

SPOTLIGHT

Seend and Bulkington



December 2006
January 2007

DIARY

DIARY DATES FOR LATE NOVEMBER

- 25th Christmas Fayre - 10am-12 noon. Steeple Ashton village Hall.
Organised by friends of Keevil School.
- 25th Cleeve House Craft Fayre - 10am - 4pm
- 26th Seend Ramblers, meet 9.30am Rusty Lane
- 27th Mobile Library 9.35am The Lye, 10am telephone box, Seend Cleeve
- 24th Village Skip - Seend Social Club
- 28th Seend Parish Council Meeting - 7.30pm in Seend Social Club

DIARY DATES FOR DECEMBER

- 2nd Christmas Bingo - 8pm Seend Community Centre & Social Club
- 4th WEA AGM. 7.30pm Seend Community Centre & Social Club
- 6th Seend MU - Devizes Deanery at 2pm
- 8th Seend School Christmas Fayre 6pm School Hall
- 10th Seend Ramblers - meet 9.30am Rusty Lane
- 11th Mobile Library 9.35am The Lye, 10am telephone box, Seend Cleeve
- 12th Seend Gardening Club talk "Gardens of the Riviera" - 7.30pm.
- 13th Keevil & Bulkington MU - Christmas Afternoon at Keevil village hall
- 15th Village Skip - Three Magpies
- 15th WEA adult education course begins
- 17th Christmas Carols by candlelight at Cleeve House, 3pm
- 20th Keevil School Carol and Nativity Service in Keevil Church at 6.30pm
- 26th Great Bulkington Railway train rides - 1pm-4pm
- 27th Seend Ramblers walk - meet 9.30am Rusty Lane

DIARY DATES FOR JANUARY

- 1st Seend Ramblers - New Year's Day Walk, 9.30am Rusty Lane
- 8th Mobile Library 9.35am The Lye, 10am telephone box, Seend Cleeve
- 9th Seend Gardening Club talk- "The Gardens of Claverton Manor"
at 7.30pm
- 10th Seend WI meeting - Seend School
- 17th Seend MU AGM
- 17th Bulkington Parish Council Meeting
- 18th Royal British Legion Meeting - 8pm Seend Community Centre
- 21st Seend Ramblers - meet 9.30am Rusty Lane
- 22nd Mobile Library 9.35am The Lye, 10am telephone box, Seend Cleeve
- 27th Village Skip - Seend Social Club

Seasons greetings



Welcome to this December/January double issue of Spotlight. Inside you will find details of the many festive events that are taking place in and around our villages. In fact if you are reading this after the 25 November you have already missed two - the Keevil School Christmas Fayre and the craft fair held at Cleeve House. But don't worry there are plenty more opportunities for you to get into the Christmas Spirit over the coming weeks. Then, when it is all over, you can start your New Year fitness regime by going on the annual New Year's Day Walk.. Remember last year's walk? All that lovely mud. Let's make it a bigger and better occasion this time.

The December celebrations start with the Advent Carol Service on the 3rd. Seend School hosts it's Christmas Fayre on 8th December starting at 6pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. Santa will be making his usual appearance but this year the children will travel to his grotto by train (see inside for details of how to book tickets). Later that weekend there is the Christmas Lights service in Holy Cross when contributions to the local toy appeal are collected. For those of us whose children participate it is difficult to decide which is the more memorable occasion; Christmas Lights or the Christmas Eve Crib Service. Both bring tears to the eyes. Full details of all carol services and festive events are contained in a Christmas insert.

This month Spotlight includes some additional advertisements as an insert. This is in response to the many enquiries we have received from potential advertisers. It is nice to know that Spotlight is so popular. The revenue raised from advertisements makes a valuable contribution to Spotlight's running costs, so to our new and regular advertisers we say thank you for your support.

As it is Christmas let us end with an "aah" moment. The editorial team received information about a recent study when young children were asked "what does love mean?" One seven year old boy said "Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen."

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Spotlight Contacts

Contributions for the February issue (*copy deadline is 13th 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 – Meg Combs 828229 or Tina Yockney on 827139.

EVENTS IN LATE NOVEMBER

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE - 25th November

Back by popular demand, we will be holding our Christmas Craft Fayre at Steeple Ashton Village Hall on Saturday 25th November. We will have various stalls including cakes, cards, candles, shoes and festive gifts as well as a children's activity table. You will also be able to purchase raffle tickets for our various 'luxury hampers'. We will be serving refreshments in our festive café throughout the day, so come along and have a browse and make your purchase from the wonderful selection of goods on offer. Doors will be open from 10 am until 12 noon.



CLEEVE HOUSE CRAFT FAYRE - 25th November

10am to 4pm - all welcome.

EVENTS IN DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS BINGO

Saturday 2nd December at Seend Community Centre and Social Club. Eyes down at 8.00pm. Come and join us for this fun evening.



SEEND SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE



Friday 8th December at 6pm

**There will be lots of stalls
including cakes, tombola, wreaths,
jewellery, refreshments and much more!!**

**As a treat for the children, Chuffy the Train will take
them on a ride around the school field before arriving at
Santa's Grotto (tickets priced £3.00 to be bought in
advance from school or by ringing Jacqui on 859197)**

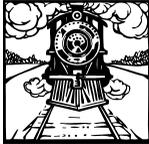
ALL WELCOME

**JOIN A HEARTWARMING CANDLELIGHT CAROL
SINGING BY THE FIRE**

Sunday 17 December 3pm at Cleeve House - Seend

There will be hot chocolate and mince pies. Everyone Welcome

There will be a collection for C.L.I.C (Cancer and Leukemia in children).



Great Bulkington Railway – Boxing Day Train Rides

Come along on Boxing Day between 1pm and approximately 4pm (sunset) when we will be doing train rides and giving away hot sausages! Find us next to the village hall.

Nev Boulton Station Master

NEW YEAR'S DAY WALK

Meet 10.30am Rusty Lane, Seend

Come and Join Seend Ramblers for a short walk of 2-3 miles around the village. The walk will finish around 1pm-ish at the Seend Community Centre and Social Club where soup and/or sandwiches will be served. The bar will be open.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKS - HADRIAN'S WALL WALK COLLECTION

On behalf of the team, I am pleased to report that the aggregate amount contributed to the above, up to and including 8th November 2006, is £2,290.26 to which a miniscule amount of Building Society interest will be added.

The amount to be remitted to Dorothy House Hospice Care (Reg No 275745) will be £1,195.63, the balance of £1,094.63 plus will be passed to the Breakthrough Breast Cancer Charity (Reg No 1062636).

Acknowledgement by the two charities will be communicated when received. Again our thanks to all who contributed in making the foregoing possible.

Ron Westcott

Antoinette Elizabeth Swain (Bartley)

Antoinette was born on 23rd February 1954 and lived on The Lye with her parents Violet and Alfred Bartley. When she was 7 her father died, and she was brought up by her mother. She left school during her first year of the sixth form to take up a job in the library headquarters in Trowbridge. She was a member of the church choir in Seend and an active member of the Girl Guides, achieving her Queen's Guide award. She helped run the Seend Guide group for many years. Both Antoinette and her Mother were members of the Seend Handbell Ringers from the time of its formation, performing regularly throughout the country. The Swain family moved to Seend when Antoinette was just ten years old and got to know Antoinette through the Church and handbell ringing. Antoinette looked after her mother until her death in 1988.

Antoinette and Ian were married in 1990, and she moved to Todmorden near Halifax in West Yorkshire. She quickly established a new life and became a loyal member of the Church and Choral Society in the town. Both organisations gave her much pleasure.

In 1992 Heather was born. Antoinette made the decision to remain at home to bring up Heather. In 1996 the family hit the news headlines locally when Christopher was delivered on the bathroom floor by Ian. Everyone told Antoinette she was very brave – there was little choice, as I recall! Antoinette was a devoted, loving and caring wife and mum who took great care of, and pride in, our children.

Sadly in April 2005 she was diagnosed with cancer. Following a series of hopes and disappointments, we were told that all hope of a cure had passed during our summer holiday at the beginning of August. She has demonstrated great courage and strength during her illness, and received excellent medical treatment throughout. We were delighted that her last wish could be fulfilled when she died at home amongst her family on 25th October.

It was a moving moment as we sat in a packed St Mary's Church in Todmorden on 1st November at Antoinette's funeral service thinking that at exactly the same time, a service of remembrance was taking place in Seend Church over 200 miles away. Many thanks to Sacha, Pam and everyone who attended this service. A collection in Antoinette's memory has raised over £2000 to support two charities which meant a lot to her. The children and I visited Seend very briefly just a few days after the funeral, and will be back in the spring hopefully.

Ian, Heather and Christopher Swain
Todmorden, West Yorkshire

15th Annual Terry Elliott Memorial Darts Trophy – 3rd November 2006.

I would like to thank everyone who played and contributed to the event again this year. The evening was a great success and a grand total for £280 was raised for Wiltshire Air Ambulance. A special thanks to Phil, Jo and their staff at the Topsy Toad. The winner of this years trophy was Les Pike, with Billy Shered taking the runners up place.

Jim Elliott.

Correction “Spotlight Help Wanted”

Under “Spotlight Help Wanted” in last month’s issue, it says that “Anne Salter and her team organised the Magazine’s distribution”. I would like it known that I am not a team leader. Everyone of us has helped in various roles on an even footing including the drivers and all those whose trudge out in all weathers to deliver Spotlight to each house.

Anne Salter

CHURCH SERVICES

3rd December	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	(Seend)
	9.30am	Family Eucharist	(Bulkington)
	11.15am	Parish Eucharist	(Seend)
	6.00pm	BCP Evensong	(Poulshot)
	6.00pm	Advent Carol Service	(Seend)
10th December	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion.	(Seend)
	9.30am	BCP Mattins	(Poulshot)
	11.15am	Parish Eucharist	(Seend)
	4.00pm	Christmas Lights Gift Service	(Seend)
	6.00pm	Evensong	(Bulkington)
17th December	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion.	(Seend)
	9.30am	Parish Eucharist	(Bulkington)
	11.15am	Parish Eucharist	(Seend)
	6.00pm	Christmas Carol Service	(Seend)
21st December	7.00pm	Christmas Carol Service	(Bulkington)
24th December	10.00am	Benefice Eucharist	(Seend)
	4.00pm	Crib Service	(Seend)
	6.00pm	Christmas Carol Service	(Poulshot)
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass	(Seend)
25th December (Christmas Day)	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	(Seend)
	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion	(Poulshot)
	10.15am	Family Eucharist	(Bulkington)
	11.30am	Parish Eucharist	(Seend)

31st December	10.00am Benefice Eucharist	(Seend)
7th January (Epiphany)	8.00am BCP Holy Communion	(Seend)
	9.30am Family Eucharist	(Bulkington)
	11.15am Parish Eucharist	(Seend)
	6.00pm BCP Evensong	(Poulshot)
14th January	8.00am BCP Holy Communion.	(Seend)
	9.30am BCP Mattins	(Poulshot)
	11.15am Parish Eucharist	(Seend)
	6.00pm Evensong	(Bulkington)
21st January	8.00am BCP Holy Communion	(Seend)
	9.30am Parish Eucharist	(Bulkington)
	11.15am Parish Eucharist	(Seend)
	6.00pm BCP Holy Communion	(Poulshot)
28th January	8.00am BCP Holy Communion	(Seend)
	9.30am Family Eucharist	(Poulshot)
	11.15am Family Eucharist	(Seend)
	6.00pm Songs of Praise Eucharist	(Bulkington)

First Steps Benefice Parent & Toddler Church Service

This month's Parent & Toddler service at Seend will take place on Tuesday 5th December and from 2.15pm—2.45pm. All welcome. There will be no service in January, the first for the new year being 6th February.



FROM WHERE I STAND.....

...when there's something we usually take for granted, or even usually ignore or just don't know much about, then it can be fruitful to look at it again and learn something new! Surprising though this may seem I really don't get time to cook properly except on my day-off and even then my culinary repertoire is quite small! However last Autumn I discovered a really sumptuous meal of roast pork with quinces - cooked with white wine, white wine vinegar, onions, garlic, chillies, bay leaves, a mix of muscovado and castor sugar - and 2 hours later a rich meaty dish with a stunning sauce! Until then to me 'quince' meant a line in a poem by Keats or a fruit you may sometimes see in a smart supermarket.

Now this Autumn, thanks to several friends from all over the Southwest, we have made this meal a firm favourite and several jars of quince jelly have been made too! You may know that the quince is an ancient fruit tree species, a relative of the apple and pear and one of the earliest known fruits. For over 4000 years quince trees have grown in Asia and the Mediterranean, the tree cultivated for fruit production from Greek and Roman times, now grown and eaten in many places across the world. A quince can look like a cross between an apple and pear with a rich golden colour when ripe and a strong fragrance sometimes smelling like a tropical fruit. Uncooked the skin is tough and the flesh is hard and unpalatable but when it's cooked the hard dry flesh turns light pink becoming softer and sweeter. Quinces are commonly made into preserves and jellies or can be used when a recipe needs pears or apples. Garden advice says pick them from September, the latest by mid-November, and store like apples. So let's hear it for the quinces!

Just like me learning about quinces from where I stand, when there's something we usually take for granted or even usually ignore or don't know much about, it can be fruitful to look at it again and learn something new! As we move through autumn to winter, to Advent, Christmas and the New Year, so it may be that many of us are just a bit guilty of letting the seasons drift by, take them for granted, even ignore them. Advent, through December, is a time to look, a season of watching and waiting to take time to look for God; a season of wilderness, if we are willing to use the time to travel within ourselves, to discover the place where Christ may be born; a season of wonder as we draw nearer, as we approach the manger and look in. We *can* approach Christmas with a full diary, a long shopping list and a busy family and we *can* approach Christmas with an empty house, a worried and lonely heart. For certain though we *can all* approach Christmas with an open, hopeful mind and heart, willing to look again at the familiar Christmas story, well-known Carols and traditions, ready to look again and think again about what all this may mean...for Christmas means 'God with us'.

From where I stand when there's something we usually take for granted, or even usually ignore or don't know much about then it can be fruitful to look at it again and learn something new! Perhaps many of us could find time to pause like this for a 'stand and stare' moment, to allow one experience to lead us to other reflections and realisations. In that place of pausing and reflecting we may begin to sense the presence of God and so be led to see Him more clearly and find ways of knowing Him more deeply.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Revd Sacha Pearce

Bulkington Church Cleaning

Dec 1st – 15th Mrs A McDonald
 16th – 31st Mrs A McDonald
 January 1st – 15th Mrs A Elliott
 16th – 31st Mrs J Breach

Bulkington Flower Rota

Dec 3rd & 10th Mrs Difford
 December 17th, 24th & 31st Mrs
 Raby-Cox
 January – to be arranged.

If you are unable to do the weeks allocated, please find an alternative person to do your turn.

SEEND METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES FOR DECEMBER & JANUARY

3rd December	10.00am	Mr Andrew Pye
10th December	10.00am	No Preacher appointed. We may join Broughton Gifford Methodists at their 2.45pm service. Please enquire on 828502.
17th December	6.00pm	Annual Ecumenical Service of Lessons and Carols at Holy Cross. Revd Roy Fowler involved.
24th December	10.00am	Revd Roy Fowler
31st December		No service. At 5pm there is a watch night service at Melksham United Church with Revd Graham Hoslett
7th January	10.00am	Revd Roy Fowler will lead the Annual Covenant Service
14th January	10.00am	Mrs Michele Gard
21st January	6.00pm	Ecumenical Service led by Mr Symon Haynes (Lay Reader Worton and Marston)
28th January	10.00am	Mrs Pauline Tiller

Everyone is always welcome.



Christmas Church Services

Sunday 3rd December	6.00pm	Advent Carol Service at Seend
Sunday 10th December	4.00pm	Christmas Lights Gift Service at Seend <i>Jesus brings light to us at Christmas! Please help us bring light to children in need by bringing a gift of a toy to help us with West Wiltshire Social Service's "Toy Appeal"</i>
Sunday 17th December	6.00pm	Carol Service at Seend
Thursday 21st December	7.00pm	Carol Service at Bulkington
Sunday – 24th December (Christmas Eve)	4.00pm	Crib Service at Seend
	6.00pm	Carol Service at Poulshot
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass at Seend
Monday 25th December (Christmas Day)	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion at (Seend)
	9.00am	Parish Eucharist at Poulshot
	10.15am	Family Eucharist at Bulkington
	11.30am	Parish Eucharist at Seend



Village Carol Singing

Come and join us for some festive carolling around the villages of Seend, Bulkington and Poulshot

Bulkington	Tues 19th -	Meet outside Church at 7pm.
Poulshot	Tues 19th -	Meet at 'Knighton', Poulshot at 6pm
Seend	Wed 20th -	leaving church path at 19.15ish and should finish at 21.00. Turn up with a torch!



Keevil School invites you to their

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE

On Saturday 25th November from 10am-12 noon
At Steeple Ashton Village Hall

cakes, cards, candles, shoes and festive gifts as well as a children's activity table and a raffle for our various 'luxury' hampers.

Refreshments will be served in our festive café.

DO COME ALONG

CLEEVE HOUSE CRAFT FAYRE

25th November from 10am to 4pm



Lots of interesting crafts for sale. All welcome



CHRISTMAS BINGO

Saturday 2nd December at Seend Community Centre
and Social Club. Eyes down at 8.00pm.

Come and join us for this fun evening.

JOIN A HEARTWARMING CANDLELIGHT CAROL SINGING BY THE FIRE

Sunday 17 December 3pm at Cleeve House, Seend

There will be hot chocolate and mince pies.

There will be a collection for C.L.I.C
(Cancer and Leukemia in children).



All Welcome!



BOXING DAY TRAIN RIDES AT BULKINGTON

(next to Village Hall)

Come along on Boxing Day between 1pm and
approximately 4pm (sunset) when we will be doing train rides
and giving away hot sausages!

Nev Boulton Station Master





SEEND SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE

**Friday 8th December at 6pm
in Seend School Hall**

**There will be lots of stalls
including cakes, tombola, wreaths,
jewellery, refreshments
and much more!!**



**As a treat for the children, Chuffy the Train will take them
on a ride around the school field before arriving at Santa's
Grotto (tickets priced £3.00 to be bought
in advance from school or by ringing Jacqui on 859197)**



ALL WELCOME



NEW YEAR'S DAY WALK

Meet 10.30am
Rusty Lane, Seend



Come and Join Seend Ramblers for a short walk of 2-3 miles around the village. The walk will finish at the Seend Community Centre and Social Club where soup and/or sandwiches can be bought. The bar will be open.



CLUB AND ORGANISATION NEWS

SEEND COMMUNITY CENTRE AND CLUB

An Update

First the Good News. The mandatory requirement to move and replace the fuel tank has been met and a new double skinned one has been installed in a discreet position. The old (and inadequate boiler) has been removed and a new, more powerful one installed.

A range of new radiators has been fitted. The users of the main Hall will no longer need to wear their thermals for Skittles and other events. The recent frosty weather has already confirmed the benefits and efficiency of the new heating system.

Thanks to the generosity of the Parish Council and Awards for All, the cost of this work has been met from the grants that they have made to the Community Centre.

Now the Bad news.

The application for a grant from the Big Lottery Fund failed at the last hurdle to gain approval. This means that the generation of the cash needed for the work to meet the Health and Safety and Hygiene requirements in the kitchen and the toilets will be delayed as will the improvements to the insulation of the Hall and renewal of the furniture and decorations.

To help ease the problem, in terms of fund raising and time, and to keep the premises viable, volunteers to do some of the work are urgently needed. Friday mornings have been nominated for the working parties and I am delighted to tell you that these have already begun. However, more support is essential. Skills sought are minimal. Anyone capable of wielding a paint brush, a saw or even sand paper will be made more than welcome. Apart from the pleasures of the shared company and the knowledge that every hour of effort will improve the appearance and benefits offered by the premises to the people of Seend, these efforts will enable the Community Centre to stay open whilst the necessary cash is being raised. We cannot allow this valuable asset to suffer the same fate as the W.I. Hall so please show your support by coming along on Friday mornings (9.15---12.30pm) and spare us a few hours of your valuable time.

Always the optimists and with the Festive Season, approaching...is there a Father Christmas in Seend who would make a donation towards the cost of the outstanding work? It surely would be most gratefully received!

Peter Fisher. Trustee

SEEND SHUTTLE**Revised Tuesday timetable**

At the time of writing there is still no definite news about possible changes to the timetable. If there is anything to report, you will find an insert in this copy of Spotlight. You can also find details of any changes on the village noticeboards, on the Shuttle, or on www.seend.org.uk.



Another reminder that the over-sixties can use their **free bus passes** on scheduled Shuttle services (Mondays to the village shop, Tuesdays to Melksham or Thursdays to Devizes). It's a very sociable way to travel!

Christmas shoppers should ring Terry on 828203 to see if there's any room on the **First Wednesday shopping trip** for December.

And don't forget that Pete (828757) would love to hear from potential **volunteer drivers** (whether available for regular slots or just occasionally) and Tessa (828617) or Sarah (828177) are waiting for calls from individuals or groups willing to take a turn on the rota for **cleaning the bus**.

Tessa Doe

SEEND FAWLTY PLAYERS – 'THE LAIDLEY WORM'

Rehearsals are well under way for our next village panto on 22nd, 23rd and 24th February in the Community Centre. We promise that it will be as silly as ever, but those of you of a more studious and cultured bent may like to listen out for literary allusions to Shakespeare, Ricky Gervais, Star Wars and the Flowerpot Men. Tickets will be on sale from around mid-January; watch out for posters.

**WESTONBIRT**

Would anyone interested in a Shuttle trip to see the magical lights at Westonbirt Arboretum in December please ring Tessa and Frank on 828617.

Tessa Doe

SEEND AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Our second meeting of the year was on 10th October and was very well attended. The talk was given by Bob Swaffield, recently retired to Potterne, who without the use of slides or visual aids of any sort, and also without notes, painted a fascinating word picture of his work in a Victorian garden.



As a young boy in the early 1950's he became a garden boy at Cannizaro House in Wimbledon, owned by Edward Wilson, brother of the famous

Ernest. The 58 acre garden was run on strictly Victorian lines and he had to learn over the course of a long apprenticeship, slowly working up through the hierarchy, how to work in the many and varied areas of the garden. It contained a mixed orchard, a sunken garden, a water garden, herbaceous borders, herb borders, an acer walk, an Italian garden, woodland, ornamental lawns, rhododendron walks, tennis courts, a 4 acre kitchen garden and 18 greenhouses. There would be 30 to 40 house-guests each weekend and the garden would have to provide all the produce and flowers for the house and beautifully maintained gardens for the guests to walk in. When the family was in Scotland for the grouse season hampers of garden produce would be sent by rail each day. There was considerable emphasis on recycling and re-using everything, with no waste at all but also a frightening use of dangerous chemicals such as mercury, sulphur, nicotine, DDT, and carbolic acid. Mr Swaffield went into much detail of how things were done, more than there is space for here, but reminded many of us of The Victorian Garden T.V programme of some years ago. His talk was very much appreciated.

The competition, In the Red, was won by Joyce Brand, with Sylvia Ewin as runner-up.

Next meeting

On 12th December Jenny Witham will tell us about Gardens of the French Riviera and the competition will be a flowering or foliage potted plant.

On the 9th January Simon Woollen from the American Museum will be back to talk about the gardens at Claverton Manor. The competition will be a photo taken on a club visit.

Future trips.

The day trip will be on Saturday 21st July 2007, a repeat of a trip from some years ago to Hidcote and Kiftsgate in Gloucestershire. The stay-away trip is to Yorkshire on the 21st to 25th of June, staying in York with some lovely gardens lined up as well as free time in York. We have also been invited by Mr and Mrs Symons to visit Seend Bridge House next year, to see the garden designed by Bunny Guinness, the date to be announced later.

Sue Johns

SEEND & DISTRICT RAMBLERS

Successful Weekend Away Trip - 36 members spent a fabulous week-end in the Forest of Dean, where two 7 1/2 mile walks were accomplished, viewing the most marvellous scenery. Speech House, where we stayed, was excellent in every way and can be thoroughly recommended.



Sunday 26th November - Meet 9.30am in Rusty Lane for a walk in the Wingfield area: distance 6 miles, with two small hills. Leaders: Ron and Rita Apted. Anyone wishing to go straight to Wingfield, please ring Ron (01380 828427), who will explain where to park your car.

Sunday 10th December - Meet 9.30am in Rusty Lane for a walk organised by Bob Howe. Details not yet known at time of going to press. Between 5 & 6 miles.

Wednesday 27th December - Meet 9.30am in Rusty Lane for a fairly local walk, and not too long, just a little exercise to work off the Christmas Pud. Leaders: Brenda & Bob Jones.

Monday 1st January 2007 - A combined walk to include village folk and ramblers will be organised by Frank and Tessa Doe for New Year's Day. Meet in Rusty Lane at 10.30am. The walk will be very short of 2-3 miles around the village, finishing up at Seend Community Centre around 1pm-ish. Hot soup and /or sandwiches will be on sale from the Centre. Join us for a friendly start to the New Year.

Sunday 21st January - Meet in Rusty Lane for a walk organised by Tim and Sandy James (01380 723394). Details not yet finalised at time of going to press.

Sunday 18th February - Leaders: Ron and Penny England. Details will appear in next edition of Spotlight.

May I take this opportunity to wish all our members a very Happy Christmas and New Year, Good health and happy walking in 2007.

Lin Salter

WEA - SEEND BRANCH

The Music of Mozart - Mozart excelled in whatever he attempted. Works from his orchestral, chamber, choral music and operas will be considered at our Spring Course, tutored by David Price. With some, we will explore the structure and craftsmanship, others we will just enjoy. The lecturer is highly recommended and has an enthusiastic following, so we are looking forward to this 8 week series which will begin on Monday 15th January 2007 at Seend Community Centre, Rusty Lane, from 7.30pm – 9.15pm. The total cost will be £38.

Also don't forget the AGM on 4th December. Same time and venue. Usual business followed by general discussion on the future of Adult Further Education classes in Seend. Your views and suggestions will be welcomed, so do come along.

SECOND SEEND READING GROUP

Since the existing Seend Reading Group is so popular that it's even reputed to have a waiting list, is it possible that there might be enough enthusiasm to start a second one?



If you like reading and would enjoy a lively and intelligent (but not excessively intellectual) discussion of the book afterwards, helped along with maybe a glass of wine and just a touch of putting the world to rights while we're at it, ring Frank Teasdale or Tessa Doe on 828617.

Frank Teasdale

SEEND WI

The Speaker at our November meeting was Andrew Newman from the Wiltshire Air Ambulance who described the work that they do and showed a video film. He gave us a history of the Service and told us some very interesting facts. The Metropolitan Police first used an aeroplane to monitor the Derby day crowds in 1921! The police helicopter (a Gazelle) observed an accident at Beanacre in 1988. It landed and took the casualty to hospital and, as a result, the Wiltshire Air Support Unit was formed. A Bolkow BO105 was purchased and used for ten years. In 1999 the Service acquired a MD902 Explorer helicopter - the first in the U.K. It carries a crew of three and is one of only three Air Ambulances in the country that can operate at night. The Air Ambulance can reach anywhere in Wiltshire within 12 minutes from Devizes. It costs £1.4 million per year to operate - 25% of which is raised by donations.



There was a lovely display of beautifully wrapped Christmas gifts for Green Lane Hospital patients and the competition, 'A Green Lane Parcel', was won by Mrs. Joan Greenwood who will be presented with the EM Smith cup at our meeting on 13th December when the Speaker will be Mr Alistair Olver whose subject is 'Herbs, Winter Plants And Shrubs - Plus Christmas Arrangements'. The competition is 'A Handmade Christmas Card' and the Committee will be tea hostesses.

The Speaker at our first meeting of 2007, on 10th January, will be Mr. D. Taylor who will talk about 'Flowers From The Woods - Hands On'. The competition will be 'An Arrangement of Dried Flowers in a Wooden Container'. 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.

Lucy Hatton & Betty Smith.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

All members of the Committee are reminded that the next meeting will be held in the upper room of the Community Centre on Thursday 18th January 2007 at 2000hrs.



Armistice Day - A group of 29 members and non-members gathered at the War Memorial at 1100 hours on Saturday 11th November for a short period of silence and prayers in remembrance of those who died in the two world wars and subsequent hostilities. The prayers were led by The Revd Julian Harford and the two minutes silence was observed.

Remembrance Sunday - Twenty five members of the Legion paraded for the annual Remembrance Day service under the command of Colonel Nigel Knocker and, after wreaths had been laid at the War Memorial by Major Anthony Hopkinson (RBL), Peter Fisher (RAF), Liz Campbell (MU) and Shirley West (WI), 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, read by our President Peter Hicks. This was followed by the two minute silence, with the Last Post and Reveille being played by our Bugler, Derek Kimber. The service was conducted by the Rector, Revd Sacha Pearce, assisted by our Chaplain, Revd 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, we are delighted to say that the village has maintained its reputation for generous giving by donating a tremendous £2,345 (this may be a little higher when the final tally has taken place). Our thanks go to all the collectors, but especially to Anthony and Katherine Hopkinson for organising and coordinating the whole event once again.

Roger Brind

MOTHERS' UNION - SEEND AND BULKINGTON

Seend Mothers' Union



The Operation Christmas Child organisation is responsible for the "Little Boxes of Love" which are taken to the orphans and under-privileged children of Eastern Europe. Seend Branch of the MU has supported this work for several years and already this year shoe boxes have been begged from retailers, woolly hats knitted and toy boxes combed for colourful and

interesting items to fill them. It was of great interest when members welcomed the October speaker, Hilary McFall who is responsible for organising the collection of the filled boxes in this county. She has also visited the countries where the boxes are distributed and had a fund of stories from those visits.

The boxes are like rays of sunshine. First they can be used as drums by finger tapping. Then the lid is raised it becomes a treasure trove. One Indian family could now send their children to school because they each had the necessary notebook and pencil. One helper gives a day a week to sharpening pencils. Tennis balls (from Wimbledon) are washed by machine and then sent. Small bright glove puppets with smiling and sad faces become a valuable talking aid. One boy refused to have the maker's label cut off his brand new coat - the first he had ever had. 40,000 boxes were sent last year, from the warehouse at Bowerhill. There they deal with all the checking and final packing of the boxes. Can you help with any of their work?

Future Dates:

6th Dec - MU Devizes Deanery - Advent Holy Communion Service in Holy Cross Church, 2pm.

13th Dec - We are invited to Keevil –Christmas afternoon.

13th December - 2.30pm Carols and Lessons Service at Melksham.

17th January - Seend MU AGM.

Keevil and Bulkington Mothers' Union

We will be holding our annual Christmas Afternoon on Wednesday 13th December at 2.30pm in Keevil Village Hall. Please come along and listen to readings, poems and join in with the well known and loved Christmas carols. Tea will be served afterwards. Start the Christmas season off with us!. For further details contact Dorothy Tyler on 870340.

SCHOOL NEWS

SEEND SCHOOL

We are now starting to prepare for our Christmas performances in our singing lessons. Key Stage One are performing a Nativity Play and the older children are performing Snow White and the Seven Dwarves.



You may have heard dance music in the school grounds during the morning. This is a new initiative we started this year that involves the children in daily morning exercises. The aim of this is to increase their levels of fitness and

coordination. Exercise has also been shown to increase the level of concentration and the achievement of children. The Government has advised schools that all children should be involved in at least two hours of physical activity a week by 2008, in order to combat health problems that have been identified across the nation.

During the half-term holidays, we continued the development of our buildings and we now have a mini classroom that can be used to support individual children and small groups. We have also had new blinds put in the school hall: this development is quite exciting as it allows us to control the lighting in the hall during the day for lessons and performances.

Fashion Show

Many of the children have just taken part in a fashion show organised by a clothing company Sargeo Kids Clothing which took place in the school hall. It was a fun evening for all involved. The kids - and some ladies! - enjoyed strutting the catwalk in the stylish clothes - some budding models in the making! The money raised will be put towards the building of an outdoor classroom structure, which will include a covered teaching area.

Clothes Collection

Thank you to everyone who donated clothes, etc for our bag collection. The school has just received a cheque for £104. We may do another collection in the Spring, so keep saving up your old clothes for next time!

Christmas Fayre - Friday 8th December at 6pm

See events section for details.

Steven Bennett, Headmaster

KEEVIL SCHOOL

Numbers are still on the up with 78 children now on roll. It's just as well that the new building project looks set to start in January with a view of being completed and ready to move into by the beginning of the Autumn term. It has also been confirmed that we will have use of the field behind the church which will provide much needed extra space. This will be an excellent opportunity to extend our playground and sports facilities- when the weather permits.

The Year 6 children will be taking part again this year in a Lego Robotics challenge at Bath University. Many thanks to parent Andy Vick for giving up his time to coach the team.

Many families took part in a highly successful Family Learning Challenge last month at Steeple Ashton Village Hall. Thirteen families took up the challenge of creating a tableau of a given historical event for other families to

guess. Events ranged from the Great Train Robbery, Edward Jenner developing the small pox vaccination and the miners' strike. (Seeing a certain Mr Tyler dressed up as Margaret Thatcher had to be one of the highlights of the evening!) With a quiz and refreshments thrown in for good measure, it proved to be both fun and educational.

We now turn our attentions to the Christmas Carol Service and Nativity to be held at Keevil Church on December 20th at 6.30. We would love to see as many people there as possible to join in the carols with us.

F.O.K.S. (Friends of Keevil School) – ‘100 Club’

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, have a go today! For more information contact Jan Flynn on 828248 or ask at the school.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

SEEND PARISH COUNCIL

The October meeting was attended by 10 Councillors, with Mrs. Savage in the Chair.

Notice of the following appeal has been received:

K/54142/F Mr & Mrs M Hibberd, 72 Seend Cleeve
New dwelling

The Parish Council considered the following application, and no objections were raised:

K/55400/TR2 Dr S Phillips, 28 Dial Close, Seend
The felling of a Cedrus Deodora (cedar) tree at the front of the house

An e-mail has been received from Ian Lund, Principal Conservation Officer at Kennet DC, referring to the potential new conservation areas that were suggested by the PC in May 2006. These had been to the north of the High Street, the whole Parish and Seend Cleeve. However, it was adjudged that the suggestions did not fit the criteria.

The Rural Housing Trust have invited the PC to send a representative to the Affordable Village Housing Seminar to be held at Dinton Village Hall on Monday, 4th December, Mrs. Carr offered to attend.

A notice has been received from the Wiltshire Association of Local Councils, advising that their website has been launched, and can be visited at www.wiltshire-alc.org.uk.

It was noted that a kerb is missing from the pavement opposite the Brewery Inn; that the surface of Bradley Lane by Spiderweb Paddock is in an appalling state; also that footpath 29 at the end of School Road is blocked at both ends. Highways and the Footpaths Officer will be advised.

The dates of the next village skips will be:

Friday 24 th November	Seend Social Club
Friday 15 th December	Three Magpies
Friday 27 th January	Seend Social Club

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 28th November at 7.30 p.m. in Seend Social Club.

Refuse & Recycling Collections

This year refuse and recycling collection crews will be **working as normal on Boxing Day.**

All collections will be made one day later than usual for the weeks commencing 25th December 2006 and 1st January 2007.

Normal day collections will resume on the week commencing 8th January 2007. Further details can be found on Kennet District Council's website, on residents' collection calendars or by ringing the Council on 01380 724911.

Excess waste can be taken to the Household Recycling Centres at Hopton Industrial Estate, Devizes and Everleigh. The opening hours for these facilities are shown below.

Hopton Industrial Estate, Devizes 9.00 am – 4.00 pm all week

Everleigh Monday – Friday 7.30 am – 4.30 pm Saturday 7.30 am – 4.00 pm Sunday 10.00 am – 4.00 pm

Both centres will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Recycle your Christmas Cards and Trees

Christmas trees can be recycled at the Household Recycling Centres in Everleigh or Devizes, which are open every day except New Year's Day. Alternatively, Christmas trees can be put into your green wheeled bin alongside your other garden waste.

From Tuesday 2nd January to Monday 9th January 2007, Kennet District Council will provide a fenced off compound in Station Road car park, Devizes and George Lane car park, Marlborough where you can leave your Christmas tree. These will be taken away for composting.

The national scheme for recycling Christmas cards is available again this year from Tuesday 2nd January until Wednesday 31st January 2007 at branches of WH Smith and Tesco.

Unfortunately Christmas cards cannot be put into the recycling boxes or paper banks, so please make use of this local service.

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

BULKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will be held on 17th January 2007 at 8.15pm in the Village Hall.

BITS'N'BOBS

PAST TIMES – Frenny & Violet Hughes

Frenny and Violet's parents were both Romany Travellers who used to come through Bulkington in their horse drawn caravan to graze their horses on the Drove. They liked Bulkington so much that they decided to settle down here.

They bought a piece of land opposite the War Memorial and built a bungalow on it. Frenny and Violet's brother, Michael, had a wood yard which was situated near to where the Bus Shelter now stands. When Violet's Mother died they burnt her caravan down the Drove and all the travellers from far and wide came to Bulkington for the wake.

Frenny and Violet came back and forth to Bulkington, but still liked their caravan life so they bought a site near Swindon and much of their time was spent there. Both were very colourful characters – Frenny travelled all over the world, and Violet would carry all her worldly possessions with her in her bag, (gold sovereigns etc) even when going into the pub!

When Frenny died Violet had a vault built for his grave according to the custom of the Romany Travellers. They are buried together, in the Churchyard, with a pure gold cross in their grave.

The contributor of the above article would like to remain anonymous. Thank you for sharing your memories with us. Would anyone else like to share their memories with us?

FORTHCOMING EVENT NOTIFICATION FOR 2007!

10k Run & Family Fun Day – Keevil Airfield

We will be holding our annual 10k Road Race at Keevil Airfield once again. This is scheduled to take place on Saturday 2nd June 2007. The itinerary will remain the same as this year with the 10k Run being held first, followed by various children's races. There will be a Fete throughout the day with lots of children's activities and attractions for all the family. Further details will be available on our website: www.keevil10k.co.uk shortly and we will keep you updated with all the necessary information on application forms and contact numbers ASAP.



The FOKS team would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and thank you for all your support during 2006! We look forward to bringing you a fun filled calendar of events for 2007! Watch this space!! If you require further details on any of the above, please contact Debbie Scotton 01380 870410 or Keevil School 01380 870376.

BULKINGTON FIREWORKS.

The Bulkington firework display went off with a real bang this year, thanks to the generosity of the villagers and to a huge team effort. Many thanks to Ian and Melanie for assisting with collections from house-to-house. Jeff for helping lay out the fireworks in the morning and preventing accidents in the evening. Tom for helping set off the fireworks (madness itself), Tony for manning the gate and Will and friends for acting as marshals.



The Breach family assisted in stabilising the bonfire and providing straw. On the food and barbecue side Nev Boulton organised the team. The onions were bought, peeled and cooked by Rosie Forsey who supplied mustard and napkins and helped buy the burgers and bangers. Thelma Boulton pre-cooked 96 bangers in her oven. Vanessa Morrison spent the entire evening cooking meats and supplied veggie burgers. Gill Breach worked very hard to serve the starving multitudes. The stainless steel barbecue was kindly loaned to us by Ollie Coles, his tomato sauce proved to be very useful as well. Ron Elliott kindly supplied his tractor/generator so we could see what we were doing and Martin Collisson and Kate took the money. Melanie created the mulled wine and soft drinks and Steve provided the heating stove. All-in-all a real village event, supported by villagers. Many thanks to everyone – and to cap it all we raised an extra £100 for next year.

Mark Barnett

USEFUL CONTACTS NUMBERS:

Rector - Revd Sacha Pearce 828615

Churchwardens: Holy Cross; S Taylor 01225 709360 Lt Col A Hill 828397

Christ Church: Mrs E Futter 828485 Mr J McDonald 828376

St Peter's: Mr B James - 724944

Lay Reader: Pam Muller 01225 707804

LPA's: Audrey McDonald 828376 and Jo Bell 828550

Director of Music - David King 727642. Bell Ringers C Mayell 828627

Irene Usher Hall (The Pavilion) Bookings - Ron Apted 828427

Lye Field Committee - Dave Sawyer 828583

100+Club Cash Draw - Bernie Prolze 828391

Seend Fete Committee - Bernie Prolze 828391

Seend Social Club - Bookings - Stan Wiltshire (Skittles only) 828559. All hall bookings: Frank Teasdale 828617. Secretary - 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 - Sylvia Ewin 828325

Historic Houses Club - Tony Ewin 828325

Seend and District Gardening Club - Joyce Brand 828433

Seend Book Club - Sylvia Ewin 828325

Poetry Group - Tessa Doe 828617

Seend School - 828334

Seend Playgroup - Liz Futter 828485

Seend Bouncy Club - Kath Steggall 828821

Seend Brownies - Helen Hook 828477

Bulkington and District Junior Youth Group - Andrea Dobson 827126

Seend WI - Judith Bigg on 736358

Seend Fawltly Players - Tessa Doe 828617

Seend Mothers' Union - Elizabeth Campbell 828451

WEA - Don and Heather Hyde 828342

Royal British Legion and Poppy Appeal - Anthony Hodgkinson 828545

Seend Cricket Club - Mr P 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

Parish Council Clerk - Rosemary Fisher 828281

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

Bulkington Website: bulkington-village.co.uk Contact :- Mark Barnett 828202

Police non-emergency number: 0845 408 7000

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