

THE SEAVINGTONS' NEWS

February 2022



Platinum Jubilee plans - Page 10

Notes from Venezuela - Page 21

<p>Large Garden</p> <p>Hopefully sunny but feel free to bring cushions and blankets just in case!</p> <p>Takeaways</p> <p>Sunday Roasts</p> <p>Daily Menu</p> <p>Snacks</p> <p>Please call us to hear our current opening times or book your takeaway or garden table</p>	<p>See our current Menu</p> <p>On our website www.newinn-ilminster.co.uk</p> <p>Or our Facebook page @newinnilminster</p> <p>Call us on 01460 52413</p> <p>Booking advisable</p> <p>We would love to see you soon</p> <p>Thank you and stay safe!</p> <p>New Inn Dowlish Wake TA19 0NZ</p> 
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The Seavingtons' News

Recently I received a promotional offer via 'snail mail' from Vodafone, my current broadband provider. As an existing customer they were offering me an upgrade to Superfast 1 with a download speed up to 38 Mbps. This seemed attractive given my current 14 Mbps, particularly since the offer was at a price a few pounds cheaper than I currently pay.

Following a series of frustrating calls via "press option 1, option 3 etc" Vodafone's offer had shrunk to a guaranteed download speed of 7.8 Mbps. So much for Superfast 1! Their promotional offer was not hard to decline. I then set about checking alternative providers including PlusNet and BT only to discover they could do no better.

This all prompted me to wonder why fibre to the premises had not arrived in Seavington. Over the past couple of years I have observed the lanes around us being closed whilst Gigaclear lay fibre optic cables to Lopen, Merriott, Hinton and Dowlish. Why not Seavington?

Why is speed important? Most households have multiple devices connected and that number is increasing all the time, including computers, televisions, home security, heating controls, lighting and even the dishwasher. The internet of things. Whatever speed or bandwidth you have has to be divided between all these devices. Capacity is the issue. Do you share my frustration? Would you be interested in connecting to a fibre service if it was available? Let me know.

This month's magazine is another bumper edition and I hope you will find interesting and informative articles to read. I am particularly pleased with the number of pieces I receive from readers, including two new contributors this month.

Editor

DON'T FORGET

The Latest Copy Date: 20th February for the next issue

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

St Michael's Church Seavington

Sun 6 Feb	10.30 am	Family Holy Communion Service (CW)
Sun 13 Feb	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist (CW)
Sun 20 Feb	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist (CW)
Sun 27 Feb	10.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP)

Anyone is welcome to attend subject to the normal social distancing and the use of a mask and the sanitiser provided. The Church will remain open at all times for private prayer. Tracey Hallett is available for pastoral needs

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 December

	<i>This Year - 2021</i>	<i>Last Year - 2020</i>
Temperature		
Average Minimum	5.65°C	8.10°C
Average Maximum	10.17°C	13.92°C
Mean	7.91°C	11.01°C
Rainfall		
Monthly Total	73.6 mm (2.94")	129.6 mm (5.18")
Total for Year	869.4 mm (34.78")	675.3 mm (27.01")

The dullest December for 65 years across the country with just 27 hours of sunshine, 38% less for this time of year. Source Met Office

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 3 Feb	7.30 pm	Village Meeting. All invited. See page 11
Thurs 10 Feb	7.30 pm	Gardening Club - all welcome. 'American Garden meets English Landscape' talk by Andrew Connell. Contact: Jo Culham 01460 241555
Tues 15 Feb	6.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting in the Café
Wed 16 Feb	10.30 am	Village Get2gether - all welcome. Café Contact Gill Beveridge 01460 242828
Wed 23 Feb	8.00 pm	Monthly Quiz - The Volunteer. Contact Ruth: 01460 240126

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

Mondays. 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

Tuesdays. 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

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.

Village Voice - letters to the Editor

Dear Mr Morris,

I welcome the fact that you stepped in to take over the role of Editor of the Seavingtons' News, after David Froome let it be known that he wished to step down from the role.

I also wish to express my gratitude to David Froome for his long period of service as the editor. I think he took on the editorial role around 2005? For a good few years he carefully edited a monthly contribution that I provided for the News. I am grateful for his professionalism and the friendship we formed during those years.

There is no doubt that David and his wife Jenny have done a great deal for our two villages and were the driving force behind starting the waste paper and cardboard monthly skip that financed the magazine production costs for many years. It was unfortunate this period started to come to an end once recycling became a weekly service undertaken by the County Council. Sadly this means the current editorial staff cannot take advantage of this system that worked so well.

I note that we seem to be at a cross road where many who have contributed their services within our community are reaching the age when for various reasons they now feel it is time to hand over responsibility. With this in mind I would like it to be known that I would be very grateful if a younger person would come forward and take over the responsibility of delivering the Seavingtons' News within the areas from the Cross Road at Upton lane and Water Street. The area starts with the cottage below the Volunteer and all of the other properties up to and within Davids Lane. Then on the opposite side of the main road from the top of School Lane back to the top of Water Street.

If someone comes forward and it helps them for the foreseeable future I am willing to continue taking care of delivering the magazines from my bungalow Hill View to Gummers Castle, providing the distribution folk are still willing to drop off four copies at Hill View?

With Best Wishes to those currently involved in the production and delivery of our magazine.

Robin Gilbert
Hill View, Seavington St Michael

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.

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.

For Sale:

Canon MP490 Colour Printer (incl new pack of ink) £25
Samsung 22 ins computer screen £25
Twin HiFi external computer speakers 12 watts £10
Wired keyboard and mouse £10

Tel: Roger 01460 249414

For Sale:

IKEA Sansa - cupboard / under shelf lights
3xG4 10W 12v lights, complete with transformer and cables
2 un-opened packs £10 each or £15 for both

Rhode Shuttle bike rack - suit estate car / hatchback £25

Aldi - Ferrex - 65W multi functional sharpener
Suitable for chisels, knives, drill bits
240v mains supply £5

Tel: Stephen 01460 242058

Job Vacancy

Part time cleaner required for the Seavington Millennium Hall

We are looking for a self-employed cleaner who is prepared to work flexibly for around 6 hrs per week spread over 3 visits, including Saturdays. Competitive hourly rate will be paid.

Please contact Andrew Doble E: spfa@theseavingtons.org

Seavington Villages Oil Delivery

(Nigel Key 01460 241540 oil@theseavingtons.org)

Those included in the December order will have received a note from our supplier that they will be sending future invoices by e-mail. I am not sure everybody will know this. I am happy to collect e-mail addresses and send them to Western Fuel. If you want to be included just e-mail me and I will do the rest for you.



Seavington Gardening Club

Kate Mulligan (01460 242023)



Thursday 13th January 2022

"Fruit Growing" by Sally Nex

Sally is one of our well known and popular speakers and in the space of one hour she managed to cover a wide range of topics related to growing fruit.

Whilst apples, pears and plums have remained firm favorites it is now possible to grow some rather more exotic fruits that you wouldn't have thought of. With advances in root stock development you do not even need a huge garden as some fruits can be grown in patio pots or on balconies if you do not have a garden.

Perhaps one point that sparked a lot of interest was the growing of damsons to make damson vodka or damson gin. Gone are the days of growing fruit just for jams or desserts!

Many thanks to Sally for a lively and inspiring talk.

Flower of the Month Competition

- 1st Jenny Deubert - Clematis Winter Beauty
- 2nd Elizabeth Forrest - Chaenomeles
- 3rd Anne Clifford - Snowdrop

Next Meeting

Thursday 10th February 2022 in the Millennium Hall a talk by Andrew Connell "American Garden Meets English Landscape". Andrew was Head Gardener during the transformation of the garden at the American Museum in Bath.

Doors open 7.00pm to start 7.30pm with refreshments to be served.

Flower of the Month Competition will be held.

Admission free to members and visitors £2 payable at the door. Reminder if you haven't already paid, subscriptions due £10 per person.

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

ELECTIONS FOR THE NEW UNITARY AUTHORITY AND TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILLORS

Pauline Parsons [parishcouncil@theseavingtons.org]

As you are all probably aware on the 5th May 2022 we will be electing Councillors for the new Unitary Authority – Somerset Council – which will come into being in May 2023.

As a result, it has been decided that Town and Parish Councils will hold their elections a year early.

I am not sure if all residents know that although the Parish Council sits as one – The Grouped Parish Council of Seavington St Mary and Seavington St Michael – each Parish has its own Councillors – four for St Mary and three for St Michael.

The Seavingtons have not had an election for Parish Councillors for some time now but I can remember that one year only St Mary had to have an election as there had been five nominations. St Michael did not need an election as only two nominations were received.

An election will have to take place if there are more nominations than the number of Councillors required. However, you will only be able to vote according to the Electoral Roll on which you are listed.

The boundary between St Mary and St Michael is not easy to understand but hopefully this may help. St Michael is the smaller of the two Parishes. The boundary runs from just east of Sunnyside Farm to just west of The Volunteer Inn – which includes David's Lane and School Lane. The boundary goes south down Water Street to Ile Bridge but only includes properties on the eastern side of Water Street. Properties on the western side are in St Mary ie Marle Ground, The Pheasant, etc. The boundary goes north from the Volunteer Inn up Upton Lane, meaning all properties in Upton Lane are in St Mary. Although the village entrance sign for St Michael is west of Falcon Close, in fact all properties on the Close and along the C5021 to Upton Lane are in St Mary. From Ile Bridge to Scotts Hill and all roads off are in St Mary. Hurcott is also in St Mary.

Check out which Electoral Roll you are on so you are not deprived of your democratic right to vote – should it be needed.

Notice of the elections will be posted no later than Monday 28 March. For anyone interested in standing as a candidate completed nomination forms need to be submitted by 4.00pm Tuesday 5 April.

Parish Council News

Pauline Parsons [parishcouncil@theseavingtons.org]

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

The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday 15th February 2022 - 6.30pm start in the Community Shop/Cafe

Community Speed Watch group. Training is to take place on 23rd January and teams will be up and running from 30th January. Teams of 3 will be out monitoring speeds along the C5021 on a regular basis at varying times during the day.

SID – Following concerns raised regarding the speed that some vehicles travel from St Mary along Water Street towards Ile Bridge one of the SIDs will be sited at Ile Bridge.

PLANNING –

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

Approved at an Area West [Informal] meeting held on 19th January, 2022. This has to go to the CEO of SSDC for final approval. If upheld this decision will have a serious detrimental effect on our community. The increased volume of traffic using the blatantly unsuitable access roads to the site will severely impact Road Safety throughout our villages not to mention the imposition of a huge industrial unit on our doorstep. It remains to be seen whether the Local Authority Planners are capable of enforcing the thirty-two Conditions attached to this Application. Seavington Parish Council will continue to support Kingstone Parish in getting this approval overturned

Application No 21/02878/S73A - New build at the top of School Lane. Retrospective Plans have been approved.

FALCON CLOSE – Frontage – Information has been received that the Developer now has all things in place for the footway to be completed and this should be within the first quarter of 2022. The Parish Council is trying to ascertain a firm confirmation of a start date.

VILLAGE FOOTPATHS – At the time of writing we are still waiting confirmation from The County Rights of Way Officer that the new operative has received training. A start date for work to be done in the village is still not known. Two minor repairs that need to be done have been indicated to the Parish Council – finger post by steps in

Longforward Lane and stile by 2 Southernaways. Both of these will be reported to the County Rights of Way Officer.

PARISH CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Parish Council has received some interest in the above post but the deadline for applications has been extended until 14th February 2022.

INCONSIDERATE PARKING

Recently residents who live close to the top of School Lane have received a letter from the Neighbourhood Police Team in connection with inconsiderate parking. Many residents who use School Lane will know that over the last few months it has not been residents that have been parking inconsiderately – it has in fact been the workers on the new development site. The Parish Council has raised this with the owner/ developer.

However, we now think it is time to remind everyone who cannot park within their own property, or close to it, to be aware of where they are parking and not to cause difficulties for other residents who are entering or exiting their own property. Highway Code Guidance – Rule 242 – *You must not leave your vehicle or trailer in a dangerous position or where it causes any unnecessary obstruction of the road. Rule 243 Do not stop or Park opposite or within 10 meters (32feet) of a junction except in an authorised parking space.*

PRECEPT FOR 2022-2023 – Councillors voted for a larger increase than usual mainly due to expenses needed in connection with a Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

Dog Mess Plea

Extract from The Times 20 January

“Dog walkers are being urged to pick up their pets’ mess after a parasite carried in the faeces caused almost half a herd of pregnant cattle in the New Forest to lose their calves.

Tom Gould, a New Forest commoner, turned out 38 cattle to graze common land in the National Park but 18 were found to have lost their calves after they were infected by neospora, a bovine parasite found in dog excrement.

The parasite can survive in the soil for weeks if dog faeces are not picked up immediately and can make cows much more likely to abort. It can also affect future pregnancies.”

This salutary tale should be borne in mind by all those who walk their dogs over local farmland, particularly those fields grazed by cows on Manor Farm.



PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATORY MUGS

As has been done when the villages have celebrated the Silver, Golden and Diamond Jubilees of Queen Elizabeth II the Parish Council has obtained sponsorship for Commemorative Mugs to be given to all children [aged 16 or under]. In order that we know the numbers involved please complete the form below and return to the Community Shop by 20th February 2022. If preferred please use the following e-mail address: jubileemugs@theseavingtons.org

Mugs can be ordered for older residents or children/grandchildren who do not live in the village but these will have to be paid for. Cost will be no more than £6.00 per mug. Any such orders please follow the instructions above to give details of numbers to the Parish Council.

Name [Parent/Guardian]

Address

Child/ren

Name Age

Name Age

Name Age

Name Age

Name Age

Name Age



VILLAGE MEETING THURSDAY 3 FEBRUARY

7.30 pm in the Millennium Hall

This meeting has been called so that residents can put their ideas as to how the villages can celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Celebrations are to take place from Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June 2022.

At the moment the only thing that is firmly in place is a Flower Festival in St Michael's Church.

Residents who were in the village for the Diamond Jubilee in 2012 will remember that something was arranged for the whole period of celebrations and monies were raised for two local charities.

We need your help now to gather ideas and get help with putting the ideas into practice. The Millennium Hall and Playing Field has already been booked by the Parish Council.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE THIS A FUN TIME
AFTER THE LONG LOCKDOWN OF COVID**

GREEN RESOLUTIONS

For readers who want to be more sustainable in 2022, here a couple of small ways to be more eco friendly:

1 - Wear it again ... and again.

Don't be misled by sustainability reports from brands or fashion-footprint calculators. The number of times an item is worn or used is the critical measurement. If you have items you don't wear, pass them on to someone who will. Maybe sell them through an on-line site such as Vinted (www.vinted.co.uk). 30 wearings is often quoted as a guideline but more would be better.

2 - Try a 'green' phone

Every year the world throws away more than 50 million tonnes of electronic devices. Try to double the life of your phone from an average two years to four years. When you renew consider a Fairphone (www.fairphone.com) which uses materials which are abundant, low impact and from ethical sources.

Over the Counter

Vicky Rahilly

We didn't have perhaps the best start to the New Year with the provider of our card machine suffering a national incident resulting in the breakdown of our card terminal- particularly tricky in these times as very few of us carry cash nowadays. We would like to apologise to our customers and thank you so much for bearing with us whilst we resolved the problem. Thanks too to Pete and Karen for their continued perseverance in resolving the matter. All fixed now and on to more positive things.....

The cafe has started the new year with a mini makeover and further refurbishment works are planned for this year. I have to say that the new tables and chairs look great and we are very appreciative of the generous CLT donation towards them. Please pop in and pay Jane and the team a visit, they have some fantastic homemade soups and warming dishes being served throughout February.

We have had the final total for the Christmas raffle and are pleased to announce that £580 is going into the fundraising collection to be reinvested in your community shop/cafe. Fantastic news and thank you once again.

The shop has a wide range of essential items for all your basic needs including kindling, logs, tinned and frozen foods. Did you know that you can also order newspapers and bread from us? Come and ask a till volunteer at the counter or give us a call if you would like to place an order.

Arts and Crafts update:

'Daisy Grace Crochet' has provided some cheerful items (hats- even for your cat!) to add a splash of colour to January and these have sold very well- helped by the cold snap in the New Year.

A new selection of crafts will be on display from 1st February as we welcome Kate Norton. Kate's original artwork is created using yarn wrapping, felting, hand stitching and lino printing to create Somerset Landscapes. Images of her artwork are displayed on a range of products including glass coasters, tea towels and greetings cards, all of which will be available to purchase. Check out the pictures on our Facebook page- 'Seavington Store'

We also welcome Windwhistle Designs' digital artwork to brighten the walls of the cafe with simple and bold designs taken from everyday life

such as charts, diagrams and maps. The Somerset palette is a personal favourite of mine.

Last but not least- a special thank you to Judith and Nick Church who made the shop and cafe look so festive with decorations and the tree over the Christmas period and for taking all the decorations down afterwards - always far less exciting!

At the time of writing there is ongoing discussion regarding changes to the Covid restrictions and it looks as though face coverings will no longer be mandatory from the end of January. Whilst this is all good news in that we are moving towards a new 'normal'; for some members of our community there might be some nervousness around the lifting of restrictions. Please continue to be respectful of others' choices whilst visiting us. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you soon.



Stamps wanted for Charity

Thank you for the postage stamps you have kindly provided. 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, and these can be left at:

South Petherton

- in the box at the back of St Peter and St Paul's church
- the doctors' surgery or pharmacy

Iminster

- The Hair Shop - in Ditton Street

Seavington

- The Community Shop

or delivered to

- Gill Beveridge, Whiteridge, Upton Lane, Seavington TA19 0PZ



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY
SATURDAY APRIL 16TH 2022

Easter Egg Hunt – starting at 2.30pm on the Playing Field

Easter Bingo – starting at 6.00pm in The Millennium Hall

[Both events are being organised by St Michael's Church Flower Ladies]

Full details will be given in the April Newsletter.



Seavington Gardening Club

Kate Mulligan (01460 242023)



Flower Show 13th August 2022

For those who like to be super efficient and well organised here are some of the categories you might like to start planning for now.

Division 3 Home Baking states that any chutney has to be at least 2 months old so you have plenty of time to experiment with recipes of your choosing.

The photography sections have no time limit on them so you can start at any time of year. Division 4 is for the Under 16 years and is entitled "Close Up" to be interpreted how you wish. Division 5 photography section is open to any age and has two sections "Botanical Britain" and "Hidden Somerset". All photographs must be no larger than A5.

Copies of the full programme of events will be sent out at a later date, meanwhile good luck and see you in August at the Flower Show.

SEAVINGTON SHOP AND CAFE

COME AND TRY OUT OUR COMFY NEW FURNITURE!

The cafe has had a mini makeover. Enjoy Jane's homemade soups and delicious cakes in the comfort of new chairs and tables.

Local Artwork on the walls from Windwhistle Designs available for purchase.

Cafe opening times Monday - Friday 8.30am - 2.30pm, Saturday 8.30am - 2.00pm (last orders 1.30)

STAY WARM

We have plenty of logs and kindling in stock as well as fresh vegetables to create your own warming stews and soups and extensive tea and coffee ranges – all your needs covered for these cold days.

ART AND CRAFTS BY LOCAL ARTIST KATE NORTON.

A selection of Kate's wonderful art and crafts representing the Somerset landscape will be on sale in the shop throughout February including glass coasters, mugs & greetings cards.

Shop opening times Monday to Friday 8.30am - 4.00pm, Saturday 9.00am - 2.30pm

We are agents for My Hermes parcel service

WEBSITE: www.theseavingtons.org/community/village-store-and-cafe

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

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 date for the next orders is:
Friday 4th February.

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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Richard A Hunt: Garden and Equestrian

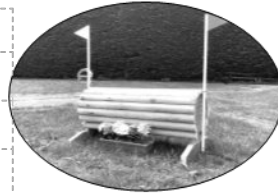
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12.5kg Bags Bakers.
5kg Bags Roasties.



FREE DELIVERY IN SEAVINGTON

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A Reminder: County Council Complaints 'phone Number

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What happens to our recycled waste?

The Editor

The January edition of the News included a report from the Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP) about the progress being made with the 'Recycle More' initiative which saw the introduction of the blue bags and new collection schedules last year. SWP Managing Director, Mickey Green, said "the picture had been complicated by COVID, but 'Recycle More' is making a big difference."

This report prompted me to wonder what was happening to all our waste and the recycled items in particular? For readers who have the time and inclination you can find detailed information on-line: www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/SWP-Recycling-Tracker-202021-v2.pdf. Given the daunting length and complexity of this link here are some headlines:

SWP provides waste and recycling services for all local authorities in Somerset. Over the year 2020/21 the Partnership collected over 263,000 tonnes of waste. Of this total just over 50% (135,000 tonnes) was sent for reuse, recycling or composting.

Looking more closely at the figures it is surprising that only 4359 tonnes of plastic packaging were recycled. Given the emphasis given by Government and media to single use plastics this looks a small number, despite the low density of such waste.

Paper and cardboard (25,000 tonnes) is widely reprocessed into new products, as is much of the glass collected (20,000 tonnes).

18,000 tonnes of food waste is used as feedstock for anaerobic digestors (AD) producing biogas for electricity generation. The solid residues from AD are used as an agricultural bio-fertiliser.

20,000 tonnes of garden waste are composted to produce 'Revive' compost for both agricultural and domestic use. This type of composting involves forming long piles of material called 'windrows' which are aerated periodically either manually or by mechanical turning. The ideal pile height is between 4-8 feet with a width of 14-16 feet.

Of the waste not specifically recycled around 100,000 tonnes are sent for energy recovery and a residual 30,000 tonnes end up in landfill. Nearly 98% of recycled waste is processed in the UK, 51% remaining in Somerset.

Notes from Venezuela

Cecilia Córdova

Editor: Many readers will remember Cecilia and her husband Sunil, who lived for 4 years in The Pheasant. They moved from the village around a year ago when Sunil transferred from his post in Yeovil to the Churchill Hospital in Oxford. Through a combination of missing their home country and family ties they moved back to Caracas last December. We hear little about Venezuela in the news nowadays with the focus on COVID, domestic politics, Russia and China. I thought it might be interesting to readers to follow what is happening in another part of the world and Cecilia agreed to write "Notes from Venezuela". Hopefully this will be the first of a regular contribution from our most distant correspondent.

Venezuela is located in the north of South America. To give you an idea of its size, Venezuela has nearly four times the area of the UK. It has borders with Brazil and Colombia and is very close to the Equator. That means the average temperature in January is 28° C and it does not change during the rest of the year and neither does the time of sunrise and sunset. The country has nearly two thousand kilometres of sandy Caribbean beaches interspersed with desert mountain ranges. It is part of the Amazon rainforest (where I have been and where you get that impression that no human has set foot before) and the Andes (the longest continental mountain range in the world). Thanks to all of this, Venezuela is amongst the top ten countries on the planet with the widest biodiversity.

Venezuela is a melting pot of different ethnicities, black, white and the original indigenous peoples of the Americas with all the colour shades in between. There are very few Asians and on a very positive note there is virtually no racial tension or discrimination.

Spanish is the official language and approximately 96% of the population is Roman Catholic as most of the Americas was under the Spanish domination until the 19th century.

It has the largest oil reserves in the world and back in the 70s it used to be the wealthiest country in the region with a strong democracy, social safety, free high quality health care and higher education, the political system was open, infrastructure was at the pinnacle of modernity in the region and it was a magnet for immigrants across the region and Europe.

Nowadays everything is different. This is my home country, a place of contrasts and I am writing from Caracas after having lived in the UK for 5 years and I will be writing my personal impressions of how I embraced the opportunity of living abroad for the first time and things I have been taking for granted and for which I now feel very grateful.

Tomorrows World Today

The Seavington Stroller

Wandering through the village over the festive period I was obliged to step aside as petrol and diesel powered vehicles passed by, until that is, I almost stepped in front of a car I hadn't heard coming. It was an electric car.

Now apparently the motor industry will, in this decade, phase out "polluting" vehicles and we will all be forced into such as an electric car. So that got me thinking of the practicalities of owning such a vehicle and I asked the all seeing all knowing Google (other internet search engines are available) what is available and the pros and cons of owning one.

It would appear that most cars have a range between 150 and 350 miles compared with my current car which will do 500 miles, plus a bit more with a following wind, and with that mileage it will get me comfortably into the Lake District some 300 miles away. So that journey in an electric car will be over or at the extreme end of its range, and it would be necessary to recharge somewhere along the route.

Now I am neither a mechanical nor electrical engineer and the working of such engines is beyond my comprehension, but I do know that my petrol engined car will perform to its highest level whilst there is still fuel in the tank. On the other hand, the performance of my battery torch and cordless Hoover reduces as the battery runs down, so will an electric car likewise become slower.

So a journey of some distance will require forward planning of charging points and splitting the journey accordingly in the hope that a charging point will be free, if not then queuing time will need to be factored in. It seems there are two charges, fast and normal, giving different amounts of charge and taking 30 to 60 minutes depending on which is chosen. So if the driver in front of me takes the last spot, then that charging time is added to mine and implies at least a minimum of a 60 minute wait, or longer if I am further back the queue as moving on would not be an option.

I get the impression that in every day use, you are expected to trickle charge your car at home and presumably you hook up each time you return home, which is fine if you have a drive on which to park, but as we know in our own village, not everyone has that facility. So the answer is a cable running from the house, off the property and across the pavement, if it exists, to the car for as long as it takes. As we have rows of houses without drives, the cables across the public thoroughfare could represent a series of speed humps for those in wheel chairs and with real potential as trip hazards for pedestrians, especially after dark. The alternative would be to visit the nearest town charging point which

will have the same issues as for long distance driving and a 10 mile trip could use 5% from the recharged capacity of an average car.

So, it would seem that electric cars are for urban use, where trip mileage is low, but of course most town dwellers live in terrace houses and blocks of flats with the associated impractical charging issues. Presumably the answer for those inhabitants is to use public transport and that is another issue all together, especially for rural communities.

These are a few of the worries I have over ownership of an electric car and that is without the very real possibility of main power failures or major traffic hold ups on motorways, which appear to be more and more of a daily occurrence.

I am not against progress and understand the issues of climate warming but would suggest that the introduction of electric transport needs far more infrastructure than currently available, but perhaps one of our readers can allay my concerns.

One last thought, if we all went out and bought an electric car, could the national grid cope !!!!

Lupercalia

The ancient precursor to Valentine's Day

Naomi Long

Lupercalia was an ancient Roman festival that was held on the 15th of February.

Lupercal was said to be the name of the legendary she-wolf who raised Romulus and Remus, the founders of Rome, after their uncle had them thrown into the river to punish their mother.

It is thought that Lupercalia was a celebration in honour of both this she-wolf (but potentially also a derivative of the Arcadian Lykaia wolf festival of Greece) and the Roman fertility god, Lupercus, who was a counterpart of the Greek god Pan.

The special rites on that day began in Lupercal Cave on Palatine Hill (where Romulus and Remus were supposedly suckled) and then moved to the Comitium, an open-air public meeting space. At the cave, male goats and a dog would be sacrificed as fertility symbols by special Roman priests called Luperci. The foreheads of two naked Luperci would be smeared with the animals' blood using the sacrificial knife, the blood then being removed with milk-soaked wool while the pair laughed. A feast was held afterwards. (continued over)

Lupercalia (cont)

When this feast was over, the Luperci would cut strips known as thongs or februa of goat hide from the newly-sacrificed goats, which is where we get the name February (the festival was alternately known as Februa which means purification or purging). These priests would then run naked or mostly nude around Palatine Hill and whip any woman who came within striking distance of these lashes, a practice that was supposed to confer fertility, so women were often complicit in it, straying nearby deliberately.

This tradition of symbolic lashing survived in remnants around the world, and we even had our own version in the West Country on Oak Apple Day (29th May), which was also called Sting-Nettle Day locally in reference to the practice where young boys would run around and lash people with nettles unless they could show an oak leaf. The tradition persists even today in the Czech Easter tradition of lightly whipping women with braided willow for good health and fertility, although it is very controversial, and last year the Czech interior minister asked men to leave their Easter whips at home due to social distancing.

Lupercalia was also the precursor of the spin-the-bottle or car key game, because during this period, men would randomly select a woman's name from a jar, and the two would form a couple for the duration of the festival, with the couple often staying together until the following year's festival. Sometimes this led to an actual love match and marriage.

Over time, Lupercalia was toned down so that eventually fully-clothed men whipped women lightly on the hands, and in the 5th century AD, after Rome had converted to Christianity, Pope Gelasius I outlawed this pagan celebration and instituted 14 February as a day to celebrate the martyrdom of Saint Valentine.

However, the overarching pagan connection with fertility continued to be associated with the day, so that many latter-day Christians no longer celebrated Valentine's Day at all, and very few people now associate it with a church festival. Red and white, the traditional colours of St Valentine's Day are themselves derived from the red of the sacrificial blood and the white of the milk-soaked wool used to remove it, although most people now associate red with romance, hearts and love. Perhaps it is better that way!

Pub Quiz Trivia: St Valentine is the patron saint of beekeepers, charged with ensuring the sweetness of the honey and the protection of beekeepers.

Bug of the Month: Whooping Cough (Pertussis)

Anne Crowther

Reminder: Whooping Cough is a notifiable disease

The sound of a baby or young child 'Whooping' has for centuries struck fear into anxious parents. If you've been lucky enough never to have heard it before there is a short video audio clip on the Babycentre website (just pop 'Babycentre, whooping cough, sound' into your favourite search engine).

Whooping cough is caused by a bacterial infection of the lungs and airways. It is highly contagious with a reproductive number (R0) of 15-17. It spreads by droplets from coughs and sneezes. First properly recognised and described during an epidemic in France during 1578. Early treatments (1772) included diluted Hemlock to reduce spasms which reportedly had some success.

The annual worldwide incidence is estimated to be circa 48.5 million cases resulting in around 295,000 deaths. The mortality rate in children from low-income countries is thought to be 4%. In England there were 3,681 confirmed cases in 2019. Whooping cough has a recognised 'cycle' with peaks in infections occurring every 3 years.

The first symptoms of Whooping cough are similar to a cold with intense coughing starting around a week later. The cough can continue for several months and is particularly dangerous to babies and children. Young babies under 6 months old in particular are at high risk of the complications of Whooping cough: dehydration, pneumonia, organ damage and (very rarely) death.

The good news is that antibiotics can be helpful in reducing the time an individual is infectious. In the UK there is also an effective vaccine offered to pregnant mothers protecting babies in the first few months of life followed up by the Childhood Vaccination programme. In 2008 the WHO estimated that the Global vaccination programme averted 687,000 deaths.

Join the News team

As you will see from his letter on page 4 Robin Gilbert is seeking a well earned retirement from delivering copies of The Seavingtons' News.

Will anyone who is willing to delivery 28 copies of the News each month please contact the Editor. The delivery round is concentrated in the centre of Seavington St Michael, east of the Water Street/Upton Lane crossroads plus David's Lane and a small number to homes out of the village going towards Lopen.

An exciting day out

A short story by Anthony Leigh

Tom was shaking, not with any dread or fear, but with excitement at where he was and with whom he was with. His aunt Mary. Tom loved his aunt with all the sincerity that a twelve year old could manage and now, standing on the platform with his aunt and waiting for the train to pull in and take them North East to their destination, it was all that he could do to contain himself.

And now that the huge noisy, smoking belching locomotive approached, Tom involuntarily squeezed his aunts hand and stopped shaking, as if in controlled acceptance of what was to be the beginning of their exciting day out.

Tom, together with his aunt, had a passion for the noisy smoked filled air that represented the majestic awe of a steam locomotive. Sadly, today, was to be the last 'nostalgia trip' that a steam locomotive was to be in service on this line and, together with other steam enthusiasts, they appreciated and enjoyed the additional efforts made by the station and locomotive staff.

"Mind the gap" ... "Mind the doors" echoed along the platform as everyone enthusiastically boarded and began sitting down. Tom eased determinedly towards a window seat and reacted indignantly when a fellow enthusiast almost beat him to it, but with an equal tempered grace, Mary smiled a "thank you" and they both sat exactly where they had discussed and planned earlier.

The train was now in its stride and everyone on board was relaxed in the vibrant atmosphere, with Tom enthusiastically relaying what he saw alongside the track and further out into the countryside, as Mary sat listening and content, carefully reading her magazine.

"Tickets ... tickets please" shouted the ticket collector as he approached and asked "is everything alright madam" as Tom fumbled in his pockets, "yes .. thank you" Mary smiled and Tom finally gave him their tickets. "Tickets ... tickets please" continued along the carriage until it was finally lost in the general rhythmic rattling beat of the train.

The train finally reached its destination and once again .. "Mind the gap" ... "Mind the doors" echoed through the station as everyone disembarked, and as Tom and Mary joined the throng on the platform a porter asked, "is everything OK" ... "yes .. thank you" she smiled with assurance, and shook the white collapsible stick back into its rigid form.

Back to the Farm

The Editor

When I visited Sunnyside Farm back in October last year the potato harvest was in full swing. Readers will recall that a cold April and exceptionally wet May had resulted in higher quantities of reject split potatoes. At the end of the day the harvest was far from a disaster with the rejects being largely offset by a higher than average yield. Nonetheless this serves to illustrate the influence of the weather on farming and the fine line between success and failure of a crop.

The potato harvest was completed by the end of October. The crop is being stored in 1 ton crates in temperature controlled sheds at Dillington. Sales of the Marfona potatoes commenced shortly after lifting and will continue through to May. Sales of Lanorma, the other variety grown on the farm, only started in January in response to market demand.

The fields in which Lanorma were grown were then planted with winter wheat using a minimum till approach, taking full advantage of a dry November. As the drill passes across the field any residual (let lie) potatoes are unearthed and they rot on the surface over winter. I was surprised to learn that winter wheat can be sown any time up until the end of February. Although the three weeks either side of Christmas are best avoided since it is generally too cold and wet. Timing is important because winter wheat seedlings need 'vernalisation', the extended exposure to low temperatures essential to the formation of the wheat ear. At temperatures below freezing and above 15 degrees 'vernalisation' will not occur. Exposure to temperatures in the range zero to eight degrees for a minimum 50 days are considered optimal. Farmers have just one chance to get this right.

Lifting of fodder beet, sown last spring, commenced in early December and will continue through to the end of February. Any readers driving past the farm will have noticed the pile of beets in the yard waiting for direct delivery to customers. The beets are used for winter feed for cattle and sheep. The red beet variety grown this year is softer than other types and is particularly preferred for sheep to avoid damage to teeth.

Farming single-handed provides little opportunity to take a break, let alone plan a holiday. Arable farming is so weather dependent that farmers don't want to miss the good weather windows for field preparation, sowing and harvesting. That said it was great to learn that Chris and Sheila managed a weekend away in December to visit the Country Living Show at Cirencester.

My thanks again to Chris and Sheila Reyland for sparing the time to chat to me about the farm.

Three Saints Federation



Shepton Beauchamp Church School

Together We Flourish

A new Curriculum has been launched at Shepton Beauchamp Church School

Our school has just updated our curriculum for all of our children. Our new learning journey for our children is more knowledge based and gives our children more time to learn about subjects.

As an example, instead of studying, say just the Romans for 6 weeks, instead we are studying "Invasion". This encompasses the Romans, Saxons, Vikings and Normans over 12 weeks. This new approach allows our children to study in more detail. In subjects like History, this allow us to build up more knowledge within the context of chronology and time.

Our new approach is backed up with superb IT - our children can view interactive maps and for the inspiration to start the invasion topic, the children walked into class to hear a medieval battle taking place. This allowed children to guess what was happening and develop their own questions for what they wanted to learn during the topic.

We have booked a number of trips this term, which includes a visit to a reconstructed Anglo Saxon settlement. As the weather improves, we hope to be out and about more around the village, we look forward to seeing you!

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



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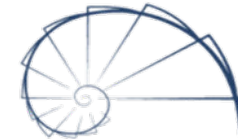
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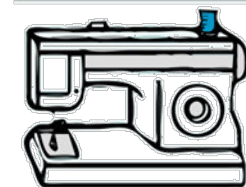
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