Seend Fawly Players present their 39th Village Pantomime

ROBIN HOOD
AND HIS MERRY MEN AND WOMEN

Thursday 15th and Friday 16th February at 7.30pm
and Saturday 17th February at 7pm

in Seend Community Centre, SN12 6NS

February 2018
DIARY DATES FOR LATE JANUARY 2018

Saturday 27th January BURNS NIGHT 2018
Four-course meal - Tot of whisky - the White Horse Band - Piper - Address to the Haggis
Tickets £20 - call Hatty on 01380 828380. Proceeds to Seend Community Centre.

30th  Seend Parish Council meeting, upstairs in Community Centre, 7.30pm
31st  Nosh and Natter lunch, Seend Community Centre, 12 for 12.30 pm
31st  Brewery Inn Fun Quiz, 8pm

DIARY DATES FOR FEBRUARY
1st  Historic Houses Club AGM. 7.30pm in the Pavilion.
2nd  First Friday Coffee Morning, Community Centre, 10.30am
3rd  WEA Day School on WW1 poets and artists, Community Centre, 10.30am
3rd  Soup Lunch, Bulkington Village Hall from 12 noon
4th  Café Church, Seend, 11am
5th  Mobile Library; 9.40 am Seend The Lye: 10.05 am Seend Cleeve phone box: 11.05 am Well In car park, Bulkington
5th  Tea and Chat, 2-4 pm, Mill Croft, Bulkington
7th  Bulkington Village Lunch, The Well, 12.15 pm
7th  Seend Shuttle to Salisbury (call 01225 706526 by Monday 5th February)

10th  LAST DAY FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR MARCH SPOTLIGHT
10th  NWWNTA lecture on Great Chalfield, Community Centre, 2.15pm
10th  WI “Chilli Cook Off” Irene Usher Memorial Hall, 7.30pm
11th  Seend Ramblers – depart Rusty Lane, 9.30 am
15th  Seend Fawlty Players “Robin Hood and his Merry Men and Women”, 7,30pm
16th  Seend Fawlty Players “Robin Hood and his Merry Men and Women”, 7,30pm
16th  Last day for applications for Seend Parish Council vacancies
17th  Seend Fawlty Players “Robin Hood and his Merry Men and Women”, 7pm
22nd  Seend Neighbourhood Plan meeting, Pavilion, 7.30pm
24th  Jumble Sale for Seend School, Pavilion, 11am-1pm
28th  Seend Parish Council meeting, upstairs in Community Centre, 7.30pm
28th  Nosh and Natter lunch, Seend Community Centre, 12 for 12.30 pm
28th  Brewery Inn Fun Quiz, 8pm

DIARY DATES FOR EARLY MARCH
2nd  First Friday Coffee Morning, Community Centre, 10.30 am
2nd-4th  Great British Spring Clean weekend
7th  Seend Shuttle to Salisbury (call 01225 706526 by Monday 5th March)

Newcomer to Seend?
Call in at the shop/PO and ask for your copy of the Welcome booklet, which tells you all you need to know about the village.
Visit www.seend.org.uk and the Spotlight facebook page: www.facebook.com/seendspotlight
Welcome to February Spotlight

It’s panto time again. Oh yes it is! Seend Fawlty Players are busy rehearsing this year’s show, (very) loosely based on tales of Robin Hood. The main recipients of the proceeds this year are the very deserving Wiltshire Young Carers. Go along to enjoy the show and you will also be supporting the Community Centre, Seend WI or Seend British Legion who will be running raffles at performances in aid of their own funds.

Once again, we have received far more in contributions to Spotlight than we can include in the space available (which, of course, is better than not receiving enough). Sadly, the editors have had to sharpen their hatchets and cut back most contributions to some extent. We try hard not to change the tone or meaning of your items during editing, but do have to reserve the right of editors to, well, edit!

As well as social events, there is plenty of info within these pages about planning issues, volunteers required for the Neighbourhood Plan, Rural Arts and the Fete among others (+ Link can always use more drivers) and most importantly, notice of vacancies for three Seend Parish Councillors. Tony Murch explains the unfortunate cause of two of the resignations in his letter on p.5. We have two new features – Dr C’s Health diary and a Gaming Review for young (and not so young) gamers. And we welcome the new Priest in Charge of the Wellspring Benefice, Ali Bridewell.

Long term Seend residents will have been sad to hear of the death of Dr Mark Rendall, who was the Seend doctor during the last years that a weekly surgery was held for us in the Pavilion. The side room with washbasin was, we believe, built especially with these surgeries in mind.

Spotlight Contacts: Contributions for the March edition (copy by Saturday 10th February please) can be emailed to spotlight@seend.org.uk or delivered to Seend Post Office. Editors: Tessa Doe (01380 828617) and Sue Isaac (828461). Please note that you should always send emailed items to the Spotlight address, not to Sue or Tessa – even if they have emailed you from their own email address – just in case they are not around. Joanna Goddard (828488) organises printing Mondays and also types up the items left at Seend PO. Fiona Johnson is the contact for delivery (828401) and Chris Brooker (828047) for advertising. Do let Joanna or Fiona know if you can help with printing and collating or distribution.

Lost emails: Emails to Spotlight sometimes go astray for no obvious reason. If email correspondents don’t receive an acknowledgement by the end of the Monday after the Spotlight deadline, please ring Tessa or Sue (see above) to check if all is well. And please note the following. When sending emails to spotlight@seend.org.uk please include the word SPOTLIGHT in uppercase as the first word of the Subject. This will help the editorial team sifting through all the messages stopped by the SPAM filter, which sometimes include genuine messages for SPOTLIGHT.

PDFs: We cannot normally use PDF files of posters etc as they require a specific shape and space. Word documents give us the flexibility to adapt your wording and pictures to fit the space available. Thanks.
**VILLAGE EVENTS IN FEBRUARY AND BEYOND**
*(For Bulkington events see pages 13-15)*

**FEBRUARY in SEEND COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**First Friday Coffee Morning in the Lounge**
From 10.30am on Friday 2nd February - Come along for proper coffee, home-made cakes and a chat in good company! It’s just £2 for coffee or tea - plus a refill - and a slice of cake. All welcome.

**WEA DAY SCHOOL**
*Poets and Artists of the First World War with tutor Sarah Phillips*
Saturday 3rd February 10.30 am to 4.15 pm (45 mins for lunch) in the upstairs Village Room. Bring your own lunch but coffee, tea and biscuits provided. Book online at wea.org.uk

North & West Wilts National Trust Association Lecture
‘Garden and Film at Great Chalfield’ with Robert and Patsy Floyd
Saturday 10th February. Admission £3 for members, £4 non-members. Lecture starts at 2.15 pm; AGM at 2 pm (complimentary refreshments after presentation)

**Seend Fawlty Players’ 39th village pantomime**
**’Robin Hood and his Merry Men and Women’**
See front cover and flyer for details. Here are some comments from last year's satisfied customers: "What lovely memories we will have of this year's production." “This was SO great - laughed all the way through”. “Excellent”. “Very entertaining indeed”. “Joy!” And no, we didn't make them up - nor did we pay anybody! Come and see for yourselves.

**Nosh and Natter Lunch Club**
Wednesday 28th February, 12 for 12.30pm
You need to book in advance for all lunch dates by calling Pauline on 01380 828638. It only costs £5 for two courses - all home-made of course. All welcome!

Enjoy a night of singing and dancing to: **ABBA Sensation** – one of the UK’s finest tribute bands. Friday 13th April at Seend Community Centre at 7.30pm. Tickets £15 available now from the Community Centre, Shop/PO or email events@seendcommunitycentre.com

**Great Seend Chilli Cook-off**
*Saturday 10th February*
7.30 pm Irene Usher Memorial Hall
Tickets £12.50 for two courses + a glass of wine or stout – available from the village shop, any WI member or Joanna Goddard on 01380 828488.
Six different chillis (including vegetarian). Vote for your favourite!
Quiz - Raffle - Bar
Four Seend people have sadly died since the last edition of Spotlight. We send our condolences to their friends and families.
- Dawn Steel
- Colin Venton
- Charlie Mayell
- Philip Wood

**J U M B L E S A L E**
Saturday 24th February
The Irene Usher Pavilion 11.00am until 1.00pm
Selling pre-loved clothes, books, toys and brick-a-brac.
Come along and get some bargains, then sit down and enjoy a cup of tea and cake.
*Raising Funds for Seend School*

**The Brewery Inn**
*Monthly Fun Quiz Wednesday 28th February 8pm*

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**
*(Please let us know of any births, marriages, deaths, special birthdays, thanks, information etc that you would like to see included here.)*

**Church Re-ordering Project**
Work should now have started to bring water to the church. The project will take about 12-15 weeks to complete so please be patient with us while Gaigers carry out this essential work. If you have not yet looked, the plans are in the church.

**Flower Arranging - Can you help?**
We are short of one or two people to complete the rota of flower arrangers for Seend church. If you think you would like to join this group you would be most welcome, whatever your skill level. The commitment is for no more than one arrangement per month. Please call Margaret Coley on 828189 or one of the churchwardens.

**Stones for Free (or a donation)**
In preparing for the installation of the toilet, Seend church has discovered a pile of Ashlar stones in the churchyard. We are offering them to anyone within the village who can collect them. If you are interested in having some or all of them please contact Neil Yockney (827139) or Anne Ewing (828557).

**CAROLS AT CLEEVE HOUSE**
Thank you to those of you who attended the Carols at Cleeve House with The Seend Singers. An enjoyable evening hosted by Miriam Zaccarelli, who provided refreshments - including mulled wine, mince pies and coffee. This was our fourth Carol Concert at this superb venue. You raised £200 for the Wiltshire Young Carers. This was a very generous contribution to this deserving, local charity.

Bob McCulloch
PARISH COUNCIL INFORMATION

Application Ref: 1708217/FUL – Blossom Hill: Change of use of land with associated ancillary development to single traveller pitch.

This planning application was called in by Councillor Jonathon Seed, which meant that the decision to approve or refuse rested with a Committee of Council Officers and not just the one Planning Officer, who we knew was minded to approve it. See Tony Murch’s letter on p. 5 for details of the meeting. Sadly, the application was narrowly approved by 6 votes to 5 and we cannot appeal against the decision.

Seend Parish Council would like to thank all those parishioners who sent in letters and to also thank the representatives who spoke on the Parish’s behalf. All put up a strong case for opposing the planning application, but unfortunately did not manage to persuade the majority of the Committee.

Great British Spring Clean Weekend: This annual event is taking place over the weekend of Friday 2\textsuperscript{nd} to Sunday 4\textsuperscript{th} March. Last year many residents informally took part, including the children of Seend School, and our Parish benefitted greatly. It would be fantastic if more parishioners took part this year. If a lot of residents cleared a small area outside of their own homes, we could pretty much get the whole parish cleared of litter. Parish Councillors will take the lead on covering the A361 footpath from the stocks to top of hill, Spout Lane, The Pelch & Seend Cleeve. Further details will be put in the next issue and on the website and noticeboards.

WW1 – Commemorative Trees: Seend Parish Council would like to support this initiative that is being led by Wiltshire Council. See the Minutes on p. 19 for details. The Parish Council would be keen to hear from anyone who has land on which they would be happy for the trees to be planted. There would need to be some public access to the location. Please get in touch with the Clerk if you have any ideas.

Policing Precept Consultation: Angus Macpherson MBE. Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon has launched a consultation on the policing precept for 2018/19. Any residents interested should go to: www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk, you can also email pcc@wiltshire.pcc.pnn.gov.uk or use #AskAngusPCC on social media or you can access a video of me outlining the proposals at https://youtu.be/lsKkPmUd1Nc

Wessex Water Works – Seend Cleeve: By the time you read this, the replacement of the water pipes in Perrys Lane ‘should’ have been completed by 22\textsuperscript{nd} January and work then begun on the main road through Seend Cleeve. This is expected to take around 12 weeks. Further updates will be put on the Parish Council website.

RURAL ARTS WILTSHIRE – Organiser(s) wanted

Steve and Karen Cubberley are stepping down from being the Seend contacts for the excellent Rural Arts Wiltshire touring scheme, due to all their other responsibilities. It’s an interesting and rewarding voluntary role – organising events twice a year. Organisers perks mean that you get to choose who you would like to see perform!

To find out more, please call Steve and Karen on 01380 828423.
THREE PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

Following the resignations of Nick Haines, Tony Murch and Mark Wood, there are 3 Parish Councillor vacancies. As there were no requests for an election sent to Wiltshire Council Electoral Services by 16th January, these vacancies can now be filled by Co-Option.

Do you have a desire to help and become involved in your community? Are you ready and willing to take a lead in making representations to Wiltshire County Council on behalf of the community? Would you like to have your say on planning, highways and other community issues? If so, you would make an ideal Parish Councillor. Anyone interested in becoming a Parish Councillor should contact the Parish Clerk: Sue Bond on 07706 850859 or email clerk@seendparishcouncil.co.uk. A job description can be downloaded from the website: www.seendparishcouncil.co.uk. Applications to be received by 16th February 2017. Please submit a brief summary of why you would make a good Parish Councillor along with any skills and experience you can bring to the Parish Council. Co-Option will most likely take place at the February Council meeting.

RECENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES

I am sorry to inform you that before Christmas, I reached a decision to resign from the Parish Council (PC).

As you will be aware the PC sent letters to every household setting out the planning objections to the Gypsy/Traveller site at the so-called Blossoms Hill on the Trowbridge Road. Mark Wood, Steve Parsons and Sue Bond undertook the organisation and delivery of the letters. The planning objections had been compiled by David Pearce, who was a former planning officer with Gloucestershire Council and had defended successfully a similar application in Bromham. I know the PC was grateful to the one hundred and fifty-seven (14%) of parishioners who wrote in setting out their objections.

Before the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) on the 6th December, Mark Wood, David Pearce, Liz Symes, Jonathon Seed and I met on the 4th December to discuss our tactics and approach, given that we were all able to speak against the application. Each of us took a different aspect. We were supported at the SPC by two parishioners and the PC was grateful to them for their support.

The Planning Officer (PO) presented the case in support of the application and he was in fact the officer who defended Wiltshire’s refusal of the Bromham site in evidence to the Regional Planning Inspector. To me this appeared to be a volte-face, as the characteristics of both sites had a number of similarities.

The PO used photographs to illustrate his case for granting permission. Images showing the site were taken from within the site and with summer foliage. He chose not to show the site from the verge on the opposite side of the A361 and showing the site in its wider setting. To support the Highways Department’s view that there were no significant highways issues, other than visibility splays, he showed the A361 with
one small car on it and another image with no vehicles on it! When he was challenged about traffic by an elected member he re-posted the image showing a single car and left that image on display for the whole of the debate and discussion. The subliminal message whether accidental or not was clear.

We were then invited to put our case and I felt that we presented our arguments well. Jonathon spoke very powerfully against the application and provided reassurance to those elected members who might have been worried about the costs of an Inspector’s decision going against the Council. We had argued the case that the target number of available traveller and gypsy sites in the North and West Wiltshire Housing Area had been exceeded significantly so why did we require any more? The PO said that the target was a minimum which could be exceeded and was not a relevant argument.

Elected Members then debated the application and it became clear that the Wiltshire Core Strategy contains Core Policies that conflict with one another so there was a complex debate about which policies had pre-eminence over others.

When the vote was taken the application was carried by six votes to five. We all felt a huge sense of frustration and disappointment.

I spoke to the applicant Mr Sherred in the foyer after the meeting and he wanted to re-assure me that he would be keeping the site tidy and he said ‘not like those who live on the sites in Semington’.

I later phoned the Servicing Officer for the SPG to ask him for the names of those who voted for and against the application and he said that he did not make a note of the voting. I also asked him why he had allowed the image of the A361 to remain during the subsequent discussions and he said that he had not noticed this!

The PC wondered about an appeal but Jonathon’s advice was that this would have to be a judicial review and so we took the view that the costs for this would have been prohibitive for the PC. An hour after arriving home I heard that a planning application for an in-fill development within the Conservation Area in Dial Close had been granted, in spite of the PC and a significant number of residents, objecting to it.

Taking into account both of these unsuccessful objections to planning applications I felt that Wiltshire Council was not taking sufficient account of what the PC or parishioners were saying. I recognise that planning law and regulations are not straightforward. I don’t believe I am naïve but I do believe that where pre-planning advice is given by Wiltshire Council and is followed by an applicant then asking for comments is something of a waste of time as we do not have the same access to planning advice when raising objections. The PC has to pay for advice from external planning consultants. I have also been frustrated by the clear breaches at Spiderweb Paddock. The regional Planning Inspector ruled in 2007 that the site should be cleared of most of the vehicles and the reverse has happened. The sky-line of the ridge is littered with all types of vehicles and machinery that have no bearing on the activity at the site. Sadly, Wiltshire Council has allowed this situation to get worse.
As the Chair of the PC and for the strategy we have adopted I felt I must take responsibility, especially for the Blossom Hill application and so I decided that I should resign.

The Neighbourhood Plan, if it is agreed through the referendum, will provide a better safe-guard for the expression of local wishes, as it will be a legally binding document. At the moment we have nothing to secure our aspirations and views as evidenced above. Please give the process your full support and engage with it. Georgina A’Bear and her group have worked tremendously hard to reach this stage in the process and the desired outcome is within our grasp.

It has been a privilege to be a member of the PC during the last seven years and I would like to thank all of the members of the PC, past and present, for their commitment and unfailing support for the benefit of our Parish. I would especially like to pay tribute to Sue Bond’s work as Parish Clerk. Sue has shown such a conscientious and diligent approach to her duties. I am also very sorry that Mark Wood decided to resign. He has been a very reflective and hard-working member of the PC and an excellent vice-Chair.

The PC has faced some significant challenges during the past two years and I am saddened that these have had an effect such that they have impacted on community cohesiveness and goodwill, as well as taking up a disproportionate amount of the Parish Council’s time.

Tony Murch

**DAY TRIP to HIGHCLERE CASTLE - Wednesday 11th July 2018**

This annual trip which welcomes all villagers and friends is extremely popular especially as this year we are visiting Highclere Castle of Downton Abbey fame. This booking was undertaken a year ago as it is difficult to make a reservation due to the overwhelming numbers wishing to visit. This is why the booking has been made for July as the availability was advised by Highclere. Names for this trip have to be confirmed 6 weeks in advance and the absolute deadline will be 29th May. If you wish to join us then please contact me by email :- tinayockney@btinternet.com or 01380827139. Full details will be given in future editions of Spotlight.

**SEEND PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP**

First update of 2018: We can bring you good news! Since the last update we have chosen the Consultants from our shortlist to help us with this work. They are ‘Place Studio’, a firm based in Bristol with very good credentials. ([www.placestudio.com](http://www.placestudio.com)) It was a hard choice as the other firm we interviewed was impressive too. We have also been awarded the grant, and by the time you read this, the funds should be in the bank. We look forward to working with Place Studio, as they will review what has been done thus far and steer us in the right direction going forward.

We are hopeful that two Parishioners who came to our last meeting may decide to join the Steering Group. Nevertheless we would still welcome anyone who is interested, as additional help would be welcome especially in the form of a Minute Secretary.
Please do come forward if you think you could take on this role, or even just be a member of the Steering Group. Georgina A’Bear (Chair) would be delighted to hear from you for an exploratory chat (828288).

It is with much regret that we have had to accept Tony Murch’s resignation from the SG. His resignation was in no way related to the work of the SG. Tony contributed more than most of us and we will miss him. We also hope that he will miss being part of this important project and may decide to return once he has had a good rest from his other responsibilities as Chairman of the PC.

Over the holiday period, a Parishioner expressed concern that Seend Cleeve and Sells Green will be the focus of all housing development in order to protect Seend. A linked concern was that development would be led by availability of land, rather than by appropriate location. This concern may be shared by other Seend Cleeve and Sells Green residents, so it is worth addressing here to try and avoid any potential split in our community.

I responded as follows: “As to protection for Seend by abuse of Seend Cleeve and/or Sells Green; there is reality to the fact that there is almost no infill opportunity in the Conservation Area, which makes up most of Seend. But I hope that if we stick to the procedures and are vigilant that others do too, we can avoid a development that upsets any one part of our community. Whether it is Aster, a CLT initiative or a private developer, I retain some hope than none of these will be allowed to build homes in a location that the majority disapprove of.”

This is why the Neighbourhood Plan SG is working towards a referendum, which if accepted, will give us a Statutory Document that will be referred to in relation to any development plans that emerge in the next 20 years.

An initial assessment of each site has been made, and this will be worked on further with the help of our Consultants. It will form part of the evidence base against which the sites will be considered at the consultation phase, when all Seend Parishioners have an opportunity to express our views. This is then followed by the Referendum when Parishioners are free to accept or reject the Plan. As your views will have been part of creating the Plan, obviously we hope for a positive outcome.

You will find the names of the Committee members and links to further information about the complex process on the website. www.seendparishplan.org (We are currently reviewing the website, so please be patient if the material you want is temporarily unavailable).

The next meeting will be on Thursday 22nd February 2018 at 7.30pm in The Pavilion. The meetings are open to all parishioners and we welcome your involvement.

Carola Thorpe on behalf of the S.P.N.P. Steering Group

SEEND COMMUNITY LAND AND ASSET TRUST – THE STORY SO FAR

Community Land Trusts (CLTs) are organisations run by local volunteers that provide land and buildings to meet the needs of their communities. They’ve been set up by people concerned at the high cost of homes for local people, the lack of funding for local authorities to build affordable homes and the lack of security provided for
tenants by many private landlords. These are all issues as relevant to our parish as to the rest of England.

CLTs are democratic and membership is open to anyone aged over 16 years who is living in the local community. CLTs must be not for private profit. This means that they can, and should, make a surplus as a community business, but that surplus must be used to benefit the community. Most CLTs develop affordable housing, they can also provide other assets that are important to their community. All assets are held in trust so they are affordable and available for future generations in perpetuity.

In 2016 and 2017, two surveys conducted in our parish revealed a need for small numbers of affordable homes. In January 2017, the UK government’s White Paper on housing, *Fixing Our Broken Housing Market*, proposed a definition of affordable housing as housing that is provided for sale or rent to those whose needs are not met by the open market, and setting affordable rent at 20% below the open market rate for the area. In 1993, the cost of houses for UK first time buyers was 2.7 times average annual earnings. By 2017, this had almost doubled to 5.3 times. In our parish, it is now nearer 9.0 times due to higher than average local house prices.

The impact for Seend parish is that some homes are overcrowded and some family-starting couples have moved out to affordable urban areas. Some families who moved to our parish in recent years have moved away as rents and market housing have become unaffordable. We have people of retirement age wishing to downsize without having to leave parish friends and family. With community support, we can fix this.

With your membership support, we can fix this.

In 2017, on the back of the very well supported Seend Neighbourhood Action Group survey, which received 221 responses with more than 92% support for a CLT, Ian Crawley, a National CLT Network adviser, spoke at a well-attended parish consultation event held in our Lye Field pavilion. This generated great interest followed by practical action. On 28th November 2017, the Seend Parish Council agreed a resolution to support the formation of a Seend Community Land and Asset Trust. Recently, the CLT Steering Group (CLTSG), under the chairmanship of George Clarke, met to plan the setting up of Seend CLT. The CLTSG has been advised by both the National CLT Network, Wiltshire CLT, Wiltshire Council and our local MP, Claire Perry. Wiltshire CLTs are forming at Great Bedwyn and Colerne. There is an operational CLT at Wilton.

Our Seend CLTSG expects to hold its first public meeting for parishioners before Easter. At that meeting the CLTSG will be happy to meet as many parishioners as possible, as well as any volunteers who want to pitch in and support the SG through their personal skills and time. More news will follow shortly so if you are digitally connected, the SG realises that many are not, surf to [www.seendclt.org/news](http://www.seendclt.org/news). If you want to know more about the many successes of CLTs go to [www.communitylandtrusts.org.uk](http://www.communitylandtrusts.org.uk). Best of all, be at the first CLT meeting to learn what we will achieve together as a community!

Steve Vaux
SEEND VILLAGE FETE

11.08.2018

New Village Fete Committee for 2018

After a number of years involvement within Seend Village Fete, Jo and Steve Vaux, Stacey Vaux and Zoe McMillan have decided to step down from the committee to concentrate their efforts elsewhere within the village. Their hard work in recent years has been invaluable in helping the Fete, which this year will be held on 11th August 2018, to continue to thrive for the benefit of the village.

The team for 2018 consists of existing members Chris and Jean Gosling, along with Liam Bergin and new committee member Nicole Feuersenger, supported by the army of volunteers that come out in force in the weeks leading up to the event itself.

Liam Bergin said, “We offer a warm thanks to Jo, Steve, Stacey and Zoe for all that they have done in years gone by. The 2018 committee is looking forward to continuing what is a wonderful and hugely popular village event.”

The Fete committee will be sending out updates in the coming months via Spotlight, Facebook and Twitter where you will find news and information about the event as well as opportunities for individuals, businesses and organisations to get involved.

We are looking for:

- Businesses to sponsor the event
- Stallholders to book a stand
- Groups and organisations to take part
- Volunteers to help
- Prizes to give away

Contact the Fete Committee today to see how you can get involved

Liam Bergin
liam@thirdberg.com
07738 269739 – Seend Fete on fb and @seendfete on Twitter

CHURCH AND CHAPEL NEWS

I do love the month of February, but maybe that’s because as a child I knew that once Christmas was over February was not far away, and it would soon be my Birthday!

Did you make any New Year resolutions and how are they going?

I often wonder why, because of an arbitrary bit of counting, that we call the calendar, we choose the coldest, darkest, most difficult days of the year to try to suddenly challenge ourselves to pull our socks up, and fix everything in our lives, in one go! I don’t know about you but at this time of year all I want to do is curl up somewhere warm and dry and keep warm, surrounded by all the things that bring me comfort!
Now don’t get me wrong, there's nothing wrong with wanting to make changes in your life, to stop doing things or take up a new challenges. But from my experience and others it doesn't work just like that – scientists have shown that it takes 30 days for a new routine to become a habit, and we need plans to get new actions into habits. The following poem by Adrian Plass describes so well how many of us feel about new year's resolutions.

Once I've cleaned this house up properly, I honestly think I'll get somewhere.
Once I've pulled out every single piece of furniture and used an abrasive cloth with strong stuff on it, I think I shall come to grips with the rest of my life.
Once I've put everything into separate piles, each containing the same sort of thing, if you know what I mean, I think I'll manage.
Once I've written a list that includes absolutely everything, I think the whole business will seem very much clearer.
Once I've had time to work slowly from one item to another, I'm sure things will change.
Once I've eaten sensibly for a week and a half,
Once I've sorted out the things that are my fault,
Once I've sorted out the things that are NOT my fault,
Once I've spent a little more time reading useful books, being with people I like, going to pottery classes, getting out into the air, making bread, drinking less, drinking more, going to the theatre, adopting a third world child, eating free range eggs and writing long letters.
Once I've pulled every single piece of furniture right out and cleaned it all properly.
Once I've become somebody else, I honestly think I'll get somewhere.

How many of us are trying to change who we are because we think that's the problem – or that we're more likely to be loved if we change?

Jesus came to a world that was hurting and hating, because He loves it, just as it is. And he loves you, just as you are. He longs to know you and all that you love and hate about yourself. We don't have to change to be loved by Jesus. The world tells us that if we change x, our lives will become perfect. Jesus says that he loves us, even in our imperfections. In the darkest days of the year, Jesus walks with us and as we choose to be in relationship and to walk with him, our lives are changed in the process too.

So this month as we begin to see signs of Spring - new buds, new shoots, birds busy in the trees and hedges, the days lengthening, we can look forward to the new season, the great season of Lent, a time in the church year when we join our faith journey with Jesus’ journey to the Cross. May we also find hope in the new life of Spring, and trust that Jesus will guide us through these brightening days, as we approach the drama and sorrow of Holy Week and the joy of Easter Day.

Yours in Christ,

(Revd. Ali Bridewell)
CHURCH SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

The Benefice of Holy Cross, Seend, Christ Church, Bulkington and St. Peter’s, Poulshot
You are welcome to worship at any of the services in any of the churches in the Benefice.

Sunday 4th February 2018 (2nd Sunday before Lent)
- 8.00 am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at Seend
- 9.15 am Parish Eucharist at Poulshot
- 11.00 am Café Church at Seend
- 6.00 pm Evensong at Bulkington

Sunday 11th February 2018 (Sunday before Lent)
- 9.15 am Parish Eucharist at Seend
- 11.00 am Parish Communion at Bulkington
- 6.00 pm Evensong at Poulshot

Wednesday 14th February 2018 (Ash Wednesday)
- 7.30 pm (tbc) Cluster Ash Wednesday service at St Nicholas Church Bromham

Sunday 18th February 2018 (Lent 1)
- 8.00 am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at Seend
- 9.15 am Morning Praise at Bulkington
- 11.00 am Parish Eucharist at Poulshot
- 6.00 pm Evensong at Seend

Sunday 25th February 2018 (Lent 2)
- 9.15 am Matins at Poulshot
- 11.00 am Parish Eucharist at Seend
- 6.00 pm Parish Eucharist at Bulkington

Every Tuesday at 9am there is a short Benefice service of Matins (BCP) at Poulshot church.

From the Benefice records

Baptisms
We welcome into God’s family;
Rosa Eleanor Breach who was baptised at Christ Church Bulkington on 14th January

Benefice BUZZZZ Group

Wednesday, 7th February at 2.30 pm. Venue: at Sue Noad’s home, 33 Littleton Willows, Semington (tel. 870343) led by Rev Jane Knowles. Everyone is welcome to this informal and pleasant group.

Café Church for Advent

on Sunday 4th February at 11am at Seend
Singing and stories for all the families in the villages of Seend, Bulkington and Poulshot.
SEEND METHODIST CHURCH

Services for February 2018
11th February 10am Rev Wendy Tucker, Holy Communion.
25th February 10am Mrs Isabel Smears.
Everyone welcome to any service.

Thank you, Anne Salter.

BULKINGTON NEWS

BULKINGTON LADIES’ GROUP
Our meeting for February will be on Thursday 22nd at 7.30 pm in Bulkington Village Hall. Our speaker will be giving an amusing slant on Tax, Toy Boys and Wills. There will be the usual bring and share refreshments and raffle. Hope to see you there.

Liz Futter 828485 Angela Read 828925

Soup Lunch
Members from the church will be holding a Soup Lunch in Bulkington Village Hall on Saturday 3rd March from 12 noon. Come along and enjoy some delicious home made soup followed by home made cookies and Tea/Coffee. Proceeds shared with Devizes Food Bank. Tickets £5 for adults and £3 for children from Liz Futter 828485 or pay at the door.

The church hosted Bulkington Village Lunch takes place on Wednesday, 7th February at 12.15pm at The Well.
Contact Phyl Yarde in advance for the menu (828116).
New people are always welcome to join us. It is a good social event for the entire village and area.

BULKINGTON VILLAGE HALL
Ring out the bells for a New Year! Our Hall will be ringing to the sounds of another Birthday in February: we hope the weather will be kind. At the end of last year, our Omniart Group marked a decade of our hosting. The actual day saw the funeral of one their members, so celebration was tinged with sadness. The Ladies Group are still enjoying the warmth during the winter months, but we’ll soon be planning for the year ahead, taking in the welcome spring will bring. So remember the Hall for its warmth and welcome and get planning, too, for that special occasion. A Happy, Healthy New year to you all!

Angela Read, Chairman.

THE TEA, CRAFT AND CHAT SOCIAL GROUP
for Seend, Bulkington and Poulshot
will meet from 2 – 4pm on Monday, 5th February
at Mill Croft, home of Thelma Boulton (828101)
Bring your own craft item or leave it at home and just come and chat!
GREAT BULKINGTON RAILWAY
(Entrance Village Hall SN10 1SW)
We will be opening for public running on Easter Sunday 1st April from 1300 hours until 1630 hours. Light refreshments will be served by the ladies from Christ Church Bulkington and toilets will be available in the village hall. We take no expenses – all profits to Wiltshire Air Ambulance whom we sent £2000 last year. We operate private birthday parties with 2 hours of train rides from the village hall for up to 20 children (BYO party food) for £140. Contact Station Master Nev Boulton on 01380 828 101.

BULKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL.
[NOTE: a full version of these minutes to be found on our website.]
Meeting of the 15th November 2017
Present: Cllrs Mrs Read (Chair), Lock; Cllrs. Bennett & Pendlebery. No Members of the Public or Police. Apologies from Cllr Seed -Wiltshire Council.
Following Statements from Steve Kerslake and Ron Elliott, they were co-opted.
Minutes (20th Sept.) Corrected and signed.
Reports Cllr Mrs Lock suggested Playing Field could be managed with an Events Committee. Cllr Kerslake to take care of the Accounts.
Cllr Bennett(Footpaths). An anonymous complaint has been made re cows on a path. Proposed action passed by vote. Parish Steward will deal with drains and leaves.
Memorial Stone Cllr Kerslake expressed confusion re orientation.*
Correspondence WWI trees: to be discussed. Floodsax in place of sandbags: Cllr Pendlebery to seek more info. Also to check grit bins.
Section 137 For British Legion Wreath: £50 Agreed.
Finance For details see website. Spotlight donation to be suspended. Cllr Bennett suggested PC to have headed notepaper: to be purchased.
Cllr Kerslake hoped to sort out status of Playing Field; to include possible Portaloo. Issue of grass cutting to be resolved.
Any other Business Mr Westmacott’s wishes to be clarified. Cllr Pendlebery to walk the drains with Mr. Ogilvie; to write to local farmers about mud on roads. Cllr Mrs. Lock suggested monthly meetings for the PC. An earlier start was another suggestion.
Cllr Bennett suggested the Playing Field be listed as a PC asset.
The Chairman conveyed the invitation to the Induction of our new Vicar.
Date of next Meeting 10th January. To include Setting of Precept.
[*The new Memorial Stone “faces southwards to the battlefields and cemeteries of the Western Front where the bulk of the 750,000 Tommies lie amongst the poppies.” Simon Barratt]
The bumper draw for the "100 Club" took place at the village lunch at The Well on Wednesday, 6th December, and the winners were:

- £75 No. 58 Phyl Yarde (not a fix, honestly!)
- £50 No 59 Michele Gregory
- £35 No 23 Samantha Taylor
- £20 No. 71 Jane Dunlop
- £15 No. 33 Graham Lock

Congratulations to the winners. Welcome to our new members and thank you to all our members - we now have 80 which means we can have another draw and even more prizes. Of course it would be wonderful if we could make it truly a "100" club so if you would like to join us, contact Phyl Yarde on 01380 828116 or phyllisyarde@gmail.com for details.

The Mobile Library will visit the car-park of The Well on Monday 5th February 2018, 11.05-11.30am. Please support this.
This month we publish another poem written by pupils of the 2014 Sycamore Class at Seend School. This one is called **The Wait** and was written by **Thomas Katsaitis**.

An hour to go,
Huge rations of rum being drunk,
Fear runs through my body,
Terror tries to take over,
But not quite strong enough.
Five minutes to go,
“Come on boys ready to go, ready the guns”.
We loaded the guns,
Connected the scopes.
Ten seconds to go,
“You know the plan”?
We nodded our heads,
“Fire”!
We got ready to go,
“Four, three, two”
We held up our guns,
“ATTACK”!

**THE ELVIS EXPERIENCE**  (Saturday 25th November 2017)
Not only was this performance an unqualified success, it was an evening of records as well:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>Record</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Numbers attending</td>
<td>119</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit made</td>
<td>£1,745</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raffle</td>
<td>£329</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silent auction</td>
<td>£150</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Many congratulations to the Organisers and their helpers, and many thanks to all those who donated so generously.

Roger Brind

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**100+ CLUB DRAW**
The Lye Field 100+ Club Special Christmas Draw took place on the 7th December and the results are as follows:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prize</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>£60.00</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mr P Wyatt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£50.00</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>Ms T Doe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£40.00</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>Mr T Jackson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£30.00</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>Ms Z McMillan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£20.00</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>Mr T James</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Congratulations to all the winners.

Karen Cubberley, Seend Lye Field Committee
SEEND WI
At our January meeting, our Speaker, Mr Alan Padwick, gave a very interesting and well informed talk on the life of Sir Thomas Lawrence, Royal Portrait Painter. Lawrence was a child prodigy, born in 1769 in Bristol. For a few years he lived in Devizes, before moving to Bath and then London. He acquired Royal patronage in 1810 and in 1820 became President of the Royal Academy. However he was not so successful in his love affairs and most of his life was spent in debt. At his death in 1830 he was the most fashionable portrait painter in Europe. The meeting continued with a look at the proposed WI Resolutions for 2018 and members had the opportunity to pay their annual subscriptions.

The evening concluded with a reminder of the forthcoming Great Seend Chilli Cook-off on Saturday 10th February – tickets £12.50 – available from the village shop or any WI member. There will be a variety of chilli dishes to try, including a vegetarian option. It is hoped lots of people will come to make this a really fun evening.

Our Speaker for February is Lucy Hooper on The Story of the Dogs Trust.

All meetings take place in the Pavilion, Rusty Lane, Seend at 7.30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month unless otherwise notified. For more information, please contact Joyce Harvey on 01380 828511 or check www.sendwi.weebly.com.
You might see Chestnut Class out and about in the village as their new topic is ‘The Local Area.’ They will be thinking about the services that we have in our local area and how they could be improved. Chestnut Class are also getting ready for their residential to Braeside. They will be taking part in a range of fun and exciting activities in and around the Braeside grounds, as well as continuing their topic on the local area and canals.

Sycamore Class have started their new topic on The Tudors. They are eager to find out about Henry VIII and all his wives! As well as their residential later on in the year, Sycamore Class hope to visit Montacute House.

We have had a few regrettable incidences of people (teenagers?) banging on windows in the late afternoons when it is dark outside and they can’t be seen. This understandably is quite worrying for the staff who are working in their rooms to be startled in this manner. Please keep a look out and if you find out who it is, please let us know. We really don’t want to have to lock the gates at night but if this continues, we will need to. Hopefully our new security lighting will help resolve this matter.

The FOSS committee would like to say a big thank you to everyone that turned up at our Christmas Fayre to make it one of our best ever. We hope that you managed to pick-up some great gifts, play some good games and enjoy yourself as much as we did. To top it all off we raised a lot of money that will be used to support the children in Seend School.

We would particularly like to thank all of our sponsors: Solar Geo, KEC Electrical, Melksham Motor Spares, Melksham Insurance Brokers, Cleeve Cats, Kingstons, Online Auto, Dolman, The Daily Drinker, Deborah Holley Jewellery, Silkwise Catering, Townsend Barn Nursery, Wansbroughs Solicitors, Systema, Melksham Tyre Supplies, Nortree Motors, Bovisand Lodge, Corsham Classics and Turnpike Garage.

Mrs Nicola Coleman, Deputy Headteacher

**SEEND PLAYGROUP NEWS**

We held our nativity morning on Friday 15th December, which was lovely on the day. Thank you to all the staff and committee who made the morning a success. (Thank you also to Liam for being our large sheep!) Father Christmas came at 11am and the children were pleased to see him. We then had our Christmas party lunch and games. Goldilocks and the Three Bears role play was enjoyed by the children.

This term our topic is colours and numbers and we will be looking for them in the environment. We have visited the library van and borrowed some books. When we got back to Playgroup we made our own library.

We have bought a new CD/ Cassette player using some of the money that was raised at our recent shopping evening. Thank you to all who supported this event.

From 8th January we are now open from 8.45am to 2.45pm on Mondays (as well as Fridays). There are some spaces available.

Rose Dick (Playleader) 828003
SEEND PARISH COUNCIL

NB. These minutes are an edited version of those taken at the meeting of 28th November 2017 and have not yet been ratified by the PC and may be subject to change. A full copy of the minutes can be found on: www.seendparishcouncil.co.uk

The meeting held on 28th November was attended by nine Councillors with Mr Murch in the chair, Councillor Jonathon Seed, Planning Consultant David Pearce and Mrs S Bond (Clerk) and 10 parishioners including representatives of the CLT steering group. Apologies were received from Mrs Akerman and Mrs Heatley.

Police Matters: On 3rd November, a battery, 30 litres of fuel, a fuel cap, a flashing beacon, shovel and pole turner were stolen from a JCB parked in a field off the A361.

Planning Matters

Application Ref: 17/09986/FUL – REVISED PLANS SUBMITTED
Site Location: 15 Dial Close, Seend SN12 6NP

The Chairman summarised the changes that had been made. He concluded that these were minimal and should not change the Council’s original decision to oppose the application. Mr Wood proposed that the PC maintains its original decision to oppose the planning application, seconded by Mrs McManus and carried by a majority.

Application Number: 17/10388/TCA
Site Location: 26 The Lye Seend SN12 6PB
Proposal: Fell all trees to ground level and grind stumps( T1 , T2,T3 and T4.)

Concern was expressed that removal of the trees would leave the garden extremely bare, and reasons were for removing the apple and pear trees were not clear. Mrs McManus proposed that the approval of the planning be given on the condition that the apple tree is not removed, and that native trees be planted to replace those that are removed. This resolution was seconded by Mrs Vince. All Councillors approved.

Application Number: 17/07362/FUL
Site Location: 44 Seend Cleeve Seend Melksham Wiltshire SN12 6PY
Proposal: Detached annexe with ground floor to initially be used as a garage.

Concern was expressed that the building would be overbearing on the neighbouring property. Mr Wood proposed that this planning application be opposed on the grounds that it is too large and intrusive on the neighbouring property. Seconded by Mrs A’Bear. The resolution was carried with 6 votes.

Items for discussion from members of the parish

WW1 Remembrance Trees - Seend Parish Council had agreed that the Parish Council should support the Wiltshire Council initiative of planting the same number of trees as soldiers from Seend that had died in the WW1, i.e. 25. Col Knocker and Mr Robin Heatley from Seend branch of the Royal British Legion spoke in support of the initiative. Further discussions were needed. The Clerk said that Wiltshire Council needed to know the number of trees and location as soon as possible. Clerk to contact Rhys Schell, to ask for an extension for submitting the specific details.
Chairman’s Report

Remembrance Sunday: The Chairman said that the Parish Council ought to be involved in the Remembrance Service, and that a wreath should be laid by a representative of the Parish Council. Mrs Vince proposed that the PC actively take part in the Remembrance Day service with a representative attending and laying a wreath. Seconded by Mr Haines. All Councillors voted to approve this proposal.

Berhills Lane: The Chairman reported that there were still parking issues at Berhills Lane junction. Councillor Seed said that it was difficult as the sign that had been moved was on private land, and that the cars now parked on the gravel did not always present an obstruction to visibility, although an occasional van parked near the junction did create a problem for visibility. Councillor Seed said he would monitor the situation, get photos if possible and then contact the Enforcement Officer.

Spout Lane: The Chairman raised concern that the canal bridge in Spout Lane was in a fragile state. The Clerk to write to the Canal & River Trust to make them aware.

Baldham Bends: Frustration was expressed that the bridge had been damaged again. Repairs were now underway. The Chairman suggested that Baldham Bends be discussed by the sub-committee looking at the road safety issues in the Parish.

Neighbourhood Plan and CLT

Mrs A’Bear reported that they hoped to agree at the next meeting on which consultant they would engage to help prepare the Neighbourhood Plan. As their engagement would need to be agreed before the next Parish Council meeting in January, Mrs A’Bear asked the PC to support their decision on who to appoint. They would be applying for grants of £2-3,000 in the first instance to help finance the Plan preparations. Mrs A’Bear also hoped that Councillors would support the inclusion of another £2,000 in the Precept budget for the 2018-19 financial year. This would be the final year that they would be asking for money, as it was hoped that the Neighbourhood Plan would be completed by the end of the 2018-19 financial year.

Community Land Trust – The Chairman had circulated to all Councillors and the NPSG Committee members a draft proposal for establishment of a Seend Community Land Trust. He hoped that the PC would approve the proposal. Mrs McManus raised concerns about committing to the establishment of a CLT before the Neighbourhood Plan had been completed. Other concerns were expressed from parishioners that the PC would be approving a proposal that contained some errors. There was a fear that the CLT would undermine the work of the NPSG. The Chairman welcomed Mr George Clarke to the role of Chairman of the Steering Group. Mr Clarke has valuable experience of chairing a Community Housing Trust in London. Mr Clarke said that the setting up of a Seend CLT would take months, and it could delay progress if it waited until the Neighbourhood Plan was completed. Dr Knott reiterated that the CLT would work in harmony with the NPSG and take its lead from them. The Chairman asked Councillors to support the draft proposal if amendments were made, most importantly that the CLT would be required to collaborate closely with the NPSG particularly when it came to the housing needs of the Parish and specific site recommendations. The Chairman stressed the need to move forward quickly on this.
Mr Williams proposed that the PC support the setting up of a CLT based on the draft proposal subject to the suggested changes being made. Approved unanimously.

**Highways – Metro Counts:** The results of the two Metro Counts recently carried out in Sells Green and at New Buildings were presented. The average speed in Sells Green was 35.2mph. The average speed at New Buildings was 28.2mph. In both cases, the results showed that there was no excessive speeding and that it was more a case of perception of speed rather than actual speed.

**Defibrillator:** The Defibrillator had arrived and was fully working. The cabinet, the same as the one at the Community Centre, would be ordered after the meeting once the cheque had been signed. It would be installed outside The Brewery Inn.

**Correspondence**

The Clerk had received a further email from the couple considering buying the Bell Pub, outlining their plans. The PC could not make any further comment until actual plans were submitted. The Clerk had also received an email from a resident who had her car wing mirror damaged by another car near the Barge Bridge. The number of cars parked by the bridge was causing a major problem for car drivers. The resident asked what the legal position was for parking on white lines. The Clerk read out the Rule: “If the road has a continuous single white line running along the left side, parking is considered legal but in some cases may be used to discourage parking – though this is subject to localised laws such as no parking enforcement signs or other such prohibited parking markings.” This was not clear. The Clerk to contact the Community Beat Officer to see if she could do anything about the problem.

**Precept Budget**

A draft budget for 2018-19 financial year contains a number of increases. The increase of the Clerk’s working hours from 9 to 12 hours per week, meant that the salary budget would be increased. Other increases include an increased budget for contingencies as spending is likely to exceed the budget this financial year, and to include a budget for email and website improvements. There were also discussions on including a highways element in the Precept. Two figures had been circulated, one including a budget for highways projects and one not. With Parish Councils having to pay at least 1/3 of all highways improvements, most Councillors felt that it was important to build up reserves to pay for highway projects as they arise. In the current financial year, the Church Crossing will need to be paid for and had not been factored into the current Precept, so will be paid for from reserves. With a road safety review being carried out on Bell Hill, any recommended safety improvements would have to be paid for by the PC. Mr Wood proposed that the Precept for 2018-19 should include a budget for Highways projects and be increased to £17,895, seconded by Mrs Vince. Mr Haines did not take part in the vote. All other Councillors present voted in favour of the Precept that included the Highways budget, i.e. an increase from £25.77 for Band D household to £33.87 per annum.

**Resignation:** Mr Haines announced his resignation during the discussion on the Precept and immediately left the meeting.

**Financial Matters:** Bank reconciliation to end of September 2017 - £19,129.14
**Allotment Rent Review**: The Precept Committee recommended a small rent rise from the next financial year. All Councillors voted in favour of a rise to £35 for a single plot and £60 for a double plot.

The dates of the next two meetings are: Tuesdays 30th January and 28th February at 7.30pm at Seend Community Centre. Contact Details for Seend Parish Council Clerk: Sue Bond. Telephone 07706 850859 (office hours and answerphone service) Email: clerk@seendparishcouncil.co.uk

**NEWS FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCIL**

You may not be aware of the different strands that make up the Council Tax Bill. By far the largest proportion of this bill is for Wiltshire Council which provides our local government services including social services, children's services and Highways amongst others; this is likely to increase by 5.99% this year. The next strand is the Parish precept and this goes to fund local parish services and is set by the Parish Council. It is likely to increase as PCs take on more local responsibilities. The police and fire precept is likely to increase by 12% in order to provide the services people want. The reason for increased charges made by local government through Council Tax and Non Domestic rates is simply that central government takes most of the Council Tax revenue and has at the same time cut the funding it redistributes to local government for service delivery. Therefore local government has to increase its charges to grow the portion of the tax it keeps to pay for the services it has to deliver.

I am becoming increasingly concerned at the difficulties that are being experienced at parish level. These most local of Councils do a great job and exist to provide the most local of support to their residents. Sometimes it would be helpful if all involved took a step back and recognised that parishes do what they can, which may not be precisely what everyone wants. Volunteer Parish Councillors are elected to do their best and should be afforded the support to do what they can for their residents.

Jonathon Seed, Jonathon.seed@wiltshire.gov.uk, 07770774463

**DR C’S HEALTH DIARY**

It is the first weekend of 2018 as I write this first “Health Column”. The now mostly green gardens remind me that fresh air is invariably good for us and walking, too, has many health benefits. But at the end of the day, we have to know what we are doing it all for?

Each week I conduct a meeting on the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), where critically ill people who need life support, either to help their breathing or to support their circulation or both, are admitted. They may have been involved in a serious accident or have pneumonia or have taken drugs. For many it is not their own fault. But I notice that it is not what brings them to ICU that influences whether they recover. It is how they lived beforehand and this is no longer heavily dependent on the patient’s age as it was when I first became a doctor in the early 1990s. The oldest patient on the Intensive Care Unit one week was 93 years old and described as “previously fit and well”. She was discharged from the unit after only eight days of life support and
subsequently back to her home, whilst the 30 year old man, who had always drunk an excess of alcohol, required six weeks of intensive care admission. He would ultimately return to his relatively housebound life. It is an uncomfortable truth that “unhealthy eating” is still seen as acceptable, and allowed occasionally. Then suddenly everyday can become a celebration and an excuse for a “treat”.

SEEND SPORTING AND DRAMATIC NEWS
Expect a bumper edition in March! Please send news to Frankie Goddard, 01380 828488.

THIS MONTH’S GAMING REVIEW
If you have an Xbox or a PS4 I suggest you buy, these two fantastic games the first, *Fortnite Battle Royale*, and the second *Call of Duty WW2*.

*Fortnite* is a unique building and shooting game. There are 100 people in each lobby and to win you have to be the last man standing. There are also different game modes called duos and squads where you and your friends can take on other teams. The creators of the game also bring out other game modes once or twice a month.

*Call of Duty WW2* on the other hand provides a huge variety of different game modes. The new campaign is my favourite out of all of the *Call of Duties* I have played. It is set on the D-Day landings in Normandy and gives a more realistic view of war compared to other *Call of Duties*. The multiplayer also provides the same game modes as usual, such as Search and Destroy, Team Death match, Free for All etc. These two new games I think are going to have a massive influence on the gaming world this year. Especially *Fortnite* because it is a new game with a new concept and it is also free to play which plays a big part for its new updates and features which are coming thick and fast.

I would now just like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year everyone and hope it includes a lot of fun laughter and gaming.

PERSONAL ADS
*Please leave your notice in the Shop/PO or at 6 New Buildings, with the £2 fee.*

BITS AND BOBS
**THE SEEND FUND – Your local fund:** Anyone living in or closely associated with Seend can apply by e-mailing the secretary (anitashea@hotmail.co.uk) or writing to her at 34 Seend Cleeve, Melksham SN12 6PY. If you find yourself in financial difficulties the fund might be able to help with anything from school uniforms to heating bills. Send details, saying how much you need, what it is for and when you need it by. Even if the fund has helped you before, your request will be sympathetically and confidentially considered. If there are any organisations or groups who need support to include someone with special needs in an educational activity, or who know of members who are struggling financially, the Fund may be able to help.
INTRODUCTION TO BEEKEEPING 2018
A 14 hour course which aims to help those wanting to:
Discover more about beekeeping OR/
Decide whether beekeeping is a suitable hobby OR/
Start beekeeping

There are Five theory meetings in Bishops Cannings village hall on Wednesdays 7.30–9.30pm – February 21st, March 7th, 21st, April 11th, 25th. Two practicals are at the Club apiary nearby on Saturdays around mid-day for 2 hours on May 5th and May 12th (with May 19th as a reserve in case of inclement weather).

The Cost is £36.00 for existing Full or Country members OR £72.50 for the Course with Country membership OR £84 with Full Club membership, giving a variety of benefits locally and nationally. For details please: Visit our website www.kennet-beekeepers.co.uk or contact Dick Church: 01380 828597 or email church175@btinternet.com Early application is advised as numbers are limited.

STEEPLE ASHTON FILMS at the VILLAGE HALL
VICTORIA AND ABDUL (12A)
Saturday 24th February - 7.30 pm (Doors open 7pm for refreshments)
Tickets £6 available from Steeple Ashton Village Shop or can be reserved by ringing Alison Wilson on 01380 871345

Introduction to Community Youthwork
Volunteer Training Day - Saturday 10th February 2018
St James’ Church, Devizes 9.30am-1pm

This FREE Training day will cover: introduction to youth work, safeguarding, and responding to challenging behaviour. Places are limited so please book asap. Refreshments are provided. For more information or to book a place visit http://www.wiltshireyfc.org.uk/training

EDINGTON ARTS CONCERT
7.30pm on Saturday 14th April in the Priory Church, Edington
Júlia Pusker (violin) and Renáta Konyicska (piano) Full details will be available soon on www.edingtonarts.org/our-events. Tickets are on sale now by email to sue@edingtonarts.org or by calling 01380 831256 - £20 front nave, £15 rear nave, and £10 sides; Edington Angels have a 10% discount, and 18 and under come free.

And finally…
Some more of those interesting quiz answers:
Q: What do you call the indigenous people of Australia?
A: Australians.
Q: Name a bird that can also be a man’s name?
A: Chicken.
USEFUL CONTACTS: Please tell Spotlight if your group’s contact details change
Church: Revd Ali Bridewell. 01380 739064. Benefice Administrator: Mrs Sue Taylor 01225 709360. Churchwardens: Holy Cross Seend: Len Murray, 01380 828513, Mrs Tina Yockney 01380 827139; Christ Church Bulkington: Mrs Liz Futter 828485, Mrs Anne Saywell 828931; LPAs: Jane Goman 827121, Liz Futter 828485, Rosie Forsey 828843, Len Murray 828513, Sue Noad 870343, Sue Rose 871665, Hilary Hutchings 828129, Tina Yockney 827139.
Bell Tower Captain: L Murray 828513.
Irene Usher Memorial Hall (The Pavilion) Bookings - Richard Walker on 828250
Bulkington Village Hall - Nev Boulton 828101 or Roger Futter 828485
Seend Community Centre/Club - 828796 (7.30-11pm only). Bookings: 07703 814111. Website: www.seendcommunitycentre.com and find us on facebook
Seend Shuttle: Bookings and drivers: Alison Cobbing 07951030491 or 01380 850511
Seend Parish Council Clerk – Mrs Sue Bond 07706 850859 www.seendparishcouncil.co.uk
Seend’s Wiltshire Councillor - Jonathon Seed 01380 850695 jonathon.seed@wiltshire.gov.uk
Seend School - 828334
Bulkington Website: www.bulkington.org.uk
Rights of Way Warden – Paul Millard, 01225 712821
Seend Fund: 01380 828757
MP Claire Perry, 01380 729358 (M-F 9.30am-1pm) claire.perry.mp@parliament.uk
MEP - Graham Watson 01458 252265. Melksham Area Board – 07917 721371
Police: PCSO Maggie Ledbury ( Internal:101 Ext 77436089 or Mobile: 07471028939
100+Club Draw – Karen & Steve Cubberley – steven@cubberley.com - tel: 828423
Book Clubs - the original: Sylvia Ewin 828325 - the other: Frank Teasdale 828617
Bouncy Club - Paulette Pardoe 07944 300350
Cricket Club - John Wiltshire 07791 144248
Fawlty Players Panto Group - Tessa Doe 828617 & find Seend Village Pantomime on facebook
Fete – Nick Vaux - seendlrf@gmail.com (www.seendfete.co.uk)
Flower Show –Carole Vince 828579
FoSS (Friends of Seend School) Peter Kay, friendsofseendschool@gmail.com
Historic Houses Club - Mary Warren 01225707357 or Neil Yockney 827139
LINK Scheme - 075320 55560
Lye Field Committee – www.seendlyefield.org
Neighbourhood Watch - Brian Hunt (Seend) 828581; Cavan Moroney (Sells Green) 828606;
Owen Burton (Seend Cleeve) 828820; John Scott (Bulkington) 828026.
Preschool - Rose Dick (Playleader) 828003
Poetry Group - Tessa Doe 828617
Ramblers - Gerald Salter 01225 706451
Royal British Legion - Roger Brind 828830
Seend Singers - Bob McCulloch 828508
Short Mat Bowls Club - Colin Waldeck 828946
Tennis Club - Ric Ellinger 828687
Theatre Club - Sylvia Ewin 828325; Marion Whitehead 828612
WEA – Tessa Doe 828617
Wheelchairs to borrow - Sue and Graham Jones in Seend Cleeve, tel: 01380 828354
WI - Fiona Johnson on 828401 and Gill Acornley 01225 707218
Wine Circle – Steve Parsons 07974 347487 or Simon McManus 07896 711764
Seend Post Office & Village Store
01380 828250

NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES
FRESH FRUIT & VEGETABLES
WINES BEERS & SPIRITS
GROCERIES
THE HEALTH LOTTERY
POSTCARDS & STATIONERY

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* note early closing