

SPOTLIGHT

Seend & Bulkington



APRIL 2021

DIARY DATES FOR LATE MARCH

27th – 28th Road Closure – Seend High Street
28th Start of British Summertime (hooray!) and a full moon
30th Seend PC Meeting

DIARY DATES FOR APRIL

2nd Good Friday (Bank Holiday)
4th Easter Sunday
5th Easter Monday (Bank Holiday)
21st Bulkington PC meeting
26th RBL Meeting 7pm on Zoom
27th Seend PC Meeting

We understand that Wiltshire mobile library service is only delivering to residential care homes at present.

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.

Spotlight Contacts: Contributions for the May 2021 edition (copy by Saturday 17th April) can be emailed to spotlight@seend.org.uk or delivered to Seend Post & Provisions. Editors: Tessa Doe (01380 828617) and Sue Isaac (828461). Please note that **you should always send emailed items to the Spotlight address**, not to Sue or Tessa – even if they have emailed you from their own email address – just in case they are not around. Fiona Johnson is the contact for delivery (828401), Jan Field 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 Tessa or Sue (see above) to check if all is well. And please note the following. **When sending emails to spotlight@seend.org.uk** please include the word **SPOTLIGHT** in uppercase as the first word of the Subject. This will help the editorial team sifting through all the messages stopped by the SPAM filter, which sometimes include genuine messages for SPOTLIGHT.

PDFs: We cannot normally use PDF 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. Thanks.



Welcome to April 2021 Spotlight

Longer evenings, blossom and bulbs and baby animals – spring is definitely here. And with a bit of luck and a fair wind we may be sitting in our pubs' gardens and meeting up with a few friends later this month. It won't be anything like 'normality' but maybe past normality is not what we should aspire to go back to. The pandemic has given us plenty to think about. It's not over, so stay safe. Obviously, still not much happening in the way of activities in our villages, but Easter church services are listed inside, plus reports from Parish Councils and various organisations - and sadly disappointing news from Avon Needs Trees.

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.

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.)***

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone who showed such love and care for Anne Saywell and for me over the three weeks from Anne's diagnosis of pancreatic cancer until her death on 26th February 2021. Thank you for the cards (hundreds!), the flowers, the gifts of food, the telephone calls, etc. Thank you also for being on the street in Bulkington when the hearse drove slowly through the village. Your love and support meant so much to Anne and continues to mean so much for me as I face into these days without her.

Maureen Allchin

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**.

We are still operating during the crisis and can help with transport. Including to Covid vaccination centres.

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

Telephone 07532 055560 - [www.seend.org.uk/seend link](http://www.seend.org.uk/seend_link)

SEEND PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP NEWS

April 2021 Update

The minor amendments have now been completed and our Neighbourhood Plan is Referendum ready: Hoorah!

Information on the our Neighbourhood Plan can be viewed via Wiltshire Council website:<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning-neighbourhood-latest-news>

It is anticipated that the referendum on the draft Seend Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2020-2030 will be held on 6 May 2021 and information will be published on Wiltshire Council's website around 24 March 2021 about the referendum and how to view documents. If you do not have access to the internet and need support in viewing the Plan, from 24 March 2021 please phone customer services on 0300 456 0100 (lines open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday) and ask to speak to an officer within Spatial Planning.

It will then be over to all residents of Seend Parish. Obviously we hope you will vote YES. If over 50% of votes cast are 'yes' then the Seend Parish Neighbourhood Plan will be 'made'. That is the legal term which indicates it has statutory status. Until it is 'made' it remains a 'draft' although it is completed.

Please stay safe, sensible and sane till then. It's still not over....

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



Avon Needs Trees has announced that it is unable to go ahead with the purchase of 19 acres between Rusty Lane and Bollands Hill. This is because of the potential archaeology on site, which may indicate buried heritage going back to Medieval or even Roman times.

The potential only became clear when ANT commissioned a magnetometry scan. This was requested by Wiltshire Archaeology Department whose support was needed for permission to change the land use (from pasture to tree planting). The number of magnetic anomalies across the site was a surprise to everyone. As Wiltshire Archaeology Department put it, ANT 'hit the jackpot'. The result is that they have stipulated that before planting permission can be granted, they require trenches to be dug across the site, costing £25,000. Even if ANT could raise that money, there is a high risk that further, expensive archaeological work would be required and/or ANT

would be severely limited in where it could plant or build ponds. Possibly this would represent very poor value for the donors who have given money for land purchase and tree planting.

ANT has spent the last month getting opinions from a wide variety of professionals, trying to find a way through this. We are aware that there were ironworks on the site until the end of the first world war (thank you to everyone who contributed local information,) but the archaeologists interpret the magnetometry as a possible settlement and still require the work detailed above.

The frustrating thing is that the archaeologists do not expect to find anything that would have national monument status. Their intention would be to 'characterise and date' and put everything back. It's extremely unlikely that this land would turn into another Pompeii!

However, for Avon Needs Trees – a small charity – it is too much of a risk. ANT has to work within its charitable purposes – which do not include archaeology!

It is with enormous regret that the trustees made the decision last week not to proceed. We are very aware of the public enthusiasm for the project and ANT has put a great amount of time, effort and money into getting everything in place.

We would like to thank, in particular, the vendor who kindly gave us nine months to raise the funds; and to neighbours such as Steve Vaux who have been so very helpful with practical information and support whenever we've needed to be on site. A big thanks too to Sue and Bob McCulloch for their generous donation; and to Cllr. Jonathon Seed who strongly supported our grant application to the Melksham Area Board. And a particularly big thanks to Jo McManus who raised over £1600 for us by running 10km around local villages, dressed as a tree. All trustees are truly grateful for this extraordinary support, and we are truly devastated that – after so much work – we cannot go ahead.

Nikki Jones, Chair, Avon Needs Trees

Jo McManus's run in aid of Avon Needs Trees

Many thanks to everyone who sponsored me on my run dressed as a tree on the 27th Feb. It was so lovely to see some of you cheering me on. It's such a shame that ANT won't be able to complete their woodland and wildlife haven project in our village but I'm sure that they'll find another suitable site and I wish this excellent charity all the luck in the world. All the money I raised will be going to them. However I realise that many donations were made specifically for the Seend project so please do contact me at josimon@weaverswood.co.uk if you'd like a refund. Many thanks again.

(Photos of Jo McManus in tree costume can be found in our online colour supplement at seend.org.uk)



SEEND FLOWER SHOW 2021

The Flower Show committee believe the uncertainty about the changing situation, in relation to the Covid pandemic, makes having the traditional event very unlikely. We will therefore be planning to promote a virtual show instead. Please keep an eye on Spotlight and our website for updates nearer the time.

Cups and trophies: Can you please look out, polish up and return all cups and trophies awarded from the 2019 Flower Show. John Williams at Canty Neuk, High Street will happily receive them.

Keep safe. Carole Vince. Chairman.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Notice of Election

Local elections are due to take place on 6th May for the 98 Wiltshire Council unitary divisions, as well as town and parishes. The Police and Crime Commissioner election also takes place on 6th May as do a number of neighbourhood planning referendums including Seend's Neighbourhood Plan.

For Seend, the number of parish councillors to be elected is 11.

Deadline for nominations to be submitted is 8th April.

If there are more than 11 candidates, then an election for Seend Parish will take place on 6th May. All candidates need to complete and submit their nomination papers in person to Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Trowbridge (this is through a booking appointment system).

All the information about the local elections can be found on the website www.wiltshire.gov.uk/elections.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting has been provisionally set for Tuesday 18th May at 7.30pm. Following the latest government guidelines on the easing of lockdown restrictions, it is unlikely that it can be held in a public place (usually at the Pavilion). So this will have to be an on-line meeting using Zoom. Last year the APM was postponed because of the Covid19 lockdown, and the chairman and vice chairman elections carried over to 2021. With the local government elections going ahead on 6th May, we will need to have our APM so that a chairman and vice-chairman can be elected. All parishioners will be invited to attend on line. A link can be given out closer to the meeting date. Seend clubs and organisations are invited to give a short summary of their year's activities. Any changes to these details will be published in the next issue (May).

CPRE Best Kept Village Competition will be taking place this year as the organizers feel that this can be done in a Covid safe way. Councillor John Williams will co-ordinate Seend's entry in this competition. As we prepare with a village tidy up, can we please ask those of you who have put posters up around the village (many of which

have been nailed to trees!) to take them down if the date for whatever is being advertised has passed or the poster is faded or spoilt. Many of the posters on trees and electricity poles are looking unsightly.

Census Day 2021

Census 2021 across England and Wales was on Sunday 21st March. Hopefully all parishioners will have completed their forms on-line. After this day, census officers will be:

- knocking on doors following up non-responders
- helping the public with queries

From 22nd March 2021 our field census officers will be working across England and Wales. We have recruited around 29000 members of staff to carry out home visits. All officers will be carrying official identification cards. The card will have a photograph and the officer's name. The officers will work through the day to make contact with residents but will not call before 09:00 or after 20:00. Any member of the public concerned that the person on their doorstep is not a census officer can call the number on the critical workers letter that the officer can show them. Census officers will never ask for any money or bank details at any point during the conversation with respondents.

Our staff in the field are classed as key workers. The law allows that where there is a lockdown people can leave their home for work if they cannot work from home. As their role cannot be carried out by working from home, they are allowed to carry out the duties of their role.

The health and safety of the public and the census field force is of the utmost importance to us. Field force routines in Census 2021 have been planned with the health and safety of both the public and field staff front and centre. All our officers will work in a socially distanced way; they will all be wearing PPE and they will not enter anyone's home.

If you have any questions about the 2021 census work being carried out in your authority, please phone the Partnership Team on 01329 447434. More information is also available at www.census.gov.uk, or you can email 2021Census.LA.Liaison@ons.gov.uk

Appeal to Dog Owners as Lambing Season Approaches

We are appealing to dog owners to be responsible when out enjoying the countryside and to keep all dogs on a lead when around any livestock. As lockdown begins to ease and people start to go out and about again there is an increasing danger that dogs off the lead will worry sheep and other livestock. This is especially worrying as lambing season will soon be in full swing. Livestock worrying is a criminal offence and the penalty can be six months imprisonment and/or a fine of up to £1000.

If you see anything suspicious, please call 101 or 999 if you can see a crime in progress. Or you can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Remain Vigilant of Scam Messages As NHS Begins Sending Text Alerts for Covid-19 Vaccine

On Tuesday (9 March) the NHS began a trial of texting people to invite them to book their Covid-19 injections. We want to remind our communities to remain vigilant of scams via text - remember the vaccination is free of charge and you will not be asked for your bank details or personal information. Almost 400,000 people aged 55 and over and 40,000 unpaid carers will be the first to get a text alert inviting them to book a slot as part of the latest development in the NHS vaccination programme, making it a quicker and more convenient way to get an appointment.

The genuine messages include a web link for those eligible to click and reserve an appointment at one of more than 300 large-scale vaccination centres or pharmacies across England. Texts will arrive in advance of the standard letter. Reminders will be sent 2-3 weeks after the original alert to encourage people to get their vaccine if they have not taken up the offer.

Some GP-led and hospital vaccination services, which operate their own booking systems, are already using texts for invites. Introducing them to the national booking service for vaccine centres and pharmacy-led services will help increase uptake of the life-saving jab, particularly as the NHS moves on to younger groups.

People will continue to receive letters inviting them to book an appointment as well as a text alert, ensuring people who don't have a number registered or need information in different languages or formats don't miss out. The text message will be sent using the Government's secure Notify service and will show as being sent from 'NHSvaccine'. You will not be asked for payment or banking details.

Individuals should not receive a text message or a letter from the NHS if they have already been vaccinated and this has been recorded so be wary if you receive such communication afterwards. If people cannot or would prefer not to travel to a Vaccination Centre or pharmacy-led site, they can choose to wait to be invited by a local GP-led service.

Wiltshire Police Detective Sergeant, Sean Tregunna said: "Coinciding with the roll-out of vaccination invites via text message, we're pre-empting a rise in text message scams, whereby fraudsters try to collect personal details from people, encourage them to ring premium rate numbers or enter their bank details. The NHS will never ask you for your bank account or card details, your PIN or banking password.

"Of course some people might be worried about scams which have been widely publicised, but if the message comes from 'NHSvaccine' and links to the NHS.uk website you can be sure that it's a legitimate invite.

"It's also worth remembering that the NHS will also never arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine or ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of personal documents such as your passport, driving licence, bills or pay slips."

If you believe you have been a victim of fraud, report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call on 0300 123 2040.

CHURCH NEWS

Maureen's Ramblings.....

Agatha Christie's play "The Mousetrap" opened in 1952. 69 years ago!! It keeps going because there is an agreement that those who have seen it will not tell others **who dunnit!** What a spoiler it would be if everyone knew the ending. This is one of the problems of Easter. We know the end of the story! We know Jesus does not end up dead, lying in the tomb forever. We know that death is defeated and that love cannot be crucified. This is good, astounding and wonderful news! But because we know the ending *and* the story is so familiar - we stop being surprised by God at Easter. "So what?"

"So what?" Our world is not always a happy or hopeful place and the past months have been especially tough. Life can be painful and difficult and I guess that every home in our area, including in mine, there has been some experience of suffering, pain and death - some "Good Friday" experience. Maybe when I mention the transforming love and hope of the Risen Christ you will say "So what?". You may be feeling that it's always Good Friday, but I can proclaim with assurance – Easter can bring us all alive!

Dolly Parton has written a song called "He's Alive" – check it out on YouTube. The last verses are:

**But suddenly the air was filled
With a strange and sweet perfume
Light that came from everywhere
Drove shadows from the room
And Jesus stood before me
With his arms held open wide
And I fell down on my knees
And I just clung to him and cried**

**Then he raised me to my feet
And as I looked into his eyes
The love was shining out from him
Like sunlight from the skies
Guilt in my confusion
Disappeared in sweet release
And every fear I ever had
Just melted into peace**

The song ends - **He's alive, yes he's alive, yes he's alive and I'm forgiven, Heaven's gates are open wide.**

The disciples on that first Easter morning *did not know* the end of the story. Jesus was dead. Their experience was of endings, lostness, despair, hopelessness and grief.

Resurrection! This just isn't possible! I wonder if this is how you feel? Maybe your faith has been wounded. Maybe all you can see is death; all you feel is despair and emptiness? Maybe your tears have blinded you to the great truth of the Christian faith or have stopped you believing the possibility that **Christ is risen! He is here!**

Alleluia!

Easter gives us the hope that these Good Friday experiences in our lives are not the last word. In the risen Jesus, there is light in the darkness; there is hope for the

hopeless; there is love for the unloved; there is peace for the disturbed; there is a rainbow in the rain. Joy *does* follow tears. There *is* new life following death. Emptiness and despair was not the end of the story for those first disciples, nor is it for us. Jesus came to them just as he still comes to us, time after time, whispering our name and offering us his love.

I hope you have a blessed and surprising Easter.

The Revd. Maureen Allchin. Retired priest



CHURCH SERVICES IN APRIL 2021

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

Some services are now open to attend in person. We will be strictly adhering to covid regulations and there will be no singing. Please wear a mask and maintain safe social distancing. If you are shielding, vulnerable or anxious about the risk to yourself, please do not attend.

Please book if you wish to attend a service in church (details of how to book are below).

Online services can be accessed via zoom (link below).

Thursday 1st April (Maundy Thursday)

7pm Celtic/Tenebrae service Seend & Online

Friday 2nd April (Good Friday)

3pm Final Hour at the Cross Online only

Sunday 4th April (Easter Sunday)

6am	Sunrise service	Potterne
10am	Holy Communion	Bulkington
10am	Holy Communion	Poulshot
10am	Holy Communion	Seend
10am	Holy Communion	Worton & Online



Sunday 11th April (2nd Sunday of Easter)

8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Seend
10 am	Holy Communion	Online

Sunday 18th April (3rd Sunday of Easter)

8 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Potterne
10am	Holy Communion	Online

Sunday 25th April (4th Sunday of Easter)

8 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Seend
10am	Holy Communion	Online
4pm	Evensong	Bulkington

Booking is essential for all services in church. Please email sarahleckie.wba@gmail.com or contact church wardens.

We will continue with morning prayer via Zoom at **9:00am on Wednesday and Friday mornings**. We will also continue with evening prayer, led by Rev Joshva, on **Tuesday evenings at 6:00pm**.

All of our churches, except Christ Church, Worton and Marston, will be open for private prayer between 9:00am and 5:00pm each Sunday. Anyone attending our churches for private prayer are reminded to check-in (on paper or using the NHS app) and adhere to the covid safety notices displayed.

Some services and all prayers will be live streamed via Zoom. You can access them via our website below or use the link <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/6778119535>.

From the Registers:

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

Funerals

Anne Saywell on 9th March at Bulkington.

Ian Knowles on 19th March at Seend.

(William) Len Tucker on 23rd March at Seend.

No baptisms or weddings this month.

BULKINGTON NEWS

Anne Saywell

The Church Family in Bulkington is very saddened and shocked to recently lose a very active and valued member. Anne was a Churchwarden here for many years. She was key in setting up the Friends of Christ Church, instigated the Tea and Chat Social Group, and helped at all our fund raising events and daily tasks within our church. Most of all we will miss her as a valued friend. May she Rest in Peace.

Liz Futter

Councillor Vacancy: We have a Vacancy for a Parish Councillor - If you are interested in becoming part of the team please contact Hannah our Parish Clerk.

Abridged Draft Minutes of the Bulkington Parish Council Meeting
Held Wednesday 17th of February 2021 at 7pm online via Microsoft Teams
Pending official approval at next meeting

Councillors: Amy Powell (Acting Chair), Andrew Grabham, Alex Breach, Carla Haslam, Julie Anderson-Hill

Public: Tamara Reay (prospective Conservative Candidate for the Devizes Rural West Division for the upcoming Wiltshire Council elections)

Report received from Councillor Seed: Nothing to report

PCSO Janet: No crimes to report for Bulkington, more posters will be put up in the area to encourage responsible use of footpaths, we appeal to the public to not remove them. The Parish Council will closely monitor this situation. Wiltshire Police are patrolling the recreational area and public spaces to ensure that lockdown regulations are being adhered to.

Finance:

Clerk Pay – February
£221.60

Total Expenditure approved this month: £221.60

Balance after payments made: £1827.58

Playing Field Enhancement:

Cantilever Swing timber replacement: The team have decided to put this on hold – as this equipment encourages children to play together in close proximity we will wait until post Covid-19 when hopefully we will have more funding and more urgent repairs to the playground have been made to keep all equipment safe to use.

Playground Committee: The newly formed team have been successful in their bid for Area Board Funding grant of £1000 for the removal of unsafe items and repair of those that can be repaired within that figure. The team will hopefully be able to meet in person soon and begin plans for playground repairs.

New Website: Amy is making good progress moving the website content onto the new site and is on track for the switch over in May.

Election Year: All Councillors will need to stand again should they wish to remain on the Parish Council. Clerk to circulate relevant information to the team and to assist with paperwork. Should any member of the Parish wish to join the Parish Council please contact Hannah on theclerk@bulkington-pc.co.uk

Grass Cutting: The Team are keen to find a way to reduce grass cuttings being left behind on the Playing Field and will be working together with the supplier to reduce the cut grass area, leaving wild grass in unused areas and collecting cut grass from heavily used areas such as the football field.

Local Planning Updates: There is one property in the village currently under Planning: Application No: 20/11596/FUL. at 3 High St, Bulkington, SN10 1SH.

The Parish Council team meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7pm. Please contact our Clerk (theclerk@bulkington-pc.co.uk) for location or call details as this will depend on the Covid-19 guidelines at the time.

We welcome villagers to attend our meetings or to contribute via email or talking to a Councillor or the Clerk directly before the meeting.

BULKINGTON "100 CLUB"

We held a draw on Tuesday, 2nd March, and the winners were :-

No. 26	£30	Ruth Elliott
No. 25	£25	Ian Rawlings
No. 55	£20	Jodie Millgan
No. 58	£15	Phyl Yarde
No. 1	£10	Gilly Breach



Congratulations to the winners and especially to Gilly Breach, who was the very first member and has supported the club all these years - this was her very first win! Thank you also to Liz Futter for braving the weather as the one person I was allowed to meet up with and acting as a witness to the draw.

Phyl Yarde

SEEND CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

SEEND COMMUNITY CENTRE



AT THE HEART OF
OUR COMMUNITY

So we finally have the makings of a plan (sort of). Shortly the team will start a programme of sprucing up the Centre with a view to welcoming you all back by June – subject, of course, to the now familiar disclaimers regarding government regulations etc.



But overall the signs are hopeful and that first drink in the Members Lounge or outside on the terrace will taste so good! We are also talking to the organisers of regular events to see if it will be possible to host some of these from late spring onwards. Our Facebook page is usually one of the first places for event announcements and other news so watch this space!



Currently we are receiving a number of bookings and enquiries for future functions, celebrations, weddings etc. You can get in touch with us through the Facebook page for booking and other enquiries or send us an email to

seendcommunitycentre@gmail.com
www.seendcommunitycentre.com

100+ CLUB DRAW

February Results

1	No 94	J Padfield	£30
2	No 101	R Atwell	£25
3	No 25	L Bergin	£20
4	No 38	R Sawyer	£15
5	No 75	Burgess	£10
6	No 5	J Hawkins	£10



Thanks to the residents of Dial Close who helped with the draw.

Alison Bottomley.



SEEND WI

The sun is shining; the days are getting longer; birds are singing and the village is awash with spring flowers. This all contributes to the feeling that we are heading for better times.

Our March meeting commenced with the AGM on Zoom. All relevant papers had been circulated in advance. Fiona Johnson was unanimously elected as President for 2021/2022. She was thanked for all her hard work during an exceptionally difficult year. Meetings will continue on Zoom for the foreseeable future. However a provisional programme has been prepared which will be dependent on Covid rules at the time. Finalized details of these events will be published at a later date. At the moment there will not be a printed programme.

Our Speaker for the evening was Claire Mills who gave a very polished and informative talk on “Who does your DNA say you are?” This could be particularly helpful to people interested in their ancestry. All agreed it was an excellent presentation. We were very pleased to welcome members from Bromham WI.

The National Federation of WIs continues to offer a wide range of talks and courses online, which members can access for a small fee.

If you are not currently a member of WI but are interested in finding out more, do contact us and we shall be pleased to share our future plans with you. Non members are always welcome and can attend one meeting without any obligation to join.

In normal times all meetings take place in the Pavilion, Rusty Lane, Seend at 7.30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month, unless otherwise notified. For more information, please contact Joyce Harvey on 01380 828511 or check www.seendwi.weebly.com.

Joyce Harvey

SEEND FAWLTY PLAYERS: We’ve been showing solidarity with the professional Thespians during the pandemic by ‘resting’. BUT: the Community Centre has been booked for the 2022 village panto on 24th, 25th and 26th February. Put it in your diary NOW. (Something may happen before then – wait and see!)



SEEND & DISTRICT RAMBLERS



The AGM planned for Sunday 14th March did not take place as predicted due to Covid 19 restrictions still in place. Reports and balance sheet were circulated to members via email along with provisional dates for walks. There was not very much to report as only three walks were held last year. It is hoped that the middle to end of 2021 will be better.

It is thought that we will not resume group walking before June. This will give most members time to have had both vaccinations and feel more confident around larger groups of people.

We have a couple of people waiting to join us when they can. If anyone else has found a new love of walking during lockdown, come and meet us in June.

Take care.

That's all for now.
Sandy, The Ramblers

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



Sadly, Seend RBL has lost a local member, Colin Carr, who died peacefully at home on 9th March. We send our condolences to Thelma, Jenny and Michael.

At the recent County AGM, our Secretary, Poppy Appeal organiser and Standard Bearer, Kevin Toft, won a County Certificate of Appreciation; these are awarded to members who have made a conspicuous contribution to the Legion. Kevin works tirelessly for Seend Branch, despite working full-time and taking some of his annual holiday to carry out ceremonial duties. Congratulations, Kevin.

Our next meeting will take place on Monday 26th April at 7pm via Zoom. If you wish to join us, please contact Kevin on Seend.Secretary@rbl.community for details.

Anita Heatley, Public Relations

SEEND SCHOOL

It has been wonderful welcoming the children back into school this week after another six weeks of lockdown. The children have all been amazing, settling back into school life after another period of lockdown learning! It is great to hear lessons and laughter in the school again taking place in a safe way.



We would also like to say a big thank you to all of the parents and carers for their continued support and patience with helping to keep everything COVID safe.

Catherine Iles, Pupil Services Administrator

SEEND PLAYGROUP



We welcomed Leo, Tommy and Benji this term and hope they enjoy their time with us.

We have managed a few walks to the church, shop and around the village. We have looked at the lovely spring flowers and looked at the colours in our surrounding. Also numbers 7 – 10.

We return after the Easter holidays on Monday 19th April.

Rose Dick (Playleader) 01380 828003

SEEND PARISH COUNCIL

NB. The following minutes are a shortened version of the full minutes taken at the Parish Council meeting on 23rd February 2021. These have not yet been ratified by the Parish Council and may be subject to change. A full copy of the minutes can be found on our website: www.seendparishcouncil.co.uk

The meeting held on 23rd February was attended by eight Councillors with Mr James in the Chair, Mrs Sue Bond (Clerk), Councillor Jonathon Seed and Tamara Reay and a member of the public. Apologies from Mrs Pamela Akerman, Mr Paul Manning and Mr Martin Wiltshire.

Local Councillor Matters – Councillor Seed reported that the Council's budget had been passed. There would be a 5% Council Tax increase. He had been working in support of Avon Needs Trees and was pleased to announce that they were successful with their grant application for £5,000 from the Melksham Area Board. He was asked for an update on Park Farm and what was holding it up. Councillor Seed had no further news from last month.

Minutes and Matters Arising: The Minutes of the 26th January were approved.

Noticeboard for Rew Farm – now needs to be erected at Rew Farm.

Cross Parish boundary PRow. Mrs Vince has still not yet had a response from Keevil Parish Council.

Police Matters Incidents:

20th Jan 21 – Fly-tipping in Park Lane and Row Lane. Rubbish bags and tins of paint.

11th Feb 21 – Roadside stop in High Street. Male driver found in possession of cannabis. Issued with an adult caution.

12th Feb 21 – Unused Exide car battery stolen from outside a house in The Lye.

14th Feb 21 – Army Personnel Carrier accident at Seend Fork – no injuries.

There has been a spate of **dog-knapping** in Wiltshire and some arrests have been made. All dog owners need to remain vigilant when walking their dogs and report any suspicious activity on 101. All student Police Officers as part of their training have to initiate a project and work to resolve it. Seend has a PC who is focussing on the **speeding issues in Seend** and has sent out traffic surveys.

Neighbourhood Plan - Mrs A'Bear said that the plan was progressing well and the examiner had now completed his report. Following on from this Wiltshire Council have produced the Decision Statement. Both of these reports are available on the Seend Parish Plan website. The consultants (Place Studio) are amending the plan as required by the examiner and once completed this will go to Wiltshire Council to check and sign off. Once complete the Referendum Version of the Neighbourhood Plan will have weight in planning terms.

Local Plan Review - All Councillors had been circulated with a copy of the Local Plan Review consultation document "Empowering Rural Communities" and survey questions prior to the meeting so the PC's response could be formulated at the meeting. Mrs A'Bear said that there was an overwhelming amount of paperwork to go through in the Review at a time when there were a number of ongoing public consultations. The best way forward, she said, was to compare it with our own Neighbourhood Plan. She also said the survey questions did not marry up well with the survey and it might be better to submit a response by email rather than complete the on-line survey. Councillors concurred that the proposed indicative housing requirement of 30 new homes to be built between now and 2036 was not unreasonable, particularly as the Park Farm plans for 10 affordable homes and 1 self build plot would straight away reduce the number to 19. Planning approvals to convert The Bell into 3 individual dwellings and the proposed 2 flats above the post office/shop would also help. Mrs A'Bear raised concerns about the proposed revision of Core Policy 44 that would allow up to 20 houses to be built on exception land. This currently stands at 10. It was agreed that this concern should be raised in our response. Mrs A'Bear also said that any house building in Seend would be quite limited because of the elevated position and constrained layout of the village. It meant that any new development would most likely have to be on exception land. The Chairman proposed that a draft response be prepared by the planning sub-committee based on the discussions. All happy with this course of action.

Highways – There were no updates on highway issues. **Road Closure** – The High Street between School Road and Dial Close will be closed for two days 27th/28th March to allow BT to install some 87m of 1-way polyduct in footway.

Planning Matters

Application Ref: 21/01416/FUL - Seend Park, High Street, Seend

Proposal:- New garage and minor improvement works to entrance landscaping (Resubmission of 20/10104/FUL)

With the exception of one councillor who declared an interest, all other Councillors voted in favour.

Application Ref: 21/01759/LBC - The Laurels, High Street, Seend

Proposal:- Internal alterations

Resolution: With the exception of one councillor who declared an interest, all other Councillors voted in favour.

Tree Matters – Avon Needs Trees – the Chairman read out an extract from their latest newsletter. *(This has been overtaken by events. See ANT's notice in the 'Announcements' section of this edition of Spotlight. Eds.)*

Copse at Dial Close - Highways have done a survey of the beech tree which shows there is a need to do some pruning on safety grounds. They can either get their contractors to do the work or we do it as part of our own work. The Clerk said that by getting Highways to do it, it would be their cost. The Parish Council could then carry out and pay for the tree work on the other trees once Highways had completed work on the beech tree. Highways would be happy for us to do this. We would still need to get planning permission. No work can be undertaken until August after the nesting season. Councillors supported this course of action.

CPRE Best Kept Village Competition will be taking place this year as it was felt that this could be done in a Covid safe way. Mr Williams happy to co-ordinate Seend's entry.

Constitution Updates – Code of Conduct, Governance and Management Risk Register and Asset Register revised and re-adopted

Financial Matters – Bank reconciliation to end of January £29,403.36

Community Centre – Mrs A'Bear suggested that as the Parish Council had not used the Community Centre for our meetings for a whole year because of Covid19, and therefore not spent the allocated room hire budget for 2020-21, perhaps we should make a financial contribution. Councillors agreed as the Community Centre had been hit particularly hard during the Covid19 lockdown. It was suggested that the full £500 allocated in the room-hire budget should be given as this is what the PC would have had to spend in a normal council year.

Elections and Annual Parish Meeting - The Clerk said that the timetable for the local government elections on 6th May was now available on Wiltshire Council's website. Councillors needed to decide if they wanted to stand again and to submit their nominations by 8th April. Annual Parish Meeting – the Clerk said that the latest information on lockdown easing meant that it was unlikely that this could be a public meeting and may have to take place on zoom. Councillors agreed a date of 18th May.

Next Meetings - The next Parish Council meetings are 30th March and 27th April.

WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR NEWS FROM JONATHON SEED

The past year has been one that many will wish to forget. However, although the pandemic dominated year has been horrendous for the world and our country there is much that we can be quietly proud of in our community. The sense of community spirit was once again rekindled and people rallied round to look after our vulnerable residents. That sense of community caring was, to me, the most important aspect of the pandemic - until vaccinations arrived. Our national vaccination effort is a great national success story and let us hope that the rest is history.

There are road map recovery dates which are important to us all but there are also other dates of importance coming up. One such date is Thursday 6th May when Police and Crime Commissioner, Wiltshire Council and Parish Council elections take place.

Measures are in place to allow voting in person in a Covid-safe way but it is estimated that well over half of voters will want to vote by post. If you want to do so your application for a postal vote must reach County Hall by 5pm on 20th April.

I am once again out campaigning. I am standing for election both as Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon and as a local Councillor. Many other PCCs do the same across the Country and there are many local Councillors who also have full time jobs. Whichever way you vote and whatever the result it has been an honour and a privilege to represent you as your Wiltshire Councillor for the past twelve years. Sadly boundary changes have split the Council Division of Summerham and Seend and I have decided to try to represent the area with the majority of my current voters. That means saying a sad farewell to Seend and Bulkington and a thank you for all of your support over the years. I have enjoyed representing you, taking up your issues and working with your Parish Council. I hope that there will be an opportunity to meet again but for the time being thank you and farewell.

Jonathon Seed
Wiltshire Councillor for Summerham and Seend
Chairman, Melksham Area Board

BITS AND BOBS

NATURE NOTES

Where have all the birds gone? Experts such as David Attenborough say that human activity and overpopulation is destroying the planet. The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) informs that over half of the UK species are in decline, and that we are one of the most nature depleted countries in the world. This should make all of us sit up and think! BTO data shows that 67% of the UK's bird species are on the Red (Danger) List, i.e. at risk of extinction, probably over this century. The list is ever growing. All of us must do our best to nurture nature, not only in this country but around the world. Educating our children about these chronic situations is essential.

We can do our bit by planting more trees, hedges and flora for fauna. Many of our garden, field and woodland birds are paired up now, but it's still not too late to put up nest boxes, (preferably facing north east). Previous editions of this magazine have given hints for attracting birds to your gardens, and the internet can assist. A big way in which we can help is to have more control of our domestic pets, not only in our own gardens, if you have nesting birds, but also in the wider countryside, e.g. keeping dogs under tighter control if birds are sitting on eggs or feeding, and of course, there are new born lambs in the fields now. In the South West alone, it has been reported recently that £100,000 worth of farm livestock was fatally injured or killed last year alone by dogs. There was quite a shocking scientific article in the print media recently entitled 'How To Stop The Feline Slaughter', the gist of which is reproduced here. To stop your cat massacring local wildlife, change its diet – and play with it more. Researchers have discovered that cats that are fed premium grain-free food deposit a

third fewer corpses on doorsteps, while just five to ten minutes play with a toy mouse cuts the slaughter of birds and small mammals by a quarter, reports The Guardian. As the UK's 10.5 million domestic cats are believed to be responsible for the deaths of 100 million animals a year, such changes, if widely adopted, could lead to millions of animal lives saved a year, without interfering with cats' natural behaviour. "Cats like the thrill of the hunt", said lead author Prof Robbie McDonald of the University of Exeter. "Previous measures like bells tried to stymie the cat at the last minute". However bells, his study found, were ineffective. "What we did was to try to head them off at the pass by addressing some of their needs and wants before they think about going out hunting". The study, published in the journal 'Current Biology', involved 355 cats. The play element amounted to owners moving a feather toy on a string, to encourage the cats to stalk, chase and pounce, then a toy mouse to 'kill'!

SUMMER VISITORS

House Martins: These lovely migrant birds fly from Africa to nest in the British Isles, many in our area. They spend a long time making their mud nests under the eaves of houses. Please be tolerant of their building habits. The birds do not cause too much mess and they become distressed if all their hard work is destroyed. If house martins cannot raise their broods, yet another species will be endangered.

Swallows: These beautiful birds always return to their old nest sites, so please ensure access to them. If, for reasons of security, access has to be shut, swallows will fly through small openings in order to reach their traditional nesting sites.

Swifts: Their nesting sites, some of which are centuries old, are fast disappearing, due to development and property maintenance. They require an access tunnel of at least 18" long with a small entrance hole; please don't block them off. Swifts are believed to spend as much as nine months to a year on the wing, and they are known to nap whilst flying. Swift sightings can be reported to Bradford-on-Avon Swift Group at climatechampions@gmail.com, or www.swift-conservation.org.

These birds are all, of course, protected species. It is an offence to disturb or destroy their nest sites and environments. A few years ago an active house martin nest was wired over, preventing the juveniles from flying out, and they perished inside the wire. Should you require any advice about these birds, or how to obtain artificial nesting boxes, and how to erect them, contact Wiltshire Wildlife Trust on 01380 725670

Otis Tarda



Mrs Sarah Rose Troughton, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire, is giving her support to Swindon and Wiltshire's domestic abuse charity by becoming a Patron.

Mrs Troughton said: "I've been aware of the terrific work of Swindon Domestic Abuse Support Service for many years and I am delighted and honoured to become a Patron. During the pandemic domestic abuse support services have been needed more than ever. I'm especially keen to lend my support in raising awareness and helping

male as well as female victims of domestic abuse, and this is an area in which I know SDASS are working hard.”

Nicky Alberry, Chair of the board of Trustees of SDASS said: “We are all so pleased that Sarah Troughton has agreed to become one of our Patrons. She has always taken a keen interest in our work and her passion and determination will be a great help for us going forward.”



We are very hopeful that we can restart our concert programme in Edington Priory Church. All our events this year will be offered under whatever Corona guidelines are in place at the time, and will be made as safe and welcoming as possible.

The first concert will be at 7.30pm on **Saturday 12th June** - a change from the date in the March issues of all the Parish magazines.

Our first performers of 2021 will be the internationally renowned brass quintet **Fine Arts Brass**. Consisting of two trumpets, trombone, french horn and tuba, they have a repertoire which ranges from baroque to swing and everything in between. We will still be under some form of seat limitation. Therefore tickets, on sale in late April, will be tied to specific seats in the church. We are anticipating strong demand, and will be operating a waiting list. Do check our website www.edingtonarts.org for updated information, and we look forward to seeing you.

WALKING IN WILTSHIRE

Are you fed-up with doing the same old walks? Walking in Wiltshire www.walkinginengland.co.uk/wiltshire is the website for you!

With hundreds of walks to download and print free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more.

Walking in Wiltshire is part of the Walking in England suite of websites – one for each county in England - bringing local information together in one place. With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

John Harris

www.walkinginengland.co.uk - email: john@walkinginengland.co.uk

Lendology CIC (formerly Wessex Resolutions CIC)

is a Social Enterprise working in partnership with Wiltshire Council since 2010. We lend council funds to homeowners to fund home repairs, improvements, adaptations and energy efficiency measures. Our innovative scheme is a way for local councils to recycle their funds set aside for private homeowners, creating a sustainable funding stream. If you have lived in your house for over five years, aged 60+, in receipt of benefits or have children under 16 living with you, see www.lendology.org.uk or call 01823 461099 for information.

NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME IN WILTSHIRE

For full details, including entry fees, refreshments available, accessibility, coronavirus updates etc before booking or visiting any of the gardens see www.ngs.org.uk or individual garden websites shown.



Gardens Open in April:

Sunday 18th April

Broadleas House Gardens Devizes,
SN10 5JQ.

Mr & Mrs Cardiff, 07584 119362,
robwaller76@gmail.com.

Foxley Manor Foxley, Malmesbury,
SN16 0JJ.

Richard & Louisa Turnor,
lou.turnor@gmail.com.

Monday 19th April

Bowood Woodland Gardens Calne,
SN11 9PG.

The Marquis of Lansdowne, 01249
812102, www.bowood.org
houseandgardens@bowood.org.

Thursday 22nd April

Blackland House Quemerford, Calne,
SN11 8UQ.

Polly & Edward Nicholson,
www.bayntunflowers.co.uk.

Saturday 24th April

Iford Manor Gardens Bradford-on-
Avon, BA15 2BA.

Mr Cartwright-Hignett, 01225 863146,
info@ifordmanor.co.uk,
www.ifordmanor.co.uk.

New Knoyle Place Holloway, East
Knoyle, Salisbury, SP3 6AF.

Lizzie & Herve de la Moriniere.

New Lower Lye Holloway, East
Knoyle, Salisbury, SP3 6AQ.

Belinda & Andrew Scott.

Holloway, East Knoyle, Salisbury, SP3
6AF.

Lizzie & Herve de la Moriniere.

Sunday 25th April

Corsham Court Corsham, SN13 0BZ.

Lord Methuen, 01249 701610,
staterooms@corsham-court.co.uk,
www.corsham-court.co.uk.

Cottage in the Trees Tidworth Rd,
Boscombe Village, nr Salisbury, SP4
0AD.

Karen & Richard Robertson, 01980
610921, robertson909@btinternet.com.

Sunday 25 April

Cottage in the Trees as above.

Combined admission with The Old
Rectory, Boscombe.

And finally.....

I have just bought a deluxe first aid kit. I thought I would treat myself.



Don't forget to look at our online edition with colour photo supplement!

www.seend.org.uk/spotlight.shtml

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

Church: Revd Ali Bridewell. 01380 739064. Revd Joshva John, 01380 828137. 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 Memorial 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 – Mrs Sue Bond 07706 850859 www.seendparishcouncil.co.uk

Seend's Wiltshire Councillor - Jonathon Seed 01380 850695 jonathon.seed@wiltshire.gov.uk

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

Seend School – 828334

Seend Fund: 01380 828757

Bulkington Website: www.bulkington.org.uk

Rights of Way Warden – Paul Millard, 01225 712821

Melksham Area Board – 07917 721371

Police: PCSO 6039 Janet GOULD - Mobile 07471029772 –janet.gould@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

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

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

Book Clubs - the original: Sylvia Ewin
828325 - the other: Frank Teasdale
828617(+ Brewery)

Cricket Club – Brian Hunt 828581

Fawltly Players Panto Group - Tessa Doe

828617& Seend Village Pantomime on fb

Fete – Liam Bergin – liam@thirdberg.com
or 07738 269739

Flower Show –Carole Vince 828579

Football – Trevor Vowles

FoSS (Friends of Seend School) Nick

Collinge-Cubberley,

friendsofseendschool@gmail.com

Historic Houses Club - Mary Warren

01225707357 or Neil Yockney 827139

LINK Scheme - 075320 55560

Lye Field Committee –

www.seendlyefield.org

Neighbourhood Watch - Brian Hunt

(Seend) 828581; Cavan Moroney (Sells

Green) 828606; Owen Burton (Seend

Cleeve) 828820; John Scott (Bulkington)

828026.

Preschool - Rose Dick (Playleader) 828003

Poetry Group - Tessa Doe 828617

Ramblers - Sandy James 01380 739235

Royal British Legion – Sec:Anita Heatley

828491. **Welfare:** Christine O'Reilly 01380

828888/07791 157060

Seend Baby & Toddler Group – Rachel

Downham 07947 867701

Seend CLT – www.seendclt.org

info@seendclt.org

Short Mat Bowls Club - Colin Waldeck

828946

Table tennis – Chris Brooker, 828047

Tennis Club – Liam Bergin 07738 269739

Theatre Club - Sylvia Ewin 828325; Marion

Whitehead 828612

WEA – Tessa Doe 828617

Wheelchairs to borrow - Sue and Graham

Jones in Seend Cleeve, tel: 01380 828354

WI - Fiona Johnson on 828401 and Joyce

Harvey 828511

Wine Circle – Steve Parsons 07974 347487

or Simon McManus 07896 711764



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Monday to Friday - 9am to 2.30pm (please check)

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