

THE SEAVINGTONS' NEWS

April 2020



Covid-19 Coronavirus information see pages 4-10
SPFA Questionnaire—centre pull-out
Plus Community Café take-away menu &
Seavington Flower Show Schedule



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The Seavingtons' News

The Chinese reputedly have a curse which goes “May you live in interesting times”. No one can doubt that the current situation with Coronavirus Covid-19 is interesting as well as more than a little frightening.

Fortunately, we live in a small community and, as you will learn from the following pages, various community organisations and individuals have stepped up to the plate by offering help and support to those who need to self-isolate or need other assistance. Further, I know that younger neighbours are stepping in with offers to shop for the more vulnerable amongst us.

It is too early to thank these folk for their community spirit but when the crisis is over we must not forget to offer our gratitude for their support.

Turning to other topics, you will see below that our monthly waste-paper skip is threatened by a combination of circumstances which now include the bottom dropping out of the market for paper-based waste.

For many years the Seavingtons' News went forward solely on the income from the waste-paper collection. More recently, advertising revenue has significantly increased our income and we have been able to offer grants. For the time being, at least, we will be unable to offer new grants and must be cautious as we try and guarantee our future.

David Froome

The Waste-paper skip in doubt

We are hoping for a waste-paper skip to be provided from 17th—20th April. However, Viridor have been unable to confirm these dates and the future of our waste-paper collection and its resultant income looks in doubt. We will keep you posted, meanwhile please be optimistic and continue to save your paper and cardboard.

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*

3rd April		Last day for heating oil orders—p 28
11th April	7.30pm	Flix in the Stix “Official Secrets” in Hinton St George Village Hall—p 18
20th April	noon	Community Lunch in Seavington Community Café—p 18

Most village meetings and activities have been suspended in accordance with Government advice. You should check for cancellation of the above activities before travelling or planning to participate in them.

Regular Activities

2nd Monday	noon	Community Lunch in Village Café
3rd Tuesday	6.30pm	Parish Council Meeting in Village Café
3rd Wednesday	10.30am	“GET2GETHER” Group in Village Café
2nd 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

Covid-19: There will be no services but Ministry Team members will be present to offer prayer and thanksgiving—see page 11 for details.

5th April	11.00 am Palm Sunday—Meet at Seavington Café
10th April	10.00 am Good Friday at St Mary's Church
12th April	11.00 am Easter Sunday
19th April	11.30 am
26th April	11.30 am

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

The Seavingtons' Weather in February 2020

This year—2020

Previous year—2019

Temperature

Average Minimum	3.82°C	2.99°C
Average Maximum	10.10°C	11.56°C
Mean	6.96°C	7.27°C

Rainfall

Monthly Total	148.3 mm (5.94")	48.1 mm (1.93")
Total for the year	228.5 mm (9.14")	85.7 mm (3.43")

The wettest February since 2014 (202.4 mm) & 1990 (147.4 mm)

Advertising Rates

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

Advertising enquiries to: adverts@theseavingtons.org

Coronavirus & Seavington

On the next few pages we bring together various sets of information and advice as our community faces the consequences of the global outbreak of Coronavirus Covid-19

At the time of going to press there is little or no evidence that the above has reached our village.

However, as a precaution Canon Ian Gibson alongside the Community Shop and the local Village Church, has arranged a small local network of volunteers to help anyone in the village who may have to be self-isolating or need help in any way during the current crisis.

Examples of the help on offer include:

- ◇ Home-sitters for children whilst parents are at work
- ◇ Collection of medical prescriptions and delivery to your home
- ◇ Delivery of shopping ordered from our Community Shop
- ◇ Delivery of “take-away” food from our Community Café

So anyone who needs help should first contact either the shop or Ian and they will put you on to someone who can help. Telephone numbers are:

Community Shop 01460 249730
Ian Gibson 01460 249566

If there is no answer from the shop then try Ian.

Please note that our Community Shop will be restricting its opening hours from Monday 23rd March. **The shop will be open from 8.30 am until 3.00 pm until further notice.**

Our Community Café can offer takeaway food from our menu at the café for collection from the Community Shop, outside if necessary—see separate menu enclosed with this magazine.

These arrangements will be revised in the light of any further instructions from Government or the Health Authorities.

The village website www.theseavingtons.org will also be kept up to date about any information.

St Michael's Church

From Canon Ian Gibson

The Church in Seavington at St Michaels will remain open throughout the current Covid-19 crisis. This will enable people, should they want to, to just go and sit in church and pray or think, especially about those who are affected directly by the events of the time.

On Sundays, at the usual time of the service, there will be someone present to offer prayers and thanksgivings, either clergy or lay. You are welcome to attend, but we must stress that the Archbishops have stated there will be NO public worship events taking place, i.e. no hymns, no sharing books, no full services.

For details regarding funerals, baptisms, weddings and special services, or if you know of anyone in need please contact me directly on 01460249566 or 07843672803.

See also the note on page 11

Emergency Home Deliveries

For those faced with self-isolation or otherwise unable to leave their home a number of local businesses have offered to make home deliveries. Please contact the businesses directly to order:

- ◇ Seavington Community Store— for groceries etc call 01460 249730
- ◇ Seavington Community Café—for take-away food call 01460 249730—see separate menu enclosed with this magazine
- ◇ Bonners the Butchers & Deli—call 01460 52465 or e-mail: sales@bonnersthebutchers.co.uk. You may also order from their web-site: www.bonnersthebutchers.co.uk
- ◇ P B Fruit of Ilminster—for fruit & vegetables call 01460 52180
- ◇ Ilminster Home Hardware—call 01460 52506
- ◇ Silver Street Dairy, Ilminster—call 01460 52502
- ◇ Wine World Ilminster—call 01460 55512

Parish Council Support & Advice

Pauline Parsons (parishcouncil@theseavingtons.org)

At the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 17th March 2020 your Councillors obviously discussed the Coronavirus and how they could help the villages to come through safely. To this end we have all agreed to publish our telephone numbers and link them to the group being led by the Village Shop/and Churches so that help can be given to those who need it – whatever that may be. If we cannot help we will know someone who can. We are also passing on some information from Somerset County Council with regard to keeping safe – not just from the virus but from those out there who may try to gain from the situation. Consequently please:-

- ◇ Only use the Village telephone numbers that you have been given
- ◇ Do not put a sign on your door openly stating you are vulnerable
- ◇ Don't share more personal information than absolutely necessary
- ◇ Don't share bank or card details or give people your cards to make purchases
- ◇ Contact the organisers of the group if someone asks you to pay more for something than you normally would.

Our Parish Councillors can be contacted as follows:

Janice Ash	01460 241141
Andrew Doble	07582776398
Elaine Edwards	01460 241601
Nigel England	01460 241614
Nick Loxton	01460 242435
Pauline Parsons	01460 240193
Chris Reyland	01460 241238

Emergency Dog Walking

During the current coronavirus if there are any older villages or single people who are in isolation and are worried about walking their dog(s) I am happy to help (no charge).

Just call me, Sue Babey, on 07842 224655

Coronavirus – the basic facts & How to protect yourself and others

Mary Corcoran (maryecorcoran2@gmail.com)

Background

Coronaviruses are a large group of viruses which cause a variety of illnesses in humans, including some types of the common cold and the much more serious SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome). They all have a lipid (fatty) envelope surrounding the virus and protein spikes sticking through the envelope giving the appearance of a crown (corona in Latin). It's because of the lipid envelope that soap and water are effective in killing the virus. The virus spreads via droplets from coughing etc, so you need close contact (within 2m/6feet) for airborne spread or from contaminated hard surfaces, eg door handles. The incubation period is 2-14 days, usually 5 days.

There is a lot of information in the media, including social media, about coronavirus/COVID-19. Not all of it is accurate, which has caused some confusion. The information below is either from the NHS Choices website or the UK Government website coronavirus pages. If you receive any information from other sources, you might like to check it against the advice here or on these websites:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

Scope of guidance

This guidance is for everyone. It advises on social distancing measures we should all be taking to reduce social interaction between people in order to reduce the transmission of coronavirus. It is intended for people who are living in their own homes, with or without additional support from friends, family and carers. The Government is advising those who are at increased risk of severe illness from coronavirus to be particularly stringent in following social distancing measures. This group includes those who are:

- aged 70 or older (regardless of medical conditions)
- under 70 with an underlying health condition (ie anyone instructed to get a flu jab as an adult each year on medical grounds):
- those who are pregnant

There are some clinical conditions which put people at even higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. If you are in this category, next week the NHS in England will directly contact you with advice on the more stringent measures you should take in order to keep yourself and others safe. For now, you should rigorously follow the social distancing advice in full, outlined below.

What is social distancing?

Social distancing measures are steps you can take to reduce the social interaction between people. This will help reduce the transmission of coronavirus. They are:

1. Avoid contact with someone who is displaying symptoms of coronavirus infection. These symptoms include high temperature and/or new and continuous cough.
2. Avoid non-essential use of public transport, varying your travel times to avoid rush hour, when possible.
3. Work from home, where possible. Your employer should support you to do this.
4. Avoid large gatherings, and gatherings in smaller public spaces such as pubs, cinemas, restaurants, theatres, bars, clubs.
5. Avoid gatherings with friends and family. Keep in touch using remote technology such as phone, internet, and social media.
6. Use telephone or online services to contact your GP or other essential services.

Everyone should be trying to follow these measures as much as is pragmatic.

This advice is likely to be in place for some weeks.

Handwashing and respiratory hygiene

There are general principles you can follow to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses such as coronavirus, including:

- washing your hands more often - with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use a hand sanitiser when you get home or into

work, when you blow your nose, sneeze or cough, eat or handle food

- avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- avoid close contact with people who have symptoms
- cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin and wash your hands
- clean and disinfect frequently touched objects such as door handles and surfaces in the home

How can I stay fit?

- look for ideas of exercises you can do at home on the NHS website
- spend time doing things you enjoy – this might include reading, cooking, other indoor hobbies or listening to the radio or watching TV programmes
- try to eat healthy, well-balanced meals, drink enough water, exercise regularly, and try to avoid smoking, alcohol and drugs
- keep your windows open to let in fresh air, get some natural sunlight if you can, or get outside into the garden
- You can also go for a walk outdoors if you stay more than 6 feet (2 m) from others.

What should you do if you develop symptoms of coronavirus infection (COVID-19)?

The same guidance applies to the general population and those at increased risk of severe illness from coronavirus infection. If you develop symptoms of COVID-19 (high temperature and/or new and continuous cough), self-isolate at home for 7 days.

How can I get assistance with foods and medicines if I am reducing my social contacts?

There is help within the village for this – please see Over the Counter and other sections of the magazine.

Covid 19 – Coronavirus—Waste Disposal

The current advice for disposing of waste for anyone with symptoms, including those diagnosed with the infection, is on the Somerset Waste Partnership website:

<https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-disposing-of-waste/>

It states that personal waste (e.g. used tissues) and disposable cleaning cloths can be stored securely within disposable rubbish bags. These bags should be placed into another bag, tied securely and kept separate from other waste within your own room. This should be put aside for at least 72 hours before being put in your usual external household waste bin. Other household waste can be disposed of as usual. This advice will be updated as required.

Easter Egg Hunt

The planned Children's Easter Egg hunt is cancelled

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 reflect the views of The Seavingtons' News. For legal reasons we must have the name and address of the writer but can normally publish over a pseudonym on request.

I was horrified to see the grass verges, so desperately needed for our native wildflowers and insects, being scalped yesterday. This is a Somerset country village not suburbia.

Aren't we trying to save our flowers and insects and the small mammals etc that feed of them. What are you doing Seavington???

Pauline Rook

St Michael's Church

We have been informed that Rev Handy will be off sick for the foreseeable future.

As Churchwardens, and with assistance from members of the ministry team, we had planned to continue the usual pattern of worship.

Unfortunately, events have overtaken us and the two archbishops have decreed that there should be no public worship in Church of England churches "for the season." In reality, we are interpreting this as meaning the next few weeks, or even months. However, at the usual service times, a member of the clergy or Lay Worship Leader will be offering prayers and thanksgiving at St Michael's. The church will be open at all times, as usual.

If you or anyone you know would like to receive home communion or other pastoral care, please do not hesitate to contact Anne or Manda.

The usual service times, when a member of the ministry team will be in church are as follows:

Sunday 5th April Palm Sunday 11.00 Seavington Café, meet for coffee, then we will walk together to St Michael's
Friday 10th April Good Friday 10.00 St Mary's Church
Sunday 12th April Easter Sunday 11.00 St Michael's Church
Sunday 19th April 11.30 St Michael's Church
Sunday 26th April 11.30 St Michael's Church

There will be a poster on the notice board outside St Michael's with further details, or please ring or e mail us.

Best wishes

Anne Shaw Tel: 01460 249156 anneshaw69@gmail.com

Amanda Jagers Tel: 01460 240554 manda.jagers@gmail.com

Just A Brisk Walk

Due to the current advice re Corvid-19 "Just a Brisk Walk" on Saturday 21st March is cancelled. "Just a Brisk Walk" will return hopefully later this year.

Matthew Towill

Over the counter

Ian Gibson (01460 249566)

Unfortunately the Coronavirus outbreak led to a last minute cancellation of the theatre evening in Yeovil last month. We would like to thank everyone who bought tickets for this fund-raising event and were subsequently disappointed.

With all that is happening in the world, I do hope that you are keeping well. In case you are suffering we wish you well soon - we've run out of hand gel by the way, but will soon re stock!!!

We have been very fortunate, after much work by our fundraising team, to be accepted by the Tesco store in Ilminster to be one of the local charities to benefit from their token scheme run in store. All you have to do is collect the blue token when you shop there and put it in the right slot marked SEAVINGTON Stores.

We are raising money to pay for the repair and extension of our disabled ramp and adding to the paved facility at the café back entrance. This will enable more of our wheelchair patrons to get into the shop and café easily. Simple way of supporting our store if you would be so kind. The slots are open from April through to June.

Summer is here – well at least in the eyes of the Met Office – so we should revert to summer closing time at the shop – 6.00 pm. But, we need to check that that last hour of opening does help our customers, so we will be reviewing the number coming in. Let us know if you feel it worthwhile us staying open. However, in the short term, because of the Coronavirus issue **we will be closing at 3.00 pm.**

May 8th is a special day in the Village - do see later in this issue for the many things happening on the day.

Lots as usual happening in store with lots of summery goods in food and wines and beers . Worth coming along just to see what is in store and the artists collections as well.

Don't forget we are local agents for Hermes and that means a very easy way of sending parcels quickly and cheaply – just ask in store if in doubt.

Thandi Wilson

It is with much regret we have to report the death of one of our valued Community Shop volunteers.

Thandi Wilson was our volunteer who sourced the artists for our bi-monthly exhibition and the cards, and for many specialist foodstuffs in store. She will be greatly missed. Our thoughts are with her husband Gerald and the family.

Ian Gibson

Our Cover Picture

These days, most of our cover pictures are from the pen and brushes of Andrew Sutton. For this month he has recreated a piece of “Old Seavington” depicting the village pond in Seavington St Michael, basing his picture on a photograph lent to him by a member of our community.

Andrew wants to create more historic pictures like this and would like to borrow any old photos or postcards you may have for this purpose. He promises to take good care of them and return them promptly.

If you can help please call Andrew on 01460 249338

VOTE FOR SEAVINGTON COMMUNITY SHOP!

Our project - to improve access to the shop and garden for our disabled customers.

By adding tarmac surfaces and safety rails we can enable wheelchair users and others with mobility problems to access the shop and garden safely and in comfort. You can help us deliver this project!

Whenever you shop at **TESCO IN ILMINSTER** during **APRIL, MAY AND JUNE** you will be able to vote for us. Please ask for a token at the till when you make a purchase of any value. The awards are for £2k, £1k and £500. We would very much like to get £2k! Thank you for your help.

Parish Council News –March 2020

Pauline Parsons (parishcouncil@theseavingtons.org)

At the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 17th March 2020 your Councillors obviously discussed the Coronavirus and how they could help the villages to come through safely. The outcome is on page 6 of this magazine.

Police Surgeries at the Shop/Cafe – Because of the present situation we are assuming that these will not be taking place.

County Highways – Church Lane – Workmen have been spotted in Church Lane so we are hopeful that the large pothole to the south of St Mary's Church will soon be filled and the drain cleared.

Water Street – The gully emptier was seen in Water Street but the problem outside of The Beeches and Beech Cottage has not been fully resolved. County Highways have carried out some jetting but as there is still water running we have reported a possible collapsed drain. We have also reported the water flowing out of a drain adjacent to Penn View. Today (19th March) there are orange markings around the areas of concern. Hopefully the problems will be resolved in the not too distant future.

Falcon Close – Still no further news as to when the footway will be constructed. Somerset County Council will be contacted again.

Our own SID - As you will have all seen the SID was in place near Falcon Close for just over 3 weeks. [How many of you were pleased when you only saw a Green smiley face?] The data that it has recorded makes very interesting reading. Even though the SID was only advising drivers going east bound of their speed, taking three readings - it was also logging those travelling west to Ilminster. Over the period of 3 weeks 60,859 vehicles were checked travelling east and 81,947 travelling west. The average recorded speed was 37.4mph and the 85percentile [used by Police to ascertain a speeding problem] was 45mph. These figures are up on those that have been recorded in the past by the County SIDs. The fastest recorded speed was 92mph and this was by a vehicle travelling west [so assumptions are it was a motorcycle] but this was at 1.22pm on a Friday afternoon!!! The data also shows that 93% of vehicles travelling west towards Ilminster were speeding, 64% of vehicles travelling east entered the village above the speed limit but only 27% were speeding as they passed by the SID. Many of you will have noticed that the SID has

now been moved to be adjacent to Sandal Cottage. The data from this will be reported next month

You will also have noticed that the speed delimiter post is now in the correct place making the village entrance a legal speed limit.

Planning – New Application received from Mr & Mrs Wylde re alterations and extension at Highbank, Upton Lane.

The appeal against the erection of the Shed at Southernways has been successful but the height has to be reduced. So far there has been no confirmation from the Planning Authority that these works have been carried out as agreed. Concerns regarding the erection of a fence and installation of a 5-bar gate on the western side of the property have been raised. It would appear that planning approval should have been sought as it forms part of the curtilage of a Listed Building. Also we have raised the continued use of the track way to the west for the parking of vehicles. Permission for this was refused in April 2017 on Highway grounds.

Buildings to assist with the construction and storage of carnival floats – in the Parish of Kingstone – This application, having been with the District Planners since July 2018 has still not been resolved. However, the Parish Council is now being kept up-to-date with the situation by the Area West District Councillor. There is likely to be a further delay at least until May!!

Village Car Park [opposite the Volunteer Inn] – Signage will be put in place shortly. It is hoped that users of the area will observe these in order to make the area what it should be – a **parking** area for both residents and visitors to the village.

Again there is some uncertainty as to when the Parish Council will be able to hold another open meeting. Consequently a 'Business Continuity Motion' has been unanimously agreed by Councillors in order that the normal day to day business of the Council can continue, with some matters also being agreed by e-mail. Should any residents have concerns they need to raise please continue to contact the Parish Council through the e-mail or by phone.

VE Day Celebrations – 8th to 10th May 2020 – being organised nationally by SSAFA [The armed Forces charity] – Due to the present situation a decision has been made that the events planned to take place at St Michael's Church have been cancelled. There is a possibility that should things improve we will be able to celebrate VJ Day in August.

Minutes of the Parish AGM will be on the web-site shortly

Basic Beekeeping

Ken Dewsbury (01460 241155)

The emergence of a swarm often proclaims the failure of the beekeepers swarm prevention methods, and is usually viewed with disappointment, yet retrieval of the swarm is one of the most satisfying exercises of the craft. On emerging, the swarm will usually settle on the branch of a tree or a bush, not too far from the parent hive. The bees form a tight cluster and often hang in a shaped ball. One of the largest swarms I was asked to collect was about one and half times the size of a rugby ball, although this was an exception. The queen is generally with them, before moving off to take up a permanent residence in their selected new home. In the unlikely event of her not joining them they will return to the hive from whence they came. This is highly unusual as the queen generally emerges with the swarm and lands on the tree or bush along with the rest of the bees. In this transitional position, they now have to make decisions concerning where to go. Potential sites will have been investigated some days before the emergence, so there are often several options. The scout bees will now investigate these options further, and then report back to the swarm, communicating by pheromones and dancing, passing on information on pollen and nectar sources. The vitality of the dance reflects the suitability of the proposed site, the bees will react to the most enthusiastic dance, and eventually take off for that location. Within my apiary I tend to keep an empty hive (minus bees) except for a brood box with frames which acts as a bait hive. If I'm lucky a passing swarm may well spot it and settle.

The swarm can be taken in any container large enough to hold them. Personally I use a straw skep, but this could just as well be a wooden box or cardboard box, or even a bucket. The container is placed under the swarm, and raised so that as much of the swarm as possible is hanging inside. With one hand holding the container and preparing for the weight of the swarm, the other hand is used to vigorously shake the branch to which the bees are clinging. The swarm will fall into the waiting container, which can be quickly inverted over a sheet, which would have been spread on the ground in preparation. I tend to place a small stick or stone under one edge of the container allowing the bees an entrance. The bees will come tumbling out of the entrance, but if the queen is successfully inside, they will soon turn around and begin "fanning", this exposes the Nasanov gland at the tip of their abdomen and releasing a homing pheromone, which will direct the flying bees back to their queen. If the queen is not inside, then all of the bees will return to the swarming position, and the operation will have to be repeated.

(more about swarming and hiving next month)

SOUTH SOMERSET RSPB GROUP

The RSPB Group meeting planned for 16th April has been cancelled as a precaution due to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic

Information on future meeting arrangements will be posted here when the situation is clearer

For any further information 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:

Wednesday 1st April – Cottage Flowers
Thursday 16th April – Social Evening
Wed 22nd – Sat 25th April – Living Together
Tuesday 12th May – Ile Flower Club
Friday 15th May – Comedy Night
Sunday 17th May - MAKE – Sleeping Beauty

Flix in the Stix

Andrew Overhill (01460 72563)

Hinton St George Flix in the Sticks proudly presents **"Official Secrets"** on Saturday 11th April at 7.30 pm.

The film depicts the true story of Katharine Gun (Keira Knightly) who risked everything to stop an unjust war. The Blair government called her a traitor. Based on true events, Official Secrets tells the gripping story of a British intelligence specialist whose job involves routine handling of classified information. One day in 2003, in the lead up to the Iraq War, Gun receives a memo from the NSA with a shocking directive: the United States is enlisting Britain's help in collecting compromising information on United Nations Security Council members in order to blackmail them into voting in favour of an invasion of Iraq. Unable to stand by and watch the world be rushed into an illegal war, Gun makes the principled decision to defy her government and leak the memo to the press. So begins an explosive chain of events that will ignite an international firestorm, expose a vast political conspiracy, and put Gun and her family directly in harm's way.

St George's Hall, Hinton St George, TA17 8SL
Tickets £5 in advance, £5.50 at the door

Available at Hinton Village Store, Dorothy's Tearoom or call 01460 72563



SEAVINGTON SHOP AND CAFE

YOUR COMMUNITY SHOP AND CAFE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

There **MAY** be a **COMMUNITY LUNCH** on
Monday 20th April - **BOOKING ESSENTIAL**

TAKE AWAY FOOD

Jane hopes to provide hot and cold take away dishes.
Please ring in with your order. You will need to collect your
order in person at the shop

A WELL STOCKED SHOP!

We're trying to stock a full range of essentials and fresh food.

UNABLE TO COME INTO THE SHOP?

Use our **RING AND COLLECT** service or **HOME DELIVERY** if you are housebound
See our selection of Easter goodies including sweet treats and cards.
Art and crafts are on display as usual - an unusual Easter gift?

Shop - Monday to Friday 8.30 - **3.00**, Saturday 9.00 - 3.00
Cafe - Monday to Friday 8.30 - **3.00**, Saturday 9.00 - 1.30
Water Street, Seavington St Mary TA19 0QH tel: **01460 249730**



The Seavington Playing Field Association

Registered Charity No: 268986

Please detach this insert from your magazine and then review, complete and return this questionnaire which will help the Seavington Playing Field Association (SPFA) plan ahead to meet the needs of our community.

April 2020

Seavington Playing Field Association Survey

Dear Residents,

The Trustees of Seavington Playing Field Association have decided that, having greatly improved and upgraded the playing field and play park, we should now turn our attention to improving the facilities of our Millennium Hall.

It is some time since any changes or renovations have been made and we acknowledge that the Hall now looks a little tired and needs to be brought into the twenty first century.

To do this we need your help. The Trustees are mindful that not everyone has the same expectations of which improvements should be made but we would like to hear from as many people as possible.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could take the time to fill out our questionnaire overleaf and return it to our letter box at the Millennium Hall.

**Also, you can fill it on-line on the village web-site:
www.theseavingtons.org**

We are very much looking forward to hearing from you with your suggestions and comments.

Seavington Playing Field Association Survey

1. Are you a regular user of the Hall?

Yes

No

2. How often do you use the Hall?

Weekly

Monthly

3. Were you once a regular user of the Hall but no longer?

Yes

No

Why? _____

4. Thinking of the existing facilities in the Hall, which should be improved first? A brief list of possible enhancements might include the replacement of chairs, a new kitchen, a new separate access to the meeting room, an increase in storage space.

You may have other ideas.

Please list in order of preference _____

5. Perhaps it is time to reconfigure the space within the Hall. **Do you agree with this statement? If so which changes would you like to see?**

6. Would you foresee a use for the Hall as hosting small events such as mini conferences, business meetings? Perhaps we could liaise with the cafe to provide on site refreshments. **Do let us have your comments and suggestions.**

7. The main source of income for the Hall comes from external bookings. Given that this is your Hall, how do you think we could attract more local people to use it?

I would like to see the Hall used in the following ways:

8. It has been suggested that a Social and Sports Group should be established to make the Hall a better hub for social and sporting activities. Suggestions have included petanque, a regular Scrabble or games afternoons, regular social events, bowling evenings. The list could be endless.

A Social and Sports Group would be a great idea?

Yes

No

The following activities would be ones I would support:

The Millennium Hall together with the playing field and the play area are very important to the life of the community of Seavington. To help us to improve these assets and to make their use more relevant to our needs we need your input.

It is now time to turn our attention to the inside of the Hall.

Please do take the time to complete this short survey. We need to hear from everyone in the Village so we can welcome you to our new-look Village Hall very soon.

Please come forward and let us know if you think this is a good idea and offer your suggestions so that we can ensure the Hall meets the needs of the village. Please add any further comments or ideas in the space below or on a separate piece of paper..



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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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Shepton Beauchamp Primary School News

Charlie Pattisson (01460 241396)

This is a difficult time for everyone and as this goes to press, we are waiting to see if the schools will close early for Easter. Many of our planned events for the term have been postponed or cancelled but we have still managed to have some fun and carry on with our learning.

Seymour class had a wonderful morning when the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra visited. The children listened to some amazing pieces of music and asked questions and were totally absorbed in the whole experience. We had wonderful feedback from the visitors 'so welcoming, such appreciative children and what a lovely atmosphere as soon as we walked in ... we all agreed yours was our favourite school over the three days of performances in Somerset'.

Looking ahead we do have some great plans for the summer term with a trip to Stourhead, Seymour class will focus on Art for the day and Coles Class will be focussing on Art with Nature. The children will be drawing and painting the beautiful landscape and pond dipping.

Our curriculum enrichment days during the summer will include a Get Active Day, Scarecrow Day, Let's Dance Day and Take 3 Art Days. These will be a change from the usual school day and focus on one area of the curriculum.

We had great fun with our egg shackling – thank you to Father Geoff for getting the children (and parents) so excited! Mr Rumbelow had not experienced Egg Shackling before and we are delighted it didn't deter him from agreeing to stay in post as headteacher until Easter 2021!

FOSS (*Friends of Shepton School*) Our fundraising for this term has been put on hold for the moment – thank you for all the support this term. We would like to wish everyone well at this difficult time and hope that the sun keeps shining and you are able to enjoy a happy Easter.

For more information please call 01460 240793,

office@sheptonbeauchamp.somerset.sch.uk

WEB *www.sheptonbeauchamp.somerset.sch.uk*

Seavington Gardening Club

Kate Mulligan (01460 240023)

Thursday 12th March 2020

AGM followed by a talk by Jenny Short on “Ponds and Water Features”.

It was a pleasure to welcome Jenny back and even if you do not have a pond or water feature her advice and knowledge on the subject was impressive. She began by asking why people have these things in their garden and whilst the majority said that the feature was already there when they moved in some brave souls have built their own.

The depth of a pond is crucial if you want clear water and anything less than ninety centimetres would prove very hard to maintain. Ponds help create reflections in a dark area of the garden so bringing in a bit of light. They can also bring in sounds and most obviously they attract wildlife.

A pond can be raised up to make more of a feature rather than be dug down into the ground but the choice of materials to use must be right for the effect you want. You can include a waterfall but you must have large stones around it to make it look natural and if you want to have a bridge across it you can have something very simple to walk across or something more ornate and architectural. The range of materials for any water feature is vast but it must “look right” for your garden.

On a much more simple level a self contained and self circulating water feature could be the answer. These are the ones with a pump hidden underneath that keeps a small trickle of water flowing round. They also come in all shapes and sizes.

Planting for ponds can be tricky and to keep the water clear takes maintenance. A bale of barley straw will clear it for a while but it needs replacing regularly. Plants that help to keep the water clear are better. Deep water plants such as water lilies are perfect as their roots absorb nutrients and their leaves provide shade for fish. Starwort is a good oxygenating floating weed to help keep water clear as are some marginal plants.

Jenny provided a list of all the plants she recommends for each level of a pond or bog garden as well as hand-outs on how to construct your own pond. Our thanks to her for such a useful and detailed talk to inspire those not lucky enough to have one already and for providing advice for those who do.

Spring Growing Competition Results for Daffodil “Jack The Lad”:

1st - Joan Apps
2nd - Jenny Deubert
3rd - Christina Weeks

Flower of the Month Competition:

1st Ann Clifford - Stachyurus Praecox Solide
2nd Jenny Deubert - Corydalis
3rd Kate Mulligan - Hyacinth

Forthcoming Events:

In view of the Coronavirus Covid-19 precautions announced by the Government the Club has cancelled a number of its planned meetings and events:

- Talk Thursday 9th April - cancelled
 - Brimsmore shopping trip - to be confirmed
 - Garden visit Thursday 14th May - cancelled
 - Plant Sale - date to be confirmed
 - Garden visit Thursday 11th June - cancelled
 - Garden visit Thursday 2nd July - cancelled
 - Coach trip Thursday 9th July - cancelled
 - Flower Show Saturday 8th August - as scheduled
 - Garden visit Thursday 13th August - as scheduled
 - Talk Thursday 17th September - as scheduled
 - Castle Gardens shopping trip - as scheduled
 - Talk Thursday 8th October - as scheduled
 - Talk Thursday 12th November - as scheduled
- Christmas lunch Thursday 10th December - as scheduled

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

A Message of Thanks

I would like to send a heartfelt thank-you to all the people who have supported and helped me through those difficult weeks after I broke my ankle.

You all kept my spirits up and I am now walking my dogs again. Thank you so much.

Maureen Beddoe

3, The Pheasant

A view from the field

Chris Gough – SPFA Chairman

Well, what a lot can change in a month, let alone a week a day or even an hour in these very strange times. It was only a month ago, we were battling the effects of storm Ciara and storm Dennis, and we had no knowledge of the effect that Covid 19 would be having on our own community in such a short time.

Regular Users of the Millennium Hall

Following the recent announcements and advice from central Government, virtually all of our regular and ad-hoc hirers have now cancelled their future bookings and will only be restarting their activities when it is safe to do so. We are still accepting future bookings, but again, these will obviously be subject to review nearer the time.

The Millennium Hall - “Place of Safety”

The Millennium Hall is registered with Somerset County Council’s Civil Contingencies Unit as a “Place of Safety”. This means that we may be asked to open up the Hall during a civil emergency so that the emergency services and volunteer organisations can provide assistance to the local or wider community. Whilst the current situation is certainly quite different in terms of the needs say of a local village evacuation due to flooding or gas explosion, or drivers being stranded on the A303 etc, the Civil Contingencies Unit is being very active in the co-ordination of local volunteer groups to provide help to the elderly and most vulnerable. We have offered the use of the Millennium Hall to the Civil Contingencies Unit for anything that may be required to support this current emergency.

Local Community use of the Millennium Hall

In addition to the offer we have already made to the Civil Contingencies Unit, we’ll also be happy for any local organisation, or small business etc to use the Hall if they have a short-term need for additional space or facilities that we may be able to offer during this emergency. We’ll obviously need to discuss any requests on a case by case basis, but as the Millennium Hall is an important local community asset we feel, if it can be used safely for the benefit of our local community, then it should be. If anyone would like to discuss this offer with us, please contact the booking clerk at bookings@theseavingtons.org in the first instance.

Playing Field Shed

I’m pleased to report that the Playing Field Shed has been repaired and a new roof put on. Hopefully this will now withstand the ravages of any future storm winds. We may be calling upon a small working party to help paint the whole shed now that it is rather multi-coloured with the new gable ends. If you’d like to help, please contact us at spfa@theseavingtons.org

Playground Equipment Installation

Having now reached our funding target for the new play equipment, an order has been placed with the manufacturer with a planned commencement date for installation of w/c 20 April. However, as the equipment is being shipped from mainland Europe, we're unsure at the present time whether this date will still be feasible. We are planning that the whole playground area will be closed for around six weeks. The equipment will take around three weeks to install, followed by a full safety inspection and sign-off. The grass areas will then need to be seeded and time allowed for the grass to grow. Notices will be posted around the play area once the dates can be confirmed.

Informal Playground "Open Morning"

As mentioned last month, we are still planning to hold 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. If this needs to be cancelled, we'll try and still display the plans and drawings somewhere in the shop and also post them on our Seavington Playing Field Association "Facebook" page. (In Facebook, search for "Seavington Playing Field Association")

Village Lottery 2020/21

It is with regret that we have decided to postpone the collection and operation of the 2020/21 village lottery for the time being. With the requirement of "safe distancing", "self-isolation" and the like, door to door collections are felt to be inappropriate at this time. Once we have more information regarding the longer-term impact of this pandemic and are in a position to reinstate the lottery, we'll announce it in the Seavingtons' News.

Project to Improve and Update the Millennium Hall

As we come closer to the completion of all the recent playing field, carpark, garden and playground projects, our thoughts are now turning to how we may make the Millennium Hall fit for purpose for the next 20 years. The Hall was built in 1999 and with its constant use, is now showing significant signs of wear and tear. Elsewhere in this month's Seavingtons' News, there is a Resident's Questionnaire that we would appreciate being completed either online via our Seavington Playing Field Association "Facebook" page. (In Facebook, search for "Seavington Playing Field Association") or in hard copy with responses left in the Millennium Hall's mailbox (to the left of the main doors). Besides just replacing and repairing worn out items, we would like to take this opportunity to think about how the Hall should be used going forward and whether its current configuration and layout are still appropriate for our needs. Your responses will help us to develop an appropriate improvement plan.

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

Shepton Beauchamp Pre-school News

Natalie Nolan (natalie_nolan@hotmail.com)

We had our annual egg shackling event with Father Geoff at the end of February. This tradition has taken place in the village for years and marks the start of lent, linking with making pancakes on shrove Tuesday. The children had so much fun and were very excited to bring in their eggs and watch them all eventually crack. Even if many of them didn't understand why!!! The winners received a prize!



We would like to thank Father Geoff for taking the time to do this with the little ones (every year!)

We are continuing with our letters of the week, where children bring in items beginning with those letters, for Show and Tell. This helps them to develop confidence in talking in a group, a sense of pride, and listening to other children. It is also good practice for them to sit still, and take their turn. We also have colours of the month! And, we are hoping to do a sponsored bunny hop before the Easter break, on a new trampoline we have ordered.

Dates for the Diary

Toddler Group is on 2nd April (first Thursdays of the month but will be increasing to 1st & 3rd in May!) Babies - Pre school age welcome. Friendly and relaxed group with coffee for parents/grandparents or whoever! Anytime between 09:00 - 11:15am.

Mother's Day service (joint with the school) 20th March 9am
Bags 2 School collection Mon 30th March
Bingo at the Duke of York Mon 30th March

For more information please call 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! Pre-school closed for Easter 6th -17th April

Seavington Community Land Trust

John Schofield (01460 240805)

The CLT was set up to administer the three houses generously gifted to the village by Mr. Andrew Whitehouse in Falcon Close. The houses are to be let to tenants at below market rates to strengthen our community and society here in the Seavingtons.

We held our AGM in the village hall on 27th February, and the members were brought up to date on the current situation and plans for the future. Nick Loxton, who has moved out of the village, resigned as chair, and we all thank him for his excellent service to the trust. Our new chairman is Peter Ash; I was elected to the board and later made vice-chair. Other members retain their responsibilities.

Among the various ongoing tasks are: liaison with our lettings agent concerning the commencement and termination of tenancies, tenant's problems and concerns, commissioning of any maintenance work required, and, in conjunction with the other residents of the close, negotiating with the builder about snagging, remaining works, etc.

Our main and most attractive preoccupation concerns the disposal of the money accrued from the rent, less the expenses, which include the establishment of a sinking fund for future repairs. There are two schools of thought.

First, we could use the surplus for 'worthy causes' to the benefit of the community, for example the purchase of devices to encourage careful driving in the village. Second, we could save up for the deposit on another property to enlarge our housing stock. Lively discussions have and will take place!

To provide an objective basis for comparison, a sub-committee is being set up consisting of board members and members to propose worthy causes, and we look forward to reviewing their suggestions. All residents please feel free to make proposals, names and contact details are on the village website.

Seavington Villages Oil Run

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

Our next order will be placed on Friday 3 April, so there is still time to be included if you would like a top up. As usual the delivery will be within 7 days of the order being processed.

As the temperature is slowly rising the ordering process will move to summer time. The following two orders will be placed on Friday 3 July and Friday 2 October.

If you have an urgent need for oil outside of these times please feel free to contact me. As always if the service from our suppliers is not satisfactory for you please let me know.

Enjoy the warmer weather.

SPFA Lottery

Jackie Priddle (07706 092578)

The winners in the March draw are:

Place	Prize	March
1st	£50	Paul Bourne
2nd	£30	Zoe Talbot
3rd	£20	June Hutching
4th	£10	Peter Ash
5th	£10	Rachel Dicker

May we thank you all again for taking part in the draw? I hope that you are all looking forward to signing up for 2020/21. We are short of one or two street collectors so, if you could help, can you please call me on the above number? It doesn't take a lot of your time and it is done only once each year.

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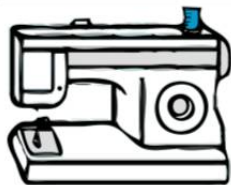
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Please do not hesitate to telephone David Froome on 01460 249445 if you have any questions.

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