

Welcome to the May edition of Spotlight



If you enjoy a trip down memory lane then this month we recommend Spotlight's "Bits 'n' Bobs" section (p. 21). Coincidentally, we have received both an article and a letter recalling fond memories of Bulkington and Keevil School. The letter has come all the way from Australia so as you read this edition of Spotlight another copy will be on its way to the other side of the world. If you remember the Littlely and Lock families do get in touch with Rita as it is clear she would love to hear from old acquaintances.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to Spotlight's running costs. Your help is very much appreciated. If you missed your distributor when they called to collect your envelope and are unable to deliver it to the Rectory please call Meg on 828229 who will arrange for it to be collected.

Another thank you to everyone who placed an advertisement in Spotlight over the past year. Our new advertising year commences in July and details of our rates and how to place a advert are on page 24.

Finally, the question which has been asked by so many people over the past few months: "What is going to happen to the WI Hall site in Rusty lane?" Well, sorry but we don't know! All we have to report is that we have been told that the Community Centre, the Lye Field Trustees and the Parish Council are keen to have a meeting with the Hall's Trustees but the latter do not yet feel there is anything to discuss. If you wish to express an opinion on this matter do get in touch.

The Spotlight Contacts

Contributions for the June issue (*copy deadline is 12th May!*) can be sent by e-mail to spotlight@send.org.uk or delivered to the Post Office, High Street, Send 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 MAY



Seend Social Club presents

BEER FESTIVAL



Saturday 5th May

Midday until late!

At Seend Community Centre & Social Club

PLANT FAIR

Gt Chalfield Manor on Sunday 6th May 10.30am-4pm. Entrance £2.50 in aid of Action Medical Research. Oh Yes - and special guest Paddington Bear !!!



AN EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT

featuring

THE MINSTREL PLAYERS

with a light-hearted look at 'Love & Marriage'

and Songs from the 60's by

PINK CHAMPAGNE

Buffet Supper and Licensed Bar

BULKINGTON VILLAGE HALL

SAT. MAY 5TH. 7 PM FOR 7:30 PM

Please come and join the fun

Admission including Supper

Adults £8. Children under 16 £4, Family ticket £20. (2ad.+2ch)

Tickets from Seend Shop, Audrey McDonald 828376

Jane Coles 828145 and David Raby-Cox 828274

AN EVENING OF FOLK - 12th May at Seend Community Centre

On 12th May starting at 8pm, in conjunction with the Rural Arts Wiltshire, we are pleased to present the amazing four piece female folk/rock band, **Waking the Witch** in the Seend Community Centre .

In December, **Walking the Witch** were awarded the 2006 "Acoustic Roots Performer of the Year" by the Classic Rock Society and have their own website www.walkingthewitch.co.uk should you wish to find out more about the band and their style of music. They have received rave reviews from many publications and radio shows, including Janice Long after their appearances on Radio 2. Their unique style has set them apart from other contemporary folk bands and if all the publicity is to be believed, they are destined for a great future. I am sure you will have an entertaining evening listening to their wonderful songs. Tickets are priced at £10, to include cheese and wine supper and can be obtained from either the Seend Post Office, Jan Harding 828778, Jan Crabtree 828687 or Tessa Doe 828617. (Please note that Waking the Witch will be the only artists performing during the evening) All proceeds in aid of the Seend Community Centre.

Ric Ellinger



F.O.K's PLANT SALE – 12th May

We have had a very kind offer to hold our very popular plant sale at Mrs. Goodwin's, Blagden House, Keevil (Main Street, near Keevil School). Doors will open at 10am until 12 noon and we invite you to come and have a look at our wide selection of plants and seedlings brought in by local gardeners. There will be stalls and refreshments and, of course, children's games. Entrance: 50p per adult.

ALL WELCOME

TRACK DAY KEEVIL AIRFIELD

Monday 14th May
10.30am – 5.00pm

Support a charity raising money to help families
dealing with Autism.

Have fun, see the cars, talk to the drivers.
Spend money on passenger rides.

PATCHWORK QUILTING EXHIBITION

Friday 11th May 5-9pm and Saturday 12th 10am-5pm at Broughton Gifford village hall. Quilts, wall hangings, boxes, bags and much more in Themed Rooms. Refreshments available. Entry price £2, accompanied children free.



Concert in Keevil Church

Saturday 19th May 7.15pm
St Leonard's Church, Keevil

Phoenix Consort are to perform a concert of vocal and instrumental work. The concert, by this widely recognised group, is to raise much needed money for restoring and making safe the box tombs in Keevil Churchyard.

Wine & soft nibbles will be available in the interval

Tickets £7 available after 1st May
 Gillian Walden 01380 870383
 Gerry Banks 01380 870452
 Ann Sparks 01380 830991
 or on the door

CRAFT FAYRE - CLEEVE HOUSE, SEEND

Bank Holiday Monday 28th May from 10.00am - 4.00pm.
 Refreshments in the tea room. Free parking and entrance All welcome.
 For more information call Barbara on 827129.

EVENTS IN JUNE

SEEND OPEN GARDENS - Weekend Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th June **open 1pm to 5pm**

This is a must visit weekend. There are twelve gardens including a stable yard, open along the High Street. They are all fascinatingly different, from a cottage garden to the grand design. Each one will show the love and care that has gone into its creation, and will be a joy to behold. It is no wonder that people come from far and wide to view our beautiful gardens in Seend.

There is car parking on the Lye Field and teas will be served in the Community Hall; a convenient resting place. In the Pavilion there will be an Art and Crafts Exhibition. Our own favourite artist, Pam Mullings, will be sharing the hall with other local artists, and crafts people. Somner Place will again be selling ice creams, home-made cakes and soft drinks. The Church will be specially decorated for the weekend.

Tony Ewin, Church Fund Raising Committee

Future Events for the Diary

SEEND CHURCH FAYRE - A date for your Diary!

Now is the time to think of the pleasures of the summer to come. Think of the lovely month of July and you've got the Summer Fayre on the 14th in the Rectory Garden. It was a great fun afternoon last year for children and adults alike, and it can only get better. This year we have a Barbecue – there's nothing like eating lunch out of doors with the family! Stalls, games, Bouncy Castle, Wheel of Fortune, raffle, Rosemary & Bib's Tea House, children's competition including the Pirates Treasure Hunt - there's no end to it! And of course the mystery game to play! We would like some new helpers this year. Do you want to help to keep the Church going for future generations? Please look out your books, DVD's & videos, bric-a-brac, jigsaws, groceries, toiletries, plants and of course cakes. What else, I wonder? Whatever happens, do not miss it! It's a chance to get your hand in before the village Fete. Please contact me now.



Tony Ewin 828325.
Church Fund Raising Committee

BARN DANCE

On
14th July 2007
7.30pm - 11pm

At
Leaze Farm, Mill Lane,
Bulkington, Nr Devizes

Dancing to:
'WILTSHIRE KLOF'
With Caller
Licensed Bar & Barbecue

Tickets: Adults £7.00, Under 16 £3.50
Available from Seend Post Office
Jane Coles: 01380 828145
Audrey McDonald: 01380 828376
Any member of Bulkington PCC

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This section in Spotlight is for general announcements be it births, deaths or marriages, wedding anniversaries or any other kind of celebration which you would like to share with Spotlight Readers. Do let us know and, space permitting, we will try to print all your announcements!

BAPTISM

We welcome in baptism Jamie Richard Martin HALLETT and Daniel KIRBY who were christened on 22nd April.



THANKS - Great Bulkington Railway



I am very pleased to say that our 'Steam Up' on Easter Monday was very well attended with perhaps as many as 300 people from local villages visiting the railway for rides. The weather was super - nice and warm. The children were very well behaved. There were five steam locomotives and three diesel engines hauling passengers for most of the day. The goods train was operating too. Altogether we made £196.60 for the Village Playing field. Many thanks to everyone who came along. Don't forget - the next Steam Up - 7th July 1pm until 4:30 pm. Young persons of 8 years old and above who would like a chance to learn to drive please attend from 11 o'clock.

Nev Boulton, Signalman GBR



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - 13th-19th May

After many years of master-minding the villages Christian Aid collection, Walter Mayell has handed over to Margaret Coley. Again, this year, your envelope will be delivered with this edition of Spotlight and will be collected at some time during the week. If you miss the collector, please drop your envelope into Margaret Coley at 25 Dial Close, or take it to any of the services in Church on the following Sunday. The amount collected will be substantially increased if you complete the Gift Aid declaration with the envelope. The needs of so many poor people are greater than ever. Please give generously.

Margaret Coley

CHURCH NEWS

DEATH AND RESURRECTION - EASTER CHURCH SERVICES

The priest and the farmer shared a morning conversation looking across the field that had, for many generations, been home for grazing cows but now was empty save for a few rambblers sometimes walking along the footpath. They exchanged views that farming like the church had changed. Just as the field was no longer full of animals, many farmers now involved in other work, so too the church was not always full nor were there enough clergy to help. They recalled that through nature something has to die, like in winter, in order for new life, spring or resurrection to happen; that adapting to change is essential if they were to survive. ‘Diversify...?’ suggested the priest to the farmer. ‘Diversify!’ advised the farmer to the priest!

On Easter Day this year those who came to the 2 Benefice services (Dawn Eucharist and mid-morning Eucharist with children at the Easter Garden and then an Easter Egg hunt) described both worship experiences as ‘wonderful’, ‘special’ and ‘a true celebration of the resurrection and new life of Christ’. However in response to those who felt unable to attend either service I would like to share some of the thinking behind the proposal to reduce the number of services for Easter 2007 from the five services on Easter Day morning last year! All 3 PCCs discussed this at length, agreeing to try it (planning also to have Midnight Mass and one mid-morning Benefice Eucharist at Christmas) and to review this in January 2008 for next year. On an average Sunday, adding all our 4 congregations together, we would usually expect around 85 people in our churches but on Easter Day this year there were in total 140 including 20 children.

From earliest times Christians have gathered just like at the Dawn Eucharist, through the night of Easter or very early in the morning, to remember the work of God from creation to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. From darkness to light starting with the Easter fire outside, carrying the new Easter Candle into the dark church is like the new life of Jesus bringing light to the now empty tomb and here the great celebration of Easter begins! Then our baptismal vows are renewed since baptism, like Easter, is a sign of Jesus’ new life within us with our promises to walk with Him. The service concludes with the Eucharist to remind us we *are* united with God. Using ancient tradition this is how our Benefice has begun Easter at 06.00 on Easter Day for the last four years.

Obviously major Church seasons and festivals are extra busy but it is often a time when we expect services to be different! The key problem is when one

priest has responsibility for more than one church! In such service planning we also bear in mind where signs of new life are emerging. In discussion of how best to manage the number of festival services our PCCs noted that on a normal Sunday 4 services is a significant number for one person to lead but currently just manageable spread through the day. However additional to the 06.00 Dawn service on Easter Day we have had 08.00, 09.00, 10.15 and 11.30 services (and at Christmas) when realistically 3 services, not 5, are the maximum one could lead in a morning. We considered inviting local retired clergy, but who may be away or already committed, to help out at festivals but concluded that congregations and visitors should ideally see the incumbent on these occasions. (There is no assumption or expectation that automatic provision could be made with retired or outside clergy invited to help except during an interregnum or to cover annual leave. On other occasions it depends on who is either able or available to help.) Other options included alternating mid-morning services at Poulshot or Bulkington. However it was suggested by one of the smaller PCCs that, after the Benefice Dawn Service, a shared mid-morning service (properly 'Benefice' with all 3 churches contributing with reading the lesson, leading intercessions, administering the chalice and so on) would be worth trying. This follows our pattern for the 5th Sunday of the month (4 a year rotating round plus each church's Patronal Festival) when we gather together in one of our 3 churches for a Benefice Eucharist at 10.00. It was thought then that for Easter and Christmas we would try the larger church simply in respect of potential numbers attending!

However nothing is cast in stone! Yet the life of the church ought to be constantly moving and changing as God invites us to grow closer to Him on our life long spiritual journey. Part of that experience is to worship with other people and experience different opportunities. Across the year we know that we are still very lucky to be able to sustain at least one service every week in each of our 3 churches. Even so there are good reasons *sometimes* to worship together with others and even in a different place. Those who attend Benefice services describe the enjoyment of fellowship with others as well as the chance to worship in a larger congregation. The twice yearly joint meeting for our 3 PCCs has been described as very enjoyable and worthwhile to meet and discuss issues with others who share responsibility for their churches. 'Benefice' groups of parishes occur because of the reduced numbers of clergy since there are simply not enough priests to maintain the tradition of 'one church one priest'. Alongside this over the last few years it has been realised by the whole Church that there is a huge wealth of talent and experience for Christian ministry amongst the laity in all parishes. Ministry is the job of all the people – we engage in Christian ministry because we have been baptised.

So instead of asking the Bishop for more clergy we are encouraged to discern who we may offer to him, to be considered, from amongst our church family any whom we feel God may be calling into ordained or lay ministry! We also **all** take responsibility ourselves, as baptised Christians, for sharing in the responsibility of ministry in the community. Moreover it is the Church's expectation that baptised people will become more aware of their own spiritual journey and allow God to take them in faith beyond the place of familiarity!

I can assure you that the experiment for Easter this year was part of that hope for our spiritual growth, as well as looking for your care and support, and making use of our resources. Our festival services *were* thoroughly discussed but will be carefully reviewed before Easter next year.

Revd Sacha Pearce , Rector

CHURCH SERVICES

6th May	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	(Seend)
	9.30am	Family Eucharist	(Bulkington)
	11.15am	Parish Eucharist	(Seend)
	6.00pm	BCP Evensong	(Poulshot)
13th May	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	(Seend)
	9.30am	BCP Mattins	(Poulshot)
	11.15am	Parish Eucharist	(Seend)
	6.00pm	Evensong	(Bulkington)
20th May	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	(Seend)
	9.30am	Parish Eucharist	(Bulkington)
	11.15am	Parish Eucharist	(Seend)
	6.00pm	BCP Holy Communion	(Poulshot)
27th May	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	(Seend)
	9.30am	Family Eucharist	(Poulshot)
	11.15am	Family Eucharist	(Seend)
	6.00pm	Songs of Praise Evensong	(Bulkington)

First Steps Benefice Parent & Toddler Church Service

The next Parent & Toddler service at Seend will take place on Tuesday 1st May from 2.15pm—2.45pm. All welcome.



SEEND METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES FOR

6th May	10.00am	Mrs Janet Tanner
13th May	10.00am	Mr Douglas Colborne
20th May	6.00pm	Ecumenical service led by Mrs Grace Mortimer
27th May	10.00am	All area Methodist and URC churches will join together at Melksham Assembly Rooms at 11am for united worship

Everyone is always welcome.

FROM YOUR MINISTER

It is a warm summer's evening. We are on our way to the bus stop in the village where my grandmother lived. We will catch a bus home. In the mean time, we are walking down an avenue of beech trees. At the bottom of the avenue is the village recreation ground. There we will be allowed to play on the swings and the roundabout. All too soon, we shall have to leave or we will miss the bus.

I couldn't help thinking about the recreation ground as I was pondering the meaning of Easter. It is the season of re-creation – God's re-creation. And I couldn't help thinking how strange it is that we only now only use the word recreation when we mean leisure.

I had a friend who used to describe a balanced life as a little bit of work, a little bit of prayer, and a little bit of play. In each of these, we are engaged in sharing God's recreation.

Everything deteriorates if we don't work at keeping it together. This is true of our bodies, of a garden, of a car, of a home, of a business, or of a community. So day by day through our work, the energy we put into the fabric of life, we are sharing in God's recreation. So let's celebrate this positive aspect of work.

Of course at times life drains us. Work doesn't seem good. It feels like a drudge. We may think we are trying to achieve the impossible. We give up hope. Then our spirits need reviving. This is the recreating work of prayer as we immerse our being in God's being once more.

Then our bodies grow tired and our minds become fuzzy. We need a change. If we live sedentary lives, then we need to get out and do some exercise. If our work is hard physically, we might need to sit down and enjoy a book or a DVD. This is the recreating gift of play. Work, prayer and play are all part of God's new life. Praise God.

Revd Roy Fowler

CLUB AND ORGANISATION NEWS

SEEND COMMUNITY CENTRE AND SOCIAL CLUB

The 'Relaunch Day' went really well – you can read all about it in the enclosed copy of 'Happenings!' – our quarterly newsletter.

You can also find out more about the major events coming in the next few weeks – the glorious beer festival on 5th May and great music from 'Waking the Witch' (plus cheese and wine) on 12th May.

And don't forget, if you're looking for a local venue for a party, reception, meeting or whatever – ring Frank Teasdale on 828617.

Tessa Doe

THE 58TH SEEND FLOWER SHOW on SATURDAY AUGUST 11TH 2007

EARLY WARNING NOTICE!

An early Spring has had all of us keen Gardeners busy planning to brighten their outlooks with ever more colourful gardens, patios, hanging baskets and flower beds. The vegetable enthusiasts are also at work planting their seeds and looking forward to enjoying the flavours of their early crops.



This year marks the 58th anniversary of the Seend Flower Show, (it started long before many of you readers were born!), and when the Lye Field Fete was launched over 30 years ago, the two events were combined to present what is surely the most popular and well attended day of the Village year.

Thanks to your support over so many years and your exhibits on the Show benches, we have always provided an outstanding exhibition to display to our many visitors. Each year Seend Flower and Produce Show brings many compliments and indeed it is the envy of most local villages. Once again we will be seeking exhibits from all of you Gardeners, Floral Artists, Photographers, Cooks and Handicraft enthusiasts for, as always, it will be your efforts that will make this year's show the great success that previous years have recorded.

There are classes for all talents and all ages and first time entries are so often among the prize-winners. So please start thinking and preparing for your entries and hopefully they will be among this year's successes. But, in true British style, it is the pleasure from entering and joining in the fun that is all important. As in past years we will be having the support of Seend School

with the range of colourful interpretations of a theme that each Class provides. The pupils' displays show what a range of artistic talent exists among the youngest of our entrants and make such a colourful backcloth to the walls of the Hall.

Programmes, which detail the many classes and rules, will be available in July from the Village shop, the Bar at the Community Centre, the Committee members and the Bell.

The Flower Show Committee is looking forward to another great Show.....But as ever, it will be YOUR entries and support that make the day!

Peter Fisher, President,
Seend Flower Show Committee

SEEND and DISTRICT RAMBLERS



On a very bright afternoon, Sunday 1st April, Tessa led close on 40 members on a circular walk in the Seend vicinity, taking in lanes, fields and canal towpath to make a most enjoyable time. On completion of the walk, a welcoming cup of tea and cake was served to all those present, followed by our AGM which was kept quite short. Members were issued with a programme of forthcoming walks and events. It was discussed how members would like to celebrate this our 20th year! It was suggested that we organise the chartering of a narrow-boat for a 3 1/2 hour cruise. (See below.) A Barbeque meal at Berwick is planned for July and a week-end away in Bournemouth is well under way for October. Current membership is 55.

Sunday 13th May

Meet in Rusty Lane at 9.30am for a walk to commence in the Alton Barnes area. Distance 7 miles of undulating countryside. Leaders: Geraldine and Brian De'ath. Bring a picnic lunch. Possibly a pub stop at Honey Street. (01225 705806.)

Friday 3rd August - Chartered Canal Cruise on the Barbara McLellan

Leaving the Wharf, Frome Road, Bradford on Avon at 6pm for a 3 1/2 hour trip, taking in Avoncliffe and the Limpley Stoke Valleys. This narrow-boat takes 40 persons, so it is first come first serve and open to members of the Seend & District Rambling Club only. Cost is £12.50 per head, which is inclusive of a boat hire and a 2 course light meal on board.

Please make all enquiries to Wendy Miller (01225 705355) or in working hours (01249 652573). Wendy would appreciate your making a definite commitment by sending her a cheque made payable to Seend & District Ramblers for the full amount.

Lin Salter

SEEND FAWLTY PLAYERS


Belated thanks to all of you who supported our little show. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did! The fact that the tale of the Laidley Worm was unfamiliar may have put some people off coming (ticket sales were slightly down) but we think you'll agree it made a great pantomime story – and the fact that you didn't know the ending only added to the enjoyment!



As well as raising money for the individual organisations that ran raffles during the performances, the pantomime, the production made £700 towards Seend Community Centre's refurbishment funds – our chosen 'good cause' for this year.

Tessa Doe

SEEND SHUTTLE



The Seend Shuttle

**The Seend Community Bus Committee
invites you all to**

Seend Shuttle AGM

**7.45 pm on Tuesday, 22nd May
in the Pavilion.**

**Your chance to air your views about changes to
the timetable
– or anything else you might want to raise.**

Refreshments will be served. All welcome.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

It is with deep regret that I have to report the death of two of our members, both of whom died at the end of February this year.

Major General Jonathan Dent CB OBE

Jonathan Dent was born in 1930 and commissioned in the Queen's Bays as a National Serviceman in 1948. He was granted a regular Commission in 1951. He quickly established a reputation for his mechanical knowledge and his path to the top of the Army's Technical posts followed. After attending both the Army Staff College at Camberley and the Technical Staff College at Shrivenham, and commanding a Squadron in Ulster and Borneo, his subsequent service centred on dealing with equipment problems and the development of the tank fleet. As project manager for Chieftain, he was responsible for bringing this world beating tank into service. As a result of this, he was awarded the OBE. His final post was as Director of Fighting Vehicles and Equipment when he was made a CB. He retired from the Army in 1985 and chose to spend his time looking after his family. They moved to Seend in 2001 where he joined the Royal British Legion and used his country interests to the full. Our deepest sympathy goes out to this wife Anne and their four children.

Roger Gee

Roger Gee was born in West Lavington, but went to school in Seend and later worked for his parents in the Seend Bakery. During his National Service, he attended the atomic tests on Christmas Island and subsequently returned to the Bakery. When this closed, he found various employments until he eventually worked for Archie Kidd Ltd for a number of years. Roger was well known for his prowess at skittles for which he won many trophies. He was also a keen railway enthusiast and was much involved with Seend railway until its closure. In later years, the family moved to Trowbridge, but Roger suffered a prolonged illness from which he never recovered. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his wife Margaret and their three children who deserve great credit for their continued devotion during his illness. Roger was a dedicated villager.

Dug Out Supper

This year's Dug Out Supper was held on 24th March in the Community Centre, and was the inaugural event for the new kitchen. It was attended by 80 people, and thanks to our excellent Dug Outers (chefs to the uninitiated!), we were once again treated to a first class meal. Unfortunately, the dishwasher was not due to be installed until Monday 26th March, so our thanks once again go to the Dogsbodies (setter outers, washer uppers and clearer uppers to the uninitiated!) for their work before and after the event. A cabaret was provided by Mr Jack Stevens, a magician who entertained us during and after the meal, and by the Kennet Accordion Orchestra.

Roger Brind

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Photographers from the enterprise “Images of England”, who are working on behalf of English Heritage may be seen around the village. They are mainly members of the Royal Photographic Society and are carrying out a survey of England’s listed buildings. Photographs should all be taken from outside private property, but they are allowed to seek permission from the occupier should they wish to go within that property. Please inform me if you come across anybody claiming to be from the above societies.



Anthony Hodgkinson, 828545

SEEND AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Our last meeting of the year was held on Tuesday 9th April and was our 33rd AGM and social. We were very happy to welcome Joyce who had managed to escape from hospital for the evening.



In his 2nd report as Chairman Roger remarked that he thought the Gardening Club was a very special feature of Seend life. He reminded us that, despite a hot and dry summer, we were unable to learn about planting hanging baskets at Lowden Nursery, as the plants were being held back by the cold; that the rain was torrential during an evening visit to Enfield House; and that it rained heavily, yet again, on the day trip to Waterperry Garden. The away trip to France was much enjoyed by the participants for reasons not all to do with gardening and gardens!

He thanked Joyce for her work and her good choice of speakers this year and also thanked Joe for his work as Treasurer, the committee for their efforts, John and Molly for their stalwart work selling raffle tickets, all the tea and coffee makers and David the sommelier.

Peter Hicks resigned as President and David Raby–Cox was elected in his place. The present officers and committee were re-elected for another year. The Gill Edgley cup was won by Joyce. We were then entertained extremely well by The Edington Barber Shop Quartet and enjoyed the wine and refreshments provided by the members, for which our thanks.

There are still a few spaces for the day trip to Hidcote and Kiftsgate on Saturday 21st July. We will leave from The Bell lay-by at 8.30 am and have been given kind permission to park all day in the overflow car park, but please share transport to the Bell if you can. We plan to arrive at Hidcote at 10.30am and leave for Kiftsgate Court, a short drive down the road at about 2.10 pm. So you will have plenty of time for coffee and lunch. There is a picnic site with a few tables by the car park, a kiosk with tables in the plant sales area and a restaurant in the garden with waitress service (no reservations taken). Some

of the paths are cobbled and uneven so sensible footwear is advised. There are 2 motorised scooters/buggies and 1 wheelchair available on a first-come first-served basis. Teas are available at Kiftsgate Court. We will leave there at about 5.00pm and be home by 7.00pm.

- There are still 4 tickets available at £6.00 each, including wine and nibbles, for an evening visit to the garden at Biddestone Manor on July 15th.
- If you are able to help with the plant stalls at both fetes in the Summer please give your name to Joyce.
- We were reminded to cultivate our pelargoniums for the flower show in August.
- The first meeting of the next season will be on September 11th.

Good gardening!

Sue Johns

SEEND LADIES SKITTLES

The Titanic is Rising

When the Seend Ladies Skittle Team sunk down from the bottom of Division 1 in the Melksham League to Division 2, they decided to rename themselves "The Titans" and finished the season as runners up and go up into Division 1 again. They are also runners up in the Gullies Nomination Cup match. So congratulations and may you avoid any "icebergs" when the new season begins in September.

Pam Hillier



SEEND WI

At the AGM, several changes of officers serving on the committee took place. Mrs Meriel Taylor stood down as secretary after 5 years in this position. She was presented with a gift and thanked by the President. Mrs Rosemary Ham also retired as Treasurer.

An election for President took place and Mrs Judith Biggs was re-elected. The following officers were elected: Mrs Shirley West as Vice President, Mrs Lucy Hatton as Secretary and Treasurer Mrs Jo Vaux. After the business, members enjoyed a quiz arranged by Shirley West and a finger buffet was served.

The Silver Server, which is awarded each year to the member with the most points in the monthly competition, was won jointly by Betty Smith and Elizabeth Campbell. The competition, an Easter Egg in a basket, was won by Joan Greenwood. The next meeting will be held in the The Pavilion on 9th

May at 7.30pm. Mr P Mitchel will talk about “Walking Sticks” and the competition is a wooden ornament.

Pam Hillier



SEEND BOOK CLUB

Seend's Other Book Club is now reading and meeting regularly. New members are welcome.

Frank Teasdale or Tessa Doe
01380 828617



MOTHERS' UNION - SEEND AND BULKINGTON

Seend Mothers' Union

The meeting of the Branch, on 21st March, included a talk by Rev Di Whittle, who is chaplain at Erlestoke Prison. She gave several insights into her work with the prisoners and staff in providing worship and spiritual care. As coordinating chaplain, she also arranges visits from leaders of other faiths and enjoys her contact with them. Many prisoners are mentally ill and some have particular psychotic problems. In listening and counselling, she helps many who have had very sad childhoods and are emotionally damaged. Very few thank her for her work, but one card from an ex-prisoner did say how he felt she had planted a seed which was now bearing fruit. Another prisoner had nurtured a plant for her. The delivery of it to her office involved having to carry it down several flights of stairs. The plant suffered in transit, but she was touched by the effort he had made.

Future Dates:

25th April—Guest Service 2pm at Holy Cross, followed by tea in the Community Centre.

16th May - Alabare Christian Care - talk by Brian James.

Keevil & Bulkington Mother's Union

On Wednesday 23rd May at 7.30pm in Keevil village hall the Serendipity Hand Bell Ringers will be giving a concert in aid of the Children's Society. A supper will be served after the concert. If you require further information please contact Shirley on 870481. Try to go along and support the Mother's Union, not only is it for a good cause, but the hand bell ringers are superb. They have played at several carol concerts in Seend and Bulkington.

SEEND TENNIS CLUB

Well, the summer is upon us, so it's time to dust off the old rackets and get back onto court! The Tennis Club is in full swing for the season and welcomes all players - existing members as well as new members - back onto

the court. Anyone wishing to make use of the village courts must be a member of the club. Membership this year will be £60 for a family, £27 for single membership and £6 for junior/student membership.

League matches will take place most Mondays & Wednesdays throughout the season, Tuesday evenings will be reserved for coaching sessions and Thursday evenings will be the club night when all members are welcome for some social tennis.

If you would like to find out more about the Club, please call Ric Ellinger on 828683.

SCHOOL NEWS



KEEVIL SCHOOL

No sooner does one lot stop, when another lot starts! We are now collecting Sainsbury's Sport Vouchers and Tesco Computer Vouchers. Please help us in achieving another high target by encouraging friends, neighbours, family and work colleagues to collect on our behalf.

Mrs. Goodwin has volunteered the use of her tennis courts for some after school tennis. If anyone would like to offer to coach these sessions, or knows someone who would, then please contact the school. Obviously the person would need to be CRB checked, but we can help with that process if need be. After the talent show the other week we held a non-uniform day on Friday 16th (Red Nose Day), we have managed to raise a very respectable £180 in total for comic relief. Many thanks to everyone who contributed in some way. Two of our year 6 boys competed in the finals of the Primary Maths Challenge. This is a national competition which tests children's higher level maths skills. Luke Tyler scored 24 points out of a possible 30 to achieve a bronze award and David Vick scored 26 to obtain a silver award. Well done to both of you.

We have various tournaments coming up. Tag rugby, football, netball and lacrosse. Hopefully we will have some good results to report next time!

Jackie Chalk, Head Teacher

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

PLANT SALE – 12th May - See events in May on page 3

10k RUN & FAMILY FUN DAY – KEEVIL AIRFIELD – 2ND JUNE



The annual 10K Run and Family Fun Day will take place on Saturday 2nd June. We are still in need of your help, so please call us and tell us what you are able to help with. The Keevil 10K telephone no. is 07757650684. Thank you. If you are planning to run in the 10K, you can now log-on and enter via the website at www.keevil10k.co.uk or email info@keevil10k.co.uk for further information.

Various stalls, refreshments and children's outdoor entertainment will be available throughout the day, so come along and enjoy a day filled with lots of fun and family entertainment. Doors open at 10am. Race times 11am – 2pm, with a prize giving ceremony after 10K. If you require further details on any of the above, please contact Debbie Scott on 870410 or Keevil School on 870376.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

SEEND PARISH COUNCIL

The March meeting was attended by 8 Councillors, with Mrs. Savage in the Chair.

Unitary Authority for Wiltshire - A letter had been sent to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, stating the PC's objections to the proposal.

Nominations for forthcoming election – Councillors present handed their completed forms to the Parish Clerk for delivery to Kennet District Council. Mrs. Tilley advised that she would not be standing for election.

Permission had been granted for the following applications:

K/55873/F Mr P Brown, 57 Sells Green, Seend

Proposed extension to front elevation and erection of timber office within front garden.

K/56006/TR2 Mr R Bichard, Seend House, High Street, Seend

Works to a horse chestnut tree just over the wall, adjacent to the High Street to consist of: the removal of minor lower branches on the High Street side of the tree up to approximately 6 metres from ground level

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

K/56139/F Dr & Mrs S Phillips, 28 Dial Close, Seend

Alteration/extension to front hallway necessary for wheelchair access

K/56248/F Tullor Ltd, Great Thornham Farm, Trowbridge Road, Seend

To convert an old farm building into an extension to the existing farm shop, adding a lean-to and porch to the front (north) end

The following application was considered by the Parish Council, and objections raised:

K/56193/F Dr & Mrs S Phillips, 28 Dial Close, Seend

Enclose a small area of open space (belonging to site at the front/side of the property) and change its use to vegetable garden

The Parish Council supported the objections of local residents that the area in question should remain as amenity land, as it is integral to the landscaping of the area.

The date of the Annual Parish Meeting will be Tuesday, 15th May to be held at The Irene Usher Memorial Pavilion at 8.00 p.m. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

The village has been entered into the Best Kept Village Competition, and the judges will be coming to the village in early May for the first round of the competition. With the lighter evenings and improved weather, this is the perfect time to make sure the village is looking tidy and its best for the judging.

The dates of the next village skips will be:

Friday 27 th April	Wessex Water site
Friday 25 th May	Seend Social Club
Friday 29 th June	Three Magpies

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 24th April at 7.30 pm in Seend Social Club.

Mrs Rosemary Fisher, Clerk

BITS'N'BOBS

BULKINGTON AS IT USED TO BE

It was a small village where everybody knew each other. You did not have to lock your doors. The children played in the street, as long as they kept an eye out for the cows going in and out for milking.

There were 10 farmers, some were small (2 – 12 cows), the rest were what we called large. One of the farmers had a horse and small cart and sold milk to the villagers. The rest of the milk went up to London by train from Seend Station. In later years the milk went up by tanker. Several of the farmers made their own butter and cheese, and Manor Farm also made cider. The pub had a thatched roof and made its own beer. Unfortunately the thatch caught fire and it was re-roofed with tiles. Bulkington also had a Blacksmith, a Cobbler, a shop and a Bakehouse. A man called Mr Ervine would walk from Trowbridge, pushing his barrow of fish every week.

I can remember in the thirties picking up the fallen apples. Some of the children would climb the trees and shake the apples off. When the apples had been collected, they were placed in sacks and taken to the farm and put into the press. When the juice had been extracted it was stored in wooden barrows. I can also remember sitting on the mowing machine drawn by two horses with my father. We used to have our lunch sitting under a hedge. Lunch was the top of a cottage loaf, a hole was then cut out of the top which was then filled with butter. The bread piece was put back and topped with a lump of cheese. I always had a small piece of bread done in exactly the same way. Our drink was cold tea from a can. There were 2 halls in the village, one of them was the church hall and the other one was known as the village hall. In the village hall we had whist drives, dances, skittles, parties and wedding receptions. At Christmas time there was a big Christmas tree and a party was held for everyone, each child was given a present! The village road was tarred with hot tar, gravel was then shovelled on to the road from the back of a lorry. A Barnes steamroller would then go up and down the road rolling the gravel down into the tar. A lot of us children would run by the engine, but you had to be careful not to run in the tar.

Many years ago in the late 1800's there was a school in the village which only opened in the winter. Eventually the school had to close because the vicar of Keevil, of which we were part of his parish, could not afford the running costs. That is why the village children went to Keevil school. At one time we had a vicar called Mr Wheller who walked all the way from Keevil for our services. At Christmas, Harvest and Easter the church looked lovely, decorated with flowers. Mr Wheeler often had to read the lessons by torch light, which when

you are a small child was very funny! There used to be a big choir of men and boys, and my Grandmother had the job of washing the surplices. When they were hung out they looked like angels on the line.

We had a Doctor Bond visit the village from Trowbridge. Money was paid into a Doctor's Club, I think we paid 2d a week, which was a lot of money then. If the doctor was coming to Bulkington in the afternoon, he used to pick up any children walking home and pile them into his car. There would often be about 8 – 10 of us in the back. We had to walk 5 miles a day to school in Keevil, which is a long way when you are only 5 years old. Doctor Bond's son took over from his father, and he still carried on giving children a lift home in his car.

During the second world war there was Salute the Soldiers, Wings for Victory and Battleship week. During the Wings for Victory week the village raised £1750 from a population of 175 and 43 houses! Not bad going was it. We could also watch the planes pulling up wooden gliders which went to the invasion of Arnhem.

They were the good old days when life was a lot slower, but we seemed to be a lot happier then.

Memories shared by Doreen

A LETTER FROM AUSTRALIA

The following letter has been received from Mrs Veronica Norvill of Melksham. the author's cousin.

I was married in Bulkington Church on 24th May 1947. So my husband Vincent and I celebrate our Diamond Anniversary this year, a wonderful milestone. I was serving in the Wrens at this time, my husband also in the Royal Navy – Dems as a gunner on Escort Ships. Revd Boron was the minister at that time, living in the Keevil vicarage. My father Leonard Littley and mother Alma, who was Australian, hence my brother Lenoard and I were born in Australia, went to England to visit my father's family just before the war. Due to the outbreak of WWII in 1939 we were unable to return to Australia – hence I and my brother attended Keevil School. So any of our age group may still remember us. My father worked for George Rose dairy and drove the milk tanks from Bulkington to London for many years. On leaving school, I worked at Nelson Haden in the Trowbridge Office, then being age 16 I went into the munitions factory. I then joined the Wrens, met my husband in 1946 and married in 1947. We lived in Leicester after coming out of the navy at the end of 1947. My parents were still in Bulkington, my brother left Keevil School and went to work for Nelson Haden, Trowbridge. He then left and was

apprentice Jockey at Fred Murless stable in Beckhampton.

We returned to Australia in 1949. My parents and brother followed in 1950. My husband and I have had many wonderful visits throughout the years to Keevil and Bulkington, as Veronica's father Samuael Bathord-Sadd, who lived at 45 Martins Road, Keevil was well known in the district and to this day the house is known as Sam's Cottage.

In 1980, as it was our 33rd wedding anniversary, we re-said our vows in Bulkington Church with friends: the Parkers and Hughes, who attended our wedding, joining us. It was such a memorable day, as Jack Pickett, who was warden of the church on our wedding day was able to arrange the special anniversary day.

Over the years, our eldest daughter Lorraine, youngest Debra and granddaughter Rachael have all visited Keevil and Bulkington churches with prayers said for all our blessings. We have two granddaughters Rachael, and Allison and one grandson Shane. Allison has given us a great-granddaughter Lauren (8) and a great-grandson Jack (2).

So we have lots of happy memories of Keevil and Bulkington. We saw the aerodrome being built, and attended many local dances. So out there, there maybe some readers who have caught up with us, while on our visits.

Our age now prevents long distance travel now, so we leave it to the younger ones. For those who remember Mum and Dad, my father sadly died young at 47, only 3 years after returning to Australia. Mum was able to see her family again in Australia, but died at the age of 61. Sadly brother Leonard died in September 2002.

Miss Pike was a teacher at Keevil School in our day. Miss Preedy, the head mistress. Madam Dickson owned and lived in Keevil Manor. Revd Willis was minister. I shared confirmation classes with Keevil and Bulkington folks at the age of 12 and was confirmed in Salisbury Cathedral. So if any of the Banfields, Whites, Kings, Banwells, or Wickings are out there and want to make contact, we are happy to do so. I remember the Miles' owned Keevil Post Office and the Wearings owned the Bakery. The Brockelbanks and Humphries are other names that come to mind. Also in Bulkington, Miss Brooks ran the local shop. Northcotes ran the Bell Inn, the Breaches were farmers, the Butlers, Roses, Jones, Phillis ran the Post Office. Other names include: the Parkers-Hughes, Hicks, Tilleys, Ellis and Baths.

Thank you for this contact. It would be lovely to hear from anyone who remembers us. Keevil and Bulkington were so much a part of my life, I will never forget, and my family share so much of it to this day.

I would be grateful if a candle could be lit on our behalf close to the 24th May. We will be giving grateful thanks to our dear Lord for his "blessings" throughout our lives.

God bless, Rita Vincent Lock

1/468 Princes Hwy, Fairy Meadow, New South Wales, Australia, 2519

SUMMER VISITORS - HOUSE MARTINS

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

Swallows - always return to their old nest sites, so please make access for them. If, for security, access has to be shut, swallows will fly through small openings in order to reach their traditional nesting sites.

Swifts - their nesting sites, some of which are centuries old, are fast disappearing. They require an access tunnel of at least 18" long with a small entrance hold. Swifts are believed to spend as much as 9 months of the year on the wing and are known to nap whilst flying!

Should you require any advice about these birds or how to obtain artificial nesting boxes and how to erect them, please contact the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust on: 01380 725670.

ADVERTISING IN SPOTLIGHT

We shall soon be renewing the annual adverts in Spotlight from the July edition. Should you wish to advertise in Spotlight, the rates for 10 issues are as follows:

£80 full page, £40 half page £20 quarter page

As there is limited space for these adverts, it will be on a first come, first served basis. Adverts should be sent ASAP and can be e-mailed to spotlight@seend.org.uk or sent by cd/floppy disc together with your cheque (made payable to Seend PCC - Magazine Account) to Spotlight, The Rectory, High Street, Seend SN12 6NR or handed in at the Post Office for the Spotlight folder Please note that for those adverts sent by e-mail the Spotlight team must receive a cheque for the advert to qualify.

If you would like to speak to someone about advertising, then please contact Sue Bond on: 01380 828537.