

THE SEAVINGTONS' NEWS

November 2022



Is your internet painfully slow? Page 16

England's best county? Page 26

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

Call us on

01460 52413

Booking advisable

We would love to see you soon

Thank you and stay safe!

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TA19 0NZ



The Seavingtons' News

In last month's edition of the News I published an appeal for volunteers to organise the Harvest Supper since circumstances had prevented the St Michaels' Flower Ladies from doing so. Despite the popularity of this event in previous years nobody felt able to part in the organisation. The lack of a response was hugely disappointing and I am left wondering why the community spirit engendered at the time of the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations seems to have evaporated?

On a positive note the turnout for the launch of the Sydney Vaux photographic collection was superb. Around 80 folk came along to the presentation by Phil Nichols, who discovered the cache of 670 glass negatives, and Jane de Gruchy from the Somerset Heritage Trust, the current custodians of the collection.

Phil presented around 50 fascinating images of life in and around the Seavingtons taken by Sydney Vaux over 100 years ago. The quality of the pictures is remarkable given the relative simplicity of the cameras and processing equipment available at that time. All 670 images are being converted to positives and digitised. The full collection should be available on-line by the end of the year.

The Somerset Heritage Trust is based in a superb modern facility on the outskirts of Taunton. It houses a huge archive of documents going back as far as the 8th century. Anyone can access these records with help from knowledgeable staff. Just book and make an appointment.

I was saddened to read in Matt Harley's 'Notes from the Parish Council' that he is standing down both as Chairman and as a councillor. This means the number of vacancies on the council increases to two. I note that there is little or no representation from the west end of Seavington St Mary. It would be great to have one or two new faces representing this part of the village.

The Editor

DON'T FORGET

The Latest Copy Date: 20th Nov. for the next issue

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

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St Michael's Church Seavington

- Wed 2 Nov 6.30 pm All Souls. Service of Light
- Sun 6 Nov 11.15 am Café Church in Seavington Community Café
- Sun 13 Nov 10.45 am Remembrance Sunday. Service at Village War Memorial followed by refreshments in the Café
- Sun 20 Nov 10.30 am Christ the King. Holy Communion (CW)
- Mon 25 Sept 10.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

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

Rector for Seavington: Rev Tracey Hallett

M: 07854 489753 E: tracey.hallett@icloud.com

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

The Seavingtons' Weather in September

This Year - 2022 *Last Year - 2021*

Temperature

Average Minimum	10.43°C	11.64°C
Average Maximum	20.13°C	20.54°C
Mean	15.28°C	16.09°C

Rainfall

Monthly Total	53.7mm (2.15")	41.7mm (1.67")
Total for Year	412.5mm (16.5")	603.3 mm (24.13")

Average annual rainfall for the Seavingtons is around 800mm (32"). Will this year be much drier than usual or is there a lot of rain to come?

Advertising Rates

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

For all queries regarding advertisements please contact:
Ray Thorogood. E-mail: adverts@theseavingtons.org

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 27 Oct 7.15 pm Gardening Club - Gardeners' Question Time - See page 6
- Sun 6 Nov 11.15 am Café Church in the village café
- Thurs 10 Nov 7.15 pm Gardening Club - a Christmas themed floral demonstration by Holly-Jane Harris - See page 6
- Tues 15 Nov 6.30 pm Parish Council Meeting - café
- Wed 16 Nov 10.30 am Village Get2gether - all welcome. Café Contact Gill Beveridge 01460 242828
- Fri 18 Nov 7.30 pm RSPB - Illustrated talk on 'Poole Harbour and its birds' by Neil Gartshore. See page 7
- Sat 19 Nov 9.00 am Just a Brisk Walk - start Hall car park. Duration: about an hour returning to the car park. Contact: Matthew Towill E: towill916@btinternet.com

Events nearby

- Thurs 3 Nov 10.00 am Ilminster Thursday Group - 'Out of Africa' talk by Ann & Clive Barker. Contact Sue Morley 01460 53378
- Fri 4 Nov 6.00 pm Bonfire and Pumpkin Night at Barrington Village Hall. Bonfire, hot food. licensed bar and pumpkin competition
- Sat 5 Nov 6.00 pm Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival - one of the largest illuminated float processions in Europe. See www.bridgwatcarnival.org.uk
- Thurs 10 Nov 10.00 am Ilminster Thursday Group - talk on Traditional Somerset Crafts by Kate Lynch. Contact Sur Morley 01460 53378
- Thurs 17 Nov 10.00 am Ilminster Thursday Group - 'Zum Zummerzet Volk', talk by Sid Painter

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 Diary - Regular Events

Evolve Fitness

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

Balance Pilates and Wellbeing

Every Monday
Pilates Intermediate at 9.15am - 10am
Pilates Matwork One All levels 10.10am - 10.55am
Contact E: lisarock70@gmail.com for booking form

DMV Sequence Dance Club

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

Wessex Women's Choir

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

Yoga and Mindfulness Classes

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

HEC (Home Education)

Fridays 10.45-15.30 HEC Contact: Jenn Hodge 01460 510042

Tai Chi - 10.15-11.15 am every Thursday starting 6 October
Call Age UK 01823 345626 for more information and to book a place.

Church News

Christmas Services

Sat 17th Dec Christingle Service St Mary's Church (early evening tbc)
Friday 23rd Dec Carol Service St Michael's Church (early evening tbc)
Christmas Day 10.30 Holy Communion (CW) St Michael's Church

Posada

This year, our very special figures of the Holy Family are planning to travel round the Seavingtons during Advent, after 2 years of being "locked down." These beautiful wooden figures will travel from Seavington Cafe on 4th Dec, spending a night wherever they are invited, before arriving at St Michael's on Christmas morning.

Like any journey, this will require planning. If you would like to invite them to your family home, please let Anne Shaw know BEFORE Cafe Church on 6th Nov. Leave a message on her ansaphone - 01460 249156.

Village Voice - letters to the Editor

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.

Reprint from the Ilminster Facebook page.

'Had the sad task of having to run for a defibrillator in the early hours of this morning. Went straight to the Market Square where I was clearly guided through the collection and able to return to my neighbour. I arrived back at the same time as the ambulance crew with their own equipment and they were able to quickly do a brilliant job. DEFIBRILLATORS WORK! We are exceptionally lucky to have these within easy reach in our town. I'm very thankful and only slightly out of breath.'

Posted by Dominique Fitz-Simons

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.

Seavingtons' News Distribution

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

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

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

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

Send requests + addresses to the Editor: news@theseavingtons.org



Seavington Gardening Club

Kate Mulligan (01460 242023)



The first meeting of the winter season is on THURSDAY 27TH OCTOBER and it will be in the form of Gardeners Question Time. We have 4 panellists who will be able to answer your questions.

The panelists are:

- Chair: Mike Burke from The Gold Club/Castle Gardens group
- Panellist: Christine Brain who was Head Gardener at Barrington Court until her recent retirement
- Panellist: Micky Little from Avon Bulbs
- Panellist: Sally Nex local writer and speaker

We would welcome questions from Members. If you would like to submit a question please will you send it to me via email by Wednesday 26th October. (jculham55@gmail.com) This will allow me time to sort questions to avoid duplication/repetition. There may be an opportunity for the panel to answer questions from the floor if time allows.

Refreshments will be available from 7pm as usual.

If you are bringing an entry for the Flower of the Month competition please can you place your entry on the table by 7.20pm.

There will be bulbs for the spring growing competition to collect and also vouchers for discount on bulbs from Castle Garden Centres.

THURSDAY 10 NOVEMBER in the Millennium Hall - a Christmas themed floral demonstration by Holly-Jane Harris from Frogmary Green Farm.

Please note. This is a change from our original programme.

Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start.
Mince pies and mulled wine will be served.
Members free - visitors very welcome - £2 payable at the door.

The last Flower of the Month Competition will be held before the annual presentation of the Irene Williams Memorial Plate.

We look forward to seeing you all there.

For further information please contact Jo Culham tel. 01460 241555

SOUTH SOMERSET RSPB GROUP

'Poole Harbour and its Birds'

An illustrated talk presented by Neil Gartshore, who is a wildlife tour leader and author of The Best Birdwatching Sites in Dorset. Poole harbour is the largest natural harbour in the UK and is internationally important for wildlife. Human activity in the harbour can often conflict with the bird interest. The talk looks at some of these issues and the beauty of this area of Dorset.

Friday 18th November - 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 Chanings (group leader)
T: 01460240740

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

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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 order is:

Friday 2nd December

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

Notes from the Parish Council

Matt Harley - Chairman

This will be my last contribution to the News as I will be stepping down as both Chairman and a member of the Parish Council. Thank you to those who showed support.

Parish Council business resumed in October, after the sad passing of Queen Elizabeth II. A book of condolence was placed in the shop and an area for laying flowers in her remembrance was designated outside the Millennium Hall. I was saddened to see, on collection of the book, that there were fewer than 40 messages and some were from people visiting the village. Only 4 floral tributes were left.

Again dog mess is starting to appear on the footpaths and the playing field. A bin is provided on the playing fields and in the corner of the shop car park bordering Water Street. Please take poo bags with you and pick up your dog's mess and dispose of it in the bins provided or take your bag home to dispose of responsibly. Just a reminder that dogs are not permitted in the childrens' play area.

Parish Council Business

Co-Option of Councillors

We still have two more seats vacant so please come forward and help your village.

SIDS and Community Speed Watch

SIDs continue to be placed on New Road for speed data collection. The Community Speed watch will cease at the end of October and restart in the New Year. Residents in Water Street and Scott's Hill have raised concerns regarding speeding and approached the Parish Council.

Highways Issues

Ongoing maintenance.

Ranger Scheme and Footpaths Update

Karen has been clearing the drains and continuing with her usual tasks.

General Parish Council Business

Two new village notice boards have been erected to replace the old, tired ones at the junction of Water Street and New Road and the Hall.

A Parish Council suggestion box has been purchased to be sited in the shop for residents to use.

Neighbourhood Watch Update

Councillor Booker has applied to the National Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Once approval has been received, the Parish can apply for their own scheme which will be called the Seavingtons Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Councillor Booker has included a map of the locality which can be amended to ensure everywhere within the parish boundary is included. The application is now waiting to be vetted and then individuals can log in and apply to join the scheme.

Month to month council work progresses as normal.

Minutes of the Parish Council meetings and Agenda are posted on the Seavington website,

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place on the 15th November at 6.30pm in the cafe. All are welcome to attend and to put questions to the Parish Council.

Matthew Harley

m.harley@seavingtonparishcouncil.org.uk

SEAVINGTON SHOP AND CAFÉ

Delicious homecooked food and freshly baked cakes.
Christmas lunches (14/15/16 Dec). Further details coming soon.

**Cafe opening times Monday - Friday 8.30am - 2.30pm,
Saturday 8.30am - 2:00pm (last orders 1.30pm).**

CHRISTMAS PRODUCE & GIFTS

The Christmas table has arrived! Delicious goodies for all tastes.
Craftwork by Sarah Harmer & Feltings by Carol Talbot

CHRISTMAS PRE ORDER AVAILABLE

Pre order your Christmas food with us.
Order forms available at the till from 16 November.

RAFFLE

The annual Christmas Raffle will take place on Sat 10 December
Tickets available from mid November.

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

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We look forward to seeing you!

W: www.theseavingtons.org/community/village-store-and-cafe
FIND US AT: Water Street, Seavington St Mary TA19 0QH
T: 01460 249730 **Facebook:** seavington store

Message from our Rector

Reverend Tracey Hallet

What a great harvest it has been! It was lovely to spend my first harvest service in the Seavingtons at Seavington St Mary and brilliant to have the bell ringers ringing in the harvest celebration too. In case you have not yet heard The Church Conservation Trust has agreed that St Mary's can remain open all the time. If you happen to be passing, please do feel free to drop in and enjoy the beauty of this lovely Church.

I am also so thankful that St Michael's Church with its underfloor heating can offer a warm space to gather this winter. If you are struggling to keep warm at home, or simply want to find a location to meet with others, sit and read a book, or enjoy the peace of the sacred space – why not pop into St Michael's? It would be great for the Church to be used more outside of the scheduled Church services. It's warm and open all the time.

We will be holding a quiet service of reflection for All Souls on Wednesday 2nd November 6.30pm at St Michael's. This is a time to remember those we have loved and who are no longer with us.

Café Church in the café at Seavington St Michael is growing and we are really enjoying meeting with families who have recently had their children baptised. Our next Café Church is on Sunday 6th November at 11:15am – our theme is Remember, Remember. It will be informal, faith filled and fun with fresh croissants and good coffee. Bring your friends and neighbours.

We are fast approaching the busiest time of year for the Church. Dare I mention the C word? I have heard it mentioned plenty already. Yes, it's Christmas! On 27th November at 4pm it is the Christmas light switch on for South Petherton. A warm welcome awaits you at St Peter and St Paul's Church where we will be serving refreshments and offering an opportunity for the children to decorate Christmas angels.

The light switch on marks the beginning of Advent. So, what is Advent? It's that time when the excitement of Christmas begins to build. The shops are stocked, the TV advertisements are in overdrive and the windows of the Advent Calendar reveal each day another chocolate delight! No, it's much more than that. I want to encourage you all to pause and look beyond a calendar full of chocolate windows. In the Church, Advent is the time used in preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. However, in busy contemporary lives, few of us today find the time to pause and to use the periods of preparation and reflection that the rhythm of the Christian year offers. The good news is this

Advent, Reverend Simon Baker and Diana Baker are hosting an advent study at their home, the full details of which are shown below.

So, as we approach our first, All Saints, All Souls, Remembrance Day with you, there is much to be thankful for and I do pray we will all take time to pause and appreciate what a fabulous community we have in the Benefice of South Petherton with the Seavingtons and the Lambrooks.

With All Good Wishes and Prayers
Rev Tracey



Advent Hope

Four Sessions of Bible Study

Hosted by: Rev Preb Simon Baker and Diana Baker

Venue: Nursery Cottage, 1 School Lane, Seavington St Michael

Time: 10.30am – 12.00 noon

These Bible study sessions will focus on some of the traditional themes of the Sundays in Advent which are often associated with the Advent Ring or Crown. We will look at the passages in their biblical context but also consider how the message of Advent is hope in today's troubled world.

Thursday 24 November:

The Patriarchs; The Covenant with Abraham and Moses

Thursday 1 December:

The Prophets: Isaiah and the hope of a Messiah

Thursday 8 December:

John the Baptist: The Herald and Forerunner

Thursday 15 December:

The Annunciation: The promise of God's Christ

Please park in School Lane (avoiding the field gate). 1 School Lane is the *third* house on the left. Coffee and tea will be available at the start of the session.

Any enquiries please call 01420 242370

Over the Counter

Vicky Rahilly (vickyrahilly30@gmail.com)

It seems hard to believe that I am already writing the November edition of Over the Counter, and yes, I think now is an acceptable time to start talking about.....Christmas!

Diane has once again organised a Christmas table stocked to the brim with goodies for every taste and budget. Amongst the items on offer to tempt you; Christmas chutney, chocolate truffles and Santa and reindeer chocolate lollipops as well as the usual assortment of beautiful biscuit tins. We are also hoping to have handmade Christmas decorations available from local crafters. If you still can't find that special gift, then what about some gift vouchers which can be redeemed in both the cafe or shop.

Carol Talbot and Sarah Harmer will continue to have their beautiful feltings and embroidery pictures on sale in the cafe. Intricate details and beautiful colours perfect to brighten up a winter day.

Christmas grocery order service

The shop is once again offering a pre-order service in the run up to Christmas which has been well used in the past. Items such as bread, vegetables and dairy (cheese, cream and milk) can be ordered into the shop for you to collect. Order forms will be available at the till point from Wednesday 16th November and will provide further details.

Dates for your diary

Jane is busy planning her popular Christmas lunches in the cafe and these will be taking place on the 14th, 15th and 16th of December. Look out for further details shortly.

On Saturday 10th December we will once again be hosting Father Christmas and holding our Christmas raffle. Always a great community event so please pop the date in your diaries and we look forward to seeing you there.

Raffle tickets will be on sale in the shop from early November. As usual, there will be some excellent prizes from local suppliers up for grabs. Please support us either by purchasing tickets and/or donating a good quality special prize to the event.

Thank you for your continued support.

Bug of the Month : Measles

Anne Crowther

Measles is very old and is believed to have originated around the 6th Century BC from a cattle virus. At the time, people and cattle were living close together, and large urban centres were developing throughout Eurasia, and South and East Asia. The first known description of measles came from a Persian physician and scholar in the 9th Century AD.

Measles is highly transmissible with an R_0 of 16-18 significantly higher than, for example, Covid 19. It is a notifiable disease in the UK, so if you think you or a child may have it, contact your GP straight away. It is spread by Aerosol, fine droplets found in the coughs and sneezes of an infected person. As well as cold like symptoms the sufferer may have sore, light sensitive watery eyes, raised temperature, small grey spots inside the mouth, loss of appetite and fatigue. A widespread rash appears a few days after the start of other symptoms.

It is important for an infected person to stay off work or school for 4 days after the rash appears to limit the spread of infection. There is no specific treatment for measles. Most people start to feel better after a week to 10 days and can remain at home with over-the-counter pain relief, plenty of fluids, rest, and eye care. For some, however, measles can be much more problematic causing worsening symptoms such as shortness of breath, chest pain, coughing up blood, drowsiness, confusion, and fits. These could be signs of disease progression and need urgent attention in a hospital.

Like all illnesses measles can afflict anyone - Roald Dahl sadly lost his daughter to the complications of measles in 1962 at the age of 7. He became a strong advocate for the vaccination programme.

Measles is successfully prevented by immunisation. Since it is easy to catch and is easily spread, 95% of a population need to be vaccinated to provide protection for everyone. Before the vaccine programme began in the UK in 1968, many thousands of people died or suffered long term damage from measles. For example, in 1941 there were 409,715 cases of measles and 1,145 deaths. In 2017 the UK achieved elimination status for Measles which is reviewed every year. In 2020 there were 698 cases and 1 death.

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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Is your internet painfully slow?

Joanne Tippett E&S Computing

Anyone living in a rural area will know the pain that comes with slow internet speed! Constant lagging when trying to watch a YouTube video, or stream anything on Netflix. Let alone loading a webpage, or downloading an email attachment.

Your ISP (Internet Service Provider), reels you in with promises of ultra-fast broadband, and you are left disappointed, because your speed seems less than you were expecting, or paying for.

Let's start by differentiating between a slow computer and slow broadband. Yes there is a difference.

Slow Computer

The time taken between powering on and using your computer – this is down to the computer itself, not the internet.

Opening an App/Program – again this is down to the computer, not your internet speed.

Shutting down your computer – no internet needed to do that either.

Slow Internet

The time it takes for a web page to load – the more adverts on the page the longer it will take to load – case-in-point is the BT webmail page, with so many adverts on the page, it has to be one of the worst web pages by far, along with TalkTalk and AOL.

Emails loading – again this is down to the speed of your internet and adding that to the point above, can be frustrating.

Buffering videos – the persistent loading circle and juddering – this applies to YouTube, Netflix and any other streaming service. This is not limited to your computer, you can experience this on a Smart TV too.

Don't believe everything your ISP tells you!

ISP's are inclined to blame a computer or device when their Customers complain about slow internet. Rather than admit it could be a fault on the line, the customers router, even a problem at the exchange. Arranging for an engineer to investigate a problem is the last thing they want to do.

ISP's can often use this situation to encourage their Customers to upgrade their internet package, so tying the Customer into another 12-18 month or more contract.

On many occasions we have been out to Customers, to install a test router and/or an ADSL filter, to rule out equipment within the house being at fault. This then gives the Customer evidence to go back to their ISP, proving it isn't in fact their computer (or equipment) at fault.

How do I know how fast my internet should be?

This will depend on who your ISP is. It should be on your bill, whether it is a paper bill you get through the door, or one that is emailed to you, or you view online. If you can't see it on there, then logging into the ISP website, you should be able to find information under the "My Account" section, detailing the package you currently have. Failing that, you can contact your ISP. Many now offer a Live Chat service on their websites, but you can always give them a ring if you prefer.

How do I know what internet speed I am actually getting?

You can test your internet speed in a few different ways, which I have detailed below;

Logging into the router will allow you to see your download and upload speed, and is probably the best way to check it. All you need to know is the IP address of your router, and the admin password. These are usually located on the back or bottom of your router. Don't confuse these with your Wireless Network name and password. An IP address will look something like this: 192.168.1.1. You type this into the URL/address bar in your browser, and a page will open asking for the username and password. Once you have signed in then you should be able to see your download and upload speeds. TalkTalk routers use 192.168.1.1, BT and Plusnet routers use 192.168.1.254, Sky routers use 192.168.0.1.

Speed test websites – of which there are quite a few. Our "go-to" website is www.speedtest.net. You can also go to Google and type "speed test" in the search bar, which will come up with a box, where you can do a speed test.

Once you have clicked on "Run Speed Test", a box containing a dial will pop up, and it will automatically run the test. We recommend running the speed test when connected to your router via a cable, as you will lose speed when running the test over WiFi.

We recommend testing your internet speed at different times of the day, as your speed will fluctuate depending on whether it is a morning, evening or weekend. This is due to other members of your household using the internet, as well as other households using the same exchange to stream movies and playing games online.

Internet speed can be affected by how far you are from the green box and exchange.

What next?

So, you've compared what you are getting, against what you're paying for, and have found a big difference. It's time to contact your ISP, and let them know. They will of course go through the obligatory checks;

Is your router plugged into the main phone socket? If your router is plugged into a phone socket feeding off of the main socket, it can affect your internet speed. (continued page 18)

Have you tried plugging the router into the test socket? – This is usually located behind the socket face-plate, but not all sockets will have them. Although this is something they will ask you to do, if you do not feel comfortable doing so, ask a professional.

Have you tried a new filter? – A faulty filter can impact your internet speed, and it is worth swapping it out.

Make these checks prior to calling your ISP to save time. If you are using the landline, you won't be able to carry out the checks.

It is worthwhile talking to neighbours, to check what speeds they are getting. This will be good ammunition to use when calling your ISP. If your neighbour is getting the speeds you are also supposed to be getting, then something somewhere isn't right.

If you have any questions, or want to arrange for us to come out and carry out any checks for you, give us a call on 01460 259999

Nostalgia 1

by The Seavington Stroller

Nostalgia is a feeling of pleasure, with at the same time, perhaps, a tinge of sadness for things in the past.

The proverb that "nostalgia is not what it used to be" was first mooted in 1959 and implies that nothing is the same, not even nostalgia.

I was born into village life and a country coming to terms with the aftermath of the Second World War. A time before the National Health Service existed and unaware that it was a country in the grip of food rationing.

Village men returned home from countries they had never heard of, or even knew where they had been. Some suffering injuries for the rest of their lives, some never returned and were remembered on the plaque in the church.

How villagers were affected by the hardship of war and rationing is hard to tell, as my childhood memory shows me pictures of gardens laid to vegetable production, with little favour to the lawns and flowers that dominate today's gardens. Men would return home in the evening after a long working day to cultivate the garden until daylight disappeared, although digging by the light of a hurricane lamp was not uncommon. My father produced sufficient vegetables to sustain us through the winter, potatoes were covered in lime and stored in rat proof wooden boxes. Other vegetables were pickled or salted in jars.

It was a time of simple pleasures; few if any houses had inside toilets, bath tubs hung on back walls, radios were valve driven, music came from hand wound gramophones, televisions had been heard of but were not seen in our village for several years to come.

The church was the village and the village was the church. The rhythm of village life revolved around Christian Festivals and the seasons of the year. Fêtes were held on the lawn of the vicarage, the largest house in the village, and dances were in the Men's Working Club, music being provided by a man with a violin, a lady on a piano and a man with a trumpet, an unlikely trio!

Food for such occasions was provided by the women of the village for no charge, everyone mucked in and gave what they could. It was where I learnt to dance the waltz and foxtrot (the quickstep was just a little too quick for my short legs). My embarrassment at being taken onto the floor by an older girl (early twenties) was soon lost in the pleasure of dancing with a "woman".

The village had a church and a chapel, and both congregations attended each others festivals. It was never them and us. It also had a centuries old Inn and this was a time when women rarely if ever entered a public house. After evensong on a Sunday, most of the congregation strolled across the common in their family groups and Sunday best, before ending up at the pub where the mothers sat outside with the children whilst the men drank inside. We were treated to a bottle of pop and a bag of Smiths Crisps which had a small twist of blue paper containing salt. It was indeed a prize if you had a bag that had two twists and once I even had three, a trophy I kept for many months.

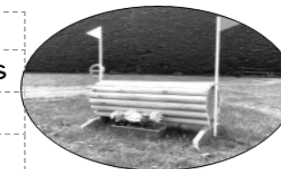
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Winter from Year 6 said "We asked the big question, was it right that 15 million pumpkins are grown in our country for Halloween and a minority of the carved out pumpkins are actually used for food? We really need to think about our world and what we do with it."

The schools' Harvest message of sharing the abundance of the Harvest to those in need was taken to heart by everyone. A large collection of food was displayed, which included many quality items and all of the collection will be delivered to the local Ilminster Food Bank.

Executive Headteacher Connel Boyle commented "The work put in by the children was amazing. Their care for our planet and taking care of those in need in the community was inspiring. The opportunity to hold our service in a local farm and tour a real working farm after the service will stay in our children's memories for a long time."

At the end of the service, the children had a wonderful tour of Home Farm, viewing where stocks of feed were kept for the dairy herd and seeing the cows.

A wonderful day was had by everyone.

The link to our website and our new prospectus is below.

Go to <https://sheptonbeauchamp.co.uk/our-prospectus/>

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

South Petherton Tennis Club

Natalie (secretary1.sptc@gmail.com)

DID YOU KNOW?

Before tennis players used racquets, people would use the palm of their hands to hit the ball back and forth over the net. People in the 12th century suffered from swollen and red hands in a game called "*jeu de paume*" meaning "game of the palm." It was not until the 16th century that racquets were used.

The term "tennis" is thought to derive from the French word *tenez*, which means "take heed" – a warning from the server to the receiver.

It wasn't until Wimbledon in 1986 when the white tennis balls were switched to the yellow balls we know today. Officials believed that a yellow ball would be easier for viewers to follow on TV.

The origin of the tennis term "love" is unknown. The word "love" or zero in tennis possibly derives from the French word "*l'oeuf*" meaning "egg," which may represent the figure zero.

There are 27 Real Tennis Courts spread around the UK, the closest being in Bridport. The very first court was built at Hampton Court Palace for Cardinal Wolsey between 1526-1529 and is Grade I listed.

Approximately 87 million people play tennis around the world. Tennis is one of the most watched sports on TV and is widely accepted as one of the most popular individual/non-team sports in the world.

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🟡 **SPTC Clothing/Gift Voucher** : visit SPTC's Club Shop on the website to see the huge choice of polo shirts, t-shirts, tops, sweatshirts, hoodies, gilets, jackets, sun visors and beanies for adults and juniors. Club Shop Gift Vouchers are also available. Order by 18 November for Christmas.

🟡 **SPTC Mugs** : the perfect stocking filler for £8. An attractive medium size white ceramic mug with the SPTC logo on both sides.

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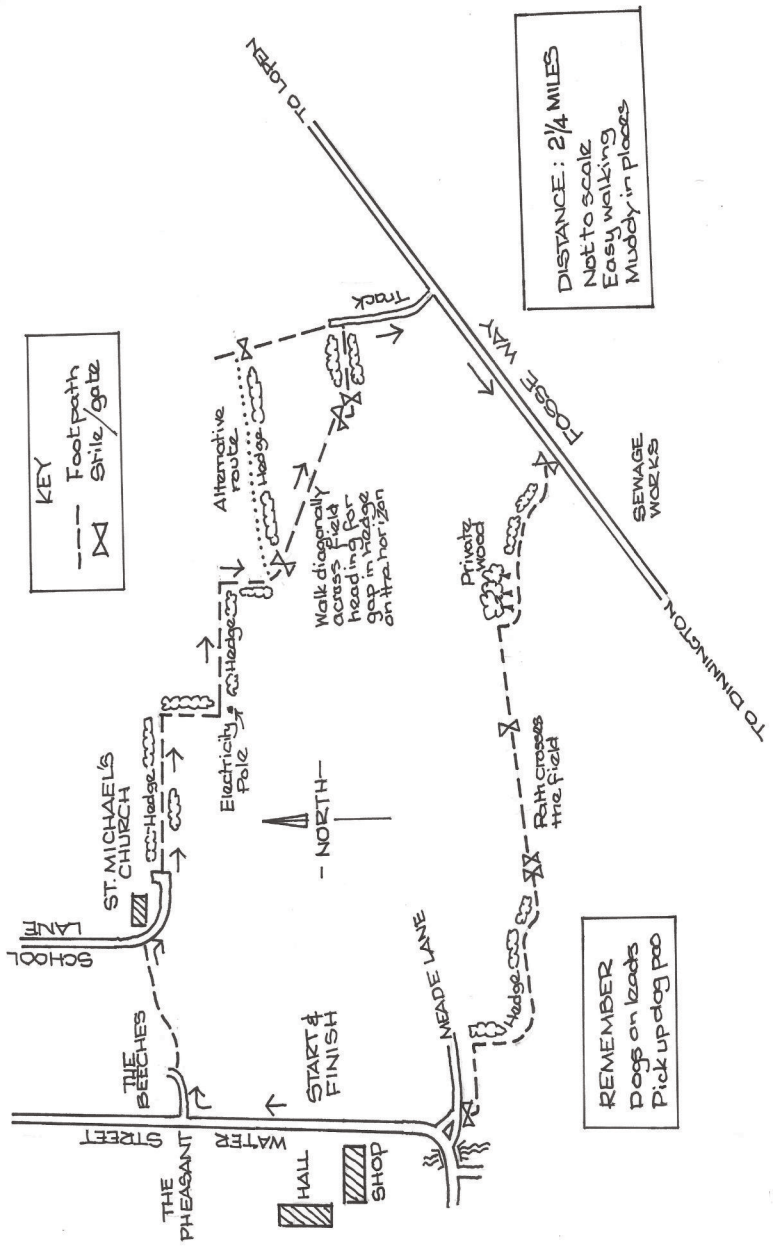
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Walk No 4: Fosse Way Loop



The Fosse Way

The Editor

The Fosse Way is, beyond doubt, a feat of Roman civil engineering. The road, built during the first and second centuries AD, stretches 230 miles in a virtually straight line from Exeter (Isca Dumnoniorum) to Lincoln (Lindum Colonia). It was one of two major Roman arteries in Britain, the other being Watling Street running roughly east /west. The two intersected just south of modern day Leicester.

The word Fosse is derived from the Latin 'fossa' meaning ditch. For a decade or so after the invasion in AD43, the line of the Fosse Way marked the western frontier of Roman rule. It may have taken the form of a defensive ditch only to be back-filled sometime later and converted to a road.

The method of construction was remarkably sophisticated. Drainage ditches were dug either side of the road and the spoil was piled in between, creating a raised 'agger'. Large stones were laid on top and then a layer of smaller stones was rammed down to give a dense surface with a camber to shed rainwater.

The legacy of the Roman road builders is still in evidence, not just the minor routes through Over Stratton, Lopen and Dinnington but modern trunk routes. For example, many readers will be familiar with the long straight sections of the A37 heading north from Ilchester towards Bath.

In the early days of the Roman occupation the Second Augustan Legion was based in what is now the centre of Exeter. The Legion withdrew in AD75 and over the following three centuries Exeter flourished. The Fosse Way was not only important militarily as a key supply route to the huge Roman army in Britain but also in developing trade between the growing settlements along its route, such as Axminster and Ilchester.

Walking along the Fosse Way towards Dinnington (Walk No4) it is hard to imagine the Roman Legions marching north to far flung corners of their Empire and the impact the road had in developing commerce in a land previously characterised by subsistence farming. New-found prosperity saw the construction of villas along the route of the Fosse Way. An example close to Dinnington is thought to have belonged to one of the richest inhabitants in Roman Britain. Excavation of the site in the early 'noughties' revealed extraordinary mosaics, wall paintings and heating system. All on our doorstep!

- References:
- www.wikipedia.com
 - www.britishheritage.com
 - www.unofficialtonyrobinsonwebsite.co.uk

Avian Flu

The Editor

Back in May this year the UK's Chief Veterinary Officer, Christine Middlemiss, announced that the mandatory housing measures for poultry were to be lifted. Hobby flock owners couldn't wait to see their hens finally enjoying the sun on their backs again.

However, that relaxation is likely to be short lived. There have been numerous reports of rampant avian flu in seabird populations around our shores. As the year progresses the problem is creeping nearer to home. Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was confirmed in non-commercial poultry earlier in October at premises near Frome. More recently, eight of Portishead's much loved swans have died as a result of the bird flu outbreak at the town's lake grounds.

From the end of August farmers and bird keepers were ordered to toughen their biosecurity measures to protect their flocks. Turkey farmers are particularly nervous as we approach Christmas.

England's Best County?

The Editor

One of the popular broadsheet newspapers ran a survey a few months ago to identify which was the best of the forty eight counties in England from a visitor's perspective. They considered thirty three criteria, divided into four sub-categories:

- 1 - Natural wonders (lakes, forests, mountains, beaches, wildlife)
- 2 - History and culture (museums, castles, cathedrals)
- 3 - Luxuries (hotels, spas, restaurants)
- 4 - Peace and Quiet (low population density, dark skies)

The scores awarded for each category were augmented by the results of a Twitter poll of visitors. I regard this as a bit of fun which doubtless some will take more seriously than others. You will be pleased to learn that Somerset did not top the poll. Devon was the winner, followed by Cumbria and North Yorkshire. Somerset came fourth, which means the county is right there at the top but less likely to be spoilt by its popularity. Phew!

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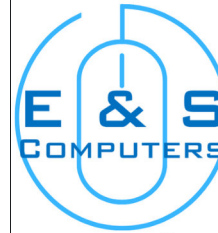
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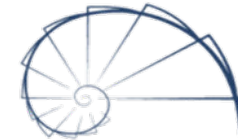
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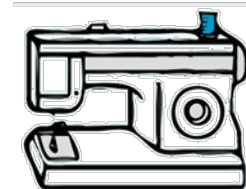


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