

THE SEAVINGTONS' NEWS

January 2022



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Large Garden

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

Takeaways

Sunday Roasts

Daily Menu

Snacks

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

See our current Menu

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

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

Call us on

01460 52413

Booking advisable

We would love to see you soon

Thank you and stay safe!

New Inn
Dowlish Wake
TA19 0NZ



The Seavingtons' News

Who would have thought a year ago that we would still be grappling with a rampant variant of COVID? With the widespread roll out of vaccines I had hoped that by now we could all look forward to Christmas and New Year without tighter rules on the wearing of face masks, office working and social gatherings. Spare a thought for the huge numbers of NHS staff, GP practitioners, pharmacists and volunteers who have now been tasked to deliver around 15 million booster jabs over the festive season.

Looking back at David Froome's editorial in last January's edition he reflected on the demise of many village activities and clubs. He wondered if the two villages had lost their collective mojo? Does the ever expanding range of TV channels, video streaming and social media mean that community activities are less important? Like David I sincerely hope not. With a national celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in just five months time it would be great to think we could join in with a series of village events. If you have any ideas please share them and let's get going. I am certain there are plenty of creative and innovative minds amongst the readers of the News.

In last month's edition I published the timetable for a new bus service linking the Seavingtons with South Petherton in one direction and Ilminster in the other. Three buses a day looked promising but I had not appreciated the service would only run on Tuesdays and Fridays. Not really a service at all! Make your views known to the Somerset Bus Partnership see page 23.

Wishing all readers of the News a happy and healthy 2022.

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DON'T FORGET

The Latest Copy Date for the next issue

is 20th January

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 2 Jan		No service
Sun 9 Jan	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist (Common Worship)
Sun 16 Jan	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist (CW)
Sun 16 Jan	2.00 pm	Licensing of Rev Tracey Hallet at St Peter and St Paul's South Petherton. See page 5
Sun 23 Jan	10.30 am	Holy Communion (CW)
Sun 30 Jan	10.30 am	Benefice Communion (CW) at St Peter and St Paul's. Followed by refreshments. See page 5

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. Ian Gibson remains available for pastoral needs

Honorary Rector for Seavington: Rev Canon Ian Gibson
07843 672803; igchichester@gmail.com

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

The Seavingtons' Weather in November

	<i>This Year - 2021</i>	<i>Last Year - 2020</i>
Temperature		
Average Minimum	4.76°C	5.90°C
Average Maximum	11.36°C	12.00°C
Mean	8.06°C	8.95°C
Rainfall		
Monthly Total	11.6 mm (0.46")	65.6 mm (2.62")
Total for Year	795.8 mm (31.83")	740.9 mm (29.64")

What a contrast a month makes, one of the wettest Octobers to one of the driest Novembers. Previous driest Nov was in 1988 with 18.3mm.

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 13 Jan	7.30 pm	Gardening Club - all welcome. 'Fruit Growing' by Sally Nex Contact: Jo Culham 01460 241555
Tues 18 Jan	6.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting in the Café
Wed 19 Jan	10.30 am	Village Get2gether - all welcome. Café Contact Gill Beveridge 01460 242828
Wed 19 Jan	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 Thursdays 10.00-16.00 (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

Carol and Nigel wish all our friends and family a Wonderful Christmas and a safe, healthy and happy New Year. Thank you all for your help and support during these strange times.



Carol and Nigel Talbot
Gummers Castle
Seavington



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.

St Michael's Church Seavington Trust

Sally Gough is retiring a Chair of SMSCT at the end of 2021 and Chris is standing down from his position as Honorary Treasurer.

We would like to thank them both for all their hard work during their periods of office.

We are keen to get the Trust back and active so that we can continue the restoration work needed at St Michael's. If you could help in any capacity but particularly as either Chair or Treasurer please contact one of us.

Amanda Jagers T: 01460 240554

Anne Shaw T: 01460 249156

Best wishes for a happy, peaceful and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Church News

Introducing myself... A message from your soon to be Rector.

I am so looking forward to arriving in the Benefice and thought I would it would be nice to share a bit about us before we begin in January. My husband Dean has recently started ordination training.

We have two sons Morgan, engaged to Georgia and Chandler, engaged to Millie. We also have the most awesome Grandboy Noah. Oh yes and pets! Two black labs, Esther and Jimmy and Rocket the cat!

Our journey into ministry so far has been a great adventure and to think it all started with a passion for youth and community work. The Lord fanned that flicker of passion into full flame and before I knew it, I was joining His mission and following His call into Pioneer ministry. Clearly, it is only by the grace of God that I will be your Rector, a Pioneer Priest. I am truly grateful to all who have been part of this journey, supporting, encouraging, praying and most of all showing me what it is to be loved by God. It's been an absolute blessing and privilege to have completed my training in the South Quantock Benefice. We have had lots of fun and they have all equipped me to step up and into the next amazing part of God's calling.

I am delighted to be joining The Benefice of South Petherton with the Seavingtons and the Lambrooks. As we together enter a new season, it is my prayer that we will grow together In Christ and discover how we as a Benefice can share the love of Jesus as Church in Community – perhaps even becoming Church without walls. It is my hope that whoever you are and whatever your experience, you will come to sense the Love of God as you journey with us and that you will always feel welcome, known and cared for in our Benefice. I am very grateful to be joining your community and thank you all so much for your care and support.

Tracey

2.00pm 16 January - Licensing of Rev Tracey Hallet

At St Peter and St Paul's in South Petherton. Due to COVID restrictions numbers will be limited and admission will be by pre-booked ticket only.

10.30am 30 January - Benefice Communion

At St Peter and St Pauls. Followed by refreshments. This will be a great opportunity to come across the A303 and welcome Rev Hallet.

Recycle More progress continues in Mendip and South Somerset

Expanded recycling collections in Mendip and South Somerset have delivered thousands of extra tonnes of recycling, councillors heard today (8 December).

Best estimates are that in the 52 weeks since it launched last October, 'Recycle More' has collected more than 5,600 tonnes of extra recycling, including more than 1,000 extra tonnes of plastic.

In South Somerset, over its first 18 weeks the extra recycling is an estimated 1,800 tonnes, including nearly 500 extra tonnes of extra plastic

Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP) shared the figures at a meeting of the Waste Scrutiny Panel today (8 Oct) as part of an update on the roll-out of the new service.

Welcoming the estimates, SWP Managing Director, Mickey Green, said the picture has been complicated by Covid, but 'Recycle More' is clearly making a big difference.

He said: "Residents are really making use of it and recycling has increased dramatically. That's great news for the environment and promises significant long-term benefits."

After being launched in Mendip in October 2020 and South Somerset in June 2021, 'Recycle More' was launched in the Taunton Deane area at the end of October 2021. Preparations are now underway for its introduction in Sedgemoor and West Somerset districts in early 2022.

'Recycle More' has added more to weekly recycling collections – notably plastic pots, tubs and trays. With more recycling collected each week, residual rubbish is only collected every three weeks instead of every two.

Details of exactly what is collected from the kerb every week with Recycle More can be found on one somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycling-collections/

We will be assessing the applications to take over the tenancy of our soon to be vacant house in Falcon Close early in the new year. If you would like to be considered, please submit an expression of interest by 31st. December. Instructions and qualifications were described in the 'News' last month, but if you need any advice or guidance please contact any member of the CLT board.

Another reminder: we have decided to accept applications for grants for village projects throughout the year, so if you have an idea for the general wellbeing of the villages which requires some funding, please get in touch.

Bus Service			
Ilminster - South Petherton via Seavington			
Tuesdays and Friday only			
Service 18			
Ilminster Square	9.15	11.15	12.15
Ilminster Medical Centre	9.18	11.18	12.18
Seavington St Mary	9.27	11.27	12.27
South Petherton	9.36	11.36	12.36
South Petherton Hospital	9.41	11.41	12.41
South Petherton Hospital	9.52	11.52	12.52
South Petherton	9.57	11.57	12.57
Seavington St Mary	10.06	12.06	13.06
Ilminster Square	10.13	12.13	13.13
Ilminster Square	10.15	12.15	13.15
Ilminster Medical Centre	10.18	12.18	13.18

There are three recognised stops in the villages: Peels, Rowdells Orchard and New Road at The Volunteer

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 address above.

Parish Councillors would like to wish all residents a Happy Christmas and hopefully a much better 2022.

The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday 18th January 2022 - 6.30pm start in the Community Shop/Cafe. A major decision to be made at this meeting will be the Precept for the villages going forward for 2022-2023. This being the case we would like to remind all village organisations that if they are planning any projects and may need Parish Council help with funding please let us know by the 18th January 2022.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH GROUP should be out monitoring traffic along the C5021 in January 2022.

SID – Responsibility for the siting and managing of the SID Data will now be shared by Councillors Andrew Doble and Matt Harley.

PLANNING

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

Application No 21/02878/S73A - New build at the top of School Lane

At the time of writing there is no further information on the progress of either of these applications.

FALCON CLOSE – Frontage – Unfortunately we have still not received a reply to our e-mails that flagged up the frontage as being a Health and Safety Issue. Our County Councillor is also unable to contact the Officer in County Hall dealing with this. We will keep pressing for a response.

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.

DOG FAECES - The Parish Council has recently received several reports of significant amounts of dog faeces in Dark Lane, Sawpit Lane and Rookesmeade Lane. It is clear that the amount is not just from a couple of dogs being walked in those areas. Can we

please remind all dog walkers that it is their responsibility to clear up after their dog[s].

PARISH CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

Councillor Parsons has indicated that from 1st April 2022 she no longer wishes to be Clerk or Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) to the Parish Council. Anyone who may be interested in taking on this role should contact the Parish Council by e-mail in the first instance. The post is part-time, could be home based, for an average of 20 hours per month. Payment is as per the Local Government Salary guide and commensurate with experience and qualifications.

The working hours are very flexible other than the post holder must be able to attend the monthly evening council meetings, currently held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month [excluding August].

The applicant must be computer literate and will be responsible for organising all meetings of the Parish Council, publishing Agendas and minutes also dealing with correspondence via mail, email and telephone, working closely with the Chair in all instances.

As RFO the clerk will be responsible for all aspects of financial administration of the Council. Whilst it is not necessary to hold the 'Certificate in Local Administration' qualification, it will be requirement that this undertaken. A good local knowledge of the whole of the Parish could also be an advantage.

Festive Waste / Recycling Collections

Usual collection day	Revised collection day
Monday 27 December	Tuesday 28 December
Monday 3 January	Tuesday 4 January

There will be no garden waste pick-ups during the Festive Fortnight. All collections resume 10 January.

What to do with your real Christmas tree? Apart from using it in your wildlife corner or chipping it to add to your compost bin, your tree can be dropped off at any recycling site. Garden waste (green bin) subscribers can leave their tree - up to 6ft with decorations removed - out for their first collection in January 2022

Recycling sites will be open at their usual times but all sites will be closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Over the Counter

Vicky Rahilly

Happy New Year to all our customers! Thank you for your support throughout 2021.

Over the last month there has been lots of activity at the shop and cafe including the incredibly popular (and delicious) Christmas lunches from Jane and her team at the beginning of December.

Jane would like to make a personal thank you to all the cafe volunteers – if it wasn't for their continued support and commitment the cafe would not be the success that it is- particularly over this busy Christmas period.

On December the 11th Father Christmas paid a visit to the shop and arrived in style. It was lovely to see so many of the local children and families. There were mince pies and some (well ventilated) carol singing. A huge thank you to everyone who donated or helped to prepare prizes for the raffle. We sold over 600 tickets and the profit is expected to be about £580 once any costs are accounted for. Congratulations to all the winners. We hope you enjoy your prizes.

Still to come....

Finish the festive season with a flourish by joining us on Monday 3rd January for our popular bacon butties served up by Terry and Pauline. I have heard rumours that these are not to be missed! Come and join us between 9.30am and 1.00pm. The big decision is with red sauce, brown sauce or no sauce at all? The shop will also be open for all your essentials.

As we look forward into 2022 you can expect to see some changes. Thanks to a generous donation from the CLT fund, the cafe now has shiny new lightweight tables and chairs- come and take a look and try them out whilst you enjoy some warming winter dishes or simply a cuppa and a chat.

Arts and Crafts update:

Sarah Harmer has kindly volunteered to take on the management of our popular Arts and Crafts area with further displays booked throughout the year. We want to say a HUGE thank you to Carol Talbot for all her work managing our artists displays to date and wish her well.

Throughout January we have items from 'Daisy Grace Crochet' available for purchase. Beautiful handmade crocheted hats for adults, children and pets as well as home accessories, toys and cards. Please do come in and take a look.

Carol Talbot and Sarah Harmer will also have their beautiful work on display on the cafe walls.

Can you help?

Finally, a plea for additional help. Jo Culham has formed a cleaning team and is looking for additional volunteers. If you have previously been considering volunteering at the shop or cafe but are worried you don't have enough time, this could be for you. We are only looking for an hour of your time on one afternoon a month to join a team of 5 who are responsible for cleaning the shelves and chillers. Please contact Jo if this is something you could help with jculham55@gmail.com or 241555. Any support would be gratefully received.

We respectfully request that customers continue to wear a facemask as per government guidelines. Let's try to keep us all safe. Thank you.



Christmas opening hours: Café & Shop
Christmas Eve 8:30am – 1.30pm
Christmas Day, Boxing Day, 27th and 28th Dec- Closed
Weds 29th, 30th, 31st Dec – Normal opening hours
New Years Day and 2nd January 2022 - Closed
Monday 3rd January - 9:30am until 1pm for the shop and bacon butties in the café



Normal Opening Hours
Shop Monday to Friday 8.30am - 4pm
Saturday 8.30am - 2.30pm
Café Monday to Friday 8.30am – 2.30pm
Saturday 8.30am – 2.00pm (last orders 1.30pm)

See our website for any changes, or check us out on Facebook.
www.theseavingtons.org/community/village-store-and-cafe



Seavington Gardening Club



Report by Kate Mulligan

Thursday 2nd December 2021

"Christmas Floral Arrangement"

A demonstration by Angela Brooke-Smith of Flower Fusions

Angela began working in the fashion industry but then changed career to garden design. She started her own business, grew her own flowers and included flower arranging as part of her many skills.

She sources her materials as locally as possible, growing many of the flowers she uses from her own garden and foraging wherever she can. The recent surge in interest in British grown flowers is a bonus and anyone wanting to follow this up can go to the website to find out more. www.flowersfromthefarm.co.uk

Thank you to Angela for giving us an informative and practical demonstration of her very "relaxed" style of arranging with plenty of useful hints and tips to get the best out of any display.

The evening was enhanced by mulled wine and excellent mince pies made by Glynis.

Next Meeting

Thursday 13th January 2022 in the Millennium Hall. Talk by Sally Nex on "Fruit Growing".

Doors open 7.00pm to start 7.30pm and refreshments will be served.

Reminder that the Flower of the Month Competition will resume at this meeting. Bring your entry on the night.

Annual subscriptions will be due - £10 per person. Admission free to members and £2 for visitors.

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

SEAVINGTON SHOP AND CAFE

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN 2021.

Enjoy Jane's homemade soups and delicious cakes!
Daily specials, plus all day breakfast, light lunches and snacks.
Take away also available. Please book to avoid disappointment.

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

NEW YEAR BACON BUTTIES AT THE CAFE!
MONDAY 3RD JANUARY 9.30am until 1.00pm

ART & CRAFTS BY LOCAL MAKER ALISON OF 'DAISY GRACE CROCHET'.

Popular crochet hats and home accessories on display throughout January. These make fantastic gifts or treat yourself to a snugly hat to wrap up against the winter weather.

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

We are agents for My Hermes parcel service

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

Water Street, Seavington St Mary TA19 0QH Tel: 01460 249730



Seavington Villages Oil Scheme

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

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

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

To take advantage of the scheme and to place an order contact Nigel Key on 01460 241540 or by e-mail to oil@theseavingtons.org

St Margaret's Support Groups Taunton and Yeovil

St Margaret's Support Groups are open to anyone affected by a life-limiting illness – patients, their families and friends. As well as providing an opportunity to meet others in similar situations, our trained volunteers can offer visitors:

a listening ear ◊ provide free information ◊ help signpost to other services
 The groups are run on a drop-in basis – there is no need to book or to be referred
Or perhaps you would like to become a volunteer to help run these groups?

St Margaret's Hospice, Taunton TA1 5HA Thursdays 2pm-4pm
Octagon Theatre, Yeovil BA20 1UX 10.30am – 12.30

For further information please contact Lesley Burgess
 E-mail: lesley.burgess@st-margarets-hospice.org.uk; Tel: 0845 070 8910



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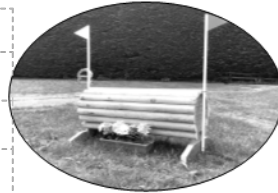
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TEL. Chris 07860 142799. Sheila 01460 241238.

A Reminder: County Council Complaints 'phone Number

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

0300 123 2224

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07468 287065

GM.SafeHands@outlook.com

The Warehouse Theatre Ilminster



We're Back! What a couple of years it has been but finally we are ready to open our doors and welcome you back. Please see below our up coming events, more will follow so watch this space or check out our website. Run by Ilminster Entertainment Society (IES), this little gem represents one of the best equipped, professional standard amateur theatres in the county. Offering high quality entertainment throughout the year to audiences of all ages, as well as running a thriving Youth Theatre and being a venue for local groups and clubs to hire.

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

Coming soon:

Around the World in 80 days

7.30pm Thursday 20 January
Tickets: £12.00 (£6.00 students)

The New Jersey Boys

The music of Franki Valley and the Four seasons plus tributes to Showaddywaddy and other musical legends.
7.30pm Saturday 5 February. Tickets (reserved) £17

Mistletoe (*viscum album*)

Naomi Long

Mistletoe is a parasitic yet attractive growth spread through the droppings of birds who eat the berries and then excrete it in another tree. For this reason, it was affectionately given the name misteltän in Old English, which means "little dung twig". Mistle thrushes are particularly partial to it, hence their name, and if you sit outside the teashop at Perry's Cider Mill in late winter, there is often a mistle thrush in the apple trees nibbling on all the mistletoe!

Somerset has been well-known for centuries for being the best place in the British Isles to find mistletoe due to our vast numbers of apple orchards, even to the extent that we are recorded as having the only known use for it. Traditionally it is gathered early here in the spring and then the leaves and shoots are boiled as food for young lambs and pigs for fattening purposes.

It has always been a plant synonymous with a certain pagan mystery; twiggy bunches of mistletoe on trees are known as "witches' brooms" and it was, of course, sacred to the Druids. The Chief Druid would cut mistletoe from the sacred oak with a golden sickle on the sixth night of the new moon after the winter solstice. It would be divided into sprigs and hung on people's doors as protection against thunder, lightning, and other evils. The Druids also believed the berries represented the ejaculate of the gods, so these were seen as an aphrodisiac or fertility aid. Another tradition holds that it is a plant of peace, and two enemies meeting below mistletoe by chance in a forest would lay down arms and maintain a truce until the next day. Both of these virtues are thought to be why we traditionally hang sprigs of mistletoe from the ceiling and exchange kisses under them, which dates back to the Anglo-Saxon period at least. In fact, mistletoe's persisting bond with paganism and fertility rituals led to a Cromwellian ban on its use in churches which is still observed today.

Growing mistletoe

If you want to grow mistletoe yourself, you should wait until February (as this is when the seeds are ripe inside the berries) before picking fresh berries from mistletoe growing on a tree (not the sprig you got from a supermarket at Christmas). Then make an incision in the bark of a deciduous tree branch ensuring that the inner pith is exposed, place the berry in it and tie it securely onto the branch with string or wire – some recommend saving the seeds and waiting till May. You should do this in multiple places with multiple berries as the success rates are relatively low. It may also take a year or two for your mistletoe to show up.

Bug of the Month - Malaria

Roman Fever, 'Mal Aria' (Bad Air)

Anne Crowther

Shakespeare knew this disease as Ague, Ancient Indians dubbed it the 'Disease of Kings'. It has been present, studied and written about since 3000 BC.

The mosquito is the deadliest creature on the planet. In 2020, there were an estimated 241 million cases of malaria worldwide leading to an estimated 627,000 deaths. 40% of the world's population live in areas where Malaria is transmitted.

Whilst life threatening, Malaria is a preventable and curable disease. It is caused by the Plasmodium Parasite and passed to humans through the bites of infected female 'night biting' Anopheles mosquitoes. The parasite enters the bloodstream, travels to the liver where it develops before re-entering the bloodstream. Here the parasites grow and multiply. The infected cells burst, usually every 48-72 hours, releasing more parasites into the blood and causing fever, chills, and sweating. If a mosquito bites a person infected with malaria, it can also become infected and spread the parasite further. However, it can't be spread directly from person to person.

Malaria can be prevented by the night time use of Mosquito nets and screens; insect repellent containing Deet; insecticides and preventative medication. Not allowing standing water to become stagnant is also effective (historically swamps and marshes have been drained).

The search for a cure has been a long one. The fever relieving properties of Gingshao (*Artemisia*) was discovered in China c300BC. The healing properties of the Chichona bark in the 1600s ultimately led to the extraction of Quinine and the development of modern antimalarials c1910. More recently, in 2001 Artemisinin Combination Therapy (ACT) developed by RBM 'Roll Back Malaria) became the preferred treatment in countries where Malaria is endemic.

Malaria has decimated armies, been used in tactical warfare, and weakened populations, most notably in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southern and South-eastern Asia. It is no respecter of rank or privilege. Famous names from history who succumbed range from Alexandra the Great 323 BC, to JF Kennedy and Cheryl Cole!

As of October 6th 2021 the World Health Organisation recommends the use of a vaccine against Malaria in children living in Sub-Saharan Africa and elsewhere. The fight continues!

New Year's Resolution

Are You Ready for Next Level Recycling?

Jo Mills

Last year I promised myself that every time I spend more than £10 in a supermarket I would definitely put something into the food bank collection point. It was quite easy to remember to pick up something extra after a few visits and I managed to stick to it on almost every visit.

This year I am also going to try and up my recycling game. News items throughout the past year have really focussed my attention on the plastics that are clogging our waterways, and that huge amount of plastic floating about in the Oceans.

We were lucky in 2021, the council helped us to increase what we can recycle from home with the introduction of the Blue Bag which is really good news. I am going to up my game there by making sure I squash plastic bottles flat and then screw the lid back on to take up less space and I'll be jumping on baked bean cans etc too. I have developed a technique which seems to work – I drop the cleaned can (the paper label torn off and popped into the paper recycling box) – then one big stomp flattens the open end and another stomp on the bottom of the can flattens the whole thing. By doing it on the door mat it doesn't damage the kitchen floor or my shoe! Not only does this take up less room in my blue bag, but on the truck too, so hopefully they don't have to return to the depot so often – and that will save fuel! That's a Win Win!

Supermarkets will now take lots of plastic too – bread bags, snacks packets and the like, but that still leaves us with all kinds of bits and bobs that are recyclable but not collected. Help is at hand from Yeovil and Sherborne Charity Recycling. It's an excellent charity initiative to support if you've got a bit of space to store things in and you can drive to Yeovil every so often when you've got a good stash ready to go. For more information look at <https://www.facebook.com/Yeovil-and-Sherborne-charity-Recycling-621552697961359> They have raised hundreds of pounds for local charities like Yeovil Freewheelers, Bibic and the local MS society. So raise money AND stop waste going to landfill or into the oceans. That's another Win Win!

Now, I can't guarantee that all plastic actually does get recycled, the Greenpeace website suggests that only 10% of the plastic we use gets recycled – so the other option is to do everything you can to cut down on plastic use. Last year my hair-dresser gave up wet wipes and returned to old school floor cloths, face cloths, polishing cloths, and re-usable make-up wipes. She says

it's pretty easy to do because they can all go in the washing machine, not like in our grandparent's day when it all had to be washed by hand. That's one up from recycling! It's up to you, but please consider making one New Year's Resolution this year about recycling more, or better still reducing plastic use.

Maybe it's time to remember the slogan Anita Roddick used when she started The Body Shop way back in 1976 : REDUCE, RE-USE, RECYCLE! Happy New Year!

Shepton Beauchamp Church School

Together We Flourish

A Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at Shepton Beauchamp Church School

It has been an enjoyable, but exhausting Christmas programme at the school. Our children began Christmas by performing at the Singing in the Square event in Ilminster, to switch on the Xmas lights. Our children sang their hearts out for an 8 song set, in front of an outdoor audience of over 200 people.

For the first time in 2 years, due to Covid, we were able to host our Christingle Service at our church to mark the beginning of advent. The audience summed up the event, with most commenting "We are ready for Christmas now!"

Rehearsals for our Christmas Production, "Children of the World" began in November and two polished performances were delivered in St Michael's Church, which included our luxury hampers raffle.

As a surprise event for the children, we sprung local magician, Keithy Weify on the children for a stunning magic show during the last week at school.

Thank you to all of our helpers

We enjoy the support of so many volunteers from our community, who step in to help us throughout the year. You all make our school so special. Thank you from all of us.

We need to remind parents that the deadline for applying for Reception Class spaces is fast approaching, January 15th 2022. If you would like a school visit, 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

We look forward to seeing you soon!

The Burning of the Ashen Faggot

Naomi Long

In the West Country, it was traditional for households and pubs in particular to burn an "ashen faggot" instead of a Yule log. In fact, Christmas Eve used to be called Ashen Faggot Night in Somerset.

On Christmas and New Year's Eve, ash wood branches would be cut fresh from the tree and these sticks of green wood would be bound round with three and sometimes as many as nine bands or hoops of green ash from the same tree or in some places, most likely on the Somerset Levels, withy bands to form a faggot. The bands had to be as wide as possible because ideally they would break gradually throughout the night. The younger members of the household would then select one of the bands and make a wish and if their band was the first to break from the heat of the fire, their wish would come true.

The ash faggot was always lit with a charred twig saved from the embers of the previous year's Christmas Eve hearth. Once it was burning merrily, everybody in the house was considered equal, master and servants alike. Sack races, apple bobbing and many other traditional games were then played. If you were playing the customary and almost obligatory drinking game, every time one of the bands cracked in the fire (which, being green wood, resulted in a loud bang) you had to drink a quart (two pints!) of cider or egg-hot, the cider version of egg nog. This might also account for the varying number of bands used to bind the faggot, with nine bands leading to considerable excesses, with pubs obviously vying for the largest ash faggot that the fireplace could hold.

The faggot was always made from ash because it was reputed to be the wood that Mary used for kindling when boiling water for washing her new-born son. Ash used to be held with some reverence locally and is often the tree selected for the middle of the village green. It is traditionally known as The Lightning Tree, attracting lightning due to its high starch content, as per the local saying "Avoid an ash, it courts a flash". Ash also surfaces in various healing traditions and as a ward against witches and snakes.

This custom was still prevalent in the late nineteenth century, with the Devon Association reporting in 1878 that there were 32 houses burning the traditional ash faggot in the Ashburton area alone. In 1952, the largest recorded ash faggot burnt in the 7.5 ft fireplace of the bar-parlour at the New Inn, Northleigh, Devon, weighed a whopping thousand kilos and was 7 metres long and 22 cm thick, with the largest green ash stick being 7cm in diameter, though this faggot was bound with five strips of hazel.

Public Service Announcements

SOMERSET BUS PARTNERSHIP

The future is suddenly starting to look a lot brighter for bus services in Somerset.

Over the past decade, public transport has not been an economic and developmental priority for Somerset County Council. Residents of this large, mainly rural county have been encouraged to rely on cars to get them to work as well as to shops, hospitals and places of entertainment and bus travel has dwindled accordingly. Bus journeys in the County have fallen by 43% over the past decade. We now have the second lowest bus journeys per head in the country and our bus services have the lowest satisfaction score.

But the Government's Bus Back Better strategy has prompted a major rethink with £3 billion of funding for bus improvements to be shared out between transport authorities across England (outside of London). Somerset County Council has responded and developed a highly ambitious Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) and is asking the Government to fund the Somerset BSIP with an eye watering £163 million grant.

Even if the full amount of the Somerset bid is not granted, it is a recognition by Somerset County Council that its bus services need major improvement. Somerset Bus Partnership was set up so that the voices of bus users from across Somerset are heard. We now have over 80 "bus representatives" from all parts of the county who ensure we understand and reflect the needs of towns and parishes across the county. We still need some more representatives. Could you be your parish bus representative? Check if your parish still needs a representative: www.somersetbuspartnership.co.uk/representative

If you would like to get in contact with us drop us an email: somersetbuspartnership@gmail.com or follow us on Facebook: or via our website: <https://www.somersetbuspartnership.co.uk>

AVIAN INFLUENZA PREVENTION ZONE (AIPZ)

Important for all keepers with a few chickens, ducks or geese.

From early November an AIPZ was declared across Great Britain. This means that all bird keepers are required by law to take a range of bio-security precautions. For details see: www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu#biosecurity

Time to take up tennis

Natalie: secretary1.sptc@gmail.com

South Petherton Tennis Club (SPTC) is committed to making tennis easily accessible to everyone who would like to play. During these winter months, the club is actively encouraging people to come out into the fresh air and onto court for a knock about whether you are an SPTC member or not.

NON-MEMBERS With the help of the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), SPTC signed up to the LTA's online Clubspark system, which has revolutionised the way in which anyone can now book a court at South Petherton. You can register on the secure Clubspark website via southpethertontennisclub.co.uk, which enables you to book an available one hour slot up to a week in advance on either courts 1 or 2 for £6 per hour. Please note the floodlights and clubhouse facilities are not available to non-members and T&Cs apply.

MEMBERSHIP What are the benefits of joining SPTC? Apart from making new friends and expanding your social life, they include: the best value in the local area, the use of the floodlights (Full Adult members only), tennis balls, tea/coffee, booking courts up to three weeks in advance, use of the "lobster" practice tennis ball machine and the clubhouse facilities.

FREE ONE HOUR TENNIS SESSION Stepping Stones is usually held 1-2 pm every first Saturday of the month and open to members and non-members, who would like to play some fun mixed doubles. There is no charge, no need to book and no obligation to join the club. Just come along for an hour of fun. Please check SPTC's Facebook page a couple of days before just in case it is not being held for whatever reason.

BIRTHDAY PRESENT SUGGESTIONS

Coaching Lesson Voucher : both our professional coaches, Rachel Apsey and Natalie Carpenter, offer a variety of coaching lessons, which make an ideal present.

SPTC Clothing or a Gift Voucher : visit SPTC's Club Shop on the website to see a wide choice of tennis tops, sweatshirts, hoodies, gilets and jackets for adults and juniors.

Contact committee.sptc@gmail.com for more information.

E: committee.sptc@gmail.com

W: southpethertontennisclub.co.uk

F: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/54288331718>



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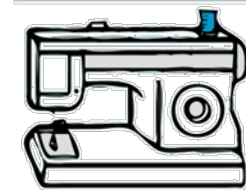
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