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November 2018



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The Seavingtons' News

We hear so much these days about “well-being” and “mindfulness” often linked to gardening to help reduce the stress of everyday living. This is not a modern concept even though the wording may have changed.

This month, on Armistice Day, we commemorate 100 years since the end of WWI. Many articles have been written on little known facts about life in the trenches. Gardening activities featured strongly in the daily existence of the troops. Food could be grown to enhance rations or just growing flowers reminded troops of home.

Surprisingly, in 1916 at an internment camp at Ruhleben near Berlin one British prisoner, Thomas Howat, was able to send a letter to the RHS in London requesting affiliated membership. This was approved and seeds, bulbs and leaflets were sent. Reasons given were that soldiers created gardens as a “response to their basic needs and as an aid to their physical desire for life, peace and a future”. Flower Shows were even organised to boost morale.

An article in the Runleben Camp Magazine said, "Perhaps some may think that gardens are superfluous in the camp but whether we be in our own land or in some-one else's, a pretty, well cared for garden, however small, reflects credit on those who provide it".

Poignantly, a journalist visiting the trenches expressed his amazement when he saw “a little vegetable garden and next to it, for beauty’s sake, a flower garden and next to that a little graveyard”.

Whatever modern twist you put on it, gardening delivers, so enjoy it.

Kate Mulligan - Seavington Gardening Club.

DON'T FORGET

The Waste-paper Skip! pm Friday 9th November
until am Monday 12th November

The Latest Copy Date is the 20th November
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 November	10.00 am	RNLI Coffee Morning at Hunts House—p9
8th November	7.30 pm	Gardening Club talk on “Berried Treasure” by Jenny Short—p9
9th November	7.30 pm	Barn Dance arranged by our Community Shop Association—p5
10th November	7.30 pm	“Flix in the Stix” - The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Society in Hinton St George Village Hall—p19
11th November	10.50 am	Remembrance Sunday Service at Village War Memorial, Seavington Playing Field—p19
12th November	noon	Community Lunch in Village Café—p24
24th November	10.00 am	A Christmas Market—p20
8th December	3.00 pm	Father Christmas in Community Shop—p24

Regular Activities

2 nd Monday	noon	Community Lunch in Village Café
3 rd Tuesday	7.00 pm	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

November 4th 11.30 am Holy Communion (CW)
 November 4th 6.00 pm Service of Light at sst peter's and St Paul's,
 South Petherton
 November 11th 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
 November 11th **10.50 am** Remembrance Sunday Service at Village
 War Memorial, Seavington Playing Field
 (No Café Church)- p19
 November 18th 11.30 am Holy Communion (CW)
 November 25th 11.30 am Morning Prayer
 Rev Tom Handy telephone: 01460 240377; revdtomhandy@hotmail.com

The Seavingtons' Weather in September 2018

This year—2018

Previous year—2017

Temperature

Average Minimum	9.61°C	10.20C
Average Maximum	19.33°C	17.92°C
Mean	14.47°C	14.02°C

Rainfall

Monthly Total	53.0 mm (2.12")	59.9 mm (2.40")
Total for the year	517.8 mm (20.71")	590.7 mm (23.63")

Advertising Rates

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

Advertising enquiries to: adverts@theseavingtons.org

The Missing Postman

Regular readers will remember this cover picture from October 2017 in which Nicky Wotton captured one of our regular, cheerful, postmen on his round.

Sadly, Ian has now been forced into premature retirement from Royal Mail and has sent the letter below, addressed to all of us in The Seavingtons.

We are sad to lose Ian from the postal team that serves us so reliably, courteously and helpfully and wish him well in his new business venture.



Hi to everyone from Ian the Postman,

You may have noticed me by my absence in recent times. It is with regret that I have to inform you of my enforced retirement due to the long term Achilles' tendon problems that have deteriorated over the last few years. I would just like to say that I enjoyed working in and serving your village. Over the last few years I have made many friends among you and I miss both the people of Seavington and the village itself. Unfortunately the nature of my condition no longer allows me to walk long distances and as there are no indoor jobs at Royal Mail that are suitable for me it is with great sadness that I have had to accept medical retirement.

As for the future, some of you are aware of the small business that I started with my partner a couple of years ago, we have a Minibus and a 39 seater coach and have been doing school runs and private hire for nights out/day trips etc.... we are called Rooster Bus Ltd and are contactable via Facebook or on 07801 951763. I will be working full time to make a success of this business and hope that I can be of service to you again in the future.

I wish everyone all the best for the future.

Kind regards

Ian Barwick the (ex) Postman

roosterbus@hotmail.com

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

Dear Editor,

We would like to thank and congratulate the St. Michaels Church Flower Ladies for the excellent Harvest Supper on Saturday 13th October. The food and entertainment were first class. All in all a very enjoyable evening,

Ken + Sue Dewsbury

BARN DANCE

featuring JIGS FOR GIGS and caller SIMON MAPLESDEN

on **FRIDAY 9th NOVEMBER**

at 7.30pm (doors open from 7.00pm)

at **SEAVINGTON MILLENNIUM HALL**

Water Street, Seavington St Mary TA19 0QH

Tickets **IN ADVANCE ONLY** £9.00. Accompanied under 18s £6.00

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED

Tickets available from Seavington Community Shop (adjacent to Millennium Hall), N & D News (South Petherton) or ring 01460 249522

BAR AND RAFFLE

Proceeds in aid of improvements to the Shop and Cafe.



Over the Counter

Ian Gibson (01460 249566)

Thanks to Jane for the successful supper club featuring a Cajun theme, and for the numbers that went to make it a fun event. Keep an eye out for the next one!

Christmas is around the corner and the shop has many things on offer as food and gifts for you to view and purchase. Many seasonal goodies to tempt you. Cases of wines at special prices and seasonal specials in the café.

We have the Christmas raffle tickets on sale in the shop or from our volunteer force – some super prizes including our very generous gift of a large turkey from our friends at Bonners! We also have a case of wine, tickets for Haynes and much more. Just 1£ a ticket or splash out and buy a book of five. The raffle will be drawn when Father Christmas arrives on the afternoon of December 8th at the store.

We will also sing some carols and have drinks and bites. Do come along and bring the youngsters for this fun event.

The shop and café have sponsored a loo in Africa. This is part of our Community outreach overseas. You will find details - where else - in our loo in the café, and you can donate towards the upkeep of this loo by placing a coin in the box, should you want to!

The shop and café are running a number of fund raising events over the next year, including a Barn Dance in November on the 9th in the Millennium Hall. Tickets are available in store and food included; and wine available!

From November 1st the shop will revert to its winter closing time of 5.00 pm

Next March we have a bric-a-Brac sale and in April a visit of the Taunton Male Voice choir. Keep a look out for the posters and ticket availability.

More news in next month's over the counter.....

News from Shepton Beauchamp Pre-School

Lucy Hamnett (07588 842354)

It has been a blustery Autumn month for us and we have made the most of it, collecting leaves and getting outside as much as possible. The emergency services came to visit, including the police and fire services. Sorry to all the other villagers for the loud sirens, however, the children loved it! We went to the Harvest Festival and enjoyed listening to the Primary School children singing songs and telling us about what they have been doing. Over the next month we will be

taking time to remember and creating a display of poppies. We are also very excited about Firework Night! Bingo was a great success and we raised much needed money for pre-school. Thank you so much to those that attended and to The Duke of York! Another thank you to those that donated Bags 2 School, these have now been collected.

Dates for your diary

Crafty Christmas – 24th November. We are looking forward to our fun craft morning – loads of glitter and sticky glue. Come and make as much mess as you like and we will clear up!

Bonfire and Fireworks – 3rd November - just behind The Village Hall in Shepton Beauchamp.

TODDLER GROUP. Our next meeting will be Thursday 8th November. 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!

Harvest Supper

Manda Jagers (01460 240554)

On 13th October, nearly 70 villagers and friends gathered for the Seavington Harvest Supper, organised and hosted by the "Flower Ladies."

The evening started with music performed by Anne Crowther, we then tucked into a delicious three course supper, celebrating the gifts of harvest. Between courses, Anne kindly entertained us again, this time on the flute and piccolo, encouraging a Last Night of the Proms - like audience participation. We were also invited to pit our brains against those of Pauline (and possibly other accomplices) and decipher some cunning dingbats representing local villages. The evening ended with Rev Tom Handy leading us in singing sea shanties.

On behalf of everyone who attended, may I thank all those who worked so hard to put on such an enjoyable and successful event? I believe more than £650 was raised for charities.

I'm sure I'm not the only person looking forward to next year's supper.

Seavington Gardening Club

Kate Mulligan (01460 242023)

Thursday 11th October 2018

“Madeira, Isle of Flowers” by Alan Eason

Alan has a business based in Gillingham but has spent a great deal of time working in Madeira. He originally went there in the late 1980's when requested to research a book about the gardens. The book never happened but he got to spend plenty of time on the beautiful island which was a bonus.

Madeira is a volcanic island and legend has it that it was discovered by an English couple who were eloping from Bristol in the late thirteen hundreds. They were shipwrecked there and were eventually picked up by Portuguese sailors. The sailors returned to the island, claimed it for Portugal and built up a colony there. Nobody is totally sure how true this story is but it sounds good!

Transport to Madeira has improved greatly although the airport is a bit scary for landing and take off as it has the sea on both sides of the fairly short runway.

The island is approximately 33 miles long and 14 miles wide with an impressive road structure of hazardous hairpin bends on the terraced landscape. You can travel 5000 feet in just 6 miles and be sunbathing on the coast while snow falls on the top of the mountains.

Flat land for gardening is a novelty so most areas are terraced. The volcanic soil is very fertile and produces potatoes and bananas using a very ingenious irrigation system called levadas. The island is also famous for orchids. The Madeirans are natural gardeners who have adapted their landscape very successfully and produced some stunning gardens.

One other rather interesting fact about life on Madeira is that the cows live in houses specially built for them. They have grass brought to them by their owners rather than sending them out to graze. The reason for this is the land is so steep that they would, more than likely, fall over the cliff edge.

Thank you to Alan for sharing his photographs and anecdotes on such a fascinating place.

Flower of the Month Competition

1st - Denise Shearman - dahlia
2nd - Anne Kilty - zinnia
3rd - Angela Blunden- dahlia

Forthcoming Events

Thursday 8th November at 7.30pm in the Millennium Hall - a talk by Jenny Short on "Berried Treasure".
Doors open 7.00pm when refreshments will be served and again after the talk. There will also be a raffle.

This is the last Flower of the Month Competition for this year and the Irene Williams Memorial Plate will be awarded at the end of the meeting. Visitors welcome £2 payable at the door.

Thursday 13th December

Christmas Lunch reminder - members only - please return your menu request with payment at the 8th November meeting or by 26th November latest to Jo Culham.

For further information please contact Karen Day tel. 01460 249728

Mary and Peter Wyatt
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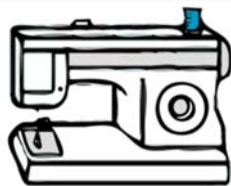
8th NOV - Evening with Paddy Ashdown

9th NOV – Comedy Night

15th NOV - Social Evening

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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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A view from the field

Chris Gough – SPFA Chairman

You will have noticed that the new overflow car park is complete and that at last, the bunds are starting to look a little greener, now that the grass is beginning to grow. Many thanks to everyone who has given so many positive comments and feedback, it has certainly wholeheartedly endorsed our decision to progress with this project.

We're also in discussion with a number of organisations and applying for grants to undertake further work around the field and Hall. The next major project that will be seen should be to the Hall garden area, making access more disability friendly and further improving the garden by increasing the patio size and installing some retaining walls and planting etc.

Our planned works to the trees and hedging around the field have been continuing and you may have noticed that the conifers at the top right hand side of the field have recently been felled. In conjunction with our tree wardens, a planting scheme has been developed and this will be undertaken with more suitable and appropriate species. This unfortunately brings me onto the matter of the Seavington Oaks.

For those of us with long memories you may recall that two oak trees were planted to celebrate the Millennium, positioned on the site of the old village hall at the top of the field. The growth of the right hand of these two oak trees is rather stunted and so we sent samples of both its branches and roots to the RHS at Wisley for their analysis.

They have informed us that it is diseased, and that treatment is impractical, with a risk that it may spread to the other Oak if not dealt with. With this advice, we shall now unfortunately have to fell the tree to allow the healthy oak to flourish into maturity. We'd obviously like to replace this oak tree in due course and would welcome ideas of suitable locations, dedications and maybe a special occasion on which to plant it.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me by email using spfa@theseavingtons.org.uk

Parish Council News – October 2018

Up-date on Previously reported issues:

The blocked drain opposite Rookesmead Lane has now been checked with CCTV cameras and it would appear that there is no positive outfall to the ditch!!! Works to rectify this will have to wait until the next financial year.

One area outside Hunts House has been re-surfaced. Still no news on when work to the other marked areas will be carried out. The County Arborist is happy with the works carried out by Hi-line to the tree at the top of Water Street.

Planning - Concerns were still expressed concerning the outline planning application for 8 houses at the top of Upton Lane. County Highways have reported on the application and whilst pointing out several areas that would need attention they have failed to mention the junction of Upton Lane with the C5021 (New Road). More concerns were raised with regard to works being carried out at 2 Southernaways and a Retrospective Planning Application is still awaited although indications had been made that this would be with the Parish Council within a month. Both Planning Applications submitted by Branstons have received approval.

Library Service - Our County Councillor (Adam Dance) reported that Ilminster Library had been saved but that South Petherton library is scheduled for closure. However, South Petherton Parish Council are investigating taking over the library. Officers at County Hall had indicated that both Martock and Crewkerne libraries would stay open and that residents could catch a bus to use either of these. *The question asked was which bus??!!!*

Drains - The responsibility of drains that cross private land has been on the Agenda for some considerable time. However, the Parish Council are hopeful that in the near future this will be resolved and we will be advised where drains come from and where they go.

Traffic Calming - The Parish Council received information that the Small Improvement Scheme [SIS], which again has been on the Agenda for some considerable time, has progressed to the next gateway stage, following which the scheme will again be assessed before progression. However, this does not guarantee inclusion and no decision or plan will be drawn up until next year!!!! Also with this Scheme the Parish will have no input as to what is needed.

Having received this news Parish Councillors met with Gary Warren (Signs and Lines) from County Highways who informed us that he could possibly use monies that had been received for the SIS to pay a consultant to draw up a plan to which the village had no input. Gary has drawn up a plan which could be done within a few months.

The plan incorporates more hatching, more roundels in the road indicating the 30mph limit and gateway entrances. The eastern 30mph limit and village entrance signs will stay close to Seavington House. However, the limit signs and new gateway entrances will be moved away from the Falcon Close development further to the west. The Parish Council is grateful to our County Councillor (Adam Dance) for starting the process for the SIS and also now approving the new plan.

The Parish Council has recently been advised by the Police that we will no longer have a PCSO covering our area just a Beat Manager – PC3672 Teresa Lines.

Copies of a recycling booklet, published by Somerset Waste, have been received and will be distributed to new residents, along with information regarding the Community Shop/Cafe and the Gardening Club.

Harvest Supper – 13th October 2018

Sheila Reyland (01460 241238

A very big thank you from The Flower Ladies of St Michael's Church to all those who attended the Harvest Supper last month. A total of just over £600.00 was raised. This will be divided between The Royal Agriculture Benevolent Institution, St Margaret's Hospice and St Michaels' Church Trust.

We would also like to thank those who provided the excellent entertainment – Ann and Rev Tom. We wish John, who was unable to provide some more musical entertainment because of a back injury, a speedy recovery. [Next year he may not be able to escape.] Also thanks go to those who donated prizes for the draw.

We hope a good evening was enjoyed by all.

Posada

Manda Jagers (01460 240554)

The Posada represents the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, preparing for Jesus' birth. The figures representing them are invited into our homes to rest for a night on this journey. This Advent, the Churchwardens, Anne and Manda, will coordinate the journey.

We are aware that many people have moved into the Seavingtons in the last few years and would like to welcome everyone who wants to host the Posada this year, to contact us. Anne's e mail is anneshaw69@gmail.com or leave a message on her home number 01460 249156. The journey will begin from St Michael's Church on Advent Sunday, 2nd December.

Winter is A'Coming

Annie (01460 241762)

Sweet Blackbird is silenced with Chaffinch and Thrush
Only waist-coated Robin still chirps in the bush;
Soft sun-loving Swallows have mustered in force
And winged to the spice-teeming southlands their course
We'll comfort pinched Robin with crumbs, little man,
'Till he'll sing us the very best song that he can.

Christina Rosetti (1830-1891)

Now is the time to clean out the old nest box, remove all old nesting material, food remains, unhatched eggs and any dead chicks. Give the box a good scrub with boiling water; replace the box and place in it some dry moss and a few grasses and leaves as it may well be used as a winter roost.

Autumn arrivals such as Chaffinches from Scandinavia, Blackbirds from across Europe and Bramblings flock in from the continent to feed on beech mast. Chaffinches and Blackbirds live and feed side by side with our resident birds through the winter. From Scandinavia also come Fieldfares and Redwings. Flocks of them forage our fields and hedgerows through the winter.

Fieldfare (15") are very sociable and will mix with Redwings and Blackbirds. Their flight is undulating with a mixture of glides and wing beats, showing flashes of white on the under-wing. It is a handsome bird with chestnut-brown upper parts and a golden-buff breast with lots of black flecks, a blue-grey head, a slate mask around the eyes and a black and yellow beak. The sexes are alike. It feeds on worms and insects and will visit gardens for berries and wasted fruits.

Redwing (8") arrive for the winter in large straggling flocks which will strip your holly, hawthorn and cotoneaster in a flash! It has bold facial markings with a distinct cream eye stripe, red under-wing (seen in flight), its underparts are white washed with buffish-red and heavily spotted on throat and breast.

Stand in your garden on a quiet, still, night and you may well hear the soft, faint, "seep" of Redwings passing overhead in the dark.

Remembrance Sunday

11th November at 10.50am

A Service will be held at the Village War Memorial on the Seavington Playing Fields. (Top right-hand corner, up from the overflow car park)

We will remember those who fell in Wars which guaranteed the freedom we enjoy today. We will also remember our Armed Forces who are overseas, and making the same sacrifices today.

“Flix in the Stix”

Andrew Overhill (01460 72563)

Hinton St. George ‘Flix in the Stix’ presents **‘THE GUERNSEY LITERARY & POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY’ (15)**, on **SATURDAY 10th NOVEMBER 2018** in the Hinton Village Hall at **7.30 pm starring Lily James, Michiel Huisman, Jessica Brown Findlay, Penelope Wilton & Tom Courtenay**

Tickets £5 in advance from the Village Shop and Dorothy’s Tea Room, or £5.50p on the door. DOORS OPEN 7.00 pm. To reserve Tickets please contact Bob Kefford on 01460 72563.

In 1946 a London-based writer begins exchanging letters with residents on the island of Guernsey, which had been German-occupied during WWII. Feeling compelled to visit the island, Lily James starts to get a picture of what it was like during the occupation.

The Telegraph complimented the filmmakers on all aspects of the production stating: ‘It is a confection in every sense, but plump with natural sweetness.’

Christmas & New Year Waste Collection

Somerset Waste Partnership have advised us that our Christmas and New Year waste collections will be on Mondays 24th and 31st December ie following the usual schedule. However, there will be no garden waste collections on these dates. Christmas trees will be collected with waste from January 7th on the normal waste collection day.

Advance Notice of A Christmas Market

On Saturday 24th November 2018

At the Millennium Hall

10.00 am until midday

Tables available at £5

Set-up from 8.00 am onwards

To book a table call Annie on 07763 478591

Tables already booked include: RSPB, Jewellery,
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SOUTH SOMERSET RSPB GROUP

‘Wildlife of Devon’

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Thursday 15th November - 7.30pm The Millennium Hall, Seavington St Mary

Entry: Group members £3, non-group members £4, 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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DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - Saturday 8th December @ 3pm

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and we will have our usual Christmas celebration with mince pies and carols.

Seavingtons' Village Store & Cafe, Water St, Seavington TA19 0QH. 01460 249730

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

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

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