

# THE SEAVINGTONS' NEWS

**December 2022**



Are you affected by the cost of living crisis? See page 1  
Remember your faithful friend this Xmas. See page 16

## 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](http://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

Hardly a day goes by without reports on TV, in the papers and on-line about the impact of rampant food inflation, soaring fuel prices and rapidly increasing interest rates on whole sections of society. However, it is evident that it is the poorest who are being hardest hit.

By all appearances we are fortunate to live in a prosperous community and it could be assumed that everyone is well placed to weather the current economic storm. It would be all too easy to become complacent.

I don't know if there are any hardship cases in the Seavingtons but if there are, should we not as a community, do something to help? Until we know if there is a problem and the nature of the particular challenges being faced it is difficult to prescribe solutions. However, these might include provision of a warm space to meet, hot meals, help with groceries even establish a hardship fund. If you are facing hardship or you know of someone who is then please let me know in strictest confidence. That information will then be used on an anonymous basis to come up with ideas and ways to help. See contact details below.

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Over the months many readers will have followed the saga of a planning application for the construction of a 'Carnival Park' involving a large warehouse/industrial building on land between the Seavingtons and Kingstone. Indeed some of you may have submitted your own objections to this inappropriate development on agricultural land.

Approval by South Somerset Council has been widely contested all the way up to the High Court. You will be pleased to know that Mr Justice Chamberlain has now quashed the approval on the grounds of apparent bias on the part of two members of the Planning Committee.

This conflict of interest was known from the outset but was ignored when it came to the vote approving the application. Sadly, it is now the South Somerset council tax payers who will have to foot the bill for the QC to defend the case against them.

\*\*\*\*\*

If not too early I would like to wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New year.

## KEV'S CLEANING SERVICES LTD



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email: [kevscleaning@btinternet.com](mailto:kevscleaning@btinternet.com)

## JJK GUTTERING SERVICES LTD

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We can fix and replace any leaking guttering



Friendly team of reliable and trustworthy staff

## DON'T FORGET

The Latest Copy Date: 13<sup>th</sup> Dec. 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](mailto:news@theseavingtons.org)

## St Michael's Church Seavington

Sun 4 Dec	11.15 am	Café Church in Seavington Community Café. Start of Posada's journey around the village.
Sun 11 Dec	10.30 am	Holy Communion (CW)
Sat 17 Dec	4.30 pm	Christingle at <b>St Mary's Church</b> followed by refreshments
Sun 18 Dec	10.30 am	Holy Communion (CW)
Fri 23 Dec	tbc	Carol Service at St Michael's
Sun 25 Dec	10.30 am	Christmas Day. Holy Communion (CW)
Sun 1 Jan	11.15 am	New Year's Day. Café Church in Seavington Community Café

On the first three Mondays in December St Michael's Church will be open at 8.00 am each day for Morning Prayer

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

Rector for Seavington: Rev Tracey Hallett

M: 07854 489753 E: tracey.hallett@southpethertonbenefice.org

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

## The Seavingtons' Weather in October

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

### Temperature

Average Minimum	9.84°C	9.61°C
Average Maximum	17.20°C	15.87°C
Mean	13.52°C	12.74°C

### Rainfall

Monthly Total	115.3mm (4.61")	180.9mm (7.24")
Total for Year	527.8mm (21.11")	603.3 mm (31.37")

Average annual rainfall for the Seavingtons is around 800mm (32"). 21<sup>st</sup> October was the wettest day with 23.0mm of rain. Rainfall is heading towards the annual average but the weather overall was nowhere near as wet as the previous year.

## Village Diary - Forthcoming Events

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

Sat 3 Dec	10.45 am -12.45	Singing Workshop with the Wessex Women's Choir. Non-members welcome. £5 pp including refreshments. Contact: Louise 01460 234536
Sun 4 Dec	11.15 am	Café Church in the village café
Tues 13 Dec	6.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting - café
Wed 14 Dec	6.30 pm	Volunteer Inn - Christmas Quiz. Proceeds to be donated to St Michael's Church. 6.30 pm Supper £10. Quiz starts 8.00 pm £2pp Max 6 / team Booking essential. T: 01460 240126
Sat 17 Dec	9.00 am	Just a Brisk Walk - start Hall car park. Duration: about an hour returning to the car park. Contact: Matthew Towill E: towill916@btinternet.com
Wed 21 Dec	10.30 am	Village Get2gether - all welcome. Café Contact Gill Beveridge 01460 242828

### Events nearby

Early Dec	7.30 pm	Family Pantomime - Aladdin Warehouse Theatre, Ilminster 1,2,3 and 8,9,10 December 7.30pm Additional matinée 2.30 pm Sat 3 Dec Tickets £12 (£6 child) available from: www.warehousetheatre.org.uk
Wed 7 Dec	6.45 pm	Rotary Grand Xmas Quiz. Funds raised for Pakistan Flood Relief. Shrubbery Hotel, Ilminster Quiz starts 7.15 pm £2.50 per person Max 4 / team Contact Ken Dewsbury 01460 241155
Fri 16 Dec	7.30pm	Christmas Concert by the South Somerset Community Choir and the Ilminster Belles. St Peter and St Paul Church, South Petherton. Tickets £5 available from: info@jonathandelbridge.com

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.

## Village Diary - Regular Events

### Evolve Fitness

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

### Yoga and Mindfulness Classes

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

### HEC (Home Education)

Fridays 10.45-15.30 HEC Contact: Jenn Hodge 01460 510042

**Tai Chi** - 10.00am -11.30 am every Thursday. Call Age UK 01823 345626 for more information and to book a place.

## Seavingtons' News Distribution

Around 320 copies of The Seavingtons News are printed each month. A copy is delivered to each household in the two parishes free of charge and additional copies are available to pick up in the Millennium Hall, Shop, The Volunteer and Shepton Beauchamp Shop.

The current month's edition and archive copies can be found on-line through the village website: [www.the-seavingtons.org](http://www.the-seavingtons.org), then click on "Village Organisations", "The Seavingtons News" and download a copy onto your device.

If all of that sounds a bit complicated a pdf copy can be e-mailed direct to your e-mail address. Free of charge to villagers or £5 per year for family, friends and former residents living elsewhere.

Alternatively, a hard copy can be posted each month for £15 a year.

Send requests + addresses to the Editor: [news@theseavingtons.org](mailto:news@theseavingtons.org)

## Village Voice - letters to the Editor

Dear Sir.

I expect some, like myself, will have found the loss of yet another tree in the village disappointing. The Cherry tree which stood near the small bridge and Rook's Meade Lane, like the large specimen in the children's play area before it, has gone.

By coincidence whilst I was standing by what remained of the tree, a pickup truck arrived, parked, and a chainsaw wielding "Tree Services" operator emerged to finish the job. While I had the opportunity, I asked him why it had been felled, to which he replied "it had reached the end of its useful life".

I've no idea who made that decision but I'm sure the tree, if it had a voice, would disagree. When I then asked if a replacement was planned, he said that a Weeping Willow would be planted as it will be next to water and would be a pretty sight. In my opinion that species would be a very poor choice owing to its large leaf canopy, shallow disruptive root system and non-native status. In any case a replacement doesn't add to the local tree population and will take at least a decade to reach full maturity, something that may not have been considered.

Alan Stewart  
7 The Pheasant

*As Editor, I have made some enquiries and I can respond to the points Alan has made. The decision to fell both trees was taken, more in sorrow than in anger, by the Parish Council to protect the general public. The ash tree in the children's playground was suffering from ash dieback. A sizeable limb had already fallen in only moderately windy conditions and it was feared there was a real risk to children in the playground. When the tree was cut up the extent of the disease was apparent. It was a similar story with the cherry tree which was suffering brown rot. The signs of a sick tree were evident in the spring when the tree hardly flowered, its foliage was sparse and its leaves had died and fallen prematurely before Autumn had commenced. No decision has yet been taken about a replacement but I am assured it will **not** be a willow.*

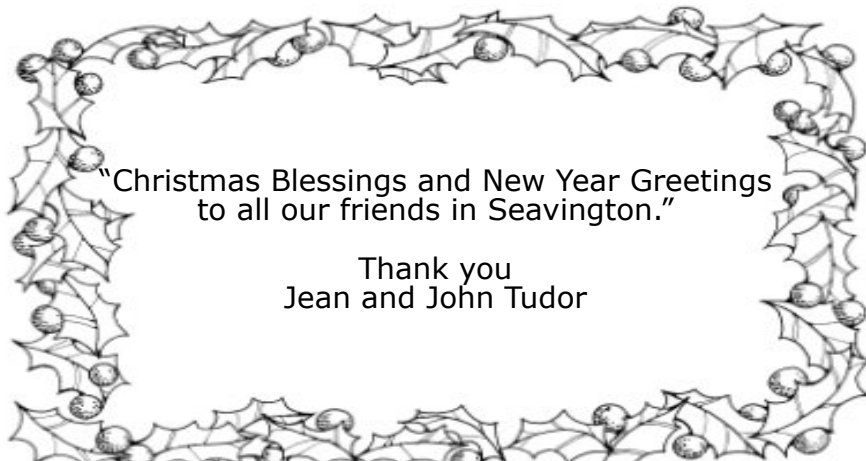
Stephen Morris

*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.*

## Smile!

The award for the funniest joke at the 2022 Edinburgh Fringe went to Masai Graham from Birmingham: "I tried to steal spaghetti from a shop but the female security guard saw me and I couldn't get pasta"

## Christmas Greetings



## Local Walks

Over the past year a number of hand drawn maps, showing local walks, have been published in the News. There were four in total:

- 1 - Meade Meander
- 2 - Up Easterdown
- 3 - Chapels and Churches
- 4 - Fosse Way Loop

If you would like copies of these annotated maps, along with any explanatory articles, just e-mail the Editor ([news@theseavingtons.org](mailto:news@theseavingtons.org))

## Village Mart

### FOR SALE

#### Shetland folding electric bike - £200 ONO.

In excellent condition, only 7years old (current retail value from new over £1,300).

- Fully folding - ideal for any campervan/caravan enthusiasts!
- 'Plush' saddle - very comfortable
- Battery with charger included (range - up to 20miles)
- Lights included
- Mud guards - front & back.
- Step-through frame
- New red panniers included.

The reason for sale is that the current owner has bought a new bike. If interested contact: Jo Culham 01460 241555. The Barn, Water Street, Seavington St. Mary,

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



## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> December**  
**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**

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

## Notes from the Parish Council

*Karen Buckley - clerkseavingtonparishcouncil.org.uk*

This month the Parish Council said farewell to Councillors Matt Harley and Jeff Booker who have resigned. We thank them for their work and wish them well.

Councillor Andrew Doble has been elected as Chairman of the Parish Council.

There are now three vacancies on the Parish Council. Why not come along to a meeting and see what we do. If you are interested in becoming a Councillor, please email me at [clerk@seavingtonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@seavingtonparishcouncil.org.uk)

There is a suggestion box in the Village Shop. Please feel free to post any concerns, questions, or requests to the Parish Council. We can then discuss them at the next Parish Council Meeting, which you are welcome to attend. Alternatively the Clerk can e-mail you a response. If you would rather e-mail a Councillor, all contact details are on The Seavingtons' website.

The Parish Council are currently busy preparing next year's budget, which will be used to set the precept at their December meeting.

The artwork is being created by Councillor Doble for a new footpath interpretation panel: this will be located by the playing fields. It will be A1 in size and will show all the footpaths and permissive paths within the village, as well as having information on local wildlife.

The first stage of tree works has now been completed and a tree inspection has been conducted on the trees around the playing fields. When the resultant report is received, it will show which trees need urgent attention, work that will need to be completed in the future and the trees that require no attention. Future inspections will be conducted annually.

The Parish Council have put on hold setting up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in the village. Once the Parish Council has full membership, this will be reviewed. In the meantime, if you are a victim of crime or see something suspicious, please call 101. To warn other villagers, please post your concerns on The Seavingtons Facebook page.

It was agreed by the Parish Council at the November meeting, that work to restore the War Memorial should go ahead. We look forward to seeing the finished result.

The date of the next Parish Council meeting is one week earlier on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December in the Village Shop/Café at 6.30pm.

## Community Land Trust

*Louise Layzell - [clt@theseavingtons.org](mailto:clt@theseavingtons.org)*

Having recently agreed to join the Board of the above and attended my first meeting I came away with the responsibility of reporting via the Seavington News. I can report that the meeting did have elements of The Vicar of Dibley, but don't they all?

Seriously, as this is my first report I thought that I would commence by reminding everyone of the purpose and history of the Trust. Its purpose is to support projects that improve the physical, social, and economic infrastructure of the community. Income is generated from the rents of the three properties gifted to the village when Falcon Close was developed. Projects may be supported either in the form of a grant or a donation.

You may become a member of the CLT by purchasing £1 shares, which will entitle you to become part of the decision-making process in connection with the management of the houses.. Only Members can join the Board of Directors who take on the responsibility of the day-to-day management and letting of the properties.

We are in the process of updating the contact list of all Members to enable them to receive appropriate information and notification of the AGM. If you are in contact with Members who have left the village please ask them to let us have their up-to-date contact details (e-mail addresses).

In addition to the usual business matters and review of a grant application, at the meeting in November, the Members of the Board discussed the frontage at Falcon Close. They acknowledged the tremendous efforts, to date, of various individuals and groups within the village and concluded that, having responsibility for three of the properties, they would be pleased to support the efforts of the Falcon Close residents to resolve the frontage issue. The Members of the Board also formally agreed to gift a donation to support the overhaul of the defibrillator located outside of the shop.

Grant application and membership forms may be downloaded at <https://www.theseavingtons.org/community-land-trust> .

### Cleaner looking for work

Olena is a Ukranian Refugee and the best cleaner I have ever had! She is hard-working, reliable and loves to iron! Her English is good. She charges £12 per hour.

Olena lives in South Petherton and would need to be collected and taken home at the end of her stint.

If you are interested please call Elaine Morris: 01460 242058



## Over the Counter

Vicky Rahilly (*vickyrahilly30@gmail.com*)

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our customers!  
Thank you for your continued support throughout 2022.**

### Limited spaces for Christmas lunches

Don't miss out- a few spaces remain for Christmas lunch in the cafe on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> December. Traditional or vegetarian options for a 2 or 3 course lunch and complimentary tea and coffee. Please contact the cafe for more information and to pre-order and book. £10 deposit required. Happy Christmas from Jane and the team!

Over the Christmas break there will be a reduced service in the cafe. Please see the Christmas opening hours for details. Come and see us for a bacon butty with tea/coffee (£5.50) or teacake and tea/coffee (£4.00). We would love to see you.

### Christmas goodies

Our Christmas table is still well stocked with plenty of lovely gifts and food. We also have stocking fillers for under £2 and an extensive range of Christmas cards and gift wrap for all budgets.

Sarah Gooch of Sunnyside Glass has supplied us with some beautiful glass hanging decorations and tea light holders and Emma Carter of Pom Pom Love has pom pom decorations on sale (sprouts, Christmas puddings and Gonks). Two local crafters providing something a bit different and special for any Christmas display. Alternatively, why not treat yourself to a stunning unique felted picture by Carol Talbot. These are still on display on the cafe walls.

### Pre-order delicious local fresh fruit and veg for Christmas!

After the success of the pre-order service last year we have reintroduced it. Order forms are now available in the shop; simply complete and submit them to us by 1pm on 12<sup>th</sup> December (for dairy) and 1pm on 19<sup>th</sup> December (for fruit and vegetables). Orders to be collected from the shop on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

### Raffle

Have you purchased your raffle tickets yet? Tickets are selling well (£1 per ticket) with some fabulous prizes on offer including a luxury box of wine and a tour of the Ariel Motor Factory. All the proceeds go back into the community shop and cafe so please support us if you can. We would also welcome any good quality special items which could be donated to the prize draw. Thank you.

### Father Christmas is coming!

A reminder that Father Christmas will be dropping by the shop on 10<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm. The Christmas raffle will be drawn from 2.30pm. Hot drinks, mulled wine and festive nibbles will be served. Come and celebrate with us!



## Christmas and New Year Opening Times

### Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Eve

Shop: 08.30-14.30 Café: 08.30-12.30 Last orders 12.00

### Monday 26<sup>th</sup> December - Boxing Day

Shop: Closed Café: Closed

### Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> December

Shop: Closed Café: Closed

### Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> December

Shop: 8.30-16.00 Café: 09.30-12.30 Bacon rolls, tea & cakes only

### Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> December

Shop: 08.30-16.00 Café: 09.30-12.30 Bacon rolls, tea & cakes only

### Friday 30<sup>th</sup> December

Shop: 08.30-16.00 Café: 09.30-12.30 Bacon rolls, tea & cakes only

### Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> December

Shop: 08.30-14.30 Café: 09.30-12.30 Bacon rolls, tea & cakes only

### Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January

Shop: 08.30-13.30 Café: 09.30-12.30 Bacon rolls, tea & cakes only

## Festive Waste Collections

There will be no collections on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> December and Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January, so pick ups have been rescheduled one day later ie on Tuesday.

There will be no garden waste collections over the two week festive period. Normal collections will resume on Monday 9 January.

The local recycling sites will operate as usual but will be closed on 25/26<sup>th</sup> December and 1 January. The Crewkerne site will be open with an additional day on Tuesday 27 December.

# Pause, Reflect and Remember

*Reverend Tracey Hallett*

Pause, Reflect & Remember! That was this year's strapline for the Royal British Legion Remembrance Day appeal. And that is exactly what we did in our Benefice, I am so thankful to each of you who gave your time to attend one of the Remembrance services.

For the Church, November is traditionally a time of deep reflection and a special time of year where we celebrate the Saints, those who have gone before us, and All Souls where we give thanks for loved ones who have died. It was beautiful to see the Remembrance prayer trees placed in St Peter and St Pauls and St Michael's take on a life of their own. I was delighted to welcome so many people to reflective services as we paused, prayed, and remembered together. **For those who find Christmas difficult we are holding a special service 'The Darkest Night' at 5pm on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December (St Peter & St Paul's). This will be a quiet and reflective service to remind you that you are not alone this Christmas.**

And now that we find ourselves in the season of Advent, have any of you taken time to pause each day? My top tip is to take ten minutes each day to reflect in candlelight or pray. I am sure this will help to enrich our appreciation of the season and to bring some calm before we embrace the many Christmas traditions that we share to celebrate the Birth of Jesus.

The Church is a sacred space, and I so often question how can we help others to meet with God? In rural communities, churches often have personal significance even for those who don't come to services often. Each Church in our Benefice; St Peter & St Paul's, St Michael's, St Mary's, and St James's all offer a place of sanctuary for busy, stressed and anxious people. We can offer space and stillness, and a perspective that our present culture cannot give. Why not pop-in in between the many Christmas activities and services this year and take some time to enjoy the sacred space and find some stillness.

It has truly been a wonderful year of firsts for me as your Rector and I feel as grateful as ever to be here with you. I am excited for my first Christmas and look forward to each of the Churches offering the warmth and hospitality that comes from sharing God's love in our communities. I cannot wait to see each Church full of life, joy and celebration. Carols, Christingle and nativity are my favourite services, because for me it is about connection. We connect with each other as we together connect with the nativity story and God connects with us. As we hold our Christingles, we are people from all walks of life, a community together, reflecting on Jesus as the light of the world and hope for the world.

And so, this year I am not dreaming of a white Christmas, but I am dreaming of a connected Christmas, a rainbow Christmas, where we can see and enjoy all the different colours, and where somewhere in the middle of it we can stop for a moment and take it all in. I have a sense,

that moment of awe might even be found amid chaos as the lights are switched off and the glow of a Church full of Christingle candles, held in the many precious hands that form our community are connected by awe and wonder, as we are in the presence of God who loves us so much that he gave his only Son. Wishing you all a wonderful, joy-filled and peaceful Christmas. And so, to close with a prayer:

*Come, Lord Jesus.  
Visit us now as we wait for your coming.  
May we watch with anticipation,  
as all creation strains towards your coming in glory.  
Give us courage to live differently,  
to love mercy and to walk humbly with you.  
Fill us afresh with your hope,  
because the Saviour is  
Drawing near.*

With Every Blessing Rev Tracey

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## St Mary's Church

*Helen Beaufoy - Tower Captain*

St Mary's is now being left unlocked, so that everyone is able to come in and visit this beautiful church without having to forage for the keys. It's been open for a few weeks, and already there have been more visitors than before.

The bellringers have been busy, ringing Quarter Peals which are quite technically involved, stretching them to the limit! The advantage of these is that they are generally excellent to hear, and also they bring in a small income for the church.

In addition, we tolled the Tenor 96 times for The Queen's funeral, and recently we rang "open in thanksgiving" on Remembrance Day for the sacrifices made by the forces and we tolled the Tenor during the two minutes' silence. These are all age-old traditions in ringing circles, and "the right thing to do". Ringers are very keen on keeping these traditions alive.

Our latest contribution to St Mary's is a bookstall. As ringers we go to churches all around the country, and we often find a bookstall where we can stock up on our reading material. This made us think that perhaps if we had one in St Mary's it would generate a bit more much-needed income for the church. The Friday Band ringers have provided enough books to fill a whole pew! We have authors such as Nora Roberts, P.D. James, Dick Francis, Jonas Jonasson, Jarlan Coben, Lee Child, ... loads more! Please call in to the church and take your pick. They are 50 pence each. If you have any more books that you would like to donate please take them in - we have plenty more pews!!



## Seavington Gardening Club

Kate Mulligan (01460 242023)



## Operation Christmas Child

### Gardeners' Question Time - 27th October

This was the last of our 40th Anniversary events, reflecting the original one held in the 1980s. The panel of judges this time was Mike Burke, Mickey Little, Christine Brain and Sally Nex. They expertly covered a wide range of questions from the best ways to grow flowers, shrubs, vegetables and bulbs to tackling the worst of pests and weeds. Discussion naturally turned to using peat free compost and how to enhance the soil to get the most from your plot.

A very enjoyable, entertaining and informative evening with a chance to put our expert panel on the spot.

### Seasonal Wreath Making - 10th November

A demonstration by Holly-Jane Harris from Frogmary Green Flower Shop. Although this was titled as "seasonal wreath making" Holly-Jane showed us that her techniques could be used at any time of the year for displays and bouquets for any occasion.

There were useful tips on extending the life of the flowers to maintain a beautiful arrangement for as long as possible as well as using dried flowers and foliage for simple displays around the house.

Mulled wine and mince pies served at the start made the whole event feel very festive. Many thanks to Glynis for the much appreciated mince pies.

The last Flower of the Month Competition was held before the points were totalled up for the whole year. The overall winner was Ann Clifford who was awarded the Irene Williams Memorial Plate. Second place went to Jenny Deubert and joint third place went to Elizabeth Forrester and Jennie Reid.

### Next Meeting

Thursday 8th December at Dillington House for our Christmas Lunch. Members only - arrival at mid-day to start at 12.30. Booking forms and menu choice should be returned to Jo asap.

Thursday 12th January 2023 at the Millennium Hall - a talk by Ben Candlin on "UK Subtropical Gardening". Doors open 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. Refreshments will be served - visitors £2 payable at the door.

Reminder: subscriptions will be due and Flower of the Month Competition begins a new run.

For further information please contact Jo Culham - tel 01460 241555

A VERY big thank you to everyone who participated in Operation Christmas Child this year by filling boxes, knitting hats, mittens and puppets, making shoe bags, supplying tennis balls and other items or paying for boxes to be filled.

Thanks to you, over 120 shoeboxes have been sent from this benefice to needy children overseas.

Several new people, who used to support Operation Christmas Child, have moved into the Seavingtons recently and helped raise the number from Seavington to 30. Plus, boxes this year were filled by the South Petherton Infant School and the South Petherton Explorer Scouts.

I will let you know where the boxes have been sent once I hear back from Samaritan's Purse but, I understand, they may be concentrating these on the Ukraine and Ukrainian refugee areas.

And now a plea! We need to start planning NOW for Operation Christmas Child 2023. So, if anyone can make or supply material for cloth bags, knit hats, mittens and puppets, etc. their contribution will be greatly appreciated.

Thanks again for your continued support.

**Gill Beveridge**

Tel: 242828

### Stamps wanted for Charity

Thank you for the stamps you have kindly collected in the past.

The Mothers' Union will use the proceeds from their sale to help support families in this country and overseas. More stamps are always needed, especially foreign and commemorative issues, and these can be left at:

Seavington  
The Community Shop

or delivered to  
Gill Beveridge, Whiteridge, Upton Lane, Seavington TA19 0PZ

## Christmas Cheer

*Ian Gibson*

I am hoping for a white Christmas....  
But if the white runs out I'll change to red...

The Christmas mantra for the season "oh what extra should I buy, if George is coming. He's a wine expert so we should buy something expensive!!"

My response to people who say they must spend a lot of money on wine is WHY?

I buy all the wine we drink, and with the size of family we have, then it's very good value to buy from the village community stores especially as a discount is offered on the purchase of six bottles or more \*.

At present we have wines for every taste: Chilean Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot for less than £6 per bottle. A rich fruity set of wines much loved and very consistent in type and character. Both go well with turkey! For those who like a slightly more full-bodied wine then the Bin 61 Shiraz is ideal – again less than £7 per bottle. Or, perhaps a superb Argentinian Malbec, rich in fruit flavours with a deep red colour.

The New Zealand Secretary Bird range has always been a favourite in the store. NZ wines keep their consistency in quality and of course being southern hemisphere wines, we get the advantage in this country of early vintage and full-bodied wines, either white or red the Sauvignon Blanc and Merlot are well worth the £6.59 price tag.

There is also a full range of beers, ciders, soft drinks, and cans to suit all tastes and ages. Non-alcoholic beers and lagers are also available for those of us who must drive at this special time of the year.

What about before and after the meal? Well, a decent sparkling wine is always a good icebreaker. Prosecco is very good value and has a fruity and decent sparkle at a great price for under £10 per bottle. If you want champagne then do buy, but remember it can cost from about £25 and upwards.

After the repast, if you have room, well what about trying something different? Port and sherry are always good standbys as is Dessert wine but can be expensive. So, what about trying Marsala, made in a similar process as the port and sherry but only £10.60 a bottle? Try it and be surprised how much you get to like it!

What about mulled wine for the party nights? Well, try the recipe on page 22 or you can buy it ready-made (I prefer to make my own!)

DON'T forget that Santa likes a glass of whisky as he visits your home alongside the mince pie. Have a **winederful** time of the year.....

\* Buy any six bottles of wine and get a 10% discount - this offer does not apply to spirits, soft drinks, beer and cider.

## Sydney Vaux collection: an update

*Jane de Gruchy*

Sydney Vaux was a carpenter, builder, antiques dealer – and very keen amateur photographer. He lived at Jubilee Cottage, West Street, Seavington St Mary, and took photographs of virtually everybody and every interesting thing that happened in the Seavingtons in the 1910s. There are formal and splendidly relaxed photographs of local people; wedding photos; photographs that show rural life, such as haymaking and harvest-time; shots of the new church bells; and photos of the highlights of village life, including the annual Friendly Society parade and the celebrations for the 1911 Coronation of George V. There are about 700 photographs in his collection, which was discovered by Phil Nichols, brought back to Somerset in November 2021, and is now in the care of Somerset Archives and Local Studies.

Last month's issue mentioned the Sydney Vaux launch event, which happened on Friday 7 October. Phil Nichols and I were delighted to see so many people there, and I hope that you all found it interesting. For those of you who weren't able to get there, Phil will be giving the talk online on Friday 20 January at 10.30am as part of the Coffee Time Talks series. Tickets cost £5 (per computer, not per person) and can be bought at <https://swheritage.org.uk/events/sydney-vaux-2/> (or go to [www.swheritage.org.uk](http://www.swheritage.org.uk) then "What's On", and you'll see it there).

In the spring or summer, we are hoping to run a guided walk of the Seavingtons, looking at some of locations Sydney photographed. If you would like to put your name down to be contacted once we've firmed up the details, and haven't done so already, please email Jane at [somersetarchives@swheritage.org.uk](mailto:somersetarchives@swheritage.org.uk) or phone 01823 278805.

We are also trying to track down the gentleman from the launch event who kindly gave us a copy of a photo of the Scott family of Townsend. It was so busy at the end of the talk that we were unable to get this person's name. Phil Nichols would be most grateful if that person could contact him either via email at [barlands@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:barlands@hotmail.co.uk), or by phone on 07805 233248. We will be able to help with further photos of members of this family.

If you'd like to see if there are any photographs that interest you, you can read the descriptions in the Somerset archive catalogue, which you can find at [www.somerset-cat.swheritage.org.uk](http://www.somerset-cat.swheritage.org.uk) (or search for "Somerset Archive Catalogue") – look for collection **A/EWV**. You can see digital copies of the photographs at the Somerset Heritage Centre in Taunton. The photographs are all on glass plates, and each one has been expertly cleaned and repackaged. They are now being re-digitised at high resolution (as I write, we're about ⅓ of the way through them). After that, the collection will be re-sorted to make it easier to find your way around it. If you would like to know more, please get in touch with Jane or Phil – both would love to hear from you.

## Nostalgia 2

### *The Seavington Stroller*

In my early life, we always had cold and snowy winters. We walked to our village primary school, and at our mid morning break we were given a third of a pint bottle of milk, drunk through a straw. The milk was usually delivered early morning so that once break time came around the milk had frozen, pushing the foil cap off the top. We would then gather around a cast iron stove, the only means of heating the single large classroom, hoping to melt the milk to a drinkable liquid.

I clearly remember the very hard winters of intense cold and the deep snow in 47 and 63. In 63 the lanes to my home village were full of snow necessitating treks across open fields to reach our nearest town three miles way. I can still feel the bite of the freezing wind as we trudged head bent on our way to "big school" for over ten weeks, only missing a handful of days after further heavy falls of snow made the journey impassable and impossible. I can't recall schools closing as they do these days with what seems to be the merest hint of inclement weather.

Back then life seemed full of characters, we had Chalky White and Dusty Miller, Nobby Clarke and Dickie Bird, Chippy Smith was the village carpenter (and undertaker), the Irish were either Mick or Paddy, Jock came from Scotland, Taffy from Wales and the Frogs from France, not that I actually knew where France was. I don't recall anyone being upset by such names as they usually referred to themselves as such.

As children we were taught respect for our elders, being Mr or Mrs So and So, unless they were uncle or aunt, and we had many of such who were just neighbours and not blood related. Everyone looked out for everyone and our parents would be bound to be told if we had been misbehaving elsewhere in the village.

We were taught to take responsibility for our own action and well being. Many a child was told, "you should have known better" when trying to pass the blame onto something or someone else. However, we didn't blame others for not telling us that a fire would burn our fingers, that water could be dangerous or climbing trees could be accidents waiting to happen, so we didn't light fires, but learnt to swim in the river and became skilled climbers with balance and strength, trees in our minds becoming mountains to conquer.

The common land was the village back garden, children played on the heath and in the woods, without fear of strangers or safety; if there was a tree to be climbed, it had to be climbed. The time for returning home was marked by the passage of the sun and the striking of the church clock, not by a mobile phone.

The weather forecast was read in the skies, bad weather meant extra clothing, not staying home, and yes I am sure it snowed every year.

## Remember your Faithful Friend this Christmas

*Stan Charles-Jones*

Christmas may be a time to remember family and friends - but Dogs Trust Ilfracombe is also asking local dog owners to remember their four-legged friends this festive time, with a *Canine Care Card*.

The Canine Care Card is a free service, which helps to ensure your dog's future, in the event of you either passing away, receiving a life-changing diagnosis or moving into a care home. This can often be a great concern to some people, who perhaps do not have a family member or friend in a position to look after their dog, should the worst happen. Therefore, by signing up to the service, Dogs Trust can offer peace of mind, reassuring you that your faithful friend will be well cared for by the charity.

It is easy to sign up to the service, which simply asks for some information on your dog, including their likes and dislikes, as well as your dog's medical history and your vet details. It also asks for you to confirm who you would like as your Dog Guardian. This should be someone you trust, like a friend, family member, solicitor, neighbour or vet, who can sign over ownership of your dog to Dogs Trust on your behalf, should you become seriously ill or pass away.

You can register online by going to [www.dogstrust.org.uk](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk) and searching for 'Canine Care Card' - or if you do not have access to the internet, you can request a paper version of the application form. Once the form is submitted, Dogs Trust will then write to you, to confirm when your application has been processed.

Once signed up, should your card ever need to be activated, Dogs Trust will then arrange with your Dog Guardian for your dog to come into the rehoming centre or into foster care. With a team of vets, trainers and behaviourists on hand if needed, your dog will then be welcomed, loved and well cared for by the charity, who will work tirelessly to find a loving new home for your much-loved canine companion.

If you would like further information about the Canine Care Card, or to request a paper application form, please contact Dogs Trust Ilfracombe's Supporter Relations Officer, Stan Charles-Jones, at [Stanley.charlesjones@dogstrust.org.uk](mailto:Stanley.charlesjones@dogstrust.org.uk) or phone 01271 817716.

# Somerset Bus Partnership Welcomes Flat Rate Fare Proposals

Peter Travis

Somerset Bus Partnership welcomes the Government's plan to provide up to £60 million, to enable bus operators to cap single adult bus fares at £2. The £2 flat fare comes in from the beginning of January and will continue through to the end of to March 2023. Most bus operators are expected to adopt the scheme.

This means millions of people across England will save money, at a time when many households are suffering massive pressures from the rising cost of living. The move will help people travel for work, education, shopping and medical treatments and provide a much-needed saving in daily expenditure.



The current average single fare for a 3-mile journey is estimated at over £2.80, meaning that the new fare will save passengers almost 30% of the price every time they travel.

In addition, Somerset County Council currently plans to introduce a £1 single/ £2 return bus fare in Taunton, as part of its Bus Service Improvement Plan. Somerset Bus Partnership welcomes this initiative but emphasises the need to procure further funding to enable this flat rate fare to be extended across all of Somerset.

Somerset Bus Partnership Co-Chair, Peter Travis, said, "Bus usage declined in Somerset in the last decade, and even more so during the pandemic. We need initiatives like these to restore and improve passenger levels. Encouraging people to choose buses over cars helps to reduce carbon emissions. It is estimated that the Government's £60 million will reduce car journeys by at least 2 million and cut pollution and congestion for all of us."

Somerset Bus Partnership will continue to work closely with Somerset County Council to encourage bus use and ensure implementation of the Bus Service Improvement Plan across the county.

Contact us at: E - [somersetbuspartnership@gmail.com](mailto:somersetbuspartnership@gmail.com)  
W - [www.somersetbuspartnership.co.uk/](http://www.somersetbuspartnership.co.uk/)

And on Facebook: [Somerset-Bus-Partnership-105704811629827](https://www.facebook.com/Somerset-Bus-Partnership-105704811629827)

Peter Travis  
Co-Chair Somerset Bus Partnership

# Seavington Pond

Janet Kiddle

The carpark on the other side of the road from The Volunteer was once the duck pond which had other uses apart from keeping the ducks happy. In the 1800's flax was grown over a large area around the Seavingtons. When the flax was ready for harvest the plants were pulled up, roots and all, and laid on the surface of the soil to dry for a while.

Later the Flax was laid out as straight as possible in the village duck pond and left for at least two weeks, sometimes up to a month - I gather the smell was not pleasant - this was to assist in the removal of the central stalk in a process called 'retting'.

Then the flax fibre was woven into sailcloth which was delivered to Seavington House and taken to the north wing where there was a long room known as the Cloth Room; the pattern of the required sail was chalked onto the floor and pieces of the flax cloth cut to fit the pattern; it was then sewn together with waxed twine.

I wish I knew if the finished sail was then delivered by the family's horse and cart to Bridport.



## Waste Less Save More

The waste hierarchy has clear priorities: top of the list is reduce, next is reuse, then comes recycle. So recycling is good and Somerset's 56.2% recycle rate is excellent. But reuse is even better, and by preventing waste at source - reduce is best of all.

As this edition of the News is being delivered the Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP) 'Reduce Week' will be in progress, running from 21-27 November. Reducing the waste we make has many benefits, from saving money, materials, time and energy to cutting carbon and avoiding clutter and mess.

'Reduce Week' is highlighting the easy 'reduce' steps we can all take to save money and live better by cutting back on the tonne or so of rubbish and recycling each Somerset family creates every year. For more information visit [somersetwaste.gov.uk/reduce-week](http://somersetwaste.gov.uk/reduce-week).

The Partnership is interested in how you 'reduce'. They want your ideas on reducing waste, from tips on using food better to better festive giving and cutting back on packaging. E-mail suggestions to [recycle@somersetwaste.gov.uk](mailto:recycle@somersetwaste.gov.uk). Best ideas will go into a free prize draw for a refurbished tablet or laptop.

## Ian's Mulled Wine Recipe

### Ingredients

- 750ml bottle red wine
- 1 large cinnamon stick, or 2 small ones
- 2 star anise
- 4 cloves
- 2 strips lemon zest, pared using a vegetable peeler
- 4 tbsp caster sugar

### Method

- **STEP 1** Put the red wine, cinnamon, star anise, cloves, lemon zest and sugar in a large pan. Cook on a low heat for 10 mins.
- **STEP 2** Remove from the heat and cool, leaving to infuse for about 30 mins.
- **STEP 3** To serve, heat without boiling, stir in some sloe gin (optional - see tip below) and pour into mugs or heatproof glasses.

Add a full glass of sloe gin to the pan just before serving for a little extra punch.

## A REMINDER

### County Council Complaints

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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**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](mailto:lesley.burgess@st-margarets-hospice.org.uk); Tel: 0845 070 8910



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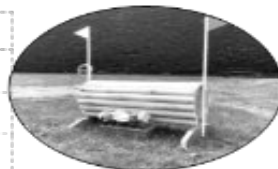
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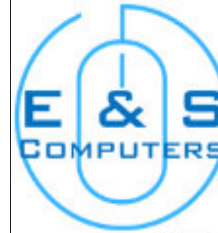
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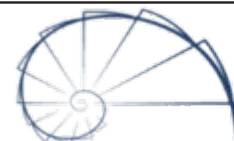
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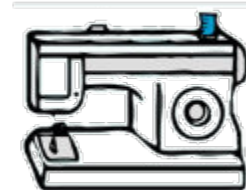


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# PLUMBING & HEATING

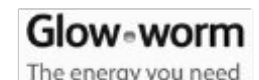
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