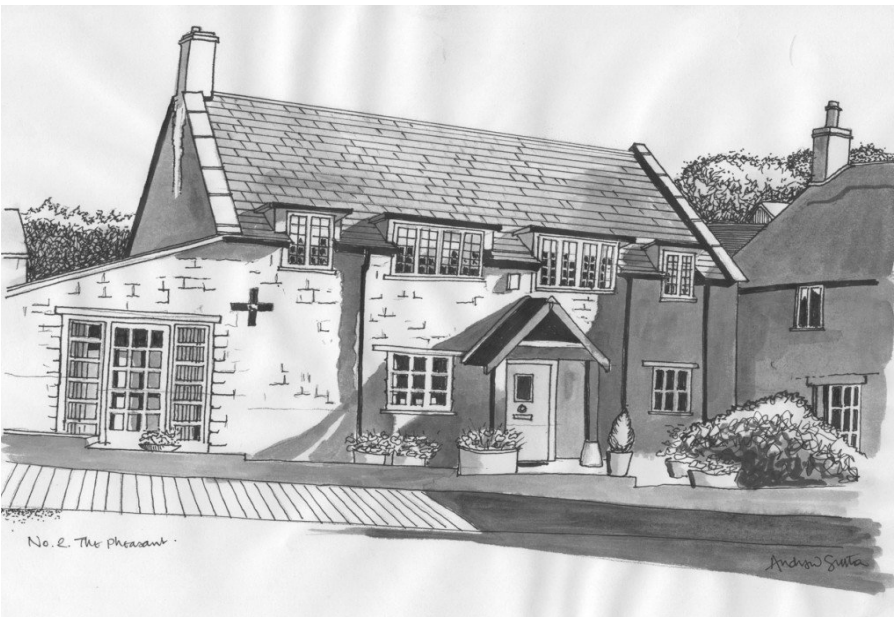


THE SEAVINGTONS' NEWS

April 2022



Somerset supports Ukraine
Seavingtons' Craft Brewery

Page 22
Page 24

Large Garden

Hopefully sunny but feel free to bring cushions and blankets just in case!

Takeaways

Sunday Roasts

Daily Menu

Snacks

Please call us to hear our current opening times or book your takeaway or garden table

See our current Menu

On our website
www.newinn-ilminster.co.uk

Or our Facebook page
[@newinnilminster](https://www.facebook.com/newinnilminster)

Call us on

01460 52413

Booking advisable

We would love to see you soon

Thank you and stay safe!

New Inn
Dowlish Wake
TA19 0NZ



The Seavingtons' News

Like me, I am sure that readers have been appalled over recent weeks at the plight of the Ukrainian people. We would dearly like to help but have found it hard to find a way of doing so. I have huge admiration for Steve Rock who felt the same but did swing into action with help from the villagers of Shepton Beauchamp and surrounding communities. His story on page 22 is a fantastic example of what can be achieved when minds are applied to the problem.

Now that the Government has launched its 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme it would be great to hear from anyone minded to sign up and their subsequent experiences. If and when any displaced Ukrainians arrive in our community what can we do to welcome them, to help them settle in and start a new life?

In my short tenure as Editor there is one subject which keeps recurring by way of correspondence and in articles submitted for inclusion in the News. This month is no exception (see page 26). Electric cars and the need for charging points keeps coming up and it leads me to think that the decision to hold off installing charging points in the Millennium Hall car park was short-sighted. Perhaps the SPFA Trustees could be persuaded to reconsider their decision sooner rather than later.

As has been evident over the past couple of editions, arrangements for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations are gathering momentum. Behind the scenes planning has also been underway for the Flower Show which returns this year after a two year absence enforced by COVID. This year is also special because it marks the 40th Anniversary of the Gardening Club. The Show schedule is being circulated with this edition of the News to give readers a chance to plan their entries. I would encourage everyone to have go whether its flowers or veg you grow, jam or cakes you make or photographs you take.

Editor

DON'T FORGET

The Latest Copy Date: 20th 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

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St Michael's Church Seavington

Fri 1 Apr	12.30 pm	Celebration of the life of Terry Jagers. All welcome
Sun 3 Apr	11.15 am	Cafe Church - Seavington Community Café
Sun 10 Apr	11.00 am	Walk of Witness starting at Seavington Community Café
Thur 14 Apr	18.30 pm	Maundy Thursday. Bring and share supper. Holy Communion at St Peter and St Pauls
Fri 15 Apr		Good Friday Liturgy. 12-1pm St Marys 1-2pm St Peter and St Pauls 2-3pm East Lambrook
Sat 16 Apr	19.00 pm	Easter Fire and renewal of baptism vows St Marys
Sun 17 Apr	10.30 am	Easter Sunday. Family Communion
Sun 24 Apr	10.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP)

First Sunday each month - Café Church Please join us for an informal service preceded by coffee and croissants. **Everyone is very welcome.**

Rector for Seavington: Rev Tracey Hallett
M: 07854 489753 E: Tracey.hallett@icloud.com

Church Office: 07831 982470; office@southpethertonchurch.org.uk

The Seavingtons' Weather in February

This Year - 2022 **Last Year - 2021**

Temperature

Average Minimum	4.21°C	2.54°C
Average Maximum	10.81°C	8.78°C
Mean	7.51°C	5.66°C

Rainfall

Monthly Total	49.9 mm (2.00")	92.4 mm (3.70")
Total for Year	73.5 mm (2.94")	186.5 mm (7.46")

Warmer and drier than last year, but windier. We won't forget storms Dudley and Eunice.

Advertising Rates

	Annual	Monthly
Full Page	£100	£12
Half Page	£ 50	£ 6
Quarter Page	£ 28	£ 4

Village Diary - Forthcoming Events

*All events, unless otherwise shown, are held in the Millennium Hall
For bookings call 07905 215993 or hallbookings@theseavingtons.org*

Thurs 31 Mar	9.30 am	Sporty Tots. www.pro-coaching.co.uk Click Sporty Tots to book
Thurs 7 Apr	9.30 am	Sporty Tots. www.pro-coaching.co.uk Click Sporty Tots to book
Thurs 14 Apr	10.30 am	Village Get2gether - all welcome. Café Contact Gill Beveridge 01460 242828
Thurs 14 Apr	7.30 pm	Gardening Club - all welcome. 'Spring Flowering Perennials' talk by Rosy Hardy. See page 6 Contact: Jo Culham 01460 241555
Tues 19 April	6.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting and AGM - Café
Wed 20 Apr	8.00 pm	Monthly Quiz - The Volunteer. Contact Ruth: 01460 240126
Fri 22 Apr	7.30pm	RSPB Talk 'Austria - The birds and wildlife of Burgenland' an illustrated talk by David Smallshire. Non-members very welcome. See p. 11 Contact Denise Chanings 01460 240740
Sat 26 Mar	9.00 am	Just a Brisk Walk - start Hall car park Contact: Matthew Towill E: towill916@btinternet.com See below

To keep up to date, check out the village web site (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.

New Postal Collection Times

Collections from all three boxes in the villages have been changed:
Mon-Fri 9.00 am Sat 7.00 am
There is no longer a later collection at 4.30 pm

From 4 April 2022 the price of a 1st class stamp increases to 98p and 2nd class to 68p. Just in case you are tempted to stock up before 4 April be aware that old style stamps will cease to be valid after 31 Jan 2023.

Village Diary - Regular Events

Evolve Fitness.

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

Balance Pilates and Wellbeing

Mondays. One hour sessions at 8.15 and 9.15am
Contact Lisa Rock E: lisarock@gmail.com

DMV Sequence Dance Club

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

Wessex Women's Choir

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

Yoga and Mindfulness Classes

Every Tuesday
9.30am Energising Morning Flow 6.30pm Strong Body and Mind
Contact Lissa Milton E: hello@lissamiltonyoga.co.uk (see page 25)

RAMA Life

Wednesdays 11.00-16.00 (see page 26)

HEC (Home Education)

Fridays 11.00-16.00

For both RAMA and HEC Contact: Jenn Hodge 01460 510042

Village Mart

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

Wanted: To buy, hire or borrow a gazebo for a Jubilee event.

Contact: Adele Deane M: 07943816331

Wanted: Secluded spot for keeping a few bee-hives.

I am wanting to keep a few bee colonies (up to 6) not too far from Seavington St. Mary - within 1/2 a mile or so of the village would be ideal. A sheltered corner of a field or something similar. I would like to make a start this Spring if possible. Please do get in touch if you have anything that might be suitable.

Contact: David Mussell E: davidmussell@fastmail.fm

Village Voice - letters to the Editor

Hello to all parishioners in the Seavingtons!

Most of you will know by now that we have a new Rector in the benefice and we welcome Tracey to our villages as well as South Petherton and The Lambrooks. Tracey will be around, but you must realise that she has a large set of parishes and many people to care for, not counting the schools and residential care homes which are part of her ministry. So do pray for her and her family as she starts off this new adventure.

I have been fortunate to have been a part of the church activities for the last couple of years standing in for the Rector until the current appointment was made. I have been grateful for all those who have attended services, especially at festival times and remembering also the critical points in villagers lives, such as funerals and baptisms and weddings. It has been a delight. Terry has also been busy and ever present at the main services providing well thought out and uplifting musical accompaniment to our worship. I know that has been appreciated by many of you.

So the appointment having been made means we shall step back from taking services as Tracey decides what the schedules will mean for the villages in terms of timing and content.

No, we are not moving away! We are still, hopefully, very much part of the village life and will remain available if needed. However, it is an important and traditional practice in the Church of England for a person who has been so involved, albeit temporarily, in running a parish, to allow a new Incumbent the freedom they need to make their own stamp on the ministry here.

So, really, a great big thank you to everyone who has welcomed us to the life of the churches here and we look forward to a brand new ministry with Tracey.

Our love and prayers to you all.

Ian and Terry
Upton Lane, Seavington St Mary

Editor's Apology: This letter was received for publication in an earlier edition of the News but I regret was omitted through an oversight on my part.

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.



Seavington Gardening Club

Kate Mulligan (01460 24202)



"Growing Vegetables Organically"

A talk by Val Bourne on Thursday 10th March 2022

Val describes herself as a "fanatical hands-on organic gardener" who grows the majority of her own food in her third of an acre garden and her allotment in the Cotswolds. She gave a lively and humorous talk with lots of sound advice for novices and experienced gardeners alike.

Where to start when confronted by so many seed catalogues offering so much choice was just one of her useful tips. Val recommended looking for seeds that have the RHS Award of Garden Merit usually signed as AGM or a logo of a gold cup. Also recommended for reliability were any seeds that are registered as F1 as they are tried and tested and are often British bred varieties for British growers.

Timing and patience are also important considerations as well as digging or not digging but in the end, whether you have a large garden, a balcony or even just a container, grow for flavour and grow what you enjoy eating.

Many thanks to Val for entertaining and encouraging us to get out there and start growing our own vegetables.

Flower of the Month Competition

1st Ann Clifford - Stachyurus Praecox

2nd Jenny Reid - Camellia

3rd Elizabeth Forrest - Daphne Bholua Spring Beauty

Next Meeting

Thursday 14th April 2022 in the Millennium Hall. Doors open 7.00pm for 7.30pm start with Rosy Hardy giving a talk on "Spring Flowering Perennials".

Refreshments will be served and there will be plants for sale. Flower of the Month Competition will be held.

Admission free to members, visitors welcome £2 payable at the door.

For further information please contact Jo Culham - tel. 01460 241555

Parish Council News

Pauline Parsons [parishcouncil@theseavingtons.org]

Probably one of the most important events coming up is the Election of new Unitary County Councillors as well as Elections of our own Parish Councillors.

ELECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAY 5TH MAY 2022 IN THE MILLENNIUM HALL.

Other important dates are as follows:

Monday 21st March

Publication of Notices of Elections. These will give full details of how Nomination Papers can be obtained.

9.00am on Monday 21st March until 4.00pm on Tuesday 5th April

Submission of Nomination Papers. These must be hand delivered to The Returning Officer, South Somerset District Council.

Parish Council candidates must state whether they are standing for the Parish of Seavington St Mary OR Seavington St Michael.

Nomination Papers must have a Proposer and Seconder along with their Polling District and Elector Number [If not known these can be obtained by contacting the Parish Council]

No later than 4.00pm on Wednesday 6th April

Statement of Persons Nominated to be published. After publication we will know the nominations for the Unitary Authority. We will also know whether or not there will be an election for our own Parish Councillors.

Thursday 14 April

Deadline to register to vote

Tuesday 19 April

Close of postal vote applications

REMEMBER to use your vote on Thursday 5th May 2022

Polling stations open 7.00am to 10.00pm

Easter Waste Collections

Collection of recycled waste is rescheduled for Tuesday 19 April. There is no general waste collection scheduled for Easter week. Garden waste will be collected on Thursday 21 April.

Over the Counter

Vicky Rahilly (vickyrahilly30@gmail.com)

Spring at last

As I am sat putting this article together the sun is beaming through the window and the sky is a bright blue. Our garden pots are full of cheery daffodils. It certainly lifts the spirits.

The shop and cafe are preparing for Easter. There are wonderful freshly baked treats in the cafe and if you want to bask in the early spring sunshine there is outside seating or why not get a takeaway.

The shop is fully stocked with a range of Easter goodies. A wealth of chocolate eggs for every budget as well as delicious Easter biscuits from Bakery Royal and lovely Easter cards.

We also have a wide selection of fresh fruit and vegetables as well as dried fruits if you were planning on making your own Simnel cake or Easter biscuits.

Hermes is now Evri

Customers may have noticed a name change to Hermes. The company has renamed/rebranded itself Evri. This will make no difference to the service provided by the shop. You can still drop off and collect your parcels in exactly the same convenient way.

Arts and Crafts update:

Throughout April we will be selling natural hand made soaps locally made by Lily and Lynn (in their kitchens!). The products are packed with essential oils. Come and have a sniff!

On the cafe walls throughout April, local photographer Pauline Rook will have her pictures on display for purchase. She specialises in black and white images of rural Somerset- particularly the Blackdowns.

During this month we will also be selling a children's book penned by local resident Adele Deane. "The Dormouse who got half a million pounds (...to be precise £491,095)" is based on a true story which delivers a clear message to children about wildlife preservation. The book will be on display adjacent to the stationary section.

A reminder of Easter opening:

15th April - Good Friday- Closed

16th April - Easter Saturday- Normal opening hours

18th April - Easter Monday- Shop 09:00-13:30 Cafe 09:00-13:00 (for bacon butties and drinks only).



SEAVINGTON PLAYING FIELD AND MILLENNIUM HALL

Saturday 16th April 2022

EASTER EGG HUNT

For under 14s [no charge]

Find clues and win an Easter Egg

AFTERNOON TEA

For all ages

Enjoy homemade cakes and other refreshments

2.30pm start

Come and join us for a fun afternoon

Organised by the Flower Ladies of Seavington St Michael's Church



Operation Christmas Child

Last year, 61 boxes were sent from this benefice to Central Asia.

Although it seems a long way off we need to start planning now for Christmas 2022!

Items that can be prepared now include:

- knitted mittens for ages 5-9 and 10-14 (knitting patterns are available)
- large cloth storage bags so, when the shoebox wears out, the child has a bag to store the contents.

Please think what YOU can do to help and speak to me if any queries.

Thanks for your help.

Gill Beveridge T: 242828



OUR VILLAGE PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Louise Layzell

Plans are progressing well for the **fete, which will take place on Saturday 4 June 2022**, and include an arts and crafts marquee, fun dog show, free fete games and children's crafts tent, tombola, raffle, skittles, classic vehicles, musical entertainment, and a few surprises!

The object is to have a fun day which all the village may participate in should they so wish. To this end we have endeavoured to contact any arts and crafts people who live in the village, any organisations who use the hall and we will shortly be contacting local businesses as it would be brilliant if we could cover the setting up costs, and some prizes by sponsorship. If you have slipped our net and would like to be involved please advise the editor of this publication, or pop a note in the hall post box, which may be found on the outer left hand wall as you face the main door.

We also intend to send an invitation for a free cuppa and piece of cake to all those over the age of 80 who live in the village. Again, if you would like to receive an invitation or know someone who would, please pop your details onto a piece of paper and put it in the hall post box, or contact the editor.

Any profit made from this event will support St Margaret's Hospice.

During the four days there will be a **Flower Festival at St Michael's Church** and a **walking treasure hunt**. The Parish Council would also like you to enhance the village with your **scarecrows** again – something that the Seavingtons excel at. No theme, whatever you feel to be appropriate.

There are also plans for a **quiz night** on the Thursday; **village walk** followed by **bacon butties** on the Friday; and a **traditional street party** (in the car park) on the Sunday after **Café Church**.

Things for you to do:

- Make a note of the dates in your diary
- Let us know if you would like to take part in any way – having a stall at the fete, help before or during the day, donate a prize, for example
- Let us know if you are (or know someone who is) over 80 and would like an invitation to tea at the fete

- Start designing your scarecrow, hobby horse (to take part in the hobby horse races at the fete), and children's crown (to be paraded at the fete)
- Start polishing your classic vehicle!

Programme of events:

Thurs 2 June Quiz Night in the Hall (ticketed)TBC

Friday 3 June Village Walk 9.00 am

Bacon Butties available in the Café after the walk

Saturday 4 June Village Fete 2.00 – 5.00 pm

Sunday 5 June Café Church 1.15 am

Street Party 1.00 pm in the Millennium Hall car park

Throughout the four days:

Flower Festival in St Michael's Church

Walking Treasure Hunt

Display of Scarecrows

More details will appear on posters around the village, in the next edition of the Seavington News, and on the internet!

SOUTH SOMERSET RSPB GROUP

'Austria – The Birds and Wildlife of Burgenland'

An illustrated presentation by David Smallshire, naturalist, tour leader and author. His talk will focus on the low-lying and wildlife-rich areas that span the Austro-Hungarian border, between the Eastern Alps and the Hungarian Plain.

Friday 22nd April - 7.30pm The Millennium Hall, Seavington St Mary

Entry: Group members £4, non-group members £5, under 18's £1
(tea/coffee & biscuits included) – wheelchair access

NON-MEMBERS VERY WELCOME

Contact: Denise Chamings (group leader) on 01460240740

www.rspb.org.uk/groups/southsomerset www.facebook.com/groups/RSPBSouthSomersetGroup

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

Young Seavington Cricketer First Tour in Sri Lanka

Lachlan Rice

Sri Lanka – what an amazing place and adventure we had. From the moment we arrived in Colombo the people couldn't do enough for us.

Our first hotel was based in Kandalama and was basically in the middle of the jungle, we had regular visits from monkeys & various wildlife, we weren't allowed out of the hotel grounds alone for the fear of wild elephants and crocodiles!! Mum's highlight was going on an elephant safari.

The cricket was an amazing experience against a very high standard of opposition in fantastic stadiums. My personal highlight was being at the crease when we won at the Dambulla international stadium in the last over chasing over 300 to win. The cricket was a real challenge, we played in temperatures nearing 40 degrees against teams often several years older on spinning wickets which made batting really difficult but suited my bowling as I'm a spin bowler, several of the players we came up against are already in the Sri Lankan national age group teams.

We then moved on to Waskaduwa to a hotel right on the beach which literally looked like paradise.

In total we played six games and won three and lost 3, to play on international grounds against such good teams was something I will never forget and whilst I would have liked to have scored more runs, I was pleased to be Somerset's most economical bowler during the tour.

The cricket, weather, people, culture, the mountains we climbed, river cruises, temples we visited and amazing hotels all gave us memories to last a lifetime.

Thank you to everyone for the support & best wishes I received before the trip.

Seavington Youngsters' Litter Pick

Our litter pick challenge is complete, although we will continue to do pick ups around the village occasionally,

Isabel and Jack Clark would like to say a big thank you to all those who donated!! Our total combined hours of collecting was 20 hours and 22 minutes, we collected more than 10 carrier bags and 5 tall bin bags of rubbish and have raised over £190 for our school. We were awarded the most Eco Friendly Challenge by our school PTA.

Thank you for the write up in the Seavington News.

Notes from Venezuela

Cecilia Córdova

On one occasion I went for a takeaway fish and chips in South Petherton and for no apparent reason the lovely Asian lady who took my order, in a very polite way asked where I was from. When I said Venezuela she hesitated and asked, is that the country with 2 presidents? Yes, that's the one, end of conversation.

Yes, two presidents! One of them Mr Maduro used to be a bus driver, accused of human right violations with an open investigation by The International Criminal Court and indicted by the US Department of Justice for narco-terrorism, drug-trafficking and corruption. Nowadays he is still leading the current dictatorial government and is one of Putin's very few chums. The other president Mr Guaidó is a 38 year-old engineer and politician recognised by most of the democratic world (including me). The exceptions are Nicaragua, Russia, China, Iran and Turkey. This explains a lot.

Considering the calamity Ukrainians are facing due to the war it is impossible not to mention the deplorable Russia-Venezuela "alliance" which started back with Hugo Chávez and focussed on arms and military supplies. When Donald Trump's administration started to sanction the Venezuelan government and individuals, a significant number of Venezuelan government companies found it difficult or impossible to mobilise their funds and turned to use Russian Financial Institutions to make payments abroad, to avoid these measures, to secure its assets and also to preserve the oil operation in Europe. With the current sanctions by the West on Russia the Venezuelan regime is in dire straits. It is unable to move money on which they rely through Russian banks. It is a matter of debate whether the current situation will force Venezuela to find a new way to end this bad long chapter in its history?

With Russian oil and gas in mind, it is important to highlight the similarities between the Ukrainians and Venezuelans even though we do not have any kind of cultural exchange. I can assure you the average Venezuelan has no clue where Ukraine is on the map and quite likely vice-versa. Both countries are facing an unprecedented refugee crisis. According to the UN Refugee Agency, nearly 3 million Ukrainians have fled since 24th February and in Venezuela without a war, during the last few years, 20% of the population have fled the country, nearly 6 million people in total.

From a wholesome and honest perspective I feel profound shame to have a "president" supporting this tragedy and very grateful that all the neighbouring countries such as Colombia, Brazil, Chile, Poland, Romania, Moldova, Slovakia, Hungary, etc are hosting the people as refugees.

Bug of the Month: Chickenpox

(Latin: varicella-zoster virus, meaning 'spotted or speckled'.)

Anne Crowther

It is believed that the Chickenpox virus originated in Africa millions of years ago. Giovanni Filippo (1510–1580) of Palermo, Italy is credited by some of the first description of Chickenpox. Later, in 1767, William Heberden, from England, was the first physician to clearly demonstrate that chickenpox was different from smallpox. The name chickenpox was commonly used centuries before doctors identified the disease. The jury is out as to how this came about, with suggestions ranging from the rash having the appearance of chickpeas, or it being a lesser form of Smallpox and therefore 'chicken'. The first association between shingles and chickenpox was noted in 1888. In 1954 the varicella virus was isolated in both chickenpox and shingles lesions.

Chickenpox is a highly infectious disease, known for its very itchy vesicular (small blister) rash often accompanied with fever and malaise. It is found on all continents and is common in the UK. Up to 90% of susceptible close contacts develop the disease. Transmission is by personal contact or droplet with an incubation period of 1-3 weeks. It is infectious from 1-2 days before the rash appears until the vesicles have dried or crusted over which takes around 5 days. The virus remains dormant in the body for life, deep in the nervous system. In later life the virus can reactivate itself and cause Herpes Zoster (Shingles). Most people catch Chickenpox as children and do not suffer any long-term effects. Complications are rare. However, chickenpox parties are now considered a bad idea as for some groups (e.g.: the pregnant, new born, or the immune-suppressed) the risks are numerous and include brain damage, pneumonia, and, very rarely, death (around 20 deaths per year in the UK). Adults who catch Chickenpox tend to suffer more than their younger counterparts and are more likely to have complications.

Most instances of Chickenpox can be managed at home by reducing any fever, rest, being well hydrated, keeping fingernails short to avoid skin damage through scratching, and cooling the rash. There is further treatment available from the GP if needed.

There is a vaccine, although in the UK it is currently not part of the routine childhood schedule. It is recommended for those in close contact with people who are at particular risk of complications from chicken pox, e.g., non-immune healthcare workers, organ donor recipients, those without a spleen.

Chickenpox has often been used as a story line in novels, books, and films such as Home Alone 3 where Alex Pruitt, a resourceful boy, was left at home alone with a case of Chickenpox and ended up defending the house.

SEAVINGTON SHOP AND CAFE

Wishing all our customers a very Happy Easter!

Delicious home cooked meals and freshly baked cakes.

Cafe opening times Monday - Friday 8.30am - 2.30pm, Saturday

ALL YOUR EASTER NEEDS COVERED

Fantastic selection of chocolate eggs, Easter biscuits as well as Easter cards to send to family and friends. All the fresh veg you need for the Easter Sunday roast.

ART AND CRAFTS

Luxurious natural handmade soap enriched with essential oils
Made by Lily and Lynn.

Pauline Rooke will have her striking black and white images of the Blackdown Hills on display in the cafe this month. Available for purchase.

**Shop opening times Mon - Fri 8.30am - 4.00pm,
Saturday 9.00am - 2.30pm**



Easter Opening Hours (shop and cafe)

Good Friday, 15th April - Closed

Easter Saturday, 16th April - normal hours

Easter Monday, 18th April - 9:00am - 1.30pm for the shop & bacon
butties/hot drinks in the cafe.

We are agents for Evri parcel service



**SEE OUR WEBSITE www.theseavingtons.org/community/village-store-and-cafe
Water Street, Seavington St Mary TA19 0QH Tel: 01460 249730**



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 dates for the next orders are:

Friday 1st April

Friday 1st July

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

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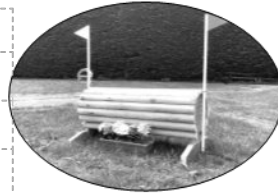
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Details of future productions, auditions & membership can be found at www.thewarehousetheatre.org.uk or call 07943 779880. Tickets can be purchased through the website or in Harrimans Menswear, Silver St, Ilminster.

Coming soon:

Wed 30 March - Sat 2 April 7.30 pm
Ilminster Youth Theatre presents 'Play On' by David Upsher
Tickets: £12 (Children / Students £6)

Thurs 7 April - Sat 9 April
Thurs/Fri 7.30pm Sat 2.30 & 7.30pm
Theatre for All presents Lionel Bart's 'Oliver'

Time to get walking again

John Harris john@walkingengland.co.uk

At this time of year we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Somerset <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/somerset> has hundreds of walks to download and print free. It also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (the custodian of the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Somerset (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Having checked the website for local walks I found a number around Barrington and South Petherton but nothing this side of the A303. There are plenty of footpaths to the south side of the villages but it is not always easy to follow them, even with the aid of an OS map. So I thought local walkers might be interested in simplified maps of easy walks, starting with Walk No1 - Meade Meander on the opposite page.

Dogs in the countryside.

Chris Reyland

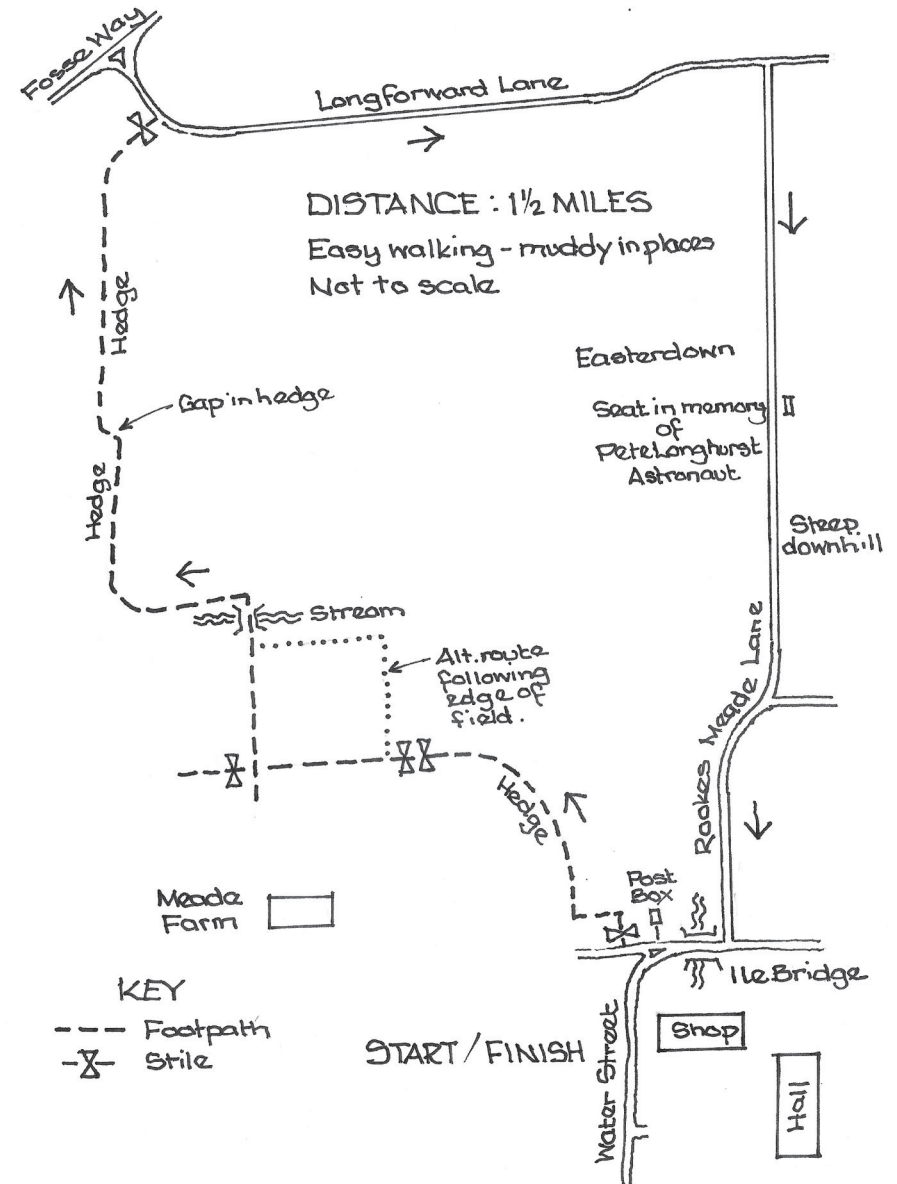
Dogs must be kept under close control at all times, preferably on a fixed short lead.

Between 1st March & 31st July dogs MUST be kept on a fixed short lead to avoid disturbing ground-nesting birds & other important wild life.

PLEASE remove all dog faeces from footpaths & adjacent land.

PLEASE note a lot of faeces have been found on the grass verges either side of the village hall entrance. This is a hazard to children using the play area.

Walk No. 1 : Meade Meander



Somerset Supports Ukraine

Steve Rock

It was during the initial stages of Mr Putin's invasion of Ukraine, and the real time TV footage capturing the plight of desperate and displaced ordinary people which created a spark. The spark was not only that powerful sense of feeling completely helpless towards the safety, security, and wellbeing of these shattered people, but also the insatiable desire to do something about it. Over the next 24hrs I started to apply the organisational skills acquired during a 25 year career in the military to all the ideas in my head. I started on Monday 28th February with a visit to Sharon and Andrew Humphreys in Shepton Beauchamp to check out availability of the Village Hall. They responded to my ideas with a huge sense of relief that they too now had a way of helping Ukraine.

Very quickly, a plan was hatched, costed and areas of delegation established and a date set in stone for our departure, some 10 days later on 10th March. Sharon and Andrew's daughter created a "Help for Ukraine" poster which was posted on the village Facebook page. Very quickly it was picked up by other local communities, including the Seavingtons. In no time at all Sharon found herself with an army of volunteers willing to help receive and process the donations which started to flood in. Ordinary people desperate to help ordinary people.

Whilst the volunteers worked tirelessly I continued to make all the arrangements needed to deliver the subject aid to a distribution centre near the Ukrainian border in Poland. First challenge, the recruitment of five more drivers who were willing to spend long hours on the road, sat side by side, in large white vans. It turned out that few of the drivers knew each other before the trip but were considerably better acquainted by the time they returned. The team were super keen to assist and each played a huge part in completing tasks such as preparing customs paperwork, Channel Tunnel bookings and co-ordinating loading plans for the vehicles.

Following a frantic 24 hrs of last-minute packing, processing and labelling etc, the vehicle drivers, Sharon's army of volunteers and anybody else that was available at that time, moved more than 750 boxes of aid into the three large vans that were to undertake the journey to Eastern Poland. Finally, we were ready. At 08.30hrs on Thursday 10th of March, we began the long journey to Krakow in Eastern Poland fuelled by a huge full English breakfast provided by the ladies at Shepton Beauchamp village shop.

Our route took us across France, Belgium, Holland, Germany and Poland arriving 34hrs later in Krakow early on the Friday evening. We were warmly greeted by Faye Savage (from Bristol), her Polish partner and their friends.

After a good night's sleep Faye guided us to "The Slovak Mission for Ukraine" located a stones throw from Schindler's Factory in Krakow. Immediately the history of a past era was evident with pictures of the children that Oskar Schindler saved, framed in the windows of the factory museum. Arriving at the Mission, the team were introduced to a Ukrainian guy by the name of Alex Magdenko, who thankfully spoke perfect English. He welcomed us all with a firm handshake and a beaming smile. It was clear to see that the Mission was a hive of activity with volunteers sorting and processing a mountain of aid as it arrived at their centre. It was also apparent that the first floor of the Mission was allocated to receiving and welcoming a steady stream of refugees who had fled across the border from the war in Ukraine. As a sombre reminder I noticed there was a distinct absence of men aged between 18 and 60 years. All very sad.

Alex soon realised that the payload of the three vans was extremely well organised, boxed, labelled and all detailed on a printed manifest. So we were advised to take our aid directly to a different location and rendezvous with a Ukrainian articulated lorry, which would be crossing into Ukraine later that day. Some 40 minutes later, we reached an industrial park where the Ukrainian lorry driver and a few volunteers were waiting to help us unload the vans. The Polish volunteers that helped us insisted on sharing their lunch with us, which was warmly received. That evening the Russian military bombed the Ukrainian military base just over the border, very close to the route being taken by the lorry driver on his return journey. Thankfully, the man was OK and Faye was able to confirm that he had arrived safely at his destination.

Because everything had gone smoothly we then had a couple of days in hand so we all agreed to offer our assistance to Alex, which was gratefully accepted. We ferried van loads of aid between the Mission and the rendezvous point with Ukrainian trucks. Sadly the time came to leave. Our hosts and the different nationalities that we had worked alongside were just wonderful caring people, concerned for the wellbeing of the ordinary people fleeing their homeland.

We finally arrived back at Shepton Beauchamp, late afternoon on Tuesday the 15th of March, mission completed.

I would just like to point out that the success of what had been achieved over the two weeks was the direct result of every single volunteer, every single donation, and every small business that helped and contributed to the collection and distribution of aid for the people of Ukraine. As a final thought let's not forget the people of Ukraine, and let's hope that one day, they can return to their homeland, reunite with their families and return to a life in peace.

To every single person that contributed to "Somerset Support for Ukraine," I sincerely thank you. Your kindness will never be forgotten and warm wishes to you all.

Seavington's Craft Brewery

The Editor

The small band of regulars who have a pint or two at The Volunteer will be aware that the best selling 'Tornado' is brewed on the premises. Only the most observant passer-by will notice the description "Brewhouse" below The Volunteer on the sign outside. Yet the village is indeed home to its own craft brewer, Colin Turner. I was recently lucky to be given a crash introduction to brewing by Colin and also a tour of the brewery at the back of The Volunteer.

On the face of it, brewing is a simple process involving just four ingredients; water, malt, yeast and hops. However, I have come to learn that there is a lot more to brewing than meets the eye. It is part science and part art, both of which Colin has refined through nearly twelve years of trial and occasional errors.

It is fortuitous, from a brewer's perspective, that the water supplied to the Seavingtons is quite hard. Alkaline hard water containing lots of calcium and magnesium is generally considered to create hoppier flavours and darker profiles in beer. The mineral content also helps support healthy fermentation.

The malt (malted barley) Colin uses is supplied by the only remaining independent maltster in the South of England. Warminster Maltings employ the traditional floor malting process. Wetted barley is spread on a slate floor and continuously turned by hand whilst the germination process starts, converting starch to sugar. At the point where the new root just starts to appear green the malt is transferred for roasting to stop the germination. The degree of roasting will impact on the colour of the resulting beer.

Colin buys the malt in a milled form, known as grist, to which he adds water and heats to 65 degrees to extract the sugars and proteins. The liquor is then drained and the remaining solids washed through to extract residual sugar.

Hops are added to impart aroma, bitterness and flavour to the brew. The wort (liquor) is then boiled to arrest enzyme activity and to obtain the bitterness value of added hops. There is a huge variety of hops, each with its own characteristics. Part of the brewer's art is mastering which hops to add and how much. Only small quantities of hops are required. It was interesting to learn that Colin grows some of his own hops.

The wort is then cooled and transferred to a fermenter to which a brewer's yeast is added. Fermentation can take anything from 5 days to a few weeks depending on the beer. At the end of fermentation the beer is allowed to clear naturally. By not using isinglass (fish based

finings) the beers are vegan friendly. Neither is it filtered, as is the case with large commercial brewers. A slight haziness is often a characteristic of a craft beer.

Colin stores and conditions the finished products in 9 gallon casks. At present he has 'Tornado' and 'Dark Cloud' on tap in The Volunteer. I was lucky to be the first to sample a new pale ale, which I think will make a great summer beer. It is light, refreshing and has slight fruity notes.

The trip out to the back of pub was an eye opener. Colin is serious about brewing and is professionally equipped right from the 22kVa Aggreko generator used to provide power for the heating and boiling stages through to all the stainless steel vessels and pipework.

The name Windy Brewery stems from the appalling weather during the construction of the brewhouse back in 2010/11 when a cold wind blew incessantly through the alley at the side of the pub.

Whether you are new to village or maybe just haven't been to The Volunteer for a while it is well worth a visit to sample the beer. If Colin is around I am sure he will be only too pleased to talk about the brewery. He and Ruth made me very welcome and I thank both of them for their time.

Concert at St Mary's Church

Last year we set up a group called "The Friends of St Mary's", and we are planning a very special concert in the church, by Jonathan Delbridge. He is a very well known pianist and organist, who lives locally. It will be in aid of The Churches Conservation Trust, who look after the church.

The concert is on Saturday, May 21st, at 3pm. Tickets will be £10, and you will be offered a free cup or tea or coffee and a piece of cake at the end of the concert. We have arranged to hire a grand piano, and Petherton Scouts will be providing a toilet.

We plan to have a raffle with just a few really nice prizes. One will be a short break at a holiday cottage in Devon. If you have anything you could offer as a prize, please let us know. Also, if you would be prepared to make a cake for the refreshments we would love to hear from you.

The programme will include Wedding Day at Trolldhaugen by Grieg, Clair de lune by Debussy, Fantaisie-Improvisation by Chopin and Jonathan's own Tango in A minor.

Tickets will be obtainable from: N and D News in South Petherton and Seavington Community Shop, from mid April. Also from Helen Beaufof, E: helenbeaufof@outlook.com

Is the future electric?

J. M. Mills

It was with great interest that I read Seavington Strollers' piece in the February edition of the News ('Tomorrow's World Today'). There the writer aired concerns about the increasing popularity of Electric Vehicle (EV) ownership and incidentally pointed out a common problem with 'good ideas' - that is if you live in the countryside and not in a town, your needs are different, and eco-fixes sometimes don't work.

Despite Stroller's concerns I believe that EVs are essentially a 'good idea'. Let's not get into the question of where the electricity comes from here, but it is a truth that emissions from all petrol and diesel engines need to be reduced drastically; and sooner rather than later if anything like a Zero Carbon situation is to be achieved. Stroller pointed out that swapping car-for-car to EVs would not solve the problem. However, if you combine EV's with a good public transport system and also with car share schemes the change could work very well. This kind of joined-up plan could see a huge reduction in individual car ownership and carbon emissions. A car share scheme might not be for everyone, but I have seen several and used one scheme that worked very well. A car share or car club need not be a complicated thing. It might not work for everyone, but perhaps a few neighbours who use their cars only a few times a week could get together and share a car? It could save car tax, MoT drama, and pressure on parking spaces! Those cars could of course be electric, and tonnes of carbon could be saved quite simply.

Seavington Stroller highlighted another hitch to electric vehicle use/ownership in the village. Not all of us have a driveway where we can park a car for recharging. Interestingly, following the printing of that article our Parish Council considered a proposal by the CLT which could see a Pay-As-You-Go Charging Point installed, possibly in the village hall car park. A Public Charging Point would go a long way to solving the no-driveway problem; especially for those who use their cars infrequently and only for short distances. I understand the Parish Council suggested that they should wait and see how EV ownership and use progresses before giving such a plan the go-ahead.

It is of course ironic that soon after that meeting the government announced that train fares would go up, again. And days later War in Ukraine caused fuel prices to start to increase alarmingly! And they are still rising (at time of writing 13th March average price petrol : £1.63, diesel £1.73)..... Hopefully it will have stabilised before you read this.

Train and bus fares definitely need to be more affordable to get us out of our cars. But maybe soaring petrol and diesel prices will stop us driving so much and nudge us into planning our journeys a bit better so we maximise the things we do on one journey. Maybe some might even

establish small car share schemes. So perhaps electric cars could be the answer sooner than we thought? Perhaps a public charging point in the village will also make sense sooner than thought too? And finally I expect there are car designers working on making a 'noise' for electric vehicles to alert cyclists and pedestrians like The Seavington Stroller - the ultimate low carbon travellers.

Seavington School Days

Andrew Gillard

My memories of growing up in Seavington start with my time at Seavington School. I was one of the last children to attend the school when it closed in 1968. At that time there were only 11 children at the school between the ages of 6 and 10 and 5 of us were related, either brother and sister or cousins.

Our teacher was a lady called Mrs Cheek who lived in Curry Rivel. Indeed she was the only teacher and a very easy going lady. There was no need for school meals as we all rode our bikes home for dinner then back for afternoon lessons. Anytime that there was a school trip we would all go in 2 or 3 cars.

If someone in the village died and the funeral was taking place at St Michaels in the afternoon we were all allowed to go home early. Not sure if this was as a mark of respect or just to make sure it was quiet at the school. Either way, we never complained.

When the village school closed we all went to other schools in Ilminster. The boys went to Ilminster Boys School with a head teacher called Mr Wade. The school was next to Swanmead School and is now a further education center. The girls went to Ilminster Girls School in North Street. We all went on the school bus, a big change for all of us from our previous time at Seavington School.

Attending Sunday school at the Methodist Chapel was another weekly event from 11 am until 12 with a man called Harry Lukins who lived in Merriott near Crewkerne. Once a year we would all go on a bus trip to Weymouth with our parents and anyone else that wanted to go.

In the summer holidays 3 of us boys, Martin Dew, Ian Dark and myself would help at Manor Farm to bring in the small bales of straw to be stacked in the barns for Mr Madge(Richard) to use in the winter for the cows. I didn't think at that time that in the future I would end up working on the farm for 44 years from when I left school at the age of 16 until 2 years ago when I decided to retire.

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

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

This year there will be a Rally Competition starting on **22nd / 23rd April** at our very own Seavington playing field.

Please feel free to come and have a look, ask any questions or just have a chat. Rally people are very friendly and they all like talking about their dogs.

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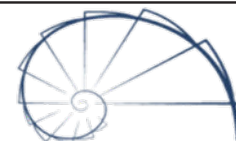
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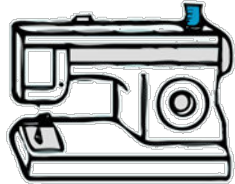


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