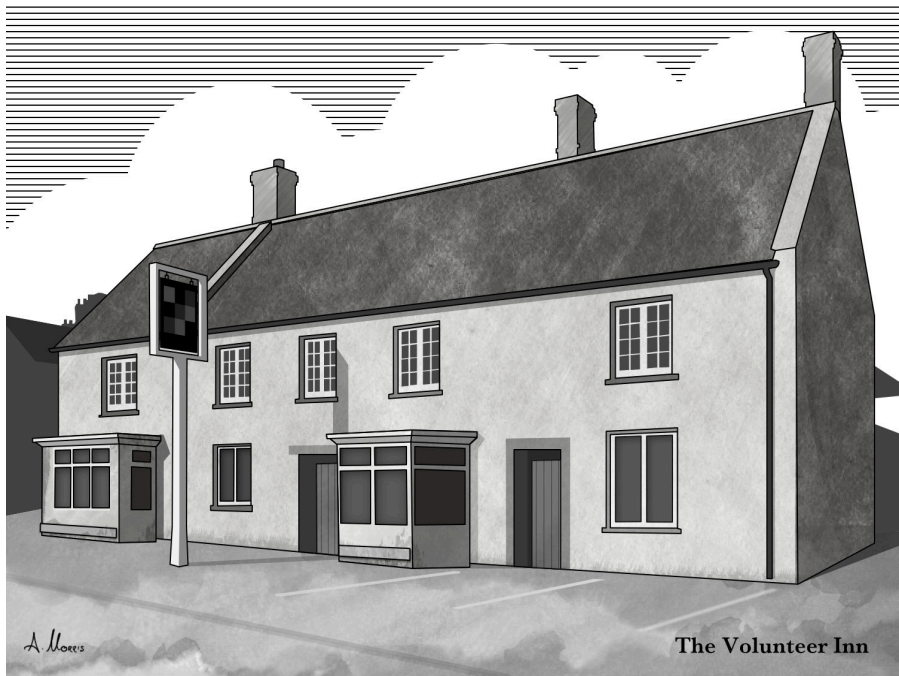


# THE SEAVINGTONS' NEWS

March 2022



Highway Code - New Rules Page 7

Sporty Tots has arrived Page 14

## 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

Pubs are a key element of the UK way of life, so often lying at the heart of communities. They have a particular place in a rural setting, not only for locals but visitors too. However, pub numbers in the UK have steadily declined. There were 13,900 fewer pubs in 2020 than there were at the turn of the Millennium.

There are multiple factors contributing to this decline, including the smoking ban, drink driving laws, economic factors such as the 2008 recession, increased taxation, competition from the large pub companies (pubcos) and latterly the impact of COVID regulations.

From a report in the House of Commons Library, the fate of pubs locally in the Yeovil Constituency largely mirrors that of the nation as a whole. Over the 10 year period 2010-20 the number of pubs declined by 21%.

In The Seavingtons we are fortunate that The Volunteer has survived. The combination of pub, church, Millennium Hall, shop and cafe all contribute to making our villages attractive places to live. The common maxim 'use it or lose it' applies and the loss of any one of these would result in the attractiveness of the Seavingtons being diminished.

\*\*\*\*\*

Some readers will be aware that Tony Beresford and his wife, Marion, have recently moved from the village to a new home in Broadway. Tony has acted as The News advertising manager and treasurer for the past 8 years and has now decided to stand down. I owe a huge debt of gratitude to Tony for leaving The News in sound financial health. I also recognise this would not have been possible without the support of a loyal band of advertisers. We all wish Tony well in "retirement".

I am delighted to report that Ray Thorogood has agreed to take on the combined role as Tony's replacement. I would also like to thank Nigel Keys for volunteering to take over Robin Gilbert's delivery round.

Editor

## DON'T FORGET

**The Latest Copy Date: 20<sup>th</sup> March 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)

## KEV'S CLEANING SERVICES LTD



We clean all windows inside & outside and always include window sills and frames

Skylights / solar panels conservatories & any type of roof  
We offer regular and one-off cleans

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[www.kevscleaningservices.co.uk](http://www.kevscleaningservices.co.uk)  
email: [kevscleaning@btinternet.com](mailto:kevscleaning@btinternet.com)

## JJK GUTTERING SERVICES LTD

We empty, unblock and clean gutters, fascias, soffits, downpipes, conservatories and roofs

We can fix and replace any leaking guttering



*Friendly team of reliable and trustworthy staff*

## St Michael's Church Seavington

Wed 2 Mar	7.00 pm	Holy Communion with Ashing
Sun 6 Mar	11.15 am	Cafe Church - Seavington Community Cafe
Sun 13 Mar	10.30 am	Holy Communion (CW)
Sun 20 Mar	10.30 am	Family Holy Communion (CW)
Sun 27 Mar	10.30 am	Mothering Sunday - Benefice Family Holy Communion at South Petherton
Sun 27 Mar	5.00 pm	Refectory Service at St Michaels

We are delighted to re-start Cafe Church on the first Sunday of each month at 11.15 in Seavington Community Cafe. Thank you to the Shop Committee for agreeing to the use of this lovely accessible facility. Please join us for an informal service preceded by coffee and croissants. **Everyone is very welcome.**

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

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

## The Seavingtons' Weather in January

	<i><b>This Year - 2022</b></i>	<i><b>Last Year - 2021</b></i>
<b>Temperature</b>		
Average Minimum	2.00°C	1.15°C
Average Maximum	8.72°C	6.89°C
Mean	5.36°C	6.70°C
<b>Rainfall</b>		
Monthly Total	23.6 mm (0.99")	94.1 mm (3.76")
Total for Year	23.6 mm (0.99")	94.1 mm (3.76")

The driest January since 1997 with 16.7mm. Overall a mild dry month. Will we pay for it at the end of February / early March?

## 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 10 Mar	7.30 pm	Gardening Club - all welcome. 'Growing Vegetables Organically' talk by Val Bourne. See page 6 Contact: Jo Culham 01460 241555
Wed 16 Mar	10.30 am	Village Get2gether - all welcome. Café Contact Gill Beveridge 01460 242828
Thurs 17 Mar	9.30 am	Sporty Tots - see page 14
Fri 18 Mar	7.30pm	RSPB Talk 'The Mediterranean Naturally' an illustrated presentation by David Boag. Non-members very welcome. See pg 13 Contact Denise Chanings 01460 240740
Tues 22Mar	6.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting and AGM - Café
Wed 23 Mar	8.00 pm	Monthly Quiz - The Volunteer. Contact Ruth: 01460 240126
Thurs 24 Mar	9.30 am	Sporty Tots - see page 14
Sat 26 Mar	9.00 am	Just a Brisk Walk - start Hall car park Contact: Matthew Towill E: towill916@btinternet.com See below

After a break over the winter months **Just a Brisk Walk** returns for 2022 on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> of March. The walk which is open to all will, as before, last for about an hour starting and finishing at The Seavington Millennium Hall car park. Don't let the title put you off as the speed of the walk ensures that it is enjoyable to all those present. The route is around the lanes and footpaths of the village. One big change for this year is the start time, it is now half an hour later at 9AM. Please come along and join us.

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@evofitnesstraining.com

### Balance Pilates and Wellbeing

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

### DMV Sequence Dance Club

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

### Wessex Women's Choir

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

### Yoga and Mindfulness Classes

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

### RAMA Life

Wednesdays 11.00-16.00 (see page 26)

HEC (Home Education)

Fridays 11.00-16.00

For both RAMA and HEC Contact: Jenn Hodge 01460 510042



## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY SATURDAY APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup> 2022

**PLEASE NOTE THE PLANNED EASTER BINGO  
HAS BEEN POSTPONED. WE HOPE TO HOLD A  
BINGO EVENING LATER THIS YEAR**

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

[Organised by St Michael's Church Flower Ladies]

More details will be given in the April Newsletter.

## 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:

12 Flat irons. Ideal for door stops. £40.00  
Brother portable typewriter. £10.00  
Brass faced Salters trade spring balance scales up to 100lbs. £12.00  
**Call Alan 01460 241942**

### For Sale:

Rhode bike rack to fit estates / hatchbacks. Carries 2/3 bikes. £15.00  
'Revolution - Audax' road bike. 23" frame 26" wheels. Shimano gears.  
Carbon fibre front forks. Excellent condition. £100.00  
Dunlop golf clubs and bag. Ideal for lady/junior player. Dunlop 'Max'  
clubs 3x drivers 7 x irons plus pitching wedge and sand wedge. £30.00  
**Call: Stephen 01460 242058**



## Operation Christmas Child

We now know that our 61 shoeboxes were included within 65,668 which were sent to children in Central Asia.

A total of 277,350 shoeboxes were sent from the UK to needy children.

Thank you to all who contributed

**Gill Beveridge**



## Seavington Gardening Club

Kate Mulligan (01460 24202)



### "American Garden Meets English Landscape" A talk by Andrew Cannell on 10<sup>th</sup> February.

Most of us, when we re-design our gardens, do not have 2.5 million dollars to play with. Neither do we have Alan Titchmarsh to open it or the American Ambassador top of the guest list. But then we don't have Claverton Manor and Limpley Stoke Valley as our backdrop. That is exactly what Andrew Cannell experienced when he became involved with the creation of the gardens at the American Museum. Trying to balance the American vision of large landscapes and big ideas into a quintessential sloping, wooded English valley was not easy.

However, the problems he and his team encountered are not so different from ordinary garden re-design - just on a much bigger scale. Trying to manage contractors who solve one problem with their heavy machinery but then seem to create three more, chasing up plant orders that have mysteriously vanished and the logistics of moving thousands of plants around to the right spot all within a tight deadline would raise stress levels for anyone.

The end result was the creation of the New American Contemporary Garden and the George Washington Memorial Garden at the American Museum on the outskirts of Bath. The gardens are stunning and well worth a visit especially from mid-July to the end of September.

A huge thank you to Andrew for sharing his personal experiences in such a lively and entertaining way.

#### Flower of the Month Competition

1st Denise Webber - Polyspora Axillaris - fried egg plant  
2nd Anne Clifford - Hellebore  
3rd Jane Chitty - Snowdrop

#### Next Meeting

Thursday 10th March 2022 in the Millennium Hall. Doors open 6.45pm for AGM with refreshments served at 7.00pm. The talk "Growing Vegetables Organically" by Val Bourne will start at 7.30pm.

Flower of the Month Competition will be held.

Admission free to members and £2 payable at the door for visitors. Annual subscriptions £10 per person can still be paid. For further information please contact Jo Culham - tel. 01460 241555

## The Highway Code - New Rules

*The Editor*

Until a reader drew it to my attention, I was unaware that a new version of The Highway Code had been launched on 29 January. The 2022 updates affect driver priority, pedestrian's and cyclist's rights of way, mobile phone use behind the wheel and the broader use of fines for poor and dangerous driving.

There are numerous small changes but everyone should be aware of three rules to be found in the new section about the 'hierarchy of road users'.

The 'hierarchy of road users' is a concept that places those road users most at risk in the event of a collision at the top of the hierarchy. However, the hierarchy does not remove the need for everyone to behave responsibly. The road users most likely to be injured in the event of a collision are pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders and motorcyclists, with children, older adults and disabled people being more at risk. The following H rules clarify this concept.

New rule H1 demonstrates the importance of knowing The Highway Code, being considerate to other road users, and the responsibility of road users to reduce the danger they pose to others.

New rule H2 highlights giving way to pedestrians.

New rule H3 is concerned with not cutting across cyclists, and not turning at a junction if to do so would cause a cyclist going straight ahead to stop or swerve.

The full details of these rules and other changes can all be found by purchasing the 2022 Version of the Highway Code from Amazon price £4.39 or free on-line: [www.highwaycodeuk.co.uk](http://www.highwaycodeuk.co.uk)

In the village the new rules are particularly relevant to Water Street which is very much a shared space with no footpath. Pedestrians frequently use Water Street as their route to the shop, cafe, Millennium Hall and children's playground. Drivers of cars, vans and trucks should remain mindful of the new hierarchy and be considerate to pedestrians. Nowhere is this more important than the Ile Bridge blind bend at the bottom of Water Street. Just because the speed limit is a maximum of 30 mph doesn't mean that any vehicle should drive at this speed or more around this bend. 20 mph or less would be safer.

Despite pedestrians being at the top of the 'hierarchy' they too must take due care, including keeping well to the side of the road facing oncoming traffic.

# Parish Council News

Pauline Parsons [[parishcouncil@theseavingtons.org](mailto:parishcouncil@theseavingtons.org)]

## PARISH COUNCILLORS

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

**CHANGE OF DATE FOR THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**  
**6.30 pm TUESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH IN THE COMMUNITY SHOP/CAFE.**  
**This will also be the Village Parish AGM where you can come and raise any issues with your Parish Councillors. Reports will also be given by various Parish organisations.**

## PARISH ELECTIONS

Elections for both the new Unitary Authority and Parish/Town Councils will take place on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022. The elections begin with the publication of the Notice of Election on Monday, 21st March. Nomination forms must be hand-delivered to the SSDC Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil BA20 2HT between 9.00am on Monday 21 March and 4.00pm on Tuesday 05 April (the office will be open from 9.00am to 5.00pm each day to accept nomination forms except the final day when it will close at 4.00pm). Further details will be posted on the village notice boards and web-site.

## COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH GROUP

Training is now almost complete.

## SIDs

Speed data downloaded from the SID that had been placed outside Falcon Close shows that traffic continues to speed along the C5021 despite the traffic calming measures and SIDs being in place. Data from the SID will now be given to the Police.

## 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 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2022. AS at the 15<sup>th</sup> February the Approval decision has still not been ratified by the SSDC CEO. Both Kingstone Parish and Seavington Parish have objected to the way in which the meeting was conducted. We have also been advised that the CPRE has lodged a complaint.

## FALCON CLOSE – Frontage

A contractor has been sighted taking measurements along the area for the new footway, but we still have no start date for this.

## 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 noted – finger post by steps in Longforward Lane and stile by 2 Southernways.

## PARISH CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

Several applications have now been received and three Parish Councillors are to draw up a short-list and invite those applicants for formal interview. We are still hopeful that someone will be in post by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022. If not, Councillor Parsons has agreed to stay in post until someone is appointed.

## SPFA

As Sole Trustees of the SPFA assets the Parish Councillors discussed several issues in connection with the Millennium Hall and Playing Field. The Land Registry document showing that the SPFA assets are now lodged with the Official Custodian of Charities has now been received. This was the last piece of the puzzle for the Parish Council to become Sole Trustees.

Hall bookings are now back on track and there are not many times when the Hall is not in use. This means that the Hall should be back to being self-supporting. A problem is that at present the Committee have been unsuccessful in appointing a new Cleaner. New Contracts for the maintenance of the playing field have been obtained. It was unanimously agreed by Parish Councillors that the Parish Council would pay for this as they are able to claim back the 20% VAT.

## QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

See more information on pages 10 and 11

The Parish Council is hopeful that all residents will join in with this celebration

## Isabel and Jack's Litter Pick

Help us with our fundraising for exciting school projects

Isabel and Jack are litter picking around the local area throughout February, this will include The Seavingtons, Ilminster, South Petherton and their route to school, as well as some other places we may visit along the way!! These are all places that they use for regular activities and exercise. The aim of the exercise is to **RAISE** some pennies for Kingsbury Episcopi Primary School, so any donations would be extremely welcome, and to also **RAISE** awareness of the amount of rubbish that litters our beautiful countryside, which can go onto spoil our environment.

Donations can be made directly to us (Pound Cottage, Water Street) or you can find a donation pot at Seavington Village Shop.



## PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATORY MUGS REMINDER

Sponsorship has been obtained so that mugs can be given free to children in the village under the age of 16.

**ORDERS HAVE TO BE PLACED BY THE END OF MARCH. If you would like you child/children to have a mug please complete the form below or collect [and return] a form from the Community Shop by Friday 18 March.** If preferred please use the following e-mail address, [jubileemugs@theseavingtons.org](mailto: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 .....



## THE SEAVINGTONS CELEBRATE THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

*Pauline Parsons [parishcouncil@theseavingtons.org]*

Firstly I would like to thank all those who turned up to the Village Meeting at the beginning of March to discuss plans to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We now have a framework to take forward.

1. The Gardening Club will ensure that all garden areas, flower troughs and hanging baskets are planted to link in with the celebrations.
2. There will be a Flower Festival at St Michael's Church from Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June to Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June. Refreshments will be served. Timings will be announced later
3. Competitions that you will need to prepare for:-
  - (i) Scarecrows – Can we beat the 63 that appeared in 2012
  - (ii) For the children – make and decorate a Crown fit for a Queen
  - (iii) Make your own Hobby Horse ready for race day on the Saturday

### OUTLINE PROGRAMME OF EVENTS FOR THE FOUR DAYS OF CELEBRATIONS

Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> June Evening Quiz in the Millennium Hall

Fri 5<sup>th</sup> June Treasure Hunt around the villages [which can be completed on either of the four days]  
Walking our village footpaths led by Parish Councillors  
Seavington's got Talent – 7.00pm in the Hall

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> June Fete Day – on the Playing Field and Millennium Hall  
Evening BBQ at The Volunteer Inn

Sun 7<sup>th</sup> June Cafe Church at 11.15am  
Street Party [Luncheon] on the Hall car park and playing field – 1.00pm

We are still interested to hear from anyone who would like to have a stall, or run a competition at the Fete. Also Residents who would like to display/sell any craft items that they make.

See separate item on page 23 regarding a Classic Vehicle display.

More details re tickets, timings etc will be given in the April and May editions of The News.



## Over the Counter

Vicky Rahilly ([vickyrhilly30@gmail.com](mailto:vickyrhilly30@gmail.com))

### Thank you to Terry and Martin:

Many of you will know that Terry Gibson stood down as our Committee Chair at the end of January. We could not miss the opportunity to publicly express a massive thank you to Terry for all she has done, particularly during some very challenging times over the last 2 years. She always makes time for people and the community and, on a personal note, was extremely welcoming to me when I started as a volunteer. We will miss you Terry but look forward to your continuing involvement and support.

Martin Crowther has stepped into the role of Chair. The Committee is very grateful and looks forward to working with Martin, the community and wider village groups over the coming months. Watch this space!

### Cafe news:

Jane and the team have been updating the menu and look forward to welcoming you in soon.

### Book Library:

Thank you to Jill who has stepped down from managing the book library after looking after things for a considerable time. Sue Babey has now taken on this role. We offer some fantastic books; many are current bestsellers at an absolute bargain price of £1. All proceeds go straight back into the shop and cafe, so this is a brilliant way to support us, particularly if you are a bookworm! Good quality donations are welcome. We are accepting fiction and autobiographies currently.

### Arts and Crafts update:

Kate Norton has had a wonderful exhibition of crafts representing the Somerset Landscape on display throughout February which has been very well supported. From 1<sup>st</sup> March local artist, Jan Daniels, will be showcasing her mosaic work. Jan is based in Stoke Sub Hamdon and creates pieces using broken pottery and porcelain.

The wonderful Windwhistle Designs digital artwork will remain on display in the cafe this month. We will also be stocking their cards in the shop.

### Your support and planning for the future:

As is usually the case, January and February have been quieter trade months for the shop and cafe. We rely on local community support so please shop/eat with us when you can. We are also always on the look out for willing volunteers so if you are interested in joining a friendly team in the cafe or shop, please come and speak to us.

The Committee is currently in discussion with the Parish Council around events for the Jubilee, our Easter opening hours have been agreed and we are planning a stocktake in April- which should be greatly assisted by our EPOS system. Fingers crossed.

### Early notice of Easter opening:

15<sup>th</sup> April - Good Friday- Closed

16<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Saturday- Normal opening hours

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

Thank you for your continued support.

## SOUTH SOMERSET RSPB GROUP

### 'The Mediterranean Naturally'

An illustrated presentation by David Boag, a well-known wildlife photographer and popular speaker with our group. Join David for a trip around the Med with birds such as bee-eater, hoopoe and turtle dove. Also other wildlife.

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March - 7.30pm The Millennium Hall, Seavington St Mary  
Entry: Group members £4, non-group members £5, under 18's £1  
Tea/coffee & biscuits included – Wheelchair access

### NON-MEMBERS VERY WELCOME

For further details contact: Denise Chamings (group leader) on  
01460240740

[www.rspb.org.uk/groups/southsomerset](http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/southsomerset) [www.facebook.com/groups/RSPBSouthSomersetGroup](https://www.facebook.com/groups/RSPBSouthSomersetGroup)

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



## Sporty Tots has arrived...at

Seavington St Mary Village Hall

Sporty Tots is our brand new and exciting activities aimed at children aged 2 to 4 years old. Our sessions will focus on agility, balance and coordination – as well as the importance of having fun and enjoyment in sports play.

This fantastic course will Improve everything from Spatial Awareness, stability to rhythm and acceleration through the introduction to various sports on a rotation basis.

These courses will not only improve your child's self-esteem and confidence it will ensure they are physically prepared for Primary School.

### You will need:

- **Trainers**
- **leisure wear ,shorts**
- **Drinks and snack**
- **9.30am 10.30am**
- 

**Thursday 17th March - 7th April initially @ Seavington Village Hall**  
**9,30am–10.30am**  
**Visit [www.pro-coaching.co.uk](http://www.pro-coaching.co.uk) and click Sporty Tots to book.**

## SEAVINGTON SHOP AND CAFE

Delicious home cooked meals and freshly baked cakes. Stunning graphic artwork from Windwhistle Designs based in Seavington available for purchase.

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

### BOOK LIBRARY

We have a wide selection of bestselling fiction and autobiographies on sale for £1. We welcome good quality donations.

**FRESH FRUIT & VEGETABLES, BREAD, FROZEN MEALS, WIDE SELECTION OF WINES & BEERS all available! ART AND CRAFTS BY LOCAL ARTIST JAN DANIELS.**

Jan will be displaying her beautiful mosaic work in the shop throughout March. Wonderful decorative pieces for sale- come and take a look!

**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](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> April**

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)

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



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- Listed building work
- Whole House sound systems
- CCTV Camera Installation
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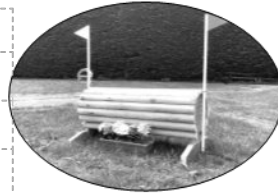
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Thurs. 17 March. 7.30pm  
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Wed 30 March - Sat 2 April 7.30 pm  
Ilminster Youth Theatre presents 'Play On' by David Upsher  
Tickets: £12 (Children / Students £6)

## Frogmary Farm Revisited

*The Editor*

When I visited Frogmary Farm in October last year the green harvest was nearing completion. I was keen to find out what happens to the maize, barley and wheat that we see growing in the fields around the village. The chopped crops are stored in clamps on the farm and also on a site beside the road going into Ilminster. Through the year these stocks are drawn down to feed the anaerobic digester (AD) plant at Frogmary which is owned and operated by a separate company. Indeed much of the Ilminster clamp has already been used.

An anaerobic digester or bio-gas plant works by converting cereals and a variety of agricultural waste into methane. At Frogmary the cereals they grow are supplemented by reject potatoes and milk whey from local sources. The process involves the breakdown of the plant feedstock by the action of bacteria in a sealed tank in the absence of oxygen to produce methane. A small proportion of the biogas is used on site to generate electricity for all of the farm's needs. The majority passes through a process of 'cleaning' before being pressurised and fed into the national gas grid. The biogas produced at Frogmary is sufficient to heat between 7000 - 10000 homes.

The solid and liquid residues are valuable bi-products. The solids are spread back on the land as a soil improver and the liquid digestate used as a fertiliser rich in nitrogen and other trace elements. The digestate is spread on the winter wheat and barley to boost growth in the spring. It is also used on fields prior to planting this year's maize crop.

Throughout the winter months there has not been much activity on the land. Anyone walking the local footpaths will have seen that the winter wheat and barley sown in the autumn is growing well. Stubble turnips sown after last year's barley crop are now ready as feed for sheep. The sheep in the fields at the bottom of Water Street are last year's lambs, bought by local farmers in the autumn and now being fattened for market.

Walkers may also have noticed that the fields being cultivated by Frogmary Farm have wide field margins. This is very much a part of the policy to provide a wildlife refuge either side of the hedges. This is just one of the practical ways of helping to conserve and enhance the natural environment. Over a period of 20 years 1800 trees and 5km of hedgerow have also been planted on land owned by the Braggs.

Once again I would like to thank Nick and Claire Bragg for taking time out of their busy schedule to talk to me.

## Reflections from Venezuela

*Cecilia Córdova*

It has been 8 weeks since I returned to Caracas from the UK and it feels natural to drive again on "the right side of the road". Mistakenly I am still getting into my car on the wrong side and automatically using my left hand for the gears and my right for the seatbelt.

Along with many Venezuelans I used to think my country was at the centre of the world and the people were the best. My first day in Somerset dismantled the Venezuelan myth that the English were very reserved, distant, serious and unfriendly.

I believe people are people wherever you go in the world and I no longer accept Venezuelans saying "there are no people like the Venezuelans". Humility is the answer, and I think "there are no people like English People" and based on my personal experience I will tell you why.

Even though it took me a while to understand the English weather and small talk, right from day one I was the recipient of kindness, great sense of care and community, respect for others and the pragmatism of English culture. I was welcomed as a volunteer in the Village Café where I had the chance to practice and improve my English. I found myself immersed in English life. I connected with a huge number of fascinating individuals who are nowadays very dear and close friends. Just 5 years in England gave me 6 amazing sets of adoptive English parents, wonderful lifelong friends, 8 dogs, 4 cats, garden skills, a magnificent inspirational piano teacher, a 15-year-old violin teacher and a language which I hardly spoke before and still can barely write.

In contrast, life in Venezuela is difficult to explain. Under the dictatorship there is a complete state of anarchy and total disarray with no Institutions at all, lawlessness, rampant corruption, a dramatic social divide between the haves and have nots. Poverty and violence are endemic, schools are half deserted, the minimum wage is worth 2 quid per month. The health system has been devastated due to years of underinvestment, power cuts are part of the daily routine, public water service is a joke and to survive people and communities dig wells. Old diseases such as malaria are re-emerging. So many extreme contrasts: a new Ferrari car dealership, magnificent weather, hundreds of wild macaws and green parrots flying all over Caracas, which you can feed from your hand. It is all mind-boggling.

It is hard to believe the country is in such a state of disrepair without having suffered a war. I am refocusing my career as a pharmacist towards humanitarian aid (with many lessons learnt in the UK) willing to help those less fortunate, and I will keep you posted on life and perils in a country of such stark contrasts.

## Tomorrow's World Today Part 2.

### *The Electric Dreamer*

Reading through the article "Tomorrow's World Today" in the February edition of the Seavington News, I realised with some alarm that I may have been the subject of the narrowly averted untimely demise of The Seavington Stroller.

I have owned an electric car for seven years, and am familiar with the pros and cons of ownership. There are indeed a number of disadvantages compared with petrol and diesel. Certainly in the early years, range anxiety was a big issue. Our first car had a range of only 90 miles so on motorway trips we were reliant on the chargers at services being in working order. Our current car has a range of 300 miles and on the occasions when we want to drive that distance in a single trip, we still find the need to stop for regular comfort breaks and refreshments. Charging whilst doing so has never been a problem. The issue isn't battery range, it's bladder range. The ZapMap app gives real time information on the availability of public charging points and there are thousands of them now, with many more being added all the time. In fact there are chargers as close to The Seavingtons as the nearest petrol station.

One serious disadvantage, which the previous article rightly identifies, arises where a driver is obliged to park on-street. Despite the rapid growth in charging points, this will restrict the widespread growth of ownership of electric cars until there has been a significant increase in charging capacity. Cost of purchase is another disadvantage. Until engine and gearbox factories are fully converted to produce batteries and electric motors, there will still be a price differential. These disadvantages may well deter many drivers from making the switch at the moment.

So what are the advantages to be weighed against these? The first is most definitely running costs. If you are able to plug in at home, the cost of fuel is about 4p per mile. There are also deals for overnight charging available from some energy suppliers which make use of cheaper off-peak rates. If you have solar panels then plugging-in when the sun shines gives free fuel! The costs of servicing are also greatly reduced, with no oil or air filter changes and fewer moving parts to wear out.

Another advantage is the driving experience. I can reassure the Seavington Stroller that full torque and power is available at all times – the cars do not get slower as the level of charge decreases. No matter the speed there is no engine noise and no gear changes. For those occasions when rapid acceleration is required, electric cars are no sluggards. Having driven electric, I for one would not want to go back to petrol or diesel on driving experience alone. As to the National Grid

coping, the grid's director of Transport Decarbonisation, Graeme Cooper, is reported as saying on the subject, "There is definitely enough energy, and the grid can cope easily."

So far we have only considered the practical aspects of ownership. For others, the ethical side is important too. If electric car drivers buy their energy from green suppliers then their driving is zero carbon. Driving electric also helps towards a reduction in health problems associated with nitrous oxide and particle emissions, especially in big cities.

Electric car ownership is likely to be a slow and developing process. It is not right for a lot of people at the moment for a variety of reasons. Others may be considering it and hopefully may be encouraged by those who have made the switch already.

## EV Charging Point

### *The Editor*

Over recent months there has been significant interest in the possibility of installing a charging point in the Village Hall car park. A small team of volunteers came together to progress the idea. On the basis of research undertaken, principally by David Froome, it was possible for Sue Babey to draft a proposal which was submitted to the Parish Council / SPFA for consideration at their most recent meeting.

Sadly the SPFA Trustees decided to wait and see what happens regarding electric vehicles in the future. The project was not rejected and they hope to review it at some point in the future.



## Jubilee Fete Sat 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022

### Classic Cars Old and Interesting Transport

As part of the village fete we hope to gather together as many local old and interesting vehicles as possible. If you have a classic car, old lorry, vintage motorbike, time-served tractor, ancient bicycle or any kind of interesting mode of transport you would be willing to show to others on the day please contact me, Simon Baker. Our two Morris Minors will be there and they would hate to be alone! We will gather at the Recreation Ground at 2.00pm on the day and should end by 5.00pm. Cars etc will be assembled on the hard standing in the overflow car park near the shop.

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E-mail: [simonbaker57@outlook.com](mailto:simonbaker57@outlook.com).

## Bug of the Month: MRSA (Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus Aureus)

Anne Crowther

Not just any bug, this bug is a Super Bug.

*Staphylococcus Aureus* translated from Latin is 'Bunch of Golden Grapes' which describes how this looks under the microscope.

Potted History: Alexandra Fleming discovered Penicillin in 1928. The first resistant strain of Staphylococcus Aureus to Penicillin was found in 1942. Methicillin was developed in response. The first resistant strain to Methicillin was isolated in 1960, MRSA was born.

MRSA is a common bacterium often carried on the skin, in the gut and inside the nostrils and throat. In the fit and well population, it rarely causes major difficulties. Problems can arise in Hospital and Health Care settings in already compromised people where MRSA can flourish and be difficult to treat due to its resistance to broad spectrum antibiotics and its ability to survive for long periods on objects. It can be passed from skin to skin contact from someone who has the bacteria living on their skin or from contaminated objects.

Symptoms vary according to which part of the anatomy has become infected.

If MRSA infects the skin it can lead to a wound infection, boil or abscess, in deeper skin tissue cellulitis can occur. Symptoms include redness, swelling, pain, tenderness, pus, possible raised temperature and feeling unwell.

If MRSA penetrates deeper into the body or into the blood it can cause a more serious (and quickly spreading) invasive infection. Likely symptoms are: High temperature, chills, feeling unwell, confusion, dizziness, muscle aches and pains, swelling, tenderness and pain in the affected body part.

MRSA is treatable with some antibiotics. If the infection is deep seated treatment is likely to be intravenous at first before changing to an oral course. Treatment and recovery can take a long time.

Recently MRSA rates have fallen. This is partly because of increased awareness leading to screening programmes and skin cleansing procedures pre-admission for some hospital patients. Attention has also become more focused on the thorough decontamination of hospital equipment and the importance of good hand hygiene.

A bit about silver. Silver is often used in wound dressings to good effect, especially useful where the infection is resistant to antibiotics.

## Shrove Tuesday Traditions

Naomi Long

If any of you are Shepton Beauchamp Primary School alumni (!), you are sure to be familiar with the following scene.

On Shrove Tuesday, all the children gather together as two large cardboard placards are brought out, with the words of a song written in neat felt tip. The rector comes in (in my day, it was Rev. Wilkes who, I think lived, in the Old Rectory) and produces a large and venerable garden sieve which looks to be an antique dating from the 18th or 19th century and must be one of the school's oldest and most hallowed relics.

The children each produce the egg they have brought from home, marked with their initials in pencil. Shame on the child who brings a hard-boiled egg; this has never once happened to my knowledge. The eggs are placed in the sieve and the rector begins the "egg shackling", which is surely a derivative of "shaking". To piano accompaniment, the children begin to sing the traditional song (see below) as the rector gently begins to shake the sieve and as the eggs knock into each other, all of them gradually break until a single egg is left. This egg is picked up, the initials are read out and the winner announced and then the rector demonstrates the child's good faith by proving the egg is not hard-boiled (he breaks it). A small prize is usually given, I can't remember what it was as I never once won, despite desperately hoping for it as I sat cross-legged in my grey kilt and blouse - this was before we got those lovely red jumpers with the sheep logo which were right at the end of my time there.

This rather original tradition is actually fairly unique to our part of the world and goes back at least a century or two (Langport school had the earliest written reference to it in 1840). It takes place at Shepton Beauchamp and Stoke St Gregory schools (said to date back to the school's foundation in 1857, and there are plenty of old black and white photos on the village site of it at <https://www.gregorystoke.org/eggshackling>).

Egg shackling is clearly a fun, ceremonial way of breaking eggs on Shrove Tuesday to make pancakes, thus using them up before Lent (during which eggs, milk and meat were forbidden) as they are always accompanied by what we used to call "The Shrove Tuesday Song" or "The Pancake Song", which I still remember practically word-perfect to this day, because we all loved it. All the kids would certainly sing the last line of "Jack eat that!" and "She poisoned poor Jack" with real emphasis.

(Continued on Page 26)

For the uninitiated, the Shepton school variation (and the best I think) goes as follows:

Shrove Tuesday, Shrove Tuesday  
When Jack went to plough  
His mother made pancakes  
But she didn't know how  
She boiled 'em, she spoiled 'em  
And when they turned black  
She took 'em from the oven  
And said "Jack eat that!"

Jack's mother made a pudding,  
'Twas done in an hour  
She hadn't no eggs and she hadn't no flour  
She hadn't no vigs and she hadn't no fat  
She dapped it on the table  
And said "Jack eat that!"

Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday,  
Jack's father's to plough  
His mother made pancakes  
But she didn't know how  
She burned 'em, she turned 'em  
And made them so black  
She put too much pepper  
And poisoned poor Jack.\*

Interestingly, this song is a folk song that is always accompanied by action; in our area it is specifically sung at the schools mentioned during egg shackling but in other towns near here, it is sung while playing thread the needle, a children's game first recorded in 1744, which is usually accompanied obligatorily by a song, and thus is clearly a surviving form of a country dance. (NB: we did actually play the couples version of thread the needle at Shepton School Brownies, but there it was always accompanied specifically by the 1777 song "A-Hunting We Will Go" by Thomas Arne).

Thread the needle is a simple game or dance which you probably all know from the playground.\*\* (It has similarities to 'Strip the Willow' in Scotland - Editor).

At Trowbridge in Wiltshire, thread the needle was played by boys and girls on Shrove Tuesday evening as they sang the Shrove Tuesday song. In Bradford-on-Avon, and closer to home, in South Petherton, people would gather in the streets to play thread the needle then head to the churchyard, holding hands in a long line until they could completely surround the church, and then would walk around the latter three times, in a tradition known as "clipping" (from "clippen", an Old English word for "embrace/clasp" and goes back to at least 1825). The Shrove Tuesday clipping used to take place on that day in the evening, after the pancakes had already been eaten, and was also traditional around the country on Easter Monday as well. Nowadays, as you may know, you can still join in with clipping the church at the South Petherton folk festival which is scheduled for 18th June this year.

\*The Shrove Tuesday song seems to have originated in the South West of England and there are various versions, but our Shepton variation has the most vernacular, and I think, more pleasing phrasing (note the grammar, and "vigs" for figs" and "dapped", which is something we still use locally for chucking something down unceremoniously). You can find the standardised more grammatically sound variation played and sung here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M8L27Qw1-zE>

Or you can see and hear the Shepton children of 1982, 2008 and 2009 sing it here:

Vocal recording only of children on 23/02/1982: <https://sounds.bl.uk/World-and-traditional-music/Bob-and-Jacqueline-Patten-Collection/025M-C1033X0123XX-0800V0>

\*\* Thread the needle (couples) to "A-Hunting We Will Go": After forming up two lines, the top couple hold hands across from each other and skip sideways down through the middle of the tunnel, then back up again, then separate and individually skip down the outsides of the tunnel with every person on both sides following the person from their side down the outside. When the top couple get to the bottom, they hold their hands high in an arch and the people behind them all skip through the arch in couples which eventually results in the same two lines as before, but with the original top couple at the end of the line. The new top couple repeat the whole process until every couple has had a go at being the top couple. It's easier and more fun than it sounds, especially when everybody has to limbo under an arch formed by a very young and vertically challenged couple.

Thread the needle (single). Everybody forms a line holding hands. The two people at the end of the line hold their hands high in an arch and the whole line go underneath, still holding hands. This means person 1 and 2 are now facing the other way (and need to shift their hands or your arm is twisted backwards), and it all begins again with person 2 forming the arch with person 3, until the whole line is facing the opposite way.

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After World Book Day, our Year 5 and 6 children will be receiving their 2 day Bike Ability course – teaching them all of the important aspects for keeping safe on the roads on their bikes.

We then move on to our three day residential at Kilve Court for years 3/4/5/6. The confidence our children will gain from our residential will stay with them for life.

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

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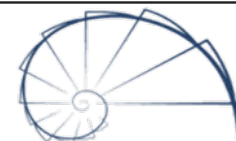
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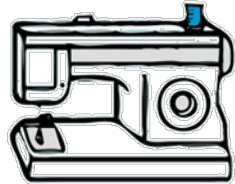
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Please do not hesitate to telephone Stephen Morris on 01460 242058 if you have any questions.

Editorial address: Chapel Court House, Seavington St Mary, Ilminster, Somerset, TA19 0QN. E: [news@theseavingtons.org](mailto:news@theseavingtons.org)



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