

SPOTLIGHT

SEEND & BULKINGTON



December 2025

January 2026

DIARY DATES FOR LATE NOVEMBER

26th Nosh and Natter Lunch, Seend Community Centre, 12.30 pm

26th Brewery Inn Quiz Night

29th "What's It All About", Seend Community Centre, 7.30 pm

DIARY DATES FOR DECEMBER

1st Mobile Library 9.40am Seend, The Lye. 10.05am Seend Cleeve phone box.
11.00am Bulkington, The Well Inn car park.

3rd Seend Shuttle to Salisbury – fully booked

3rd Bulkington Village Lunch at the Well Inn

5th First Friday Coffee Morning, Seend Community Centre, 10.30 am

6th Christmas wreath making, Seend Community Centre, 10am-12.30pm + lunch

7th Seend Ramblers Christmas walk with mince pies and mulled wine.

12th Seend School Christmas Fair, 4-7.30pm

12th One Christmas Carol play, Cleeve House

13th Christmas Coffee Morning, Bulkington Village Hall, 10.30am

13th A Winter's Tale (Children's theatre) Seend Community Centre, 11am

13th Christmas Bingo, Seend Community Centre, 7.30 for 8pm

17th LAST DAY FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO FEBRUARY SPOTLIGHT

17th Nosh & Natter Christmas Lunch, Seend Community Centre, 12.30pm

17th Brewery Inn Quiz Night

18th Carol Service, Holy Cross Church Seend, 7pm

21st Snowy Owlfest blues music, Seend Community Centre, 3pm

21st Christmas draw night, The Brewery Inn

21st Carol Service, Bulkington Church, 6pm

24th Carols in the Brewery Inn

24th Midnight Mass, Holy Cross Church Seend, 11pm

26th Boxing Day Bash, Seend Community Centre

29th Mobile Library 9.40am Seend, The Lye. 10.05am Seend Cleeve phone box.

11.00am Bulkington, The Well Inn car park.

31st New Year's Eve Party with Purple Fish, Seend Community Centre, 8pm

DIARY DATES FOR JANUARY

1st New Year's Day Village Walk and Soup, Community Centre, 11am

7th Bulkington Village Lunch, The Well Inn

9th First (well, second actually) Friday Coffee Morning, Seend Community Centre, 10.30am

26th Mobile Library 9.40am Seend, The Lye. 10.05am Seend Cleeve phone box.

11.00am Bulkington, The Well Inn car park.

28th Nosh and Natter Lunch Club, Seend Community Centre, 12.30pm

31st Ceilidh, Seend Community Centre, 7.30pm

SEEND COMMUNITY LINK SCHEME

Trouble getting **out and about**? We can help with **transport**.

Link is a team of **volunteers** who assist residents in the area who are **elderly** or **incapacitated** and are **unable to use public transport**.

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

Telephone 07532 055560 - www.seend.org.uk/seend_link

Newcomer to Seend or Bulkington?

Visit www.seend.org.uk, www.bulkington.org.uk and the Spotlight, Bulkington, Seend Community Centre and Seend Village Group **facebook** pages



WELCOME TO DECEMBER 2025 and January 2026 SPOTLIGHT

There are lots of festive happenings at Seend Community Centre, Seend School, Bulkington Village Hall, the local pubs and elsewhere for you to enjoy – and, of course, special church services.

What a year it's been! All the usual big events of 2025 – the panto, beer festival, open gardens, fete and flower show etc. were all successful as ever, plus we had the 80th anniversary of VE Day to celebrate and lots of other things to enjoy in between.

The editorial team wish you an equally memorable 2026.

Contributions for the February 2026 edition by Saturday 17th January please.

- Always email spotlight@seend.org.uk
(including photos for the online colour supplement)
- You should get a receipt of your item by the Monday after deadline. If not, you should contact one of the Editors. Who are -
Tessa Doe 07719 917814. Sue Isaac 07779 075383. Jan Field 01380 827140
- Send contributions by the deadline
- Use Word documents (or compatible) not PDF or jpg files
- Contact for Advertising is Chris Brooker 01380 828047
- Contact for Deliveries is Fiona Johnson 01380 828401
- Contact for Printing is Jan Field 01380 827140

Potential volunteer deliverers or printers contact Fiona or Jan

THE SEEND FUND - A REMINDER IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES

If you find yourself in financial difficulties, struggling to keep warm or pay for food, the fund is here to help. In the past it has contributed towards a variety of things:

* Rent Payment * School Trips * Food * Household fuel * Vets Bills
* Medical Equipment * Electrical appliances * Musical instruments * Training
* School and work clothes * Wheelchairs

Remember the Seend fund is your local fund. Anyone living in or closely associated with Seend, including our close neighbours in Bulkington and Poulshot, can apply by emailing the secretary (anitashea@hotmail.co.uk) or writing to her at 34 Seend Cleeve, Melksham SN12 6PY.

The Trustees promise complete confidentiality. Please don't hesitate to contact the fund, saying how much you need, what for and when you need it by. The fund can't make regular or huge donations but may be able to help carry you over to better times.



Irene Usher Memorial Pavilion & Seend Lye Field

Available for parties, meetings, sports events.

Book online: www.seendlyefield.org or
email:seendlrf@gmail.com

SEEND EVENTS IN DECEMBER AND BEYOND



AT THE HEART OF
OUR COMMUNITY

Special Events and Dates for the Diary

To keep up to date with Community Centre Information visit:

seendcommunitycentre.com

For the Box Office visit: seendcommunitycentre.com/box-office

See below some great events to entertain us before Christmas and into the New Year. The Christmas Wine Circle and Wreath Making Workshop are both Sold Out!

Saturday 13th December A Winter's Tale 11am Tickets £ 9 / £ 7

(with discounted family tickets and concessions available).

The performance is a solstice celebration for ages 2+.

A play-along theatre adventure. Snow is falling, and the solstice is approaching. Ratty is getting ready. But will her friends make it through the snow? Can you help them on their journey? There'll be excitement, adventure, music, silliness and lots of snow! Come along and join the fun.

Saturday 13th December Festive Bingo

Doors Open 7:30pm for an 8pm start

Always a popular event. Big Prizes and a Raffle.

No need to book – just turn up.



Sunday 21st December Snowy Owlfest 3pm £25.00

Tickets directly from the Wiltshire Blues Club.

A festive celebration of Blues and Soul – an unforgettable occasion, uniting some of the finest artists under one roof.

December 26th Boxing Day Bash

Enjoy the races and a beer at the Community Centre

New Year's Eve Party with Purple Fish 31st December 8pm

Tickets £16.50 plus £1.29 Booking Fee

Seend Centre is the place to be on New Year's Eve with a well-established annual party! To entertain us this year we have the wonderful Purple Fish: Masters of their craft with many stonking New Year's Eve events behind them.

This is a party and social evening - please bring your friends, family and party food.

There is no charge for well-behaved and supervised dependent children.

Please contact seendcommunitycentre@gmail.com for table reservations. Please block book where possible. Paper tickets available from the CC or book online <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/seend-trust-community-centre>

January 1st New Year's Day Walk and Soup 11am

Meet at the Community Centre for a circular walk of about 90 minutes and then enjoy homemade soup on your return. Or just turn up for the soup!!

Saturday 31st January 7:30pm – the 3rd Annual Seend Ceilidh with the Bristol Ceilidh Quartet.

Adult Tickets in advance are £14 / £7.50 for ages 12-17. (£15/8 on the door) Under 12s are free. Do come along with friends and family to enjoy a top band with a unique sound. The evening will be led by expert Caller Alison Rowley. The event is suitable for novices and experienced dancers, plus everyone in between!

Community Centre Regular Events

FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE MORNINGS on the 5th December and 9th January (**moved from 2nd January**) from 10.30am in the Lounge. Come and enjoy freshly made real coffee or tea (plus a refill) and delicious home-made cakes for just £3. Everyone welcome! No need to book.

NOSH & NATTER LUNCHES

The monthly lunch club meets from 12 noon for 12.30pm on the 17th December (special festive lunch!) and 28th January. Please book in advance by calling Frank Teasdale on 07719 918310. Two courses and refreshments for £8— lovely home-made dishes prepared and served by the excellent N+N team.

TGI FRIDAYS

Every Friday from 6:30 pm. Club members and guests meet in the Members Bar. Come along and find out what's going on in and around the village.

DARTS SUNDAY AFTERNOON On Last Sunday of the month.

McMillan Darts Marathon

Rusty's Café . Lounge . Bar

– The Community Centre Café- Lounge – Bar

A warm welcome to locals, walkers and wanderers! Serving a selection of cakes, sandwiches and all-day breakfasts. Teas, coffees, hot chocolate in addition to the usual range of alcoholic and soft drinks. Do come and try it out. Well behaved dogs on a lead are welcome. You don't have to be a Community Centre member to use the cafe.

Opening Hours

| | | |
|-----------|--------------|------------------------|
| Wednesday | 11am -2pm | & Bar from 7pm - Close |
| Thursday | 11am – Close | Food until 5pm |
| Friday | 11am – Close | Food until 5pm |
| Saturday | 11am – Close | Food until 5pm |
| Sunday | 11am – Close | Food until 4pm |

Friday Happy Hour – Draught Pints £3.50 * 4:30 – 6:30pm until Christmas.

Terms and conditions apply. Lounge Bar only. Not available at events or in conjunction with any other offer.

BREWERY INN EVENTS



Quiz Night - Wednesday 17th December
Xmas draw night – Sunday 21st December
Carols – Christmas Eve 7.30 onwards

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND VILLAGE INFORMATION

Please let us know of any births, marriages, deaths, special birthdays, thanks, useful information etc that you would like to see included here. N.B. We are aware that not everybody we lose from our villages gets an obituary or notice printed here. We rely on information from friends and family for this to happen.

IS IT A SCAM CALL? STOP, HANG UP and DIAL 159

Scammers are getting increasingly sophisticated these days. They can fake phone numbers, copy official logos, and sound convincing enough to make even the most sensible person second-guess themselves.

That moment of panic — when someone claims your bank account is at risk or a payment has failed — is exactly when people are most vulnerable. That's why the **159** hotline was created. It's a simple, trusted number that connects you directly to your bank if you're concerned you might be dealing with a scam.

Just dial **159** and you'll be asked which bank you'd like to reach. You can say the name or use your keypad. You'll then be safely put through to your bank's real customer service team — no scammers, no fake numbers, just genuine help when you need it most.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

In line with our practice in recent years, we will not be sending Christmas cards to our many local friends whom we see regularly. We believe exchanging personal greetings with people we meet better reflects the Christmas message than a card. Instead, as in previous years, we will give the saved money to a local charity. This year we have chosen the Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

Richard and Marion Whitehead

SEEND COMMUNITY LAND TRUST NEWS

Seend is facing important housing development issues that challenge our neighbourhood plan. More details in the enclosed Newsletter from your CLT. On the same housing subject, if you, or a member of your family, needs a Seend home, even if that is likely in the next 5 years, please let us know with a short email to info@seendclt.org. This includes housing need in the following categories: social rent, affordable rent, a smaller or more accessible home – often called downsizing, a self-build plot, a sheltered or assisted living home, or a market home. If you are interested in living in a more sustainable and social way as part of an intentional community in a cohousing development, we would like to know.

Steve Vaux – Seend CLT

www.seendclt.org

POTENTIAL BRIDGE CLUB IN SEEND?

We would like to form a Bridge Club in Seend. Is there anyone interested in joining a friendly and informal club that could possibly meet to play Bridge once or twice a month in the village? If interested please contact: Sally on 07765 860605 or Julia on 0790 4791743.

SAVE THE DATE FOR VILLAGE FETE – SATURDAY, 08 AUGUST 2026

We are excited to announce that this year's Village Fete will take place on **Saturday, 08 August 2026**.

Your **call to action** is to mark the date on your calendar and invite your friends and family for a day filled with fun, community spirit, and festivities! The past few years have offered truly wonderful celebrations of our community, and this year's event is not to be missed.

We have a few announcements to share:

Volunteers - First and foremost, our committee has grown! We'd like to offer a warm welcome to **Mel, Emma, and Toby**, who all stepped forward after attending last year's event. Their enthusiasm will undoubtedly contribute to making this another successful year.

Do you geek out on health and safety? Are you a whizz at social media? Are you a *peoples* person? If so, please get in touch to see how you can support us. Whether you can offer a couple of hours' advice or are happy to help on the day, we'd really appreciate your support.

Sponsors - We are thrilled to announce our first partners for 2026!

Melksham Tyre Supplies will be sponsoring our Car Show, and

The Flyer will once again return as a site sponsor.

Artisan Market - We are now open for trader bookings, so please get in touch to reserve your spot. We're looking for papercraft, bakers, and woodturners! We'd like our market to be a celebration of local crafts.

Cars - We are now open for exhibitors! Please help us spread the word to anyone with a classic car, bike, lorry, or tractor. Last year we had a fantastic number of vehicles on display, which is always a joy to see and never fails to pull the crowds. **Mel Steel** is joining our resident expert **Richard Watton** to help grow this section of the event.

Booking your spot - To book your space (Sponsor, trader or exhibitor) please drop an email and we'll send you an entry form.

Stay in the loop with all the latest updates and interact with us by following our Facebook page **@seendiffete** and visiting our website **seendiffete.org**.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Warm regards, Team Fete #teamseendiffete

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY AND CHURCH FUNDS

It was a real pleasure to welcome so many people to the service of remembrance on Sunday 9th November at Holy Cross in Seend. Especially pleasing was to see so many young people from the scouts, beavers and school and we hope to see them again at the Christingle service on 8th December. The collection taken during the service was given to the Royal British Legion, for which they are very grateful. As the congregation left they were given a letter from the Rector, Rev Gerry Lynch, seeking support (financial and/or in time) to help our village church which is greatly valued by so many in our community, especially at major events in the year like Remembrance Sunday, or major life events. If you feel able to support the church in response to his appeal, you can do this in a number of ways. Join the Friends of Seend Church (leaflets at the back of the church) or offer your time or financial support by contacting one of the churchwardens or the Rector (contact details at the back of Spotlight).

Holy Cross Churchwardens



CHURCH NEWS

The old Christmas carols are so familiar to us that we can lose the message they're actually trying to convey. It's easy to lump "O Come, All Ye Faithful" and "O Little Town of Bethlehem", which are full of meaning, together with "Jingle Bell Rock" and Slade's "Merry Xmas Everybody". After all, they're all part of our mental backing track to fond memories of heavy drinking and furtive snogging at office parties.

Perhaps we can better retrieve the true meaning of Christmas from the less well-known carols. A few lines by Christina Rossetti, that are generally sung only by choirs rather than the whole congregation, strike me as being particularly meaningful this year:

*Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love Divine...*

God is love, as the Bible says in three simple words, without qualification (1 John 4:8). God, who is love, came into the world in the form of a tiny, vulnerable, baby. Love didn't come into the world as the son of a monarch or a great intellect, but to a humble carpenter, in terrible poverty. Love seeks to be in the company of kindness and humility, rather than power or wealth.

Love came into a world of cruel tyrants and baby-killers, where many held that human life, especially the lives of the most vulnerable and least able to care for themselves, was of little value. It was, therefore, a world that was in some ways like ours.

And in some important ways, it was not. Gone are the state-sanctioned public beatings of slaves and exposures of infants on hillsides. The Wiltshire-based historian Tom Holland made the case that it was Christianity that slowly carried Europeans away from the brutality of the Roman Empire in his 2019 book *Dominion*.

Whether you believe in God or not, there are obvious reasons why the Christian narrative became the backing track to our culture. It makes unique sense of the most profound parts of our lives—how precious and vulnerable love is; how precarious our lives and material wellbeing are; how the good that we do is often used against us; and how it is when we continue to love and do good in the face of it all that we are transformed into something better than we could have imagined for ourselves.

We live at a profoundly worrying time in the world. The news bulletins sometimes fill us with dread. To remember how grim and dark the world was when love came down at the first Christmas is to retrieve hope, to remember that things do get better, and often are getting better in ways that few people are paying attention to.

Christmas is about something new breaking into the world, something fragile and ignored by most, that will in the course of time change the world forever—that something new is love.

To take the risk of loving is to light a candle against the darkness of the world, and to touch the nature of God.

Gerry Lynch



CHURCH SERVICES IN DECEMBER 2025

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

Sunday 7th (Advent 2)

| | | |
|--------|-----------------|------------|
| 8am | Communion (BCP) | Potterne |
| 9:30am | Communion | Worton |
| 9:30am | Matins (BCP) | Poulshot |
| 11am | Communion | Potterne |
| 11am | Communion | Seend |
| 4pm | Evensong (BCP) | Bulkington |

Sunday 14th (Advent 3)

| | | |
|--------|-----------------|------------|
| 8am | Communion (BCP) | Seend |
| 9:30am | Family Service | Worton |
| 9:30am | Communion (BCP) | Poulshot |
| 11am | Communion | Potterne |
| 11am | Communion | Bulkington |
| 6pm | Carol Service | Potterne |

Thursday 18th

| | | |
|-----|---------------|-------|
| 7pm | Carol Service | Seend |
|-----|---------------|-------|

Friday 19th

| | | |
|--------|--------------|-----------------------|
| 3:30pm | Messy Church | Potterne Village Hall |
|--------|--------------|-----------------------|

Sunday 21st (Advent 4)

| | | |
|--------|----------------------|------------|
| 8am | Communion (BCP) | Potterne |
| 9:30am | Communion | Worton |
| 11am | Morning Praise | Potterne |
| 11am | High Eucharist (BCP) | Seend |
| 4pm | Evensong (BCP) | Poulshot |
| 6pm | Carol Service | Bulkington |

Wednesday 24th (Christmas Eve)

| | | |
|------|------------------|------------|
| 2pm | Blessing of Crib | Bulkington |
| 6pm | Carol Service | Worton |
| 6pm | Carol Service | Poulshot |
| 11pm | Midnight Mass | Potterne |
| 11pm | Midnight Mass | Seend |

Thursday 25th (Christmas Day)

| | | |
|---------|------------------------|------------|
| 9am | Family Communion | Worton |
| 9am | Festal Communion (BCP) | Poulshot |
| 10am | Festal Communion | Bulkington |
| 10:30am | Festal Communion | Seend |
| 10:30am | Festal Communion | Potterne |

Sunday 28th (Christmas 1)

| | | |
|------|------------------|------------|
| 10am | Benefice Service | Bulkington |
|------|------------------|------------|

Wednesday 31st

| | | |
|-----|----------------|----------|
| 3pm | Celtic Service | Poulshot |
|-----|----------------|----------|

JANUARY 2026



Sunday 4th (Christmas 2)

| | | |
|--------|-----------------|------------|
| 8am | Communion (BCP) | Potterne |
| 9:30am | Communion | Worton |
| 9:30am | Matins (BCP) | Poulshot |
| 11am | Communion | Potterne |
| 11am | Communion | Seend |
| 4pm | Evensong (BCP) | Bulkington |

Tuesday 6th (Epiphany)

| | | |
|-----|----------------------|-------|
| 7pm | High Eucharist (BCP) | Seend |
|-----|----------------------|-------|

Sunday 11th (Baptism of Christ)

| | | |
|--------|-----------------|------------|
| 8am | Communion (BCP) | Seend |
| 9:30am | Communion (BCP) | Poulshot |
| 9:30am | Family Service | Worton |
| 11am | Communion | Bulkington |
| 11am | Communion | Potterne |
| 6pm | Evensong (BCP) | Potterne |

Sunday 18th (Epiphany 2)

| | | |
|--------|----------------------|------------|
| 8am | Communion (BCP) | Potterne |
| 9:30am | Morning Praise | Bulkington |
| 9:30am | Communion | Worton |
| 11am | Morning Praise | Potterne |
| 11am | High Eucharist (BCP) | Seend |
| 4pm | Evensong (BCP) | Poulshot |

Sunday 25th (Epiphany 3)

| | | |
|--------|-----------------|------------|
| 9:30am | Communion (BCP) | Poulshot |
| 9:30am | Morning Praise | Worton |
| 11am | Communion | Bulkington |
| 11am | Communion | Seend |
| 11am | Communion | Potterne |
| 4pm | Evensong (BCP) | Seend |

Weds 28th

| | | |
|-----|----------------|----------|
| 3pm | Celtic Service | Poulshot |
|-----|----------------|----------|

From the Registers:

Baptisms

Alba and Rosa Richards on 30th November at Holy Cross, Seend.

Weddings

Olivia Hawkins and Joshua Hunter on 1st November at St Peter's, Poulshot.

Funerals

Gordon Graham on 16th October at Holy Cross, Seend.

Christine Marston on 31st October at Christ Church, Bulkington.

Anthony 'David' Sawyer on 25th November at Holy Cross, Seend



**Friday 19th December 3.30 pm – 5.15 pm
Potterne Village Hall, Mill Road, SN10 5ND
(parking available at the hall and old school)**

Crafts – games - worship - food – fun

You are welcome to arrive any time in the first hour. Refreshments when you arrive, then crafts and activities, Bible story and song, followed by a sit down family meal

Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult



Every Tuesday, 9am Daily Prayer service at Poulshot
Churches are open for private prayer during the week.

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

BULKINGTON NEWS

**The Bulkington Village Lunch
takes place on**

Wednesday, 3rd Dec. and Wed. 7th Jan. at 12.15 for 12.30 at The Well.

Please contact Phyl Yarde in advance for the menu (828116).

New people are always welcome to join us. It is a good social event for the entire village and area.

THE TEA, CRAFT AND CHAT SOCIAL GROUP



will meet from 2.00 – 4.00 p.m. on Monday 8th Dec. at 42 Bulkington, the home of Sally Gosling, and Mon 12th Jan. (Venue to be arranged)

New people always welcome.

Bring your own craft item or leave it at home and just come and chat!

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

Bulkington PCC invites you to their Christmas Coffee Morning on Sat. 13th Dec. 10.30 am – 12 noon in Bulkington Village Hall. There will be a Bring & Buy stall and a bumper raffle. Please come and meet up with old friends and new. Proceeds will be shared with Julia's House in Devizes. Any donations for the stall or raffle will be much appreciated. Thanks, Liz Futter 828485

BULKINGTON LADIES GROUP

On Thurs 11th Dec we are having a Christmas Lunch at The Three Magpies. If you haven't already done so, please give your menu choice to me asap.

Our January meeting will be on Thurs 29th in the Village Hall, and will be a planning meeting for 2026. As an experiment we will hold this meeting at 3 pm with tea and cake. Please come with your ideas. There will be a raffle and possibly a Quiz.

We wish everyone a very Happy Christmas.

Liz Futter 828485

The Mobile Library will be visiting the car-park of The Well in Bulkington on Monday 1st and 29th Dec. and Mon. 26th Jan 11.05 – 11.30 am.

**BULKINGTON VILLAGE HALL
AVAILABLE FOR HIRE**

SEATING FOR UP TO 60 PERSONS - FULL DISABLED ACCESS
FROM £12. FOR A FIVE HOUR SESSION
TABLE TENNIS £5. AN HOUR
HEATING BY COIN METER

For further information phone Roger Futter 01380 828485



Parish Clerk - Mrs. Tekla Hicks
clerk@bulkington.org.uk

Minutes of the Bulkington Parish Council General Meeting held on Wednesday 12th November 2025 at 7.30pm at Bulkington Village Hall, Bulkington, Wiltshire.

Present: Councillors S. Macalpine-Downie (vice-chair – who chaired the meeting), J. Anderson-Hill, A. Breach.

Wiltshire Councillor: Tamara Reay. Proper Officer: T. Hicks.

MINUTES

Recording and filming of the meeting - There were no MOP present.

Apologies - Cllr. Oakey gave his apologies.

Declarations of Interest - There were no declarations of interest received.

Minutes of the previous meeting - The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 8th October 2025 were APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Public Participation - None.

There were no petitions or deputations received.

Reports

The members received an update from Wiltshire Councillor – Cllr. Reay. Cllr Reay updated the meeting with news of the Community Governance Review (terms of reference should be received by Christmas), the reinstatement of free Blue Badge Parking and the estimated costs to Wiltshire Council.

No chair's report.

No clerk's report.

The members received the up-to-date external meetings schedule.

Planning Matters to discuss

The council noted that no applications were received before the meeting.

The council noted the BPC Planning Schedule as at 1st November 2025.

Maintenance

The council discussed and agreed parish steward jobs for next visit.

ACTION: Clerk to ask the parish steward to clear moss at The Close and around the stile along the footpath in The Close. Clerk to write to resident who's hedge is encroaching on the pavement.

The council received an update regarding moving road signs. Children crossing warning sign: Clerk to ask Wiltshire Council to change sign to 'School Children Crossing'. Clerk to ask Wiltshire Council to install new 'slow down' signs at each end of the village, and new 'cattle' warning signs towards the Keevil end of the village.

Bulkington Village entrance signs and enhancing these. It was agreed to carry forward.

Finance

Payments Approved:

Clerk's Salary.

Clerk's PAYE.

Clerk's expenses to 31st October 2025.

RBL Wreath donation – send to resident who paid this on behalf of the council. £27.

Mark Goddard & Sons Landscaping - £954.

Wiltshire Council elections - £220.00.

The council considered the following requests for payment received prior to the meeting:

Reimbursement to the resident who purchased the large display poppies in the village. Cllr. Anderson-Hill to request bank details.

The council UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED the request for the grant to the BPCC under S137 for grass cutting at the Church - £150.

Monthly Management Accounts - Members received the monthly financial report and bank reconciliation. Cllr. Macalpine-Downie signed the bank reconciliation and bank statements.

Budget and Precept 2026-27 - Members received and discussed final draft of the proposed budget and precept requirements for 2026-27. It was RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY to approve this budget and the clerk to send the precept demand for 2026-27 to Wiltshire Council.

Playground & Grounds - Members received an update on the playground maintenance. It was agreed to carry forward.

Telephone Kiosk - The council received an update from the clerk that no comments had been received from readers of Spotlight as to the future use of the telephone kiosk. Therefore, it was RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY to ACTION: Cllr. Breach to re-site the kiosk in the Spring and the council to decide on repurposing.

Governance

There were no new applications for co-option to fill the Councillor vacancies.

The council UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED the adoption of the Councillor's Statement of Assurance as an additional part of the NALC Civility and Respect pledge.

The council discussed the dates for 2026 meetings. Due to the lack of business to transact, it was RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY to move to bi-monthly meetings with immediate effect. The clerk requested meetings move to a Monday due to other parish council commitments. Therefore, the proposed dates for 2026 will be (subject to village hall availability) as follows:- 12th January, 9th March, 11th May, 13th July, 14th September, 9th November 2026.

Correspondence to note and discuss

The council UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED the South West Ambulance Charity grant for £25.

The council noted the Flood Warden Autumn Newsletter 2025.

Confirmation of date of next meeting - The next meeting will be on Monday 12th January 2025 at 7.30pm. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

These minutes are subject to approval at the next council meeting.

SEEND CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

SEEND WI Our speaker in November was Julia Kirkland. She had spent a



forty-year career in the City and gave us an interesting talk on “Financial Wellbeing”. In addition, she provided an excellent sheet of general information as to where WI members could find help on such topics as Pension Credit, Wills, Lasting Power of Attorney documents etc. Julia was thanked for a very informative and helpful talk.

Members are looking forward to our Christmas social, with a craft element followed by festive nibbles. We support the charity “Open Door” at this time of year by donating gifts of clothing and toiletries.

Our January meeting will be a talk by Victoria Nye on Cadenham Gardens and their creator.

We wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Normally our regular meetings take place in the Pavilion, Rusty Lane, Seend on the second Wednesday of the month. For more information, please contact Joyce Harvey on 01380 828511.

Joyce Harvey



In November we remember the fallen of the two World Wars and those who fell in other conflicts.

The Seend Remembrance Sunday service on 9th November was very well attended, as was the smaller service on Armistice Day, 11th November. In the two weeks prior to the Remembrance services, our poppy collectors were out and about, despite the weather, collecting for the RBL, in support of veterans, serving personnel and their families.

I am pleased to announce that in Seend we raised over £1600, plus over £630 from the Lamp-Post Poppies around the village. A huge thank you to the Poppy Appeal collectors, those who donated, and the sponsors of the Lamp-Post Poppies. We have yet to receive the details of the QR code donations and collections from the Cannings and some local workplaces. I will update you all when we get the final figures.

We are now entering the depths of winter and the time of Christmas. If you are aware of any veterans or members of the Armed Forces family who need help and support during this time, please reach out to the RBL – we may be able to help.

Regards

Steve Cubberley

Steven@Cubberley.com

Chairman – Seend Branch RBL

Lest We Forget

SHUTTLE NEWS

The trip to Salisbury on the 3rd of December is fully booked. Please let me know on 01380 828757 or 07851 008349 if you can't come after all. There will be NO TRIP IN JANUARY. Book when you like for February 4th.



I just looked through recent and older pictures of all the lovely things that go on in the village. Very easy to find by googling Seend Spotlight magazine colour supplements.

Highly recommended if you feel the years are whizzing by and you can't remember what you've done!

Anita Shea

SEEND THEATRE CLUB



“Small Hotel” starring Ralph Fiennes was an interesting theatrical experience! This new play featured Fiennes as a fading chat show host in a surreal, dream-like state, where his life flashed before him through fragmented memories. Although the play’s narrative was sometimes hard to follow, there were strong performances from Fiennes and particularly from Francesca Annis as the mother.

It certainly gave us plenty to talk about on the way home!

Our latest trip was to enjoy “Mamma Mia!”, the musical with the timeless songs of Abba, at Bristol Hippodrome.

A highlight in December is our Christmas Social Evening, so that members can meet up, chat and enjoy some seasonal treats!

In January we have a group booking at the Wharf to see “Dr. Faustus”, an Elizabethan tragedy by Christopher Marlowe. Written in the late 16th century, it tells the story of a scholar who sells his soul to the devil in exchange for magical power. It will be interesting to see how it is interpreted by the talented Wharf cast.

We always welcome new members so, if you are interested, please contact either Ken (01380 828511) or email:

membership.seendtheatreclub@gmail.com for an application form

Ken Harvey.

SEEND & DISTRICT RAMBLERS



On November 16th, 10 members met on a chilly but dry day, after storm Claudia, for a lovely 4 mile walk led by Rachel and Nick. We met in Steeple Ashton village, walked past the beautiful church, where the bells for Sunday service were ringing. We followed a circular route along footpaths, bridleways and lanes where the views of our country side were admired by all.

Next walk – Sunday 7th December. This will be our Christmas walk with Mulled Wine and mince pies at the end. January walk has not been decided but give a call if you would like to join us in the New Year.

Wishing all readers, your friends and families a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. That is all for this edition and year, can't believe we are at the end of another year!!

Sandy

SEEND PLAYGROUP

The children made some lovely, bright firework pictures after discussing how to keep safe by bonfires and fireworks. Most of the children said they liked seeing fireworks and a few said they didn't like the ones that bang.

We made poppies with paint being dabbed on with a sponge and discussed Remembrance Day. We walked down to the wall and listened to the bells ringing at 11am on the 11th November.

Jan Ellinger is coming in to do decorations with the children in November and December.

A lot of the children dressed up for Children in Need. We also iced biscuits and put some sweets on top which the children took home, giving a donation.

Our Nativity is on 12th December at 10.30am with a raffle, mince pies and coffee afterwards.

Our last day is 19th December, we have Dave Hickory coming to entertain the children at 10-11am the Father Christmas at 11.15am. Party food afterwards.

We will have 2 weeks off for Christmas and will return on 5th January.

We wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Rose Dick. Playgroup Leader. 01380 828003.



SEEND SCHOOL NEWS

Term 1 has flown by, and we're already well into a very busy Term 2! Our School Council did a fantastic job selling poppy merchandise in the lead-up to 11th November, and we held a very special Remembrance Service in school, welcoming families and members of the community to join us.



We marked World Diabetes Day by wearing blue and raising money for Diabetes UK. One of our pupils, who has diabetes, bravely delivered a presentation to the whole school — we are incredibly proud of them! We also supported Children in Need, with everyone coming to school dressed in yellow and spots. It was wonderful to see so many Pudseys around! Thank you to all the families who donated cakes for our after-school cake sale, which helped us raise even more money.

We're also excited to share some lovely news — our Reception/Year 1 class has welcomed two new furry friends! Bluey and Bingo, our very fluffy guinea pigs, have joined Seend School. The children have absolutely loved helping to care for them.

As we look ahead, our festive celebrations will soon begin! Our Christmas Fair will take place on Friday 12th December from 4pm to 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome, so please do come along! There will be delicious treats, gifts, festive refreshments, a special visit from Father Christmas, and plenty more.

We are always delighted to show prospective families around our school. If you are considering joining Seend School, please contact us on 01380 828 334 or email

admin@seend.wilts.sch.uk

We wish all our families and the wider community a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year when it arrives! ☺☺

Join us at our very own Seend C of E Primary School Christmas Fair!

On 12th December, we are holding our annual School Christmas Fair from 4-7.30pm. Come and visit our local artisan stalls, selling gorgeous Christmas gifts, enjoy some festive mulled wine and bring the whole family for Christmas fun, crafts and games. If any local businesses would like to donate a raffle prize to help us raise money for the School, please contact us at friendsofseendschool@gmail.com

We'd love to see you all there.

Our very own Village Christmas Decoration Amnesty for Seend C of E School!

Have you updated your Christmas Decorations this year? Do you have Christmas decorations you no longer need? Instead of letting them gather dust in the loft, why not consider donating them to Friends of Seend School (FoSS) to use to decorate our village school and make the children's Christmas even more 'sparkly and bright'. We would welcome pre-loved festive decorations in good condition to help decorate our school and to make our Christmas Fair sparkle even more. Please take them to the School Reception in school open hours. Many thanks in advance for your generous donations!

MDSA Vacancy at Seend School



Hours: 5 hours per week

Contract: Permanent basis. Term time only over 38 weeks. Start Date: ASAP

As part of our midday supervisory team, you would play a key role in supporting lunchtimes in our school. This is fantastic opportunity to join us on our journey, working in a school environment to support our primary-aged children and ensure they have a safe and positive lunchtime experience.

Do you have what it takes to join us? The Midday Supervisory Assistant we would like to join us will be:

- Enthusiastic about working in a school environment.
- Able to communicate confidently with children and staff.

Aware of the importance of child protection and safeguarding policies and procedures. Please go to our website – www.seend.wilts.sch.uk and go to ‘careers’ to view the full job advert or contact admin@seend.wilts.sch.uk for more information.

KEEVIL SCHOOL

It is with sadness I write this month, as this will be the last time that I do this, as after almost 20 years I am moving on from Keevil School at Christmas. I know I will never be lucky enough to work in such a wonderful school and setting again but sometimes change and new opportunities need to be taken. But life at school will continue full of learning, enjoyment and different experiences for all the children long after I have departed.

We have great success to share with you all this month – our school football team has won the Trowbridge Small Schools Football League, something we have never achieved before! Our team has represented us magnificently and remained unbeaten on their way to glory. We are all incredibly proud of the children and their achievement.

Our Children in Need cake competition and sale was another exciting day for the school. Well done to everyone for sharing their amazing and tasty creations!

Special congratulations go to the winners (see photos) and thank you to everyone for contributing to this wonderful charity.

The children are already starting to practice for our different festive performances. Wildcat Class (YR/Y1/Y2) will be performing their nativity play in St Leonard’s Church on Monday 15th December at 1:30pm and Tuesday 16th

December at 5pm. And Apache Class (Y3/Y4) will be serenading us at their Christmas Concert on Wednesday 17th December at 5pm in the Church. If you would like to join us for any of these performances, you are very welcome.

We also look to what we can give others at this time of year, as living out our mission of ‘Always treating others as we would like to be treated’ is very important to us. Throughout December we will be running a Reverse Advent Calendar again to collect donations for The Storehouse Foodbank in Trowbridge.

We will also be repeating the very successful Bristol Children’s Hospital Toy Run that we organised last year in conjunction with M. Wyatt Construction Ltd. During this we collected and donated a huge number of toys for the hospital. If you would like to take part in either of these appeals, we would welcome your contributions. Please contact us via the school office for more information.

It just leaves me to wish you and your families, on behalf of everyone in school, a very happy Christmas and all the best for the new year.

Lindsey Hermon
Headteacher



SEEND SPORTING DRAMATIC AND LITERARY NEWS

(We're delighted to say that reports of Frankie's retirement in the last issue were premature!)

TENNIS :

Seend is presently playing in The Chippenham and District tennis league's winter competition. Results so far are a 5-3 win over Melksham, a narrow 3-5 loss to Trowbridge and a 4-4 draw with Chippenham with, surprisingly, no postponements to date for bad weather. Seend has so far have been represented by Teresa Hamilton, Karin and Marek Dolak, Alex Gray, Fiona Stanford, Atalanta Moody, Mary Potts, Harry Waylen and Frankie Goddard.

Our next match on November 25th will be an evening fixture under floodlights at Calne. All our home matches are on a Sunday at 10.30am on the newly resurfaced village courts with the December fixtures being on the 7th and 21st. Supporters and any players keen to join us are most welcome particularly with nearby Rusty's cafe and bar in the Community Centre being conveniently open during those Sunday matches.

FOOTBALL :

Seend currently top Division 1 having played 8, won 7, drawn 1 and lost none. As we go to press they are 2 points ahead of Holt FC. November and December league fixtures for the team are away to Freshford on November 22nd and then away to Heytesbury on December 6th. Thereafter Seend will be playing in a number of cup competitions having got to two finals last season, winning one and of course also winning the league. It is good to see that the village pitch on The Lye Field, that valuable village asset, has been kept in such great condition, despite the drought, by Andy Waylen and his trusty ground staff.

SHORT MAT BOWLS :

Thank you Colin for keeping me updated with the boys' results and news over the summer. Some great outcomes there, details of which I am always keen to read about, and yes I have spread the word to my new found friends here in Limpley Stoke.

DRAMATIC and the LITERARY :

I hope to be able to give you a full update in January of the progress of the number of budding village authors and playwrights.

Results, fixtures and news for February's spotlight can be sent to me, by 15th January, care of the Limpley Stoke Retirement Village, where I am thinking of overwintering.

SEEND 100 CLUB

October Draw

| | | |
|-------|--------------------------|-----|
| 1 No. | 36 J. Ellinger | £50 |
| 2 No. | 1 B. Powell. | £20 |
| 3 No. | 46 O. Collinge-Cubberley | £20 |
| 4 No. | 159 P. Mansergh | £20 |



Thanks to everyone at the Coffee Morning, who helped with the draw.

Alison Bottomley

Seend Parish Council

You can view the Seend Parish Council minutes for November by using this link.

www.seendparishcouncil.co.uk/community/seend-parish-council-18482/minutes-2025/

BITS AND BOBS

Our lecture on **December 17th** is:

“Joseph of Nazareth – Best Supporting Actor”.

Amina Wright's lecture explores the many legends and faces of Joseph through the ages, from wizened old man to powerful guardian. Come and discover the hidden depths in that simple bearded figure on your Christmas cards.

Amina Wright has three decades of experience as a curator of historic art collections and exhibitions. As Senior Curator at the Holburne Museum in Bath she was a leading member of the team that delivered the museum's highly successful 2011 redevelopment.

Our lecture on **January 21st** is:

“Brave New World – The Festival of Britain”.

The 1951 Festival of Britain was an inspiring event designed to put Britain back on its feet after the ravages of the Second World War. Marc Allum looks at its legacy and effect on post-war Britain through the development of design, architecture and art. Both lectures are in the Corn Exchange, Devizes. Please be in your seats for 10:45 am. Lectures start at 11 am through to 12 noon. Coffee is available beforehand. Membership of The Arts Society Devizes is £50 for monthly world class lectures October through to July 2026.

Alternatively come to this lecture as a guest - £8.

Please email us first at theartssocietydevizes@gmail.com.

To join the Society, go to www.theartssocietydevizes.org or search Facebook for The Arts Society Devizes.

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ONE CHRISTMAS CAROL

Cleeve House in Seend on 12th December

One Actor. 35 Characters. One Unforgettable Christmas Story.

One Christmas Carol By **Douglas H. Baker**, a one-man adaptation starring acclaimed stage actor **Gwithian Evans**, best known for his roles in The King's Man and the Mouse Trap and directed by **Claire Evans**.



One Christmas Carol uses just **three mismatched chairs** and an astonishing performance to breathe new life into over **35 iconic characters**—including Ebenezer Scrooge, Bob Cratchitt, Tiny Tim, and the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future offering audiences of all ages a deeply moving and unexpectedly magical experience. **Tickets and tour information available now at www.onechristmascarol.co.uk**

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

Fri 28th & Sat 29th November 2025 10.30am - 4pm

3 St Mary's School Buildings, Steeple Ashton
Wiltshire BA14 6EU (Behind the village shop)

www.wiltshireguildswd.org



MELKSHAM FLOWER CLUB

Meets on the third Tuesday of each month
at 2pm in Seend Community Centre
16th December and 20th January

THE SINGING SECTION.....



Cantamus Chamber Choir's Christmas Concert sees the choir joining forces with Horizons Choir to perform Matt Finch's suite of fresh arrangements of carols. *Silent Night*, an acclaimed suite of carols by Bath composer Matt Finch for choir and jazz quintet, features reimagined versions of familiar tunes; *Hark the Herald* as a samba, a funky *Three Kings*, *In the Bleak Mid-Winter* gets a sublime setting for female voices, and there's a spine tingling take on *Silent Night* itself.

Cantamus is joined by Bath-based **Horizons Choir** and a jazz quintet. Each choir will perform a short programme of beautiful seasonal music in the first half before joining together for *Silent Night*.

You have two opportunities to hear this amazing concert. At both venues, we will be shaking a bucket for Voices for Life - taking children on a journey of self-discovery through the power of music, creativity and performance.

Holy Trinity, Bradford on Avon BA15 1LW, Tuesday 16 December, 7.30pm

St Michael's Without, Bath BA1 5LP, Monday 22 December, 7.30pm

Tickets £18 / Students & U18s £5. Available in advance from www.ticketsource.co.uk/silentnight and on the door.



Lavington Community Choir Christmas Concert

Friday 19th December at 7.30pm

Market Lavington Community Hall, St Mary's Rd,
Market Lavington, SN10 4DG



Tickets £8 From St Arbucks Market Lavington, Devizes Books or on the door
Bar & mince pies

MELKSHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

Melksham Choral Society Concert: Our concert at the United Church on December the 6th coincides with the Melksham Christmas lights turning on celebrations.

Why not come and watch them then enjoy Rossini's Messe Solennelle at 7.30pm.
Tickets on the door.



BOOK NOW FOR ADVENT!

Tickets are on sale now for Edington Arts' very popular Advent Concert on Saturday December 6th, at 7.30pm in Edington Priory Church, and will be given by the excellent chapel choir of the Queen's College, Oxford - a "jewel in the British Choral scene", according to BBC Music Magazine.

Mince pies and mulled wine (and non-alcoholic alternatives) will be available during the interval. Details of the programme are on the website . Book online at website www.edingtonarts.org or by phone from Chrissy on 01380 831256!

WHITE HORSE OPERA

Tickets are now on sale for a gorgeous Christmas Concert on Friday 12th December at St Andrew's Church (Nice and warm!).

Includes Allegri's Miserere, Vivaldi's Gloria, pieces from Handel's Messiah and many more beautiful works. Refreshments will be served.

Tickets £15 from Devizes Books and
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whitehorseopera>

Don't forget to look at our December online colour supplement - available shortly on seend.org.uk - for photos of what's happened since the last issue.

Please send photos of village events that you would like published to
spotlight@seend.org.uk

AND FINALLY.....

Why was the snowman embarrassed when he was spotted rummaging through a bag of carrots?

He was caught picking his nose.

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?

Tinsilitis.

How much did Santa pay for his sleigh?

Nothing – it was on the house.

Why did the turkey join the rock band?

Because it had drumsticks.



Happy Festive Season to all our Readers

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

Church: Rector Rev Gerry Lynch. Email rev@gerrylynch.co.uk Tel. 07521 440622
Assoc. Priest Rev. Caroline O'Neil 828302 (p/t) Maureen Allchin 07421 137462
Benefice Administrator: Sarah Leckie 07938 270815. PCC Secretary: Anne Ewing, 828557.
Churchwardens: Seend: Len Murray, 828513; Anne Ewing 828557
Bulkington: Mrs Liz Futter 828485, Mike Rose 01249 248516; LPAs: Liz Futter 828485,
Len Murray 828513, Sue Noad 870343, Sue Rose 01249 248516, Hilary Hutchings 828129,
Tina Yockney 827139.
Bell Tower Captain: L Murray 828513.
Irene Usher Pavilion bookings – www.seendlyefield.org/bookings.html or 828970
Bulkington Village Hall - Roger and Liz Futter 828485
Seend Community Centre – To contact please e-mail seendcommunitycentre@gmail.com
Seend Shuttle: Enquiries: seendshuttle@gmail.com or Alison 07951 030491
Seend Parish Council Clerk – Hayley Bell clerk@seendparishcouncil.co.uk
Seend's Wiltshire Councillor – Tamara Reay 07711824864 tamara.reay@wiltshire.gov.uk
Seend Village Website: www.seend.org.uk – webmaster Neil Yockney 827139.
Seend School – 828334
Bulkington Website: www.bulkington.org.uk
Bulkington Parish Council—Tekla Hicks clerk@bulkington.org.uk
Bulkington's Wilts Councillor – Tamara Reay 07711824864 tamara.reay@wiltshire.gov.uk
Countryside access officers (new name for rights of way wardens) for Seend & Bulkington:
Ali Raisey ali.raisey@wiltshire.gov.uk and Stephen Leonard Stephen.leonard@wiltshire.gov.uk
Devizes Area Board – 01225 718352 Support Officer: tara.shannon@wiltshire.gov.uk
MP: Dr Brian Mathew – email brian.mathew.mp@parliament.uk
Police Community Support, Sgt Kerena Walters, kerena.walters@wiltshire.police.uk

100+Club Draw-Alison Bottomley - avbottomley@yahoo.co.uk
Book Clubs - the original: June May 827169 / 07590 818750 -
the other: Frank Teasdale 07719 918310
Cricket Club - Brian Hunt 828581
Day Schools -Tessa Doe 07719 917814
Fawlty Players Panto Group - Tessa Doe 07719 917814
Fete-see Lye Field
Flower Show -Julia White 01380 827082
Football -Jake Sainsbury
FoSS - friendsofseendschool@gmail.com
Historic Houses Club - Debbie Savage 07753 311996 or Neil Yockney 827139
LINK Scheme - 075320 55560
Lye Field - www.seendlyefield.org
Neighbourhood Watch -
Seend - Brian Hunt 828581
Seend Cleeve - Owen Burton 828820 theclerk@bulkington-pc.co.uk
Preschool -(Playleader) Rose Dick 828003
Poetry Group - Tessa Doe 07719 917814

Nosh & Natter – Frank Teasdale 07719 918310
Ramblers - Sandy James 01380 739235
Royal British Legion - Sec: Dave Beaumont 07538 651712, Welfare: Christine O'Reilly 07791 157060 / 01380 828888
Chairman: Steve Cubberley 07711 127230
Seend Baby & Toddler Group - Eleanor Braney 07947 867701 elbraney84@hotmail.co.uk
Seend CLT - www.seend clt.org info@seendclt.org
Seend Fund - Anita Shea 828757
Short Mat Bowls Club - Colin Waldeck 01225 736092
Table tennis - Chris Brooker, 828047
Tennis Club - seendtennisclub@gmail.com
Theatre Club - Ken Harvey 828511 - membership.seendtheatreclub@gmail.com
Wheelchairs to borrow -
Sue and Graham Jones in Seend Cleeve, tel: 01380 828354
WI - Fiona Johnson on 828401 and Joyce Harvey 828511
Wine Circle - Steve Parsons 07974 347487 seendwinecircle@gmail.com



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9am to 2pm Wed, Sat
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