

THE SEAVINGTONS' NEWS

March 2020



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The Seavingtons' News

A community is differentiated from just being a village or town by the extent to which its own members contribute to its wellbeing. We are well served by the volunteers in our Community Shop and the Playing Field Association.

That is why I am so disappointed that no folk have come forward to run our community Youth Club (see page 19). I recall the effort that went into researching the need and opening the Club following the preparation of our Village Plan in 2005. The need and the youngsters are still there, surely a handful of Mums and Dads can free the time to pick up this challenge and run with it.

Yet again we have been let down by our County Council and elected Councillor – see Parish Council report on page 8. The planned works in Church Lane appear to have been abandoned, no-one in County Hall can be bothered to deal with the paperwork to sort out the footpath by Falcon Close and the planned “Small Improvement Scheme” to adjust speed limit signs on New Road is in chaos.

Perhaps this is because County Hall is too busy making its power grab to take over the District Council and its funds. I understand that County believes that it can make this take-over without public consultation or referendum by reference to the Secretary of State.

Given that Seavington is already an uninteresting and irrelevant pimple on the backside of local government I can already visualise the way we will be treated if this comes to pass. However, unless we residents start to object now it may happen by default. If you feel as I do, now is the time to take up your pens and go into battle by writing to your MP, County Councillor and District Councillors.

David Froome

DON'T FORGET

The Waste-paper Skip!

**pm Friday 13th March
until am Monday 16th March**

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

is the 20th March

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*

- | | | |
|------------|----------|---|
| 12th March | 6.30 pm | Gardening Club AGM followed by talk on
“Ponds and Water Features” - p 7 |
| 16th March | 7.15 pm | Charity Theatre event in aid of Village Shop
“Night Must Fall” by Emlyn Williams at the
Swan Theatre—p 14 |
| 17th March | 6.30 pm | Parish Council AGM in Café—p 8 |
| 18th March | 10.30 am | Coffee Morning in aid of The Butterfly
Trust at Carter’s Barn, Water Street p 11 |
| 19th March | 7.30 pm | RSPB Group meeting and talk “The
Mediterranean Naturally” - p 13 |
| 21st March | 08.30 am | Just a Brisk Walk—p 7 |
| 28th March | 10.00 am | SPFA Open Morning regarding Playground
until noon Project plans in Community Shop—p 22 |
| 28th March | 2.00 pm | The Big Bake in aid of the Brain Tumour
until Society at No 2, Southernaways Cottage, |
| | 5.00 pm | Seavington St Mary—pp 11 & 17 |
| 3rd April | | Last day for heating oil orders—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

1st March	11.30 am Family Communion (CW)
8th March	8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
8th March	11.30 am Café Church in Community Café
15th March	11.30 am Holy Communion (CW)
22nd March	11.30 am Mothering Sunday Family Service

The Church Administrator can be contacted on 07831 982470 or
office@southpethertonchurch.org.uk

The Seavingtons' Weather in January 2020

This year—2020

Previous year—2019

Temperature

Average Minimum	4.27°C	2.35°C
Average Maximum	9.13°C	7.65°C
Mean	6.70°C	4.99°C

Rainfall

Monthly Total	80.2 mm (3.21")	37.6 mm (1.50")
Total for the year	80.2 mm (3.21")	37.6 mm (1.50")

The wettest January since 2016 (117.2 mm) & 2014 (208.5 mm)

Advertising Rates

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

Advertising enquiries to: adverts@theseavingtons.org

Search for Environmental Champions

There is an opportunity to directly contribute towards change within South Somerset.

Significant environmental impacts are becoming more regular and more severe, so creating a region which can be an example of rural environmental excellence is essential to our continued prosperity.

Environmental Champions are volunteers whose role will:

- ◆ Be the recipient of any environment/climate information South Somerset District Council (SSDC) wishes to share with parishes, through emails and attendance at forums.
- ◆ Compile and return any information on their parish which would be useful for SSDC to know (environment groups, electric vehicle charging points, re-wilded areas, etc)
- ◆ Encouraging on specific green measures in the parish, to enable environmental sustainability to be at the core of the parishes' decision making.
- ◆ Collaborating with surrounding parishes/groups to maximise impact and share expertise.

Environmental Champions are absolutely vital to the success of the District and County strategies when talking about engaging communities and creating resilient ecosystems. They act as the 'eyes and ears' in their local area as well as acting as a conduit for materials and initiatives.

There are no limits to the number of Environmental Champions that can sign up.

Please contact - ssdcenvironment@southsomerset.gov.uk to register your candidate .

Over the counter

Ian Gibson (01460 249566)

Hopefully some better weather after our stormy start to the year?

The shop this month will be selling the final lot of tickets for the special night out at the play in Yeovil – Night must Fall, a thriller– if they are still available? Do ask, just in case.

Valentines Day has gone, Easter just around the corner, so do pop in to the shop and café to see what is on special offer in store. We offer special deals on purchases of 6 bottles of wine or more - that's big savings over high street prices!

The café keeps being a very a popular venue for meeting friends and neighbours and offers “specials” every day. So join in and if you want to book a group then just phone the shop number and ask for Jane in the café.

We are looking to add to the staff in the café as we are getting busier and we need extra cover. If you want information or a chat then, again, give Jane a buzz

Looking forward to the Bank Holidays arriving soon. The shop is open on Easter Monday morning from 09.00 until 1.00 pm and the special day on May 8th when we see a Friday Bank Holiday to remember VE Day.

The shop is open again in the morning and then in the Village Hall there will be a special event, where we celebrate the 1940's in style. Drinks, food and a good old sing song of tunes from the age and dancing to Glen Miller and the like. A special day to celebrate. You can even wear 1940's costumes! Watch this space for extra news next month and onwards.

Thanks to all customers who frequent our lovely shop and café, but there is always room for more....

Seavington Gardening Club

Kate Mulligan (01460 240023)

Thursday 13th February 2020

Bees and Beekeeping - a talk by Catherine Fraser:

We are very grateful to Catherine for stepping in at the last minute after our initial speaker was unable to attend. She is a beekeeper from Stoke-sub-Hamdon, a member of the Somerton and District Beekeepers Association and has kept bees for 11 years. You may come across her in the grounds of Montacute House which is where she keeps her hives. This environment enables the bees to forage on the acres of unsprayed parkland and gardens as well as having access to 80 acres of apple trees and fields of oil seed rape.

The information Catherine gave was fascinating and was accompanied by some incredible photographs of bee activity. Apparently there are 24 species of bumble bee in the UK but only 1 species of honey bee. They live in social colonies which have a very strict hierarchy with the queen at the top, drones next and then the workers. They have an amazing communication network and their wings can beat up to 230 times per second.

The queen is the only one to produce eggs, anything up to 2000 a day, which hatch after 3 days. The drones are male and after mating with the queen whilst on the wing they die - more intimate details of which made some of the men in the audience wince and the women chuckle.

Sadly today bees are under threat not just from human activity but from things like Varroa mites which attack the hives. They do not kill the developing bee but can pass on viruses or stunt growth. The Asian Hornet is another threat to our bees. It looks black with yellow legs and face and is highly aggressive. By 2016 it had killed up to 50% of honeybees in France and beekeepers in our country are constantly on the look out for sightings and monitoring known areas of invasion.

Not only did Catherine give us such an informative talk but she also provided jars of honey from her own hives plus a range of other bee

products to buy. I think we all gained a much better understanding of the important role bees play in the environment and how much we need to protect them. A huge thank you to Catherine.

Flower of the Month Competition

1st Jenny Deubert - Galanthus Elwesii

2nd Louise Nixon - Camellia

3rd Lis Tope - Cardamine

Forthcoming Events:

Thursday 12th March - AGM followed by a talk by Jenny Short on "Ponds and Water Features". Please note earlier start of 6.30pm for AGM then the talk will follow at 7.30pm. Refreshments will be served before and after the talk. Visitors welcome £2 payable at the door - annual subscriptions still due for those who have not already paid.

Flower of the Month Competition continues so please bring along a single stem of your chosen flower.

For further information please contact Karen Day - tel. 01460 249728

Just a Brisk Walk

Matthew Towill (towill916@btinternet.com)

The date for "Just a Brisk Walk" in March is Saturday 21st. Meeting at 8.30 am at the village hall car park. The walk around village footpaths will last about an hour returning to the village cafe for coffee and further conversation! Everyone welcome.

Why I Like Retirement !

Question: How many days in a week?

Answer: 6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday

Question: When is a retiree's bedtime?

Answer: Two hours after falling asleep on the couch.

Parish Council News – February 2020

Pauline Parsons [parishcouncil@theseavingtons.org]

PLEASE NOTE THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY 17TH MARCH 2020 at 6 .30 pm in the Village Café– THIS IS THE PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Your time to meet your Parish Councillors.

Police Surgeries at the Shop/Cafe – The Parish Council was informed that an Officer who can ‘sign’ could attend our Meetings, the Police Surgery or visit the home of anyone who is deaf and wishes to raise concerns. If anyone in the villages would like to meet with this officer please let a Parish Councillor know.

Next Police Surgery Mike Bell our PCSO will hold a surgery in the Village Store and Café on Tuesday March 31st from 11.30 am. Until 1.30 pm.

Counterfeit £50 notes The police reported that there are counterfeit £50 being circulated in the local area.

County Highways – Church Lane – No further news. The Parish Council is aware of flooding in the area but has not been notified of works that may have been carried out.

Rookesmead Lane - Ditch cleared and water flowing rapidly. The lane has remained relatively clear over the last few weeks but the amount of rain recently experienced means various drains are being overwhelmed. Our Ranger is doing her best to keep up-to-date with the necessary works.

Falcon Close – Unfortunately there has been no further news as to how things are progressing with the works necessary on the frontage of the development. Another case of the wheels in County Hall turning very slowly even though we were given assurances that someone was on the case!!!

Small Improvement Scheme – Still awaiting news with regard to the moving of the speed sign. It would seem that the Contractor has a number of issues that are more urgent. It could be April before this is resolved!!!! It would seem that although the Parish Council has a plan

showing the signs opposite one another the contractor was only verbally told to move one. [Common Sense gone out of the window it would seem].

Purchase of our own SID – By the time you read this we are hoping that the SID will be in place.

Planning – New Application received from Mr & Mrs N Talbot for single storey side and rear extension.

At the time of writing there is still no further news regarding the appeals at Southernaways.

However, the Parish Council has been informed that vehicles have been seen blocking the footpath adjacent to this property. If any resident has details of these vehicles [number plates, timings etc] please pass these to the Parish Council.

Buildings to assist with the construction and storage of carnival floats – in Parish of Kingstone – This application, having been with the District Planners since July 2018 has still not been resolved. A new Highways Consultation Document has been published which seems to indicate that although both exits on to the main roads – the northern one that meets the Ilminster/Crewkerne road in Kingstone and the southern one at Boxstone Cross, although not meeting sight line requirements are not deemed to be unsafe.

The Parish Council have sent comments, in support of Kingstone Parish Council, that this application should be refused, not only on Highway grounds but also that it is for Industrial type units in the middle of a rural area. We are contacting Planners direct reiterating our concerns, as not only is the site in Kingstone Parish but also comes in Area West of SSDC whereas Seavington is in Area North.

Village Car Park [opposite the Volunteer Inn] – Following more problems on the car park new signage is to be ordered and put in place giving rules and regulations that have to be observed by all users of the area. Contravention could lead to prosecution.

VE Day Celebrations – 8th to 10th May 2020 – being organised nationally by SSAFA [The armed Forces charity] - Please see details on Page 23 of this issue of the Seavingtons' News.

Village Mart

The Seavingtons' News is pleased to offer a free advertising service to village residents provided that the advertisement is of a non-commercial nature.

Georgian style cast iron fire basket and back plate suitable for an open fireplace.

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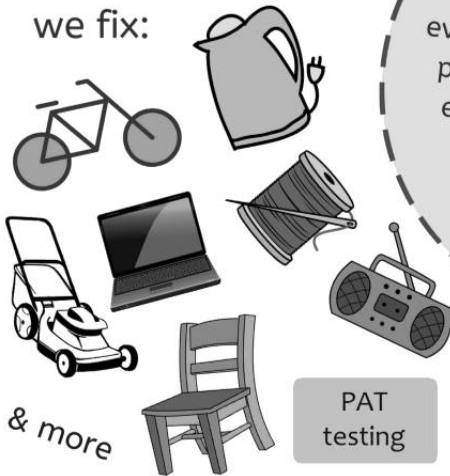
Please ring 01460 241540 for details.

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small café where our
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We aim to reduce
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in the process

Email Haz at IlminsterRepairCafe@gmail.com

The café will be held **bimonthly** at the Ile Youth Centre in Ilminster
10:00-14:00 on the last Sunday of the month. **Get in touch!**



**Joy Madge and
the Inner Wheel Club of Taunton
(International Committee)**

INVITE YOU TO A COFFEE MORNING

On Wednesday, 18TH March 2020

from 10.30am to 12noon

**At Carters Barn, Seavington St Mary,
Ilminster. TA19 0QR**

**Proceeds In aid of The Butterfly Tree
A UK based (non governmental charity) helping orphans
in Zambia**

www.thebutterflytree.org.uk Charity No. 1118084



CALLING ALL CAKE LOVERS

**The "Big Bake" is coming to Seavington
and...You're invited**

**At No 2, Southernaways Cottage
Seavington St Mary**

**Saturday 28th March 2020 from 2.00—5 pm
Please bring yourself, your friends and your donations**

**The "Big Bake" is the Brain Tumour Charity's annual
excuse to indulge in cake, buns, biscuits, pies, brownies
and more while raising funds for cutting-edge research
and life-changing support for people living with brain
tumours.**

UK Registered Charity No: 1150054



Flix in the Stix

Andrew Overhill (01460 72563)

Hinton St. George 'Flix in the Stix' presents "**Judy**" on Saturday 14th March 2020. Doors open 7.00 pm. Tickets available from Hinton Shop, Dorothy's Tea Room or reserve by contacting Bob Kefford on 01460 72563.

In the winter of 1968 showbiz legend Judy Garland arrived in Swinging London to perform a five-week sold-out run at The Talk of the Town. It was 30 years since she shot to global stardom in The Wizard of Oz, but if her voice has weakened, its dramatic intensity had only grown. As she prepared for the shows, she battled with the management, charmed musicians and reminisced with friends and adoring fans. Despite all this her wit and warmth shone through. Even her dreams of love seem undimmed as she embarked on a whirlwind romance with Mickey Deans, her soon-to-be fifth husband.

The film features some of her best-known songs, and celebrates the voice, her capacity for love, and the sheer pizzazz of "the world's greatest entertainer." Zellweger has been tipped for an Academy Award for her lead role as actor too.



SEAVINGTON SHOP AND CAFE

REMEMBER TO BOOK YOUR TICKETS!
THE SWAN THEATRE TRIP on March 16th to see
"Night Must Fall" by Emlyn Williams. See separate advert

MOTHERS DAY -Sunday 22nd March

See our lovely selection of occasion and artists cards
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Choose from an attractive tin featuring dogs or cows
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Fantasy cottage paintings by Mary Fowler from Crewkerne

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Seavington Village Shop & Cafe, Water St, Seavington TA19 0QH. **01460 249730**

Opening hours: Shop Mon - Fri 8.30am - 5.00pm, Sat 9.00am - 3.00pm

Cafe Mon-Fri 8.30am - 4.00pm, Sat 9.00am - 2.00pm



SOUTH SOMERSET RSPB GROUP

‘The Mediterranean Naturally’

An illustrated talk presented by well-known wildlife photographer David Boag. We will be taken on a trip around the med looking at birds including bee-eater, hoopoe, black redstart & turtle doves. Also butterflies and other creatures.

Thursday 19th March - 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

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



The Warehouse Theatre Ilminster

Run by Ilminster Entertainment Society (IES), this little gem represents one of the best equipped, professional standard amateur theatres in the county. Offering high quality entertainment throughout the year to audiences of all ages, as well as running a thriving Youth Theatre and being a venue for local groups and clubs to hire.

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:

Friday 6th March – The Ilminster Belles

Thursday 19th March – Social Evening

Friday 20th March – Somerset Opera Iolanthe

Sat 21st – Sun 22nd March – County Drama Festival

Thursday 16th April – Social Evening

Wed 22nd – Sat 25th May – Living Together

Proceeds in aid of the Shop and Cafe

[There will be no charge for the Egg Hunt but donations would be appreciated for the Afternoon Tea]



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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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| • Electrical accessories | • Engraving of labels |
| • Cable laying and ducting | • Outside Events |
| • Electrical Door/ Gate Systems | • Intercom and Entry Systems |

The Brain Tumour Charity Afternoon Tea

Iris Clarke (07976 161282)

Once again, this year I will be holding an afternoon tea/coffee and cake event in aid of The Brain Tumour Charity. I didn't do so well last year through my lack of advertising so hope I have got my act together better this year.

My beautiful friend was diagnosed with a brain tumour in July of 2018 and was given a year to live. Since then she has undergone some of the most horrendous treatments and is still with us but quite broken and beaten. The last 18 months have seen her with no quality of life whilst battling this horrendous disease.

Although Cancer Research does wonderful work, only a small percentage of their funds is put into brain tumour research hence this fundraising event.

Below are some of the statistics in relation to this disease;

The statistics we have unearthed speak for themselves. Something has to be done.

- ◇ Too many people are being faced with the devastating diagnosis each year – every two hours, someone is diagnosed with a brain tumour in England
- ◇ In the UK, 16,000 people each year are diagnosed with a brain tumour
- ◇ Less than 20% of brain tumour patients survive beyond five years of their diagnosis, whereas 86% of breast cancer and 51% of leukaemia patients survive beyond five years
- ◇ Brain tumours are the chief cause of cancer deaths in children and young people. In 2015, the number of children dying from cancer was 194, with brain tumours taking 67 young lives and leukaemia 46
- ◇ Brain tumours continue to kill more children and adults under the age of 40 than any other cancer*.

Please come along to 2 Southernaways Cottage on Saturday March 28th between 2pm and 5pm to raise funds and awareness to help combat this disease. You will be very welcome.

* Taken from The Brain Tumour Charity website

Shepton Beauchamp Primary School News

Charlie Pattisson (01460 241396)

After a wet and windy half term break the children and teachers have returned to school ready for the next half of term and it looks like its going to be another busy one!

Before the break Seymour Class had a brilliant day out at 'We the Curious' in Bristol and took in a show at the Planetarium to enhance their understanding of the Earth and Space Topic. If you haven't been it is worth a visit. Coles Class invited parents to see their work on Jack and the Beanstalk and show off their work from home – 'bone bread', castles, magic jelly beans with 'blood icing' and home movies! Coles Class will now be learning about famous people starting with Grace Darling and also learning about Spring and planting and growing from seeds.

We have been delighted to welcome parents into school for 'Inspire' sessions where they have observed lessons across the curriculum in both Seymour and Coles class. These will continue this term. We were also pleased to welcome members of the local community for 'reading moments', when children and adults shared favourite stories. The children really enjoy sharing their learning with their families.

Later in the term our older children will be taking part in a two-day Bikeability course aimed at improving road safety and safe cycling and we will be holding our Mothers' Day service in the church on 20th March.

We are delighted that the governors have agreed that Caroline Middleton will now act as our Senior Teacher across the Federation and we welcome Jacqui McDermott as our new teaching assistant.

FOSS (*Friends of Shepton School*) Our next big fundraiser is a joint event with the Pre School – EASTER BINGO at the DUKE of YORK on Monday 30th March.

We had a successful cake sale and mufti day raising £140 and we were delighted to contribute to the cost of the trip to Bristol and to buy new knives for Cooking Club and board games for Morning Club.

*For more information please call 01460 240793
office@sheptonbeauchamp.somerset.sch.uk
WEB www.sheptonbeauchamp.somerset.sch.uk*

Seavington Villages Oil Run

Nigel Key (01460 241540; oil@theseavingtons.org)

We have just had a village oil delivery, and it turned out to be popular with several people using the service for the first time.

The next order will be placed on Friday 3rd April. After which we may have some warmer and drier weather. During the summer months I only order every three months . so the following order will be placed on 3rd July.

If you were unhappy with anything about your last order please get in touch so that I can give any feedback to our suppliers and improve the service for everybody.

Youth Club

Janine Lewis (janineannlewis@talktalk.net)

Please consider if you could get involved in getting the youth club going again.

The hall offers splendid facilities for our local youth and there is plenty of play and leisure equipment available for the sessions.

Volunteering is rewarding and a great way to get to know local families.

A committee of several people would need to be formed in the first instance.

Changes to Adult Mental Health Services

You have the opportunity to have your say about proposals for changing acute inpatient mental health services for adults of working age.

Health and care services in Somerset are running a public consultation to gather feedback from local people about the future locations of acute mental health beds for people of working age. The consultation runs until 12 April 2020.

An acute mental health ward is where patients are admitted to provide them with the level of treatment and support they need. This might be because they need further assessment, they need to be kept safe or they need more intensive support than can be provided at home.

Health and care services are considering changing the location of the acute mental health ward at Wells for people aged between 18 and 65 years and moving it to Yeovil. The number of beds will remain the same.

The reason for the proposed change is due to concerns about patients and staff safety. Two of the four wards for people aged between 18 and 65 years are located in Taunton, with one ward in both Yeovil and Wells.

These two are 'standalone' wards which means they are not close to other wards, and one of them is also a long way from the nearest Emergency Department.

All other existing services at Priory Health Park in Wells will remain, whatever the outcome of the consultation, and community mental health services available to people in the Wells/Mendip area will be expanded and enhanced: this includes a Crisis Café.

Health and care services would like to know what you think about their ideas. You can fill in the questionnaire here:

<http://bit.ly/FFMF-Mental-Health-Consultation>

You can read the full consultation document on their website at www.fitformyfuture.org.uk, contact them by email at somccg.fitformyfuture@nhs.net or telephone 01935 384119.

Basic Beekeeping

Ken Dewsbury (01460 241155)

Following on from my previous article in last month's issue of the News there are a number of other considerations when wintering honey bees. Their principal parasite is the varroa mite, and without the beekeeper's intervention they would succumb to this infestation. The mite population has had all summer to build up, and now as winter approaches, the bees will have thousands of these parasites to carry through the winter. Because winter is approaching however, the brood area will be greatly reduced from its summer proportions, which means that there are very few sealed brood cells in which the mites can hide. If they are treated at this time of year therefore, the treatment will be most effective. The currently approved medicament is either Bayvoral or Apistan, both impregnated strips, which are hung between the brood combs, after the honey has been removed. As with all chemicals, it is important to follow the manufacturers instructions, with particular regard to removing the strips after treatment. If the strips are left in the hives all through the winter, any mites emerging when the potency of the treatment is diminishing, could develop immunity.

In one year I made the mistake of not applying mouse guards. Mice are probably the most prevalent of predators, when bees are tightly clustered, it is very easy for a mouse to creep in without detection were the hive is warm, dry and has a built in food supply. Once inside, the mice usually makes a nest, which means the destruction of combs and frames. A mouse wouldn't dare set foot inside the hive entrance during the active season. A mouse guard placed across the entrance, will keep mice at bay. Woodpeckers are usually only a problem in a very hard winter. If the ground becomes frozen for long periods, they will sometimes attack beehives, drilling their way through the side of the brood chamber, and completely ruining it. The solution here is to apply chicken wire wrapped around the hive. Badgers can be a nuisance as I know from experience, finding one hive pushed over one winter. A good heavy stone is now placed on the roof of each of my hives.

Finally for now, there is the weather to consider. Cold doesn't kill bees, but damp does. Ventilation is very important, probably even more in the winter than in the summer months. In some exposed areas, the winter gales can sometimes blow snow or rain in through the entrances, so a batten should be placed under the back of the hive, tipping it forward slightly, so that any water that finds it's way in, can run out again.

A view from the field

Chris Gough – SPFA Chairman

As I write this, we all seem to be suffering in the middle of storm Dennis and the playing field is absolutely soaked. Many of us are enjoying the new path as a relatively dry place to walk our dogs when so many footpaths and fields are underwater. You may well have noticed that, a week earlier on 8 Feb 2020, during the severe winds of storm Ciara, the playing field shed roof blew off and landed some 20mtrs away. We are still debating whether the shed can be repaired or will need to be replaced.

The playground project is progressing very well, and following some further recent grant awards, together with some very generous donations from several local businesses, we are now finalising the equipment to be purchased and are hopeful that installation will commence sometime in April or May. With this in mind, we'll be holding an informal drop-in "Open Morning" in the shop between 10:00 and 12:00 on Saturday 28 March 2020 where we shall display plans of what is to be installed and be available to answer any questions.

This winter, with the kind help of Phil Gordon-Smith and Sue Babey, over 300 hedging whips have been planted, as well as three specimen trees. One of these specimen trees has been planted as a memorial to Michael Harrison and has been positioned next to his parents' memorial bench.

The more observant of you may have also noticed that three patches of permeable membrane have been laid in the wild area at the top of the field. In the spring we will lift this membrane and attempt to establish a wildflower patch using the 'No Dig' method. This involves replacing the membrane with a thick layer of cardboard then on top of which we'll place a generous layer of compost. Wildflower seed will then be sown into this compost. Hopefully we'll see a lovely display of wildflowers this summer - finger crossed!

The quiz at the Volunteer on the 4th Wednesday of every month continues to be very popular and we are grateful to Ruth and Colin for their hospitality. We appreciate their ongoing support of the SPFA. John Mounce continues in the role of quizmaster and seems to find the right balance of questions to keep everyone thinking.

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



**Advance Notice to keep the Bank Holiday weekend of
Friday 8th May to Sunday 10th May free as
The Seavingtons celebrates**

V E DAY – 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Dates for your diaries – 8th – 10th May 2020

Plans are now being made for how The Seavingtons will celebrate

Friday 8th May – Flower Festival in St Michael's Church begins.
Refreshments will be served in the garden area

3.00pm Toast to the Heroes of WW2 – to take place in
the garden area of St Michael's Church

7.00pm The Bells at St Mary's Church will ring
Followed by a celebration in the Millennium Hall which
will include music from the 1940's, A light supper and
refreshments

Saturday 9th May - Flower Festival continues

Sunday 10th May - Flower Festival continues.

Details regarding Church Services will be given when confirmed.

We will keep you up-to-date with timings and more events if planned.

There will be charges made for some of these events as monies raised will be going to SSAFA – the Armed Forces Charity. Details of when tickets will be on sale will be reported in the April Seavingtons' News with a final programme in the May edition.



Villagers who served in the Second World War

Pauline Parsons (01460 240193)

As you are aware preparations are being made to celebrate the 75th anniversary of V E [Victory Europe] Day on the 8th May 2020.

Recently there has appeared in the Community Shop a list of those villagers who served in the First World War, but there does not seem to be one with names of those who served in the Second World War. There certainly were not as many casualties as in the First World War.

Is this the time that we should be trying to draw up a list of our villagers who served and put it alongside the one for the First World War.

If you know of a villager who served either in the Army, the Navy [including Merchant], Royal Marines or the Air Force please let the Parish Council know. Perhaps we should also include those serving in 'Dad's Army', the Land Girls etc.

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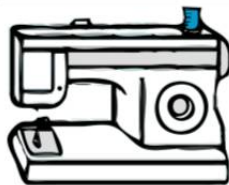
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