



THE SEAVINGTONS' NEWS

November 2023 - Edition 516

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Large Garden

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

Takeaways

Sunday Roasts

Daily Menu

Snacks

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

See our current Menu

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

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

Call us on

01460 52413

Booking advisable

We would love to see you soon

Thank you and stay safe!

New Inn
Dowlish Wake
TA19 0NZ



The Seavingtons' News

South West Community Transport have been running their Community Cars scheme for some time. Until now, it has not been well publicised in the Seavingtons. Neither has the scheme been particularly attractive for villagers since they would end up paying extra for a driver to come from Yeovil. Starting this month that all changes with the recruitment of the first four volunteer drivers, all living in the Seavingtons. If you have an essential appointment and have difficulty getting to a hospital, clinic or doctor's surgery you can now book personal door to door transport with a friendly local driver. For more details see page 19.

Over recent months there have been a number of articles and contributions regarding the fallen heroes of both World Wars. This month is no exception with a piece looking across the Channel at how the French mark Remembrance. Local interest focuses on the eight men from the village who did not return from WWI. They will be remembered at the service by the memorial in the corner of the playing field on Sunday 12 November, to which all villagers are invited. We are thankful that no men from the village died in WWII.

Those who walk the local footpaths will have noticed a number of improvements made by the County Council. Several stiles have now been replaced by gates and other stiles repaired, all of which is to be applauded. When a path across a field ceases to be passable because of farming activity it should be reported to Chris Reyland, Parish Councillor with responsibility for footpaths. However, it is unreasonable to expect the Council or indeed local farmers to keep all paths clear, particularly in those areas of 'no man's land' between hedges and away from fields. There is no reason why keeping paths clear should not be undertaken on a self-help basis by villagers. Thanks are due to the couple of volunteers who gave up some time to cut back nettles and brambles this year. With more volunteers and an earlier start next year our efforts will be more effective.

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

Thurs 2 Nov	6.30 pm	Commemoration of All Souls at St Peter and St Paul's - a Benefice service of reflection and thanksgiving for those who have died.
Sun 5 Nov	11.15 am	Café Church in Seavington Community Café
Sun 12 Nov	10.30 am	Remembrance at the war memorial in Seavington St Mary
Sun 19 Nov	10.30 am	No service in Seavington. Benefice Service for Safeguarding Sunday at St Pater and St. Paul's in South Petherton
Sun 26 Nov	10.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP)

Rector for Seavington: Rev Tracey Hallett

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

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

The Seavingtons' Weather in September

	<i>This Year - 2023</i>	<i>Last Year - 2022</i>
Temperature		
Average Minimum	12.66°C	10.43°C
Average Maximum	21.42°C	20.13°C
Mean	17.04°C	15.28°C
Rainfall		
Monthly Total	76.2mm (3.00")	53.7mm (2.15")
Total for Year	637.6mm (25.5")	412.5mm (16.5")

18.4mm of rain fell on the wettest day in the month but thankfully not as much as the 95.4mm recorded near Taunton on the same day.

Village Diary - Forthcoming Events

All events, unless otherwise shown, are held in the Millennium Hall. For bookings call 01460 247163 or e-mail: hallbookings@theseavingtons.org

Thurs 9 Nov	7.30 pm	Gardening Club. 'No Dig Vegetable Growing' A talk by Stephanie Hafferty
Sat 11 Nov	6.30 pm	'A Night at the Races'. Join us for an evening of excitement and the best in equestrian sport. First race 7.00pm. Tickets £10, available from the Shop, to include ploughmans supper.
Wed 15 Nov	10.30 am	Village Get2gether - all welcome. Café Contact Gill Beveridge T:01460 242828
Thurs 16 Nov	7.30 pm	RSPB meeting . 'Butterfly Britain' an illustrated talk by Oliver Smart, well known wildlife photographer. See p 17
Tues 21 Nov	6.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting
Sat 25 Nov	9.00 am	Just a Village Walk - start Hall car park. Duration: 1 hr approx. Well behaved dogs welcome. Contact: Matthew Towill E: towill916@btinternet.com

Village Diary - Other Events

Sat 4 Nov 6.00 pm Bridgewater Carnival Parade

Europe's largest illuminated carnival parade returns to the streets of Bridgewater on Saturday 4 November. Some 50 carnival carts, up to 30 metres long, create an amazing spectacle of light, sound and mind-blowing movement as the parade winds its way along a two mile route through the town. Starting at 6.00pm the line up, including marching bands and masqueraders, takes over two hours to pass.

Check out www.bridgewatercarnival.org.uk for full details. There will be park 'n' ride services, just follow the signs from the M5. As an alternative, the Editor suggests taking the train from Taunton. The parade route is only a 10 min walk from Bridgewater station.

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@evofitnesstraining.com

Balance Pilates and Wellbeing

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

DMV Sequence Dance Club

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

Wessex Women's Choir

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

HEC (Home Education)

Fridays 10.45-15.30 HEC Contact: Jenn Hodge 01460 510042

Tai Chi - 10.15am -11.15am every Thursday.

Call Age UK 01823 345626 for more information and to book a place.



Seavington Villages Oil Scheme

By ordering in bulk the Seavingtons 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 1st December

To take advantage of the scheme and to place an order contact Nigel.

T:01460 241540 E: oil@theseavingtons.org

THE SEAVINGTONS' VILLAGE STORE AND CAFÉ

The logo for The Seavingtons' Village Store and Café, featuring a stylized illustration of a bowl or basket with a leafy branch extending from it.

Volunteer to join our Shop and Café team
Be at the heart of our Village



Join our friendly band of volunteers, meet new people and enjoy being part of a team making a positive difference in our community

We are a successful Community Shop and Café in need of more volunteers. If you have a few hours to spare, contact us via email or, even better, drop in for a chat! Speak to Lorraine or email her at: shop@theseavingtons.org

We Need Your Help!



Over the Counter

Vicky Rahilly (vickyrahilly30@gmail.com)

Plea for Volunteers

You might have noticed the posters and publicity recently asking for more volunteers. We are in real need of people to help in both the cafe and the shop. Full training will be provided. It is a great way to meet friendly people and give something back to the local community. The shop and cafe need volunteer staff in order to keep running. If you are interested, please pop into the shop and speak to Lorraine or Diane to find out more.

Christmas Lunches - open for booking.

Jane and the team will be hosting the popular Christmas lunches again on the 14 and 15 of December. Two courses for £21 or 3 for £26. These always sell out so book early to avoid disappointment. Please pre order and book before the 4 December. A £10 deposit per person is required.

Christmas stock has arrived!

The Christmas table will be in the shop from the beginning of November and will be fully stocked with loads of fantastic goodies. Beautiful Christmas biscuit tins, luxury puddings and plenty more. Perfect for gifts or something special for you! We put all the stock out- so 'once it's gone - it's gone'. If you like something grab it quickly!

We also have a wide selection of Christmas cards to suit all budgets as well as advent calendars and beautiful advent candles.

There are rumours that Father Christmas will be interrupting his busy schedule to stop by the shop and we will have the Christmas raffle.

Please look out for notices in the shop or on our Facebook Page for further Christmas updates and information.

Advertising Rates

	Annual	Monthly
Full Page	£ 115	£15
Half page	£ 60	£ 8
Quarter Page	£ 33	£ 5

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

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Parish Council News

Clerk@seavingtonparishcouncil.org.uk

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

The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday 21st November 2023 - 6.30pm start in The Millennium Hall.

RANGER: The Ranger has been busy within the village especially around St Marys Church.

HIGHWAYS: It has been brought to the Council attention that at the top of Davids Lane and turning right, there are drainage problems where flooding of the road occurs. The Council will monitor the situation.

MEETING AGENDAS AND MINUTES – Parish Council Agenda and Minutes are uploaded onto the Seavington Website should anyone be interested in reading them.

PLANNING –

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

Application No 22/03382/REM Reserved Matters for the approval of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale of planning consent 19/01070/OUT; Outline application for residential development together with the formation of vehicular access to plots (PENDING).

Application No 22/03141/HOU Removal of two pitched roofs, raising of the eave, and the construction of one new roof to allow a replacement second bedroom on the first floor. Thyme Cottage, Old A303 Seavington St Michael, Ilminster (PENDING).

Application No 22/00610 Land at Upton Lane, Seavington St Michael (PENDING)

Application No 23/02201/HOU Two-storey rear extension. South Meade, Meade Lane, Seavington, Ilminster, Somerset, TA19 0QL. This application has now been approved

Application No: 23/02010/S73A – S73A application to vary condition 9 of planning approval 20/00732/FUL for Increase and variation of feedstock (to include additional farm, dairy waste, by-products and farmyard manure) and the installation of a dome on the digestate storage tank to the existing on-farm Anaerobic Digester (AD) plant.

Application No: 23/02185/FUL Erection of a single dwelling and creation of associated access and parking in the gap site between Lilac Cottage

and Kelvin Cottage, Townsend. Alterations to existing access to serve Kelvin Cottage.

There are still vacancies if you wish to join the Parish Council. Why not come along to the next Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 21st November at 6.30 in The Millennium Hall to see what we do.

It is important that we find additional councillors soon. We are operating with a minimum number of councillors at present. If we reduce in numbers any further due to health, illness, work or other personal reasons then the Parish Council would fold, and Somerset Council would run our Parish. This would be a disaster for the village as we would find services and facilities that we currently take for granted being lost. The Hall would shut, the field and play park would be unkept and the Ranger would stop attending each week.

PLEASE STEP FORWARD NOW TO ENSURE WE DON'T LOSE THESE VALUABLE ASSETS.

Harvest Supper

Pauline Parsons

In a rural area such as ours the Harvest Supper was and is an annual celebration of the end of the harvest season.

On Saturday 14th October many residents enjoyed a great evening in the Millennium Hall. The food was excellent, there were a couple of games, a draw and, of course, the local auctioneer was present!!

The Seavington Flower Arrangers would like to thank all those who attended the evening, all those who provided some of the food, particularly the various crumbles, those who donated prizes for the draw/auction and last, but not least, our local musician Anne.

All monies raised [and as yet we are not sure of the final amount] will be going towards the kitchen revamp at the Millennium Hall.

Community Cars

This is a well established scheme operating in South Somerset which is now easier to access in the Seavingtons with the recruitment of local volunteer drivers. See further details on page 19

To book a car call Carol or Becky on 01935 477399



Seavington Gardening Club

Jo Culham (01460 241555)



More jobs to do in your Garden this Autumn

Keep weeding – weeds will still be germinating & growing during mild weather so be vigilant & remove them. Best to dig them out so you get the roots.

Mulch – as the garden dies back bare soil will appear. Use mulch to protect the soil and give it nutrients.

Keep deadheading Dahlias– they will keep flowering until we have frosts.

Keep turning compost – mix it up if you only have one compost bin so new material isn't left lying on the top.

Cut back perennials - but leave some to provide homes and food for wildlife.

Get plants ready for Christmas – prepared hyacinth bulbs can still be planted but use bulb fibre or general compost not soil.

Next meeting - Thursday 9th November

A talk on 'No Dig Vegetable Growing' by Stephanie Hafferty.

Doors open 7.00pm – refreshments served. 7.30pm start.

This talk will be a first for the Club as it will be via Zoom! The meeting will take place in the Hall and Stephanie will join us via the internet on the overhead screen. The Committee agreed to explore this approach as a way of enabling us to use speakers from further afield.

Stephanie is an Award-Winning organic gardener and writer. She is a leading authority in the UK on 'no dig gardening' and lives in Wales where she runs a productive homestead on half an acre.

It should be an informative and inspirational evening.

Visitors welcome £2 payable at the door. Flower of the Month Competition continues.

For further information contact Jo Culham – tel. 01460 241555

Seavington Shop and Café

Delicious food, cake selection & hot & cold drinks. Take away available or sit outside in our sunny garden.

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

BOOKINGS OPEN FOR CHRISTMAS LUNCH

14 or 15 December. Two or 3 courses. Book to avoid disappointment.

CHRISTMAS HAS ARRIVED!

Check out our popular Christmas table full of delicious items including luxury Christmas puddings, beautiful tins of biscuits and chocolates.

Wide range of Christmas cards, advent calendars & 2024 diaries.

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

We are agents for Evri parcel service

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

Merriott Short Mat Bowls Club



The Club is looking for new members. We meet on Wednesday evenings from 7pm to 9.30pm in the Village Hall. We play matches from time to time with other clubs in the area – either friendlies or as part of the Area League. We play in a relaxed atmosphere, and play to enjoy the game.

The club can provide woods for those who wish to try their hand. It is a game for all ages, for both men and women, beginners and experienced alike. We play all year round – in the dry!

Prospective players are invited to phone the secretary on 01308 862203 or 07956 598894.

Sydney Vaux - Photo of the Month

Jane de Gruchy



[image: "A.EWV.1.5"]

Thank you to all those who came to the Sydney Vaux talk on 20 October! It was a lovely evening, and it was super to see so many more of Sydney's photographs and to find out more about life in Seavington in times past.

After all that excitement, we've got a nice, calm image for this month's Vaux photo of the month. This is one of the many photographs where we have a lovely photo, but no idea who it shows. (As always, if you know, please get in touch and tell us.) We aren't sure if the child is a boy or a girl, as both wore skirts as young children. We also don't know for certain why the sheep is eating out of a pan, although we suspect

that it's just to keep it still so that Sydney didn't get a blurred moving sheep in his photograph.

By the 1910s, more advanced cameras had reduced the need for the long exposure times of early photography, which meant that Sydney didn't have to attempt to somehow keep the sheep perfectly still for several minutes in a row. In the 1840s, it was said that exposure times varied between one and three minutes, dependent on the weather and the time of day. But with a 'modern' camera in 1910 you needed only a fraction of a second of exposure. Judging from Sydney's images, animals were sometimes better at keeping still than humans – the collection includes several sadly blurry babies and small children who moved just at the wrong moment, and adults weren't always perfect, either.

We don't know when this photograph was taken, but the amount of wool on the sheep and the child's warm jumper suggest that it's one of the colder months so we hope it isn't out of place for November.

To see the details of the other photographs in this wonderful collection, look at the Somerset Archives Catalogue (search online or use the link www.somerset-cat.swheritage.org.uk) and search collection **A/EWV**, or phone Somerset Archives on 01823 278805.

Image reference A/EWV/1/5, reproduced with the kind permission of Mr Ian Moore.

A NIGHT AT THE RACES

Seavington Village Hall

November 11th

Doors open at 6:30pm for 7pm Start

£10 entry per person - including ploughmans lunch

Tickets available from the Community Shop

or Chris: 07860142799 or Andrew: 07582776398



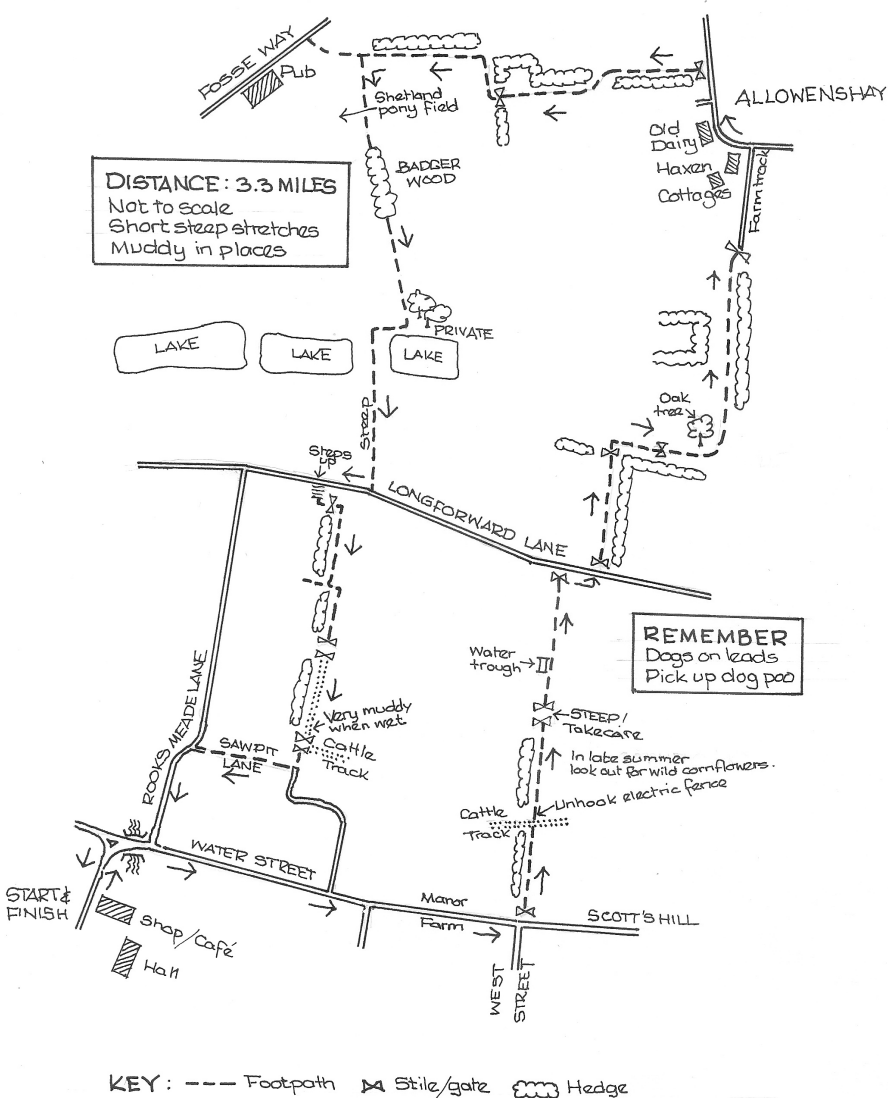
Cash for betting
Cash/Card for bar

Proceeds going towards Millenium Hall Kitchen restoration

Walk No 6 : All the Way to Allowenshay

Flower Power

Mary Corcoran



The settlement at Allowenshay, is mentioned in 1280 as *Alwynesheye*, and is believed to be derived from the Saxon personal name *Alwine*.

Source: Wikipedia

Have you been wondering what's happening with some of the fields around the Seavingtons and on the way to Ilminster - the ones with the random sunflowers and a lot of 'weeds' all in together?

I was puzzled and asked a knowledgeable local friend, who told me it was one of the newer Countryside Stewardship initiatives offering grants to encourage farmers to increase biodiversity.

The option for Nectar Flower Mix was first introduced in 2015 and there are a number of strict requirements. Plots need to be a reasonable size - wide margins and big blocks between 0.25 hectare and 0.5 hectare. This allows insects to move to safety when fields are being sprayed. Spacing five 0.5 hectare patches evenly within 100 hectares meets the food needs of many pollinators. The patches have to be managed correctly for 5 years. The seed mix must contain both shorter-lived legumes and longer-lived wild flower species to deliver an extended supply of pollen and nectar from late spring through to the autumn for the benefit of insects such as bees, butterflies, hoverflies and moths. The sample mix has 13 different species and all have to contain at least 2 of the following:

- Common knapweed
- Musk mallow
- Oxeye daisy
- Wild carrot
- Yarrow

During the first year, the plot must be cut at least once to help the sown seeds establish. After the first year, half of the plot should be cut between 15th May and 15th June in alternate years and the whole plot cut once or grazed between 15th September and 30th March, with the cuttings removed or shredded. Animals are only allowed to graze on the area between 1st September and 14th March, so long as they don't compact the soil and don't receive any supplementary feeding.

Apart from filling in all the paperwork to demonstrate that they have met the requirements, taken photos of their fields, bought the right seed and not moved their stock onto the plots during the 'forbidden' times, farmers are also liable to be selected for a site visit. For all this work, the Government will pay £614/hectare this year. Surprisingly, this makes economic sense in an era when there are such unpredictable prices for many 'conventional' crops. It also makes sense to the bees!

Butterfly

The Seavington Stroller.

Wandering around the village a month or so ago, I was struck by the number of butterflies that have been flitting around. Is this year's weather particularly beneficial to the butterfly population, as pleasingly, there appear to be more than I have noticed in recent years?

Why are they called butterflies? Well, as with everything from the mists of time, there is no definitive answer, only educated guesses. The one certainty is that the word did not originate as "flutterby".

In the middle ages it was believed they stole milk or butter, possibly as they snacked on discarded dairy products being made in farmsteads. The old German names of "botterlicker" (butter-licker) and "milchdieb" (milk thief) add weight to this proposal. The word "butterfleege" from Old English has been in our language for centuries, being mentioned in the year 1000 by Aelfric, an Anglo-Saxon abbot. One thought is they were so named as it was believed that butterflies, or witches in the shape of butterflies, stole milk and butter.

The Celtic mythology suggests a butterfly represents "the soul of the dead", meaning that they can cross into the "Otherworld", as demonstrated by the transformation from a caterpillar into a butterfly. Supporting this, the ancient Greek word for butterfly was "psyche" which means the "mind or soul" from where we get psychology, which is the "study of the mind".

As a boy, our gardens and hedgerows were full of the multicoloured butterflies such as peacock, red admiral, tortoiseshell, orange tip, painted lady, gate keeper, large and small whites. The whites were a scourge to our cabbages and we spent many a day picking off the caterpillars intent on eating the greens before we could get them to the kitchen.

This year I have seen all the above apart from the orange tip and some others which are too quick for my eyes to accurately describe their colour and markings, which are amazing for such a small and delicate creature.

So as to their origin, you can take your pick, but for me, well I still like to think the name came from "flutterby" and sentimentally as used in Dolly Parton's song.

"Love is like a butterfly, it flutters like soft wings in flight"

SOUTH SOMERSET RSPB GROUP

'Butterfly Britain'

An illustrated talk by Oliver Smart, who is a well known wildlife photographer. He will take us on a journey to view all the resident species of butterflies on our isles and also some of the rare migrants. We will learn about their ecology, behaviour, habitats and how they interact with plants and animals.

7.30 pm Thursday 16th November at Seavington Millennium Hall
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 on 01460240740
www.rspb.org.uk/groups/southsomerset
www.facebook.com/groups/RSPBSouthSomersetGroup

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

Shepton Beauchamp Church School

A Busy Term!

It has been all things go at Shepton Beauchamp School this term. We are so grateful to Branston's Potatoes, who have donated significant staff time and funds to help us create a new school allotment. We have a brand new Allotment and Gardening Club due to start shortly for our children. We cannot wait to begin planting produce ready for harvesting in the spring.

Our October school apple harvest gave us a bumper crop this year and our local Juicer is preparing our bottles of home grown apple juice for the children. This will be a real treat in November!

Our Friends of Shepton School, parent fundraising committee, have been so busy raising much needed funds for the school. We are excited to announce that new playground activity equipment is due to be installed this year. At half term our old wooden equipment is due to be removed and our F.O.S.S parents will be working with our children to choose the new equipment for our Rectory Garden.

We have had an increasing number of requests from families to visit our school, as our reputation for being a caring environment and the popularity of our school facebook pages grow. Any family wishing to visit our school is most welcome and our experienced Headteacher, Mr Connel Boyle, would be delighted to give you a 1-1 tour of our school. Please feel free to call 01460 240793 to book your visit.

The Community Land Trust

Louise Layzell clt@theseavingtons.org

Having experienced my first Community Land Trust AGM, I have to say that it was not as daunting as expected. I thought that I would feel rather conspicuous sitting on the top table, but with 11 Members in the auditorium it felt rather cosy!

The Chair gave his annual report. Those of you who regularly attend such events will know the type of thing. The minutes will be available on The Seavingtons website, so I will just mention a few highlights.

- Apologies were given for the meeting being held in the afternoon. The Chair then stated that timings would be reviewed having taken into account attendance and apologies received.
- For the first time Members could have attended remotely. However, nobody had requested this.
- No resolutions or questions had been received prior to the meeting. However, questions were gladly taken from the floor.
- The CLT had bid for the plot of land that had recently gone to auction but our limit was exceeded. The CLT would be interested to hear from anyone who is aware of anything similar, that could be developed for the benefit of the village.
- The upcoming Renters Reform Bill is not expected to affect the CLT. The full 83 page document can be found on-line
- The Falcon Close frontage remains an ongoing problem. It was good to hear, from a Member in attendance, that the Parish Council are not having any more success and even the new Somerset Council has drawn a blank. It is gratifying that all sides are making an effort to solve the problem which is not strictly speaking a CLT problem apart from the three houses that we own.
- The Chairman is hoping for a productive and successful year ahead.

The Treasurer shared the accounts and reported that, financially, the year had been quite quiet. However, due to the age of the properties she is expecting that to change.

She also shared with everyone the difficulties experienced whilst trying to set up a savings account. The problems seem to be due to being a Trust – or at least in the eyes of the bank! She has sought compensation for lost interest. A Member suggested that Norton CLT be contacted to see who they bank with.

The accounts were approved and have been sent to the HMRC and FCA.

In line with the Constitution three members had to stand down but were then re-elected.

If you would like to be part of this dynamic group, just give us a call. Or, if you do not wish to join the committee but have a project that would benefit from our funding please send in an application.

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

Transport to Hospital

The Editor

In the June edition I highlighted the problem that residents in Seavington would face if they had a hospital appointment and, for whatever reason, had no transport. I appealed for drivers willing to volunteer on an occasional basis to transport local people to hospital, clinic or doctors' surgery.

Although it has taken a little while, seven volunteers came forward and we agreed to operate under the auspices of Community Transport South West (CTSW) based in Yeovil. Organisationally, this is simpler than running our own scheme. The first four drivers have now been approved and the Community Cars service is up and running locally.

The service offers a door to door personal service for anyone needing to make an essential journey, typically to attend a medical appointment when they do not have access to a car, lift from friend or family or are unable to drive for medical reasons. Transport can be booked 48 hrs in advance by calling the team in Yeovil on 01935 477399.

The service is not free. The passenger will pay the driver a mileage charge, stipulated by CTSW, which is designed to cover the cost of fuel and an element of other running costs. By way of example the 32 mile round trip to Musgrove Park Hospital from Seavington would cost £26.64, reducing to £21.64 if the passenger possesses a Bus Pass. This is considerably cheaper than a taxi, even if you could find one. The driver will normally wait up to 2 hrs but if a longer appointment is necessary the driver may return home and come back later for the passenger, in which case this would be charged as a double journey.

CTSW are delighted to have volunteer drivers based in Seavington, as this was previously a gap in their current local coverage. The Seavington drivers are also willing to pick up passengers from nearby communities eg Dinnington, Lopen, Over Stratton, Shepton Beauchamp, Whitelackington.

If you are interested in joining the team of drivers and would like to discuss what is involved don't hesitate to call me on 01460 242058.

The Rev's Ramblings: Remembrance 2023

Rev Tracey Hallett

As we enter November and the season of Remembrance, our hearts are heavy with the conflicts and struggles that persist across the world. We are prompted to reflect on the sacrifices made by countless individuals in the past and to hold onto the hope for a more peaceful and just future.

The act of remembrance is a powerful and enduring tradition that binds us together as a community. It reminds us of the bravery and selflessness of those who have served and continue to serve in the armed forces, often in far-off and dangerous lands. We honour their dedication to preserving peace and safeguarding our freedoms and we recognise the hardships they endure.



Remembrance is not just about the past; it's also about the present and the future. In our prayers and reflections, we consider the men, women and children whose lives are shaped by war, whether as victims, displaced persons, humanitarian workers and armed forces. Their sacrifices, their physical and emotional burdens, and the toil that war takes on them and their families weigh heavily on our hearts.

In these times of uncertainty and conflict, it is essential for us to maintain hope. We hope for an end to violence and division, for the safe return of those who are far from home and for the healing of wounds, both seen and unseen. We hope for a world where the lessons of the past guide us towards lasting peace.

As people of faith, we know that hope is not a passive act but an active one. We are called to work towards peace, justice and reconciliation in our own lives and within our community. Our faith teaches us that even in the face of despair, hope can be a powerful force for change.

In our community and as individuals, let us be bearers of hope. Reach out to one another, especially those who may be struggling with the weight of current conflicts. Offer comfort, support and a listening ear. In doing so, we can help kindle the light of hope in the darkest of times.

Together as a community, we can be a beacon of light and a source of inspiration for a world in need of peace.

Once again, this year as we wait in silent remembrance at war memorials across the country, I wonder what we will be thinking during that silence:

In the silence, you can hear a pin drop.
In the silence, you can hear the birds sing.
In the silence, you can hear the leaves rustle.
For us, it is only the briefest of silences, just two short minutes.
For many, in places of conflict, the silence is not long enough for the fallen, the silence is eternal.

Amen.

With Every Blessing - Reverend Tracey

World Wars 1 and 2 in France

Jim Pendleton

We have now had three editions of the Seavington News featuring letters or articles with information about the two World Wars.

I thought readers might be interested in my experiences of commemorating these wars on the other side of the English Channel. From 2009 my late wife and I were based in our main residence in rural South West France. November 11th, the date hostilities in WW1 ceased, is a national holiday throughout France and is combined with a service of Remembrance in every town and village in the country.

In our very small village, Laguian Mazous in the Gers Department the ceremony would start with everyone gathering outside the village hall. All those assembled then walked behind one of the village 'elders', who carried the French flag, and the Mayor to the war memorial outside the church 100 metres away. For a small village our memorial was a very grand affair. A large proportion of residents always attend.

There are over 30,000 villages in France, each with a Mayor and a Mairie, usually a grand building in the centre of the village. Mayors are elected officials paid a salary and wield considerable power in their area. It always pays to keep on the right side of the Mayor! At the memorial the Mayor reads a speech. We did not have the luxury of a PA system in our village and the Mayor was very softly spoken. We could rarely hear what was said and our French was not that good.

However all was not lost; it turned out that all 30,000+ Mayors read the same speech as does the President of France. I remember one occasion when our Mayor had lost his voice and the speech was read by a young resident of our village who was in the French navy and she was dressed in full Naval Uniform. It was a real honour for her. Following the speech the tune of the French National Anthem was played on a rather tinny transistor cassette player and all joined in singing 'La Marseillaise' which we knew from our school days.

Following the singing two young people read the names of the residents of the village who lost their lives during the two World Wars. After each name is read out we all repeated 'Mort pour La France' (died for France). After the reading of the names the memorial, which was already clad in a sash of the French colours, was surrounded by posies of flowers brought by the villagers and a huge floral bouquet from the Mairie. At the conclusion of the ceremony we all returned to the village hall for drinks and general chat.

Whereas our flower symbol of Remembrance is the Poppy, in France it is 'Le Bleuets', the Cornflower. Not seen as frequently as our Poppy but the young people of the village offered a stick-on Bleuets for a donation for veterans. The French do not seem to do charity in the way we do in the UK. We always managed to purchase the British poppy and wore it proudly alongside Le Bleuets.

I liked the idea that the commemoration always took place on 11th of November, which made it very memorable. Of course our Remembrance Sunday also remembers WW2 and other conflicts. Until I moved to France I had always assumed that the UK lost the largest number of personnel in WW1. I was subsequently surprised to learn that France had lost considerably more from a total population that was, at that time, less than the population of the UK.

Of course France was not an active participant in WW2 so few of the memorials have names of losses between 1939 and 1945. Our village, along with many others in South West France, did have some names as it was an area much used by the French Resistance in assisting allied soldiers and airman to escape to Spain over the Pyrenees and sadly some of those brave souls lost their lives.

For those who read my article last month about Thankful Villages they may be interested to know that there is only one such village, Thierville in Normandy, in the whole of France.

Remembrance Sunday this year is 12th November and our usual service will be held at the memorial in the Playing Field. I urge all to attend to pay respects to our forebears who made the ultimate sacrifice to give us the freedoms we have today.

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Walking The South West Coast Path

Zoe Langley-Wathen

As I approached my fortieth birthday, I began to think about what I'd like to do to mark my rite of passage into middle age. I knew I wanted to undertake a challenge but it took months to choose. I thought about the Inca Trail as visiting Machu Picchu had always appealed to me. I also considered expeditions, such as climbing Kilimanjaro. While I'd love to do both one day, for my fortieth they just didn't feel right. I wanted my birthday challenge to hold significance.

On a visit to Wells, I walked into a bookshop. The South West Coast Path Handbook glowed under a shaft of sunlight, not unlike a moment of divine intervention.

Despite wanting to walk this path for over fifteen years, I'd never entertained the idea that I'd be strong or fit enough to be able to do it myself. That was for elite athletes. Or men. With the seed sown, I knew deep down that I could do it, though I wasn't sure how. The South West Coast Path would be my midlife adventure. To make it more challenging, I'd go solo and carry all I needed to camp and survive.

I have always lived in the South West and for many years, close to the coast. Since 1978, at 630 miles long the SWCP held the title of the UK's longest national trail, weaving up and down from Minehead to South Haven Point, near Poole. With extreme ascents equivalent to climbing Everest four times over, for me, it is the royalty of all the trails. That's an apt segue into mentioning that The King Charles III England Coast Path officially opened in September 2023. The ECP now wears the mantle of longest national trail and will be almost 2,700 miles long once all the sections are fully open.



Nerves set in, even with the excitement at finding my birthday challenge. I set about researching kit and doing plenty of training walks. As a novice 'multi-day hiker' I filled my rucksack with unnecessary items and gadgets. I soon learnt and either left them behind before starting the walk or sent them home once I'd begun. The lighter load left my shoulders, back and knees much happier.

Would I have the stamina to complete the trail? Could I walk and camp alone? Could I pluck up the courage to wild camp in the middle of nowhere when no campsites were available? And wading across an estuary... knee deep? Yep, my nemesis, The River Erme. These fears filled the months before leaving but I found ways of talking myself around. I also told lots of people what I was doing, which created accountability. I couldn't back out.

I remember that first day at Minehead, feeling conspicuous with my 68-litre rucksack filled to the brim. It weighed 18 kg and I thought everyone was looking at me. Imposter syndrome. We've all experienced it, I'm sure. That cruel voice, "Who do you think you are, to think you can walk this? You'll need help. You can't do it alone. You won't last..." But I did last, and over forty-seven days I'd collected a few hundred pounds for my charities, made friends for life, dropped two dress sizes, and gained a shed load of confidence that I never knew I had.

Walking solo as a woman had always felt a bit weird, but now I'd never shy away from it. I never felt scared walking alone once I was out there on the SWCP path. I experienced every smell from the seaweed and salt, every pinch from a blister and the warmth of the sun on my face. The call of the kestrel and skylark, and the ferocity of the waves crashing against the rocks way below me created an orchestra for my senses. The tears and the pain. The tough sections when I wanted to give up. Expanding my comfort zone. The joy of achievement. The delight at the landscape. The beauty and kindness of the people I met. I returned home a different woman, for the better. With a new resilience on board, I knew I could face anything. Well, almost anything... sleeping inside four walls and remembering I had to use a real loo rather than head outside for a wild wee became the new challenges on my return!

Inspiration

The Editor

"Remember that happiness is a way of travel – not a destination."

"Let's wander where the WiFi is weak."

"The greatest adventure is what lies ahead."

World Polio Day Walk a Mile to End Polio

Mary Corcoran

Tuesday 24th October may well be the day that this magazine drops through your letterbox. It's also World Polio Day each year, championed by Rotary International and supported by all the individual Rotary Clubs worldwide. Rotary has been involved in tackling polio since 1985, when polio was still spreading in 125 countries and there were 350,000 people, mainly children, newly infected with symptomatic polio each year. The disease causes paralysis of the muscles, which may become permanent, and can even cause death, especially if the muscles that help us breathe are affected. However, approximately 70% of all polio infections occur in children who have no symptoms, but can shed the virus for several days or weeks and are able to transmit it to others. The best way to tackle the disease is therefore through vaccination, and effective vaccines have been available since the 1950's.

Rotary worldwide has raised over £2 billion, paying for the vaccine and people to administer it. To date, 2.5 billion children have been vaccinated. And there has been great progress - so far in 2023 there have been only 8 people identified with 'wild' poliovirus worldwide - 2 in Pakistan, and 6 in Afghanistan, the only 2 countries still not certified as free of polio.

But the job isn't quite done - we can't relax just yet. In order to sustain the progress we have made, around 2 billion doses of the vaccine still have to be given to more than 400 million children in up to 60 countries every single year where Rotary is still providing support. Routine immunisations must still continue in all other countries including the UK.

That's why it's so important we continue to raise funds and protect children through vaccination at home and around the world. Without it there is a real threat that polio could return, putting children worldwide at risk. The Gates Foundation has pledged US\$100 million to match money raised on a 2 for 1 basis, so every £1 we raise will be worth £3!

Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland is encouraging people to 'Walk a Mile to End Polio'. Ilminster Rotary Club is walking along the old railway line from Ilminster to Donyatt at 12 noon on 26th October. You can scan the QR code below to make a donation directly to www.endpolio.org, sponsor one of the walkers or, if you have time, get some sponsors yourself and come along and join us! Sponsorship forms can be provided - just email Mary at maryecorcoran2@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you!



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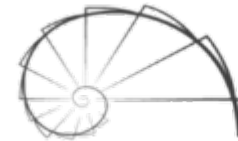
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