

SPOTLIGHT

Send & Bulkington



March 2023

DIARY DATES FOR LATE FEBRUARY

- 27th Mobile Library 9.40am Seend The Lye: 10.05 Seend Cleeve phone box
11.am Bulkington The Well Inn Car Park
28th Seend Parish Council Meeting, Seend Community Centre, 7pm

DIARY DATES FOR MARCH

- 1st Seend Shuttle shopping trip to Salisbury
1st Bulkington Village Lunch, The Well Inn, 12.15pm
3rd First Friday Coffee Morning, Seend Community Centre lounge, 10.30am
4th Seend Churchyard tidying, 10am – noon
8th Seend WI AGM
9th Theatre Club AGM, Pavilion, 7.30pm
11th Soup Lunch, Bulkington Village Hall, 12-1.30pm
12th Seend Ramblers, walk starts 10am
13th Bulkington Tea, Craft and Chat, 2-4pm
15th Seend WI Craft and Chatter Group, Pavilion 2-4pm
17th Illustrated talk on Swanage, Pavilion, 7.30pm
18th LAST DAY FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO APRIL SPOTLIGHT
19th Mothering Sunday Church Services, Seend 10am & Bulkington 11am
21st Melksham Flower Arrangement 2pm at Seend Community Centre
24th Messy Church, Potterne Village Hall, 3.30pm
27th Mobile Library 9.40am Seend The Lye: 10.05 Seend Cleeve phone box
11.am Bulkington The Well Inn Car Park
28th Seend Parish Council Meeting, Seend Community Centre, 7pm
29th Nosh & Natter lunch club, Seend Community Centre, 12 for 12.30pm
31st Seend Playgroup Easter Bonnet Parade and coffee morning.

DIARY DATES FOR APRIL

- 29th Beer Festival

Newcomer to Seend or Bulkington?

Visit www.seend.org.uk, www.bulkington.org.uk and the Spotlight, Seend Community Centre and Seend Village Group **facebook** pages

SEEND COMMUNITY LINK SCHEME

Trouble getting **out and about**? We can help with **transport**.

Link is a team of **volunteers** who assist residents in the area who are **elderly** or incapacitated and are **unable to use public transport**.

For more information or to join us as a volunteer driver please get in touch.

Telephone 07532 055560 - www.seend.org.uk/seend_link

WELCOME TO MARCH 2023 SPOTLIGHT

Let's hope there's not too much of the March winds but plenty of spring sunshine to come this month. You have all the usual village events and meetings, plus Mother's Day, the Bulkington Soup Lunch and a few AGMs. Congratulations to the RBL team for recognition.

Gardeners will be busy as the growing season begins. It's never too early to start thinking about your entries in the Flower and Produce show in August!

Spotlight Contacts: Contributions for the April 2023 edition (copy by Saturday 18th March) can be emailed to spotlight@seend.org.uk or delivered to Seend Post & Provisions. Editors: Tessa Doe (01380 828617) Sue Isaac (828461) and Jan Field (827140). Please note that **you should always send emailed items to the Spotlight address**, not to individuals – even if they have emailed you from their own email address – just in case they are not around. Fiona Johnson is the contact for delivery (828401), Jan Field (827140) for printing and Chris Brooker (828047) for advertising. Potential volunteer deliverers or printers can contact Fiona or Jan.

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 editors (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 or jpg files of posters etc as they require a specific shape and space. Word documents (or compatible) – without any fancy formatting - give us the flexibility to adapt your wording and pictures to fit the space available. Thank you.

THE SEEND FUND - A REMINDER IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES

If you find yourself in financial difficulties, struggling to keep warm or pay for food, the fund is here to help. In the past it has contributed towards a variety of things:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| * Rent Payment | * School Trips | * Food |
| * Household fuel | * Medical Equipment | * Vet bills |
| * Electrical appliances | * Musical instruments | * Training |
| * School and work clothes | * Wheelchairs | |

Remember the Seend fund is your local fund. Anyone living in or closely associated with Seend, including our close neighbours in Bulkington and Poulshot, can apply by emailing the secretary (anitashea@hotmail.co.uk) or writing to her at 34 Seend Cleeve, Melksham SN12 6PY.

The Trustees promise complete confidentiality. Please don't hesitate to contact the fund, when you need it by. The fund can't make regular or huge donations but may be able to help carry you over to better times.

SEEND EVENTS IN MARCH AND BEYOND

EVENTS IN SEEND COMMUNITY CENTRE



FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE MORNINGS on March 3rd from 10.30am in the Lounge. Come and enjoy freshly made real coffee or tea (plus a refill) and delicious home-made cakes for just £2.50 Everyone welcome! No need to book.

NOSH & NATTER LUNCHES

The monthly lunch club meets at 12 for 12.30pm on Weds 29th March and 26th April Please book in advance for all lunch dates by calling Pauline on 01380 828638 (or if no answer 828401). Two courses and refreshments for £7.50— lovely home-made dishes prepared and served by the excellent N+N team!



Membership

Many thanks to all who have paid their Membership Subscriptions. Please consider joining if you haven't already – there's still time!

Good value with Adults priced at £15, Over 60's £12.50 and under 18's £5.00

Members Lounge Opening times:

Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays: from 7:00pm until closing

Fridays: from 6:00pm until closing

Sundays: from 12:00 noon until 4:00pm

Casual bar staff needed

We need to rebuild our bank of casual bar staff that we can call upon for events. If you are interested in a few shifts and also in being on our standby list to call for event support, then please drop into the Community Centre during bar opening times and ask for Tom to discuss further.

TGI Fridays:

Every Friday from 6 pm. Club members and guests meet in the Members Bar. Come along and find out what's going on in and around the village.

Looking forward.



On **Saturday 6th May**, we will host a **Village Celebration for the Coronation of King Charles III**, with family entertainment including a magician, live music, food and of course the **Beacon** lighting!

More details to follow.

and

The 21st Seend Beer Festival will take place

On Saturday 29th April 2023

www.seendbeerfestival.co.uk



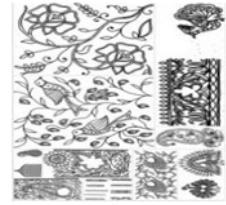
BREWERY INN EVENTS
Wednesday 8th March - Quiz Night
Sunday 19th March – Mother's Day menu



Seend WI Craft and Chatter Group

Wednesday 15th March 2 - 4 pm. Come for tea and cake, at
The Pavilion.

Everyone welcome, you don't have to be a member of WI.
Contact Joyce Harvey 01380 828511.



An Illustrated Talk on Swanage or 'London by the Sea'

A seaside town with a difference

17th March at 7.30 in the

Irene Usher Memorial Pavilion Licensed bar.

Tickets £5 from Post and Provisions, Len Murray, Anne Ewing or Neil Yokney
Proceeds will go to the Church Funds

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND VILLAGE INFORMATION

Please let us know of any births, marriages, deaths, special birthdays, thanks, useful information etc that you would like to see included here. N.B. We are aware that not everybody we lose from our villages gets an obituary or notice printed here. We rely on information from friends and family for this to happen.

COUNCILLOR CAROL DICKINSON

Carol passed away recently. She had only lived in the village for a few years, but threw herself into community life from the start. While taking on the huge challenge of refurbishing The Bell as private accommodation, she also joined Seend Parish Council. She will be missed.

SEEND THEATRE CLUB

**The Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 9th March 2023
at 7.30 pm in the Irene Usher Hall, Rusty Lane, Seend.**

Meet our members and hear our plans for future trips. Wine and nibbles too!
All are welcome. Enquiries to Ken Harvey (01380 828511)
or Marion Whitehead (01380 828612)



**Irene Usher Memorial Pavilion &
Seend Lye Field, Rusty Lane, Seend**
Available for parties, meetings, sports events.
Book online now at: www.seendlyefield.org
Email: seendlrf@gmail.com



Churchyard spring clean will take place on Saturday 4th March between 10 and 12. Duties will involve simple grounds maintenance. Bring your own tools.

Dear Editor,

It is gratifying to see the affordable housing scheme in Seend Cleeve becoming a reality. More than 6 years have passed since Steve Vaux and I recognised the importance of the Localism Act (2011) and the potential benefits that could be derived by Seend Parish residents.

Credit is due to the Hook Family for their generosity in making their land available and to White Horse Housing Association for supporting the far-sighted use of eco-friendly energy saving building designs. This pathfinding Seend Community Housing Scheme will I hope become the pre-cursor of greater things to come that will need the active support and assistance of the wider community. At a difficult time economically and politically, it is even more important to support our recognised local organisations such as our Parish Council, Seend Community Land & Asset Trust and the protection of our Neighbourhood Plan. Inactivity is not an option if we are to preserve our Seend Heritage and Parish-proof our future.

Yours faithfully,
Nigel Knott

NEWS FROM SEEND PARISH COUNCIL

Seend Needs You!

Would you like to be involved in the decision-making in your village?

The Parish Council has two Parish Councillor vacancies.

If you are interested and would like to find out more, speak to one of our friendly councillors or contact the Clerk

No experience us necessary. Support & training is available.

www.seendparishcouncil.co.uk

WARM SPACES - 9TH AND 15TH MARCH

Everyone is welcome to come to the pavilion on Thursday 9th March between 3 and 5pm and Wednesday 15th March between 2 and 5pm. You don't need to be saving on heating to come. Just come for a warm welcome, some friendly company and a drink and cake or biscuits. We are sharing the space with the WI craft group on the Wednesdays so feel free to bring something along, or some mending you might want help with.



CHURCH NEWS

The Parishes of Holy Cross, Seend, Christ Church, Bulkington
and St. Peter's, Poulshot. Part of the Wellsprings Benefice

Due to ongoing health issues within our ministry team, we may be forced to change or cancel services at short notice. Please check our website or speak to the church warden for the latest information. We apologise for any inconvenience and ask for your understanding.

Maureen's Ramblings.....



I rarely watch Songs of Praise on the BBC, as it is not on at a convenient time for me. But I caught it a few weeks ago and found myself singing along – joining about 1 million viewers who watch each week. I also like singing hymns (or many of them!!) Even in an age as secular as ours, its spiritual life battered by apathy, materialism and lack of robust debate about the nature of faith in our 21st Century world, the great hymns of our Christian tradition have the ability to rouse us, lift our spirits and bring us together.

I have to admit that I rarely watch football much either, but did watch a recent big match on the TV where the fans, in all their post-modern diversity, led by a brass band, sang with passion and enthusiasm the hymn “Abide with me” written by a Victorian clergyman! But look at the words – how come a game that is so clearly an affirmation of the life of the body sing a hymn which is a meditation on death?

**“Abide with me, fast falls the eventide. The darkness deepens Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.
Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day, earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away
Change and decay in all around I see O Thou who changest not, abide with me
I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless; ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory? I triumph still, if Thou abide with me
Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes. Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee; in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me”.**

Henry Lyte wrote this prayer in 1847 just months before he died of tuberculosis. The tune was written by William Monk, weeks after the tragic death of his three-year old daughter. In both words and music they are seeking the help, comfort, strength and courage of God to face what the future holds. It is a prayer that I have used when facing my own struggles and walking alongside others in theirs.

But what does this ritual mean for the football crowds, looking down on a football pitch instead of a grave? Maybe hymn singing is about community and belonging; when the identities of the opposing teams and all of life's other rivalries and tensions, are temporarily subordinated to an assertion of a shared humanity. And maybe, just maybe, the words will be remembered by individuals walking through their own darkness and loneliness and their own journeys of change, loss and grief. This hymn, like so many, point us to God – a God it might be hard to conceive or believe in; a God who might seem far away when we are in darkness. But a God who can stir up hope in us for that day when **“heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee”**. We always sing hymns in the five churches of the Wellsprings Benefice. Why not come along and join us?!

The Revd. Maureen Allchin. Retired priest.

CHURCH SERVICES IN MARCH 2023



Sunday 5th (Lent 2)

8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Potterne
9:30am	Matins	Poulshot
9:30am	Holy Communion	Worton
11am	Holy Communion	Bulkington
11am	Holy Communion	Seend

Sunday 12th (Lent 3)

9:30am	Morning Praise	Bulkington
9:30am	Morning Praise	Worton
9:30am	Holy Communion	Poulshot
11am	Holy Communion	Potterne
4pm	Evensong	Seend

Sunday 19th (Mothering Sunday/Lent 4)

9:30am	Mothering Sunday Service	Worton
10am	Mothering Sunday Service	Chapel of Ease, Poulshot
10am	Mothering Sunday Service	Seend
11am	Mothering Sunday Service	Potterne
11am	Mothering Sunday Service	Bulkington

Friday 24th

3:30pm	Messy Church	Potterne Village Hall
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Sunday 26th (Lent 5)

9:30am	Family Service	Worton
11am	Holy Communion	Potterne
11am	Holy Communion	Seend
4pm	Blessing of Bells Service	Poulshot
6pm	Evening Service	Bulkington

Wednesday 29th

5pm	Celtic Meditative Service	Poulshot
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Every Tuesday, 9am Daily Prayer service at Poulshot

Churches are open for private prayer during the week.

From the Registers:

No baptisms, weddings or funerals this month.

Please visit our website www.wellspringsbenefice.co.uk for more details of all our services, latest updates and to keep in touch.

On Friday 24th March at 3.30pm in Potterne Village Hall

Messy Church is aimed at families with pre-school children, infants and juniors. A fun event for parents and children to take part in together. An hour of messy crafts and activities, followed by a short very informal Bible story and song, then finish with a cooked meal for everyone to share.



BULKINGTON NEWS



Monthly Parish Meeting – Shortened Draft Minutes
PENDING OFFICAL APPROVAL AT NEXT MEETING
Held Wednesday the 18th of January 2023 at 7.30pm in the
Bulkington Village Hall.

Councillors: Amy Powell (Chair), Alex Breach, Alison Howard-Evans, Andrew
Grabham, Julie Anderson-Hill, Alex Breach. Apologies: Carla Haslam.

2. To Record: No changes to the Register of Interests received.

No declaration of Interest in agenda items received.

3. To Receive a report from Tamara Reay:

Wiltshire Council budget proposals for 2023/24: Wiltshire Council published its
Budget proposals for 2023/24 and the next two financial years last week. More in-
formation about these can be found at [https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/news/budget-
proposals-2023-24](https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/news/budget-proposals-2023-24)

Election charges: Parish Councils will now have to pay for their own elections, a
factor Councillors need to consider when budgeting for the year.

2 Pound Bus Fare: Wiltshire bus users can now travel on most routes in the county
for just £2 or less for a single fare until 31st March. The fare price reduction has
been funded by the Government, and is aimed at getting more people to use buses
across the country during current cost of living challenges.

Alternative fuel allowance: a £200 one off payment for people off the gas grid will
be paid directly into people's electricity account in February as a one off payment.

Weather: During the recent bad weather, our teams have been gritting and dealing
with floodwater as a priority; it is anticipated that next week their priority will return
to filling potholes. To report potholes, people should go to [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/
mywilts](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts)

Salt bucket: Councillors asked Tamara about funding options for an additional salt
bucket at the other end of the village. Tamara said that this would not be funded by
Wiltshire Council and that it would need to be paid for and arranged by the village.

Ideverde Contract: Councillors questioned whether Wiltshire Councils' contract
with Ideverde covers any areas in Bulkington, to avoid doubling up with our new
grass management company.

Refuse: Wiltshire Council has announced some changes to the way Recycling and
refuse centres are run. They plan to restrict residents from driving to household re-
cycling centres outside their area.

4. Local Police Report: PCSO James attended our Parish Council Meeting—
answering questions about local crime stats. And listening to the reports of break-ins
in the area. The Police are investigating the break-ins on 12th January using CCTV
footage and villager descriptions and reports. The advice to stay safe is to lock
doors, don't leave keys in the car, remove valuables and report everything straight
away. Police are supporting us by patrolling through the village at night.

PCSO James highlighted the importance of reporting all break-ins and suspicious
activity—as the police force is understaffed they are working off the data gathered
through reports and will spend more time in the town centre unless something hap-
pens in the smaller villages. It only takes a moment to make a report online:

<https://www.wiltshire.police.uk/ro/report/>

In an emergency, or if you need urgent police assistance, you should always dial 999. You can also report suspicious activity by contacting the police on 0800 789 321. The police advise that an active Neighbourhood watch scheme is also a good deterrent to crime. If there is any appetite for re-instating the scheme in Bulkington and there are volunteers to run it, the Parish Council can assist in you in forming a group.

5. Open Forum: Bike stand. Clerk to keep researching costs and funding options.

6. Local Planning Updates: None known.

7. Minute Approval: The December minutes were approved.

8. Finance: Clerk November—£325 Clerk December—£325

Mark Goddard and Son Grounds maintenance—£288

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) on planning application 18/09278/FULL—Leaze Farm, Mill Lane, Bulkington, SN10 1SP. Bulkington PC received £1,029.22 This is the 15% entitlement of the CIL liability which became payable when the Development did not adhere to the CIL legislation. This money becomes part of the parish council's funds, but must be spent within five years and on a community project, this can include a bench, speed signs, or any community project the PC are involved with. The accounts must show how the CIL funds have been spent and Wiltshire Council will require a copy of end of year accounts.

11. parish Stewards: Outstanding jobs to be sent to The Clerk prior to next visit. Stewards are currently focusing on weather related damage such as potholes.

12. LHFIG requests: 3 Village requests were discussed at the local Highways and Footway Improvement group meeting on 17th January. The request for 2 dropped kerbs and white road markings at the Mill Lane end of the village were supported.

White Road Markings: The request was for a pavement to be marked out on the road to allow villagers to pass more safely to the far end of the village in the Poulshot and Seend direction. The group raised concern over villagers potentially feeling safe when the white markings do not actually keep them safe and that residents will park over the white lines, concealing them in part. Councillors discussed the pros and cons and agreed that white markings on the road would draw drivers attention to possible pedestrians and that it would increase safety. All present agreed to proceed.

Dropped Curbs: The pavements on Northfields and Chestnut Drive have limited accessibility due to lack of dropped curbs. The LHFIG group agreed that improving accessibility in the village would benefit all villagers and visitors.

Cost: All LHFIG requests result in a 25% cost for the Parish. The group roughly estimated the works of all three projects totalling around £3k. This would result in a £750 cost to the village. Councillors approved this cost and agreed that it could be paid for using the recently received CIL money. (see agenda item 8) Next Steps: Following confirmation from the PC, Gareth Rogers will proceed with a checklist of circumstance, checking the classification of the road, speed, right of way, materials of foot paths, vehicle flows and other factors before confirming costs and definite go ahead.

13. Ticketed Summer Party: The Coronation of HM King Charles III is on Sat 6th May. Initial planning of a party on 13th May was discussed. Volunteers needed to make this event possible. Contact parish council of Clerk Hannah.

14 Recruitment: We are currently recruiting for one Councillor to join the team. If you would like to put yourself forward, please contact our Clerk Hannah.

The Bulkington Village Lunch

takes place on

Wednesday, 1st March. at 12.15 for 12.30 at The Well.

Please 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.

The **Mobile Library** will be visiting the car-park of The Well in Bulkington on Monday 27th March 11.05-11.30 am.



THE TEA, CRAFT AND CHAT SOCIAL GROUP

Will meet from 2.00—4pm on Monday 13th March.

Please contact Phil Yarde (828116) for the venue nearer the time. New people always welcome.

Bring your own craft item or leave it at home and just come and chat!



BULKINGTON '100 CLUB'

We held the draw at the Village Lunch on Wednesday 1st February, and the winners were :-

£30	No.88	Hazel Barnes
£25	No. 15	Alex Breach
£20	No.17	Gavin Yarde
£15	No. 46	Debra Tomlinson
£10	No. 33	Karen Lock

Congratulations to the winners!

Phyl Yarde

Soup Lunch

Our annual Soup Lunch, with a fine selection of homemade soups, and cookies to follow, will take place at Bulkington Village Hall, on Saturday 11th March from 12 noon until 1.30pm. Proceeds will be shared between Devizes Food Bank and Bulkington PCC.

Tickets from Liz Futter 828485, David Raby-Cox 828274, Andie Elliott 828277 or at the door. Tickets: adult £6, child under 16yrs £3.

BULKINGTON LADIES GROUP

We had a very successful planning meeting in January. The programme for the year is not quite finalized, and will be circulated when it is.

Our March meeting is on Thurs 30th at 7.30 pm in Bulkington Village Hall. John Girvan will be talking about his hobby of glass etching. He is very talented and amusing so it should be an interesting and enjoyable evening.

There will be the usual bring & share refreshments and a raffle. New people always welcome. The cost is £3 which includes 2 raffle tickets. Liz Futter 828485

SEEND CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS



SEEND WI

Dr. Francis Burroughs gave a talk at the February Meeting entitled "The Juvenile Drama". In Victorian times people purchased theatrical prints of their favourite actors of the day. By adding scenery and incorporating them into a model theatre they were able to re-produce the popular plays at home. The Juvenile Drama was born! We were then treated to a performance of The Pirates of Penzance, in a model theatre, as the Victorians would have viewed it. However, Dr. Burroughs used a modern recording of music by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and voices of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company to enhance the production. Members thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience and marvelled at the skilful way Dr. Burroughs moved the characters on stage throughout the production.

The meeting on the 8th March will consist of our AGM. However, depending on the weather, it is hoped that members will be able to visit the Churchyard to see the roses which have been planted by the WI in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip. Members will later enjoy a cream tea to mark this important occasion.

SEEND 100 + CLUB

February Draw

- 1 No. 65 N Kocker £50
- 2 No.140 B Powell £25
- 3 No.152 C Walker £25
- 4 No.161 R Ames £15
- 5 No. 14 P Church £15



Thanks to the committee members of The Lye Field who helped with the Draw.
Alison Bottomley



SEEND & DISTRICT RAMBLERS

January 22nd saw 19 members brave the cold weather to complete a lovely circular walk of 5 miles. The walk was led by Reg & Wendy and started from Yatton Keynell village hall and followed paths, byways and tracks to the village of Easton Piercy and returning to Yatton Keynell. It was a very icy morning but the scenery was stunning with the frost lingering on the trees.

Next walk **Sunday 19th February** will be reported in the next issue, a change of leaders and start point than that reported, sorry if this caused any problems.

March walk – Sunday 12th March 2023 at 10am. Details to follow, leaders Tim & Sandy, 07835450892.

That's all for this month.

Sandy

SEEND THEATRE CLUB



Our first trip of the year was to The Wharf Theatre in Devizes on 2nd February to see a play entitled Ladies Day. Four women who worked in a fish processing plant in Hull decided to take a trip to Ascot races in the year when they were held at York. What followed was a hilarious tale of their fortunes throughout the day as they bet rashly with a most surprising outcome! The evening was much enjoyed by the 21 members who attended.

There are two coach outings now fully booked to go to the Bristol Hippodrome in March. The first, on 2nd March, is to see Matthew Bourne's Sleeping Beauty and the second, on 30th March is for a new version of The King & I. In April there will be a trip to Salisbury Playhouse for an evening performance of Brief Encounter and in May to The Watermill Theatre, Newbury, to see their take on a Victorian murder mystery play entitled "The Suspicions of Mr Whicher".

A main event in the calendar for the Theatre Club is the Annual General Meeting, which will be held on Thursday 9th March at 7.30 p.m. in the Irene Usher Hall, Rusty Lane, Seend. We aim to present the formal business (Chairman's and Treasurer's reports etc.) as quickly as possible; after this we offer a glass of wine or non-alcoholic drink plus 'nibbles'. Then there will then be an entertainment provided by two stalwarts of our village life!

We always welcome new members and if you are interested in finding out more please contact either Ken (01380 828511) or Marion (01380 828612), or simply come along to the Annual General Meeting.

Ken Harvey

SHUTTLE NEWS

The monthly shopping trip to Salisbury is on March 1st. Please call 01380 828757 to book your seat. Anita



SEEND PLAYGROUP

The children have enjoyed mixing colours and watching them change into another colour e.g. red and blue to make purple. In our cooking we have used the colour of the week. We had all different coloured vegetables the last week of this term, which the children managed to cut up so well into small pieces and put into a saucepan. The children took the cooked vegetable soup home. The children have made Valentine's cards to give to someone in half term.



Next term we will continue with colours and numbers up to ten. March 31st will be our Easter bonnet parade. The children will have made their own bonnets at home with help from parents. We will also have a coffee morning for families and friends to come along at 10.30am that day. This is our last day before the two week Easter break. We return on Monday April 17th.

Rose Dick (Playleader) 01380 828003

SEEND SCHOOL



As always this term has been a busy one for Seend children and families. Our youngest children have enjoyed their new woodwork resources in school and yes we do mean that - we have 4 year olds using hammers and nails to create all manner of vehicles and inventions! We do obviously have the correct risk assessments and safety in place. These children have also enjoyed a Dad in the army visiting when they were focusing on people who have different jobs. All children have just enjoyed a science week with some great experiences online and in person. We have explored space and everything gross that the human body produces!

This week has also seen online safety week and our children continue to impress us with knowing how to stay safe online. They have also impressed us with their openness about how we recognize the emotional health of each other during Children's Mental Health week.

Our year 3 and 4 children will develop a new skill next term through their swimming lessons – we are really looking forward to this area of the curriculum.

Our parents continue to support through our termly Parents Forum and our Friends Of Seend School group. We look forward to raising lots of money at the Seend pantomime by raffling hampers made from items that the children donated this week.

Our greatest achievement this term was for our recent OFSTED report to be published. We had the visit in the last week of a very busy Christmas term but it was good that the following was recognised; 'Pupils are polite, courteous and well mannered. There is a calm and orderly atmosphere in school and on the playground. Pupils enjoy school, feel safe and attend regularly. 'We are immensely proud.



Chairman, Kevin Toft, has been fundraising again. This time he completed the "2,100 squats in February" challenge to raise money for RBL. At the Annual County Conference on Sat 4 Feb, Kevin was presented with the Stilwell Cup. This is a small branch efficiency award. Certificates of Appreciation for Outstanding Service to the

Royal British Legion were awarded to Kevin (Chairman), Wayne Cherry (Membership Officer) and Robin Heatley (Vice Chairman).

A Zoom meeting was held on 9 Feb to discuss future events so look out for day trips being organised and a very interesting lecture in the Autumn.

Date of Next Meeting: Thu 13 Apr, 7.30 Kennet Room, Community Centre, Rusty Lane, Seend.

Anita Heatley Seend RBL/PR

SEEND PARISH COUNCIL

January PC meeting

Attendance - 10 Councillors

Councillor Dickinson The Chairman requested a minute's silence in memory of Councillor Carol Dickinson who sadly passed away 19th January 2023. Her funeral will take place on Wednesday 1st March at West Wiltshire Crematorium, Semington at 2pm. There will be an online link available for those unable to attend in person.

Local Council Matters

Cllr Reay provided the following updates on local matters:

Wiltshire Council Budget

The Council's budget for 2023-24 and draft budget for the next two years is available online via Wiltshire Council's website. (<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/news/budget-proposals-2023-24>) The budget will be presented to the Full Council for approval on 21st February. In summary it proposes an increase of 2.99% with an additional 2% included for Adult Social Care.

Parish Council (four-yearly cycle) Election costs

Previously Wiltshire Council covered this cost, however from 2025 all Parish Councils will need to make a provision for this expense. It was noted the Parish Council had not been formally made aware of this policy change until 9th January. The guidelines as to the level of provision councils should make is vague.

Alternative Fuel Payments

Parishioners who heat their homes using oil or gas bottles and are effectively off-grid (i.e. they are not connected to the gas national transmission network) are entitled to a government payment to help alleviate the cost of living crisis. Payments will be made in the first instance via the property's Electricity supplier.

School Travel Plan

No further update has been received from the school. Tamara Reay agreed to contact the school.

Matters Arising

Damaged Stile in Row Lane

The Chairman has arranged to meet the landowner on site with a representative of the Seend Footpath Working Group to review the options for the stile's repair or replacement.

Bradley Lane

A report from Wiltshire Council regarding the options for upgrading the surface of Bradley Lane has not been forthcoming. The Clerk to chase Wiltshire Council with assistance from Tamara Reay.

WALC

At the meeting 18th January WALC members noted insufficient evidence had been provided to support an increase in annual membership, hence fees will remain at the current level. Concern was expressed at the number of vacant posts and shortage of experienced Clerks.

Bradley Lane Fence

Sir Mathew Thorpe will arrange for Andy Waylen to repair the fence

Local Highways & Footpath Infrastructure Group (LHFIG)

The Clerk attended the LHFIG meeting on 17th January 2023. The minutes issued after this meeting did not fully reflect what was discussed and agreed. The Clerk to write to LHFIG and copy Tamara Reay.

Inmarsh High Friction Surface

LHFIG invoiced (£750) for the new High Friction Surface.

The Stocks

Although the Parish Council agreed to fully fund the additional signage/road markings in this vicinity, unfortunately due to Ringways contract terminating on 31st March 2023, Wiltshire Council has had to renegotiate a priority list of work that is to be completed by this date. This has been further hampered due to bad weather resulting in staff being diverted away from this work to deal with flooding issues and salt spreading. It was reluctantly accepted that this work would be rescheduled 'early' in next financial year.

Broad Lane

Due to the overspill of general scrap and dumping of other items adjacent to Cherry Tree Farm, the Clerk is to request a visit from Wiltshire Council to inspect the eastern end of Broad Lane with a view to establishing how best to clear the area.

Bell Crossroads

The recent accident at the Bell Crossroads was noted along with the need to progress a solution. Although the Parish Council stated that it would be willing to fund 50% of the cost up to a maximum of £5,000, Wiltshire Council stated it will have to be moved to next financial year as Highways does not currently have available resources.

LHFIG suggested the work at the Bell crossroads and the Stocks could be combined to make it more efficient.

Bollands Hill

LHFIG acknowledged the situation on Bollands Hill and will forward our survey to a new team who are charged with undertaking a Freight Travel Plan Review across the county. As this issue is impacting other parishes, LHFIG are considering involving Tamara Reay and other councillors to take a wider view.

Rusty Lane

LHFIG agreed to investigate the outstanding invoice for the repair of Rusty Lane.

Seend Cleeve

It has been noted that raw sewage has flowed into an open road drain adjacent to the new housing development and pumping station at Seend Cleeve. The Clerk to write to Wessex Water and the Canal and River Trust. Tamara Reay to be copied to allow information to be passed to the appropriate department within Wiltshire Council to monitor the situation.

Speedwatch

Two volunteers have signed-up to undertake the on-line training to use the speed camera equipment and carry out roadside traffic surveys. It was noted that volunteers prefer practical (hands-on) training rather than the simulated on-line training course.

The next LHFIG meeting is scheduled for 8th April 2023. The Chairman and Clerk to attend.

Planning Applications

Planning Objections

The Parish Council raised objections to the following applications. The Council's full comments regarding these applications are available on Wiltshire Council's

PL/2022/09193 - 1 Rowbarns, Seend Cleeve- Internal alterations & single storey rear extension

PL/2022/05834 – Lock Cottage, Bollands Hill - Extend two-bedroom cottage and works to provide an art room and extra bedroom. Rebuilding of porch to create a weather proof entrance hall. New residential entrance from highway into hardstanding car park. Proposed two-car carport with lawnmower space and workshop. Polytunnel in agricultural paddock. Solar panels and small wind turbine to barn.

PL/2023/00020 – Manor Field, High St, Seend - Construction of new garage (incorporating frontage canopy) to west side of existing house

Planning Support

The Parish Council has not objected to the following applications. The Council's full comments regarding these applications are available on Wiltshire Council's Planning Portal.

PL/2022/09103 - Wych Elm, Seend Hill - Retrospective planning permission for a change of design from a previously approved application

PL/2022/09068 - Land adjacent Woodpeckers, Berhills Lane - Erection of two dwellings (resubmission of PL/2021/11736)

PL/2022/09589 - 8 Dial Close, Seend - Maple tree - Remove because of roots causing cracking in drive and house

PL/2022/09521 & PL/2022/09522 - 10 Weavers Cottages, High St - Conservatory replacement and window replacement – SPC No Objection. WCC – Under Consultation

PL/2022/09139 - Park Farm, 65, Seend Cleeve - Modification to S106 agreement dated 11/06/2021 Schedule 1: Affordable Housing Schedule 5 Completion / Occupation of Affordable Unit.

PL/2022/09398 – 16 Sells Green - Variation of condition 2 (Proposed Plans) pursuant to planning application

PL/2023/00141 - Seend Park, High Street - Variation of conditions 2 (approved plans) & 5 on PL/2021/09983 to allow for design changes and changes to materials

PL/2023/00328 – Cleeve Grange, Trowbridge Rd - Proposed Single Storey Rear Extension

PL/2023/00410 – Grassmere House, Seend Hill - Single storey link between house and garage and alterations to garage. Open fronted porch. Replacement front gate and brick piers. Replacement of conservatory with single storey rear extension and replacement garden outbuilding. Minor alterations to dwelling to include new windows and addition of brick plinth

PL/2023/00307 – Seend Cleeve - SSE are proposing to erect a new overhead line (OHL) of 11kv at Seend Cleeve, Melksham, Wiltshire, SN12 6QB. The new line will create a diversion of an existing OHL with a length of 180 metres. This line will involve the generation of a new connection to a housing development less than 50m away

Sandridge Solar Community Benefit Payment A location has been agreed with the Three Magpies Public House for the installation of the cycle rack.

Devizes Area Board

Pamela Akerman and John Williams attended the Area board meeting on 5th December and had previously updated the Councillors regarding the key information from the meeting. The meeting focussed on antisocial behaviour that had been reoccurring in Devizes and the action being taken by Wiltshire police in conjunction with the Town Council. The most relevant item for Seend parishioners was the opening of the new Health & Care Centre. It will deliver integrated primary and community care. All the community services currently delivered at Devizes hospital e.g. physiotherapy will gradually be transferred to the new centre.

Items of Correspondence - Best Kept Village Competition

CPRE have announced this year's competition and it was agreed Seend would once again take part. Judging will take place between 15th May and 13th June with a presentation for the major winners in September. The Clerk to diarise Facebook alerts prior to judging commencing.

Parish Council (four-yearly cycle) Election costs

Previously, Wiltshire County Council (WCC) has covered this cost. However, from 2025 the Parish Council will need to make a provision for this. To help local councils plan for this, WCC calculated the costs per council/ council ward for an uncontested election, using the actual number of uncontested elections in 2021 was between **£200 and £1,100**. As Seend Parish is above average in its size, councillors recommended the Parish Council make a £250/year contribution to its reserves to provide £1000 to meet the cost of this four-yearly cycle.

Police Report

A police report has been circulated to councillors covering the Melksham Area. If you are aware of any identifiable issues that needs to be discussed with the police, please contact our Community Police representative Sgt James Twyford. His email address is: James.twyford@wiltshire.police.uk.

Parish Steward

The Clerk to request the Parish Steward to undertake:

- Repair of the Potholes that have appeared in Church Lane.

- Clear the leaves from the Brick Bus Shelter (Westbound) at Sells Green.

- Clear the leaves from the Lye Field Bus Shelter.

- Remove weeds from the base of the wall along the Lye Field on the High Street.

Asset Register

The annual review of the Parish's recorded assets was agreed to be undertaken by John Williams with the assistance of the Clerk on a date to be agreed. An updated version of the existing Asset Register will be circulated to Councillors for approval at the February meeting.

Warm Spaces

Holy Cross Church has arranged the provision of a Warm Space at the Irene Usher Memorial Pavilion. The Pavilion will be open on the Second Thursday and Third Wednesday of each month January – April between 3pm and 5pm.

In advance of this meeting Councillors agreed to make a donation of £100 to support this initiative.

Items of Note

Defibrillator Support

The recent software upgrade failure causing the village defibrillators to display incorrect battery status resulted in all units having to be exchanged with the manufacturer. Mark Wood undertook the recovery and exchange of the village units for temporary loan replacements. Once the units had been upgraded to the new software, the loaned units were replaced with our units and returned to the manufacturer. The Parish Council wishes to express its thanks to Mark for undertaking what was a challenging task whilst ensuring maximum service availability of the Defibrillators.

Queens Green Canopy

Tree delivery is currently scheduled between 6th & 17th March 2023. All parishioners involved in this project have been informed.

Retrospective Planning

A number of Retrospective Planning applications being made after work has been undertaken without planning consent. The Parish Council is concerned and if numbers continue to increase, it will express its concern to Wiltshire Council.

Councillor Vacancy

Georgina A' Bear announced that after many years of being a Councillor she has decided to step down from the role. She has been the main instigator of the Neighbourhood Plan and Seend is one of the few parishes to have one. She will be sorely missed. The Chairman thanked her for her service and hard work, then presented her with a gift from the Parish Council as a token of our appreciation.

As a result of Georgina's retirement and the passing of Carol Dickinson, the Parish Council has two vacancies. Wiltshire council has been advised of the situation and formal vacancy notices will be issued in due course.

Finance

Bank Reconciliation to end of November & December 2022, circulated to Councillors, came to: **£41,957.53** & **£41,338.62** respectively.

Date of next meetings:

28th February and 28th March 2023. Meetings commence at 7pm

A full copy of the minutes is available on the Parish Council Website



POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

PHILIP WILKINSON'S COLUMN

My annual budget proposed a raise the amount of money you pay for the policing part of your council tax, known as the precept, by

6.2%. For an average Band D household, that equates to £15 a year or £1.25 a month.

It's been a difficult decision to make and that's why it was important we consulted you.

Over 2,700 people responded to the survey. We also took it out across Swindon and Wiltshire to gather your feedback. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you if you took the time to complete it 54% of people who responded said they would be

prepared to support a maximum rise but it's important to make clear why I asked you to support that option.

Without putting up the precept, Wiltshire Police would need to save over £4m in the next year. Even by increasing the precept, savings will be key but I'm confident this will happen at the same time as delivering a better service. We will put 32 extra police officers on the streets of Wiltshire, in addition to the new Uplift officers. We should have 1,189 police officers by the end of March this year – the highest number for quite some time.

I am constantly speaking to our local MPs and government ministers about the funding formula. We need a fairer system which provides our police force with the investment equal to forces similar to ours.

By raising the precept, we can show we are playing our part in funding our police force and this puts us in a stronger position.

With more officers on our streets and a better use of our existing funds, I hope you will see an improvement in the service you receive and see value for money in the measures I've taken to make Wiltshire a safer place to live and work.

March Nurture Nature Notes

In the recent very cold weather some readers have seen bumblebees collecting nectar from winter flowering plants, such as winter flowering honeysuckle, mahonia, abelia grandiflora and of course - ivy. These will be the hardy British species prevalent at this time of year (February, March), probably the buff tailed bumblebee (*bombus terrestris*) or possibly the early bumblebee (*bombus pratorum*) with an orangy yellowish bum, quite common in gardens and parks in early spring.



There has been interest from readers in the super highways of hedges and trees for wildlife and it's still the season to plant native trees and hedges which are best suited to the climate and soils of the British Isles. By planting berry bearing species such as blackthorn and hawthorn, elderberry, spindleberry, viburnum, wild cherry, dog rose and whitebeam, all essential plants providing valuable nourishment to conserve wildlife, and will help stem the decline of species and attract fauna, and the resulting floral displays will brighten up your lives too. Web searches of local nurseries and garden centres will help you source the species you choose. A word of warning from a recent national newspaper article : "Trees left to die in rushed planting schemes". The reasons being lack of aftercare and management. Watering of newly planted stock is essential especially in long spells of hot weather, (dribble hoses are ideal), seasonal pruning to encourage growth will be needed and maybe some form of electric fencing protection (or hazel hurdles) should you be visited by local deer and grey squirrels which can be very destructive too. However you will get much pleasure from watching your whips or larger stock grow and bulk out over the seasons and years, as the old saying has it 'Big oaks from little acorns grow'.

It's also frog and toad spawn time – don't you wish you'd dug that pond? One of the best features to attract a multitude of wildlife.

Avian flu is still very much a concern of seabirds especially. Wetland reserves are reporting fewer numbers of winter migrants such as geese, swans and ducks and divers. Our native birds are still under threat too, so continue to keep birdbaths and feeders very clean. After a very wet at times, and cold winter, by Valentine's Day snowdrops are at their best, and crocuses are flowering too, most parts of the South had not had rain for four weeks. With the Spring Equinox (20th March) not so far away – who will be the first to hear a cuckoo this year? Can you remember when you last heard one? The writer can't. There is a website for following cuckoos' journeys from deepest Africa to our shores. Also spare thoughts for the lot of wildlife in Ukraine, in the earthquake affected areas of Turkey and Syria, in the flooded areas of the Antipodes and in all the regions of the world where current wildfires have destroyed wildlife and their habitats. In 1871 one of the last Great Bustards in Wiltshire, and more than likely in the whole of the British Isles was shot. The taxidermist did his stuff and Otis Tarda was displayed in Salisbury Museum. Quite a few readers will no doubt have visited the Great Bustard Centre at Wexland near Netheravon, established in 2004 to restore this once native species to the British List. One can follow the history on the GB Group's website. Initial failures with eggs and birds from the Russian Steppes. Better success from 2014 with Spanish stock, and now in this decade this once extinct magnificent bird is now restored to Salisbury Plain and other parts of Southern England as resident. A great conservation success story.

The 'wingless' Otis Tarda

BITS AND BOBS

KEEVIL DRAMA GROUP

Keevil Drama Group has been in existence for over 50 years bringing much fun and laughter to the local residents.

Typically we would put on a Murder Mystery in the summer and a main production late November. The pandemic put a stop to that and since then our numbers have been depleted. We would love to recruit new members to keep the drama group going, and we are reaching out to you.

Lots of ways to be involved, (e.g. props, costumes, scenery design and painting/lighting of the same, stage effects, front of house) to name just a few. We also need someone willing to direct us.

We want to stress that no specific skills are required, just a sense of humour and a commitment to making our productions a success and enabling this important community group to continue for another 40 years!

If you're interested in joining and would like a chat please call Vivien Scott on 01380 871447 or Diane Bouault on 01380 870545.



**Melksham & District Flower Arrangement Society
meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 2pm in
Seend Community Centre**

21st March: Speaker: Flowers of Japan. 2pm.

Please join us for tea. Visitors: £5 per visit to include refreshments.



Our year of garden openings is really starting up now. Our snow-drop garden opens for the last time this season but then it is all daffodils and spring flowering trees and shrubs, a lovely thought.

Do visit Corsham Court and Fonthill.

The Wiltshire county booklets have now been printed and are winging their way around the county, no cost but an extra payment for your entrance or tea at the first garden you visit would be kind.

You may find our ebooklet helpful [NGS Wiltshire 2023](https://ngs.org.uk/wiltshire-by-arrangement) and also the details of our gardens open by arrangement <https://ngs.org.uk/wiltshire-by-arrangement> a perfect way to enjoy a garden with friends, family or a group.



The De Beauvoir Piano Trio invite you.....

On Saturday 18th March at 2.30pm in Edington Priory Church, three extraordinary musicians - a pianist, a violinist and a cellist - will present a programme of Beethoven, Dvorak and two jewels by Gabriela Lena Frank and Lili Boulanger. Geniuses all, and the prize winning De Beauvoir Trio invite you to listen and enjoy this great music in the lovely environment of the Priory Church.

The girls will talk about the music, and afterwards everyone is warmly invited for tea and cakes, (donations welcome) and a chance to chat to these three sparky and very talented musicians.



Lavington Community Choir meet at Market Lavington Community Hall on Thursday evenings at 8 for an 8.15 start. The subscription is £4 per week or we have termly and half termly rates too. For more information about the choir and the music that we're singing this term please contact pboyagis@gmail.com
Our Summer Concert is on **July 7th 2023. Please keep the date!!!**

Handel's Messiah
Dauntsey's Choral Society and Senior Choir
Conductor: Philip Pooley
Saturday 18th March at 7.30pm
in Dauntsey's School Memorial Hall
Donations on the door for school charities

Do have a look at our online colour supplement for Panto Pics and others
seend.org.uk and click on Spotlight then on March colour supplement

And finally

As cuckoos are hard to find these days, let's all listen out for the first lawnmower of spring.

USEFUL CONTACTS: *Please tell Spotlight if your group's contact details change*

Church: Revd Ali Bridewell. 01380 739064. Benefice Administrator: Sarah Leckie 07938 270815. PCC Secretary: Anne Ewing, 828557. Churchwardens: Seend: Len Murray, 828513; Bulkington: Mrs Liz Futter 828485, Mike Rose 01249 248516; LPAs: Liz Futter 828485, Rosie Forsey 828843, Len Murray 828513, Sue Noad 870343, Sue Rose 01249 248516, Hilary Hutchings 828129, Tina Yockney 827139. Bell Tower Captain: L Murray 828513.

Irene Usher Pavilion bookings – www.seendlyefield.org/bookings.html or 828970

Bulkington Village Hall - Nev Boulton 828101 or Roger Futter 828485

Seend Community Centre – To contact please e-mail seendcommunitycentre@gmail.com

Seend Shuttle: Enquiries: seendshuttle@gmail.com or Alison 07951 030491

Seend Parish Council Clerk – Mr Chris Stirland clerk@seendparishcouncil.co.uk

Seend's Wiltshire Councillor – Tamara Reay 07711824864 tamara.reay@wiltshire.gov.uk

Seend Village Website: www.seend.org.uk – webmaster Neil Yockney 827139.

Seend School – 828334

Bulkington Website: www.bulkington.org.uk

Bulkington Parish Council—theclerk@bulkington-pc.co.uk

Rights of Way Warden – Paul Millard, 01225 712821

Devizes Area Board – 01225 718352 Support Officer: tara.shannon@wiltshire.gov.uk

MP: Danny Kruger - email:danny.kruger.mp@parliament.uk Devizes Office 01380 711425

Police Community Support—Sargent Twyford. email: James.tyford@wiltshire.police.uk
Tel. 01722 547242

100+Club Draw-Alison Bottomley -
avbottomley@yahoo.co.uk

Book Clubs - the original: June May
827169 / 07590 818750 - the other:
Frank Teasdale 07719 918310

Cricket Club - Brian Hunt 828581

Fawltly Players Panto Group - Tessa Doe
828617 & Seend Village Pantomime on fb
Fete-see Lye Field

Flower Show -Julia White 01380 827082

Football -Jake Sainsbury

FoSS - friendsofseendschool@gmail.com

Historic Houses Club - Mary Warren
01380 828076 or Neil Yockney 827139

LINK Scheme - 075320 55560

Lye Field - www.seendlyefield.org

Neighbourhood Watch -

Seend - Brian Hunt 828581

Sells Green - Cavan Moroney 828606

Seend Cleeve - Owen Burton 828820

theclerk@bulkington-pc.co.uk

Preschool -(Playleader) Rose Dick 828003

Poetry Group - Tessa Doe 828617

Ramblers - Sandy James 01380 739235

Royal British Legion -

*Sec:*Dave Beaumont 07538 651712

Welfare: Christine O'Reilly 07791 157060 /
01380 828888

Seend Baby & Toddler Group - Eleanor
Braney 07947 867701

SeendBabyandToddlers@gmail.com

Seend CLT - www.seendclt.org
info@seendclt.org

Seend Fund - Anita Shea 828757

Short Mat Bowls Club - Colin Waldeck
01225 736092

Table tennis - Chris Brooker, 828047

Tennis Club - Sarah Pearson 07980 744420

Theatre Club - Ken Harvey 828511,
Marion Whitehead 828612

WEA/Day Schools -Tessa Doe 828617

Wheelchairs to borrow - Sue and Graham
Jones in Seend Cleeve, tel: 01380 828354

WI - Fiona Johnson on 828401 and Joyce
Harvey 828511

Wine Circle - Steve Parsons 07974 347487
or Simon McManus 07896 711764



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