

SPOTLIGHT

Seend & Bulkington



30 years of Fawltly pantomimes

FEBRUARY 2009

DIARY DATES FOR JANUARY

31st Seend Ramblers Skittles evening at Corsham Football Club, 7.30pm

DIARY DATES FOR FEBRUARY

- 2nd Mobile Library - 9.35 am The Lye; 10am telephone box, Seend Cleeve;
10.55am Topsy Toad car park, Bulkington
- 4th First Wednesday Shopping Trip (phone Terry on 828203 to book by
Monday 2nd)
- 7th Singles skittles competition at the Community Centre
- 9th WEA AGM upstairs in Community Centre, 7.30pm
- 9th Deadline for applications for casual Parish Council vacancy
- 13th Keevil School Disco
- 14th Medieval Banquet at Cleeve House
- 14th **DEADLINE FOR MARCH SPOTLIGHT CONTRIBUTIONS**
- 16th Mobile Library - 9.35 am The Lye; 10am telephone box, Seend Cleeve;
10.55am Topsy Toad car park, Bulkington
- 16th WEA history classes start, upstairs in the Community Centre, 7.30pm
- 19th Puss in Boots at the Community Centre, 7.30pm
- 20th Puss in Boots at the Community Centre, 7.30pm
- 21st Puss in Boots at the Community Centre, 7.00pm
- 22nd Seend Ramblers, meet 9.30am Rusty Lane
- 26th Jumble Sale, Seend School hall, 3pm
- 28th Murder Mystery Evening, Pavilion, Seend, 7.30pm
- 28th Skittles mixed pairs competition at the Community Centre

DIARY DATES FOR MARCH

- 2nd Mobile Library - 9.35 am The Lye; 10am telephone box, Seend Cleeve;
10.55am Topsy Toad car park, Bulkington
- 7th Poulshot Church Lent lunch
- 14th Bulkington Church soup lunch
- 14th Quiz Night in the Community Centre, 7.45pm
- 16th Mobile Library - 9.35 am The Lye; 10am telephone box, Seend Cleeve;
10.55am Topsy Toad car park, Bulkington
- 18th Ladies shopping night at Keevil School, 7pm
- 21st British Legion Dugout Supper, 7 for 7.30pm in the Community Centre

Newcomer to Seend?

Call in at the shop/PO and ask for your copy of the **Welcome booklet**, which tells you all you need to know about the village.

And visit www.seend.org.uk

Welcome to the February 2009 issue



Don't you all feel sorry for the poor souls who say they never know what's going on in our villages? The cure is simple - READ SPOTLIGHT!

Are you now or have you ever been a member of Seend Fawlty Players? Now is the time to confess, as all ex-Fawlties are invited to join in the celebration of 30 years of Seend Fawlty Players' village pantomimes. See page 11. We are also musing on life without a Rector, and seeking applicants for a casual vacancy on the Parish Council. See pages 8 and 21 respectively.

As well as practising shouting 'Look behind you!' in time for 'Puss in Boots' in the Community Centre on 19th-21st February, you are invited to shop for bargains at the school jumble sale on 26th, and partake in a Murder Mystery in the Pavilion on 28th February and a Medieval Banquet in Cleeve House on Valentine's Night. You can update yourself on news from the ever-so-nearly-but-not-quite-refurbished Community Centre at the Annual Meeting on February 12th, and stretch those legs on a ramble on 22nd. Learn about Wiltshire history at WEA classes starting on 16th February - and see exhibits of Seend history in the church. The school would like you to join their 100 Club, and the Shuttle would like you to volunteer to drive it. There are a number of dates to put in your diary for the coming months, too, both in the inside front cover and at the end of the magazine.

Finally, we've had a bit of a reshuffle of the inside back cover, putting all the more formal contacts at the top, followed by clubs and organisations in alphabetical order, leaving out 'Seend' from their names. We hope that makes it easier to find what you are looking for. Let us know what you think.

Lost emails: Occasionally, an email to Spotlight goes astray for no obvious reason. If email correspondents don't receive an acknowledgement by the end of the Monday after the Spotlight deadline, please ring Tessa on 828617 to check if all is well. Please follow the advice in the N.B. below, too.

The Spotlight Contacts

Contributions for the **February issue** (*copy deadline 14th February*) can be e-mailed to spotlight@seend.org.uk or delivered to Seend Post Office or, for Bulkington contributions, to Jo Bell at 1 Northfields, Bulkington (e-mail to trevor@bell8490.freeserve.co.uk). Comments and queries to Joanna Goddard on 828488, Tessa Doe on 828617 or Tina Yockney on 827139.

N.B. Would those sending emails to spotlight@seend.org.uk please include the word SPOTLIGHT in uppercase as the first word of the Subject. This will help the editorial team sifting through all the messages stopped by the SPAM filter, which quite often includes genuine messages for SPOTLIGHT, maybe even your important message!

EVENTS IN FEBRUARY



Medieval Banquet



7:00pm February 14th, 2009
Valentine's Day
Cleeve House, Seend



*Join us for an evening of feasting,
drinking, music, & merriment*

Mulled wine on arrival

Entertainment including Knights Games

Medieval dress optional - Prizes for best male and female costume



*TICKETS are £35 per head or £32.50 for group bookings of 6 or more
To reserve your place (spaces are limited!) please contact Cleeve House*

01380 827 129 or email info@cleeve-house.com

Murder Mystery Evening



The Bulkington Brightlights presents
'Murder At The Manor'

Saturday 28th February, 2009

7.30 p.m.

At

The Irene Usher Memorial Hall, Seend

Tickets: £7 to include light refreshments

Licensed Bar available

Tickets on sale at Seend Post Office and from Sue Noad 870343, Liz Futter 828485,
Audrey McDonald 828376, Anne Snywell 828931 and Jane Coles 828145

P.S. SORRY. NO BLOODHOUNDS ALLOWED!





Seend Fawly Players' 30th village panto

'Puss in Boots'

19th-21st February in Seend Community Centre

See enclosed flyer for details.

EVENTS IN MARCH

Saturday 14th March

12-2pm in Bulkington Village Hall

Soup Lunch

Tickets £5 - All welcome



QUIZ NIGHT

Seend Community Centre

Saturday, 14th March

7.45pm

Cash prizes!

£2 per head - Teams of four

Interval snacks - Licensed Bar - Raffle

Phone 828617 to book a table in advance

British Legion Dugout Supper

Saturday 21st March

7 for 7.30pm in Seend Community Centre

Tickets £12 .50

Phone Roger Brind - 828830



ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please let us know of any births, marriages, deaths, special birthdays, thank-yous etc that you would like to see included here.)

Many thanks to all who kindly contributed to Sacha's leaving present.
She was overwhelmed by your generosity.

***Ray and Geoff would like to thank everyone who supported the dance in aid of Dorothy House in the autumn.
A fantastic £1,150 was raised.***

Collection for "Save the Children" at Cleeve House

**Thank you to all who supported the charity collection at the Craft Fayre in November and the Carol Singing in December.
A volunteer called Mrs Jennifer Brisker spoke to us at the carol singing and the sum of the money raised for SAVE THE CHILDREN was £ 211.00.**

Dear Friends, Families and Pupils of Seend School,

I am writing to express my thanks for the plethora of kind thoughts, messages and gifts with which I was showered as I left Seend School. I always enjoy Christmas, however, this year as I reread my cards, drank the wine and savoured the champagne, smelled the hyacinths, admired the holly tree, soaked in the lovely bubble baths, plotted how best to spend my vouchers, ate the chocolates, wrapped up in the beautiful scarves, laughed at the DVDs, used the personalised glasses, cups and bowls, I really have felt very indulged and privileged. So thank-you once again, I wish you all well and am sure that you will make my successor as welcome as you have made me.

Best Wishes and a Happy, *and educational*, New Year!
Kathryn Toyne

Rental Charges - Bulkington Village Hall.

At meeting of the Bulkington Village Hall Committee on 8th January 2009 the financial position of the Hall was discussed. In order to break even with significant increase in running costs we have reluctantly had to increase the rental charges with immediate effect as follows: -

Up to 2 hours	£10.00	(regular users £8.00)
Over 2 hours	£12.00	(regular users £10.00)
Use of kitchen	£5.00	

Regular User Definition: "A regular user (£8 hire charge) is an organisation which books the hall on a specific regular day of the week for more than 6 occasions per year".

Use of Kitchen Definition: "When the kitchen is used to serve food to members of the paying public (as distinct to serving food to the hirer(s)), a £5 Kitchen Charge will be levied to cover the cost of electricity for the electric cooker, kettles, micro wave and hot water heaters"

Nev Boulton,
Chairman Bulkington Village Hall



BOXING DAY ON THE GBR.

On Boxing Day, as most local people know, we operate the Great Bulkington Railway to raise funds for various charities.

This year it was in support of for the UK Charity 'Help for Heroes'. This is a non-political fund to help injured Service Personnel. Amongst its many good causes it supports the Services Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court, near Leatherhead in Surrey. On a personal note - some 40 years ago after a civil aircraft accident I was a patient at RAF Headley Court for six weeks and they 'mended' me very well.

Boxing Day was fine and dry, with bright sunshine but very cold. We were strongly supported by my friends from the West Wilts Society of Model Engineers and, at a guess - some 300 plus people turned up. The miniature steam and diesel engines did 127 trips around the track with an average passenger load of 5 grown ups and children. That is over 600 passenger rides! We gave away hundreds of sausages and sweets! There were four trains running all afternoon and we raised £675 in donations. There are still some cheques arriving by post. I am very grateful to the membership and friends of the West Wilts SME who made this all possible. We are well pleased and we thank you all for supporting this exceptionally deserving cause. Our next scheduled event will be on Easter Monday 13th April 2009.

R Nev Boulton,
Accounting Department
Great Bulkington Railway.

LOCAL HISTORY at Holy Cross Church Seend

Beginning in February we hope to have a series of small exhibitions on local history in the church.

In June, linking with the Open Gardens Weekend, there will be a much bigger display with contributions from the village organisations, giving a little of their recent history and also future programme for this year.

CHURCH NEWS

Want to be involved in organising fund-raising events to help maintain our historic church? Call Tina on 01380 827139.

From Where I Stand...

... looking at 'change' is inevitable **and** is all around us! At this moment the Rectory is in a state of turmoil. Writing this article before leaving here the house is in that inevitable state of disturbance as furniture and possessions and quite everything is being sorted and prepared for packing and moving or else for shredding and the bin!

The time between accepting the offer of a new job and actually moving is full of several strands of change. Some are to do with the current job like tidying and finishing tasks and projects, making sure the relevant people have all the right information and resources and know to whom they should turn for advice while they take on responsibilities in my absence. Then there's the opportunity to talk over matters of the past and future with Bishops and senior colleagues with their on-going support and recognition. Then there's the new job and making plans for the start. Of course there's the removal firm, arranging for transfer of the 'phone and final electricity bill and all too many things! Then there's the very important time to prepare myself. These final couple of weeks have been full of very kind hospitality with invitations across the Benefice to dinner parties and lunches as well as the very generous personal gifts from all three churches.

Thank you!!!

There's time to be pleased and there's time to be sad, time to celebrate and time to regret. There's time to think back and to reflect. There's time then to think forward. The future is a new and very exciting challenge and we move into a new phase in our lives taking with us all that we have experienced and learnt from the past. The past five years here have added to my experience of rural parish ministry including the very serious challenges that we face when looking at change. Some people during my time here have willingly embraced the inevitable changes in the life of the church and, while recognizing the difficulties, have embraced this challenge with willing hearts and contributed to our work together. They with others have celebrated the value of discovery when embracing and moving forward in the path of new ways of being. Still more, who have come over the last few years to the church at times of changes in their own lives, like marriage or the funeral of a loved one, have seen and greatly valued the opportunity to be supported in their time of change, to reflect with me on their own inner lives, as well as the place of God, in the earthy reality of their experiences. Others have seen the 21st century church in rather negative light and taken its changes in a very personal way, either blaming me or for their own reasons not liked the reality, and have yearned for a quieter less testing time!

The future of the church, and its place in the rural community, relies on being able to look the challenge of change in the face. Voices of rumour in some quarters have whispered relief that their village may now step back into old familiar ways! Sadly that doesn't help the future role of the church alongside the reality of people's moving and changing lives and their place within the life of the village. From where I stand, now and wherever I may be in the future, there are times when it's worth taking a moment to look at the way we are, not only towards each other but the way we relate to our inner selves. When any of us take time to pause like this for a 'stand and stare' moment it can allow one experience to lead us to other reflections and realisations especially when we're faced with change. In that place of pausing and reflecting, looking back and looking forward, we may begin to sense the presence of God and so be led to go where He may be leading us.

Revd Sacha Pearce, Rector

What happens after the Rector has left...??!

From 19th January, until further announcement, the Benefice of Seend, Bulkington and Poulshot is in an interregnum which means that there is not a Rector (*Church of England priest*) in post. Legally and practically this means that, for Holy Cross Seend, Christchurch Bulkington and St Peter's Poulshot, the Churchwardens hold sole responsibility for the daily life and running of the churches. This Churchwarden team is responsible for arranging visiting clergy and lay ministers to lead the services and will continue to meet monthly consulting one another and sharing information. No activity, however small or routine, new or planned can take place without their knowledge! So any activity in the church can only occur after arranging it with the relevant Churchwarden. Thank you very much for your help in recognizing their responsibility and supporting them in their very important role over the next few months.

Churchwardens:

Seend: Tina Yockney 827139 Steve Taylor 01225 709360

Bulkington: Liz Futter 828485

Poulshot: Paulette Bremner-Milne 828527 Janet James 724944

**Benefice of Holy Cross Seend, Christchurch Bulkington
& St Peter's Poulshot**

Church Service Diary

Sunday 1st February

08.00 Holy Communion Holy Cross Seend

09.30 Family Eucharist Bulkington

11.15 Parish Eucharist Seend

18.00 Evensong Poulshot

Sunday 8th February

08.00 Holy Communion Holy Cross Seend
 09.30 Mattins St Peter's Poulshot
 11.15 Parish Eucharist Holy Cross Seend
 18.00 Evensong Christchurch Bulkington

Sunday 15th February

08.00 Holy Communion Holy Cross Seend
 09.30 Parish Eucharist Bulkington
 11.15 Parish Eucharist Holy Cross Seend
 18.00 Parish Eucharist St Peter's Poulshot

Sunday 22nd February

08.00 Holy Communion Holy Cross Seend
 09.30 Family Eucharist St Peter's Poulshot
 11.15 Family Eucharist Holy Cross Seend
 18.00 Songs of Praise Evensong Bulkington

Wednesday 25th February *Ash Wednesday (the start of Lent)*

19.30 Benefice Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes Poulshot

Sunday 1st March

08.00 Holy Communion Holy Cross Seend
 09.30 Family Eucharist Bulkington
 11.15 Parish Eucharist Seend
 18.00 Evensong Poulshot

**First Steps Benefice Parent and Toddler Church Service**

The next meeting of the First Steps Parent and Toddler group will be held on Tuesday 3 February at 2.15 in Holy Cross Seend. We will, as usual have a story, sing some songs and I'm sure that there will be some art work to take home at the end of the service. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served at the back of the church. All are most cordially welcomed. It was lovely to see some old friends at our service in January, and to find out how they are settling in at school. None of them had forgotten the toys at the back of the church in the Mother's Union corner, especially the garage!. If you require further details of this happy and creative group, please ring 01380 828550 and speak to Jo.

FROM ROY

I have just passed some people working on a telephone junction box. The number of wires in the box amazed me. I am sure that if you know what you are doing everything gets connected up as it should. As someone whose telephone engineering skills are limited to plugging a new phone into the box in the house, you should be glad that it isn't me whose has to ensure your phone line is properly connected. I am a complete beginner when it comes to understanding and doing

telephone engineering. I am sure I could learn, but as I don't expect to get a job as a telephone engineer I probably never shall.

This led me to think about discipleship. In Mark's Gospel, the second half of Jesus' ministry is depicted as Jesus' journey towards Jerusalem. It's also where Jesus shares with his disciples the nature of discipleship. This section of the Gospel is framed by two stories of Jesus healing people who are blind. In the first story, the blind person is healed in two stages: to begin with the person reports that they can see people but they look like trees walking about. Then their sight is completely restored. In the second story, the blind person's sight is restored straight away. The two stories seem to be telling us something about the nature of discipleship. The disciples are moving from a point where they seem to misunderstand the nature of discipleship to a point where they have a clearer understanding, but along the way there are plenty of misunderstandings.

I find some encouragement in this. We don't have to see what following Christ entails straight away - it's alright to take time to understand and grow into discipleship. We begin from where we are. I also find a challenge in this. We are never done with realising what discipleship means – we can never stand still. There is still something new to discover and put into practice.

God bless,



Seend Methodist Chapel Services for February

8th February

10am Revd Jean Simmonds, with Holy Communion

22nd February

10am 'Villages Together' conducted by Derek and Michele Gard. All welcome. Coffee and biscuits served after the service.

CLUB AND ORGANISATION NEWS

SEEND LINK AGM

8.00 p.m. Thursday, 9th April 2009

THE IRENE USHER PAVILION

EVERYONE WELCOME

And a reminder that the **Link phone number** is now **075320 55560**.

SEEND FAWLTY PLAYERS - 'Puss in Boots'

Panto number 30!

19th-21st February in the Community Centre

Those of us who were involved in the first Fawlty production of Cinderella in the school hall in 1980 had little idea of what we had set in motion. If you'd told us then that we would reach the round figure of 30 pantomimes (and, we hope, many more to come) we probably wouldn't have believed you.



As our name suggests, we have never taken ourselves too seriously and our main aims have been to bring a bit of fun into the village and to raise money for local organisations and charities. We hope we can claim to have achieved both those aims. We've given away several thousands of pounds over the decades, and entertained audiences of around 600 each year. Our pantomimes have gained quite a reputation for being a bit off the wall; what other village panto group has come up with morris-dancing gargoyles, talking clouds, seven six-foot dwarfs or a yellow brick road constantly being dug up by a group of workmen?

This year's production of 'Puss in Boots' promises to be as silly as ever, with a King of France who makes Louis XIV look shy and retiring, and a sub-plot about a guinea pig (don't ask!). We can also offer splendid performances from our hero and his talking cat, among others. Tickets are on sale from the shop/PO, the Community Centre and the Brewery Inn (see flyer enclosed).

Calling all ex-Fawlities

As we reckon our 30th production is a special occasion, all of you who have taken part in past productions (whether treading the boards or backstage) are invited to the post-show party on Saturday 21st. Ring Tessa on 828617 or Anita on 828757 for details.



RURAL ARTS WILTSHIRE

An early note for your diaries..... The next Rural Art Wiltshire event - **Tuesday 19th May** in the Community Centre.

After their amazing performance of Micky Salbergs Crystal Ballroom Dance Band in the pavilion in April 2008, we are delighted to be able to announce that the **Watermill Theatre** will be returning to Seend with this year's touring production "**Bubbles**". This performance is set in a scrap yard of all places.

Anyone who was lucky enough to see their 2008 performance will know we are in for an interesting evening.

More details to follow in later editions of Spotlight including where to buy tickets.



SEEND WI

Wednesday December 10th saw the Irene Usher Pavilion pulsating to Arabic music. Replacement hips and knees notwithstanding, the members of Seend WI gyrated their hips and waved their arms under the expert instruction of Mrs Wafaa Powell, who came to encourage us all to have a go at belly dancing. Young and old and shy and bold left their inhibitions behind and a great time was had by all. This was followed by mulled wine and mince pies and everybody left having had a very enjoyable evening.

On 14th January, Seend WI were treated to an amazing trip to Bhutan, courtesy of Mrs Freda Ferne. Her enthusiasm for, and delight in, a part of the world which is as yet relatively unknown to many tour operators, was very evident. We were treated to a fantastic slide show and a commentary which was amusing, factual and very informative. Her love for this part of the world and its people was very apparent and generated a great deal of interest. She brought with her an interesting display of books and newspapers for us to peruse after her talk and we all went home feeling uplifted.

Our speaker on 11th February is Mr John Girvan, who is going to talk to us about the Wiltshire Giant. The competition this month is a home-made Valentine card.

Subscriptions for 2009 are now due and can either be paid to Jo Vaux at the February meeting, or left with Susan at 4 Somerset Close or Jo at Bradley Farm Rusty Lane. Cheques should be made payable to Seend WI and, if you are a UK taxpayer, it would greatly benefit our WI if you could sign a Gift Aid form available from either Jo or Susan.

Our meetings take place on the second Wednesday of each month at the Irene Usher Memorial Pavilion at 7.30pm. If you are interested in attending our meetings, please feel free to come along. If you would like more information, please contact either our President, Sarah, on 01380 828730 or Susan on 827065.

SEEND SHUTTLE

First Wednesday Shopping Trip to Salisbury is on 4th February. The Government wants us all to spend money - so what more excuse do you need to go for retail therapy on your own community bus? Phone Terry on 828203 to book by Monday 2nd February.



Good news for hirers: Now that the cost of diesel fuel has returned to nearly the original price, we have reduced our hire mileage charge from 85p per mile down to 75p per mile as from the beginning of January.

New volunteer drivers wanted: With some of our regular drivers reaching the magic age of 75 (when they can no longer be insured for driving the Shuttle) within the very near future, if no one else comes along we will be having trouble continuing our services. There must be a few people in the village who, having reached retirement age, have some spare time on their hands. Please ring Pete on 828757 to find out more.

SEEND COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

Seend Club membership special offer!

Join now and get 14 months membership for the price of 12! See Happenings! for details.

Refurbishments

We are **so** nearly there. Again, see Happenings! for more.

Looking ahead

Annual meeting 12th February at 7.30pm (see flyer enclosed); Snooker competition draw, 8th February; Skittles competitions 7th and 28th February; Panto 19th-21st February; Quiz Night 14th March; Dugout Supper 21st March; St George's Day Dinner 23rd April; Beer Festival 2nd May.; Watermill Theatre 19th May; Summer Saturday Breakfasts start 25th July.



SEEND AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

Thanks go to Brenda and Bob Jones for organising a 5½mile walk on Sunday, 28th December, walking from Weavern to Slaughterford. Six members joined them for what proved to be a most enjoyable walk, despite the very muddy conditions.

Next walk - Sunday 22nd February 2009 Leaders: Colin and Jo Waldeck (01380 828946). Meet in Rusty Lane for a 9.30am departure. Walk commences from Biddestone Village and covers parts of the Bybrook, Ford and Slaughterford. Distance 6½ miles. Bring refreshments.

Lin Salter - Tel: 01225 706451

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Committee Meeting

Would members of the Committee please note that the next Committee Meeting will be held in the Community Centre at 2000hrs on Thursday 26th February 2009.



Dugout Supper (Yes, the old name has returned, Hooray!)

The annual Dugout Supper (open to everyone, whether members of the Royal British Legion or not) will take place in the Community Centre on Saturday 21st March 2009 at 7.00pm for 7.30pm, with entertainment provided by Socket, Sprocket and Wrench, a comedy trio from Devizes.

Supper will be cooked as usual by a dedicated team of Dugouters, and there will also be a raffle in aid of The Royal British Legion.

Tickets (£12.50 per head) can be obtained from Peter Fisher (828305), Anthony Hodgkinson (828545), Roger Brind (828830) or Nigel Knocker (828609) so get yours early.

Roger Brind

SEEND HISTORIC HOUSES CLUB



Our next meeting will be on Thursday, 12 February, at 7.30 pm in the Pavilion. Our speaker on this occasion is Leonora Martin who will give a talk on Corsham House prior to our visit there later in the year.

Details of our forthcoming programme will be announced at the meeting after which everyone is invited to enjoy a glass of wine.

Joy Stack



SEEND AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

In December we were treated to some glorious photographs of the barn owl by Mike Read, a wildlife photographer from Hampshire.

Barn owls are adapted to hunting by pinpointing their prey by sound, the beautiful, white facial disc acting like a satellite dish to concentrate the sound and direct it to their ears. Their eyes are fixed in their sockets which is why they need to turn their heads through 180 degrees to see and judge distance and the leading edge of their wings is serrated which enables silent flight. To see a barn owl drifting through the air at night is increasingly unusual. There are about four and a half thousand breeding pairs of barn owls in the country and about that number of owls are killed on the road each year. Both their habitat and food supply is dwindling and they are now Schedule 1 birds that must not be disturbed without a license.

Our January talk was by Jill and John Hazell of Great Western Gladiolus. We were told how these bulbs need free-draining sandy soil in the garden or a gritty mix in pots in the greenhouse. They showed slides demonstrating how to prepare these plants for exhibition so they arrive in perfect condition at shows. They specialise in corms from Holland and the USA, growing both indoor and outdoor varieties. Perhaps some of our members will now feel confident to enter gladioli in the flower show later this year.

The December competition, for a Christmas wreath, was won by Joy Stack and that of January, for muffins, was won by Carole Vince.

Joyce is now our keeper of the archives and is asking for any photos you can spare of past activities and trips please.

There will now almost certainly be another trip to Highgrove for those who missed out the first time around so watch this space. The away trip next year will be a long weekend from the 26th to 29th June when we will be visiting Kent. The list is filling up but will be available at future meetings or you can contact Roger to add your name. The day trip is being finalised still but will be on July 18th 2009.

Next month our talk will be from Mr Fred Swift on Bee Keeping. The competition will be 'A Taste of Honey'.

Sue.



MOTHERS' UNION **SEEND AND BULKINGTON BRANCH**

It was appropriate at our November meeting that our speaker was the President of Seend Branch of The Royal British Legion, Peter Hicks. He explained that, in taking part in the recent Remembrance Service, we had all fulfilled one of the main aims of the Legion, namely that the awful sacrifices made in two world wars and many other conflicts should never be forgotten.

The Legion was founded after WWI with the purpose of ensuring fair treatment for the wounded, help for the unemployed ex-servicemen and care for the permanently disabled. The work was to be sustained by the annual Poppy Appeal. To further support this work, the Legion has become an effective pressure group, lobbying Parliament to fulfil its responsibilities in relation to the forces.

The "Honour the Covenant" campaign was successful in getting compensation for the disabled increased. Currently, the "Return to Rationing" slogan is drawing attention to the plight of many elderly veterans. Locally, the Branch participates in the Poppy collection. This year's total amounted to £2,699. A welfare committee, led by Anthony Hodgkinson, keeps in touch with housebound members.

Future dates:

18 February – Talk by Rev Maureen Alchin on Oberammergau. Bring & Buy.

WEA SEEND BRANCH

The AGM will be held on Monday 9th February at 7.30pm in the upstairs room of the Community Centre. Everyone, whether a member or not, is welcome to come and voice an opinion on which lectures should be booked for next year.



This spring's lectures start a week later, on Monday 16th February at 7.30pm, with Dinah Starkey talking about the history of our region during the Black Death and up until the dissolution of the monasteries in the mid-15th century. Ms Starkey has a particular interest in local history and in 1996 gave us some fascinating talks on the history of Seend and surrounding villages. Since then she has come twice to lecture on Wiltshire's early history, which is how we have arrived at the Black Death and its impact on the region. There will be six sessions of 1½ hours each, finishing on 23rd March. The cost is £34. Lectures are normally free to those in receipt of: Income Support; Job Seekers's Allowance; Council Tax Benefit; Housing Benefit; Pension Guarantee Credit; all learners aged 16-18; Asylum Seekers in receipt of a means tested benefit; unwaged dependants and some people in receipt of Working Tax Credit. If you think you may qualify, phone me and we can sort it out in advance.

Pam Church, Secretary, 01380 828597.



The 100 (200!) Club

Unlike those bastions(?) of Prudence and Financial Solidarity who have recently demonstrated their inadequacy in both respects – I refer of course to the Banks – the 100 Club, which has a solid and proven track record in P & FS, consequently merits no financial assistance whatsoever from the Chancellor, so that's this year's 5-figure bonus down the drain – at least for the present.

So I'd better get on and tell you who won what and when. There were a few statistical oddities revealed in the draws for October and November as you will no doubt observe. Don't blame me, guv, it's the numbers wot done it!

The October and November draws took place on Friday 26th October at Thyme House, Seend, and the results are as follows:

October 2008

1 st Prize	£35	188	Ann & Geoff Burgess (new members 2008)
2 nd Prize	£30	33	William Hickman
3 rd Prize	£25	176	Mike Moore
4 th Prize	£20	189	Seend Short Mat Bowls Club
5 th Prize	£15	51	Joyce & Bill Adams
6 th Prize	£10	156	Edward Hickman

November 2008

1 st Prize	£35	188	Ann & Geoff Burgess (new members 2008)
2 nd Prize	£30	106	Seend Short Mat Bowls Club
3 rd Prize	£25	199	Mrs Joanna Goddard
4 th Prize	£20	57	Miss Anne Salter
5 th Prize	£15	114	Seend Gardening Club
6 th Prize	£10	80	Ric Ellinger

Clearly inspired by the scam at the heart of Dickens's 'Little Dorritt', Bernie Madoff did precisely what his name suggests – he made off with more than \$50 billion. When the 100 Club funds get close to that number, to avoid temptation, I should perhaps hand over the reins to someone not called Bernie. Just a thought...

While I'm still here however, let me announce the draw for December which took place at the Irene Usher hall following the quarterly meeting of the Lye Field Committee on Tuesday 16th December, drawn by members of the Committee.

1st Prize	£100	41	Mrs Mel Walker
2nd Prize	£50	60	Mrs Wendy Stephens
3rd Prize	£40	116	Mrs J Godwin
4th Prize	£35	12	Mrs Joyce Brand
5th Prize	£30	4	Mr Harry Broadbridge
6th Prize	£25	144	Mr & Mrs Clifford Smith

7th Prize	£25	92	Mrs Valerie Jackson
8th Prize	£25	76	Mrs N Miller
9th Prize	£25	179	Mr Phillip Wood
10th Prize	£20	120	Mr M D Park
11th Prize	£20	34	Mrs V M Smith

I trust you all had a wonderful Christmas, and I wish everyone good luck, health and happiness for 2009.

Bernie Prolze



SCHOOL NEWS

SEEND C.E. AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL

As a school we have now said goodbye to Reverend Sacha and she will be missed in our school collective worship, on Thursdays. As a church school we appreciate the links with the clergy and parishioners, members of the PCC have already been in touch organising joint events in the coming months and we look forward to continuing to work together. Mrs. Toyne has moved on from Holly Class to work as an advisory teacher and Miss Marianne Hamlyn will be working with us until the end of the summer term.

At the end of last term the school hosted a performance of the Snow Queen by the Proteus Theatre Company, which was sponsored by Rural Arts Wiltshire (RAW). The company was magnificent did everything it possible could to transform a school hall in mid Wiltshire in a magical and mystical land. The children, and adults, were spellbound from start to finish and the event was well worth the effort we had to put in to organise their visit to the village. I would like to take this opportunity to thank RAW on behalf of the school and village community for subsidising this event.

Although, we are only two weeks into term we have already had some sporting success on two fronts. The cross country team came first in the Melksham Schools Cross Country Event and the girl's netball team had a magnificent win in the Devizes High Five Netball League.

This term we are collecting Times Newspaper Book Vouchers, if we collect enough we will be able to choose a selection of books for our school, and Gazzette and Herald Banners in an attempt to win gardening vouchers. The banner is the section at the top of the paper with the name and date on it. We have collection boxes in school and Richard and Mel Walker have kindly offered to put a box in our local post office, both items can be placed in this box. We look forward to your support.

Steven Bennett, Headteacher.

PSC (Parent Social Club) Seend School

We are ready and raring to go on another quest to raise funds for our school. After our recent meeting, the school fundraising group has given itself a short new name : PSC (Parent Social Club) which we hope will be friendly and easy to remember! We are holding a competition for the school children to design a logo for the PSC and will give a prize to the winner, the winning logo will be seen on all our adverts, articles, letters etc.

The Christmas Fayre was a brilliant success again this year and over £1,000 pounds was raised for the school - a Big Thank You to all of this years sponsors. Record number this year gave money to display their adverts - thank you very much.

The school and villagers also had the wonderful opportunity to watch ' The Snow Queen', a Rural Arts Wiltshire (RAW) theatre production. It was superb, very entertaining for adults (hidden jokes like a Shrek movie) and enchanting for children. All with one stage set and four actors. Brilliant.

We have had several new members join which is bringing new vitality and ideas to the group to continue on with the hard work of previous members. The 100 Club has also been revamped by one of the new members and a separate article is in this months spotlight telling you how to join the Seend School 100 Club should you wish to help School Funds and have the chance of winning a prize.

Events for the coming year are : 26th February - Jumble Sale in school hall from 3pm. An afternoon making presents for Mothers' Day, and an Easter Disco - which this space for more details and events.

With lots more to organise, I will be in touch to let you know about other PSC forthcoming events. Once again, a big thank you to everyone in the village and surrounding villages who support our school.

Rachel Lewis (01380 828293)

ATTENTION ALL VILLAGERS

Seend School 100 Club needs you. We have been running a 100 Club since 1991 and it has become increasingly difficult to get enough members to make decent prizes and funds for the school. So I am appealing to local parishioner's that may have attended the school or just want to help it.

In brief a single number costs £ 12.00 per annum. There are 11 monthly draws and one Xmas super draw in December. Prize funds will vary according to the amount of members who sign up.

£12.00 per number is required by 12th Feb 2009 to be included in 2009-2010.

Payment can be made by cash or cheque (payable to Seend School 100 Club) sent or delivered to:

Seend School 100 Club, c/o Melanie Steel, 92 Seend Cleeve, Seend SN12 6PX.

Please include your name and address.

FOKS
(Friends of Keevil School)

Happy New Year to you all from FOKS!

May I first start by saying a massive ‘thank you’ to everyone who has supported any of our numerous fund raising events over the Christmas period. Whilst we appreciate that everyone is so busy at that time and the financial burden tends to weigh heavy, the turn out to all our events was fantastic and as a result the coffers look healthy. This will allow us to set new goals and targets where some of the money may be spent – always benefiting the children at the school.

The Snowball was a massive success raising just over £2,000 at present, but more importantly, all those who attended had a great time – so much so that we are probably going to repeat the idea (possibly with slight variations!) next Christmas. But it’s too early to be talking about next Christmas now so watch this space on that one!

Our Christmas hampers and a coffee morning raised over £370 between them and the school calendars for 2009 have made £350 so far. We still have some left to sell at £6 each or 2 for £10. (Currently on sale at the school office). We will be making the first draw of the 100 Club in February so if there are still some people out there who would like to take part in this draw, then there is still time. It costs £12 and you could win a first prize of £50, second of £25 and third at £15 in one of our 3 draws over the academic year. Please contact Lesley Carter (01380 871966) or Sarah Henry (01380 870577) for tickets or alternatively drop into school where we have a stash of forms!

2009 expects to hold some fun with events such as a scarecrow trail in Keevil village. This will be held over the weekend of 9/10 May with further details to follow. Anyone wishing to know more about this or wanting to take part in the organisation of it then please contact Simon Downey on 01380 828316.

On Wednesday 18th March starting at 7pm, we are hosting a ladies shopping night at the school where for a small admission fee with free glass of fizz, there will be craft stalls and pampering sessions for the fairer sex amongst us to spoil ourselves. Once again I will give more details in the next issue; however, this is one not to be missed.

For the children, we are holding a school disco on February 13th which always tends to be great fun!

That seems to be the FOKS news up to date so may I take this opportunity to thank you once more for all your continuing support.

Jan Flynn
 Chair of FOKS

SEEND PARISH COUNCIL

The meeting held on 25th November was attended by nine Councillors, with Mr Clifford Smith in the Chair.

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Carr to the Parish Council, following her recent election.

Spiderweb Paddock: Councillor John Seed of Kennet District Council introduced himself as the Unitary Councillor (Conservative) for this area. Mr Seed explained that an appeal from Mr and Mrs Shearman had been submitted against the decision of Kennet District Council, relating to the proposed two barns at Spiderweb Paddock. The appeal had been allowed, and **planning permission was granted for two pole barns**, one for the storage of farm machinery, and one for hay and straw. **Enforcement action** has been taken with regard to persons living in the stable.

Notice Boards: The two new notice boards are now in place. The Chairman thanked Beechfield Reclamation for donating the materials for making the new notice boards.

Planning Matters

The following planning applications have been **approved**:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| K/59463/LBC | Mr and Mrs Jackson, Moiety, Spout Lane, Seend. |
| K/59464/F | Miscellaneous repairs and alterations to ancillary accommodation. |
| K/59608/TR2 | Mrs C A Jackson, The Cottage, High Street, Seend.
The felling and stump removal of a prunus cerasifera pissardii (purple-leaved plum tree) adjacent to the property. |

Notice of Refusal of Listed Building Consent has been received for the following application:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| K/59502/LBC | F Haines & Son
Convert stable block into two holiday lets. |
|-------------|---|

The following application was considered, and **objections raised**:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| K/59695/LBC | Mr & Mrs Giles, Old Wyatts, Row Lane, Seend.
Proposed alterations and extension to existing coach house (re-submission of K/58807/LBC). |
|-------------|--|

* The development is oversized; the site will become overdeveloped, there is already a tree house and timber cottage in the grounds, plus a high wall erected to the front of the site.

* The extension will overbear the adjoining property, and impact on its amenity.

- * The overall effect on the surrounding environment; the development is out of keeping with the surrounding area.
- * The detrimental effect on a Grade II listed cottage.
- * The Parish Council has received objections from parishioners living adjacent to the proposed development.

Family records of people in Wiltshire are now available from the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre. The registers of every birth, death and marriage in the county dating back to 1837 have been moved from register offices across the county to the new centre in Chippenham.

Dates for the next Parish skips:

January 30th Wessex Water site
February 27th Seend Community Centre

The **next Parish Council meeting** will be held on Tuesday, 27th January 2009 at Seend Community Centre at 7.30pm.

CASUAL VACANCY FOR A COUNCILLOR

Following the recent Parish Council election, there is a casual vacancy for one Councillor. Any person willing to fill this vacancy should apply to the Clerk in writing on or before 9th February 2009. The applicant's name must appear on the current register of the Voters List or the applicant should during the whole of the twelve months preceding the relevant date have resided in or within three miles of the parish or the applicant's only place of work during the whole of the twelve months preceding the relevant date be in the parish. The applicant must not be debarred from standing as a Councillor. Public elections cannot be held until 2013, but for the interim period election to Seend Parish Council will be voted for by the present sitting number of Councillors.

Mrs Rosemary Fisher, Clerk
12 The Stocks, Seend Cleeve, Melksham, Wiltshire SN12 6PH

SEEND SPORTS RESULTS and FIXTURES

Football

1st XI – Manager – Matt Pearce: The League champions march on! League matches – played 8 won 8; For 27, Against 7! Top scorer is Gary Higdon with an incredible 23 cup and league goals so far this season. There are rumours that a Manchester City scout plus chequebook has been seen hovering around the pavilion! Results since November: Wiltshire Junior Cup 3-0; Deverells 2-1; A + B Cup 2-1; Westbury 2-1; Bradford 2-1; Moonrakers in the 3rd round Wiltshire Junior Cup 5-2; Frome 2-1.

On 7th Feb the team take on Frellos in the quarter final of the cup.



Reserves – Manager – Keith Anteny: The reserves have played 10 league matches, winning 2, drawing 3 and losing 5, but by very narrow margins. Top scorers are Stuart Greatwood and Ollie Gee with 5 apiece. Results: Bratton 1-2; Frome 2-0; Bradford 4-0; Trowbridge Wanderers 1-4; Heytesbury 2-3; Stan Andrews 2-3; but in the cup the reserves beat St. Andrews 3-2.

Seend Tigers – Manager – Luke Ballinger: The Tigers are having a mid-season “rest”. Luke hopes to get training started again soon. All queries to Luke.

Short Mat Bowls

Chief Scout Colin Waldeck: Matches over the holiday period brought a 6-2 victory over Crudwell; 4-4 draws against both Trowbridge and Bromham but a 3-5 defeat at the hands of Marshfield. Revenge came on 19th February at Marshfield with a 6-2 win. Top scorer David Tompkins.

Colin has reminded me to address the offside rule as applied to Short Mat Bowls. The starting point has to be the explanation passed down from generation to generation since time immemorial, (that’s 3rd September 1189), across the breakfast table. Put simply if there is no saltcellar between the ketchup bottle and the cornflakes when the mustard (i.e. the ball) is passed forward, then obviously the salt is offside. Translating that to Short Mat Bowls just replace the salt, ketchup and cornflakes with two pints of scrumpy and a whisky chaser and I think you will get the picture. Next month we ask why there is that block of MDF in the middle of the pitch?

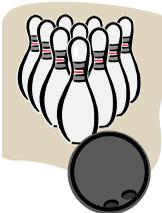


Cricket

Captain – Ben King: Sunday winter practice nets start on 1st February at St. Lawrence’s School in Bradford on Avon at 6:30 pm. All enquiries to the captain.

Tennis

Matches in the Chippenham and District tennis league start in April. We will have 1 men’s, 2 mixed and hopefully 1 women’s team playing. All enthusiasts please tel. Ric Ellinger – 828683.



Skittles

Seend A – Captain – John Wiltshire: League results: Sadly losses against Cons C 1-6; Seend D 1-6; Avon A 0-7 and Spencer A 1-6 have set the team back. However victories over Comrades 251-233 in the 12-a-side nomination and a quarterfinal victory over the Labour club 246-233 have balanced the picture. The 8-a-side nomination versus Cons D resulted in a narrow defeat 213-219.

Seend B – Captain – Walter Mayall: League results: A 6-1 win over Seend C and a 5-2 win over Staverton contrasted with losses to Melksham Sports 1-6 and Semington 1¹/₂-5¹/₂. The 8-a-side nomination matches produced a 178-168 win

but a 161-212 loss. The Knockout Cup against Comrades left the opposition with a 306-272 win.

Seend C – Captain – Sam Sainsbury: An early string of wins sent the team towards the top of the league, however recent results have failed to maintain that good start! Losses to Seend B 1-6; Carpenters Arms 2¹/₂-4¹/₂; Cons B 0-7; labour A 1-6 and Casuals 1-6 were in part countered by a 7-0 victory over Semington A. Top scorers have been Josh Hamblin 29 + 34, Ron Apted 28, Graham Hamblin 33 and Nathan Hamblin 33. Well done the Hamblins!

Seend D – Captain – Luke Ballinger: Recent results: Against Seend A a 6-1 victory; a 274-301 defeat by Holt in “rough skittles”; a close loss to Saracen 249-266 in the front pin cup; something of a whitewash by Cons D 0-7 but back on the winning path with a 273-210 victory over Avon C in the cup.

All results for the March issue to the velodrome by 14th February please. We would also like to publish results from any Seend sports we might have missed out on.

Frankie Goddard – 828488

*(And don't miss the **singles and mixed doubles skittles competitions** at the Community Centre on 7th and 28th February. All welcome. Ed.)*

BITS AND BOBS

DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

St John Ambulance's youth leaders play a crucial part in the development of hundreds of young people in Wiltshire – broadening their horizons and helping them to realise their full potential.

We need volunteers to help with our youth work in Devizes. All we ask is approximately twelve hours a month of your time.

You need to be passionate about youth work, committed, keen to make a positive difference for young people and willing to learn new skills. For more information contact Bobby McKeown on 01380 738929.

Dog Problems in Bulkington

There have been problems in Bulkington with dogs fouling the areas around recycling and rubbish bins in front of people's houses. This is causing great annoyance to the residents and is a serious health issue.

Please could dog owners make sure that they clean up after their dogs and dispose of the waste in a responsible manner.

PERSONAL ADS

Free to good home.....

Panasonic Video Cassette Recorder bought 1994, plus newer Thomson digital receiver. Remote controls for both. Phone 828597.

Some further dates for your diary:

4th April - Seend Church Lent lunch
 9th April - LINK AGM
 13th April - Great Bulkington Railway
 22nd April - First of three afternoon WEA lectures on Gardening for Wildlife
 23rd April - St George's Day Dinner
 2nd May - Beer Festival
 23rd May - The Yetties at Bulkington
 Various dates in May and June - 3-a-side Skittles competition
 13th-14th June - Seend Open Gardens
 11th July - Church Fete
 18th July - Bulkington Church Fete
 25th July - Start of Summer Saturday Breakfasts
 8th August - Seend Fete and Flower Show
 12th September - Church Boot Sale
 12th-13th September - Church Festival weekend
 31st October - Annual dance for Dorothy House
 7th November - Wine and Food Fair
 14th November - Church Craft Fayre

And finally

Some memorable quotations:

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible. *George Burns*

Santa Claus has the right idea. Visit people only once a year. *Victor Borge*

I have never hated a man enough to give his diamonds back. *Zsa Zsa Gabor*

Money can't buy you happiness .. but it does bring you a more pleasant form of misery. *Spike Milligan*

Until I was thirteen, I thought my name was SHUT UP. *Joe Namath*

(Thanks to Nev Boulton for the above)

USEFUL CONTACTS:

Rector: Vacancy

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

Christ Church: Mrs Liz Futter 828485

St Peter's: Mrs Janet James - 724944 Paulette Bremner Milne 828527

LPA's: Audrey McDonald 828376 and Jo Bell 828550

Bell Ringers: C Mayell 828627

Minister Methodist Church - Revd Roy Fowler - 01249 813340

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

Bulkington Village Hall - Nev Boulton 828101 or Roger Futter 828485

Seend Community Centre & Club - Hall bookings: Frank Teasdale 828617

Skittles bookings only: Stan Wiltshire 828559

Seend School - 828334

Seend Shuttle Community Bus: Bookings - Alison Cobbing 828568

Seend Parish Council Clerk - Rosemary Fisher 828281

Seend's County Councillor - Mrs Pat Rugg: 01380 722677

Seend's District Councillor - Mr Anthony Lake: 01380 828320

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

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

Public Footpath Warden - Mrs Esther Daly 01672 513157

PC Marlin Landin, Community Beat Manager for Seend, can be contacted at devizesnorthruralpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk or on 0845 408 7000

Community Beat Manager for Bulkington is PC Emily Thomas who can be contacted at trowbridgeruralnpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk or on 0845 408 7000.

CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

100+ Club Cash Draw - Bernie Prolze 828391

Book Club - Sylvia Ewin 828325

Bouncy Club - Kate or Kevin 828770

Brownies - Helen Hook 828477

Bulkington and District Junior Youth Group - Ellie Purdy 828035

Cricket Club - Peter Wallis 828757

Fawlty Players - Tessa Doe 828617

Fete Committee - Geoff Burgess 828077

Football Club - Dave Beaumont 01225 785067

Gardening Club - Joyce Brand 828433

Historic Houses Club - Tony Ewin 828325

LINK Scheme - 075320 55560

Lye Field Committee - Dave Sawyer 828583

Mothers' Union - Elizabeth Campbell 828451

Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators - Tony Ewin (Seend) 828325; Owen Burton (Seend Cleeve) 828820; John Scott (Bulkington) 828026.

Playgroup - Liz Futter 828485

Poetry Group - Tessa Doe 828617

Ramblers - Bob Howe 828554

Royal British Legion - Roger Brind 828830;

Poppy Appeal - Anthony Hodgkinson on 828545

Short Mat Bowls Club - Colin Waldeck 828946

Tennis Club - Philip Proven 828407

The Other Book Club - Frank Teasdale 828617

Theatre Club - Sylvia Ewin 828325; Marion Whitehead 828612

WEA - Pam Church - 828597

WI - Sarah Todhunter on 828730 and Jo Vaux

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