quokka and a quetzal – do you?

Thank you to all who donated unwanted clothing to our **Bag2School** collection we raised £108 and have replaced some elderly small tables! This month we are joining forces with FOSS (Friends of Shepton School) for a fun **QUIZ NIGHT** on 6th May – can your team be the champions or will you win the wooden spoon? More details on our website.

We have also been adding to the fundraising pot by collecting **recyclable items** such as used printer ink cartridges, empty biscuit wrappers and lids and trigger sprays from household cleaning products. If you are interested please check our website or call Kath for more details.

TODDLER GROUP. We will not be able to meet on the 4th May due to the hall being used for the local elections so our next meeting will be *Thursday 11th May* from 9am. Babies, toddlers and pre school children all welcome with parents/carers at anytime during the morning for chat, play, crafts and singing.

We do have spaces at our lovely Pre School please call Shelley or Kath 07765 437301 or pop in to The Village Hall in Shepton Beauchamp—we would love to meet you. info@sheptonbeauchamppre-school.co.uk or see our FACEBOOK page or www.sheptonbeauchamppre-school.co.uk

Huddersfield Male Voice Choir

Gwyneth Linley (01460 259371)

The well known Huddersfield Male Voice Choir, the **Gledholt Male Voice Choir**, on tour and in Concert at St Mary's church Ilminster (The Minster) Sat 10th June 7.30pm and at St Mary's Church, Chard, on Sun 11th June at 7.30pm. Tickets £7 in advance, £8 on the door available from 16th May. Available from Harrimans, Silver St, Ilminster, Eleos, Fore St Chard, Barrons, Holyrood Street, Chard or from Gwyn Linley telephone 01460 259371.

Seavington Gardening Club

Kate Mulligan (01460 242023)

Thursday 13th April

“Flower Arranging for Village Shows” talk and demonstration by Myra Cox

I am not a flower arranger but I had the privilege of being highly entertained by Myra Cox as she talked and demonstrated her skills. Hers was the classic case of signing up for a local course and then going back each year to learn more and more. Eventually the pupil became the teacher and even a judge.

Myra’s main aim was to show that flower arranging should be fun, whether it is for your own home or competitions. You have to enjoy doing it whatever the final product.

Absolutely anything can be regarded as a container as long as it holds water and often just changing the angle can influence the display. For example, a cup and saucer with the cup placed on its side gives a whole new perspective. The best source for containers is often charity shops or jumble sales rather than the most expensive pottery or china you can find and it costs an awful lot less. After all, your chosen container will only ever be re-used for displays.

Flowers from the local supermarket are fine as long as you use the little sachet of feed that you get with them. This is vital for keeping the flowers fresh and fed for as long as possible. If you are just putting the flowers in a vase and you use the feed then you do not need to change the water but just keep it topped up. If you are making a fixed display then mix the feed with water and use it to soak the oasis so that it will continue to keep your display healthy.

You do not need to soak it overnight nor do you need to push the oasis down into the water. Just let it rest on the top and it will soak up enough and when it sinks down you know it is ready to use. That way the oasis will be soaked all the way through without being dry in the centre.

If you are entering a flower show you must read and re-read the schedule and stick to exactly what the measurements are. You don’t have to fill the complete space by overcrowding but you do need balance. Beware though - a leaf or petal just sticking even a millimetre over the given measurements could lead to disqualification.

As with all garden tasks, from planting to pruning, keep stepping back to admire your work and remind yourself that once it is cut you cannot stick bits back on. If it doesn’t “look right” remove it. Your arrangement has to be

pleasing to the eye so always check for any slight imperfections in the flowers and foliage. As we also discovered it might be a good idea to look for any “wildlife” that may have taken up residence within your display. You don’t get extra marks for this unless of course the title of your work is “Things in my Garden”.

Another good tip Myra gave was to make sure your displays are secure, so if being judged they are not likely to tip over or fall apart. The judges are allowed to move them or turn them round so don’t forget to check what it looks like from the back as well as the front.

The main elements to design are height, rhythm, movement and interest, so if you can get this right and have fun doing it then we expect to see and admire your work at the Flower Show in August.

Our thanks go to Myra for sharing her expertise and knowledge and for a most enjoyable evening.

Flower of the Month Competition

1st Liz Hayden - Dicentra
2nd Linda George - Iris
3rd Ann Clifford - Erythronium

Results of the Winter Growing Competition Narcissi Pink Pride

1st Karen Day
2nd Sarah Davey
3rd Kate Mulligan

Forthcoming Events

Thursday 11th May visit to “Hillcrest” Curload, Stoke St. Gregory TA3 6JA from 5.30 with refreshments served at 7.00

Parking is in the field next to the orchard. Go past the house 100m and just before corner go through gate on right to access field. Swing wide as sharp turn required. Look for NGS sticker.

Plant Sale

Saturday 13th May at 10.00 in the Millennium Hall - if you have been dividing your perennials or have spare plants from seed then we would be delighted if you donated them to the Plant Sale. Please label them and drop them off at the Millennium Hall between 8.00am - 9.30am on the day. For further information please contact Karen Day - Tel: 01460 249728.

Langport to Muchelney Cycleway Survey

Cycleway Users

South Somerset District Council is seeking opinions from residents and businesses about this popular recreational cycle route and the different ways in which it is enjoyed. You can complete the survey online by visiting: <http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Cycleway/>

Flix in the Stix'

Andrew Overhill (01460 72563)

Hinton St. George 'Flix in the Stix' presents '**A UNITED KINGDOM' (12A)**, ON **SATURDAY 13TH MAY 2017** in the Hinton Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. Tickets £5 in advance from the Village Shop and Dorothy's Tea Room, or £5.50p on the door. To reserve Tickets please contact Bob Kefford on 01460 72563.

The film of a true love story from 1947 when the King of Botswana, whilst studying law in London, met Ruth Williams, a British office worker. They appeared a perfect match but their proposed marriage was challenged not only by their families but by the British and South African governments.

South Africa had recently introduced the policy of apartheid and found the notion of a biracial couple ruling a neighbouring country intolerable. Political and diplomatic tensions followed with diamonds thrown into the mix too. Will love conquer all?

Village Car Park—White Lining

Pauline Parsons (01460 240193)

After long discussions and debates the Parish Council has finally arranged the white lining of The Village car Park [opposite The Volunteer Inn]. This will be done on Tuesday 9th May with works commencing at 8.30am. Will all residents who have vehicles parked on the site please ensure they are moved by that time in order that the works are not delayed.

A View from the Field

Chris Gough (spfa@theseavingtons.org)

It's been a fairly quiet month. The grass cutting season has commenced with a new contractor who seems to be doing an excellent job. Thanks to the Parish Council for arranging and funding this for the benefit of our community.

Please be careful when using the playing field path as I've had reports that a couple of the solar lights have broken. We are in the process of sourcing and replacing the lights where necessary.

Hopefully, by now, you will have been approached by one of our lottery collectors and have bought a ticket for the monthly prize draw. This is an excellent way to support the maintenance of the Playing Field and playground. If you would like a ticket but have not yet been approached please contact me at spfa@theseavingtons.org or use the form below.

Seavington Playing Field Association Lottery

I / we would like to join / renew our lottery tickets for the year from June 2017 to March 2018 at a cost of £10 per ticket.

Name:

Address:

.....

Name:

Address:

.....

Ticket No(s) if known

Cheques payable to Seavington Playing Field Association please

If you miss a collector's visit please place your form and cheque in the external letterbox on the left side of the Millennium Hall porch. If you have any queries or want further information please call our lottery organiser, Jackie Priddle on 01460 240734 or 07706 092578.

A "Monty Don" and Lawnmower is urgently needed to tame unruly grass of local garden in the Water Street area.

Please call: 01460 241268

A Reminder:

County Council Complaint 'phone Number

The Somerset County Council now has a single telephone number through which you may report problems such as potholes, drainage issues etc:

0300 123 2224

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info@sheptonbeauchamppre-school.co.uk

or meet us at the
Village Hall.
We would love to
see you!



St Michael's Church Seavington Trust

Next sale of Books & Bric-a-Brac

6th May 2017

at 2, Winchester Cottages
(Opposite The Volunteer)

*Second-hand Books and a
Selection of bric-a-brac*

*A great selection for children of all
ages from stories to study!*

NB—Open 10.00 am to 2.00 pm
please come and browse



The Warehouse Theatre Ilminster

is a little gem which can be found right in the heart of the town. It brings high quality entertainment throughout the year to audiences of all ages, as well as running a thriving youth theatre and being a venue for local groups and clubs to hire.

Run by Ilminster Entertainments Society (IES) it represents one of the best equipped, professional-standard amateur theatres in the county and facilities include:

**Seating for 150 people, fully licensed bar, coffee area,
disabled access and T-loop hearing system.**

Details of future productions can be found in the local press or on our website: **www.thewarehousetheatre.org.uk** (plus audition nights, IES Membership, Box Office and more) or call **07943 779880** or email: **info@thewarehousetheatre.org.uk**

Your theatre needs you! *The Warehouse is run entirely by volunteers and we would love to hear from anyone who would like to get involved by helping backstage or front of house during show weeks, or simply by becoming a member of IES. Can you help?*

HOLIDAY IN SPAIN

Beautiful 3 bedroom modern duplex apartment with communal pool, under 10 mins from beach by car - wonderful views from terraces, walking distance to local village of Palau Saverdera

Beautiful modern apartment on upper 2 floors of a small development surrounded by olive groves and vineyards. It is in a quiet position with two large terraces giving spectacular views of the Bay of Roses and Pyrenees. The apartment is bright and airy and has everything you could possibly need for a relaxing holiday including really comfy beds with cool cotton bedding. It offers every luxury convenience including heating/air conditioning and WiFi. It overlooks a lovely communal pool and gardens. Situated in the village of Palau Saverdera (local shops and restaurants) . Palau Saverdera is 4km from the sea at Roses, 12km from Figueres (Salvador Dali Museum) and a 45 minute drive from Girona airport. The French border -30 minutes. Barcelona by train from Figueras in 90 minutes.

Apartment available from June until 2nd September 2017.

For more details contact **Sarah Lawton** at sarahlawton22@gmail.com or call 07901716819

We have stayed at this apartment in Northern Spain and it is beautiful. The apartment is large with three double bedrooms all with balconies and wonderful views. The sitting room has access to a large balcony which overlooks the communal pool and gardens. The kitchen is fully functional, so preparing supper using the fresh fish and seafood from Roses fish market is highly recommended however, if you wish to eat out there are a variety of restaurants in the village of Palau Saverdera which is a short walk through olive groves. Our favourite is "Nou Fusion" which is only yards away from the apartment and eating the gourmet food whilst looking out over the panoramic views.....stunning. Roses is a stylish sea front town where you can promenade for miles or hire bicycles or sit in the many bars and restaurants and people watch. We can highly recommend the apartment and Sarah is incredibly helpful and reassuring as she speaks fluent Spanish/Catalan and is only a phone call away. We love the area and are heading back in March for our third time to enjoy the seafront resorts and medieval villages in abundance, it's REAL SPAIN. Robert and Shirley Chapman

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Spring continues to blossom. The wonderful displays of daffodils everywhere. The sun shining though with plenty of rain to keep everything green. We look forward to a lovely summer.

The shop and cafe go from strength to strength. As mentioned in April's edition we have been awarded several grants. The major part of the money will be spent on air conditioning in the shop, cafe and kitchen to give us nice temperatures throughout and counteract the heat thrown out by our overworked chillers and freezers. A donation from the Seavingtons' News has enabled Jane to have additional dishes and replace worn out equipment. Thank you to all.

The cafe continues to put on a monthly Seniors' Lunch and bi-monthly Midweek Supper Club. Both are well attended and very popular. The Moroccan Evening in April was a great success. Look out on the notice board and in this magazine for future events.

New faces continue to visit, often by word of mouth spreading to surrounding villages. The shop has a good range of items for sale whilst the cafe, led by Jane our cook, offers great food and drinks.

We try to improve our service all the time. Our improved range of greetings cards is an example. They are on stands to the right of the door and prices are from as little as £1. Great value! A small selection of bread is available, however many types of bread can be ordered to be collected the following day - all from our local supplier Bakery Roy-Al. We continue to be a My Hermes parcel site where items can be dropped off and collected with minimum fuss. During the year local artists and craftsmen display their work, which is available for sale, benefitting the shop and the exhibitors.

The shop is only as good as its helpers and volunteers. We are always looking for more, either to work in the shop or the cafe for a few hours a week. The management and direction of the shop is in the hands of the committee - we are looking for more people to join us. If you want to see a great future for the shop please think about becoming more involved - you can speak to one of the volunteers, a committee member or the cafe staff.

In short we are always looking for ways to make the shop more attractive to visit to bring in more income and thereby secure its long term future.

May Day in the West Country

Naomi Long (Naomi_long8@yahoo.co.uk)

Padstow boasts two osses (and lately children's osses too), called the Blue Ribbon 'Peace' Oss (introduced in the 1900s) and The Red or Old Original Oss which is possibly the oldest in Britain. They are accompanied by a 'teaser' who mimics them and goads them on with a staff.

The oss used to be accompanied by masked "Gullivers" (masked men wearing tall head-dresses and carrying whips and tongs) but during the 19th century their horseplay ended up in a death. People used to leave their doors open as it was bad luck not to allow the hobby horse and his Gullivers go through the house, and the accident occurred when one man was having none of this behaviour.

JACK IN THE GREEN, Jack-in-the-bush or Green George

Originally led the procession alongside Diana as Herne the Hunter, but as Britain became agrarian he evolved into Robin Goodfellow, (Puck) or the Green Man, many of which can be seen in local churches. He is the trickster May king but he is also often the Fool for a Day, and is ritually killed at the end of the parade to release spring.

May Day's origins date back to the Roman festival of Floralia, dedicated to the flower goddess Flora, and also to Maia, after which the month is named. This later evolved into the Celtic festival of Beltane or Beltein (meaning 'bright fire'), which took place from 28th April until 3rd May. The sun's return, spring renewal and prayers for purity, protection and fertility in the coming year were commemorated through large bonfires which were lit on hilltops throughout the country, a reconstructed version of which is celebrated on Glastonbury Tor today.

It was also traditional to drive cattle through the embers, for protection in the year ahead as the festival also marked their move to higher pastures. This is still a custom on Dartmoor where straw fires are lit for the purpose.

There are many curious traditions associated with May Day, such as bathing in May dew to improve the complexion, or Dartmoor's Nettle Day on May 3rd when local children held nettle fights, many of which survive locally in some form.

MAY EVE (April 30)

The Saxons continued the fire tradition instituted by the Romans and rolled flaming wheels from hilltops on 30 April. On Exmoor farm above Porlock, on May Eve, they used to put primroses in the cow stalls and hung bunches over the beasts' doors. According to the West Somerset W.I, it was the

custom on May Eve to hang bunches of greenery over the threshold last thing at night.

MAYING and MAY FLORAL TRADITIONS

A Roman tradition kept since by villages and royalty alike - there are records of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon bringing in the may.

In times past, on May Eve, whole villages spent the night revelling in the forest, sparking Puritanical outrage. In the morning, the villagers returned with armfuls of greenery and with oxen towing a freshly cut maypole. The village would then be decorated with foliage intended to renew life and give protection. In Cornwall, some folk still decorate their doorways with sycamore and hawthorn (which is usually called 'may' in Somerset).

In some areas, the foliage hung on somebody's door (and known as 'birching') reflected on the occupant. Hawthorn, and rowan indicated popularity, but gorse stood for a bad reputation, nut branches for promiscuity, thorn for dislike and briar for untrustworthiness.

In Quantock Vale, as late as 1952, they would hang a primrose ball over the 'drassle' (threshold).

Traditionally in Somerset you would also make a cross in the ashes with a hazel twig and set a branch of hazel outside your door. Hazel is traditionally a sign of fertility in Somerset, ('Plenty of catkins, plenty of prams' says an old proverb) and is seen as a protective plant.

People would also plant branches of greenery in front of the house on May Day.

It was common to make a 'tutti' (a posy) on May Day in Somerset. If you are in the Brendon Hills, you should always include whitethorn (may) in your tutti, but if you live in the Taunton Deane area, wearing hawthorn, or carrying it in a posy or taking it indoors on May Day means bringing death to the family. Interestingly, I also remember bringing sprigs of hawthorn indoors when I was little and being told by somebody in my family not to bring any into the house because it's unlucky as it 'smells like death'. It is also supposed to be the fairies' flower and they don't like people touching it.

MAY DOLL or Lady of the May

On 30th April, girls collected (or pinched) flowers from the locals to decorate their dolls. These May Dolls would be laid on a bed of flowers in a lidded box or cloth covered basket. On 1st May, boys carrying decorated hoop-ended poles accompanied the girls as they carried the covered May Dolls around the village, charging a penny a peep. This was traditional in mid Somerset until at least the early 1900s.

In the Quantocks coast area, meeting a red-haired man on May Day means

you will be unlucky, and if he squints as well, you'll meet with disaster in the coming year. Red hair in Somerset is associated with the fairies and also the Danes (which obviously goes a long way back).

MAY GUZE CHICKS or May Goslings

On successfully sending somebody on a fool's errand, folk would shout 'May Gosling' (like 'April Fool'). The correct response was: 'May Goslings past and gone. You're the fool for making me one!'

HOBBY HORSE

The hobby horse (or 'obby oss') is a man dressed as if he were riding a horse, on a circular, skirted construction, sometimes seen as good luck, sometimes seen as frightening.

Minehead and Padstow's rival 'osses' are some of the oldest May traditions in Britain. Both towns claim their oss is oldest. Minehead accuses Padstow's sailors of having stolen the oss from them during their May Day revels in the ancient past and Padstow accuses Minehead of the same.

Minehead's Sailor's Horse reputedly kept the Danes away, and had a tail fashioned from a cow washed ashore from a shipwreck. To this day, it sports a putrid genuine cow's tail which it 'whips' at onlookers who don't pay after they've been 'booted' (captured in its skirts, and usually preferably ladies as it's an old fertility symbol!). Every year, this oss sallies forth on Warning Night (May Eve) then battles the 'town horse' before passing onto Dunster, amidst bawdy folk songs.

In some towns, such as Bristol or Tavistock, he is hidden inside a large framework of sticks and leaves, called a Whitsuntide Basket, and he dances along with a retinue of leafy tatter Morris Men.

MAY QUEEN

Originally led the procession as Flora or Diana, Goddess of the Hunt but eventually became Queen of the May, and is usually a village girl chosen for her popularity or beauty.

Following the old tradition of 'May lifting' a troupe of bearers may carry or escort her flower-strewn chair, and on May 2nd she may choose a partner. May Queens are customarily crowned after the procession on arriving at the maypole on the village green, initiating a dance. In poor areas that did not have a custom maypole for the purpose, the dancers might simply dance in a ring. In a village in the Taunton Deane area, they apparently used to dance around a thorn tree (possibly a May tree).



Keep your independence at home With the Careline South Somerset Easter Offer

If you live at home, sometimes feeling at risk, or have elderly or infirm relatives about whose safety you worry yet wish to preserve their independence, then the South Somerset Careline should interest you.

Through Careline, you can enjoy the independence of living in your own home, secure in the knowledge that emergency help or advice is available at your fingertips.



To celebrate Easter, for all new installations booked before 30th April through this advertisement, we will offer free set up and connection! Please quote this advert when you contact us.

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Contact us on 01935 479815
careline@southsomerset.gov.uk
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Initial connection fee: £32.85*; hire and monitoring £3.84 per week

**waived if on certain benefits*

St Mary's Church Church Lane

Sunday 28th May at 11.30 a.m.

Please come to a

“Songs of Praise”

Held here during the week-end of
The Flower Festival

Come and enjoy the beauty in the Church

Spring Song

Annie (01460 241762)

Thou hearest the Nightingale begin the Song of Spring:
He leads the Choir of Day, TRILL, TRILL, TRILL,
Then loud from their green covert all the birds begin their song,
The Thrush, the Linnet, and the Goldfinch, Robin and the Wren
The Nightingale again assays his song, and through the day
And through the night warbles luxuriant: every bird of song.
Attending his loud harmony with admiration and love

William Blake (1757 –1827)

Nightingale

Luscinia Megarhynchos 6½"

The Nightingale is a summer visitor from Africa; arriving from mid-April and returning in early September.

It is widely known for its song rather than its brown appearance. It is usually found skulking amongst dense undergrowth in deciduous woodland. Its nest will be found close to or on the ground amongst vegetation. It lays a single brood.

The Nightingale may be heard on a warm Spring night and sometimes during the day with a soft call which is "WHEET" and softer "tucc-tucc" or a hard call "tacc-tacc" and the alarm call is a harsh "iterr". The song maybe heard from mid-April until early June—a wide range of melodious notes, loud and clear, often commencing with a bubbling "CHOOC-CHOOC-CHOOC-CHOOC" followed by a rising flutey, "PIOO-PIOO-PIOO-PIOO" which is repeated slowly ending in a lovely crescendo.

The last known record of a Nightingale singing its sweet song, in Seavington, was 8th May 1974. Please let me know if you hear the melody in the villages.

A Support the David Hall event

OPEN GARDENS in South Petherton

Sunday 4th June 2.00 - 6.00pm

£5 per person, children and wheelchair users free

At least 8 gardens open for visiting ◇ Refreshments ◇ Live music

Full programmes with garden details will be available in the **previous week** from the **David Hall, N&D News** and **Rosemary Heard** or **from the gardens on the day.**

Rosemary Heard invites you to a

Coffee morning for the Children's Society



Wednesday 7th June 10.00-12.00 at 13, Lightgate Road, South Petherton

Garden open ◇ Raffle ◇ Bring & Buy ◇ Marmalade, Cakes & Plants for sale

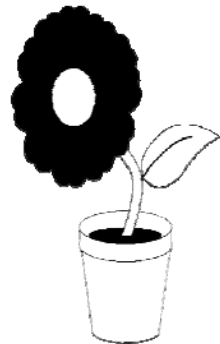
Entry £3 includes tea/coffee and biscuits—**EVERYONE WELCOME**

Plant Sale

***Saturday 13th May; 10am to 12pm
Seavington Millennium Hall***

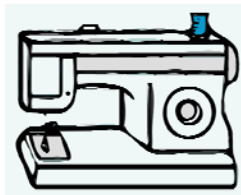
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Also our annual bring and buy Plant Sale.

Thursday 18th May - 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 01460240740
www.rspb.org.uk/groups/southsomerset

A registered charity: England & Wales no. 207076, Scotland no. SC37654



SEAVINGTON SHOP AND CAFE

MAY IN THE CAFE

Enjoy afternoon tea in the cafe garden.
Traditional cream tea or savoury tea. All our scones and cakes are made by Jane. Quality teas, infusions, chocolate and coffee.

SENIORS' LUNCH Monday 8th May. Please book to avoid disappointment

MAY IN THE SHOP

A great selection of biscuits!

Everyday biscuits at great value prices, starting at £1.

Moore's biscuits - lemon & ginger, chocolate chip and walnut crunch. **Border biscuits** - Viennese whirls, oat crumble, lemon drizzle and dark chocolate ginger.

Also **Eat Natural bars (GF)** - almond & apricot, brazil & sultana and date & walnut.



Seavingtons' Village Store & Cafe, Water St, Seavington St Mary. 01460 249730

Opening hours: Shop Mon-Fri 8.30am-6.00pm, Sat 9.00am-3.00pm

Cafe Mon-Fri 10.00am-4.00pm, Sat 10.00am-2.00pm



Rogation Sunday

On Sunday 21st May at 11.30 am

**The Madge Family warmly invite you to
Manor Farm, Seavington St Mary**

**The land is to be blessed with the hope of a
good harvest**

There will be drinks and nibbles afterwards

Everyone is most welcome

The Seavingtons' Weather in March 2017

This year—2017

Previous year—2016

Temperature

Average Minimum	4.99C	1.76°C
Average Maximum	12.46°C	10.69°C
Mean	8.72°C	6.23C

Rainfall

Monthly Total	66.3 mm (2.65")	76.0 mm (3.08")
Total for the year	192.1 mm (7.68")	282.4mm (11.30")



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