

SPOTLIGHT

Seend & Bulkington



NOVEMBER 2023

DIARY DATES FOR LATE OCTOBER

26th-31st Halloween Haunted Garden, from 6pm, Brewery Inn

28th Seend Oktoberfest, 7 pm, Seend Community Centre

29th Pumpkin Competition, Brewery Inn

29th-1st Nov Partial closure of road through Seend Cleeve for sewerage mains work.

DIARY DATES FOR NOVEMBER

1st Shuttle Shopping Trip to Salisbury

1st Bulkington Village Lunch, 12.15 for 12.30pm, The Well

3rd First Friday Coffee Morning, Community Centre Lounge Bar, 10.30am

3rd Messy Church, 3.30pm, Potterne Village Hall

5th Seend Ramblers walk

6th Mobile Library: 9.40am Seend, The Lye, 10.05am Seend Cleeve, phone box;
11 am Bulkington, The Well Inn Car Park

11th LAST DATE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR DEC/JAN SPOTLIGHT

12th Remembrance Sunday church services

13th Tea, Craft and Chat, Old Stables, Bulkington 2-4pm

17th F.o.S.S. Quiz and Cheese Night 7pm for 7.45pm Seend School

23rd RBL AGM, Community Centre Kennet Room, 7.30pm

28th Seend Parish Council meeting, Community Centre, 7pm

29th Nosh and Natter Lunch Club, 12 for 12.30pm, Community Centre

29th Brewery Inn Quiz Night

DIARY DATES FOR EARLY DECEMBER

1st First Friday Coffee Morning, Community Centre Lounge Bar, 10.30am

2nd Christmas Coffee Morning, Bulkington Village Hall, 10.30am-noon

2nd Christmas Bingo, Community Centre



Irene Usher Memorial Pavilion & Seend Lye Field

Available for parties, meetings, sports events.

Book online: www.seendlyefield.org or

email: seendlrf@gmail.com

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

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

WELCOME TO NOVEMBER 2023 SPOTLIGHT

We are feeling the presence of autumn. Cold winds, lots of rain, and some glorious rainbows. But still good walking weather if you have the right footwear! A reminder to look up our local footpaths online for “Wiltshire Council Rights of Way” And why not try the new exercise class on a Thursday morning at the Seend Community Centre?

Spotlight Contacts: Contributions for the December 2023/January 2024 edition (copy by Saturday 11th November) can be emailed to spotlight@seend.org.uk or delivered to Seend Post & Provisions. Editors: Tessa Doe (07719 917814) 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 acknowledgment 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 to 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, saying how much you need, what for and 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 NOVEMBER AND BEYOND

COMMUNITY CENTRE EVENTS

FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE MORNINGS- on the 3rd of November and 1st December 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 29th November. Please book in advance for lunch by calling Pauline on 01380 828638. Two courses and refreshments for £7.50— lovely home-made dishes prepared and served by the excellent N+N team!



TGI Fridays -Every Friday from 6:30 pm. Club members and guests meet in the Members Bar. Come along and find out what's going on in and around the village. The popular First Friday of the Month Free Snacks has returned! The First Friday dates are 3rd November and 1st December.



SEEND OKTOBERFEST - Saturday 28th October at 7pm. Baron Von Schmidt Haus Bavarian Oompah Accordionist. Beer gulping, thigh slapping, games, disco and more!! Oktoberfest has always been a great event at the Community Centre. Tickets £15, which include a light supper, can be booked through the following link or purchased at the Community

Centre <https://buytickets.at/seendcommunitycentre/957007>

Cancelled -Is that a Bolt in your Neck?

Theatre Performance - Saturday 25th November

The Community Centre have been informed that the Theatre Company have cancelled their tour. So regretfully this event is cancelled.

Use It Or Lose It- New exercise Class every Thursday morning 11am -12-15pm £7 per session. Find further information via <https://www.moveitorloseit.co.uk/>
Contact Jennifer on 07341 986569

Dates for the Diary

Christmas Bingo - Saturday 2nd December- No need to book.

Seend Christmas Wine Circle - Saturday 9th December

A choice of wines suitable for the Festive Season.

Contact seendwinecircle@gmail.com to book

Theatre Performance "Twisted Christmas" Thursday 14th December

Tickets available at the CC Box Office

Adults £15 Young People aged 14-17 £12.

31st December NYE Party at the CC.

Already looking forward to the Festive Season?

Come and join us at the Community Centre New Year's Eve Party with music from The Reason and DJ Meaze. Food Van Catering. More details to follow.

Tickets £15 available from the CC Box Office

BREWERY INN EVENTS

Hallowe'en Haunted Garden 26th-31st October from 6pm
(weather permitting)

Quiz Night– Wednesday 29th November



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.)

“MARKING TIME - My Family and I”. Was published by Mathew Thorpe on 4th October. Dominant is the account of his life in Seend over more than 50 years. A launch at the Community Centre is being arranged, when copies will be offered to local residents at a discount.

SEEND COMMUNITY CENTRE'S MACMILLAN

COFFEE MORNING in September made a fantastic **£802.90** for Macmillan Cancer Support – our second highest ever total. Thanks to all who helped, baked and supported this event.



Bulkington MacMillan Coffee Morning made **£445**. Thanks to all who came and donated.

Sad to say that **Len Murray** – Seend churchwarden – did **not** win the BBC Radio Wiltshire Great Neighbour category of their ‘Make a Difference’ awards. But congratulations to him for making the final!

SHUTTLE NEWS

Our trip to Marlborough was much enjoyed by the four of us who went. Many thanks to Neil Yockney who drove. Hopefully if we do it again more of you will be able to come. The Christmas shopping trip to Salisbury on December the 6th only has a few seats left. Do call Anita on 01380 828757 if you want to come . You can leave a message on the answer phone and check right up until the day to see if there are spare seats or come on November 1st instead, when there is plenty of space.



SEEND FAWLTY PLAYERS

Our 44th village panto ‘**Aladdin**’ February 15th-17th in the Community Centre. Script written and rehearsals about to start. Ooooh! Feel the excitement!



CHURCH NEWS

The View from my window.....

One of the difficulties about writing an article for a magazine which is not going to be published for a little while is the problem of what-ever is going to happen next.

As I write, the weather is on the change. It has been gloriously hot, and sitting in the garden in the shade has been the order of the day, and yet I know from the weather forecast that that is about to change with a vengeance.

Similarly, last week things were relatively quiet in the Middle East, but this week literally all hell has broken out, and by the time you read this who knows what will have happened. We clergy are supposed to come up with something clever and wise on such occasions , but for me my main reaction has been of horror and sadness about man's inhumanity to man. Whatever colour or creed we belong to it seems impossible that human beings can be so cruel and barbaric, and yet they can. Over the centuries, time after time war has broken out between different nations and people and lest we forget, the war in Ukraine is still raging, even though it has gone out of the headlines.

Of course, November is the month for remembering. All our villages will be holding remembrance services, and there will be great solemnity and reminders of the war dead of two world wars. We promised that we will remember them, and we will. Just last week I took a funeral service for a 92 year old man who served in the Korean war, and I remember him coming home, all those years ago, battle scarred and weary. Most of us had family members who served in the last war, and every year when I speak to the children who gather round the war memorials, I try to help them and encourage them by saying that we and they must all try to make the world a better place, so that it won't happen again; and yet fighting goes on, and the atrocities continue.

So what can we do? The most important thing is to pray for peace. It is an imperative. Whoever you pray to, it doesn't matter but we must pray for peace. Somehow we have to understand that in order that this world continues we must learn to live alongside one another. Whether Jew or Hindu or Muslim or Christian or none of these we have to reach out to each other. Ownership of land does not matter. Love matters. My understanding is that all the great faiths agree on that and I, as a Christian believe that that's what Jesus came to show us. The rest is icing on the cake. So, as we go into this season of remembering, I hope that we will all take time to think, and reflect . My father didn't put his life at risk in the RAF, in order that there would be more wars. My father wanted and dreamed of a peaceful life for his children, and your children. I will not blame anyone; my prayer today is for peace.

Jane Knowles



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



CHURCH SERVICES IN NOVEMBER 2023

**The Parishes of Holy Cross, Seend, Christ Church, Bulkington
& St. Peter's, Poulshot, part of Wellsprings Benefice**

Friday 3rd

3:30pm Messy Church Potterne Village Hall

Sunday 5th (All Saints/4th before Advent)

8am Holy Communion (BCP) Potterne

9:30am Holy Communion Worton

9:30am Matins Poulshot

11am Morning Praise Bulkington

11am Holy Communion Seend

3pm All Souls Worton

3pm All Souls Seend

Sunday 12th (Remembrance Sunday)

10:50am Remembrance Sunday Service Bulkington

10:50am Remembrance Sunday Service Potterne

10:50am Remembrance Sunday Service Poulshot

10:50am Remembrance Sunday Service Seend

10:50am Remembrance Sunday Service Worton

Sunday 19th (2nd before Advent)

8am Holy Communion (BCP) Seend

9:30am Holy Communion Poulshot

9:30am Holy Communion Worton

11am Holy Communion Bulkington

11am Morning Praise Potterne

Sunday 26th (Christ the King)

9:30am Family Service Worton

11am Holy Communion Potterne

11am Holy Communion Seend

4pm Evensong Poulshot

4pm Holy Communion Bulkington

Wednesday 29th

5pm Celtic Meditative Service Poulshot

Every Tuesday, 9am Daily Prayer service at Poulshot

Churches are open for private prayer during the week.

Tuesday Group meets each week at 10am in Potterne. Call 723289 for details.

From the Registers:

Baptisms

Edward Bekker Wrench on 15th October at St Peter's, Poulshot.

Funerals

Mary Hyde on 27th September at Holy Cross, Seend.

No weddings this month.

BULKINGTON NEWS



Monthly Parish Meeting – DRAFT Minutes Pending official approval at next meeting

**Councillors met for the Annual Parish Meeting on
Wednesday the 20th of September 2023 at 7.30pm at the
Bulkington Village Hall**

Present: Philip Oakey (Chair), Alison Howard Evans, Alex Breach,
Andrew Grabham, Carla Haslam, Tamara Reay, Eden Speller

Choose Chair and sign documents: Councillor Philip Oakey was voted in as Chair,
proposed by Andrew Graham, seconded by Julie Anderson-Hill, with no objections.
Andrew Grabham was elected as Vice Chair with a unanimous vote. The new Chair
and Vice Chair both signed the declaration of Acceptance of Office.

1: Apologies for absence: Julie Anderson-Hill

2: To Record: There were no changes to the Register of Interests

Declaration of Interest in Agenda Items: Alex expressed his interest in Agenda
Item 6.

3: To Receive a report from Tamara Reay

- Wiltshire council has relaunched its tree warden scheme, to champion tree planting in the area. Wiltshire council is keen for villages to work with land owners and members of the community to plant trees.
- Wiltshire Council has secured another 10 million for a highways preventative program of resurfacing roads. The funds will be spent over a 2 year window, with the work commencing in the spring once the weather is more favorable.
- Wiltshire Council have established that 30% of what goes into landfill skips could be recycled. To help reduce this, the Household Recycling Centre at Hopton will be leading with a trial system consisting of a pre-sort area for refuse where Recycling Centre users will have the opportunity to sort through their rubbish and receive guidance.

Wessex water is doing work in Devizes to replace Victorian sewers – they are currently in the first phase and there is a plan in place to try and minimize the impact on journeys and local businesses. Please plan ahead when travelling into Devizes and continue to use these local businesses to support them.

4: Local Police Report: Awaiting August/September update.

Our PCSOs have 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 centres unless something happens 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 in confidence 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 Neighbourhood watch scheme in Bulkington and there are active volunteers to run it, the Parish Council can assist you in forming a group.

5: Open Forum: Eden Speller

- **Tree Planting:** In our July meeting, Eden Speller's proposal from the Woodland Creation Funding was discussed and he attended the Parish Council meeting to discuss this in person. Eden took the councillors through a presentation outlining some of the Councils options regarding obtaining funding for tree planting. Once planted, the funding includes 15 years of maintenance payments.

- The below options were discussed:

Acquisition/lease of Wiltshire Council land in Mill Lane

Planting of verge/hedgerow trees to create a 'gateway avenue' into the village

Planting of 'parkland trees' in the Rec (can be incorporated in hedge-line and appropriate locations in field so not to reduce/impact upon the amenity)

- Eden advised the Councillors to have a think about the options and decide how and if to take the project forward.
- Next steps would be that Eden would get a representative from Wiltshire council to evaluate the sites and finalise a plan that councillors feel is best suited for the parish. The paper work and bureaucracy would be completed by Wiltshire Council and the Woodland Creation Funding team. The Parish Council team would then be given funding and some guidance on the purchase, planting and care for the trees. Planting would ideally take place before March to work with the trees dormant season.

6: Local Planning Updates

Councillors voiced their support for the works on the farmhouse

Bulkington CP Application Ref PL/2023/07101 - Works to a Listed Building

Address: MANOR FARM, BULKINGTON, DEVIZES, SN10 1SL Proposal:

Demolition of an single storey rear extension and replacement with new proposed single storey rear extension. New replacement courtyard roof and wall with internal alterations. Applicant Name: Alex & Hannah Breach

Application Link: <https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planningapplication/a0i3z00001BMCY>

No concerns raised

Bulkington CP Application Ref PL/2023/06752 - Full Planning Permission Address:

Lawn Farm, Bulkington, Devizes, Wilts, SN10 1SL Proposal: Proposed agricultural

building Applicant Name Mr Oliver Breach Case Officer: Russell Brown Respond By

06-10-2023 Application Link: <https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-application/a0i3z00001BLTQ1>

7: Minute Approval: July's minutes of the Parish Council Meeting approved.

8: Finance: Approved outgoings:

Clerk Pay - £325 Grass cutting -£228

Bin Emptying Ideverde July 2023 - July 2024 -£764.24

New Defibrillator Pads - £83.99

Cabinet Unlocked Defibrillator sign -£9.98

Play Ground trim Trail and Play house to be reimbursed by Rec Committee£5984.71

Total approved funds: £7395.92

Parish Council funds total on 25.09.23: £9,607.05

9: Recreational Ground:

- Area Board funding has now arrived in the Rec Ground accounts
- The ROSPA inspection is due to take place in September, the report is expected in October
- The £5984.71 including VAT approved under agenda item 8 will be spent on a new play house with seating and a trim trail. The old playhouse will remain on the playing field but has had its doors removed to make it less of a hazard for children's fingers. There is currently a 6-8 week lead time on orders.
- A village tidy up session was suggested for some garden work in the rec on the 14th of October 11-2pm. All welcome, refreshments provided, please bring any garden equipment you have.
- The Rec Committee is working on proposals for a swing replacement, basket swing and accessible gate to present at next meeting as well as woodland funding suggestions.

10: Parish Steward: Outstanding jobs to be sent to The Clerk prior to next visit. The last scheduled visit was September 11th and the next visit is scheduled for the 9th of October. Councillors raised that grass verges across the village along the Highstreet need doing. Councillors requested a sweeper attend the village as they are concerned that historic curbstones will otherwise be damaged. A sweeper early autumn could also help with flood prevention before all the leaves come down and block drains.

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

12: Emergency Team updates: Alison has updated the Emergency Plan and invited comments from Councillors. Councillors praised Alison's work. If you are willing to be a named person in the emergency plan please contact our Clerk.

13: Defibrillator: Philip updated that the handover from Simon Downey is now complete. The team would like to thank Simon for looking after it while on the council and for completing the repairs before handing over. Simon has purchased the replacement parts required for the Defibrillator and has installed them prior to the handover. Philip plans to keep a log and to monitor the Defibrillator regularly.

14: Fireworks: Traditionally Bulkington hosts a large Fireworks display event – councillors discussed the viability of a 2023 event. It was agreed that due to lack of volunteers it is not possible to run the event this year. All voiced the desire to hold an event next year and for the planning to be started in Spring.

The Parish Council are looking for volunteers for the 2024 event for help with cooking, clear up, ticket collection, marshalling and fire lighting. Without volunteers this event will not be able to go ahead.

15: Remembrance day:

Councillors discussed plans for the 12th of November.

16: AOB:

- The Bulkington.org.uk website domain name registration was purchased by the Parish Council in November 2013 but is due to expire on 19 November this year.

- Faded 30 sign by Breach farm has been reported and Wiltshire Council have scheduled the replacement
- Wiltshire Police HQ Neighbourhood watch AGM: Saturday 7th October 2023, 10.00am until midday.
- Request from Councillor for cost approvals for minor sums to be approved in between meetings via email. It was agreed to raise the Clerks pre-approved limit to £100 and that extraordinary sums spent in between meetings can be approved via email by councillors (for example if the defib needs urgent fixing).
- The work on the drop curbs that were planned for August 23 have been delayed
- Councillors discussed reviewing job roles as the next meeting.

December meeting on 20th December to be brought forward to 13th to avoid pre-Christmas rush.

BULKINGTON 100 CLUB

We held the first draw of our new year at the village lunch at The Well on Wednesday, the 4th October, and the winners were :-

£30	No. 88	Hazel Barnes
£25	No. 76	Phillip Kelly
£20	No. 21	Emma-Melody Thomas
£15	No. 79	Mark Raby-Cox
£10	No. 12	Sue Noad



Congratulations to the winners !

Phyl Yarde

BULKINGTON LADIES' GROUP

The Marden Vale Handbell Ringers will be entertaining the Ladies' Group on Thurs 30th Nov. at 7.30 pm in Bulkington Village Hall. This is open to all. Entrance £3 to include 2 raffle tickets. There will be the usual bring & share refreshments & raffle. Please come along and enjoy the music!

Liz 828485



THE TEA, CRAFT AND CHAT SOCIAL GROUP

will meet from 2.00 – 4.00 p.m. on Monday 13th Nov.
at The Old Stables,
Bulkington, the home of Andie Elliott 828277.
New people always welcome.

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

The **Mobile Library** will be visiting the car-park of The Well in Bulkington on Monday 6th November 11.05-11.30 am.



The Bulkington Village Lunch

takes place on

Wednesday, 1st Nov. 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.



CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

Bulkington PCC invites you to their
Christmas Coffee Morning at Bulkington Village Hall
Sat. 2nd Dec. 10.30 am – 12 noon



There will be a Bring & Buy stall and a bumper raffle.
Please come and meet up with old friends and new. Proceeds will be shared with Dorothy House.

SEEND CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

SEEND THEATRE CLUB

Our trip to Salisbury early in October to see “Murder in the Dark”, starring Tom Chambers, was very much enjoyed. There was plenty of suspense and action on stage in this new thought-provoking play by Torben Betts. Set in a lonely cottage with ghostly happenings and faulty lighting, events took a turn for the worse, with murderous consequences!



After a visit to The Wharf Theatre in Devizes to see “Happy Jack” at the end of October we have a trip to Bath Theatre Royal in November to see “I’m Sorry Prime Minister”. This is a sequel and final chapter of the ever popular “Yes Minister” series.

There are further trips planned for December and the New Year. Full details have been circulated to members, as we have to book months in advance.

We always welcome new members and if you are interested in finding out more please contact either Ken (01380 828511) or email: membership.seendtheatreclub@gmail.com for an application form.

Ken Harvey



October Draw

1 No. 186	S Nichols	£50	4 No. 190	N Smart	£15
2 No. 76	P England	£25	5 No. 38	B Powell	£15
3 No. 44	G Skinner	£25			

Thanks to people at the Macmillan Coffee Morning who helped with the draw.

Alison Bottomley



SEEND WI

Seend WI held their Annual Quiz in October. We had a very enjoyable evening with Chris Downham as the Quiz Master. We were very grateful to Chris for setting us a fun and challenging quiz.

Thank you to all the various teams who came to support us, it was a very competitive evening.

Looking ahead, our meeting on Wednesday 8th November at **2.30pm** in the Pavilion will be a talk by Joanna Huntley on the history of Lace.

Please do come and join us, our meetings are always interesting. For more information, please contact Joyce Harvey. 01380 828511



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Kevin has again won the Wiltshire County Standard's Bearer's competition which took place on Sat 7 Oct in Wilton.

Poppy Appeal – our faithful poppy collectors will be coming round for your donations but please don't throw in foreign currency as it can't be counted and don't forget to hand in your gift aid envelope. Poppy Appeal organisers: Robin and Anita Heatley, 01380-828491.

Armistice Day - Sat 11 Nov. Short ceremony will take place starting at 1040 around the war memorial in Seend churchyard. All welcome.

Remembrance Sunday - Sun 12 Nov. Wreaths will be laid at the Seend war memorial at 1040, followed by the Remembrance Day service in the church.

Dates for Diary:

Thu 23 Nov, 7.30pm – AGM and committee meeting – Kennet Room, Community Centre.
Seend RBL/PR Anita Heatley

SEEND PLAYGROUP

On 29th September we welcomed parents and grandparents into playgroup for Grandparents' Day. The children were pleased to have grandparents in to play with them.

We asked for donations for their coffee and cakes for Macmillan. We raised £42.70 which we took up to the Community Centre to put with the money they had raised. Thank you to the Committee for serving coffee and cakes.

The children gave grandparents rhymes with their handprints on them. We then sang songs all together. It was a lovely morning. Thank you to all who came.

We went for a walk to Love Walk and picked up conkers, filling a bag up. The children have counted the conkers and played with them.

Our topics next term are autumn/winter and festivals.

We have a photographer coming in on 10th November to take the children's photos ready for Christmas.



Rose Dick, Playgroup Leader, 828003

SEEND SCHOOL

At Seend this term, the children have been settling into their new classes and making lots of new friends. We have enjoyed sporting activities outside of school as part of the Future of Football event in Melksham and weekly tennis lessons at the local courts.



We've also taken part in the orientation of a prospective Reverend at our Parish. The children met with him today to ask him some questions. One class has enjoyed visiting Avebury as part of their class topic, and we've ended our term with our annual Harvest Service in the church.

The families have kindly brought in food donations that are being shared with Melksham Foodbank this week so we can give back to the community.

SEEND AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

19 members went to Minehead for our annual weekend away, the sun decided to shine and a wonderful weekend was had by all. The Saturday walk took us from the hotel through Minehead to start a steady climb through the woods onto Exmoor where views across the coastline towards Blue Anchor Bay and back towards Minehead were beautiful.



We continued to Dunster where we stopped for lunch. We then walked to the railway station where we were lucky to see the steam train in full steam, headed to the coastal path and continued back to Minehead; eight miles of lovely scenery in October sunshine.

The Sunday walk was led by Betty, Gerald, Wendy and Reg. We drove to Horner, a few miles down the road and started a five mile circular walk from the National Trust car park. Again, in lovely sunshine we enjoyed quaint thatched villages via lanes and fields before we headed up through the woods where views across the moors and Porlock weir were stunning.

The route down took us through Bossington, another pretty village and back to Horner where a little café awaited for coffee and finished a great weekend with a chunk of Bob's homemade bread pudding!!

Next walk Sunday 5th November. Leaders will be Tim and Reg. Details will be sent out via email. If anyone would like to join us please give me a call for information, new members always welcome.

Christmas walk Sunday 10th December, leaders Penny and Ron with the usual mince pies and mulled wine!!

That's all for this month.

Sandy James 01380 739235

KEEVIL PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAY AND STAY: Keevil Primary School is hosting it's annual Stay and Play session on Saturday 11th November, 10am-12pm. This is where nursery-aged children and their families are welcome to come and explore the school site, field and forest school, join in with lots of fun activities, and have a taster of what life in 'big school' is like.

KEEVIL CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL

This month, as part of the Harvest Festival, pupils at Keevil Primary School have been busy collecting food for the Storehouse Foodbank in Trowbridge. The school-children and their families did a fantastic job collecting a huge range of cupboard staples from around the community, which were gratefully received by the Foodbank. The donations will be crucial to those needing help over the coming weeks. However, the foodbank is extremely appreciative of donations from anybody, particularly as we head into winter. If you would like to donate, please find further information here: www.communityactionwestwilts.org/storehouse

SEEND PARISH COUNCIL

September PC meeting

Attendance - 8 Councillors, Cllr Reay, Clerk & 5 parishioners

Local Council Matters

Cllr Reay provided the following update:

Highways - Wiltshire Council has been able to provide an additional £10m over two years for highways preventative measures. Work is currently being planned ready for Spring 2024 and will focus on priority routes

Wiltshire's Local Plan - Wiltshire's Local Plan review goes live on 27th September. The Plan will shape our county until 2038 and is available via a portal on Wiltshire Council Website. Under the current plan Seend is currently treated as a 'large' village with the parish other settlements not included. Councillors agreed that Seend Parish should be treated as a whole in that the number of houses required for both Seend village and its Settlements (Seend Head, Seend Row, The Stocks, Seend Cleeve, Sells Green and Martinslade) should be added together to give a figure for the whole Parish.

Members of the Planning Subcommittee are to make a representation to Wiltshire Council.

Tree Wardens Scheme - Following a successful bid for almost £300,000 from a government fund, Wiltshire Council is re-launching the national Tree Warden scheme.

The Tree Warden Scheme is a national initiative led by the Tree Council, and Wiltshire Council is looking to recruit volunteer Tree Wardens in each Wiltshire town and parish area. Tree Wardens will work with Wiltshire Council Woodland Officers and act as local tree champions who help plant, promote and protect trees in appropriate locations in their local area.

Projects that Tree Wardens can be involved in may include:

- Arranging local tree planting days
- Watering and caring for local trees
- Working with community groups to plant and care for street trees
- Rejuvenating local woodlands
- Raising funds and finding land for tree planting projects
- Going into local schools to talk about the value of trees

If you are interested in getting involved, information about the scheme can be found at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/trees-and-woodland-in-wiltshire.

Matters Arising

On-Line Banking: The Clerk has looked at options for the Council to move to on-line banking. Several local parishes have elected to move to Unity Trust as they are more focussed on the public sector and local councils. Atworth Parish Council has recently moved to Unity trust and are really pleased with their service. The Clerk has been offered a demonstration. However, there is a monthly charge of £6.

Lloyds Treasurers accounts are to remain free (for now) and would require all signatories to sign up for Lloyds on-line banking. Signatories would require access to the Lloyds banking webpage from their own device. This to be an agenda item for the November meeting.

Local Highways & Footpath Infrastructure Group (LHFIG)

The Bell Crossroads / Bollands Hill: Tamara Reay raised the need for a review of the junction layout and infrastructure at the Bell Crossroads along with a review of traffic management on Bollands Hill. A face-face meeting is being arranged with representatives of Wiltshire Highways and the Parish Council.

Tamara met with members of the Horse-Riding Community to see what steps could be taken by Wiltshire Council to help improve horse rider road safety .

Bradley Lane & Rusty Lane: Cllr Reay agreed to continue to chase the Rights-of-Way Team for an early engagement.

The next LHFIG meeting is confirmed as being Wednesday 18th October 2023.

Planning Applications

The Parish Council raised no objections to the following applications:

PL/2023/07372 - The Bell Inn, Seend - Variation of condition on PL/2022/07574 to allow for design changes.

PL/2023/07690 – 21 The Lye, Seend, Proposed Rear Extension.

PL/2023/07617 - Ridgeway, Row Lane, Seend - Replace septic tank with new sewage treatment plant in different location.

Devizes Area Board

Wiltshire police are making progress with local priorities including increasing police visibility in villages. Police are available to support community Speedwatch teams.

PCC, Philip Wilkinson, reported they are doubling the team to support rural crime and focusing on hare coursing, burglaries and speed enforcement activities. Chief Constable, Catherine Roper, reported on progress with the three priorities as actions in response to Wiltshire police being placed in ‘special measures’ in 2022.

Seend Tennis Club was successful in its bid for an Area Board Grant to resurface the courts. Up to £5k was approved with £3k to be paid now, the remainder at the year-end if sufficient grant funding is available.

Then next Area Board meeting is 20th November at 6.30pm.

Items of Correspondence

Church Wall: Len Murray gave a presentation regarding the collapse of the church wall and the need for its repair. Historic ownership of the wall is unclear and hence it is not insured by either the church or the owner of the adjoining property. This needs to be resolved before the church can consider contributing towards the rebuild. The church and the owner of the adjoining property to establish legal ownership and the associated responsibility of ongoing maintenance.

Local Rights of Way: Correspondence has been received from a local landowner regarding the use of the footpaths on his land. Costs associated with any move of rights of way are the responsibility of the land owner not the Parish Council.

The Parish Council agreed to place a notice in Spotlight regarding the importance of footpath users not deviating from the formal route of the footpath.

Finance

Bank Reconciliation to end of April 2023, circulated to Councillors, came to: £37,539.67

Dates of next Parish Council meetings:

24th October & 28th November, 7pm at the Community Centre

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



Wiltshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Philip Wilkinson, has joined with his counterparts in the south-west to lead a new campaign and bring together all police forces in the region to combat the involvement of Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) in rural crime.

Under the new initiative known as Operation Ragwort, the OCGs who target rural communities and are at the forefront of crimes such as burglary, the theft of farm

vehicles and equipment, poaching and hare coursing, will be the focus of a regional, co-ordinated, campaign led by the south-west region's Police and Crime Commissioners.

Mr Wilkinson said Ragwort - with mutual support and cooperation across the south-west - will provide an intelligence rich picture of the level of criminality enabling forces to better disrupt and apprehend those responsible, making Wiltshire safer for rural residents.

As the south-west's response to serious, organised, acquisitive crimes and rural crime, the operation will utilise and coordinate intelligence from our smallest communities through to local policing areas and across to other force areas and national and international borders.

The National Rural Crime Network has commissioned research into the link between rural crime and organised criminal gangs, and preliminary evidence suggests that rural crime is being used by gangs to fund other criminal activities including links to the international drugs trade.

With this in mind, Operation Ragwort hopes to build upon the successful partnership work in the south-west which is being done to disrupt the illegal drugs in the region, which was launched in 2021 as Operation Scorpion.

Assistant Chief Constable Mark Cooper is leading the operation: "Rural communities are all too often victims of opportunist theft yet, over recent years, there has been a distinct shift towards Organised Crime Groups moving in to steal high value items such as vehicles and electronics. By working across our borders in a clear and supportive way to share intelligence, Operation Ragwort provides the framework to make this happen and bring offenders to justice."

SPORTING, DRAMATIC and LITERARY NEWS



TENNIS : The mixed continue playing in the Chippenham and District winter league with our next match away to Melksham on the 21st October when Harry Waylen and Karin Dolak plus Pam Akerman and Frankie Goddard will be out there braving storm Babet. Hopefully the result will be in “Stop Press”.

FOOTBALL : Seend presently top division one in the Trowbridge and District football league having played 8, won 6, drawn 1 and lost 1 but hot on their heels are Bradford Town who have played 6, won 5 and drawn 1.

In October Seend overcame Melksham 2-1 having earlier dispatched Bromham 3-1. The last match of September was a 1-1 draw with Warminster when Seend could have scored a hat full but in the end were thankful to equalise with their second penalty of the match the first having cleared the cross bar before landing in the High Street.

In the Knockout Cup Seend beat Melksham Town on 14th October, 2-1.

Saturday the 21st October will pitch Seend against Bradford Town which could well be the league decider. Check out our “Stop Press” below for the very latest results.

LITERARY : October saw the publication of Sir Mathew Thorpe’s biographical book entitled “Marking Time: My Family and I “ which your reporter has eagerly read, the second part of which contains a host of stories going back well over forty years featuring many Seend characters who will be familiar to Spotlight readers as both their friends and family members. I highly recommend it as a good read.

CYCLING : Despite the weeks of rain ahead of us after a wonderful start to October Ric and his fellow cyclists are not to be deterred and, he assures me, are still to be found out there each weekend on the towpath somewhere between The Barge and The Three Magpies. If you are fortunate enough to catch up with Gary Reason he will, over his favourite beverage, tell you all about his recent epic cycle from one end of America to the other in aid of Wiltshire Air Ambulance, some 2000 miles. Congratulations Gary !

SHORT MAT BOWLS : Whilst cricket is going to feature in the Olympics in 2028 for the first time since the Paris Olympics of 1900 when Great Britain beat France in the final by 158 runs, sadly SMB did not make it through as one of the additional sports for the Los Angeles games. I am hopeful that the Olympic committee will look more kindly on Colin and the boys in 2036 and indeed with that positive approach Colin tells me that the training programme he has devised will be even more intense over the next decade. That’s the Seend spirit !

Stop press: The tennis match on 21st Oct was cancelled due to the rain!

Results fixtures and news for the next Spotlight to the minor injuries unit by 12th November please.

Frankie Goddard 828488

NURTURE NATURE

Remember, Remember the Birds in November, Cock Robin, Blackbird, Charlie Chaff, Great Tit, Doddy Dunnock - they all need feeding to see them through Winter. 'Gunpowder, Treason and Plot' – not a very good comparison perhaps, but the latter 'plot' could maybe refer to the felling of the iconic Sycamore Gap Tree standing sentinel above the Whin Sill escarpment along Hadrian's Wall in Northumberland. Reminder of Shakespeare's poem in 'As You Like It' and Thomas Hardy's Dorset novel 'Under the Greenwood Tree' flash into the memory. No longer will courtship rituals and promises of marriages be made under its protective branches. Gone is the shade for walkers resting along the Way, a site for family picnics and a backdrop for family photographs. This tree, this historic landmark was believed to be 300 years old and there are plans to replace it.



It should ring a bell of alarm in our own parishes and provide an opportunity to do a survey of the trees in our area to ensure that such treasures of nature are properly protected with TPOs (Tree Preservation Orders). Since 1972 the Woodland Trust has planted over fifty five million trees in our countryside and saved and protected nearly 1200 acres of threatened woods. It is now the season to plant young trees. Plant a tree in your garden or neighbourhood to remember someone dearly departed, or an important family event, Larger estate owners could consider planting oaks. Due to changing climate patterns and associated reasons (e.g. the Oak Lace Bug is one) oaks are in decline in our counties. The good old English Oak is host to nearly 400 insects of one species or another, a wonderful food source for birds and bats.

By the way, still keep a sharp lookout for the devastating Asian Hornet, which has reached our shores (first reported in 2004) and is causing damage in parts of Europe. It reportedly can kill people (very rarely), wipe out bee colonies and ruin fruit harvests. It has a distinctive orange head, a yellow striped abdomen and is smaller than our native hornet. Sightings and nests should be reported to DEFRA.

From now on look out for the mesmerizing display of starling murmurations just before they drop down to their roosts – there will be local information on the internet. Thousands and thousands of birds moving as one as if choreographed for a spectacular modern ballet. On 21st September in a speech addressing the French Parliament in Paris King Charles repeated his warnings about the catastrophic destruction of Nature worldwide. As well as focusing on our loss and decline of habitats and species it is a reminder that it is happening worldwide as human populations grow and expand across the Globe, natural disasters increase, temperatures rise, wild fires proliferate, storms, floods, mudslides and earthquakes obliterate and sun spot activity increases. All these and other factors adversely affect patterns of bird migrations – the 'super highways' in the sky. These are age old routes navigated by hundreds of millions of birds annually between non breeding and breeding areas of the world. One of these routes is the East-Asian Australian flyway. It is estimated that 50 million water birds of over 600 species use this route connecting 37

However, it is also one of the most endangered of the migratory routes used by several globally threatened, high profile migrating birds, such as the Spoon Billed Sandpiper (the Spoonie). An added danger for all migrating species are the many armed conflicts in at least five continents. No doubt some learned institutions will be researching the effects of such wars on animal populations of all kinds.



Some readers have remarked again on not hearing a cuckoo this year. Find out more on www.bto.org/cuckoo-clocks. The BTO reports that there have been changes in migrant bird patterns, due to habitat loss and climate irregularities.

Finally, a reminder that most animal species can be adversely affected by fireworks, so please ensure they are not endangered by such. Hedgehogs appear to have had a good year judging by the number of reported sightings from readers. So, another PLEA, check for hedgehogs in your bonfire piles in daylight before lighting them. Remember, Remember the Fifth of November, Gunpowder, Treason and HEDGEHOGS!

Let us all cooperate and stand together to support conservation and our endangered environments.

Otis Tarda

BITS AND BOBS

Quiz and Cheese Night

FoSS (Friends of Seend School) presents a Quiz and Cheese Night on Friday 17th November,

7pm for 7.45pm start at Seend School.

Entry includes cheese board and cash bar.

£25 per table - minimum of 4 and maximum of 6 people per table.

Quizmaster Chris Downham. Proceeds to FoSS.

To book your place WhatsApp to Lottie Gill 07733 335345.



Melksham Flower Club

Meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 2pm in Seend Community Centre

Devizes Flower Club

We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every month, upstairs in Devizes Town Hall, SN10 1BN Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

Contact us: devizesflowerclubuk@gmail.com

Facebook: @Devizes FlowerClub

Instagram: devizes_flowerclub

Visitors £6 on the door. Annual Subscription Membership £35.



CARER SUPPORT WILTSHIRE

CARERS RIGHTS EXPO: 21st November, 10.00am – 6.30pm,
At Trowbridge Civic Centre

Unpaid carers are facing profound challenges – a struggling social care system and NHS, increasing financial pressures because of the cost-of-living crisis and an increasing number of hours caring.

For Carers Rights Day this year Carer Support Wiltshire are bringing together experts from across local government and the voluntary sector to share their expertise and guidance with carers. Through workshops and an information hub, the expo aims to empower carers with the knowledge to help them live their lives well and help them to feel supported in their caring role.

This one-day event will attract unpaid carers from across Wiltshire, local government, the NHS, private and voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations. To register your interest, email admin@carersupportwiltshire.co.uk or call 0800 181 4118.



**The twelfth *CHRISTMAS COUNTRY FAIR*
in aid of The Soldiers' Charity**

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18th 10am to 2pm
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Start your Christmas shopping with us!

Lots of stalls featuring handmade crafts and produce

Free Entry - Tombola! Coffee and cakes!

For more information please contact Sue Bonney on 01380 812757



Craft and Food Christmas Market

Saturday 2nd December 12-3pm
Furlong Close, Rowde, SN10 2JQ
Free Entry



Musical Events



Melksham Choral Society: Date for your diary. Saturday December 9th. Christmas Concert 7.30pm in Melksham Reform Church. We'll be singing choruses from Karl Jenkins' The Armed Man, a mass for peace and a selection of less usual Christmas carols.



The ever-popular **Edington Arts Advent Concert** will be at 7.30pm on Saturday 16th December in the Priory Church, and this year it will be performed by the choir of

Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, Matthew Martin directing.

This will be the second Cambridge College choir to have performed for us, and it will be Matthew's third Advent concert. The Independent has described this mixed choir of 24 men and women as "impressively well-trained... crack Cambridge choristers", and they have an international reputation for performances of exceptional quality as well as for adventurous recordings. Expect a programme of familiar and unfamiliar delights, with the added bonus of Christmas mulled wine and mince pies during the interval. Tickets are already selling well, so don't delay.

Box Office: From November 10th Edington Angels can book and pay for tickets, and choose seats, online through the Edington Arts website (www.edingtonarts.org).

General booking online opens on November 17th.

Tickets are available by phone now from Chrissy on 01380 831256. Anyone who has already bought tickets, or who buys by phone before the online booking dates will be allocated seats by Edington Arts in the normal way; booked or allocated seats will show up on the online seating plan.

Do have a look at this month's edition of the online colour supplement for pictures. Go to Seend.org.uk and just click on Spotlight and then on November online colour supplement – available shortly

And finally

A man with a newt on his shoulder walked into a pub.

"What do you call him?" asked the barmaid.

"Tiny," said the man.

"Why do you call him Tiny?"

"Because he's my newt!"

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

Church: Rector— vacant. Assoc. Priest Rev. Caroline O'Neil 828302 (p/t)
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, 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 - Roger and Liz 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 Gemma Rutter. email: gemma.rutter@wiltshire.police.uk

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

Fawlty Players Panto Group - Tessa Doe
07719 917814 &

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 07719 917814

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 - seendtennisclub@gmail.com

Theatre Club - Ken Harvey 828511,
membership - seendtheatreclub@gmail.com

WEA/Day Schools -Tessa Doe 07719
917814

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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(except **Wednesdays** 14.00 close)

Saturday 9.00—15.30

Sunday Closed

PO:

09.00—17.00 **Monday to Friday**
(except **Wednesdays** 14.00 close)

Closed **Saturday and Sunday**

(see Seend Post & Provisions facebook page for notice of any changes)

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