

THE SEAVINGTONS' NEWS

April 2019



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The Seavingtons' News

May 2nd will see us all trotting to the Millennium Hall to cast our votes for the election of both Parish and District Councillors. I say “will”, perhaps I should have said “should”!

Most of us regard local government as a minor affair and the current national political shenanigans will make us instinctively turn our backs against these local elections.

However, local government, at all levels including the County Council, for most of the time has far more immediate influence on our daily lives than national government. Therefore, I suggest that we should take advantage of this opportunity to choose our representatives or even stand for office.

Parish Councillors are our neighbours and friends and have to deal with higher levels to ensure that our community get the services it deserves. They deserve our thanks and support—why not join them?

At District Council level, sadly, a small village is a mere pimple on the side of the much larger urban areas. Thus there is a need for us to be represented by Councillors who understand and support the small communities—this is where there is an opportunity for someone from Seavington to make themselves felt. With the District Council now behaving as a property speculator as well as local administrator it needs Councillors with business skills and level heads.

Nominations close on 3rd April and full details are on our village web-site.

David Froome

DON'T FORGET

The Waste-paper Skip!

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

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

is the 20th April

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 April	noon	Community Lunch in Village Café—p36
11th April	7.30 pm	Gardening Club talk by Georgie Newbery—"Cut Flower Gardening & Hand-tied posies"—pp 6, 27
13th April	7.30 pm	Flix in the Stix—"The Wife" at Hinton St George Village Hall—p6
13th April	7.30 pm	A Spring Evening presented by Taunton Deane Male Voice Choir—pp 12, 29
18th April	7.30 pm	RSPB Group talk—"Birding the Silk Route" - p31
20th April	2.30 pm	Easter Egg Hunt and refreshments in St Michael's Church and Churchyard—p 28
20th April	8.30 am	"Just a Brisk Walk" - p 25
25th April	6.30 pm	South Petherton Hospital League of Friends AGM at the Hospital—p 18
27/28 April		Open Rally Competition—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

7th April	11.30 am Holy Communion (CW)
14th April	8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
14th April	11.30 am Palm Sunday walk from Café to Church
21st April	11.30 am Easter Sunday—Family Communion
28th April	11.30 am Morning Prayer

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

The Seavingtons' Weather in February 2019

This year—2019

Previous year—2018

Temperature

Average Minimum	2.99°C	0.17°C
Average Maximum	11.56°C	7.04°C
Mean	7.27°C	3.61°C

Rainfall

Monthly Total	48.1 mm (1.93")	39.9 mm (1.60")
Total for the year	85.7 mm (3.43")	103.9 mm (4.16")

Another dryish month

Advertising Rates

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

Advertising enquiries to: adverts@theseavingtons.org

Seavington Gardening Club

Kate Mulligan (01460 242023)

Thursday 28th February 2019

“Rogues Gallery - Garden Pests” by Sally Nex

Although we had to wait a couple of weeks for this presentation it was certainly well worth it. Sally is becoming a regular speaker at our meetings and always impresses with her vast amount of knowledge and tonight was no exception.

A good way to navigate your way around this topic is to “mind your P’s and Q’s”. The “P” stands for prevention and the “Q” is for quick action so that whatever hits your garden you are ready to tackle it early on. Some gardeners reach for chemical sprays and pesticides but if you see your garden as a whole eco system and encourage wild life such as insects and birds then you can build up natural resistance.

Good garden hygiene is also important, so keep secateurs and other tools cleaned with disinfectant as you move from one plant to another to avoid spreading disease. Also these days there are increasing numbers of disease resistant plants suitable if you have a particular problem in your soil. You can also use biological controls but you have to apply these at specific times of the year.

Sally’s favourite remedies are bran scattered around the base of young plants to ward off slugs and snails (along with some rather gruesome disposal methods) and home made chilli spray to discourage other pests. The latter might not be a good idea sprayed on edible leaves such as lettuces, unless of course, you like the taste of chilli.

The RHS produced a list of the main pests and diseases in this country and so here is part of the Rogues Gallery:

Pests - Box Tree Moth Caterpillar, Fuchsia Gall Moth, Vine Weevil, Slugs and Snails, Alder Leaf Beetle.

Diseases - Honey Fungus, Phytophthora, Rust, Powdery Mildew, Box Blight

A big thank you to Sally for her enthusiastic treatment of such a wide ranging topic. I’m sure we all gained a bit more insight into what we’re up against as gardeners.

Flower of the Month Competition

1st Anne Kilty - Anemone
2nd Kate Mulligan - Hellebore
3rd Jenny Deubert - Cardamine

Thursday 14th March 2019

AGM followed by a talk from The Gold Club

Due to a last minute change in the programme Malcolm, from the Gold Club, talked about “Roses” and not the published “Companion Planting”.

According to Malcolm there are only 4 pieces of kit you need when growing roses and fortunately these are exactly the same as for any other garden job. The first is a decent pair of secateurs to cut anything up to the size of a 5p piece. Anything bigger than this then you should invest in some quality loppers. Good thornproof gloves are essential and finally a pressurised sprayer.

The types of roses you get are hybrid tea, floribunda, climbing, rambling, shrub, patio and ground cover. With so much choice there is a rose for just about every aspect in your garden.

Pruning is not as difficult as people assume, so follow the 3 D's rule - cut out anything that is dead, diseased or dying. Any other pruning is entirely up to the individual to create the desired effect. The more vigorous the rose the more you may wish to prune.

Pests and diseases in roses are familiar to us all. Things such as black spot, rust, mildew, purple spot and aphids are all treatable with sprays, feeding, watering, mulching and generally improving the soil or growing conditions. There are plenty of commercial products available on the market for those who use chemicals and for those who prefer to be more organic.

While roses tend to prefer space around them for growing there are a number of companion plants that go well with them. Lavender has always been a good bet - English rather than French, catmint, hardy geraniums, dianthus, verbenas and chives to name just a few.

Roses have always been one of the nation's favourite plants so it's worth taking a bit of time and trouble over them and they will reward you with a fantastic display of flowers to keep your garden looking good.

A big thank you to Malcolm for stepping in at the last minute and for sharing some of his extensive knowledge of such a popular plant.

Spring Growing Competition Results for Daffodil King Alfred:

1st - Gill Keane
2nd - Kate Mulligan
3rd - Jenny Deubert

Flower of the Month Competition

1st Val Curtis - hellebore
2nd Jenny Deubert - fritillaria
3rd Lis Tope - epimedium

Forthcoming Events

Thursday 11th April at 7.30pm in the Millennium Hall. A talk and demonstration by Georgie Newbery on "Cut Flower Gardening and Hand Tied Posies". Doors open at 7.00pm when refreshments will be served and again after the talk. There will be a raffle and Flower of the Month Competition. Visitors welcome - £2 payable at the door.

Monday 15th April at 7.00pm for members only. A visit to Brimsmore Garden Centre for a talk followed by a 25% discount shopping opportunity.

Flix in the Stix

Andrew Overhill (01460 72563)

Hinton St. George 'Flix in the Stix' presents **'THE WIFE' (15), on Saturday 13th April 2019** in the Hinton Village Hall at **7.30 pm**. 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.

Joan (Glenn Close) and Joe (Jonathan Pryce) remain together and complement each other perfectly after nearly 40 years of marriage. Where Joe is casual, Joan is elegant. Where Joe is vain, Joan is self-effacing. And where Joe enjoys his very public role as the great American novelist, Joan pours her considerable intellect, grace, charm and diplomacy into the private role of a great man's wife. As Joe is about to be awarded the Nobel Prize for his acclaimed and prolific body of work, Joan starts to think about the shared compromises, secrets and betrayals.

A stunning performance by Glenn Close, judge for yourself whether she should have won the Best Actress Oscar after all.

Shepton Beauchamp Pre-School News

Natalie England (07796 673537)

We have been busy doing lots of crafts for Mother's Day and Easter at Pre-school.

We have two weeks holiday but before then we have some Easter fun planned including singing/acting the Hop Little Bunnies song. Which is continuing our nursery rhyme theme. We are nearly at the end of our Alphabet theme now, the children are encouraged to bring in things beginning with X, Y and Z, for Show and Tell.

Other activities will include our Welly walks once a week and 'Proud clouds' which are blank clouds the children take home. These are then filled in by their parents, with examples of proud moments, which are shared during 'Show and Tell'.

Toddler Group. Our next meeting will be Thursday 4th April. Babies to Pre- school age welcome. It is a friendly and relaxed group with coffee for parents. Come anytime between 9-11:15am.

Bingo in the Duke of York is on 25th March, to raise money for Pre school.

Eyes Down 7:15pm

Bags to school collection 25th April if anyone has any old clothes etc to get rid of.

For more information please call Natalie or Kath 07765437301 or email info@Sheptonbeauchamppre-school.co.uk or visit 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)

We should have received our latest delivery by the time you are reading this. Expecting the weather to get warmer, I am having a longer time between the next two deliveries. This means that the next order will be placed in early July and the following in mid October. I will provide dates next month. If this is a problem for anybody please let me know and I will arrange something for you.

The Seavingtons' Community Land Trust (CLT)

An annual general meeting of members is called for Thursday 23rd May 2019 at 7.00 pm in the Seavington Millennium Hall.

All members will be notified individually and sent their voting papers.

NB The date has been changed from that originally notified last month.

Note from our CLT

Moirra Ensor (01460 242234)

If you are a member of the Community Land Trust (CLT) and will be likely to attend the AGM, please read the detail in this article, it will help to make clear what future money raised may be used for within the villages of Seavington St Mary and Seavington St Michael. Any queries you might have, can then be addressed on the evening of the AGM. All questions should be sent in advance to the Secretary, Karen Ogden, by e-mail, or popped in the box at the shop before 9th May 2019 (14 days before the AGM). This action will guarantee that members of the Board will be able to obtain any necessary data required.

As all will be aware, the two community loans will need to be repaid prior to the issuing of funds to any third party or group.

You will find the complete set of FCA Rules, that apply to The Seavingtons' Community Land Trust Limited, governing distribution of funds, on the website: <http://www.theseavingtons.org/clt-rules/>

e-mail address for any questions - clt@theseavingtons.org

Some of you may like to be reminded of the origins and objectives of the CLT. It was established because Andrew Whitehouse generously gifted three houses in Falcon Close to the two Seavington villages. These are intended to provide affordable rental accommodation for local people who could not otherwise afford to live in the Seavingtons.

After taking legal advice, the CLT was set up to provide a proper legal organisation to accept both the ownership and management of the three houses and, for the near term, that remains its rôle.

However, the legal structure has been constructed so that the CLT could become the vehicle for other ambitious village projects as suggested in this diagram.

It is regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).



The CLT's objects, defined in its rules are:

2.1 The Society aims to:

2.1.1 Maintain or improve the physical, social and economic infrastructure within the Parishes of Seavington St Mary and Seavington St Michael;

2.1.2 Advance education (particularly concerning asset based community development and enterprises with a community or environmental focus);

2.1.3 Facilitate community ownership of renewable energy production;

2.1.4 Promote and support the arts locally;

2.1.5 Function within the legal definition of a Community Land Trust;

2.1.6 Promote and protect local heritage;

2.1.7 Hold land in trust for the community.

The CLT may use its income and any funds raised in other ways to support these objectives.

Smart motorways

Andy Harmer (01460 240230)

All Lane Running

The latest design for Smart Motorways is All Lane Running sections. This is exactly as it says, a motorway where all lanes are used as live lanes and there is no hard shoulder. The hard shoulder, where there was one originally, will have been converted into a running lane. Small sections of hard shoulder may be retained on the 'on' and 'off' slips to and from the motorway, and beside the carriageway, at junctions, between the 'off' and 'on' slips.

As you enter an all lane running section of motorway you will see an entry gantry across all four lanes of the carriageway, known as the conditioning gantry, and usually a verge mounted sign showing how long the section goes on for i.e. 'No hard shoulder for 10 miles'. The conditioning gantry will deliver lane or carriageway specific information in regard to speed, lane closures or incidents. As you drive along the section there are verge mounted signs, known as Cantilever Signs, that are designed to give the same information, still relating to each individual lane but not directly above each lane. This is a new concept and removes the need for more full size gantries across the whole carriageway, saving costs, and visually more environmentally friendly, without compromising safety.

Most of the design and technology used in these schemes is similar to Controlled Motorways and Dynamic Hard Shoulders variations. There is still variable mandatory speed limits, red X signals, (to indicate a lane or lanes are closed either as a result of an incident or to create an access lane for responders to get to an incident), both speeds and red X offences enforced by digital cameras. There is Motorway Incident Detection and Automatic Signalling (MIDAS), supported by a high occupancy detection system, to detect interruptions in traffic flow and set speed limits to smooth flow. The centre reserve will be a rigid concrete barrier. These barriers tend to prevent crossover collisions, require much less, if any, maintenance when struck thus removing the need for maintainers to work in dangerous areas and/or put out lane closures.

Additionally there is technology, either fitted during construction or retro fitted, to detect stationary vehicles and alert the motorway control room of their presence. This allows signals to be set to protect the stationary/broken down vehicle and Traffic Officer units to be dispatched to assist the driver.

There is still the facility to give drivers information relating to incidents and in some cases journey times.

The majority of the new technology used is designed to be remotely interrogated to identify and fix faults. This again assists maintainers and means

they do not need to work on scene in dangerous areas or put out lane closures affecting traffic flows.

As with all smart motorways there are emergency areas at set distances. They are clearly marked and are for use in emergencies only. If a vehicle suffers a mechanical problem it is important that wherever possible the driver should either leave the motorway at an exit slip, go into a motorway service area or pull into a marked emergency area and follow the instructions that are posted in the bay. Only stop on the carriageway if it is impossible to get to one of the places of relative safety mentioned above.

Highways England gives the following safety advice to the drivers and occupants of broken down vehicles;

If your vehicle is damaged or appears to have problems, always try to exit the motorway immediately.

If that's not possible, you should follow these steps:

1. Use an emergency area if you can reach one safely. These are marked with blue signs featuring an orange SOS telephone symbol.
2. If you can leave your vehicle safely, contact Highways England via the roadside free emergency telephone provided in all emergency areas. If you can't get to the emergency telephone but have a mobile phone with you, call us on 0300 123 5000.
3. If you can't get to an emergency area but your vehicle can be driven, move it to the hard shoulder (where available) or as close as possible to the nearside (left hand) verge or other nearside boundary or slip road.
4. If you feel you can exit safely with any occupants, consider exiting your vehicle via the nearside (left hand) door, and wait behind the safety barrier, if there is one and it's safe to do so. Keep clear of your vehicle and moving traffic at all times (for example if your vehicle gets hit, you're out of the way).
5. Switch on your hazard warning lights and any other lights such as rear fog lights or side lights, to increase your visibility especially if it's dark or foggy. Do not put out a warning triangle.
6. Contact your breakdown recovery service. All motorists should be able to make their own recovery arrangements in the event of a breakdown. We advise you to carry details of your provider with you.
7. If it's not possible to exit your vehicle safely, there's no safe place to wait, or you feel your life is in danger, put your hazard warning lights on and stay in your vehicle with your seat belt on. If you have a mobile phone, dial '999' immediately.

This advice should be followed in all cases. It has been suggested if moving away from the vehicle, as stated in 4 above, so as not to be hit by the car if it is struck and propelled forward, you should consider placing yourself to the rear of the vehicle, behind a near side barrier, where available, in a position so as you can see the rear number plate of the vehicle.

Over the counter

Ray Catling (01460 419900)

As I begin to write this newsletter the sun is shining with a temperature of nearly 20°, we are still in winter and it's amazing! About this time last year we were to be visited by the "beast from the East" and all the snow and disruption that caused.

The shop and café are both going strong with lots of support from local people. Local artists are displaying their work for sale and sales seem to be fairly buoyant at this present time. The children's play area in the field has been extended and we await more equipment, including a zip wire; that will be fantastic and hopefully bring in many more visitors who will also visit the shop and café.

During March a bric-a-brac sale took place with many items sold, all donated, and it has been a great success with all the money raised going towards the upkeep and running of the shop and café.

On April 13th this year The Taunton Male Voice choir will be singing in the hall to present a springtime evening of song. All proceeds again go to the upkeep of the shop and to purchase new equipment necessary for the continuing running of the store. Tickets are available in the store. Just ask the volunteer on duty. Price including nibbles is £9 per adult.

The café is very busy providing some great food and drinks. As chef Jane assisted by Lorraine work very hard to give that "wow" factor to all customers, so we see a lot of regulars returning. Jane provides regular lunch and supper clubs which are well attended and valued by the community. A new service is a cream teas takeaway in its own box, something to be enjoyed as the summer approaches. So to all our customers and prospective customers from near and far, please visit and spend your money as often as you can or are willing to.

More volunteers are always needed in the store and in the café. If you are willing to help them, do contact one of the volunteer people on duty every day.

Summer time opening is now upon us and the store should be open from 0830 every morning until six o'clock every evening to take advantage of the summertime opening hours. As usual the more we use a store the more we do to secure its long-term future and we are very grateful for all those who already attend.

Don't forget to stock up on the wines and beers and cider from the store – all available at competitive high street prices – and look out for the special offers and discounts every month!

Looking forward to seeing you in store....

SPFA Lottery

Jackie Priddle (07706 092578)

The winners in the latest draw are:

March

1st Alan Newberry-Street

2nd Clive Reeves

3rd June Hutching

4th Nicky Wotton

5th B Partridge

HOLIDAY IN SPAIN

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

Beautiful modern apartment on upper 2 floors of a small development surrounded by olive groves and vineyards. It offers 3 bedrooms. One double, one twin bedded and a single. It is in a quiet position with two large terraces giving spectacular views of the Bay of Roses and Pyrenees. The apartment is bright and airy and has everything you could possibly need for a relaxing holiday including really comfy beds with cool cotton bedding. It offers every luxury convenience including heating/air conditioning and WiFi. It overlooks a lovely communal pool and gardens. Situated in the village of Palau Saverdera (local shops and restaurants) . Palau Saverdera is 4km from the sea at Roses, 12km from Figueres (Salvador Dali Museum) and a 45 minute drive from Girona airport. The French border -30 minutes. Barcelona by train from Figueras in 90 minutes.

Apartment available for holiday rentals between June and September 2019; early booking recommended. *For more details contact Sarah Lawton at sarahlawton22@gmail.com or call 07901716819*



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Details of future productions, auditions & membership can be found at
www.thewarehousetheatre.org.uk or call 07943 779880. Tickets can be
purchased through the website or in Harrimans Menswear, Silver St,
Ilminster.

Coming soon:

22nd March—Somerset Opera—The Mikado

23rd & 24th March—SFD County Drama Festival—One Act Plays

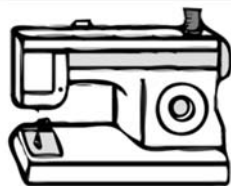
5th April—Now here's a Funny Story—***Fancy Dress!!!(if you wish)***

24th—27th April—IES Dangerous Corner

10th—11th May—Grimm Tales (Youth Theatre)

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St Margaret's Support Groups Taunton and Yeovil

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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South Petherton Hospital League of Friends

Annual General Meeting

April 25th 2019; 6.30pm - 8.30pm

At South Petherton Hospital

Peter Lewis, Chief Executive of Somerset Partnership will talk about the future of health services in our area

Holy Week Services

Parish of South Petherton with the Seavingtons and The Lambrooks

Sunday 14th April <i>Palm Sunday</i>	11.30 am	Palm Sunday Walking Service beginning at Seavington Café
Monday 15th April	6.00 pm	<i>Compline</i> St Peter & St Paul's, South Petherton
Tuesday 16th April	6.00 pm	<i>Compline</i> St Michael's Church, Seavington
Wednesday 17th April	6.00 pm	<i>Compline</i> St James', East Lambrook
Thursday 18th April <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	7.00 pm	<i>Maundy Thursday Service</i> St Peter & St Paul's, South Petherton
Friday 19th April <i>Good Friday</i>	2.30 pm	<i>Good Friday Reflections</i> St Peter & St Paul's, South Petherton
Friday 19th April <i>Good Friday</i>	2.30 pm	<i>Good Friday Reflection</i> St Mary's Seavington
Friday 19th April <i>Good Friday</i>	2.30 pm	<i>Good Friday Reflections</i> St James's East Lambrook
Sunday 21st April <i>Easter Day</i>	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP) St Peter & St Paul's, South Petherton
Sunday 21st April <i>Easter Day</i>	9.30 am	Family Communion St Peter & St Paul's, South Petherton
Sunday 21st April <i>Easter Day</i>	9.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP) St James's East Lambrook
Sunday 21st April <i>Easter Day</i>	11.30 am	<i>Easter Sunday Family Communion</i> St Michael's Church Seavington

Quiz Night at the Volunteer Inn

Michael Harrison

The quiz night held at the Volunteer in February in aid of Prostate Cancer UK raised £170. Thank you to everyone who took part in this event. The quiz night was held as part of the World's Biggest Pub Quiz, which has raised over £400,000 for various charities in the UK during the past four years.

Other charity quiz nights are planned to be held at the Volunteer later in the year.

The regular monthly quiz nights in aid of the Seavington Playing Field Association are held at the Volunteer on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

Open Rally Competition

Brian Lawrence (01460 242841)

Ilminster & District Lions Club is holding an “Open Rally Competition” at Seavington Millennium Hall and Playing Field on 27th & 28th April.

Rally is a relatively new dog sport and is constantly evolving and improving under guidance from the Kennel Club. There are some exciting changes this year. Rally is a very “do-able” sport suitable for all types and ages of dog and handler. Disabilities do not necessarily preclude either dog or handler.

Rally requires the dog and handler, as a team, to follow a numbered course of between 10 -15 stations marked by signs. The handler asks the dog to carry out the instruction on each sign and moves on round the course without any direction from the judge. The winner is the team that loses the least points. In the event of a draw the fastest team wins.

If you are competitive you can progress from Level 1 to Level 6 and achieve titles which mean your dog is entitled to have letters after his name. However if you do not wish to compete it is still a great way to have fun with your dog and improve your mutual bond.

This year there are six Rally competitions within reasonable striking distance starting on 27th & 28th April at our very own Seavington playing field. Please feel free to come and have a look, ask any questions or just have a chat. Rally people are very friendly and they all like talking about their dogs.

Ilminster Literary Festival 2019

Linda Vjeh (07971 785069)

As an avid reader, I am always keen to discover more about the lives of my favourite authors. This is where local Literary Festivals come into their own, providing the opportunity to get up close and personal; hearing about the key events that have shaped their lives, what makes them tick, where they get their plots and ideas from.

For Ilminster's upcoming Lit. Fest. (now in its 4th year and held from 28th May to 6th June), I, and my fellow Trustees, have been working tirelessly to ensure that the authors on this year's programme continue to delight, amuse, entertain and inform our diverse audiences.

This is no easy task, especially when it comes to getting on-board those 'heavy-hitting' authors with an international reputation.

This year I am delighted we have managed to coax legendary journalist Kate Adie to grace us with her presence, along with Labour politician Alan Johnson and champion of the English language, Lynne Truss.

In deciding who we would like to invite as speakers, we aim to include popular local authors to speak on a wide range of topics. In doing so, we rely on the valuable feedback we receive from our loyal supporters who attend the many events we organise.

We also try to ensure that the variety of speakers on offer appeals to the widest possible audience, enabling the Festival to continue to grow and prosper. As a registered charity we do not seek to make a 'profit' from the Festival but are always mindful that we need money in the coffers to fund the best speakers.

To prove that we move with the times, one of this year's highlights is parenting lifestyle blogger 'Slummy, Single Mummy'; certain to appeal to a young audience.

So, the message for book lovers is...watch this space!

Springtime in the Lanes

The Seavington Stroller

Well, that was a surprise, twenty degrees of sunshine in February, proving the old adage that nothing stays the same, except change.

The snow drops have given way to bright yellow splashes of daffodils, and none more so than on the corner of Rooks Mead Lane and to the verge along the playing field, what a pleasant setting to the centre of the village.

With the coming of spring, came the flailing of the hedgerows depositing sharp pieces of wood and bramble across the width of the road. The tankers bringing slurry to the fields left thick trails of mud the length of Water Street.

Car drivers weaved around the larger pieces of debris, dog walkers untangled brier from paws, and the many cyclists passing through our village had to negotiate a safe route between the clods of mud and debris that were liable to throw them off their cycles.

What happens to the mess on the roads, eventually it is ground down and then washed into the ditches and drains with the next shower of rain, so it is little wonder our drains and ditches are blocked with the resultant flooding across the road.

In contrast, the hedgerows to the playing field have been professionally managed, trees trimmed and rubbish growth removed. Whilst at first this looks drastic, it will enable the hedging to regenerate with healthy vigorous growth providing attractive hedgerows to both our human eye and as a habitat to the wildlife population of the village.

On a Monday morning stroll, I was surprised at the amount of paper and cardboard put out for recycling. This material would greatly boost the income of our monthly paper collection, ensuring the continued production of this newsletter, and as seen in last month's edition, the provision of grants to deserving village activities. For those who are unable to take their own excess packaging to the monthly skip, I am sure a neighbour would willingly, if asked, take it for them.

On a happier note, and on several successive days, murmurations of starlings could be seen creating immense mobile paintings with their aerial ballet in the sky over Seavington. A true wonder of the natural world, which once seen, will never be forgotten.

A view from the field

Chris Gough – SPFA Chairman

Village Lottery

The final draw of the 2018/19 lottery season has been made and the lucky winners are listed elsewhere in the Seavingtons' News. Our kind volunteers will be collecting for the 2019/2020 season during April and May with the first draw being scheduled for June.

The following volunteers (some also deliver your Seavingtons' News) will be collecting from these areas (subject to minor changes):

Elaine Edwards	Seavington St Mary
Ros Clampitt	New Road (part)
Janice Ash	New Road (part), and Falcon Close
Jane Rice	Water Street (north) and The Pheasant
Pauline Parsons	School Lane, David's Lane
Lesley Gudgeon	Upton Lane
Jackie Priddle	New Road (part), and Pond Farm

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Annie Pritchard for all her assistance with the lottery over many years of service. If you do not already have a lottery ticket, please do contact David Bennett on david.bennett20@btinternet.com who will ensure that you are visited. See also the application form on page 26 of this Seavingtons' News.

Play Area

The wooden fencing around the play area has now been extended and we are now just waiting upon the final payment of the money allocated to the Seavingtons by South Somerset District Council (SSDC) as a direct result of the Falcon Close development on New Road in order to purchase and install the new zip wire. Funding for the remainder of the play area project, which may take a number of years, will be via requests for donations from both the local community (see the request for additional benches etc elsewhere in the Seavingtons' News) and a number of grant applications from charitable organisations.

We were sorry to hear that the Youth Club, which has brought so much enjoyment to so many of our young people over the years, is to fold at the end of March. Whilst the Youth Club committee remain hopeful that someone will still come forward to take over and run the club in the future, they have kindly donated some of their surplus funds to us for use towards our play area project. I'd like to take this opportunity to formally thank the Youth Club for their very kind and generous donation.

Playing Field Hedges

This work has now been completed and as you will have seen, it has completely transformed the boundaries around the playing field and has increased the area significantly. We should start seeing the hedges reshooting and forming new thick, full hedges throughout the summer. An annual programme of maintenance work has also been initiated, so hopefully avoiding such drastic and expensive work again in the future.

As always if you have any questions or comments, I can be contacted using the email spfa@theseavingtons.org

Art in April

Carol Talbot (01460 241478)

It is with pleasure that we welcome two brilliant local artists to our lovely Cafe and Shop.

Rosie Darrah is exhibiting her stunning work in the Cafe, she is a member of the Association of Illustrators and her art is widely exhibited. We are lucky to have a gorgeous selection of limited edition giclee prints featuring her wonderful graphite pencil drawings of wildlife, still life aquarelle pencil illustrations and etches. The detail is remarkable and worth taking time to really appreciate.

Unusually, these prints can be found in a basket in the 'cosy area' of the shop and are being sold without frames. This gives us the opportunity to frame them as we choose to suit our homes.

Our other guest artist could easily display his work on the walls as well. 'A Cut Above' is the brainchild of Larry Chant, well known local character and retired business man and also his lovely wife Liz. These superb end grain wooden chopping boards are almost too good to use and are certainly not your usual run of the mill chopping boards. The boards are beautifully designed and made from natural unstained woods. The workmanship is amazing making these boards a great special occasion present.

Unfortunately, this exhibition is for April only, and is too good to miss. Please don't forget your cheque book!

Winter can be a little miserable so come along and enjoy the great Art, warm yourself up with a hot drink and a piece of Jane's tasty cake, and shop for your groceries at your leisure. We even have a real person at the till who speaks to you, none of this horrible automated/self service stuff!

Hope to see you soon, Carol and Thandi.

Notes from Your Parish Council – March 2019

Pauline Parsons (parishcouncil@theseavingtons.org)

The Parish AGM was held on 19th March where those present were given up-dates on what the Parish Council had carried out during the past year, together with reports from the various organisations that are helped financially by the Parish Council. Minutes of this meeting will be on the village web-site within the next two weeks.

Following this meeting the normal monthly meeting took place at which two presentations were given in connection with two more possible planning applications. Before giving the details of these it should be noted that the Outline Planning Application for 8 houses at the top of Upton Lane has still not been either approved or refused, but need to be remembered when discussions take place regarding the following:-

1. A proposed application for 8 [4 x 2 semi-detached] 3 bed-roomed properties on the land south of Winchester Cottages [opposite the playing field]. The proposal put to the meeting would mean that the new houses would effectively extend the line of Winchester Cottages.

2. As mentioned in the last Report a presentation was made by Ferne Animal Sanctuary regarding the possible planning application for 13 houses on the land east of Seavington House – ie the piece of land above the high bank that leads into the village below the bungalow – Hillview. Concerns raised regarding this application were – Services to the site ie Water, Sewerage, Electricity, the number of properties, which was to include 2, 3, 4 and 5 bed-rooms, and the entrance that would have to be created onto the C5021 where the speed limit is still 40mph.

If all of these applications get approval it would mean an increase in the number of properties in the Parishes of 29, in addition to the 13 that have already been built in Falcon Close.

The Parish Council would like to know residents' views on the above proposals. Representatives from Ferne Animal Sanctuary have agreed that they would come to another meeting of residents to further discuss their proposals. The Parish Council did ask that investigations were made into the concerns already raised before another meeting takes place. If you have any views on this application please contact the Parish Council at parishcouncil@theseavingtons.org. Your views would be greatly appreciated.

Now for other news from the ordinary Parish Council meeting.

Nothing new could be reported by our District and County Councillors as both District and Parish Councils are heading towards Elections on Thursday 2nd May. With regard to that, if anyone wishes to stand for our Parish Council then forms can be obtained from Pauline Parsons. Forms have to be with the SSDC by Wednesday 3rd April.

Discussions were held with SPFA representatives with regard to what funding the Parish Council could offer towards the refurbishment of the play areas. As we know much of the SPFA finances have been used up with works that have already been carried out. Grants are being applied for, the S106 monies from Falcon Close will be used and there is a provisional grant of some £12,500 from SSDC which may be conditional on support from the Parish Council. Parish Councillors asked the SPFA representatives to get further clarification on the amount of support that would be acceptable.

Following recent break-ins the installation of a surveillance system to cover the Shop, Car Park and rear of the Millennium Hall was discussed. It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would pay for this work to be carried out. Payment for this will be made in the new financial year the monies coming from savings made during this financial year.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 16th April, which will be the last one before Council elections.

Just a Brisk Walk

Matthew Towill (towill916@btinternet.com)

As Winnie the Pooh knew only too well some days are just Blustery. Just a Brisk Walk in March was on one such day. However, that didn't stop nine participants enjoying an invigorating walk to Dinnington and Allowenshay along field footpaths, returning to Seavington via Haxen Lane and further field foot paths to Scotts Hill and Water Street back to the Village Store and Cafe for a welcome cup of coffee.

The date for April's "Just a Brisk Walk" is Saturday 20th, meeting as usual at 8.30am at the Village Hall car park.

Application form SPFA Village Lottery 2019-20

SPFA Lottery renewal time is approaching as mentioned in "A view from the field". Collectors will try to call at every house in the village during April and May. You can pay them by cheque (preferred) payable to Seavington Playing Field Association or by cash.

If you miss a collector's visit you can fill out the form below and post it with a cheque in the external letterbox on the left side of the Millennium Hall porch. Please don't put cash in the letterbox as this is not covered by our insurance.

If you have any queries or want further information please call our lottery organiser, Jackie Priddle on 01460 240734 or 07706 092578, or email the Treasurer on david.bennett20@btinternet.com

There is no limit to the number of tickets that can be held per household. If you buy tickets for (grand)children under 18 they will need to be in your name, and any prizes will be paid to you.

If you need more forms these can be downloaded from <http://www.theseavingtons.org/community/village-hall-and-playing-field/annual-finances/>. You can even email a link to friends or family outside the village! We can send them email and bank details if needed.

Postal Application for SPFA Village Lottery 2019-20

I / we would like to join / renew our lottery tickets for the year from June 2019 to March 2020. Cost £10.00 per ticket.

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Thursday 11th April 7.30pm in The Millennium Hall

Seavington St Mary TA19 0QH

Doors open 7pm, refreshments available

*Georgie will be bringing flower arranging resources
and a selection of her books for sale after the talk*

Visitors welcome, £2 payable at the door

For more information contact Karen Day 01460 249728

Seavington Gardening Club

Plant Sale

Saturday 11th May; 10.00 am until noon

Seavington Millennium Hall

Get your garden off to a flying start
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EASTER EGG HUNT

At St Michael's Church
School Lane, Seavington St Michael

SATURDAY 20TH APRIL 2019

Refreshments in the Church from 2.00pm

[also a Raffle]

Egg Hunt to start at 2.30pm

[There will be no charge for the Egg Hunt]

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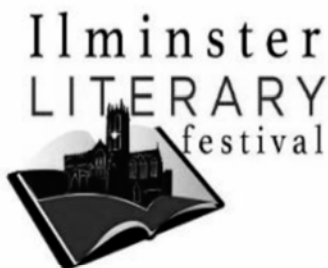
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www.ilminsterliteraryfestival.org

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Park Benches

*Chris Gough—SPFA Chairman
Registered Charity no: 268986*

As you may be aware from my previous articles, Seavington Playing Field Association is in the process of raising funds to carry out a total revamp of the village play area.

As part of this project, we would like to install three new park benches and two or three new picnic tables in the play area, and we would like your help to achieve this please.

A 6ft park bench costs approx... £340

A table and seating sets costs approx... £240

If you, either personally, or perhaps as a village organisation feel that you could help fund a bench/picnic table or perhaps make a contribution towards these items, then we would love to hear from you. Please contact us at spfa@theseavingtons.org

SOUTH SOMERSET RSPB GROUP

‘Birding the Silk Route’

An illustrated talk, presented by Ian Gasper, which is based on trips to Iran, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan – part of the fabled Silk Roads. Landscapes are varied with desert, mountains and lakes, so producing a great variety of birds including stunning rubythroats and redstarts.

Thursday 18th April - 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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Please do not hesitate to telephone David Froome on 01460 249445 if you have any questions.

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