

THE SEAVINGTONS' NEWS

December 2018



Gardening Club Programme for 2019 on pages 16 & 17
Spot the Difference Competition on pages 10 & 11

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The Seavingtons' News

May I start by pointing out that the copy date for the next issue, January 2019!, is Friday 14th December? This earlier copy date allows production and distribution of the magazine to be completed before the holiday season gets under way.

May I take this opportunity to thank the entire Seavingtons' News team for their unqualified support throughout the year? From keyboard to your letterbox some seventeen people are involved in bringing you your copy of our monthly village magazine and that number excludes our various contributors. I am most grateful for their efforts.

Mention of contributors is my annual cue to plead for folk to come forward with articles. These can cover any topic, perhaps hobby related, on some piece of local or national history or indeed any subject that interests you because it is likely to interest others as well. Articles can be sent by e-mail or as manuscript, we can cope with most formats and handwriting!

You will find details of various Christmas events and our church services on pages 2 & 3 of the magazine, all cross referenced by the page where more information is available.

It only remains for me to wish you all a very happy Christmas together with best wishes for the New Year—2019.

David Froome

DON'T FORGET

The Waste-paper Skip! pm Friday 14th December
until am Monday 17th December

The Latest Copy Date is the 14th December
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*

8th December	3.00 pm	Father Christmas arrives at Community Shop—pp 8 & 21
9th December	11.30 am	Family Carol Service at St Mary's Church—p 19
12th December	noon	Community Christmas Lunch in Village Café—p 21
13th December	noon	Gardening Club Christmas Lunch at Dillington House—p 19
15th December	8.30 am	Village Walk—p26
15th December	7.30 pm	Carols & Classics by Candlelight in All Saints Church, Merriott—p 32
19th December	7.30 pm	Supper Club in Village Café—p 21
19th December	8.00 pm	Christmas Quiz at Volunteer Inn—p 9
23rd December	4.00 pm	Christingle and refreshments in St Michaels Church—p 19
25th December	11.00 am	Christmas Day Family Service in St Michael's Church—p 19

Regular Activities

2 nd Monday	noon	Community Lunch in Village Café
3 rd Tuesday	6.30pm	Parish Council Meeting in Village Café
3 rd Wednesday	10.30am	“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

December 2nd 11.30 am Family Communion, (Posada departs)

December 9th 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

December 9th 11.30 am Carol Service at St Mary's Church

NB No Café Church

December 16th 11.30 am Holy Communion (CW)

December 23rd 4.00 pm Christingle & refreshments in church

December 25th 11.00 am Family Communion (Posada returns)

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

The Seavingtons' Weather in October 2018

This year—2018

Previous year—2017

Temperature

Average Minimum	7.04°C	9.83C
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Average Maximum	15.34°C	-
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Mean	11.19°C	-
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Rainfall

Monthly Total	52.6 mm (2.10")	50.2 mm (2.01")
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Total for the year	570.4 mm (22.82")	640.9 mm (25.634)
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Unless we have a very wet last two months of the year we will fall short of our yearly average rainfall of 800 mm (32")

Advertising Rates

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

Advertising enquiries to: adverts@theseavingtons.org

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

Sir,

Whilst delivering last month's Seavingtons' News my wife was bitten by a resident's dog which was running free in the grounds of their home.

It seems to me that this is a good time to remind everyone that many people, postmen, milkmen and delivery drivers to name but a few, regularly access our properties and are entitled to do so in safety.

With this in mind might I remind dog owners that if they have dogs which are unsafe/untrustworthy they should be confined, tethered or muzzled for the safety of others.

As bad as this incident was it could all too easily have been much worse!

Tony Farrington

Dear Seavingtons' News

I would just like to say what a great idea it was to twin the loo in the shop!

Being able to go to the loo safely and hygienically doesn't seem much of a thing for us in the West, but it makes a huge difference to many poorer communities . Twinning a Toilet is a really good idea as a gift for that difficult to buy for person. Or you could twin your own loo, we have done that. The need for loos is great .Here are some reasons from the Toilet Twinning Association website that explains why loo twinning is such a good thing to do:

- 2.3 billion people don't have somewhere safe and hygienic to go to the toilet. (WHO/Unicef)

- The lack of a loo makes women and girls a target for sexual attack as they go to the toilet in the open, late at night.
- Almost 1,000 children die every day from preventable diseases linked to dirty water and unsafe toilets. (UN)
- 663 million people live without safe water. (Unicef)
- Children worldwide miss 443 million school days each year because of dirty water and poor sanitation. (UN)

Every year, women and girls spend 97 billion hours finding a place to go. (World Bank)

For more information go to www.toilettwinning.org

Jo Mills

Dear Editor,

I think a good location for the replacement oak would be the top of Scotts Hill next to the entrance to the village stone. In years to come it would be visible for the whole village to see.

Andrew Gillard.

Can you Remember?

David Froome, Editor (news@theseavingtons.org; 01460 249445)

Kerry Miller is researching the history of the Perry Street League, the group of village football clubs that used to include Seavington. Kerry writes:

"I am fortunate enough to have access to the bound volumes of the Chard and Illy News from just before WWII and in it there is talk that Seavington United FC were playing home games in the mid 30s onwards at Long Close. During the war there were school games played there also but I wondered if you could tell me were that is, or was?"

If any of our older readers can shed light on this could they please let me know so that I can pass the information on?

Robin

Erithacus rubecula 5½"

Annie (01460 241762)

Therefore all seasons shall be subject to thee
Whether the Summer clothe the general earth
With greenness or Redbreast sit and sing
Between the tufts of snow on the bare branch
Off mossy apple-tree.

S T Coleridge (1772—1834)

The Robin is one of the most familiar of garden birds, especially in mid-winter. The sight of a puffed-up Robin on a cold, frosty, morning will bring a smile to your face. Even though it is one of our much-loved birds, it may be aggressive and will not tolerate intruders to its territory.

Usually a plump bird with a distinctive red breast and face and a white underside, its head, wings, rump, tail and legs are all brown. The sexes are alike apart from the brown forehead which is “V” shaped in females and “U” shaped in males. It sings all the year round but is more gussy in the winter months—high pitched and warbling. The alarm call is a sharp “Tik Tik”.

It frequents bird-tables and feeders, loves fruit-cake and nuts and has been known to take worms from the hand. Most gardeners know that when they are using a spade the friendly Robin will be hovering for any juicy grub or worm that they dig up!

Ho! Ho! Have a good Christmas

RNLI Coffee Morning

Mary & Peter Wyatt (01460 241546)

Thank you to everyone who supported the Coffee Morning at Hunts House on the 8th November. The amount raised was £518.25—another record, absolutely brilliant!

Seavington Youth Club

Janine Lewis: (07922 181948; janineannlewis@talktalk.net)

A huge well done to our members, who over half-term took part in a Bikeability cycling course. We were blessed with weather that was freezing but sunny - no rain at all fortunately. Our fantastic instructors were Graham and Lara from Somerset Road Safety, they commented on great progress made by all students as well as great behaviour and attitudes. All made significant improvements in their cycling over the two days of instruction.

Many thanks to Cheryl Herrick, who helped over the two days and to all shop and hall car-park users, who were very understanding and considerate when we used the car park on the Monday.

CHRISTMAS

On Monday 10th December the youth club will be celebrating the Christmas season and end of the Autumn term by going bowling in Yeovil. All youth club members are invited, parents just need to provide transport to and from the venue. Sign up on a Monday session to book your place. MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL.

REMINDER

The current committee will be stepping down from running the club in April. Without a committee there will be no youth club. We have one person interested in helping out, but the club cannot run with one volunteer. Please think seriously about whether you could offer some time to see the continuation of the club in the future.

Sessions = Mondays - 6.30 - 7.45 pm at the village hall. £1 per session. (All 8+ children are welcome).

Session dates to April 2019:

January 14th and 28th

February 11th

March 4th and 18th

Over the counter

Ian Gibson (01460 249566)

Firstly, a great big vote of thanks to all who helped put on the Barn Dance in The Millennium Hall – the evening was a great success and enjoyed by everyone who attended. Who knows - we may repeat the event again. Funds were raised for the day to day running of the store as we run on very tight budgets and cash flow. It gave the store the breather it needed. For all volunteers who help at the store and café I am very grateful, and would, on everyone's behalf thank them for their constant hard work for the community. A happy Christmas to them all and their families and supporters.

In the store we have the annual raffle tickets to purchase, some great prizes on offer for just £1 per ticket, though I am certain you'll want more. Turkey from Bonners is top of the list and many other worthwhile and extravagant prizes. Again, gratitude to all our donors who help us raise the funds.

The Christmas display is set out in the store and we have many foods, gifts and goodies for everyone's taste and delectation. Do come along and see what we have on offer, you may be surprised.

The range of wines and spirits alongside beer and cider and soft drinks are all priced at very competitive prices from under £5 for a decent wine to some more expensive dessert and fortified wines for that post lunch satisfaction. If you are considering buying 6 or more bottles, then ask me and I can maybe negotiate a further discount- why bother to buy elsewhere when you can see what we have on offer.

We also keep up the tradition of displaying local work by artists who have included some Christmas goodies to buy, do come and see them.

Father Christmas arrives on December 8th on his way around the globe – thanks to him for being early for us in his busy schedule. We greet him with a glass of mulled wine and some nibbles and then draw the Christmas raffle. The fun starts at 3.00 pm so do come along and sing some carols and get into the Christmas mood!

Thank-you to all our regular customers and to all we have yet to meet and a very happy new year to you all.

Every good wish for the Season and New Year.

Christmas Quiz at the Volunteer Inn

Michael Harrison (01460 249266)

The quiz night held at the Volunteer in October in aid of the Douglas Macmillan Oncology Unit at Yeovil District Hospital raised £120. Thank you to everyone who took part in this event.

The next quiz night, in aid of the Seavington Playing Field Association, will be held on Wednesday 28th November at the Volunteer starting at 8pm.

The Christmas Quiz, in aid of the Yeovil Freewheelers, is being held at the Volunteer on Wednesday 19th December, from 7pm, with the quiz starting at 8pm.

Yeovil Freewheelers were founded in 1978 and provide a unique out-of-hours free courier service between different hospitals and patients in their homes across the whole South Somerset and North Dorset area. They are the oldest operational blood bike group in the country, and currently operate a fleet of three motorcycles to carry urgently needed medical items such as blood, biological samples, medical notes, x-rays and medicines.

The service is provided completely free of charge to the NHS. All members of Yeovil Freewheelers are unpaid volunteers, and the service is wholly funded by donations and sponsorship.

Tickets for the evening are £8 which includes hot food, with all diets catered for, or £2 for just the quiz.

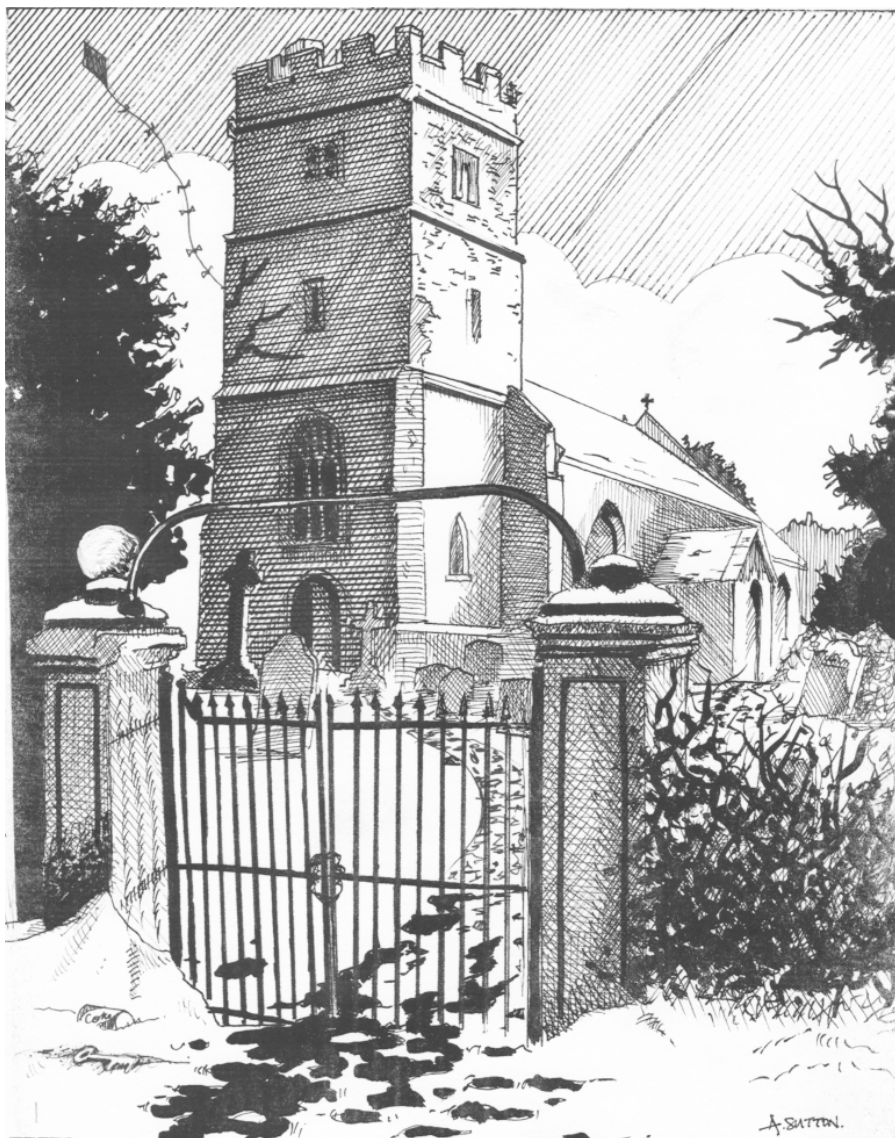
Tickets are limited and are available from the Volunteer Inn (01460 240126).

News from our CLT

Moirá Ensor (01460 242234)

Hopefully, by the time you read this bulletin, the Community Land Trust will have exchanged contracts for taking over the three houses in Falcon Close. We are very close now, the Transfer has been signed and is “Held to Order” by our solicitors, pending the final paperwork passing for outstanding issues.

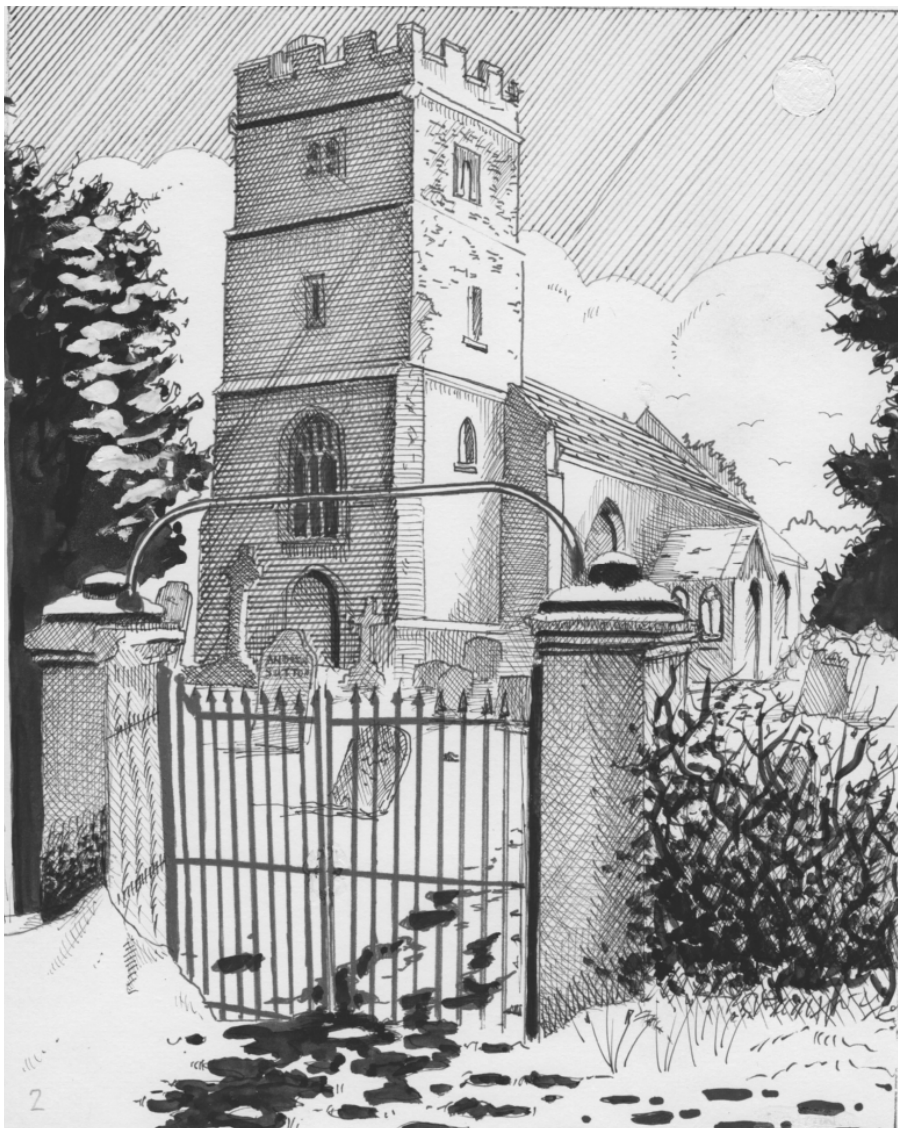
The successful applicants will be notified formally and offered a tenancy at either 4, 6 or 8 Falcon Close just as soon as our solicitors are sure that all the legalities have been satisfied.



Can you Spot the Difference?

Andrew Sutton has very kindly provided us with this Christmas puzzle.

There are a lot of differences between these two pictures of St Mary's Church. The Seavingtons' News is offering a prize of a £25 voucher to spend in our Community Shop to the person noting the largest number



of differences. Just send your list of differences to the editor by post or e-mail using the details at the bottom of page 1 by Saturday 5th January 2019. In the event of a tie the winner will be drawn from a hat containing the names of everyone with the winning number of differences.

A list of all the differences will be published in the February edition of The Seavingtons' News.



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purchased through the website or in Harrimans Menswear, Silver St,
Ilminster.

Coming soon:

6th, 7th, 8th, 13th, 14th, 15th December—David Copperfield

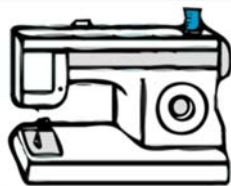
20th December—Social Evening

17th January—Social Evening

20th—23rd February—One Act lays

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St Margaret's Support Groups are open to anyone affected by a life-limiting illness – patients, their families and friends. As well as providing an opportunity to meet others in similar situations, our trained volunteers can offer visitors:

a listening ear ◊ provide free information ◊ help signpost to other services
 The groups are run on a drop-in basis – there is no need to book or to be referred

Or perhaps you would like to become a volunteer to help run these groups?

**St Margaret's Hospice, Taunton TA1 5HA Thursdays 2pm-4pm
 Octagon Theatre, Yeovil BA20 1UX 10.30am – 12.30**

For further information please contact Lesley Burgess
 E-mail: lesley.burgess@st-margarets-hospice.org.uk; Tel: 0845 070 8910

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Seavington Gardening Club 2019



Thursday 10th January at 7.30pm

Talk: 'The Bishop's Palace' James Cross – Head Gardener at The Bishop's Palace, Wells
Flower of the month competition



Thursday 14th February at 7.30pm

Talk: 'Rogues Gallery – Garden Pests' Sally Nex
Flower of the month competition



Thursday 14th March at 6.30pm

AGM & Talk: 'Companion Planting' The Gold Club
Plants for sale
Flower of the month competition



Thursday 11th April at 7.30pm

Talk: 'Cut Flower Gardening & Hand Tied Posy Demonstration' Georgie Newbery – Common Farm Flowers
Flower arranging items & books for sale
Flower of the month competition



Monday 15th April at 7.00pm

Visit to Brimsmore Garden centre for a talk and shopping with 25% discount



Thursday 9th May from 6.00pm

Visit: Forest Lodge (Stud Farm), Penselwood, Wincanton, Somerset, BA9 8LL
– Lucy Nelson
Entry, Tea & Cake £8.50



Saturday 11th May 10am to 12 noon

*******PLANT SALE*******
At Seavington Millennium Hall



Thursday 13th June from 6.00pm

Visit: Homeacres, Alhampton, Shepton Mallet, BA4 6PZ
– Charles Dowding (No Dig Philosophy)
Entry & Refreshments £10.00



Thursday 20th June

Coach Trip: Sir Harold Hillier Gardens, Romsey, SO51 0QA
Details to follow





Seavington Gardening Club 2019



Thursday 11th July from 6.00pm

Visit: Broomhill, Rampisham, Dorchester, Dorset, DT8 3NR

– Carol Parry

Entry, Tea & Cake £8.50



Saturday 10th August at 2.30pm

***** FLOWER SHOW *****

At Seavington Millennium Hall



Thursday 12th September at 7.30pm

Talk: 'Growing Bulbs' Mickey Little – Avon Bulbs

Bulbs and Plants for sale

Flower of the month competition



Thursday 19th September at 10.30am

Visit to Castle Gardens (Garden Centre), Sherborne for
a talk and shopping with 25% discount



Thursday 10th October at 7.30pm

Talk: 'Autumn Flowering Perennials' Rosy Hardy – Hardy's Cottage Plants

Plants for sale

Flower of the month competition



Thursday 14thth November at 7.30pm

Talk: 'My Journey Through Great Gardens' Alan Power – Head Gardener at Stourhead

Flower of the month competition

and annual presentation of Irene Williams Memorial Plate



Christmas Lunch Thursday 12th December

Details TBC



Membership £8.00 p.a. payable in January

**Meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month in the
Millennium Hall, Seavington at 7.30pm**

Visitors always welcome, £2 payable at the door (includes refreshments)

For more information contact:

Karen Day 01460 249728

Seavington Gardening Club

Kate Mulligan (01460 242023)

Thursday 8th November 2018

“Berried Treasure” by Jenny Short

Jenny originally trained as a ceramics sculptor but over the last twenty years has been a successful garden designer both in this country and abroad. She gives talks and workshops to many horticultural societies and has a regular stand at the Taunton Flower Show.

Her knowledge and enthusiasm comes across in her talks and we were lucky enough to hear what plants to use in our gardens for spectacular year round effect. As Jenny pointed out, living in the West Country is the best place to be to grow plants for late autumn and early winter colour.

Plants such as Cyclamen Coum and Hederifolium, which are both hardy, start the show. Plants or trees with brilliant leaf colour take over and then coloured stems of plants such as dogwoods continue the display. It is also important to have a good selection of evergreens to punctuate the garden for added interest.

The list of plants Jenny covered was impressive and a copy of this is available from the Gardening Club. Some of the most inspiring plants are the ones that not only give colour but scent as well. The vast majority of winter flowering plants do this in order to attract insects that might still be around so we get the benefit too. This group includes Winter Sweet and Daphnes and the more unusual Abelia Francis Mason which flowers from August to October and even into November and has a mild scent.

The hot summer this year has meant that we are now enjoying some amazing displays of berries on plants such as Cotoneaster, Pyracantha and of course the Rosa Rugosa hips. However, the most incredible colour has to be the Callicarpa Bodiniari Profusion with such bright shining purple berries they look as if they should be in a sweet shop or on a necklace.

For leaf colour go for something like Cotinus Grace or any of the Japanese Acers and for bark colour the Silver Birch takes some beating. If you have room there is also the Oak - Quercus Polopsis and Acer Griseum or Cinnamon Bark Tree.

Our thanks to Jenny for such a massive amount of information delivered in an easy to listen to style that I hope inspired those present.

Flower of the Month Competition

1st - Julie Pavitt - nerine

2nd - Liz Hayden - abutilon

3rd - Anne Kilty - grevillea

Overall winner of the Flower of the Month Competition and holder of the Irene Williams Memorial Plate was Liz Hayden. Many congratulations to her.

Forthcoming Events

Thursday 13th December

Christmas Lunch at Dillington House - arrival 12.00 with lunch served at 12.30

Thursday 10th January 7.30pm in the Millennium Hall - a talk on "The Bishop's Palace" by head gardener James Cross.

Christmas Church Services

Family Carol Service
At St Mary's Church

Sunday 9th December at 11.30 am
Remember to wrap up warmly
All your favourite carols, do bring
your family and friends

Christingle
At St Michael's Church

Sunday 23rd December at 4.00 pm
Please bring your family and friends
and stay for mulled wine and mince
pies after the service

Christmas Day Family
Communion
At St Michael's Church

Tuesday 25th December at 11.00 am
Come and celebrate Christ's birth



A View of the Village

The Seavington Stroller

Whilst recently ambling through the village, I met a lady visitor who had just enjoyed a coffee and piece of lemon cake in the café. She was full of praise for the facilities in the village, the shop with its varied goods, the café for its selection and friendliness, the hall with the new car park, and the children's play area. She deemed the residents to be very lucky to have such good facilities and activities.

This got me to thinking of recent events. A few weeks ago there was the Supper Club and its Caribbean evening, then the Harvest Home evening with an excellent buffet, ding bats, live music and poetry, with the evening culminating in Tom Handy leading us in the singing of "sea shanties" Then on the 9th November there was the Barn Dance in the hall.

Now this was a question of knowing your right from left, the difference between clock and anticlockwise, circles from squares and forward and back, which were all then further complicated by a memory test to string them together in the right sequence. Did we go wrong, yes of course we did, but did it matter, not at all as it added to the fun and pleasure of the evening. Outside the wind was howling and the rain pouring down, but there we were shaking hands or linking arms and do-si-doing with villagers to whom perhaps we had only previously offered a good morning and a comment about the weather.

Then on the 11th some 60 or more of us came together on the playing field in the act of Remembrance, followed by tea and biscuits in the café.

So are we lucky, perhaps fortunate or even blessed to have these facilities. You can apply whichever adjective you like, but none of these events would have taken place without the immense effort of volunteers who freely give of their time to manage the facilities and to organise and run the events.

All those volunteers can take great pride and satisfaction in providing such wonderful opportunities for our community to meet and enjoy each other's company.

What of the future, the Posada will travel through the village in December, staying at a different home each night and uniting us all in the story of Christmas. Then Father Christmas is visiting the shop on the 8th December when hopefully he will also enjoy the carol singing which last year surpassed all previous efforts, and then returning to the theme of food, on the 12th there is the Community Lunch and on the 19th the Supper Club celebrates Christmas.

I think our lady visitor will be quite envious of our community.



CHRISTMAS AT SEAVINGTON SHOP AND CAFE

THE GIFT SHOP ON YOUR DOORSTEP!

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Christmas puddings, PLUS crackers, stocking fillers, craft
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BEAUTIFUL GLASS TREE DECORATIONS WINTER WARMING KNITWEAR BY BUFFY FLETCHER

Saturday 8th December @ 3pm.

Father Christmas will visit the shop

Join your friends and neighbours for carols, seasonal refreshments and a chat.

Wednesday 12th December - Community Christmas lunch

Traditional Christmas lunch with all the trimmings, mince pies & coffee.

Wednesday 19th December - Supper Club

Have fun at Jane's Christmas themed meal!

BOOKING ESSENTIAL FOR BOTH CAFE EVENTS

SHOP AND CAFE OPENING TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR

Monday **24th** December - Shop & Cafe 9.00 - 12.00

Tuesday **25th** & Wednesday **26th** December - closed

Thursday **27th** & Friday **28th** December - Shop & Cafe 9.00 - 3.00

Saturday **29th** December Shop 9 – 3, Cafe 9.00 - 2.00

Monday **31st** December Shop & Cafe 9.00 - 3.00.

Tuesday **1st** January - Shop & Cafe closed

Thank you for your support during 2018.

***WISHING YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY
CHRISTMAS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO
SEEING YOU IN 2019***

**PS Don't forget to start saving items for the BRIC-
A-BRAC stall. We will be able to accept your
donations from January onwards**

Seavington Shop & Cafe: Water Street, Seavington St Mary,
TA19 0QH. Tel: 01460 249730



Parish Council News—November 2018

Pauline Parsons (parishcouncil@theseavingtons.org)

Planning - There is no further news regarding the outline planning application for 8 houses at the top of Upton Lane.

More concerns were reported to SSDC Planners on 2nd November regarding works taking place at Southernaways without listed building approval. The Parish Council was advised on the 6th November that the new owner of the property would be contacted with regard to these issues and that a retrospective plan would have to be submitted for works being carried out. The Parish Council is still awaiting this.

The Parish Council was contacted with regard to the erection of 5 buildings for the purpose of building and storing of Carnival carts by 'local' clubs. The area concerned is actually in the parish of Kingstone bordering Seavington St Mary - the field opposite the site currently used by the Ilminster club Gemini for the building of their float, which is owned by Dillington Estates. It would seem that several other sites had been investigated but this area was deemed to be the best!!!

After discussion the Parish Council agreed with the comments made the SSDC Highways consultant that more investigation was needed by the applicant with regard to the use of the minor roads to access the site by the many vehicles that would be on site when the carts were being built, and also the moving of the carts along Park Lane to access the C5021. It was felt that the maintenance of these narrow lanes would have to be significantly improved if this plan was approved. It was also felt that this is not agricultural but industrial use.

Traffic Calming – We are still awaiting news regarding the funding for the plan suggested by County Highways – signs and lines.

Drains – The responsibility of Highways' drains that cross private land is still being investigated and it is hoped that this will happen in the not too distant future now that SSDC has finished the reorganisation of its departments. With regard to the drains opposite Rookesmead Lane it would seem that the team were not looking in the correct place to find 'the positive outfall'. This will be taken up again with County Highways.

Footpaths – SCC are carrying out a Consultation regarding footpaths in the County. The Parish Council has until 31st January to make any comments. However, for a number of years there is only 1 area managed by SCC and this is 'Bread and Cheese Lane' which runs from Park Lane to Longford Lane. If you have any comments you wish to make regarding any of our footpaths please let us know.

News from Shepton Beauchamp Pre-School

Lucy Hamnett (07588 842354)

Christmas has well and truly arrived! Our theme for this term is celebrations. The children will be creating lots of decorations to make the village hall look festive as well as practising songs for the singing concert in December. November was very busy making poppies to create a wonderful display for the church that we hope many of you have been able to see. Crafty Christmas was a great success, thank you to those that helped out and came along. We hope you enjoyed making your crafts!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Pre-school!

Dates for your diary

Singing Concert – 10th December – we hope all parents will be able to visit.

Toddler Group And Christmas Party. Our next meeting will be Thursday 6th December (with a visit from Father Christmas!). All ages from babies to Pre-School aged children are very welcome. Friendly group – lot 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!

Seavington Villages Oil Run

Nigel Key (01460 241540)

Our last delivery arrived within 5 days of the order. The tankers now have updated software so that they can now produce a delivery note/invoice full priced at the time of delivery. I have asked if the postal invoice will continue and will provide an update in the next edition.

I plan to raise the next order on 11th January, but if you need oil sooner please contact me sooner. I wish you all a happy and warm Christmas.

Do you remember what you read?

David Froome, Editor (01460 249445)

Do you remember what you read?

David Froome, Editor (01460 249445)

When we read something like a book, a newspaper or even this magazine we think that we understand what is written and that we will remember its message. However, in reality our ability to remember depends heavily on the impact of the words on the page.

Since Johannes Gutenberg invented his printing press and the moveable type to go with it in the 15th Century artists and others have striven to produce designs of letters, known as fonts, which meet specific needs.

One common font is “Times New Roman” which was commissioned by The Times newspaper in 1931—the design objectives, a combination of elegance and legibility were met by adding serifs to otherwise simple and elegant letters. Serifs are the little artistic flourishes added to letters such as the “feet” at the bottom of the downstrokes of the “m” in the heading of this article.

Other organisations needed fonts which were less complicated so that they might be read rapidly with elegance perhaps having a lower priority. One such font is Gill Sans, which has no serifs, commissioned by the British railway companies for use on signs and notices which they wanted to be read and understood rapidly by passengers who were in a hurry.

Since I became editor of the Seavingtons’ News at the end of 2004 I have chosen to use Gil Sans for the body text of our articles and Times New Roman for article headings and attributions.

The move from metal type to desktop publishing in the 1980s opened the door for artists to produce a multitude of font designs to meet their own needs. Some computer system manufacturers have also got into the acts with fonts such as Arial and Calibri provided as defaults on personal computers.

Today, typographic expression has been unleashed. Digital formats allow us to think and craft beyond the physical restrictions of materials, while glossy, high definition, digital displays allow typographical forms to be straighter, smoother and more symmetrical than ever.

Never before has it been so easy to craft letterforms that bend to the will of our imaginations. But, research has shown that some of the products of these technologies—in particular the clean, smooth typefaces typically used in contemporary digital interfaces—may be less effective in helping the reader to remember information.

When a piece of information is too easily and clearly read, it can fail to engage our brains in the kind of deeper cognitive processing necessary for effective retention and recall.

Designers and psychologists at the RMIT University, in Melbourne Australia, have now come up with a new font which aims to make it easier for us to remember what we read.

Called “Sans Forgetica”, the new font was designed under the scientific guidance of Dr Janneke Blijlevens and Dr Jo Peryman (née Laban) and is an attempt to address the flaws of design of earlier fonts. By disrupting the flow of individual letterforms, readers are subtly prompted to increase their focus on the text being communicated.

Multiple tests undertaken by RMIT’s Behavioural Business Laboratory have confirmed that the effect of this is to increase memory retention of the text in question.

The font works using principles of psychology, fused with type design, to create a condition known as “desirable difficulty”. A desirable difficulty is an obstruction to the learning process that requires a considerable but desirable level of effort to overcome, therefore improving (in Sans Forgetica’s case) retention and recall of information.

Unlike more conventional fonts, Sans Forgetica’s visual distinctiveness causes readers to dwell longer on each word, giving the brain more time to engage in deeper cognitive processing, thus enhancing retention of that information.

I am not proposing that we change the body font of our magazine but thought that our readers might be interested in both the origins of the fonts we use and the way that these conventional designs are threatened by more utilitarian ones. If you are interested you can find out more at: Sansforgetica.rmit

May I wish you all an enjoyable Christmas break, without forgetting that it is a Christian festival, together with a healthy and successful New Year in 2019?

Just A Brisk Walk—Saturday 15th December

Matthew Towill (07729 402594)

As the title says, this is just a brisk walk of about 45 minutes starting and finishing at the Village Hall car park, not a stroll. The proposed route is along Easterdown, Longforward Lane, Scotts Hill and Water Street.

If you fancy some exercise to start your day and a chat along the way, just turn up at 8.30 am and join in. By the time we return, the Village Store café will be open.

News from Somerset Waste Partnership

The Somerset Waste Partnership has asked us to publicise the Christmas and New Year closure dates for its recycling sites and pass on some useful tips that can reduce waste.

All recycling sites will follow their usual schedule, except **all sites close at 4pm** Monday 24 and 31 December. As usual, all sites close 25 - 26 December and 1 January.

Details: <https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycling/centres/>

The SWP suggests some simple steps to take now for a less wasteful Christmas:

- ◇ Start the festivities with empty bins and a clutter-free home by visiting a recycling site.
- ◇ Save glass jars (with lids); ideal for home-made gifts of foods, bath salts or flavoured drinks.
- ◇ Eat into your freezer and fridge now to save money for Christmas meals and the inevitable left overs.
- ◇ Save cardboard boxes and glossy magazines to make gift bags. (Find crafty tutorials on the net).
- ◇ Reject unrecyclable shiny, glittery, plastic, holographic, metallic wrapping – only good for the rubbish bin – for paper wrapping that can be recycled with card (the less sticky tape, the better).
- ◇ Ask friends and family to write wish lists so all gifts are wanted. If they are happy to receive “pre-loved” items, find the right book, computer game or clothing online or off, with less packaging free.
- ◇ Encourage children to make space for future presents by decluttering their bedrooms. Reusable toys can be either donated or sold on-line.
- ◇ Drop off batteries at high street stores for recycling and stock up with rechargeables to avoid gifts but no portable power.
- ◇ PS: For Christmas parties, save money and food with the handy Love Food Hate Waste website portion checker.
www.lovefoodhatewaste.com

SEAVINGTON SWINGS!

Marion Bennett (01460 249522)

A great time was had by all at the Barn Dance in aid of the Seavington Community Shop and Cafe. The lively leadership of the band Jigs for Gigs and caller Simon Maplesden enabled everyone to enjoy a wide selection of traditional dances. There was much hilarity as everyone tried to do-si-do, swing, balance and chain in the right places. Some helpful guidance was provided by the experienced dancers of the Over Stratton Dance Club so whether dancing in circles, sets or lines everyone somehow ended up in the right place at the right time! Hot dogs were served in the interval by Terry Gibson and her team and the bar was run very efficiently, as usual, by Diane Bale and Yvonne Best. Annie did a splendid raffle which contributed £100 to the proceeds. A big thank you to everyone!

One of the nice aspects of the event was that people could come alone, as a couple or in a group and some people came just to enjoy the music. The nature of barn dancing is that everyone gets to meet everyone else so it was a very social occasion with plenty of opportunity to chat to other villagers and guests.

The event raised in excess of £400 which will go towards improving amenities at the Shop and Cafe. Shop Chairman Ian Gibson said "We are very grateful to Jigs for Gigs and Simon Maplesden for giving us such a wonderful evening and to everyone who attended the event to support our community shop."

SPFA Lottery

Jackie Priddle (07706 092578)

The winners for the past two months are:

November	December 2018
1st Julie Holbroke	1st Brendon
2nd Steve Whitefield	2nd Isobel Lucas
3rd Michael Harrison	3rd Alan White
4th Ian/Crissy Beadle	4th Phil Gordon-Smith
5th Chris Reyland	5th C Peakham

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Carols and Classics by Candlelight The Final Concert

Paul Fisher (01460 76360)

A fitting finale to the series of this pre-Christmas hidden gem will be performed at the All Saints Church Merriott (TA16 5PS) on Saturday 15th December. This will be the 10th and final year that the Fisher Sinfonia has performed at this 15thC church providing an unmissable evening of string ensembles with organ and piano accompaniment.

Being the last year, the Fisher Sinfonia will bring the largest string ensemble ever to perform in the church (12 UK Orchestral Players). A string orchestra directed by London Symphony Orchestra's member, William Melvin will perform Vivaldi's winter from his 4 seasons. Together with Gamal Khamis performing Beethoven's Emperor Piano Concerto (1st movement), the evening of classical and festive arrangements will be the final concert not to be missed.

There will be mince pies and refreshments before the concert to start the Christmas festivities. 7:00pm refreshments for a 7:30pm concert start. Tickets are £10 available from Merriott Service Station, Broadway, Merriott; Crewkerne Information Centre, or contact 07870 404631 / 01460 76360.

The Seavingtons' News Team

Editorial:

Advertising:

Production:

Technical & web-site support:

Graphics & Visual Support:

David Froome & Maria Potts

Tony Beresford

Brian & Elaine Edwards

Eugene Mulligan

George Brown

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.

Editorial address: Middlefield Barn, Church Lane, Seavington St Mary, Ilminster, Somerset, TA19 0QP; news@theseavingtons.org



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