

THE SEAVINGTONS' NEWS

DECEMBER 2020



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The Seavingtons' News

Lock down or lock out?

As I write this we are still in the midst of a lockdown, for the second (and hopefully the last) time. The winter months are bad enough for some people as the nights draw in, the weather gets gloomier and we seem to wake up in the dark as well. I can remember when I was based in Chichester that I had to get to the Bishop's Palace by 7.15 every day to set up things for the early service and that meant getting up early, usually in the dark winter months I never got to see our garden in the daylight – probably just as well as I was never the Alan Titchmarsh gardener. Now, in retirement, I get the chance to see what is happening in a wider context. Though the days are shorter we sometimes get that glorious moment when the sun, low in the sky, brightens a dull day, the rainbow that spreads over the fields, the crisp frost crackling under our feet when we take our permitted daily exercise!

I suppose I am luckier than a lot of our neighbours, those who are housebound through isolation or illness, those who find it difficult to manage, especially during these awkward times. So, a Christmas message and a plea please: make sure that those we know who may be lonely are cared for by this wonderful village, those who are elderly and infirm are remembered by seeking them out and just making sure they are fine. Don't make them feel locked out this winter and especially at Christmas time, show you care as I know you do.

If anyone needs help or a chat then let us know, in the meantime thanks Seavington, keep up your spirits, there is light at the end of the tunnel – and by the way – Happy Christmas!!

*Ian Gibson,
Hon Rector for Seavington*

DON'T FORGET

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

is the 14th December

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

St Michael's Church, Seavington

6th December	10.30 am	Christingle Family Service in St Mary's Church
13th December	10.30 am	Holy Communion
20th December	10.30 am	All Age Communion
24th December	4.00 pm	Christmas Eve Carol Service in St Mary's Church
25th December	10.30 am	Christmas Day Family Communion
27th December		No Service

Honorary Rector for Seavington: Rev Canon Ian Gibson
 07843 672803; igchichester@gmail.com
 Church Office: 07831 982470; office@southpethertonchurch.org.uk

The Seavingtons' Weather in October 2020

This year—2020

Previous year—2019

Temperature

Average Minimum	8.10°C	7.88°C
Average Maximum	13.92°C	14.44°C
Mean	11.01°C	11.16°C

Rainfall

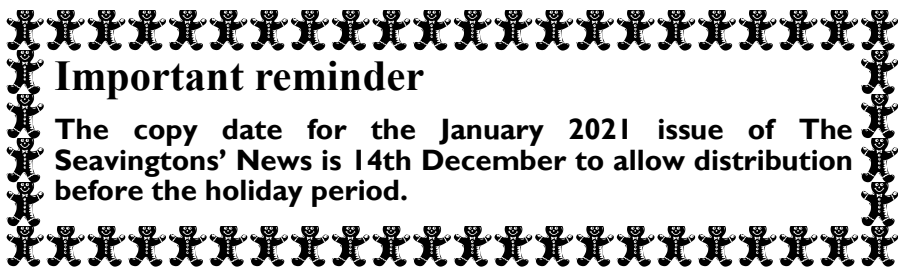
Monthly Total	129.6 mm (5.18")	118.3 mm (4.73")
Total for the year	675.3 mm (27.01)	635.4 mm (25.42")

The wettest October since 2013 which had 174.3 mm

Advertising Rates

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

Advertising enquiries to: adverts@theseavingtons.org



Important reminder

The copy date for the January 2021 issue of The Seavingtons' News is 14th December to allow distribution before the holiday period.

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.

Dear Editor,

Peter and I wish to thank all the readers of The Seavingtons' News for their support when we raised money for the Ilminster branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI). We did 40 years of knocking on your doors with the collection boxes.

We will miss the RNLI's Ilminster thrift shop but we miss our friend Joan Olds even more for her boundless energy and enthusiasm; not one of those of us left behind could pick up that baton.

I am still able to bank donations for RNLI Ilminster so if there is any money raised locally for the RNLI it can be allocated as coming from Ilminster.

Mary Wyatt,
Hunts House, Seavington St Michael

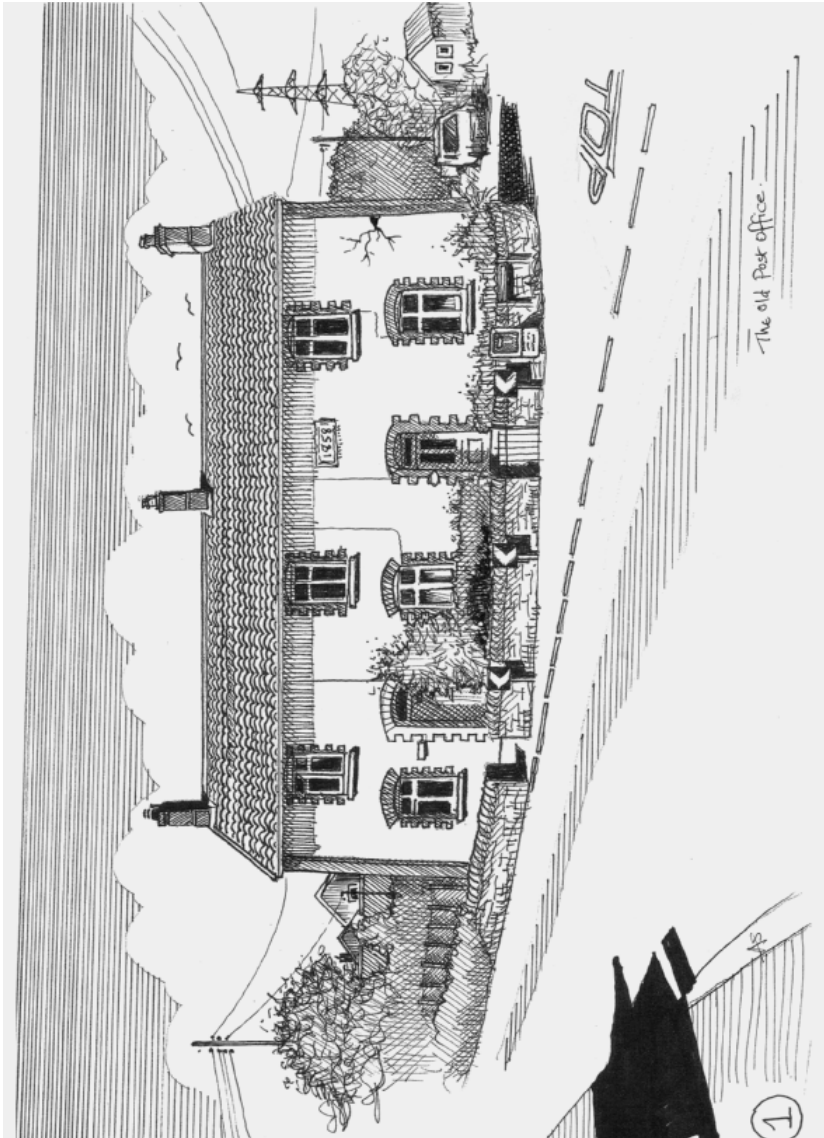
Season's Greetings to our friends and neighbours with our heartfelt appreciation to all at the village shop and the volunteers who have brought our supplies, friendship and smiles over the months.

Also, a tribute to David Froome and his team for the Seavingtons' News which has keep us in touch with village news. Where would we be without it!

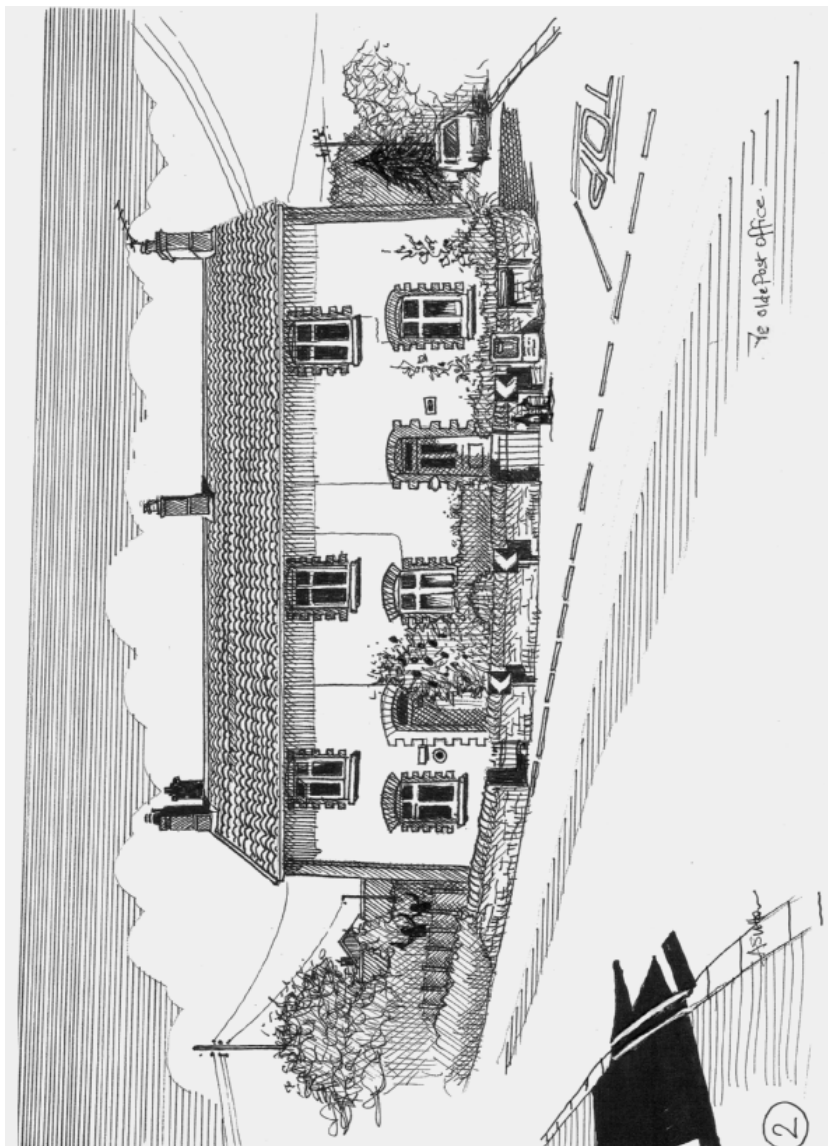
Jean and John Tudor

Can you Spot the Difference?

Can you Spot the Difference? Andrew Sutton has, again, very kindly provided us with this Christmas puzzle. There are a lot of differences between these two pictures of the Old Post Office in Seavington St Michael. The Seavingtons' News is offering a prize of a £25 voucher to spend in our



Community Shop to the person noting the largest number of differences and a £10 voucher for the runner-up. Just send your list of differences to the editor by post or e-mail using the details at the bottom of page 1 by Saturday 2nd January 2021. In the event of a tie the winners will be drawn from a hat containing the names of everyone with the winning number of differences. A list of all the differences will be published in the February edition of The Seavingtons' News.



Seavington Manhunt

On Saturday 7th November the lunchtime peace of our community was shattered by at least five police cars making continuous circuits and the prolonged hovering overhead of a police helicopter.

Apparently, patrolling police officers had spotted a stolen car in Ilminster just after midday. The driver failed to stop the car when requested and it was later found abandoned near Seavington St Mary.

The police said that the car had been stolen from Chard overnight. Officers searched the area, supported by a dog handler and the National Police Air Service, and detained a man at about 1.40pm at the Seavington Hunt kennels in Water Street, Seavington St Mary.

A 32-year-old man appeared before Yeovil Magistrates on Monday 9th November charged with dangerous driving, aggravated vehicle taking, failing to stop for a police officer and driving with no insurance. He was remanded in custody to appear before Taunton Crown Court on 14 December.

Shepton Beauchamp Church School News

Charlie Pattison (01460 241396)

December 2020

As we approach what is a very busy time in the school calendar year we are making plans to celebrate this magical time of year within school in a slightly different way than usual.

At the end of November, the children raised £65 by wearing mufti to school for the Children in Need day, they had fun making and creating Pudsy ears and other activities throughout the day. We managed to get annual school photographs taken and following the written termly reports parents were able to have a 'Parents Evening' by phone with our class teachers.

As we will be unable to celebrate Christmas in church this year, we are planning to share Christingle in our separate classes and do the same for Christmas celebrations. We will then be able to share this with parents on our online learning platform for parents to watch, we are also going to try a live performance using Zoom – what could possibly go wrong?? It will be different but hopefully the children will have fun and enjoy the traditional celebrations of Christmas.

The Christmas party will take place at the end of term with a traditional Christmas lunch, Christmas jumpers and lots of games and glitter! Apparently, Father Christmas may be in the village that day to drop off some presents and give the children a wave!

We were delighted to hear the happy news that Miss Nundy, our teaching assistant, has given birth to her gorgeous baby Evelyn.

FOSS (*Friends of Shepton School*). Fundraising is still more tricky than it has been but we are organising a **sponsored Reindeer Run**, all the children will wear antlers and see how many laps of the rectory garden they can do. We are also making up a large **Christmas hamper to raffle** at the end of term. If you would like raffle ticket please ask!

If you do any **online shopping** please do consider registering with **easyfundraising.org.uk** as every time you shop with retailers such as Sainsburys, Amazon, Next, John Lewis they make a donation to Friends of Shepton Beauchamp Primary School (FOSS).

*For more information please call 01460 240793, **EMAIL** office@threesaints.bwmat.org **WEB** www.sheptonbeauchamp.somerset.sch.uk*
Wishing you and your families a wonderful and peaceful Christmas and thank you for all your support this year from everyone at Shepton Beauchamp Church School xx

Our New PCSO's Contact Details

We wish to welcome Wesley Ashbrook as our new PCSO. Should you need or wish to contact her these are her contact details:

Wesley Ashbrook 8203

Tel: 07849 305799

E-mail: Wesley.Ashbrook2@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Christmas wreaths and Table Decorations

Please support the The Seavington Church Flower Ladies who, having not used their flower arranging skills since Covid-19 meant things have been so different this year, are making Christmas wreaths and table decorations for sale in aid of St Michael's Church Trust. These will be available at the village shop from 14th December.

SPFA Quiz - Local Anagrams

Example: ANTIMAGNETIC SHOVELS = Seavington St. Michael

1. HOW SIDEWALK _____
2. PENTHOUSE TROTH _____
3. SCOTCH KILN _____
4. ROTATOR VENTS _____
5. AMENHOTEP HUBCAPS _____
6. SMOKABLE ROTA _____
7. WINKING TEACLOTH _____
8. BORIS EYING PICKUPS _____
9. VESTRY ANTAGONISM _____
10. LOST TABBIES _____
11. GETTING ONSHORE _____
12. WHILE CONTROLLING _____
13. MATCHSTICK STORE _____
14. ONES HALLWAY _____
15. TALL MERCURY _____

A bottle of wine will be awarded to the first correct entry drawn after the closing date (15.12.20). Completed competition entries should be placed in an envelope along with a £1 entry fee and posted to/dropped off at Chapel Court House, Seavington, TA16 0QN.

All proceeds go to the Seavington Playing Fields Association. Visit <https://bit.ly/spfa-quiz> for more information.

Winner of November's quiz: Chris & Sally Gough

You can find the solutions of earlier quiz's on page 12

Seavington Villages Oil Run

Nigel Key (01460 241540) oil@theseavingtons.org

Our last order was delivered in early October. If anyone had problems with that delivery please let me know and I will discuss it with our supplier.

The next order will be placed on Friday 4 December and the one after that will be Friday 5 February 2021

Risk of Bird Flu—Avian Influenza

We have been asked to alert folk who keep chicken or ducks of the risk of bird flu and their responsibilities should they suspect an infection. It is spread by wild birds and there are currently reports that birds at Slimbridge have been infected.

There is a constant risk of bird flu in the UK from wild birds. As it is highly contagious you should take action to protect your birds from catching it.

You are therefore reminded that any very sick birds, or unexplained deaths, must be assessed by your vet. By law, suspicion of Bird Flu is notifiable and can affect poultry movement and trade.

It is recommended that you clean your footwear before and after visiting your birds. You should keep areas clean and tidy and regularly disinfect hard surfaces as well as humanely controlling rats and mice.

Place your birds' food and water in fully enclosed areas that are protected from wild birds and remove any spilled feed on a regular basis.

Keep your birds separate from wildlife and wild waterfowl by putting suitable fencing around the outdoor areas they access.

You should consider registering your birds on-line so that you may receive alerts on outbreaks of bird flu. You can easily do this by visiting: www.gov.uk/guidance/poultry-registration

The Village Pond

David Froome (01460 249445)

Last month's cover picture of the old village pond, drawn by Andrew Sutton, motivated Carol Talbot to send in this photograph taken early in the 20th century.



In the background you can see Hunts House, still thatched but smaller than it is today. In the 17th Century the pond was known as the "Horse Pond" and was clearly put to the same use in the 20th. It was filled in in the mid 20th century after a local youngster drowned in it.

During the 19th Century the growing and processing of flax was very important to the local economy and the pond was used for retting the flax. Retting was the process of soaking the flax stems in water to allow the separation of the fibres used for a number of purposes.

Flax was widely used for the manufacture of ropes and nets as well as for clothing, in the woven form of linen. The production of men's shirts and particularly the collars was the local speciality. Collars were made by outworkers in the village as well as in a small factory on the site now occupied by Falcon Close. The shirt factory in Ilminster was still working in the 1980s.

Just a Brisk Walk

Matthew Towill (towill916@btinternet.com)

The next dates for “Just a Brisk Walk” are:

Saturday 19th December 2020

Saturday 23rd January 2021

The walks are open to everyone, meeting at 8.30am at the Seavington Village Hall car park for a walk around the nearby countryside for about an hour and returning to the Village Hall car park.

St Mary’s Church – New Key-holder

The Churches Conservation Trust are very keen to promote St Mary’s Church as open and to welcome visitors again.

Mrs Georgina Fisher has kindly agreed to be the new keyholder. Her address is Longhay Cottage, Church Lane, Seavington St Mary. Tel. 01460 359142 for enquiries.

John Tudor

Seavington Village Lottery to 31st March 2021

David Bennett, david.bennett20@btinternet.com

We would like to thank those of you who have signed up to the lottery remotely. We sold 100 tickets @ £10 each giving £1000. 50% of the money raised will go towards funding our ongoing maintenance costs.

With the smaller pot we are only having 5 draws, with 4 prizes each month values £40, £30, £20, and £10. There is still a 20% chance of a ticket winning a prize over the course of the year as previously. We had planned to start draws in October but have had to delay the October and November draws till lockdown is over. We hope to do them in early December in the same session as the December one. We will keep you informed.

SPFA Quiz - Answers

October's Quiz

1. The last straw
2. Cutting corners
3. Once upon a time
4. Through thick and thin
5. Read between the lines
6. Back to basics
7. Add insult to injury

8. Under the weather
9. Break a leg
10. Three blind mice
11. A piece of cake
12. Toe to toe
13. Just in time
14. Forgive and forget
15. Missing you

November's Quiz

1. Singing in the Rain
2. Some Like it Hot
3. The Godfather
4. Raiders of the Lost Ark
5. Forrest Gump
6. Lawrence of Arabia
7. On the Waterfront

8. Vertigo
9. Mary Poppins
10. Good Will Hunting
11. Jurassic Park
12. Titanic
13. Toy Story
14. Back to the Future
15. Casablanca

N.Reyland & Son Sunnyside Farm, Seavington MARFONA POTATOES FOR SALE

25kg Bags.
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12.5kg Bags Bakers.
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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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Richard A Hunt: Garden and Equestrian

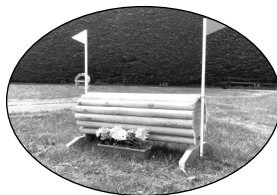
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A Reminder: County Council Complaints 'phone Number

The Somerset County Council has a single telephone number through which you may report problems such as potholes, drainage issues etc:

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The Star of Bethlehem

Astro—Reproduced from The Seavingtons' News, December 2005

With December and Christmas looming, the question has been raised about the identity of the Star of Bethlehem. It is a puzzle that has taxed learned minds for centuries and there is still no conclusive answer.

However of the many theories put forward the most credible seems to lie in the research done by the German astronomer Johannes Kepler (1571-1630). He postulated that the Star was in fact a triple conjunction of the planets Saturn and Jupiter. He himself witnessed such an event when Saturn and Jupiter came together in December 1603, and then again twice in the next 6 months. He calculated that a triple conjunction took place every 805 years that is in AD799 and 7BC. If the theory is correct then Christ was born 7 years earlier than we thought. This is not as silly as it seems, because the AD/BC convention was drawn up by a Roman monk called Dionysius Exiguus, who messed up his calculations by missing out the 4 year reign of Emperor Augustus, when he ruled under his own name of Octavian. Furthermore the concept of zero is relatively recent and was not known to the ancients, so Dionysius would have started at 1AD. This takes us back to the birth of Christ in 5BC, which is starting to get closer to 7BC.

There is one other interesting piece of evidence in this story. The Gospel of St Matthew says that Christ was born in the days of Herod the King and the historian Flavius Josephus says that Herod died within days of an eclipse of the moon. This has been dated as 12/13 March in 4BC, so Christ must have been born before then, and was in Egypt when Herod died. Thus 7BC is perfectly feasible for the birth.

The Venerable Bede detected the error in the birth of Christ a thousand years ago in his *De Temporum Ratione*, but decided that the emotive power and practicality of the AD/BC concept outweighed the need for strict accuracy.

The triple conjunction theory also explains why the Magi set out for Jerusalem, why the star appeared to go before them and why Herod himself had not seen it. In fact the timetable is that the Magi saw the first conjunction on 27 May in 7BC and set out for Israel, the second conjunction on 6 October told them they were heading in the right direction and the third conjunction on 1 December would have been after their meeting with Herod and would have pointed them south to Bethlehem.

I hope you find this interesting, but you may well just want to think of the Star of Bethlehem as part of the magic of Christmas – whatever, Happy Christmas!



Seavington Gardening Club 2021



Thursday 14th January at 7.30pm

Talk: 'Fruit Growing' Sally Nex

Flower of the month competition

Thursday 11th February at 7.30pm

Talk: 'American Garden meets English Landscape' Andy C. Moll, Head Gardener, American Museum, Bath

Flower of the month competition

Thursday 11th March at 6.45pm

AGM & Talk: 'Growing Vegetables Locally' Val Bourne

Flower of the month competition

Thursday 8th April at 7.30pm

Talk: 'Spring Flowering Perennials' Rosy Hardy, Hardy's Cottage Plants
Plants for sale

Flower of the month competition

Monday 19th April at 7pm

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

Saturday 8th May at 10am to 12noon

*****PLANT SALE*****

At Seavington Millennium Hall

Thursday 13th May 6pm

Visit: Batcombe House, Batcombe, Shepton Mallet, BA4 6HF

Entry & Refreshments £15 per person

Thursday 10th June at 3pm

40th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS BEGIN

Tea and celebration cake in Seavington Millennium Hall followed by a visit to three Seavington Gardens:

The Beeches, Water Street, TA19 0QH

1 The Pheasant, Water Street, TA19 0QH

6 The Pheasant, Water Street, TA19 0QH

Thursday 24th June 2.30pm

Visit: Avalon, Moor Lane, Higher Chillington, TA19 0PT

Entry & Refreshments £7.50 per person





Seavington Gardening Club 2021



Thursday 8th July at 6pm

Visit: Chideock Manor, Chideock, Bridport, TA10 0BP

Entry & Refreshments £15 per person



Saturday 14th August at 2pm to 4pm

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

At Seavington Millennium Hall



Thursday 9th September at 7.30pm

Talk: 'Garden Design is not Witchcraft' James Alexander Sinclair

Visitors £5 each - includes refreshments

Flower of the month competition



Thursday 16th September at 10.30am

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



Thursday 14th October at 7.30pm

Talk: Gardeners' Question Time with Sally Nex, Christine Brain, Mickey Little and Mike Burks

Flower of the month competition



Thursday 11th November at 7.30pm

Talk: 'Christmas Wreath Making' Georgie Newbery, Common Farm Flowers

Flower of the month competition
and annual presentation of Irene Williams Memorial Plate



Christmas Lunch Thursday 9th December

Details to be confirmed



Membership £10.00 p.a. payable in January

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

**Visitors always welcome, £2 (except September meeting which is £5)
payable at the door - includes refreshments**

For more information contact:

Karen Day 01460 249728

CHRISTMAS AT SEAVINGTON SHOP AND CAFE

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SEAVINGTON GIRL JANINE LEWIS**

DON'T FORGET TO ENTER OUR CHRISTMAS DRAW!

First prize: voucher for a Bonner's Christmas turkey joint
and lots more great prizes. Tickets available at the till.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR OPENING

Thursday 24th December - 8.30am - 1.00pm

Friday 25th, Saturday 26th, Monday 28th December - closed

Tuesday 29th, Wednesday 30th December - 8.30am - 4.00pm

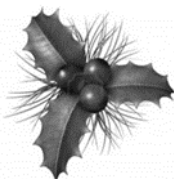
Wednesday 31st December - 8.30am - 4.00pm



Friday 1st January Café open for Bacon Butties 9.30 to 12.30

For latest information about Cafe opening times see our notice boards or
visit our website at www.theseavingtons.org/community/village-store-and-cafe
Find us on Facebook.

YOUR NEW YEAR RESOLUTION - VOLUNTEER AT OUR SHOP OR CAFE???



We shall miss seeing you at our usual Christmas gathering with
Father Christmas. Thank you for all your support during this
difficult year.

**We wish you a healthy and happy Christmas.
Stay safe and well in 2021!**

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

Parish Council News

Pauline Parsons [parishcouncil@theseavingtons.org]

Parish Council meetings, like most meetings, will be via ZOOM for the foreseeable future. The next one planned is 15th December 2020 and details for joining the meeting will be put on the village web-site.

SID – The Parish Council would like to thank the CLT for granting funds towards the purchase of an additional SID. This will be in place shortly. It would seem that nationally, since COVID-19 restrictions, there has been a significant increase in speeding. Is that because we think if we drive faster we can get home quicker to a safer environment, or is it that we are assuming less traffic means less dangers so we drive faster?? Interesting thought but we cannot answer it!!!

PLANNING -

20/01232/REM – Mr M Hallett - Reserved matters in connection with the erection of 8 dwellings at the top of Upton Lane. Plans submitted for the structural landscaping around the perimeter of the site. Further negotiations are taking place as the proposals would still appear to obstruct the historic width of the footpath CH 21/18. Decision still awaited.

20/02098/HOU – Building erected west of Dove Cottage, Upton Lane. Plans have now been submitted. Decision awaited.

18/02609/FUL – Erection of units to aid the construction and storage of Carnival Carts. Both Kingstone Parish and ourselves are still putting a lot of time and energy in trying to get this application refused. A decision had already been made that it would not be on the Agenda for the November Area West meeting. However it would seem that now the application will have to be put on hold yet again as there are investigations going on concerning the amount of Phosphates that are being found on The Somerset Moors and Levels Ramsar Site Catchment Area. Following a study in August 2020 Natural England issued a letter detailing the concerns and SSDC has agreed to put all planning applications on hold that could have an effect.

You may wonder why this affects the Carnival Cart Application. One area of concern is the management of foul water and sewerage which the

applicant proposes to achieve with portals!!! This could have an impact on Lopen Brook which is not far from the site and flows into the River Parrett – the main river on The Levels. We can still only wait and see what implications this, along with other concerns, will have.

FALCON CLOSE – Frontage – As indicated in the last edition of The Seavingtons' News we have asked for an Enforcement Notice to be issued on The Developer to get this work done. Following discussions that our District Councillors have had with SSDC Planners, although we had been given the date of 30th October 2020 for this to be progressed as at the time of our meeting it would seem that no Planning Officer had been appointed to see this through.

CAR PARK [Opposite the Volunteer Inn] – As reported last month you will have noticed that an area adjacent to the telephone box has been cross-hatched with yellow. This means that we have now lost one parking space. We understand that this will cause problems to residents who have nowhere else to park. However, there are still incidents of parking taking place that is not in accordance with the clearly signed rules that were put in place earlier this year, but have not been enforced due to Covid-19 restrictions. However, as a result of this, the Parish Council is giving notice that with effect from the 1st January 2021 the conditions for parking – as clearly signed – will be enforced.

FOOTPATHS – By law it is the responsibility of the landowner to reinstate footpaths after they have been cropped and re-seeded. Of course, this is the time of year when this generally happens and the Parish Council is in discussions with landowners in the parishes that have footpaths crossing fields where crops are grown. In some instances 'Permissive Paths' have been granted around the field edge, and where these are in place they are signed. However, when you are exercising your dogs using these footpaths can we please remind you that the dog should be under control and also only on the agreed paths. To this end we would suggest that a dog is kept on a lead at all times. This is not only to the benefit of the landowner but of your dog. Crops are periodically sprayed and this would probably have been done without your knowledge and could harm your pet. We are not suggesting that you no longer use the footpaths but take care and follow the Countryside Code.

LITTER PICKING – During Lockdown the Parish Council purchased two sets of litter pickers, high viz jackets and bag rings. If you wish to borrow these to do some litter picking whilst out on a walk please contact the Parish Council.

Over the counter

Mary Corcoran (01460 240449)

First and most importantly, Christmas Greetings to all our wonderful customers, volunteers and staff and best wishes for a healthy, safe and happy New Year! There is good news on the horizon with various vaccines against Covid-19 in advanced stages of development, so hopefully over the next few months we will gradually be able to return to a more normal way of life. In the meantime the shop, and the café when permitted, will be here to support the whole village community.

As usual at this time of year, we have a fantastic display of Christmas goods: a wide range of cards, wrappings, stocking fillers and those delicious biscuits and other items that all help to make Christmas special. We also have locally hand-crafted felt animals and Christmas tree baubles by Janine Lewis and wonderful pictures by Judy Craig, all great present options. If you know of anyone who would prefer a quiet time for viewing the goods, please ring the shop, as we have set aside Wednesday afternoons for this. In addition, we are able to arrange for a discount off bulk purchases, so if you would like a case of 6 bottles of wine, we offer a 10% discount – ideal for Christmas.

Christmas Raffle Tickets are on sale now in the shop at £1 each, with a chance to win a turkey joint from Bonners, a Christmas Drinks Hamper or a host of other prizes. The draw will be on Saturday 19th December, but sadly we cannot host Father Christmas or carol singing this year.

To help you enjoy your Christmas activities, the Shop and Café will be open as usual throughout most of the Christmas period. On Christmas Eve, the shop and café will be open from 8.30am to 1pm. The shop and café will be closed on Christmas Day, Saturday 26th December and Monday 28th December. Following on from the success of last year's event, bacon butties and hot drinks will be available in the café on New Year's Day from 9.30am to 12.30pm. On other days we will be keeping to the normal opening hours for both the shop and the café – 8.30am-4pm Monday to Friday and 8.30-2.30pm on Saturday. The café opening will obviously be dependent on the latest Government regulations.

The shop and café are the very happy recipients of one of the grants from the Community Land Trust. We are extremely grateful for this, which has enabled us to buy a badly needed replacement chiller and freezer.

There are some new faces among the volunteers in the café and the shop over the last few months, which is wonderful, but more are always needed! It's nearly 2021, so if you would like to include volunteering as one of your New Year resolutions, there are opportunities in both the café and the shop. Please contact me via email: (maryecorcoran2@gmail.com), phone (01460 240449), or talk to the volunteer on the till when you are next visiting us. You don't have to work the till to help in the shop – there are lots of other things to do!

A final reminder – Jane is doing another Friday Takeaway on 27th November. The menu on this occasion will be Beef Bourguignon followed by coffee and walnut cake. Please sign up by Thursday 26th November to enjoy this delicious meal.

Community Land Trust News

John Schofield. (01460 240805)

The Community Land Trust (CLT), established to administer the three houses gifted to the village by Mr. Andrew Whitehouse, is in the process of awarding their first grants. Having made provision for various expenses now and foreseen in the future, some £5000 is being awarded to various deserving causes which benefit the village as a whole. The Grants sub-committee has performed splendid work in assessing the applications for money and suggesting those which are most meritorious and consistent with the available funds.

The village shop and café is awarded most of the money requested to replace three freezer/chiller cabinets. The original equipment was gifted, in used condition, by the coop and a local butcher when the shop was first fitted out and has now reached the end of its useful life. We all benefit from the shop, especially in these trying times.

The parish council's request for help in purchasing a SID – the smiley/gloomy face traffic speed detector – was approved and let's hope this has a calming measure on local traffic. The gardening club was awarded a sum to facilitate maintenance of the village flower planters which enhance our environment, and a grant is being made for the provision of floral displays in St. Michael's church. A small donation has also been made directly from the main committee to help with the church maintenance.

We are in the process of handing over one of our houses to a new tenant, the previous tenant having left amicably on purchasing his own house, in accordance with the aims of the enterprise.

Shepton Beauchamp Pre-school News

Natalie Nolan (Natalie_nolan@hotmail.com)

We were pleased to be able to stay open for this lockdown, and had plenty of topics to look at with the children during November. We have enjoyed exploring various books, which we made more creative and interactive for the children by acting out some of the stories. We also had fun making Gingerbread men and planting seeds to go with some of the books, which helps with physical development, in particular, fine motor skills which is essential for developing writing skills. We also looked at Diwali, Guy Fawkes/fireworks night and Remembrance.

We are now excitedly doing lots of crafts and other activities for Christmas. Sadly, we will not be able to put on a show this year for families but we are putting lots of what we are doing on Tapestry, which is an online resource for parents to log into and see photographs of their children, and keep updated on their development. This is more environmentally friendly as it has reduced our use of paper!

Fundraising..

It is currently more difficult for us to fundraise during the restrictions of the pandemic, but we are very grateful to one of our parents, Rachel Dando, ASS gardening services and Angies village shop, who organised a lovely Halloween trail which raised £88! Thank you! We are also hoping to produce a 2021 calendar for Christmas gifts, so watch this space!

A Bags2School collection is taking place on 9th Dec at 9am. So if you want a good clear out before Christmas get your bags to Manor Farm, Littlefields Lane, Shepton. We are collecting - Men's, ladies' & children's clothing, paired shoes, handbags, belts & accessories. (No uniforms, workwear, pillows, duvets or pieces of fabric please) Use black bin bags please!

We currently have some spaces available for more children. We are open Mon/Wed/Fri 9am - 3pm Tues 9-1pm

For more information please call Roxene or Kath 07765437301 or email info@Sheptonbeauchamppre-school.co.uk or visit www.sheptonbeauchamppre-school.co.uk or follow us on Facebook

We are sorry to say, our Toddler group has not reopened yet due to government guidelines.

Merry Christmas everyone! Stay safe.

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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.

The Warehouse Theatre is temporarily closed as a part of the precautions to reduce the spread of Coronavirus Covid-19. Once the Government has reduced or removed the restrictions on places of entertainment we will be publishing our new programme.

In the meantime, we thank you for your past support and look forward to entertaining you in the future.

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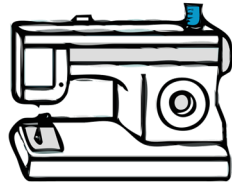
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