

THE SEAVINGTONS' NEWS

September 2017



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**Includes full results of Village Flower Show
See pages 15—19**

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The Seavingtons' News

I was intending to start this month's editorial with praise for last week's Village Flower Show. However, a much more meaningful contribution than anything I could make has come from someone who is far better qualified than I—see page 6. I will just add my congratulations to our Gardening Club and organisers.

Last month's comment about broadband speeds in Seavington St Mary has brought to light some interesting deficiencies which I have passed on to Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS). Surprisingly it has also unearthed issues in Seavington St Michael which were thought had been resolved last year.

To be quite clear, there is now “fibre to the cabinet” broadband available in both villages and there is no reason why anyone should not obtain broadband download speeds above 20 mbps or much faster. However, it does appear that individual internet service providers' (ISP) sales and technical staff eg TalkTalk, Sky, Plusnet etc are not aware that BT Openreach have installed the new equipment. Even some of BT's own retail sales staff appear not to have been informed.

Thus, if you still have poor internet speeds contact your provider and nag them. If you still get refused the higher speed, for which you may have to pay extra, let me know and I will send another consolidated list to CDS. I will need your full address, postcode and telephone number.

David Froome

DON'T FORGET

The Newspaper Skip! **pm Friday 8th September**
until am Monday 11th September

The Latest Copy Date **is the 15th September**
for the next issue

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*

29th August	7.00 pm	Community Shop Association AGM in Village Café—p 4
5th September		“Take Five” art exhibition in Ilminster Meeting House—p 7
6th September		Art & Craft exhibition in Village Shop—p 6
11th September	noon	Seniors’ Lunch in Village Café—p 31
14th September	7.30 pm	Gardening Club talk “Roses for Garden & Show” by Roy Halsey—p 15
16th September	7.00 pm	Flix in the Stix at Hinton St George Village Hall “The Viceroy’s House” - p 25
21st September	10.30 am	Gardening Club visit to Castle Gardens, Sherborne—p15
21st September	7.30 pm	RSPB Group talk “Ham Wall – A Fantastic Reserve for Wildlife and People” - p 31
2nd October	7.15 pm	Arts Society talk at Frogmary Green Farm, “Basingstoke and its contribution to world culture” - p 26

Regular Activities

2 nd Monday	noon	Seniors’ Lunch in Village Café
3 rd Tuesday	7.00 pm	Parish Council Meeting
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 September 11.30 am Holy Communion (CW)

10th September 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10th September 11.30 am Café Church at Seavington Café

17th September 11.30 am Holy Communion (CW)

24th September 11.30 am Matins

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

The Seavingtons' News Team

Editorial:	David Froome & Maria Potts
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Village web-site: www.theseavingtons.org

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

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Over the Counter

Ian Gibson

(01460 249556; office@togtrain.co.uk)

Well what a month!

This article is being written before the AGM on 29th August, so reports on the past year will be in the next issue – however, we have been suffering a little in July and early August as the road to the shop and café has been closed due to works for the gas main. This has meant that we have lost out in terms of takings in the shop and the café, due mainly to lack of passing trade. We are very grateful for our “regulars” who keep the place going and we have kept the shop and café open during the works despite upheavals. Thanks also to all those local residents in Water Street who have had to put up with such inconvenience.

So, a cry from our hearts please- do come along and shop at the store – you may be surprised at the range that we hold and the variety of things that you want – and all at very competitive prices. The large bills we have had to pay out for the installation of the air conditioning (yes we did not get it all grant funded) and the regular bills for utilities have taken their toll – so do see if you can persuade you and friends to come along and shop or enjoy a cuppa in the café. All this will help keep us going from strength to strength.

We have our regular summer goods for youngsters in store, ice creams for everyone and lots of good value wines starting from under a fiver and all high quality.

Shop space is at a premium in the store and we try and keep our local charities in mind when we offer them space but realising also that we need the space for merchandise to sell. We always have a display of local artists wares as well and to provide extra space is sometimes difficult. Whilst we do not wish to upset any good cause we have to balance these issues. I hope that people understand this predicament.

I hope you enjoy the rest of the summer and we look forward to seeing you in the store and café very soon.

We still need volunteers to join the rota of helpers, do leave a note in store if you can help out or speak to a volunteer on duty.

A Child's Memory of Dunkirk

Sheila Riley

I was six years old living in the family home in a village called Cove, just outside of Farnborough in Hampshire, when war was declared in September 1939. There were four bungalows at the start of a lane leading up to Oakey's Farm.

The first thing that happened was the loss of two-thirds of our front garden to widen the lane where barracks were being built on the farm land.

Our home overlooked the main London railway line. In May 1940 we knew that there had been a massive evacuation of troops from France. Rumour had it that the troops might be brought to Cove.

My brother John, seven years my senior, and I were sitting on the gate watching and waiting. Then we started to see the trains go by full of our returning troops. Then into view came the first lorries full of men in various stages of dress, mostly with their heads bowed. They were exhausted and demoralised and one could feel the anguish that came from these men.

This was one of my most frightening memories and certainly brought the war into our lives in no uncertain way. My brother put his arms round me and said "Don't worry Sis I will keep you safe". That is certainly a good memory.

Soon though, with the usual British resilience, those men were back in full uniform marching and getting ready to go back into battle. We then found that not only were there British troops but French and members of the Foreign Legion. Once again we felt protected and safe.

Dunkirk should never be forgotten along with the anguish that these men suffered and the outstanding bravery that was shown by so many during the course of the war.

I hope that the new film does justice to this important part of our history.

Village Voice—Letters to the Editor

The Seavington Flower Show on Saturday 12th August was another most excellent social event, justly rewarded with bright sunshine.

Those who participated or looked-in experienced a special treat, which would do any village community proud. Notwithstanding a season of poor summer weather the benches were filled with a wide range of entries, in some instances requiring skill to get the number all well staged. How the Show has progressed over the years.

Most of the vegetable, floral, culinary and art classes were of a very high standard indeed, not to mention the laudable efforts of young persons. Much of what was achieved would grace a village show anywhere – and in my working life I have been to quite a few!

The event makes a conspicuous contribution to community social life in the Seavingtons.

Such a success is only possible by reason of the interest, imagination and hard work of Garden Club members – whether in leadership roles or lending a hand where necessary.

They should all take a bow and savour the applause. Well done and thank you!

Mike Pollock
Rathdown, Upton Lane

Art and Craft at Seavington Community Store

From 6th September we are pleased to welcome -

Chris Wright exhibiting his earthenware pottery which combines fun and function in his colourful wares.

Ange Hart exhibiting her prints inspired by her West Country surroundings - cider orchards, folklore, landscapes and coastline.

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

Seavington Artist Exhibits

Andrew Sutton (01460 249338)

If you have enjoyed some of the illustrations that I have drawn for the front cover of the Seavington News over the last five years or so, you might be interested to know that I am exhibiting, with a group of four other local artists, at the Meeting House in Ilminster.

The exhibition, called 'Take Five', starts on the 5th of September and finishes at the end of the month. My work will be a mixture of oil, acrylic and watercolour paintings, on a variety of subjects and themes.

Village Heating Oil Syndicate

Peter Wyatt (01460 241546)

Unfortunately, for personal reasons, I am unable to carry on running the village syndicate for the bulk purchase of heating oil at reduced prices. If someone else would like to take this on I would be very happy to help them set it up again.

Western Fuels have given us a good service and supply a good product at competitive prices so I hope that, in the absence of a new syndicate, everyone will be happy to stay with them.

SPFA Lottery Draw Results

Jackie Priddle (01460 240734)

Here are the draw results for August 2017:

August 2017

First	£35	C Herrick
Second	£20	J Culham
Third	£15	A Gillard
Fourth	£10	Viv Rudd
Fifth	£10	G Parsons

Summer Days

Annie (01460 241762)

Sing a song of Summer days,
Leaf nooks and shady ways,
Nodding roses, apples red,
Clover like a carpet spread,
Stretch of meadows, splashed with dew,
Silver clouds with sunlight through.

Anon

August is a quiet time for birds. The breeding season is over. Adult birds are tired and need to rest and shed their old feathers for a new set. As August slips into September the moult is over and birds are feather perfect again. It is also a time for garden birds to go on vacation to the countryside! There is plenty to feed on in the fields and hedgerows. After a few weeks they will be back to your feeders and bird-tables.

It is a time to clean nest-boxes and for new ones to be erected so that they may “weather” in time for the following Spring.

Some of the summer visitors are still in gardens. Usually the Cuckoo would have departed for Africa by the beginning of August, followed by the Swift and Whitethroat.

Swallows and House Martins may still be feeding youngsters from their third broods and there is a plentiful supply of flying insects. As each day passes though, increasing numbers amass on telegraph wires. They are noisily chattering and restless. Suddenly, many of them leave the wires, rising high in the sky calling excitedly and giving the impression that they are leaving, but they settle back on the wires. More will join them tomorrow, a sight to behold!

All too soon they will be off to warmer climes—House Martins to West Central Africa and Swallows to Southern Africa—journeys of some 6,000 miles. Both are daytime migrants and are able to feed en route.

It is said that September is the best month for observing Pied Wagtails. They enjoy the many midges and flies; rushing after them and dancing into the air. On the ground, they strut purposely, looking all around them, their long tails constantly flicking.

As we approach Autumn, look out for seasonal changes eg the Robin is beginning to sing again.

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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?*

Recipe of the month

Taken from "The Seavingtons' Four Seasons" Cook Book

Holiday Yoghurt Cake

This cake is great for children to make during boring school holidays and was given by Pat Creed. Pat got this recipe from 'Women's Hour' in the 1970's and regularly used it when her children were little and wanted to do some cooking. It is endlessly adaptable and you can use any flavouring you want. Keeps very well and is good for school lunches.

Ingredients:

1 small pot of natural yoghurt
2 pots self-raising flour –white or whole wheat
2 pots sugar –brown or white
¼ pot oil
Grated lemon or orange rind (optional)
2 eggs
Pinch of salt

Method:

Heat oven to 350° F (180°C, Gas 4)

Line a small loaf tin with baking paper

Use yoghurt pot to measure ingredients into a bowl and mix with a wooden spoon

Pour mixture into the tin

Place on middle shelf and bake for 45 minutes. When cooked the cake will feel springy when pressed on the top.

Cool the cooked cake for 15 mins in tin, turn out and cool on wire rack. (If using a round tin do remember to line the tin and cook for slightly longer).

Seavington Gardening Club

Kate Mulligan (01460 242023)

Flower Show 12th August 2017

Once again the great British weather proved challenging for all of us who grow and show our prized flowers, fruit and vegetables. With unseasonal temperatures, strong winds and buckets of rain it has not been easy to get our carefully nurtured exhibits ready on time. Fortunately, despite all this, everyone rallied round to help produce a very successful Flower Show.

Entries were only marginally down on last year and we still had well over 235 exhibits, so well done to everyone who gave it a go.

The independent judges were very thorough in their decision making which, at times, cannot have been easy given the high standard of entries.

Our thanks go to them for a very efficient job and to John Tudor for presenting the prizes. Also a big thank you to all the volunteers, helpers, supporters and entrants without whom things would have looked pretty bleak. Thank you to the Gardening Club Committee for organising the event and to Annie for running the raffle.

Members of the Gardening Club also took part in our Summer Growing Competition which was to produce a prize winning specimen from a tiny plug plant of Geranium "Appleblossom".

A summary of the results is given at the end of this article and the results in each class follow on pages 16—19.

If you feel inspired to have a go yourself next year then we look forward to hearing from you. The rules are very simple, you must either be a member of the Gardening Club or live within a two mile radius of the Seavington boundaries.

Forthcoming Events

We will be back to the Millennium Hall for the start of our Autumn programme.

Thursday 14th September - 7.30pm - a talk by Roy Halsey entitled "Roses for the Garden and Show". Plants will be on sale plus refreshments and raffle. New members always welcome, visitors £2 payable at the door.

Don't forget - Flower of the Month Competition gets underway once more (members only).

Thursday 21st September - 10.30am - visit to Castle Gardens (Garden Centre) Sherborne for a talk followed by 25% discount shopping opportunity.

For further information please contact Karen Day tel. 01460 24972.

Flower Show Results

The full Flower Show results are shown over the following four pages. The overall results were:

Overall Winners

1st Prize—Vernon White

2nd Prize—Elizabeth Hayden

3rd Prize—Karen Day

Divisional Winners

Division 1 Flower—Karen Day

Division 2 Vegetables and Fruit—Vernon White

Division 3 Home Baking—Linda George

Division 4 Children's Class—Ruth Lewis

Photography and Craft—Nicola Wotton

RHS Grenfell Medal (Best Floral Arrangement) - Elizabeth Hayden

Best Floral Exhibit—Lis Tope

Members' Growing Competition—Karen Day

Winner of the most popular class, Flowering Shrub—Mike Pollock

Flowers (Division I)				
1	Roses - Best Scented	John Tudor	Karen Day	Jenny Deubert
2	Roses - Single Specimen Bloom	Karen Day	Jenny Deubert	John Tudor
3	Roses - Clustered Flowered	Lis Tope	John Tudor	Karen Day
4	Pansies or Violas	Lis Tope	Elizabeth Hayden	Jane White
5	Vase of Annuals	Glynis Tipping	Ann Clifford	Elizabeth Hayden
6	Vase Mixed Herbaceous Perennials	Karen Day	Elizabeth Hayden	Ann Clifford
7	Vase of Herbaceous Perennial Flowers, one variety	Jenny Deubert	Pauline Parsons	Glynis Tipping
8	Flowering Shrub	Mike Pollock	Pauline Parsons	Kate Mulligan
9	Dahlias - one variety	Anne Wills	Pauline Parsons	Karen Day
10	Dahlias - mixed varieties	Karen Day	Anne Wills	Kate Mulligan
11	Gladioli, decorative, any variety or varieties	Pauline Parsons		
12	Gladioli	Jenny Deubert	Karen Day	Pauline Parsons
13	Sweet Peas	Pauline Parsons	Karen Day	Anne Wills
14	Penstemon	Elizabeth Hayden	Karen Day	
15	Foliage Pot Plant	Karen Day	Cynthia Brown	Elizabeth Hayden
16	Flowering Pot Plant	Cynthia Brown	Lis Tope	Elizabeth Hayden
17	Flower Arrangement - in a teapot	Elizabeth Hayden	Lis Tope	Linda George
18	Flower Arrangement - in a cup & saucer	Elizabeth Hayden	Janet Pollock	Jane White
19	Arrangement of Seed Heads	Sheila Reyland		
20	Foliage Arrangement	Elizabeth Hayden	Mike Pollock	
Overall: 1st - Karen Day 22 pts; 2nd - Elizabeth Hayden 19 pts; 3rd - Pauline Parsons 13 pts				

	Ist	2nd	3rd
Vegetables & Fruit (Division 2)			
21 Potatoes - White	Elizabeth Hayden	Mike Pollock	Vernon White
22 Potatoes - Coloured	Pauline Woodward	Vernon White	Mark Lewis
23 Onions (dressed)	Vernon White	Mark Lewis	
24 Largest Onion (dressed)			
25 Shallots (dressed)	Vernon White	David Wills	
26 Shallots, pickling	Vernon White		
27 Beetroot	Mark Lewis		
28 Runner Beans	Vernon White	David Wills	Linda George
29 Longest Runner Bean	David Wills	Kate Mulligan	Vernon White
30 French Beans	Vernon White	Jenny Deubert	Linda George
31 Any vegetable not scheduled in another class	Glynis Tipping	Kate Mulligan	Mike Pollock
32 Courgettes	Mary Corcoran	Kate Mulligan	Cynthia Brown
33 Arrangement of different Herbs	Cynthia Brown	Mike Pollock	Elizabeth Hayden
34 Carrots	Vernon White	Mary Corcoran	
35 Tomatoes	Vernon White	Glynis Tipping	Mary Corcoran
36 Tomatoes (cherry type)	Vernon White	Pauline Woodward	Glynis Tipping
37 Tomatoes on the Vine	Glynis Tipping	Vernon White	
38 Trug of Mixed Vegetables	Vernon White	Mike Pollock	Mark Lewis
39 Cucumber	Vernon White		
40 Soft Fruit	Glynis Tipping	Kate Mulligan	
Overall: Ist - Vernon White 36 pts; 2nd - Glynis Tipping 12 pt; 3rd - Kate Mulligan 8 pts			

	Ist	2nd	3rd
Home Baking (Division 3)			
41 Homemade Lemon Curd	Linda George	Pauline Woodward	
42 Homemade Jam	Linda George	Janet Pollock	Jenny Deubert
43 Homemade Marmalade	Cynthia Brown	Jeffery Booker	Linda George
44 Homemade Chutney	Cynthia Brown	Janet Pollock	Jo Mills
45 Six pieces of Fudge	Janine Lewis	Jenny Deubert	
46 Bakewell Tart	Janine Lewis	Glynis Tipping	Sue Doble
47 Five Favourite Biscuits	Janine Lewis	Sue Doble	Linda George
48 Three Blueberry Muffins	Glynis Tipping	Joy Madge	Janine Lewis
49 A Small Loaf	Sue Doble	Linda George	
50 An individual Savoury Tart	Cynthia Brown	Linda George	Sue Doble
Overall: Ist - Linda George 11 pts; 2nd - Janine Lewis 10 pts; 3rd - Cynthia Brown 9 pts			

Childrens' Classes (Division 4)					
Age: up to 6 Years					
51	Item of Jewellery made from Edible Materials				
52	Floating Flower Heads in a Dessert Bowl	Evan Lock	Grace Lock	Poppy Gough	
53	Four Chocolate Chip Cookies	Sophie Wicks			
Age: 7 - 12 Years					
54	A Miniature Space Garden	Holly Lewis			
55	Best Dressed Vegetable	Ruth Lewis	Matthew Harriss	Adam Harriss	
56	Three Chocolate Brownies	Holly Lewis	Ruth Lewis	Adam Harriss	
Age: under 16 Years					
57	Photograph - 'Family Pet'	Holly Lewis	Ruth Lewis		
58	Design a Mouse Mat	Ruth Lewis	Adam Harriss	Matthew Harriss	
Overall: 1st - Ruth Lewis 10 pts;				2nd - Holly Lewis 9 pts;	3rd - Adam Harriss 4 pts
Craft Classes (Division 5)					
59	Photograph - 'Colours in the Garden'	Nicola Wotton	Shirely Farrington	Anne Wills	
60	Photograph - 'Village Life'	Nicola Wotton	Roger Wotton	Tony Farrington	
61	Craft Item	Jo Mills	David Wills	Jane White	
62	Best Dressed Vegetable				
Overall: 1st - Nicola Wotton 6 pts; 2nd - Jo Mills 3 pts; 3rd - David Wills, Roger Wotton & Shirely Farrington 2 pts					

News from Shepton Beauchamp Pre-school

Charlie Pattison (01460 241396)

We hope that you have all had a lovely summer. We are delighted to welcome our new Supervisor Natalie Tucker to the team and know that she will be a real asset to our lovely Pre-School and the children will continue to thrive under her leadership.

We are hugely proud of our Pre-School team who had a fabulous OFSTED report at the end of the summer term and passed with flying colours. We have been rated GOOD and had some super comments from the inspector. Well done to everyone!

The first topic this year is Autumn, the children will be doing lots of Autumn related activities inside and outside in the run up to the Harvest Festival. The children will be taking part in Jeans for Genes Day and being sponsored to wear denim for the day (or week!).

Our **AGM** is on Monday 25th September in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. We will say goodbye to some committee members and hope to recruit some equally enthusiastic replacements.

Our next **Bag2School** clothing collection is on 20th October – if you have any clothes, bags, shoes or soft toys we would be delighted to receive them at any time either at the Village Hall or at Stoke Villa, Robins Lane or phone us and we will collect.

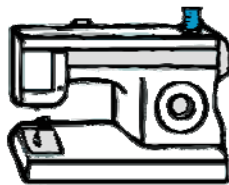
Recycling – we are collecting used computer ink cartridges, trigger sprays from cleaning products and empty biscuit wrappers – see our website for more details.

TODDLER GROUP. Our next meeting will be Thursday 7th September. All ages from babies to Pre-School aged children are very welcome. Friendly group – lots of chatter and coffee for grown-ups and fun for children too! Come anytime from 9-11.15am.

For more information please call Natalie or Kath 07765 437301 or email info@sheptonbeauchamppre-school.co.uk or www.sheptonbeauchamppre-school.co.uk or follow us on Facebook – or just pop in and meet us – we'd love to see you!

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The Ilminster Thursday Group

Sue Morley (01460 53378)

The Ilminster Thursday Group is an independent local group of mainly retired people which began its 40-year life at Dillington House. From the early days when just a few members gathered for weekly talks, we now have a membership around 200. Our permanent home is the Warehouse Theatre, Brewery Lane, Ilminster TA19 9AD, which has raked seats and excellent speaking and presentation facilities. We stage twenty weekly talks each year; ten during the autumn and ten during the spring. These begin at 10.15 a.m. and generally last for about 60 minutes with time afterwards for questions. Tea and coffee is available from 9.15.

September 28th	JOAN, THE FAIR MAID OF KENT - local author <u>Caroline Newark</u> will talk about her ancestor's scandalous life in the 14th century. There will be an opportunity to buy Caroline's book of the same title.
October 5th	DR ERASMUS DARWIN AND THE LUNAR MEN - <u>David Croman</u> returns with another fascinating illustrated talk about the life of an extraordinary physician, inventor, botanist, scientist, engineer, poet, evolutionist, a member of the Lunar Society and grandfather of Charles Darwin.
October 12th	THE ISLES OF SCILLY - Award winning wildlife film maker and one of Britain's most influential television producers, <u>Andrew Cooper</u> returns with an illustrated talk about the making of a BBC documentary celebrating the spectacular nature of the Isles of Scilly. Fine white sandy beaches lapped by crystal clear seas set beneath a vivid blue sky, yet just 28 miles south west of Land's End.
October 19th	CERAMIC RESTORATION - local ceramic restorer <u>Carole Fahy</u> will give an illustrated talk about the art of restoration with a series of before and after photos.
October 26th	THE WHEEL OF HOPE SOUTH CROFTY AND CORNISH TIN MINING - Local author, poet, historian and well known speaker <u>James Crowden</u> will talk about South Crofty, the last working tin mine in Cornwall, how closure in 1998 brought to an end more than 3,000 years of history, what it was like to labour hundreds of fathoms underground and paying tribute to the men, women and children whose lives shaped Cornwall's unique industrial landscape. The real Poldark!
November 2nd	CONTINUING TRAVELS IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA Part 1 - Local travellers extraordinaire <u>Ann & Clive Barker</u> return with two more instalments of their fantastic adventurous travels in their motorhome. This time they meander through Brazil, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile and Paraguay. Highlights include the incredible wildlife, the beautiful birds of the Pantanal, the Amazon river, 'pirates' and an Opera House, Angel Falls, Space Station, the Atacama desert and the largest telescope. Plus being stuck deep in the mud and 4 weeks on a cargo ship back to UK.
November 9th	CONTINUING TRAVELS IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA Part 2 - For details see above
November 16th	MY LIFE AS A GARDENER - A humorous and entertaining talk by <u>Kath Crouch</u> , BBC Gardener of the Year 1999 and BBC Gardener of the Decade 2008 sharing some well-kept secrets (does Alan Titchmarsh dye his hair?) and a wealth of information about plants and gardens.
November 23rd	JEREMY BENTHAM - Local historian and lecturer <u>Malcolm Elliott</u> talks about an 18th/19th century political philosopher and social reformer and one time resident of Forde Abbey.
November 30th	A MASTERPIECE ON YOUR MANTELPIECE - local auctioneer <u>Richard Kay</u> talks about the images on Christmas cards, both familiar and unfamiliar.

As you can see from this Autumn's programme, shown above, it is our policy to provide a balanced programme of talks and to encourage, where possible, local experts to share something of their knowledge and enthusiasms with us. Talks are not limited to local interests and each

programme will include subjects which range over a wide spectrum of knowledge.

Recent programmes have included travel in Mongolia and Siberia with fantastic photography, the history of Chinese porcelain, ancient woodland (its history, ecology and uses), Margaret Bondfield (the shop assistant from Chard who become the first female Cabinet Minister), Sigmund Freud (his life, ideas and influence), Literary Somerset and Stories from a West Country Butcher plus much more.

We currently have vacancies for the year 2017/18. Membership costs £20 per year which includes all 20 talks. Visitors are very welcome at £3.00 a visit, provided there are seats available.

A New Age wedding

Anon...

Dear Dad,

I am coming home to get married soon, so get out your cheque book. I'm in love with a boy who is far away from me. As you know, I am in Australia, and he lives in Scotland. We met on a dating website, became friends on Facebook, had long chats on Whatsapp, He proposed to me on Skype, and now we've had two months of relationship through Viber.

My beloved and favourite Dad, I need your blessing, good wishes, and a really big wedding.

Lots of love and thanks,

Your favourite daughter,
Lilly

My Dear Lilly,

Like Wow! Really? Cool! Whatever....., I suggest you two get married on Twitter, have fun on Tango, Buy your kids on Amazon, and pay for it all through Paypal.

And when you get fed up with this new husband, sell him on eBay.

Dad

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

Valete and Salvete

Manda Jagers (01460 240554)

This year, after nearly 14 years service, Carol Talbot has stepped down as Churchwarden of St Michael's. Having spent most of her life in the village, Carol has a brilliant knowledge of both the history and fabric of our churches and I would like to publicly express my gratitude to her for all her help, support and wisdom during this time. Enjoy a well earned rest Carol - we have your phone number!

Anne Shaw has kindly stepped into the breach as the new Churchwarden and is quickly learning the ropes. Thank you for agreeing to take on the position, Anne. Our contact numbers are: Manda 01460 240554 and Anne 01460 249156

Both numbers have answer-phones, please do not hesitate to call us if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you to those villagers who highlighted the recent problems with maintenance of the churchyard, this has now been resolved.

House group in Seavington

Liz Harper, who has recently moved into the village with her husband, Bob, (warm welcome) has kindly offered to host and, initially, lead a house group in the village, starting in September (day and time tbc, probably evenings.) Please let Anne or Manda know if you are interested in joining or would like more information.

Seavington Church Wardens

Carol Talbot (01460 241478)

As you may know, after 12 years serving as Church Warden in the Seavingtons, I recently 'retired'. It was always an honor, especially as I follow in my grandfather Bert Reyland's footsteps, who was Church Warden here many years ago.

I'm so pleased that Anne Shaw is now Church Warden and I know you'll welcome her to the Office and support her in her new role. Anne will be brilliant, she's very compassionate and caring. Manda and Anne make a great team, and continue looking after the Church, the Congregation and Rev. Tom Handy brilliantly.

In recent years I've been lucky enough to work with Manda, which has always been enjoyable, and we became really firm friends along the way. Thanks Manda, couldn't have done it without you!

I'd also like to say thank-you all so much for supporting me over the years and also for my thoughtful gifts, they were perfect and will be greatly enjoyed, although I still don't believe I deserve them.

Even though I have retired from being C.W. I will of course remain involved in the Churches.....you don't get rid of me that easily!

“Flix in the Stix”

Andrew Overhill (01460 72563)

Hinton St. George 'Flix in the Stix' presents 'THE VICEROY'S HOUSE' (12A), on SATURDAY 16th SEPTEMBER 2017 in the Hinton Village Hall at 7.00 pm. 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.

This film is set in India in 1947: Lord Mountbatten (Hugh Bonneville) and his wife Edwina (Gillian Anderson) arrive in New Delhi to oversee the country's transition from British rule to independence. Taking his place in the resplendent mansion known as the Viceroy's House, Mountbatten hopes to end centuries of colonial rule without strife but in a country divided by deep religious and cultural differences this proves no easy undertaking, setting off a seismic struggle that threatens to tear India apart.

Hugh Bonneville leads a strong cast in this gripping, witty and charming historical drama which also has an 'Upstairs Downstairs' theme within the household.

The Arts Society Neroche South Somerset

A Re-launch

THE ARTS SOCIETY flourishes in our area. Known until this year as the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS), it rebranded in May and changed its name. There are over 380 separate branches of the Society across the UK plus more around the world, all aiming to promote the arts and inform people who would like to learn more about them.

Our local branch - THE ARTS SOCIETY NEROCHE SOUTH SOMERSET - meets very near The Seavingtons in the conference centre at Frogmary Green Farm, South Petherton, just down the lane that runs alongside the Lopen Raj restaurant. For anyone who isn't sure, Neroche was the name of a Norman motte and bailey castle in South Somerset's Blackdown Hills. The word has featured in the local Society's name since it was founded in 1973, the first NADFAS branch in south west England. If you love the arts in their widest sense, you might like to join Neroche, both to enjoy its programme of events and to meet like minded local people.

New members are always welcome and those who want to get a taster first can come along to up to two lectures in any season, for a small contribution. Each season also features Visits and in depth Study Days held at Monks Yard Ilminster, both are open to non members if there are spare places.

This is a great time to consider membership as our new programme of illustrated lectures, delivered by experienced and nationally recognised experts, starts in October. We then meet monthly at 7.15pm, usually on the first Monday, until the following July.

Lecture one on October 2nd will be "Basingstoke and its contribution to World Culture". If that doesn't sound arts connected (and I did say arts "in their widest sense") bear in mind that, amusingly told, the lecture will demonstrate one of the ugliest episodes in English architectural history while also revealing the older Basingstoke buried beneath the post war concrete, plus the few historic gems that have survived.

To find out more about the Society and its 2017-18 programme, please visit our website www.theartssocietynerochesouthsomerset.org.uk. For general enquiries, call 01460 241485 or send an e-mail to: info@theartssocietynerochesouthsomerset.org.uk

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Thursday 21st September - 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

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Apple Harvest Supper

Friday 20th October, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm
at the Seavington Millennium Hall

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Tickets £ 7; under 16 £4; Family Ticket £20

Available from Seavington Village Store and
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The Seavingtons' Weather in July 2017

This year—2017

Previous year—2016

Temperature

Average Minimum	12.63°C	12.18°C
Average Maximum	21.98°C	22.16°C
Mean	17.31°C	17.17°C

Rainfall

Monthly Total	86.6 mm (3.46")	3.8 mm (0.16")
Total for the year	451.9 mm (18.08")	464.4mm (18.54")

This month had a warm, dry, start with a cooler second half
It was the wettest July since the Summer of 2012



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