



# THE SEAVINGTONS' NEWS

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April 2024 - Edition 521

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# The Seavingtons' News

## Extract from the Annual Report to the Seavington Parish Council – March 2024

Throughout the past twelve months the Seavingtons' News team has continued to produce a monthly issue of the magazine, which is delivered free of charge to every household and business in the two villages. Additional copies are always made available in the Shop, Millennium Hall and The Volunteer for visitors from outside the village.

A limited door to door survey of 25-30 homes demonstrated the popularity of the News. Its continued production is particularly appreciated by the older demographic. However, the younger generation are not quite as enthusiastic. They are no longer consuming printed media and typically source their news and information online.

With the commissioning of a new printer last year it has been possible to offer a printing service to other village organisations, such as the SPFA, Gardening Club and the friends of St Mary's Church. The four walks published in the News were combined into a single booklet with the title "Easy Walks". It has been available for sale through the Shop, price £1. "Easy Walks" has proved surprisingly popular and to date over 80 copies have been sold with all of the proceeds donated to Shop Funds. A second edition with more walks will be launched in Q2 this year.

The magazine continues to enjoy a steady revenue from advertising, which over the past year has just about covered production costs. The churn in advertisers is low and the continuing support of local businesses is much appreciated. The increased advertising rates introduced a year ago do not seem to be adversely affecting the willingness of existing supporters to renew or our ability to attract new advertisers.

None of this would be possible without the continuing support of the small team who edit, print and assemble the magazine, along with the nine volunteer deliverers who ensure the magazine arrives through your letter box.

Editor

**DON'T FORGET: Latest copy date: 20 April for the next issue**

Editorial content and diary entries to:  
Stephen Morris, Chapel Court House, Seavington St Mary, Ilminster, TA19 0QN  
Tel: 01460 242058 E-mail: news@theseavingtons.org

# St Michael's Church Seavington

## Holy Week

Tues 26 Mar	6.00 pm	Holy Week meditation - St Michaels
Thur 28 Mar	7.00 pm	Maundy Thursday Communion - St Michaels
Fri 29 Mar	1.00 - 2.00 pm	Good Friday Reflection
Sat 30 Mar	6.00 pm	Informal Easter Fire and Activities at the Rectory. Book by contacting Rev Tracey
Sun 31 Mar	9.00 am	Formal Holy Communion - St Michaels
Sun 7 Apr	11.15 am	Café Church at the Village Café
Sun 14 Apr	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist
Sun 28 Apr	10.30 am	Holy Communion

See the Benefice website for updates: [www.southpethertonbenefice.org](http://www.southpethertonbenefice.org)

Rector for Seavington: Rev Tracey Hallett

M: 07854 489753 E: [tracey.hallett@southpethertonbenefice.org](mailto:tracey.hallett@southpethertonbenefice.org)

Church Office: 07831 982470: [office@southpethertonchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@southpethertonchurch.org.uk)

## The Seavingtons' Weather in February

***This Year - 2024***

***Last Year - 2023***

### ***Temperature***

Average Minimum	5.8 °C	3.2°C
Average Maximum	14.1°C	10.1°C
Mean	10.0°C	6.7°C

### ***Rainfall***

Monthly Total	127 mm (5")	4mm (0.2")
Total for Year	205 mm (8")	110 mm (4")

## Village Diary - Forthcoming Events

All events, unless otherwise shown, are held in the Millennium Hall. For bookings call 01460 247183 or e-mail: [hallbookings@theseavingtons.org](mailto:hallbookings@theseavingtons.org)

Sat 30 Mar	4.30 pm	Easter Bingo. Eyes down 5.00pm See page 9
Thurs 11 Apr	7.00 pm	Gardening Club Talk: 'Native Plants for British Gardens' see page 16
Tues 16 Apr	6.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting
Wed 17 Apr	10.30 am	Village Get2gether - all welcome. Café Contact Gill Beveridge T:01460 242828
Thurs 18 Apr	7:30 pm	RSPB 'The Private Lives of Garden Birds' see below for details
Sat 27 April	9.00 am	Just a Village Walk - start Hall car park. Duration 1hr approx. Well behaved dogs welcome. Contact: Matthew Towill E: <a href="mailto:towill916@btinternet.com">towill916@btinternet.com</a>
Sat 27 April	10.00 am	Gardening Club Plant Sale. See page

To keep up to date, check out the village web site ([www.theseavingtons.org](http://www.theseavingtons.org)) which is updated regularly with information on events and other village matters. Pass the address on to your friends so that they can keep in touch as well.

## South Somerset RSPB Group

### 'The Private Lives of Garden Birds'

An illustrated talk presented by Dr. Colin Ryall, a retired principal lecturer in environmental management. This talk will delve into facets of birds' behaviour, physiology and anatomy, thus exposing some of their little known secrets.

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April - 7.30pm The Millennium Hall, Seavington St Mary

Entry: Group members £4, non-group members £5, under 18's free (tea/coffee & biscuits included) – wheelchair access

### **NON-MEMBERS VERY WELCOME**

For further details contact: Denise Chamings on 01460 240740  
[www.rspb.org.uk/groups/southsomerset](http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/southsomerset)

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

# Village Diary - Regular Events

## **Evolve Fitness**

One hour sessions daily, except Tuesdays  
All sessions to be pre-booked with Kierhan Ellis  
Contact E: kieran@evofitnesstraining.com

## **Balance Pilates and Wellbeing**

Every Monday  
Pilates Intermediate at 9.15am - 10am  
Pilates Matwork One All levels 10.10am - 10.55am  
Contact E: lisarock70@gmail.com for booking form

## **DMV Sequence Dance Club**

Every Wednesday at 7.15pm  
Contact Marj Vincent E: m9dmv@hotmail.com

## **Wessex Women's Choir**

Every second Saturday 10.30am - 12.30am  
Contact Gail Clarke E: 2gailbclarke@gmail.com

## **HEC (Home Education)**

Fridays 10.45-15.30 HEC Contact: Jenn Hodge 01460 510042

## **Tai Chi - 10.15am -11.15am every Thursday.**

Call Age UK 01823 345626 for more information and to book a place.



## **Seavington Villages Oil Scheme**

By ordering in bulk the Seavington Villages Oil Scheme provides participants with heating oil at very competitive prices. Orders are placed with our supplier on a regular basis and participants' orders are collected together by the organiser, Nigel Key.

You are notified of the delivery 24 hours in advance and deliveries are made directly to your storage tank. You pay the supplier after delivery.

The closing date for the next orders are:

**Friday 5 April**

**Friday 5 July**

To take advantage of the scheme and to place an order contact Nigel  
T:01460 241540 E: oil@theseavingtons.org

# Village Mart

**Calling Home Brewers** – 60 screw-top quart cider bottles in original wooden crates, used for home beer brewing. Free to a good home. Call 01460 249445.

## Seavington Shop and Café

Delicious food, cake selection & hot & cold drinks.

**Café opening times Monday - Friday 8.30am - 2.30pm  
Saturday 8.30am - 2:00pm (last orders 1.30pm)**

Café - Easter opening times

**29 March (Good Friday): closed  
30 March 8.30am - 1:30pm (last orders 1.00pm).  
1 April (Easter Monday) closed**

**Shop opening times Monday to Friday 8.30am - 4.00pm,  
Saturday 8.30am - 2.30pm**

Shop - Easter opening times

**29 March (Good Friday): closed  
30 March 8.30am - 2:30pm  
1 April (Easter Monday) 8.30am - 12:30am**

**Fresh produce, local honey, eggs & potatoes.**

### ARTS & CRAFTS

Daisy Grace Crochet is back with a selection of beautiful crochet hats, bags and gifts. Perfect for some springtime colour. New art on café walls from local Whitelackington Art Group.

**We are agents for Evri parcel services**

***We look forward to seeing you!***

#### Website:

[www.theseavingtons.org/community/village-store-and-cafe](http://www.theseavingtons.org/community/village-store-and-cafe)

**FIND US AT:** Water Street, Seavington St Mary TA19 0QH

**Tel:** 01460 249730

**FACEBOOK:** seavington store

# Parish Council Report

Clerk to the Parish **Sue Doble**  
**E-Mail: [clerk@seavingtonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@seavingtonparishcouncil.org.uk)**

Parish Councillor Details – phone numbers, parish responsibilities, can be found on the village web-site. [www.theseavingtons.org](http://www.theseavingtons.org). If you have any concerns with regards to Parish matters, please contact one of the Councillors or use the e-mail above.

The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 6.30pm which will be held in Seavington Millennium Hall.

The Parish Council are pleased to welcome Cllr England to the Parish Council and look forward to working with him. There are still places on the Parish Council and we hope that these spaces are filled soon.

The inspection of the Childrens' Play Equipment within the play park is one of the services which Somerset Council will not be providing in the future. It has therefore been decided that the Parish Council will pay for the inspections for this year and they will review the situation again next year. It was felt that the Parish Council should not pay for this every year as the SPFA are ultimately responsible, and it was hoped that the village should come together and fund-raise for the SPFA. There will be four inspections and reports produced over the year, one which will involve the zip wire being taken down and inspected thoroughly.

The Ranger service has been renewed with Somerset Council on the proviso that Karen is still our Ranger. If you have any comments regarding the work the Ranger undertakes, please could you direct these to the Parish Council and not the Ranger directly.

Some of the footpaths and stiles in and around the village have been repaired by Somerset Council. Cllr Reyland has reported that their team will only come to the village if there are several jobs which require their attention. Please therefore can you report any footpath issues to the Parish Council in order that this can work successfully.

## PLANNING

**Application No 21/02654/FUL** – Erection of buildings to facilitate the construction and storage of Carnival Floats – Kingstone Parish. (PENDING)

**Application No 22/03382/REM** Reserved Matters for the approval of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale of planning consent 19/01070/OUT; Outline application for residential development together with the formation of vehicular access to plots (PENDING).

**Application No 22/00610** Land at Upton Lane, Seavington St Michael (PENDING)

**Application No: 23/02010/S73A** – S73A application to vary condition 9 of planning approval 20/00732/FUL for increase and variation of feedstock (to include additional farm, dairy waste, by-products and farmyard manure) and the installation of a dome on the digestate storage tank to the existing on-farm Anaerobic Digester (AD) plant.

**Application No: 23/02185/FUL** Erection of a single dwelling and creation of associated access and parking. Alterations to existing access to serve Kelvin Cottage. (Awaiting Decision)

**Application No: 24/00237/HOU.** Two storey rear extension at Longhay Cottage, Church Lane, Seavington - **APPROVED**

**BINGO** is being organised by the Seavington Flower Ladies, working with the SPFA, to raise funds for Hall improvements and play park maintenance.

Don't forget Easter Bingo in the Millennium Hall – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Doors open at 4.30pm for eyes down at 5.00pm.

Please bring cash as we have no card machine facilities.

Bingo cards will be £2.00 for 1 chance to win on 10 games or £10 which gives you 6 chances to win on 10 games.

There will also be a draw. Light refreshments will be available at half time.



## **Merriott Short Mat Bowls Club**

The Club is looking for new members. We meet on Wednesday evenings from 7pm to 9.30pm in the Village Hall. We play matches from time to time with other clubs in the area – either friendlies or as part of the Area League. We play in a relaxed atmosphere, and play to enjoy the game.

The club can provide woods for those who wish to try their hand. It is a game for all ages, for both men and women, beginners and experienced alike. We play all year round – in the dry!

Prospective players are invited to phone the secretary on 07956 598894 or Rob on 07771 643350 **Come and give it a go!**

# Choosing a New Walking Adventure

*Zoe Langley-Wathen*

In 2011, I embarked on my first solo backpacking trip along the South West Coast Path, initially intending it to be a one-off walk to mark my big birthday. To my surprise, it revealed how much I enjoyed long-distance walking, providing a welcome escape from my role as a teacher. The routine of multi-day walking forced me to distance myself from the complexities of work life and instead focus on the necessities of finding food, water and shelter.

It typically takes about two weeks for me to settle into a walk, re-familiarising myself with my gear, establishing a new routine, and adjusting to the physical demands of carrying a rucksack for extended periods. The act of walking day-in and day-out creates a meditative state, offering a mental reset that both fosters problem solving and provides space for creative ideas to bloom. Encouraged by the positive impact of my first journey, and the persistent curiosity of others about what my next challenge would be, the decision to undertake a new adventure became an easy one.

While still walking the South West Coast Path, a conversation with two fellow walkers led to a commitment to explore a brand new trail together the following year. Little did I know that one of those companions would later become my husband, but that's a story for another day.

A group of us travelled to Cardiff in May 2012 for the grand opening of the Wales Coast Path. We all walked the last mile with a woman who had just run the entire length of the Wales Coast Path (870 miles) and Offa's Dyke (177 miles) in 41 days. Arry, now a good friend, became the first woman to run the perimeter of Wales.

Two months later, joined by Mike and Steve, I embarked on the Wales Coast Path, my longest walk yet. The adventure began with the guys walking Offa's Dyke, the ancient boundary between England and Wales, over nine days. We posed for our photograph at the start, beside the River Wye, said goodbye to Chepstow and headed clockwise along the trail. With many estuaries, towns, cities and woods, navigation is not as straightforward as simply keeping the sea on your left! In those early days of the path there weren't as many of the distinctive blue, white, and yellow dragon shell logo waymarkers to guide us as there are now, either.

I remember having a wobble at around day two or three. A combination of missing family and realising the enormity of the miles ahead threw

me into a brief panic. I soon walked into the swing of it, however: breaking the adventure down into more realistic sections of about 100 miles at a time made digesting the task much easier.

There were stretches of the path that tested us, such as road walking through Newport and Cardiff, blisters and encounters with speeding cyclists using the shared paths. Or like when I needed to use a toilet after a long concrete path around a power station. There were none of the convenient hedgerows that I'd become accustomed to using for privacy on the South West Coast Path. I knocked at the door of a remote B&B, thinking they would be happy for me to use their facilities. Police had advised the proprietors to keep the door closed to anyone other than paying guests, during the heightened security for the 2012 Olympics... I could have cried!

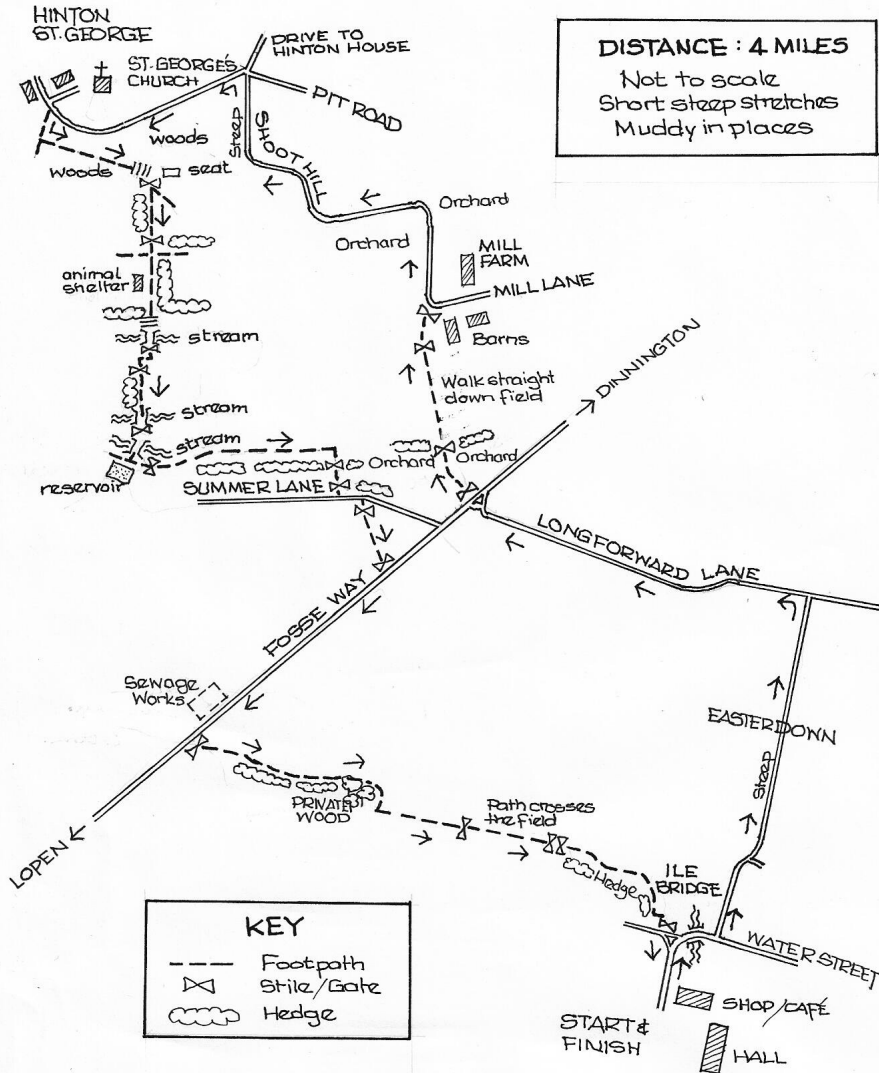


The Wales Coast Path winds through areas of outstanding natural beauty, including the Gower, Pembrokeshire Coast Path, Llyn Peninsula and around the Isle of Anglesey. Whether you're a wildlife enthusiast, geologist, historian, power station geek, or simply a lover of the outdoors, the path offers a wealth of interesting opportunities for everyone. Next month, I'll delve deeper into my experiences on the walk and share some of the fascinating points of interest we discovered along the way.

If long distance paths are not for you then there are shorter less demanding walks around the Seavington's. The seventh and last of the 'Easy Walks' is to be found on the following page.

# Walk No 7: Hike to Hinton

The Editor



# Hinton St George

The route of the walk described on the map does not take you into the heart of the village. If you have time it is well worth making a short diversion when you reach the point on the route opposite St George's Church. Just continue for another 100 yds or so into the picturesque High Street.

First mentioned in the Domesday Book as the village of Hanstone owned by William of Ow. It then transferred to the Powtrel family in the reign of Richard I and came to the Poulett family through marriage in the 1400s. The family remained in the village until 1968 and occupied Hinton House for 500 years. The house has now been divided into individual homes.

The Poulett family contributed significantly to the development of the village as you see it today. The school was built in 1850 but there is evidence that the family provided education in the village from 1776. The present Almshouses in Gas Lane were provided by the 6th Earl and his aunt Lady Augusta.

In 1863 a gas manufacturing plant was built in Gas Lane to supply Hinton House and the rest of the village. As a result, Hinton became the first gas lit village in England.

The memory of the Lords Poulett lives on today in the name of the pub, The Lord Poulett Arms, which has in recent years won numerous prestigious national awards for the food, accommodation, service and ambience.

Source: *Bill Newey*. Hinton St George website.

## The Lords Poulett

Earl Poulett (pronounced "Paulett") was a title in the Peerage of England, created in 1706 for John Poulett, 4th Baron Poulett. He was the most notable of the Poulett dynasty in the service of his country. He was a commissioner for the Treaty of Union with the Kingdom of Scotland. He served as First Lord of the Treasury and as Lord Steward of the Household. The latter office, by appointment of the Sovereign, was one of considerable political importance and carried Cabinet rank.

Although the eighth Earl was married three times he remained childless and on his death in 1973 all his titles became extinct. His sister Lady Bridget Poulett was also childless. In 1968, the 8th and last Earl Poulett sold the Hinton Estate, after which he and his wife settled in Jersey. Perhaps he recalled that three of his ancestors had been Governor of Jersey in the 16th Century.

Source: *Wikipedia*

## Over the Counter

*Vicky Rahilly (vickyrahilly30@gmail.com)*

### Happy Easter to all our customers!

We still have Easter eggs, biscuits, hot cross buns and Easter cards available for any last-minute shoppers or those with a sweet tooth looking for a treat...

Our book library is such an asset with all the money raised going straight back into supporting the shop and café. However, we have been inundated with so many lovely books that the stockroom is now full to bursting. Can we ask that, for the time being, you hold off on any more donations until we once again have space? Thank you!

### Arts & Crafts

Daisy Grace Crochet is back in the shop throughout April. Alison is extremely talented and a selection of her items will be on sale including hats for women, children and cats(!), bags and crochet flower gifts.

We will also continue to host artwork from the Whitelackington Art Group on the cafe walls. The group comprises local amateur artists living in and around Ilminster, producing a wide range of styles- all of which are very affordable. Have a browse next time you visit the cafe.

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# Calling all artists!

*Mary Corcoran*

Last month's edition of the Seavingtons' News included an article extolling the range of activities available at Ilminster Arts Centre. This month, they are asking for local artists to submit their entries for the annual Ilminster Open Exhibition, to be held from June 11 to July 5.

The submission deadline for entries is 6 pm on Friday, May 3, 2024 and entries are to be submitted online via the website. A wide array of mediums will be considered for display, including paintings, original prints, drawings, sculpture, ceramics, and textiles. However, photography submissions will not be accepted for this year's exhibition. A distinguished panel of judges will be judging the entries. There will be prizes for the chosen winners and the artworks will be available for sale during the exhibition, providing artists with a platform to showcase and sell their creations. It's an opportunity to reach a wider audience and expand your artistic horizons.

## **To Submit Your Entry:**

For further details regarding the Ilminster Open Exhibition 2024 and to submit your entry, please visit: <https://www.ilminsterartscentre.com/>



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# Seavington Gardening Club



Jo Culham (01460 241555)

## Next meeting of 2024 – Thursday 11 April

### **'Native Plants for British Gardens'**

by Fred Rumsey

Fred worked at the Natural History Museum in London for 26 years, during which time he was the Museum's British plant specialist. He was also President of the British Pteridological Society. As such, he has a particular interest in a range of British plant groups including rare plants, carnivorous and parasitic plants, orchids and ferns.

He also has expertise in more specialised areas, such as mosses and liverworts. In addition, he has done a lot of work in the Azores and Madeira. Fred is a keen gardener if, by his own admission, not a great one! – and enjoys putting a horticultural twist on the subject matter of his talks.

In recent years, Fred has helped to launch a 'Grow Natives' initiative in Guernsey.

Come and join us.....as a visitor (£2) or a member (£10 for the year). You will be most welcome. Doors open 7.00pm when refreshments are served. **7.30pm start.** Flower of the Month Competition continues.

For further information contact Jo Culham – tel. 01460 241555

## Forthcoming Events for your diary



**Plant Sale** – Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April. Doors open 10.00am. This is our first major event of the year. Come and buy something for your garden at The Gardening Club's annual Plant Sale. There will be a variety of plants on sale. The sale is popular and well supported because of the quality of the plants and the very reasonable prices.



**Flower Show** – Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August. Doors open 2pm. The annual Flower Show is a lovely summer event for the village. The schedule for the Flower Show will be circulated with the May edition of The Seavington News. It would be lovely to have entries from village residents, including children (nieces/nephews & grandchildren).

# **Three Saints Federation**



## **Shepton Beauchamp Church School & St Mary & St Peter's Church School Together We Flourish**

### **March Highlights**

It has been a bumper March at Shepton Beauchamp Church School.

We had a fantastic celebration for World Book Day. Our children created a "Book Cafe" for the day and read their favourite books to their friends. Some of the costumes were spectacular... and that was just the staff!

We celebrated a beautiful Mother's Day Service at St Michael's Church. Our children rehearsed songs, poetry and created super portraits of their mums. The presentation of flowers to our mums by the children was particularly moving. There wasn't a dry eye in the church.

We are pleased to report that our Friends of Shepton School parents' fundraising group has raised over £8000 to provide new exciting outdoor play equipment for our children. The support from our community for our little village school continues to be amazing. Our thanks to everybody, on behalf of our children.

To get more updates from our school, or to get a feel for day to life at Shepton, why not visit our Facebook page? Go to <https://www.facebook.com/Shepton-Beauchamp-Church-School-101172729098791/>

If you would like a school visit for your child, please do contact the school and our Headteacher, Mr Boyle, would be delighted to show you around personally. We can be contacted by phone on 01460 240793 or by email via [office@threesaints.bwmat.org](mailto:office@threesaints.bwmat.org)

**Shepton Beauchamp Church School**  
Shepton Beauchamp, TA19 0LQ  
Tel: 01460 240793  
[office@threesaints.bwmat.org](mailto:office@threesaints.bwmat.org)  
[www.sheptonbeauchamp.co.uk](http://www.sheptonbeauchamp.co.uk)

**St Mary & St Peter's Church School**  
Ilton TA19 9EX  
Tel 01460 52574  
[office@threesaints.bwmat.org](mailto:office@threesaints.bwmat.org)  
[www.stmarystpeters.co.uk](http://www.stmarystpeters.co.uk)

# Sydney Vaux - Photo of the Month

*Phil Nichols*



Gamekeepers and others : Fred Singleton (right) and a colleague (second right), both Dillington Estate gamekeepers, with two other men and two dogs at their supplies hut (location unknown). Fred (1880-1963) moved to Seavington in about 1910 to work for Col Vaughan Lee and lived at the Keeper's Cottage, Boxstone. It's possible that his colleague in this photograph was Oliver Arthur Moss, an 18-year old gamekeeper who, in 1911, was living with the Singleton family at Boxstone. The photograph shows a few tools of the keeper's trade : lamps which indicate that they worked through some of the hours of darkness to rear and protect the pheasants; guns to ward off predators and a stove and pots, probably for mash used as food for the pheasants.

This was taken shortly before the outbreak World War I and, while it would have been expected for a 23-year old to enlist, as Oliver Moss was in 1916, it was less so for men in their 30s : Fred Singleton was 34 at the start of the war. According to his obituary in the Taunton Courier (18 May 1963), Fred joined the Hampshire Regiment and served in France, Belgium and Italy. Oliver enlisted in the Seaforth Highlanders and suffered a leg wound in 1917. After being discharged from the Army he was able to work as a gamekeeper, but died in 1938 of blood poisoning as a result of his wartime wound twenty years earlier.

To see the details of the other photographs in this collection, look at the Somerset Archives Catalogue [www.somerset-cat.swheritage.org.uk](http://www.somerset-cat.swheritage.org.uk) and search collection **A/EWV**, or phone Somerset Archives on 01823 278805.

*Image reference A/EWV/52/16, reproduced with the kind permission of Mr Ian Moore.*

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## **Rev's Ramblings - 'Hope'**

*Rev Tracey Hallet*

I wonder where your hope comes from? Is it hard to remain hopeful? Especially, when there are so many hopeless situations effecting the world, even in our local communities. However, in my enthusiastic and positive manner I always like to encourage others and myself too, to keep our eyes peeled for signs of hope in everyday experiences in life. There is plenty to be hopeful for in our communities, and as you might have read in my 'Ramblings' last month, there is much hope to be celebrated in the life of the Benefice of South Petherton with the Seavingtons and the Lambrooks.

The Diocesan vision statement reminds us that we are called to live and tell the story of Jesus. It really does bring me hope to share my faith. My hope is fulfilled by being part, and encouraging others to be part, of the story that is our Christian faith. As we follow Jesus, his way becomes our way of life too. Here's a recent story which enabled me to share the hope of Jesus and I pray it will also bring you a glimpse of hope as we look out for God in the everyday moments of life...

It was World Book Day recently and the children from South Petherton Infant School came into St Peter and St Paul's for their weekly school assembly. They were so excited and absolutely bursting to tell me about the character they were for the day – the costumes were fabulous and the children's zest for life even more so. I encouraged the children to help me act out the re-telling of the scripture from the Gospel according to Mark. It's the story of Jesus eating a meal with Simon the leper when a sinful woman comes to anoint Jesus' feet with expensive perfume as she sought Jesus' forgiveness. Jesus of course forgave her and so she wanted to repay his kindness. It's a scandalous scene as the perfume is so costly and what a waste! Simon is critical of the woman's reputation and thinks less of Jesus for accepting her gift. Simon's reaction is quite surprising. As a leper he knew the pain of exclusion in society. Jesus stands up for the woman and says 'she will always be remembered for this.' Jesus keeps on including people that others look down on; he helps Simon to understand that we all need forgiveness, and that we

can never be good enough or respectable enough to earn God's love. The good news is this ... God's love comes as a pure gift, amazing grace.

This is one of the hardest things to accept – that there is nothing we can do to make God love us any more and there is nothing we can do to make God love us any less!

God longs for us to recognise that love, and to allow it to transform us, for each of us to be forgiven and healed at the very depths of our being. Like the woman with the alabaster jar full of expensive perfume, that deep healing of our past hurts often evokes both tears and an overflowing generosity that reaches out to others.

It is a real privilege to live and share the stories of Jesus in our communities, but especially with the school children at their assemblies. However, we ALL have the opportunity in to live and share the story of love – to be generous and forgiving and to transform lives in the everyday by sharing our hope. One of the practical ways that we are doing this in our Benefice is through the community Foodshare. It is amazing to see how well used it is and how, by simply hosting a space and collecting donated food, we can help bring hope to others.

May we all continue to journey together and know God's love for us.

Thank you! *Rev Tracey*

## **Easter News from St Michael's**

We are pleased to have a new contractor to keep the churchyards in St Michael's and St Mary's looking as lovely as they deserve. James Satterley lives nearby and is offering flexible assistance, as well as regular grass and hedge cuts.

Sadly, the two trees in the lawn at St Michael's have died (although they may still blossom this spring.) We have been advised they need to be cut down as soon as possible, as they may be dangerous. We will be taking advice from a tree warden. The tree in the centre of the lawn will be replaced.

We would appreciate help to tidy up the church grounds as the weather improves. Look out for more information for our Saturday Morning Garden(ing) Party.

### **Easter Weekend**

10.30 am Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March come and join us at St Michael's to make Easter Gardens.

9.00am Easter Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March Common Worship Family Communion at St Michael's. PLEASE NOTE TIME.

10.30am Easter Sunday Benefice Common Worship Communion St Peter and St Paul's South Petherton

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# The Humble Pasty

*Roger Wotton*

The pasty goes hand in hand with Cornwall and the mining industry, and can be traced back to the 1200's as being a practical way for miners to take their lunch with them down the mine. The local name is 'Oggy', a slang term from the Cornish language 'hoggan' and they are shaped like a letter D lying on its side. There are various versions, but they could have savoury ingredients one end and sweet the other, all encased in a robust pastry case with the crimped edge forming a handle by which to hold and eat the pasty.

The pastry case was strong enough to survive being dropped down the mine shafts by wives cooking them above ground. When ready, the call down was 'Oggie Oggie Oggie!' to alert the miners of incoming food, with the reply of 'Oi Oi Oi', a chant now often heard at west country rugby matches, although the association with that is unknown

There is, however, another version, the Somerset Priddy Oggy, distinguished by the crimped 'handle' along its top. As you might imagine, the miners were working in dark and dirty areas with toxic chemicals leaching from the mined rock, with no handwashing facilities so far underground, and so the crusty handle would be discarded to avoid ingestion of harmful elements. The Mendip mines were sunk in the search for lead ore, whilst the Cornish mines were predominately after tin.

These days there are many versions of the pasty, none of which can compare to a true Oggy, which is constructed using good chunks of beef, not the minced and tasteless meat so often found in the current chain food outlets along our high streets.

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