

SPOTLIGHT

Seend and Bulkington



DECEMBER 2007
& JANUARY 2008

DIARY DATES FOR LATE NOVEMBER

- 29th WI Hall planning application at Council Chamber, Browfort, 2.15pm
- 30th Village Skip - Seend Community Centre
- 30th Keevil School open to public from 2-7pm to view finished building work

DIARY DATES FOR DECEMBER

- 1st Christmas Craft Fair in the Pavilion 10.30am-2.30pm
- 5th Shuttle Shopping trip - ring 828568 by Monday 3rd to book
- 7th Seend School Christmas Fair, 6pm at the School
- 9th Seend Ramblers - meet 9.30am in Rusty Lane
- 10th Mobile Library - 9.35am The Lye, Seend; 10am Telephone Box, Seend Cleeve
10.55am - 11.25am car park at Topsy Toad, Bulkington
- 12th MU Carol Service 2.30pm at St Barnabas Church, Beanacre
- 15th Christmas Bingo - 7.30 for 8pm in the Community Centre
- 16th Carols around the Fire at Cleeve House, 3pm
- 17th Carol singing in Seend - meet 7pm entrance to Dial Close
- 17th Short Mat Bowls Club Xmas Social Night - 7.30pm in Community Centre
- 18th Carol singing in Poulshot - meet 6pm Village Hall
- 20th Bulkington Carol Service 7pm
- 21st Carol singing in Bulkington - meet 7pm Church
- 21st Christmas Draw Party Night in Community Centre
- 23rd Seend Carol Service 6pm
- 26th Great Bulkington Railway 1-3.30pm
- 27th Seend Ramblers - meet 10am Rusty Lane

DIARY DATES FOR JANUARY

- 1st New Year's Day Walk - 11am outside Community Centre
- 2nd Shuttle Shopping trip - ring 828203 by Monday 31st December to book
- 7th Mobile Library - 9.35am The Lye, Seend; 10am Telephone Box, Seend Cleeve
10.55am - 11.25am car park at Topsy Toad, Bulkington
- 12th DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY SPOTLIGHT**
- 14th WEA class 'Understanding Theatre' - 7.30pm upstairs in Community Centre
- 16th MU AGM
- 20th Seend Ramblers - meet 9.30am in Rusty Lane
- 21st Mobile Library - 9.35am The Lye, Seend; 10am Telephone Box, Seend Cleeve
10.55am - 11.25am car park at Topsy Toad, Bulkington
- 23rd Community Centre AGM 7.30pm
- 26th Seend Ramblers skittles evening at Corsham Football Club 7.30pm

DIARY DATES FOR FEBRUARY

- 4th Mobile Library - times as Dec 10th
- 7th Theatre Club AGM - 7.30pm in the Pavilion
- 9th 'Spectrum' party band - 8.15pm in Community Centre
- 18th Mobile Library - times as Dec 10th
- 19th Theatre Club outing to the Watermill Theatre
- 21st-23rd Panto - 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' - in the Community Centre

Welcome to the December/January Issue

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

As usual there is a lot going on in our villages during the festive season. It all starts with the Christmas Craft Fair in the Pavillion on 1st December. Seend School's Christmas Fayre takes place in the school hall on Friday 7th. Then on Sunday 9th at 4pm there will be a special "Christmas Lights" service in Holy Cross when we are invited to offer a gift for a child less fortunate than ourselves.



As Christmas draws even nearer you can enjoy "eyes down" on Saturday 15th December at Christmas Bingo in the Community Centre. The following afternoon why not take a stroll down to Cleeve House for carol singing round the fire. If you enjoy singing carols then do join in the annual "carol singing around the villages" in Seend on the 17th and Bulkington on 21st. Moving into Christmas week we have the traditional carol services in our two churches; Holy Cross on 23rd and Christchurch on Christmas Eve. If you have children do try to take them to the Crib service at Holy Cross on Christmas Eve - it is a lovely occasion.

On Boxing Day, the Great Bulkington Railway will be open for business as usual, whatever the weather! Another village tradition takes place on 1st January. We speak of course of the great New Year's Day Walk, starting from outside the Community Centre at 11am. Details of all these events and more are inside. So start getting into the Christmas spirit!

Last month we told you about the Christmas card designed by one of the village children. It has arrived and it looks great. Copies are available from the Post Office and the cards will also be on sale at some of the events mentioned above. If you haven't seen the card yet do have a look at one. They were designed by Cliona Walker and she did a terrific job.

Finally - an announcement. Earlier this year our magazine was entered for the 2007 National Parish Magazine Awards. We are proud to announce that out of the 200 entries, Spotlight finished in 11th place. So thank you to all our contributors and helpers who play a vital role in producing Spotlight each month. Take a bow!

The Spotlight Contacts

Contributions for the Februry issue (*deadline 12th January*) can be sent by e-mail to spotlight@seend.org.uk or delivered to the Post Office, High Street, Seend or for Bulkington contributions to Jo Bell at 1 Northfields, Bulkington (e-mail to trevor@bell8490.freeserve.co.uk). Comments and queries – Joanna Goddard on 828488 or Tina Yockney on 827139.

EVENTS IN DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

Pavilion, Saturday 1 December 10.30am - 2.30pm

Stalls to include pottery, paintings, jewellery,
wood turning, Christmas items

Refreshments, soup and ploughman's lunch available

Entry £1 (to include free raffle tickets)

Proceeds in aid of church funds

Seend School Christmas Fayre



Friday 7th December from 6pm in the school hall.

There will be lots of stalls and activities, including tombola, wreaths, jewellery, cakes, mince pies and mulled wine. And as a treat for the children, Chuffy the Train will take them on a ride to see Santa in his Grotto (tickets for train to be booked in advance). All welcome to this festive event.

* * * *

Christmas Bingo

Saturday, 15th December

7.30 for eyes down at 8pm in the Community Centre

Admission free - 50p per card



Christmas Draw

50p a number in the Community Centre Club Bar now.

Your chance to win some very generous prizes!

The draw will take place on the evening of December 21st at a

Christmas party complete with skittles and food.

Carol Singing around the Fire

at Cleeve House, Seend
Sunday December 16th at 3pm.

Collection in aid of Cancer Research.
All Welcome.

If you would like to contribute a solo or a poem
please contact Carlo Zaccarelli
on 827129.

Boxing Day Train Rides

The **Great Bulkington Railway** will be operating on the afternoon of Boxing Day, (regardless of the weather!) between around 1.00-3.30pm. We shall be giving train rides to lots of warmly clothed small boys and girls of what ever age.

I expect that there will be hot sausages and a collection box for the Village Sports Funds!

By the way Mums and Dads - we can arrange for you to have children's parties in our Village Hall and hire the railway for a couple of hours - best in the summer.



Nev Boulton, Signalman. 828 101

EVENTS IN JANUARY

New Year's Day Walk



Begin the new year with a 2-3 mile walk round the village, starting from outside the Community Centre at 11 am, and return there for hot soup and other refreshments (including alcoholic if you're already abandoning the resolution made the night before) !

**Seend Community Centre
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 23rd January 2008 at 7.30pm
at The Community Centre**

This meeting will provide the first opportunity for you to hear the report of your Management Committee on the progress that has been made during the past eighteen months and the plans that are being made for the coming year.

It provides you with the opportunity to discuss these plans, for you to contribute your ideas and for you to help influence the success and future direction of the Community Centre to the greatest benefit of you, the villagers of Seend and our neighbouring communities.

Please put this date in your diaries and do make every effort to attend the meeting.

**Robin Heatley
Hon. Secretary**

EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

Prepare to party at the latest of Sam's popular shows

Saturday February 9th from 8.15pm

'Spectrum' - a 6-piece party band

Tickets £12 - available from around Christmas time at the
Community Centre or from Sam Sainsbury on 01380 828157.

Food available

Seend Fawty Players - 29th village panto

Watch out for our original and daft production of **Goldilocks and the Three Bears** in the Community Centre at 7.30pm on 21st and 22nd February and 7pm on 23rd February. Tickets will be available about a month before – look out for posters for details.

NEWS

WI HALL

The WI Hall planning application is being considered at a public meeting in the Council Chamber at Browfort at 2.15pm on Thursday, 29th November, so we hope to have news in time for the February edition of Spotlight.

MOBILE LIBRARY

The next visits of the mobile library for Seend and Bulkington will be on the 10th December (no visit on Christmas Eve) and 7th and 21st January– at the following times:

Seend - 9.35am-9.50am at The Lye

Seend Cleeve - 10am-10.15am at the Telephone Box

Bulkington - 10.55am – 11.25am at the car park of the Topsy Toad.



BULKINGTON FIREWORKS GO WITH A BANG!

This year's annual bonfire and fireworks display on Bulkington's village playing field was a great success despite the weather. The day started with a thick 'pea-souper' of a fog raising fears that the evening event may end up shrouded in uncertainty. Eventually it cleared at about

4.00pm only for the fog to descend back down again about 30 minutes later. Thankfully, undeterred by the fact that you couldn't see from one side of the High street to the other, villagers from Bulkington and the surrounding areas began to arrive. Numbers were estimated to be over 350 but as you could only see 7 people at any one time, accurate estimates were not easy.

However, we sold over 250 sausages and burgers so unless someone's been downing more meat than is healthy for them, the numbers may just be exact!

Once the bonfire had caught the fireworks began and most people agreed that the foggy night did not stop the fun. In the end, only a couple of super charged rockets departed out of the Bulkington orbit to explode beyond everyone's view, the rest remaining in view and often enhanced by the effect of the damp air. Well fed and well entertained all the guests left with nothing but kind words to say for the willing band of volunteers from the Bulkington Village Hall Committee who organised the event. The committee were very ably supported by Barry and Jeff who launched all the fireworks plus Martin and Kate who helped on the burger stand.

I would also like to add my most heartfelt thanks to the Breach family who made an enormous contribution to the event, both in time and money.

Without them the bonfire would not have been built and they very kindly

went to a lot of trouble to help clear it up afterwards, in addition to providing a tractor and generator on the night. They never look for thanks or recognition, always have a solution to any problem which may arise and can be relied upon to help in a calm, cheerful and uncomplaining way; overall a shining example of generosity and community spirit – we all salute you and thank you! Finally, a huge thank you to everyone who came along and made the event such a success, without you there is no event, see you all next year!

The Bulkington Village Hall Committee

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please contact the Spotlight team if you wish to make any general announcements be it births, deaths or marriages, wedding anniversaries or any other kind of celebration which you would like to share with Spotlight Readers. Space permitting, we will try to print all your announcements. If you don't tell us, we can't announce it!

CHURCH NEWS

Just to let you know...Advent, Christmas, Epiphany and Candlemas!

From the very beginning of December through to the start of February is a journey of discovery! As we watch and wait through **Advent** we are like those who were hoping for the arrival of Jesus over 2000 years ago. On **Advent Sunday** the beautiful 'darkness into light' Advent Carol Service helps us begin this season of waiting and then each Wednesday evening just for ½ hour in one of our churches are the **Advent Meditations** (5th Dec Bulkington, 12th Dec Poulshot, 19th Dec Seend all at 18.30) which means time of stillness and quiet reflection on some of the Bible passages related to 'The Holy Family' as we see how the coming of Christ affected the lives of those closest to Him. *(Please feel free to collect an Advent Meditations booklet available in any of our three churches from December.)*

Early in December is the '**Christmas Lights' Children's Gift Service** where we think of all the kinds of Christmas lights we experience but also of Jesus and the way in which we too can be Christmas Lights by offering a gift for a child less fortunate than ourselves. Any new or nearly-new gift, wrapped or unwrapped, for any age child will be welcome at this service and then will be gratefully received by West Wilts Social Services to be distributed to some of the families they serve.

We come to **Christmas** to celebrate the Best Gift of all, Jesus, who came to share our lives in our times of joy and of need as well as to transform and fulfil our lives with His presence and His love. As we think of God born to us in a manger can we stoop low enough to see Him...?

At *Epiphany* we celebrate Jesus being revealed to the world, God available to everyone, shepherds **and** kings! By *Candlemas* we know that Lent and Easter are not far away and we hear the story of old Simeon who has waited all his life to see the Messiah, to see Jesus, and now he holds the holy baby in his arms. Indeed this is exactly how close God is to all us!

Come and join us on the magical journey and see what *you* can discover!

Rev'd Sacha Pearce, Rector

Can you add to the little kitten story?

On Saturday 17th November I was called to help with the after effects of a hit-and-run incident that had happened outside the Rectory on the High Street at about 15.00. A young friend from the village came to get me having seen a red car speed by and hit a little kitten (who was probably about a year old tabby with amber eyes and white feet). The young cat got to safety in Church Path but, although we called the RSPCA, while we waited very sadly died about half an hour later. Various unsuccessful efforts were made to find the owner but by Sunday morning someone had collected the cat. If you know any more perhaps you'd kindly let me know. Sadly this is yet one more casualty from the speeding traffic through Seend.

Rev'd Sacha Pearce 828615

THE 49 CLUB

A big thank you to the members of the 49 Club. The first winners were:

No. 7 Mr Goman – 10th November

No.29 Dennis Hillier – 17th November

Jan Gudge

CHURCH SERVICES FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

December 2nd	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion (Seend)
	9.30am	Family Eucharist (Bulkington)
	11.15am	Parish Eucharist (Seend)
	6.00pm	Benefice Advent Carols (Seend)
	6.00pm	Evensong (Poulshot)
December 9th	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion (Seend)
	9.30am	Matins (Poulshot)
	11.15am	Parish Eucharist (Seend)
	4.00pm	Christmas Lights Children's Gift Service (Seend)
	6.00pm	Evensong (Bulkington)

December 16th	8.00am BCP Holy Communion (Seend) 9.30am Parish Eucharist (Bulkington) 11.15am Parish Eucharist (Seend) 6.00pm Parish Eucharist (Poulshot)
December 20th (Thursday)	7.00pm Carol service (Bulkington)
December 23rd	8.00am BCP Holy Communion (Seend) 9.30am Family Eucharist (Poulshot) 11.15am Family Eucharist (Seend) 6.00pm Carol service (Seend)
December 24th Christmas Eve	4.00pm Crib service (Seend) 6.00pm Carol service (Poulshot) 11.30pm Benefice Midnight Eucharist (Seend)
December 25th Christmas Day	10.00am Benefice Eucharist (Seend)
December 30th	10.00am Benefice Eucharist (Poulshot)
January 6th Epiphany	8.00am BCP Holy Communion (Seend) 9.30am Family Eucharist (Bulkington) 11.15am Parish Eucharist (Seend) 6.00pm BCP Evensong (Poulshot)
January 13th Plough Sunday	8.00am BCP Holy Communion (Seend) 9.30am Matins (Poulshot) 11.15am Parish Eucharist (Seend) 6.00pm Evensong (Bulkington)
January 20th	8.00am BCP Holy Communion (Seend) 9.30am Parish Eucharist (Bulkington) 11.15am Parish Eucharist (Seend) 6.00pm Parish Eucharist (Poulshot)
January 27th	8.00am BCP Holy Communion (Seend) 9.30am Family Eucharist (Poulshot) 11.15am Family Eucharist (Seend) 6.00pm Songs of Praise Evening Prayer (Bulkington)
February 3rd Candlemas	8.00am BCP Holy Communion (Seend) 9.30am Family Eucharist (Bulkington) 11.15am Parish Eucharist (Seend) 6.00pm Evensong (Poulshot)

First Steps Benefice Parent and Toddler Church Service

The next Parent and Toddler service at Seend will take place on Tuesday 4th December from 2.15pm - 2.45pm. All welcome.



Carol singing around the village

Mon 17th Dec **Seend** meet at the High Street end of Dial Close 19.00

Tues 18th Dec **Poulshot** meet at Village Hall 18.00

Fri 21st Dec **Bulkington** meet at church 19.00

Seend Methodist Chapel

Services for December 2007 and January 2008

2 nd December	10am	Mr Douglas Colborne
9 th December	10am	Revd Ruth E Whittard
16 th December	10am	Revd Roy Fowler – Holy Communion
23 rd December	6 pm	Carol Service at Holy Cross
30 th December		No services
6 th January	10am	Mr Derek Gard
13 th January	10am	Revd Roy Fowler – Annual Covenant Service with Holy Communion
20 th January	6pm	Ecumenical Service led by Revd Jean Simmonds
27 th January	10am	Miss Janet Ruddick

All Welcome.

FROM ROY

I know someone who is going to get a sat nav for Christmas – what a lucky person. It's not me. I shall have to struggle on with my Wiltshire map book and the RAC road atlas.

Every so often, I hear stories of how the sat nav has sent someone the wrong way. A bus load of school children find themselves in the middle of a farmer's field or something similar. I wonder who is most surprised: the children or the farmer.

I can't help thinking that the Christmas story leads us where we don't expect to be. At least it would, if it hadn't become over familiar to many of us. Luke takes us to an animal shelter to find the baby lying in a hay rack. Then he takes us out onto the hills to find some rough shepherds who are summoned to visit the baby. We are being led on to all the surprise encounters of the gospel story that follows.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, where do we expect to find Christ?

Where do we expect the miracle of God with us to happen? Might I suggest that it might be in the part of your life that you would expect God least likely to want to visit? Might I suggest that it will be the part of our community that most people would rather forget? Might I suggest that it will be in the darkest place in the world that everyone believes is beyond hope?

God is drawing near with surprising love. Are we turning the right way to find it?

Christmas blessings on you all.



Bulkington Carols

Our Candlelit Carol Service this year will be held on Thursday December 20th at 7 pm in Christ Church Bulkington.

The augmented Benefice Choir will be singing, and there will be some Christmas Music played by the Serendipity Handbell Ringers. As the Christmas Story unfolds during the Service, so we will be inviting people to come out with the animals and characters to build up our Nativity Scene. Of course, the crib will be empty, waiting for Christmas morning. Let's hope we will find the baby there on that special day.

You, and your family and friends, are warmly invited to our service. After the service there will be time to relax over a glass of mulled wine (or fruit juice) and mince pies. We do hope you will be able to come. All the family are welcome.

On Friday December 21st we are hoping that a group of enthusiastic volunteers will gather outside the Church at 7pm. to sing carols round the village. There will be our usual festive refreshments en route, thanks to the kind generosity of Joan Champion. Please come and lend your voice to a good cause.



Liz Futter 828485

CLUB AND ORGANISATION NEWS

SEEND COMMUNITY CENTRE

The **Wine and Food Fair** on November 10th went really well, with over 70 people enjoying the party atmosphere, trying different wines, sampling and buying delicious local produce from the food stalls and tucking into a magnificent buffet. Many thanks to all the helpers who made this event possible, especially to Ron Westacott (who made that wonderful banner) and to Colin and Jo Waldeck.

Our second **Table Top Sale** on November 18th was also well attended, but, unless someone else wants to take on the organisation of future sales, it looks like that may be the last one.

Christmas Bingo – December 15th. See details in Events section.

New Year's Day Walk – see details in Events section.

Community Centre AGM – January 23rd. See details in Events section. Please try to attend this important meeting.

Table Tennis – free professional tuition for 10- to 15-year-olds continues from 5.30-7.15pm each. Russ Collins (0790 555 8309) can tell you more.

Private hire

The hall, kitchen and upstairs meeting room are all available for parties, weddings, conferences etc. Ring Frank Teasdale on 828617 for details.

And do have a look at our **web pages** at:
www.seend.org.uk/community_centre.shtml

Tessa Doe

SEEND SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB – meets every Monday at the Community Centre at 7.30pm. Monday December 17th is **XMAS SOCIAL NIGHT** – fun and games - food and drink – everyone welcome! Starts at 7.30pm.

Colin Waldeck
01380 828946

HALLOWEEN DANCE

The dance on 3rd November was a great success, Ray and Geoff would like to thank all who came along and helped to raise the magnificent sum of **£837** for Dorothy House.

SEEND SHUTTLE

Happy Festive Season from your Community Bus Committee! If you'd like to make us happy, please talk to us about being a volunteer driver or joining the cleaning rota. Ring Pete or Anita on 01380 828757.



First Wednesday Shopping Trips to Salisbury or Bath – please ring Alison on 828568 by Monday 3rd December to book for Wednesday 5th. Ring Terry on 828203 by Monday 31st December to book for Wednesday 2nd January.

The Tuesday service to Melksham

Don't forget this service now operates without the Bromham detour, so is a quick and convenient way to do your shopping and errands in Melksham. You can see the timetable for this (as well as the Monday Post Office run and the Thursday service to Devizes via Bromham) on www.seend.org.uk

SEEND AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

22 ramblers completed a pleasant walk on 4th November starting from Heaven's Gate to the village of Horningsham and back though the Longleat estate. Misty conditions at first gradually improved. Thanks to Brian and Geraldine De'Ath for planning this walk.



Sunday 9th December: Meet in Rusty Lane for 9.30am departure. The walk commences from the station car park at Cranmore at 10.15am. Take the A361 as if travelling to Shepton Mallet, but just short of the village of Douling take the left turn signposted 'Cranmore Station'. The walk is approx 6 miles, with three small inclines. Bring refreshments. Leader Ron Apted (01380 828427). If you intend making your way to Cranmore independently, Ron would appreciate you phoning him beforehand. Thank you.

Thursday 27th December: Brenda and Bob Jones are planning a walk, details to be finalised, possibly in the Roundhill are of Devizes. Meet in Rusty Lane for a 10am start. This walk will not be more than five miles. Bring a drink for a coffee stop.

Tuesday 1st January a.m.: There will be no organised Club walk as there will be a short walk of 2-3 miles around the village starting from outside the Community Centre, with hot soup and other seasonal refreshment available afterwards. See Events section.

Sunday 20th January: Meet in Rusty Lane for a 9.30am start for a walk organised by Gerald Salter, still in the planning stage at the time of going to press. Phone Gerald and Lin on 01225 706451 a bit nearer the time.

Saturday 26th January: A skittles evening has been arranged at Corsham Football Club (Lacock road out of Corsham) starting at 7.30pm. Bring a plate of food for an American Supper. Wendy and Reg are organising this event. Please let them know whether you are able to come – 01249 652422 home or 01249 652573 during working hours.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of our Committee to wish all members and friends a very good Christmas and a healthy Happy New Year.

Lin Salter

SEEND AND DISTRICT THEATRE CLUB

The AGM will be held in the Pavilion at 7.30pm on Thursday 7th February, when the past year will be reviewed and we will be looking ahead to future theatrical treats. Members will be able to pay their annual subscription of £5. Mr Jim Hodges, formerly Head of English and Drama at Dauntseys, will be entertaining us with reminiscences of his experiences in drama, both amateur and professional. There will also be time to enjoy a convivial glass of wine. All members are invited to attend and anyone who would like to know more about the Club is welcome to come along and enjoy the evening.

Talking of things theatrical, may I remind you of the Spring WEA course entitled "Understanding Theatre", described as a fun trip through the decades of twentieth century British Theatre, when realism and theatricality fought for domination. The tutor, Christopher Scott, will present lively readings of short extracts from the works of playwrights and you'll hear tales of artistic movements and dramatic personalities told by a good storyteller. The meetings start on Monday 14th January 2008 from 7.30 to 9.15pm in the upstairs room of the Community Centre (half term 18th February). The cost, which is subsidised, is £40 for 8 classes.

Our first trip to the theatre in 2008 will be to the Watermill at Newbury on Tuesday 19th February when we will hope to enjoy the usual supper before John Doyle's production of the Stephen Sondheim musical, "Merrily we Roll Along". Members will be notified in due course.

We, the Theatre Club Committee, wish all our members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year of jolly theatre-going! Roger Brind, Tony and Sylvia Ewin, Ann Hunt, Carole Jackson, and Marion Whitehead.

Sylvia Ewin 828325

SEEND AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Jennifer Harmer spoke about the naming of plants at our November meeting. She called her talk 'Look who is in our Garden' and based it on the Hardy Plant Society stand at Chelsea in 1988.



Many of the plants that have been cultivated in our country for many years originated in other places in the world. Some of them were brought back by missionaries, doctors and travellers for whom an interest in plants was a hobby and then later gardeners and botanists who organised expeditions to find new and interesting plants for cultivation in this country. Many of us will have grown the trailing houseplant tradescantia, named after one of the earliest collectors Tradescant. Any plant with banksii or banksia as

part of its name is named after Joseph Banks who helped to found the Royal Horticultural Society and travelled with Captain Cook. He apparently wanted to travel with him a second time but his demands to bring an orchestra on board as well put paid to that! The list and anecdotes continued with William Hooker who renovated Kew, David Douglas, Pere David Armand (Clematis Armandii), William Robinson, Ellen Willmott who scattered seed of her favourite Eryngium in all the gardens she visited so that it is now called Miss Willmott's ghost and many others. In the 20th Century nurserymen began to develop new varieties of old plants and named them after their wives, children and workers and in at least one case their dog (Geranium Bertie Crug from Crug plants). And of course these days new varieties are named after 'celebrities' and promoted at Chelsea.

A select few of us attended the RHS lecture in Bath given by Helen Dillon from Dublin whose garden we hope to visit next year on our away trip. She was a very enthusiastic speaker, stating that gardening is trying to control things that don't want to be controlled, chatting about the changes to her garden over the years and showing how fashions in gardening change as well as advocating change for its own sake. An example was a statue in her garden surrounded by a complicated pebble pattern. She became bored with it and replaced the pebbles with gravel and box, still didn't like it and wrapped the statue with barbed wire and finally removed the statue! (I preferred it the original way). One of her many forthright asides was that as one ages one edits one's plants as one edits one's friends!

The talk, at our December meeting on 11th, will be given by Lucy Ellis, who will be demonstrating flower arrangements for Christmas. The results will be added to the raffle. The competition will be 6 home-made biscuits. We would like lots of entries for this please, because we eat the results as part of our refreshments, which as usual at this time of year will include wine. On January 8th Judith Plante-Cleall will talk on 400 years of Garden Design and the competition will be a photograph to illustrate garden design.

See you in December. Non-members are very welcome.

Sue Johns.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Remembrance Sunday

Twenty five members of the Legion paraded for the annual Remembrance Day service under the command of our President, Peter Hicks and, after wreaths had been laid at the War Memorial by Leo Coley(RBL), Peter Fisher(RAF) and Betty Smith(MU), they were led into church by our Standard Bearer, Brian



Culverhouse. The service commenced with the reading of the names of those from the village who had died during the two world wars and in subsequent operations, read by our President Peter Hicks. This was followed by the two minutes silence, with the Last Post and Reveille being played by our Bugler, Derek Kimber. The service was conducted by the Rector, The Reverend Sacha Pearce assisted by our Chaplain, The Reverend Freddie White.

After the service all members of the congregation were invited to the Community Centre for light refreshments, and our thanks go to the Centre Staff for laying this on so well, and to those attending for their kind contributions towards the cost.

Poppy Collection

The usual team of Poppy Sellers toured the village during the fortnight preceding Remembrance Day and their collection, plus donations in static boxes, charity vouchers and the collection made during the church service on Sunday 11th November amounted to the magnificent total of £2,440.55, so beating the £2,345 collected in 2006. An extra £60 or so comes from contributions to the wreaths and chaplets. Our grateful thanks go to all the collectors (who had to deal with the form filling on the Gift Aid envelopes – which makes such a difference to the total figures) and to all those who so generously donated and achieved this record amount. Special thanks go to Anthony and Katharine Hodgkinson for organising and coordinating the whole event, once again.

Letter of Thanks

The following letter has been received from The Head Office of The Royal British Legion:

Dear Lt Col Hill

Thank you very much for the generous gift of **£500** received from the Seend Branch of the Royal British Legion. This will go towards the work of the RBL in helping ex Service men, women and their families to receive the advice and support they need. Your donation will make a positive difference and help towards changing thousands of lives for the better.

Last year saw the launch of Poppy Support which will deliver welfare services through six separate agencies and our challenge is to get the right help, advice and support to our heroes as soon as is practically possible. Your gift is helping us to achieve this ambitious goal in getting help to the most needy. Once again, thank you for your most generous gift.

Yours sincerely

Russell Thompson OBE

And now a message for all the community whether you have served in the Armed Forces or not ...

Why not join the Royal British Legion. The subscription is currently £11 per year (**less than ½ pint of beer per month**) and you would have the satisfaction of having contributed towards our donation next year which, with your help, could be **£1,000**.

Ring our membership secretary (John Ralph 01225 766150) now, and say your thank you to our young service men and women who daily risk their lives and limbs in the fight against terrorism. Help to reassure them that, in the event of their death or injury, they and their families will have the Royal British Legion to look after them. **ACT NOW.**

Committee Meeting

The next Committee Meeting will be held in the Upper Room of The Community Centre on Thursday 10th January 2008 commencing at 2000hrs.

Roger Brind

SEEND WI

The Speaker at our meeting on the 14th November was Mrs Catherine Knight who gave us a delightful and humorous talk about the 'Cycle Cuba - Fun and Friendship Tour' which took place in November 2006 when 34 intrepid cyclists - comprising 29 WI members and 5 non members, including one man - spent five days cycling 230 miles around Cuba to raise money for Denman College. The party consisted of members from all over England and Wales with Mrs Knight being the only member from Wiltshire. She has raised £6,500 to date but is raising even more money by visiting WIs with her picture show and talk. She was thanked by Kay Beasley. There was a very impressive display of beautifully wrapped Christmas parcels for Green Lane Hospital patients and the Competition for the most attractive 'Green Lane Parcel' was won by Mrs Joan Greenwood who was presented with the E. M. Smith cup.



The Speaker at our meeting on 12th December will be Mrs Joan Greenwood with a talk about 'Superstitions? Ghost Stories?'. The Competition will be 'A Christmas Table Decoration' and the Committee will be the tea hostesses.

The Speaker at our first meeting of 2008 will be Mrs Helen Astill who will tell us about 'Indian Head Massage'. The Competition will be for 'A Winter Scene Photo' and the tea hostess Miss. Ruth Body.

The Committee and members of the Seend WI wish all of our friends a Very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

Betty Smith

MOTHERS' UNION
SEEND AND BULKINGTON BRANCH



In October, the Mothers' Union branch had a very colourful speaker – Kathy Miller, wearing a silk sari, spoke of her work with the Neem Tree Trust in Southern India. This charity does not have a central London office. Kathy and her husband have a van to take their equipment when they speak to all sorts of groups. The van is their head office and a benefactor covers the cost.

Graham Dove, running in the Bath half-marathon, raised £700 for the Trust. We saw a picture of the boys in Tirunelveli outside their home holding cards spelling out "Thanks Mr Graham". This picture made the front page of the Bath Chronicle. The orphaned boys, some of whom are disabled, attack life with great energy. Having only one leg that works does not prevent you playing football! This same zest was evident in all the pictures we saw, particularly those of boys washing clothes in the big water tanks and enjoying the water.

The Neem Tree Trust also works in St Luke's Leprosy Hospital in Tannadu. This disease can now be controlled or cured by antibiotics. While the patients get better their children are housed and educated. The hospital farm breeds goats and patients returning to their village are given a pair or some pigs. We were fortunate that Kathy could visit us before her return to India, and hope we can welcome her again next year.

Future Dates:

12th December, 2.30pm – MU Carol Service at St Barnabas Church, Beanacre, Melksham.

16th January – MU AGM, followed by a talk by Mrs Betty Smith on our overseas link with Australia.

Margaret Coley

100+ CLUB

The draw for October 2007 took place on Thursday 18th October at the Irene Usher Hall (Pavilion) following the AGM of the Seend Historic Houses Club. The draw was made by Club members and the results are as follows:

1 st Prize	£35	147	Mrs Pauline Brown
2 nd Prize	£30	11	Mrs Jane Martine
3 rd Prize	£25	63	Max Bolton
4 th Prize	£20	83	John Smallshaw
5 th Prize	£15	111	Philip Grinham
6 th Prize	£10	4	Harry Broadbridge

November and December 100+ Club draws

By the time you read this, the draw for November will have taken place as will have the biggest draw of the year - the Christmas draw. The winners of both draws will have been informed, but the results won't be published until the February 2008 issue of Spotlight. There are now 12 prizes for the Christmas draw as follows: £100, £75, £50, £40, £30, £25, £25, £25, £25, £20, £20 and £20.

Good luck in the forthcoming draws and a Happy Christmas to everyone.

Bernie Prolze, Organiser

WEA CLASSES 'Understanding Theatre'

Sylvia Ewin has already written about this 8-week course in the Theatre Club section of Spotlight. We can only add that those of us who have experienced one of Christopher Scott's classes are looking forward to more! Do come along on 14th January, upstairs in the Community Centre from 7.30-9.15pm.

Tessa Doe

SCHOOL NEWS

NEWS FROM SEEND C.E. SCHOOL

The children are now starting their rehearsals for our Christmas productions and this year we are using our newly purchased Yamaha Clavinola. We have been waiting for delivery for a number of months, but it has been well worth the wait. The piano was purchased through school fund with the majority of the finance for the purchase coming from the monies given to the collection by the relatives and friends of Mr Stanley Heaviside, past Headmaster of our school. We are extremely grateful to Mrs Heaviside and her sons for supporting our school in this way and will be putting a plaque on the piano in memory of Mr Heaviside.



Last week Chestnut Class were taken by Mrs Coleman, our Deputy Head, to the Swindon Mosque on Manchester Road. The children thoroughly enjoyed the visit and asked many questions. It was to the credit of the children that they were congratulated by the member of the mosque who spoke to them of their knowledge about his faith and the way in which they spoke to him and behaved out of school. I went with the class and Mrs Coleman and learnt many new things alongside the children. I and the children were surprised to find out the reason that shoes are not worn was merely a matter of housekeeping, as the floor is fully carpeted and the Mosque is used five times a day and it helps to keep it clean.

Once again the children are supporting Operation Christmas Child and sending shoe boxes, laden with gifts, to less fortunate children across the world. If any members wish to send a shoe box you are welcome to drop one in at school and we will send it to the distribution depot.

Our football team has managed to win through to the Wiltshire Area Small School Finals at Stanley Park, Chippenham in December. We are also adding a new sporting activity to our out of school clubs next term, High Five Netball, and hope to enter some tournaments in the Summer.

We are again collecting Tesco Sports Vouchers again and would like to thank all the members of the village who do not have children at our school for dropping in envelopes full of vouchers. Your support is very much appreciated.

A special date for your diary.

Finally, Seend C.E. School PSC Christmas Fair 7th December in the school hall at 6.00 pm.. Start your Christmas with your local school come to buy gifts for Christmas, ride on Chuffy the Train and get a present from Father Christmas. Everyone is welcome.

Steven Bennett
Headteacher

KEEVIL SCHOOL NEWS

We were delighted to survive our recent Ofsted and come out of it with such a good result. To get nothing below a rating of 2 (good) is fantastic. A good may not sound great but when translated from Ofsted speak to proper English it really means very good and with a 1 (outstanding) for pupil enjoyment – well – you can't get much better can you? With the various issues that the school community has coped with since last year, it is a testament to the strength and commitment of everyone involved in the school that we have achieved this. I would like to thank everyone for their support for this fantastic school and I look forward to building on this success further in the coming years.

Well done to those children who represented the school in the football festival on Monday 5th November. A win against Longmeadow School is something to be proud of but more importantly, yet again, you did us proud with your superb behaviour and team work. Well done.

Equipment that has been bought with the Sainsbury's vouchers has arrived. We now have 2 tricycles for the reception class, a box full of Lo-lo balls and a new storage system for taking equipment onto the new playground. Thank you to all of you who sent in vouchers. The Tesco Sport vouchers are now up and running so please ask friends, relatives and neighbours to collect on our behalf.

We are up to 94 children now so it is just as well that the building work is finished. On that note, we are delighted to now be in a position to name the day for our '**opening ceremony**'. The school will be open to the public on **Friday November 30th from 2:00-7:00pm**. This will give everyone the opportunity to look around the new rooms and to help us celebrate the completion of the building project. If you know of anyone who would be interested in

coming along to the school then please pass this information on to them. We look forward to seeing you all then.

Jackie Chalk
Head Teacher

F.O.K.S. (FRIENDS OF KEEVIL SCHOOL)

I just wanted to let you all know that the money we raised at the 2007 10K Run and Family Fun Day was £3245.00!! Thanks once again to all who helped in some way as this is a fantastic achievement and will help the school with all extra resources it needs.

‘100 Club’

Yes, it’s that time again! How about trying your luck and joining our ‘100 Club’? For as little as £12, you could win up to 3 prizes from each of the 6 draws to be held this school year. Cash prizes reflect the amount of tickets we sell, so go on and have a go! For more information contact Jan Flynn on 01380 828248 or ask at the school.

Hampers

We are holding our very popular Christmas Hamper Raffle again this year. As always, we will be selling tickets for the draw during December and on the evening of our Christmas Nativity which is when the draw will take place. If you wish to purchase tickets, please contact Debbie Scott on the number below.

Forthcoming Events 2008

We have had many ideas passed around, but here are some of the events that we are proposing in 2008.

Concert

We have invited Impromptu and The Bristol Savoy Operatic Society to come back and perform for us again in the spring, so make sure you don’t miss them this time, they are fantastic! Date to follow.

Plant Sale and Craft Fayre

We will be holding our plant sale at the school in the spring, date will follow shortly.

10k Run and Family Fun Day

We have now put a date in the diary for the 2008 10K Run and Family Fun Day – **SATURDAY 10TH MAY 2008**. We have organized it for slightly earlier in the year so that we do not fall into the half term week – this we found meant that many families were on holiday. We do hope you will all come along and support us on the day as we are hoping to organize some afternoon entertainment to continue the event throughout the day. We will as always be asking for your help with marshalling, leaflet drops or anything else you can help with at this very busy event.

The website details and contact telephone numbers will be available shortly.

If you require further details on any of our activities, please contact Debbie Scott on 01380 870410 or Keevil School on 01380 870376

Debbie Scott
Chair, Friends of Keevil School

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

SEEND PARISH COUNCIL

The meeting held on 30th October was attended by nine Councillors, with Mrs. Savage in the chair. Also in attendance were Mr. A. Lake, District Councillor, plus three members of the public.

Mrs. Raymond, owner of Little Foxes, attended to explain that the mobile home on the site was to be used as a fodder store for her horses, and will not be used as an outdoor classroom. This was noted.

The Parish Council expressed its continued support for the outbuildings conversion to a dwelling at Brooks Farm, Bath Road; and also for the off-street parking at Good Rest, High Street.

The following applications were considered and no objections raised:

K/57448/TR2 Sarsen Housing Association, 46 The Lye
Reduction of a horse chestnut tree and shaping.

K/57575/TR2 Mrs Weston, Squirrels, School Road
Reduction of an oak tree by approximately one-third

K/57505/F Mr Brokas, 30 Seend Cleeve
Two storey extension (renewal of previous approval K/44109)

Correspondence had been received from Highways, to advise they were unable to assist with parking in Spout Lane.

Letter received from Mr. Sawyer, Lye Field, to advise that repair of play equipment was in hand.

Letter received from Mrs. Akerman re. the footpath along the A365 at Sells Green. This would be referred to Highways.

Letter from Wansbroughs, Solicitors, ref. Mr. Cottle's requests for copies of minutes of various PC meetings. These have been sent.

Letter from Mr. Cottle raising points in dispute of minutes of September 2007 and April 2006. These points would be answered in writing, to avoid any further misunderstanding.

Kennet District Council advised that the Community Hall is named as the Polling Station for Seend. The Irene Usher Memorial Pavilion has always been used, and

the Clerk would seek clarification on this.

The meeting to discuss the Precept for 2008/9 to be held on 20th November, prior to the next PC meeting.

Mr. Lake gave a report on the Unitary Council update. He explained the position on the legal appeal regarding the financial situation, the reserves of Kennet District Council and the County Council overspend. He also reported on the despondency among staff, many are seeking jobs elsewhere, and this is causing problems with administration. He undertook to keep the PC informed of developments.

Mr. Lake advised that the date for the WI planning application is set for Thursday, 29th November.

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday, 27th November at 7.30 p.m. at Seend Community Centre.

The date of the next skip is:

30th November Seend Community Centre

Arrangements for recycling and refuse collection over the Christmas period this year:

Refuse and recycling crews will be working as normal on Boxing Day.

Collections on Monday 24th December and Monday 31st December will be completed as usual. Collections following the 25th December and the 1st January will be undertaken one day later than usual. Normal day collections will resume on the week commencing 7th January 2008. Further details can be found on the Council's website, or by ringing the Council on 01380 724911. Excess waste can be taken to the Household Recycling Centres at Hopton Industrial Estate, Devizes, or at Bowerhill, Melksham.

This Christmas it couldn't be easier to recycle your Christmas cards and tree as Kennet District Council is providing local collection facilities to residents.

Christmas trees can be recycled in one of the following ways:

- Green Wheeled Bin, if you have one. If not why not subscribe to the service for a small annual charge?
- Household Recycling Centres based in Devizes, Everleigh and Bowerhill, Melksham.
- Local collection points. KDC will provide a fenced off compound between Wednesday 2nd January and Wednesday 9th January in Station Road car park, Devizes where you can leave your tree for composting. Please remove all decorations and only leave real trees – artificial ones cannot be recycled.

Please take your Christmas cards to any branch of WH Smith, Tesco, TK Maxx and Marks & Spencer (excluding Simply Food) from the 2nd – 31st January 2008 for recycling. Unfortunately, Christmas cards cannot be put into your recycling boxes or paper banks, so please make use of these other facilities.

Over the Christmas period, Kennet residents will place up to 30% more waste than usual in their household bin, generating an additional 9,000 tonnes over Christmas alone. So this year why not do your bit for the local environment by reducing the amount you throw away and recycle your rubbish.

Mrs. Rosemary Fisher
Clerk

***** NEW - SPORTS SECTION *****

SEEND'S RESULTS AND FIXTURES

Football: Seend's 1st team play in Trowbridge and District League Division 1. They are presently top.

3rd November - lost 3-2 to Oaksey in the Wiltshire Junior Cup

10th November - won 4-2 against Warminster Town reserves.

Seend Reserves are in Division 3 - about half-way up the league.

17th November - beat Bratton Reserves 2-0.

Skittles: There are four Seend skittles teams in the Melksham and District Skittles League. Team A are in the Premier Division, teams B&C in Division 2, and Team D are in Division 1. Each team has 12 players. They play every week.

Recent results: 16th November - C - won against Melksham Casuals 6-1
A - no game
B - lost 5-2 to Legion E
D - lost

Short Mat Bowls: Seend has one team of eight players in the Northern Division of the Wiltshire Short Mat Bowls Association Winter League. They play 12 matches between October and March. This season they have played three and won two, losing one. They are sharing the top spot with two other teams.

In October they got to the final of the Wiltshire pairs, the team being Don Hatt and Colin Waldeck. They were runners up and hence go to the National finals in April. The next fixtures are:

3rd December - Marshfield away

9th December - Crudwell away

7th January - Kington Langley home (starts at 7.30pm)

Results and fixtures deadline for February Spotlight is 12th January 2008. Please send to Frankie Goddard at Manor Cottage, High Street, Seend. Tel: 828488.



TAI CHI at Cleeve House

*Come and enjoy some gentle exercise and
learn the ancient art of Tai Chi*

- Gentle exercise for the body, mind, and spirit: feel relaxed, rejuvenated and energised: increase your body's suppleness, improve coordination, and calm the mind.
- It is beneficial for all ages and abilities: beginners are welcome.
- Regular classes each Wednesday: 7.15 - 8.45pm: Price £5.00
- Ffi/ booking; call Brian Wooding on 01985 213474.
-

BITS'N'BOBS

The Mystery of the disappearing laminator

A laminator has vanished from the printing room in the Pavilion. If anyone knows its whereabouts, could they please contact Mike Bryan (828235). Thanks.

Mobile Phone Fraud

If you receive a phone call on your mobile from any person, saying that he or she is a company engineer, or telling that they're checking your mobile line, and you have to press #90 or #09 or any other number, end this call immediately without pressing any numbers.

There is a fraud company using a device that once you press #90 or #09 they can access your "SIM" card and make calls at your expense.

Pass this message on to as many colleagues, relatives and friends as you can, to stop it.

Fire safety over Christmas

Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service has produced a leaflet encouraging people to take the necessary precautions against fire and accidents over the twelve days of Christmas - candles, Christmas lights and alcohol are just a few of the potential hazards! And do make sure your smoke alarm is working.

You can download the leaflet from www.wiltshire.gov.uk or phone Melanie Jezzard on 01380 731188 for information.

USEFUL CONTACTS NUMBERS:

Rector - Revd Sacha Pearce 828615

Churchwardens: Holy Cross; S Taylor 01225 709360 Mrs T Yockney 827139

Christ Church: Mr J McDonald 828376

St Peter's: Mr B James - 724944 Paulette Bremner Milne 828527

Lay Reader: Pam Muller 01225 707804

LPA's: Audrey McDonald 828376 and Jo Bell 828550

Director of Music - David King 01225 710127 Bell Ringers C Mayell 828627

Minister Methodist Church - Revd Roy Fowler - 01249 813340

Irene Usher Hall (The Pavilion) Bookings - Richard Walker on 828250

Bulkington Village Hall - Spike Flynn 828348 or Roger Futter 828485

Lye Field Committee - Dave Sawyer 828583

100+Club Cash Draw - Bernie Prolze 828391

Seend Fete Committee - Bernie Prolze 828391

Seend Community Centre & Club - Bookings - Stan Wiltshire (Skittles only) 828559.

Hall bookings: Frank Teasdale 828617. Sec - Robin Heatley - 828491

Seend Shuttle. Bookings - Alison Cobbing 828568

Seend and District LINK Scheme - Coordinator 828190

Seend and District Ramblers - Bob Howe 828554

Public Footpath Warden - Mrs Ester Daly 01672 513157

Seend and District Theatre Club - S Ewin 828325 M Whitehead 828612

Seend Historic Houses Club - Tony Ewin 828325

Seend and District Gardening Club - Joyce Brand 828433

Seend Book Club - Sylvia Ewin 828325

Seend's Other Book Club - Frank Teasdale 828617

Seend Poetry Group - Tessa Doe 828617

Seend School - 828334

Seend Playgroup - Liz Futter 828485

Seend Bouncy Club - Kate or Kevin 828770

Seend Brownies - Helen Hook 828477

Bulkington and District Junior Youth Group - Ellie Purdy 828035

Seend WI - Judith Bigg on 736358

Seend Fawltly Players - Tessa Doe 828617

Seend Mothers' Union - Elizabeth Campbell 828451

WEA - Tessa Doe on 828617

Royal British Legion and Poppy Appeal - Anthony Hodgkinson 828545

Seend Cricket Club - Peter Wallis 828757

Football Club - Darren Nichols 828535

Tennis Club - Philip Proven 828407

Short Mat Bowls Club - Colin Waldeck 828946

Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator - Anthony Hodgkinson 828545; Owen Burton on 828820 (Seend Cleeve)

Parish Council Clerk - Rosemary Fisher 828281

Seend Website: www.seend.org.uk - Neil Yockney 827139

Bulkington Website: bulkington-village.co.uk Contact :- Angela Read 828925

Seend Post Office & Village Store

01380 828250

NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES

FRESH FRUIT & VEGETABLES

WINES BEERS & SPIRITS

GROCERIES

NATIONAL LOTTERY



POSTCARDS &
STATIONERY



	Village Store	Post Office
Mon	9.00 - 5.30	9.00 - 5.30
Tues	9.00 - 5.30	9.00 - 5.30
Wed	9.00 - 5.30	9.00 - 4.30*
Thurs	9.00 - 1.00	9.00 - 1.00
Fri	9.00 - 5.30	9.00 - 5.30
Sat	8.30 - 1.00	9.00 - 1.00
Sun	9.00 - 10.30	Closed
Bank Holidays	9.00 - 10.30	Closed

* note early closing