

SPOTLIGHT

SEEND & BULKINGTON

Seend Fawly Players' 46th Village Pantomime

CINDERELLA



Thursday 19th and Friday 20th February at 7.30pm

Saturday 21st February at 7pm

In Seend Centre, Rusty Lane, Seend SN12 6NS

Tickets £6/£3 children

available from Seend Centre/Rusty's and from the Brewery Inn, Seend Cleeve (check opening hours)

also online at seendcommunitycentre/box-office (with small booking fee)

Proceeds to Dorothy House Hospice

February 2026

DIARY DATES FOR LATE JANUARY

28th Nosh and Natter Lunch Club, Seend Community Centre, 12.30pm
31st Ceilidh, Seend Community Centre, 7.30pm

DIARY DATES FOR FEBRUARY

4th Seend Shuttle to Salisbury
4th Bulkington Village Lunch at the Well Inn
6th First Friday Coffee Morning, Seend Community Centre, 10.30 am
14th LAST DAY FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO MARCH SPOTLIGHT
19th Seend Panto Cinderella 7.30pm
20th Seend Panto Cinderella 7.30pm
21st Seend Panto Cinderella 7pm
23rd Mobile Library 9.40am Seend, The Lye. 10.05am Seend Cleeve phone box.
11.00am Bulkington, The Well Inn car park
25th Nosh & Natter Lunch, Seend Community Centre, 12.30pm
26th Seend Parish Council meeting

DIARY DATES FOR EARLY MARCH

6th First Friday Coffee Morning Seend Community Centre 10.30am
14th The Vox Beatles Seend Community Centre 7.pm
22nd An Evening of Mediumship Seend Community Centre 7.30pm



Irene Usher Memorial Pavilion & Seend Lye Field

Available for parties, meetings, sports events.

Book online: www.seendlf.org

or email:seendlf@gmail.com

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 FEBRUARY 2026 SPOTLIGHT

Hello to all our readers and we hope you had a good Christmas and New Year.

We can now look forward to lighter days to give us more energy.



Our Sports teams have been active. The winter weather not putting them off.

See Frankies report.

Serious news from our local councils.

And do practice your "Look behind you" and "Oh no it isn't"

Contributions for the March 2026 edition by Saturday 14th February 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.

SEEND EVENTS IN FEBRUARY AND BEYOND



AT THE HEART OF
OUR COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY CENTRE REGULAR EVENTS

FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE MORNINGS

on the 6th February and 6th March 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 £3.00.



NOSH & NATTER LUNCHES

The monthly lunch club meets from 12 noon for 12.30pm on the 25th February and 25th March. Please book in advance by calling Frank Teasdale on 07719 918310. Two courses and refreshments for £8.00—lovely home-made dishes prepared and served by the excellent N+N team



DARTS SUNDAY AFTERNOON Friendly on Last Sunday of the month.



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

Seend Fawlty Players 46th Village Pantomime Cinderella

19,20,& 21st February 7:30pm Thursday Friday and 7pm on Saturday

Tickets £6 Adults £3 Children



Welcome to the world of the beautiful Cinderella and those Ugly Sisters. Enjoy a traditional village pantomime at its finest. Interval Raffle.

Profits to Dorothy House Hospice

Saturday 14th March 7pm - The Vox Beatles plus Support from Will Blake.

Tickets £18.50

Prepare to clap your hands and rattle your jewellery as the Vox Beatles take you on a trip to Toppermost of the Poppermost! One of the Top 10 Beatles Tribute Bands Plus, local blues hero Will Blake kicks off the evening with all the classics!

Tickets from: Seend Community Centre, Devizes Books or Online.

Food truck Friday 20th March

We Meat Again Food Truck will be parked out Seend Centre selling Burgers, Loaded fries. Orders can be made via their website.

<https://www.wemeatagain.co/>

Villagers are welcome to eat inside Rusty's, why not combine a visit?



Sunday 22nd March – An Evening of Mediumship with Mitch Garlington

7:30pm (Doors Open at 6:45pm) £14

Leading psychic returns for a 4th year – always a popular evening.

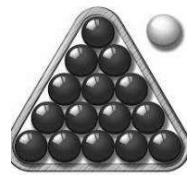
Tickets direct from Mitch Garlington.

www.mitch-garlington.co.uk/tourdates

Seend Snooker Tournament – Register now

A fun and inclusive tournament with prizes for the winners.

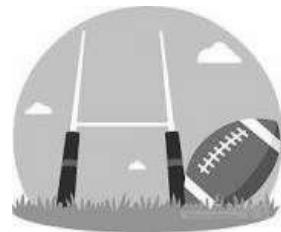
Fixture Dates: 28th February, 7th, 21st and 28th March. £2 entry fee
seend.communitycentre@gmail.com



Six Nations Rugby

Join us at Rusty's for all the England fixtures. Half-time food available

February 7th - England v Wales 4:40pm
February 14th - Scotland v England 4:40pm
February 21st - England v Ireland 2:10pm
March 7th - Italy v England 4:40
March 14th – France v England 8:10pm



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 |

BREWERY INN EVENTS

31st January Puruvian night
14th February Valentines
25th February Quiz night
15th March Mothers Day
25th March Quiz night



This Photo by Un-

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.



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.

SEEND CLEEVE LOSSES

On the run up to Christmas, we sadly lost two Seend Cleeve residents.

Mike Beasley, with his wife Kay, was a long-term resident of Seend Cleeve.

Peter Smethurst, since moving here, had been very active, alongside his wife Dawn, in the continuing improvements and success of the Community Centre.

Our thoughts are with their families.

SEEND FAWLTY PLAYERS

46th Village Panto – Cinderella!

Be prepared for plenty of audience participation, a pair of unforgettable ugly sisters, a sad example of height inequality, a bit of romance and sweeties for the children.

SEEND CLEEVE OPEN GARDENS

Saturday 13th June 2026 1.00pm - 6.00pm

Do you love your garden ?

If so, would you be willing to participate in this event which occurs every other year, and has proved to be great fun, attracting a large amount of visitors?

This raises much needed funds for our beautiful church in Seend.

We have some wonderful gardens in the Cleeve. We don't expect an immaculate lawn with not a weed in sight. It doesn't matter whether your garden is large or small, visitors always enjoy other people's gardens collecting new ideas and handy hints on the way.

Don't be shy! Give me a ring or email me for any further information required.

I look forward to hearing from you 01380 827139/ 07837930877

Many thanks. Tina

Rough Sleeper in Churchyard

As many in the village will know, we had a young woman rough sleeping in the churchyard in the lead up to and over Christmas. Many people from the village helped her and she was grateful for the support she received. With the help of Rev Caroline, the Rough Sleepers Team and Open Doors, she has been offered temporary accommodation. The church decided to donate the collections from Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services to Open Doors in Devizes and roughly £340 was raised. They have been most grateful for this donation. If anyone wants any more information about Open Doors this can be found at www.opendoorsdevizes.org.uk .

CHURCH SERVICES IN FEBRUARY 2026

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



Sunday 1st (Epiphany 4)

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

Sunday 8th (2nd before Lent)

| | | |
|--------|-----------------|------------|
| 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 15th (Sunday next before Lent)

| | | |
|--------|----------------------|------------|
| 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 |

Wednesday 18th (Ash Wednesday)

| | | |
|------|-----------------------|----------|
| 11am | Ash Wednesday Service | Potterne |
|------|-----------------------|----------|

Sunday 22nd (Lent 1)

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

Weds 25th

| | | |
|-----|----------------|----------|
| 5pm | Celtic Service | Poulshot |
|-----|----------------|----------|

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

From the Registers:

Baptisms

Louis Townsend on 7th December at Christ Church, Bulkington.

Marc Townsend on 7th December at Christ Church, Bulkington.

Nicholas Rawlings on 7th December at Christ Church, Bulkington.

Winifred Paines on 21st December at Holy Cross, Seend.

No weddings or funerals this month.

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



CHURCH NEWS



Have you ever wondered how the whole story of the Bible hangs together from Genesis to Revelation? What does King David have to do with St Paul? And where does Jesus Christ come into it all?

‘The Bible Course’, put on by our local Wellsprings Benefice family of churches, will allow you to see the big picture, looking at the overarching sweep of Scripture and how it all hangs together.

The course runs over eight sessions, from 7-8.30 pm, starting on Thursday 5th February. This is a professionally produced course with videos and other attractive teaching material.

You don't need to be a Christian to attend – you will learn something about one of the world's most important collections of literature even if you attend out of curiosity.

If you are interested, contact the Rev'd Gerry Lynch on

rev@gerrylynch.co.uk or 07521 440622.

Gerry Lynch

BULKINGTON NEWS

The Bulkington Village Lunch takes place on Wednesday 4th February 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 9th February
at 42A Bulkington, the home of Phyl Yarde)

New people always welcome.

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

BULKINGTON LADIES GROUP

Our planning meeting is on 29th Jan at 3 pm so the meeting for February is not yet arranged. Please contact me nearer the time for the details. New people always welcome.

Liz Futter 828485

BULKINGTON 100 CLUB

We held our Big Bumper Draw at the village lunch at The Well in December and the winners were :-

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| £75 No. 52 Gina Grainger | £50 No. 62 Diane James |
| £35 No. 87 Eileen Masters | £25 No. 6 James Love |
| £20 No. 29 Robert Yarde | |



Congratulations to the winners and best wishes to all our members for the coming year.

Phyl Yarde

The Mobile Library will be visiting the car-park of The Well in Bulkington on Monday 23rd February 11.05 – 11.30 am.

Minutes of the Bulkington Parish Council General Meeting held on Monday 12th January 2026 at 7.30pm at Bulkington Village Hall, Bulkington, Wiltshire.

Present: Councillors P. Oakey (Chair), S. Macalpine-Downie (Vice-Chair), J. Anderson-Hill, A. Breach. Proper Officer: T. Hicks.

MINUTES

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

Apologies - There were no 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 12th November 2025 were APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Public Participation - None. There were no petitions or deputations received.

Reports The members received an email update from Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. Reay, which was read out by the Clerk in her absence.

The Chair updated the meeting with reports of overflowing bins.

* The Clerk updated the meeting with progress on the overflowing bins. As Wiltshire Council state the bins are not their responsibility, the clerk has requested contractor prices.

*The Clerk updated the meeting that they had resigned from post and would start the recruitment process for finding a replacement.

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 and noted the BPC Planning Schedule as at 1st January 2026.

Maintenance The council discussed and agreed parish steward jobs for next visit. It was RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY to ACTION: Clerk to ask the parish steward to clear out drains and gullies.

The Clerk confirmed they had requested the signs be changed and was waiting for LHFIG minutes.

The Clerk confirmed they had requested quotes – carry forward.

Finance

Payments Approved: Clerk's Salary, Clerk's PAYE, Clerk's expenses to 31st December 2025. There were no further requests for payment received prior to the meeting.

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

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

Governance The council noted there is a new councillor wishing to join the council and the clerk invited them to complete the application and send to the council.

Correspondence to note and discuss - Already approved - The council UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED the South West Ambulance Charity grant for £25. Already noted - The council noted the Flood Warden Autumn Newsletter 2025.

Confirmation of date of next meeting The next meeting will be on **Monday 9th March 2026** at 7.30pm. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.19pm. These minutes are subject to approval at the next council meeting.

SEEND CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

SEEND WI

At our January meeting Victoria Nye gave an illustrated talk on the gardens at Cadenham Manor, which were created by her grandmother Elizabeth Blackwell over a period of fifty-five years from 1945. The four-acre garden is French and formal, furnished with statuary and fountains, specimen trees and mixed borders, including a canal garden. Whilst embracing the challenge of retaining the garden, Victoria, her family and a strong support team are making small adjustments in recognition of our changing climate. It was wonderful to be transported into such a lovely garden on a cold January afternoon.

Our February meeting will consist of an informal lunch, soup and sandwiches. On this occasion our meeting will start at 12 noon.

Normally our regular meetings take place in the Pavilion, Rusty Lane, Seend on the second Wednesday of the month. For more information, please email Joyce: kenharvey2005@yahoo.co.uk.

Joyce Harvey



SEEND SCHOOL NEWS

Our Term 2 was jam packed with festive events including:

- Christingle service in the church
- An advent reflection at school
- Christmas disco organised by our PTA (FOSS)
- Christmas dinner day
- Christmas lunch
- Christmas service

A highlight from our events was our Christmas fayre. Huge thanks to FOSS for organising it; it was a lovely event and the grotto was particularly special. Finally, we were very proud to be the only school in Melksham who came to the carols around the tree community event. The children were very brave and did well to sing acapella.

Aside from our festive events, our children had multiple opportunities to display their sporting skills and musicality. Our Year 4s took part in a bench ball tournament. We combined forces with St George's Primary School to come joint 2nd place out of eight schools. They all represented our school brilliantly – we were very proud of them!

We also hosted a friendly football match against St George's Primary School. Both teams played so well and what stood out most was their sportsmanship! They were respectful towards each other and the other team; we were super proud of our footballers.

We were treated to performances from children who have been learning to play the guitar, piano and singing and our EYFS – Year 3 children performed 'The Landlord's Cat' as our annual Christmas Play.

We have begun 2026 reflecting about compassion, our value of the term, and KS2 have begun their weekly swimming lessons. We are also super proud of our Year 6's who have been doing practice SATS in preparation for what's to come. 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



SEEND & DISTRICT RAMBLERS

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all Spotlight Readers!!

Our 2026 calendar started a little differently this year. Instead of the usual Sunday walk in January 20 of us met on a Friday, yes, a Friday morning and led by Anita completed a short walk around Seend before returning to the cafe in the Community Centre for coffee/ tea/ cake and a good natter and catch up. Everybody seemed to enjoy this and with 20 out it meant those who find a longer walk difficult these days were able to walk or meet after with everyone for a very sociable couple of hours. The opinion was that this may well be repeated again in addition to the usual Sunday morning walks.

Next walk will be Sunday 8th February at 10am, people will be notified by the usual method of the meeting place.

Look forward to seeing some new faces in 2026, come and join us.

Sandy

XMAS DRAW

| | |
|------------------------|------|
| 1 No.192 P Ewing | £100 |
| 2 No.146 J Philips | £50 |
| 3 No.184 T Yockney | £50 |
| 4 No.115 V Atwill | £50 |
| 5 No. 42 P Springate | £50 |
| 6 No.148 D Smethurst | £50 |
| 7 No. 121 M Manser | £50 |
| 8 No. 139 N Smart | £20 |
| 9 No. 73 J Harding | £20 |
| 10 No.180 A Hutchinson | £20 |

Thank you to all the children at playgroup who helped with the draw.



JANUARY DRAW

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| 1 No.87 B Powell | £50 |
| 2 No.157 N Haines | £20 |
| 3 No. 21 E Bowles | £20 |
| 4 No.143 S Lythell | £20 |

Thanks to everyone in the Seend Ramblers who helped with the draw.

Alison

SEEND PLAYGROUP

Our Nativity in December went well, all the children enjoyed dressing up and singing. It was lovely to have Holly Class and siblings from Seend School who sang us a lovely song.

Thank you to the committee for serving teas, coffees and mince pies. With donations we received from refreshments and raffle we bought a CD player.

The children were very excited at our Christmas Party and loved being entertained by Dave Hickory. He made balloons for all of the children and bigger ones for the children that helped him do his tricks.

This term we have welcomed Myles and hope he enjoys his time with us. This term our topics are colours and shapes. The children are enjoying looking for shapes and colours in the environment. They are also bringing in toys the colour and shape of the week for show and tell.

Last day of term is Friday 13th February and we return on Monday 23rd February.

Rose Dick. Playgroup Leader. 01380 828003.



SEEND THEATRE CLUB

Our Christmas Social was well attended, with over 40 members taking the opportunity to meet, enjoy a drink and excellent buffet nibbles, along with some seasonal entertainment. The Committee would like to thank all who contributed to making it such a fun evening.

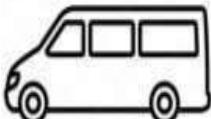


The first trip of 2026 was to the Wharf Theatre in Devizes, to see "Dr. Faustus", an Elizabethan tragedy by Christopher Marlowe. Written in the late 16th century, it tells the story of a scholar who sells his soul to the devil in exchange for unlimited magical power.

This will be followed at the beginning of March with a visit to the Theatre Royal in Bath for "Operation Mincemeat", the award-winning musical set in World War II; this trip is now full. However, we are open for bookings for "Inspector Morse: House of Ghosts" at Salisbury in April.

We always welcome new members so, if you are interested, please contact either Ken (01380 828511) or email: membership.seendtheatreclub@gmail.com for more information and an application form.

Ken Harvey



SHUTTLE NEWS

We shall be going to Salisbury on February the 4th leaving at 9.30am and back by about 3.20pm. Please book your seat by phoning Anita on 01380 828757 or 07851008349. Hopefully it will have stopped raining by then!

Anita Shea

KEEVIL SCHOOL

Keevil School has enjoyed the first few weeks of the new term. We extend a special welcome to the new families who joined us in December.

We also say a very welcome hello to Alex Thwaite who joins the Keevil School community as our interim headteacher. Alex has really hit the ground running in maximising learning time to support children's learning. For anyone looking for a place in reception or KS1, Alex will be only too happy to give you a tour. Please contact the school office to book an appointment.

Our music teacher, Mrs Fowler organised a lovely start-of-term treat for the whole school by asking Music for Miniatures to perform 'Musicians' to everyone.

The performance answers the age-old question of which is better, brass vs woodwind (woodwind won!). Thank you to FoKS for funding this musical treat for everyone.

As part of their science learning, Apache class visited the Somerset earth science centre. They spent the day studying rocks and fossils and enjoyed a tour of the quarry. Planning for our 2026 Keevil School Scarecrow trail is now underway! The event will take place in and around Keevil village by kind permission from the Parish Council and the residents. The dates are Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th May. If you would like to build or sponsor a scarecrow, please get in touch with Caroline:

cjoram21@hotmail.co.uk. We are also accepting donations of bottles for the tombola, cuddly toys, and raffle prizes.

Finally, if you or anyone you know is interested in joining our staff as wraparound care leader, please see the job advert on our school website for more details.

Alex Thwaite, Headteacher, Caroline Noonan, Chair of FoKS

SEEND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 2nd December 2025, 18.30.

This meeting was held in the Irene Usher Hall, Rusty Lane, Seend, Melksham

Present: Cllr Debbie Savage (Chair), Cllr Bridget Johnstone (Vice Chair),
Cllr Paul Manning, Cllr Pamela Akerman, Cllr Jamie Halliday, Cllr Phil Springate
Officers: Hayley Bell, Parish Clerk

Also Present: 9 members of the parish

Apologies for Absence Cllr Lack and Cllr Helen Robinson-Gordon

Declaration of Lobbying none

Declaration of changes to the Register of Interests none

Declaration of interest in items on the Agenda none

Requests for Dispensation none

Local Councillors' Matters

1. Public Participation

- A member of the public requested updates on the bollards at **Cross Road**.
- A request was made for **metric traffic counts** outside Cross Road. The Clerk will send details to **Mr Whitcombe**.

A resident raised concerns over a blocked gully. The clerk to report to Wiltshire Council

2. LHFIG Requests

Cllr Savage confirmed that the applications submitted remain the same as those discussed at the previous meeting.

3. Community Updates

- The **Seend Community Centre** was successful in securing funding through the **UK Rural Hubs Grant**.

Cllr Savage informed residents that the bus shelter bin on Church Street has been removed and relocated.

4. Gaiger's Site

- Concerns were raised regarding the **Gaiger's site**, noting that incidents of criminal damage are ongoing.

The Clerk confirmed that all such incidents should be reported directly to the **police**.

5. Training and Courses

Cllr Savage provided information from a resident who asked if the parish council could arrange a community defib workshop.

Cllr Halliday offered to investigate community training days within Seend.

6. Speed Indicator Device.

To note: it is on order, and **Cllr Savage** thanked the CLT for their generous donation.

7. Local Bins

We can confirm a new bin is now outside the bus shelter on the High Street by the Lye, and a new bin is now at the top of Spout Lane.

8. Yellow Lines – Bridge Seend Cleeve.

Discussions regarding the yellow lines proposed on the bridge at Seend Cleeve. *Councillors were divided as pros and cons for both - yellow lines on the bridge: would push the parking down the road, and cars would then park outside Little Mitchells & New Buildings - no lines: cars will continue to obstruct the view and could potentially cause an accident*

9. Allotments

Cllr Akerman requested the clerk to bring a report to the council to provide a full update.

Cllr Akerman and **Cllr Williams** questioned the need for the allotment element of the new finance package. Clerk to provide further details.

Clerk to email Mr Whitcombe email address.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting Approved **Cllr Savage** and **Cllr Williams**

2025

Updates from Cllr Raey

Community Governance Review

Wiltshire Council undertakes a Community Governance Review periodically to ensure that arrangements for parishes ensure that they best reflect the identity and interests of local communities. It helps ensure that governance arrangements are as effective and convenient as they can be. It can involve adjustments to the number of parish council councillors, parish boundaries, name changes etc.

The round of reviews covers the parishes within the Devizes, Marlborough and Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Boards. In the first instance, the Parish Council should consider the questions covered in the briefing note and feed back to Democratic Services. Any changes will take effect from the next scheduled election on 1 May 2029. Also to note that I am Vice Chairman of the Electoral Review Committee, which is overseeing this process, so I am well-placed to follow up on any issues that arise.

Freight in Seend High Street

I am advised that Wiltshire Council will publish its draft Freight Strategy in Spring 2026. I have shared with Highways Officers the recent traffic counts, which showed that significantly more freight is using the High Street, rather than the advisory A365 route. However, I am keen that Seend's issue is highlighted to Cabinet Members and Councillors, and I have suggested to Steve Vaux and Paul Taylor that a formal question is submitted to Full Council in February, and I am liaising with them on this.

Wiltshire Local Plan

The next stage in the Local Plan process is a series of formal hearings by the Planning Inspector. However, I understand that following the initial hearings, future hearings have been postponed by the Inspector to allow further work to be completed. More information is at [Wiltshire Local Plan Examination](#)

The draft Local Plan deemed Seend to be a large Village - but this was just Seend itself and not the other connected settlements - as a large village, Seend's Housing Growth (2020-2038) was calculated at 27. Seend Parish Council made the "Whole Parish" point at the Regulation 19 Consultation and this is noted in the Regulation 22(1)(c) Consultation Statement published in September 2024. I am following up with officers about when this point will be formally considered.

Bell Crossroads

Thank you to residents for notifying Hayley about collisions at Bell Crossroads. I have discussed the latest incident with Highways Officers, and I am advised that the circumstances of the collision are significantly different to those previously seen, relating to vehicles exiting the side roads. In this circumstance, both vehicles were on the main road, with one attempting to make a turn.

Highways Officers advise that the monitoring period for the work that was previously undertaken at Bell Crossroads is ongoing. It would be helpful if the Parish Council could correlate details it holds on collisions at Bell Crossroads with those recorded by the Police as injury collisions – this information is at [CrashMap - UK Road Safety Map](#)

Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group

Debbie and Paul will be attending the LFIG meeting on Thursday, 4 December at 10 am. The Bell Crossroads issue and others will be on the agenda.

Please email any other issues that you would like my help with. With best wishes to you all for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for all your work on behalf of Seend Parish over the last few months.

LFIG Next Meeting: To be confirmed.

Planning Applications Planning applications to note.

PL/2025/08750 – No comment

PL/2025/08751- No comment

PL/2025/09089 – No comment

Resolved Seend Parish Council will comment on all planning applications where a tree has been removed to be replaced. Proposed Cllr Springate and seconded Cllr Halliday

Financial Matters

Seend Parish Council resolved the adopt the 2026 – 2027 budget, proposed by Cllr Savage and Cllr Halliday 0.33 per week increase based on a band D property.

| Payee | Amount | Reason |
|--------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| Miss H Bell | £660.91 | Salary |
| PK Auditors | £252.00 | Auditors |
| Aubergine | £993.60 | Web Site |
| Elan City | £109.99 | SID – Outstanding 06.02.2025 |
| Hugo Fox | £23.99 | Web Site |
| HMRC | £235.00 | HMRC |

Meeting closed

Next Meeting Tuesday, 27th January 18.30 2026, Irene Usher.

NEWS FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

More Bad News, I'm Afraid

The title of my first article for 2026 was “All Change with Waste, and not for the Better!” – I am very sorry to say that I understand that Wiltshire Council is proposing further disappointing and destructive cuts in the 2026/27 Annual Budget which will affect residents in Devizes Rural West.

Firstly, the proposed Parking Plan is bad news for residents and businesses because it introduces a 20% rise in parking charges, along with extended chargeable hours from 7am–7pm and new or reinstated Sunday fees, which will deter visitors from town centres. This is likely to discourage people from visiting Devizes and other towns, for shopping and leisure and could especially harm hospitality businesses. Especially when businesses in Devizes have suffered from the impacts of traffic and the continued Northgate Street closure. It is clear to me that the plan risks undermining economic vitality rather than supporting it. I understand that once the Lib Dem Cabinet agrees the changes, that it is planning a “consultation” in the Spring – and I would encourage all residents to make their views known.

Secondly, the Lib Dems are proposing to cut funding to the much-needed Link and Community Transport schemes which are run by volunteers across Wiltshire including the Worton & Marston Link, Devizes & District Link, Seend Link and Seend Community Bus. As you may know Link is volunteer-run community transport service supporting people who are elderly, disabled, isolated, or temporarily unwell. Volunteers use their skills and vehicles to help with essential trips such as medical appointments and shopping - and is vital for residents in rural areas where bus services are limited. Frankly, I am appalled at the proposal to cut this funding – in fact, when I was Cabinet Member for Transport, I made sure that Community Transport was properly funded and supported by Wiltshire Council, as it is a vital part of our bus strategy and without it, many vulnerable residents will be unable to reach important medical appointments in rural areas. I understand that this terrible proposal will be part of the Budget Setting Full Council meeting on 24 February and I would encourage everyone to make their views known by emailing Martin Smith, Cabinet Member for Transport martin.smith@wiltshire.gov.uk

Another cut is proposed to the Parish Emergency Assistance Scheme (PEAS) which provides vital cold-weather and flooding support to town and parish councils by supplying essential equipment such as salt, gel sacs, tabards, and flood-warning signs to help communities respond during severe weather. Cutting funding will undermine local resilience, leaving parishes less prepared for snow and flood events and reduce their ability to protect vulnerable residents.

These proposals will be discussed at the Full Council meeting in Trowbridge on Tuesday 24 February – I am preparing to speak to highlight the impact on residents and Parish Councils in Devizes Rural West, so please do let me know if there are points that you would like me to make on your behalf. Thank you.

Tamara Reay, Wiltshire Councillor for Devizes Rural West
Tel: 07711 824864 Email: tamara.reay@wiltshire.gov.uk

SEEND SPORTING DRAMATIC AND LITERARY NEWS

TENNIS :

Despite the cold and rain of the last few weeks Seend continue to play in the Chippenham and District winter league division 4 which involves 10 mixed doubles matches. So far Seend, sitting second in the table, has played 5, won 2, drawn 1 and lost 2. Two matches have been postponed, one due to rain and the other because of an ice bound court.



Many thanks to the players who have braved the elements so far being, Harry, Karin, Marek, Teresa, Fiona, Alex, Atalanta, Mary, Anna, Pam, George, Liam and Frankie. The usual summer league starts in April when Seend will be entering one mixed doubles squad but new keen players are very welcome, so if you are new to the village and would like to play in the league please contact the tennis club.

Fiona will, hopefully, be organising the informal Thursday club nights again by Easter.

CRIBBAGE :

Last Thursday I called in to the Community Centre bar and watched for some while the fixture between Seend and a Devizes team. Mistakenly I initially thought that I had stumbled across an evening of speed dating. My bad ! I have to confess that I know little about this sport save that I have now learnt that the Seend team plays some 10 competitive matches per season involving 8 Seend players on each occasion.

Sensibly the Seend home matches take place in the members bar at the Community Centre where Tom, Emma and the hard-working staff can help to alleviate the, on occasions, mounting tension.

SHORT MAT BOWLS :

Fearful of being late for a committee meeting and having already been delayed having my eyes opened to the joy of cribbage, I could only loiter for a few moments and watch Colin and the boys in their endeavour's against a team from as far away as the other side of Devizes. My primary concern was that the Seend squad and their visitors, despite playing their match in the main hall at the Community Centre, should still enjoy the prices displayed in the members' bar. Those worries were soon allayed when Colin muttered, with an accompanying Napolionic Gallic shrug, "liberte, egalite, fraternite", which I took to be a reference to Tom's even-handed approach to the bar tariff. I cannot recall the final score but it was, so Colin told me, a close encounter, although I am not sure of which kind.



My abiding memory that day was that there were some fifty or so sports men and women enjoying the Seend Community Centre on a cold January evening.

We are a lucky village.

FOOTBALL :

Seend remain top of Division 1 by just one point having played 11, won 9, drawn 1 and lost only once, that to second placed FC Devizes. However, Devizes have played 14 matches so Seend should feel confident that their underlying form will see them through. We are of course now seeing the addition of cup matches being played with the Seend team having beaten Bishops Cannings 5-3 in the A and B cup in a thrilling match shortly before Christmas with Seend players Charlie Waylen and Matt Purdy both on the scoresheet. Likewise, Seend are through to the next round of the KO Cup having defeated Trowbridge 4-1 in December. Onwards !



FILM :

May I highly recommend Hamnet starring the incredible Jessie Buckley. One of the best films that I have seen for many months although any would still have difficulty in competing with Sorrentino's The Great Beauty (2013), which gets better with age.

PLACES of GREAT HISTORIC SPORTING EVENTS :

Cryptic crossword enthusiasts who occasionally read this column have asked me to put something in here for them. Accordingly I offer a gentle brain teaser to find this week's place of a truly memorable football event.

Clue: 2 down "The away manager, with great calm, fed slice of cake to the referee. " 12 letters.

First correct answer gets a pint on my tab at the Community Centre.

News, reports and results for the March edition of Spotlight to the mobile in the winners enclosure by Valentine's Day please.

07854 660582. Frankie Goddard

The Running Out Blues

By the late Ron Westacott

On the 29th July, Seend's home fixture at the Lye
Was a game in which our Billy proved quite nifty.
With a range of strokes he scored before becoming bored
And giving up the ghost one short of fifty.

We were chasing one-six-nine, and to lay it on the line,
One-thirty-one for eight looked pretty dismal.
In went El Presidente with a hope of getting plenty
But the chance of doing that was quite abysmal.

From the top end bowling down was this Stevey Gwilliam clown.
He'd already got six wickets in his pocket.
But Jeff Mattock, cool and pensive, used his best backward defensive.
It was Alamo and he was Davy Crockett.

Then Matey hit a four which touched Jeffrey on the raw.
From the other end I heard his groans and mutters.
"Steady on, my friend," he said. "No blood-rushes to the head.
You're only here for putting up the shutters."

With just two balls to go, there begins my tale of woe.
Jeff chopped one down and stood his ground, supine.
Though three times he shouted "No!", I felt I had to go.
I reached his crease; he never got to mine.

I don't know what he said as he put his bat to bed.
I wasn't in the changing-room, thank God!
But I heard it from the birds that he didn't choose his words.
"The man's a waste of time, stupid old sod."

I had problems of my own. I looked up with a groan:
One ball to come and I was facing Gwilliam.
And I wished that I was dead as Kevin grinned and said:
"I wouldn't be in your shoes for a million."

With Kevin up my nose and nine fielders on my toes
I put everything I've got to action stations.
D'you know, I played the ball a treat. It fell harmless at my feet.
And suddenly I'd lost my palpitations.

I strode in with relief that I hadn't come to grief.
The match was drawn and I had saved the day.
But I met with no applause; they'd all sided with Jeff's cause.
The pigs got up and slowly walked away.

Happy ending to this saga. I dubbed up for Jeffrey's lager
And after that the lad was good as gold.
I am left the bitter pill. 'Stupid sod' may fit the bill
But he'd got a bleeding nerve to call me 'old'.

© Seend Poetry Group 2007

BITS AND BOBS

Devizes Jubilee Morris Come and join us!

This is a good way to exercise and keep fit, meet new people and go to events to entertain the public. An energetic dance, and we like to bash the sticks, and wave the hankies.

A friendly bunch of men and women of all ages, enjoying a weekly get together to learn and practice the tradition of Cotswold Morris Dancing. An English tradition.

Now is a good time to come along to our practices held every Tuesday evening in Devizes at The Southgate pub. 7.45pm
or phone Jan Field on 01380 827140 for more information.





Our lecture on **February 18th** in the **The Corn Exchange**, Devizes, is:

“Caravaggio : The Bad Boy of Baroque” by Dan Evans

Please be in your seats for 10:45 am. Lecture starts at 11 am through to 12 noon. Coffee is available beforehand.

This scandalous and sometimes vicious painter produced work with cinematic compositions and intensely visceral details. His downfall is the stuff of a film not yet made and despite dying prematurely his canvases influenced a generation that followed.

Dan Evans is an educationalist with a passion for European art and architecture. He is a Housemaster at Cheltenham College, where he also teaches History and A Level History of Art. Dan has been lecturing since 2001, and spent 9 years working as a senior lecturer, tutor, and tour guide for Art History Abroad. He was once voted the British winner of the World Guide of the Year Awards and continues to take groups of intrepid travellers to a range of European destinations.

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.



NATIONAL OPEN GARDEN SCHEME

Now for the fantastic news. The wonderful summer has brought so many people to our wonderful gardens throughout the country and this year we have been able to give record amounts to our Caring, Nursing and Horticultural charities. Please see the link below:

[Record donations show the power of gardens and garden visits for good causes - National Garden Scheme](#)

The details of what we are about and just what good visiting the countries gardens does for our Charity and how it helps other charities can be found here:

[National Garden Scheme Impact Report 2025](#)

Facebook @WiltshireNGS. Instagram @wiltshirengs
<https://ngs.org.uk/wiltshire-by-arrangement>. www.ngs.org.uk



Tickets for Edington Arts' first concert of the year are on general sale from January 31st. The concert is on Saturday March 7th at 7.30pm in Edington Priory Church; an evening totally devoted to the music of J.S. Bach

by the highly-acclaimed early music specialists Dialogus1685.

Harpsichordist Andrew Arthur and baroque violinist Rachel Stroud formed their duo to explore the way Bach, with superb invention, wrote pieces for the two instruments which are conversations between two equal partners, rather than one accompanying the other. The results are compositions brimming with sublime melody, variety and depth. Pure delight.

Tickets can be booked and paid for online through www.edingtonarts.org, where you can also find the full programme, or by phone from 01380 831256, and range from £11 to £25. 18 and under come FREE. We look forward to welcoming you and any budding violinists or harpsichordists you may know to what will be a very special concert.



The last few months have seen the trustees of the Devizes Arts Festival getting their heads down and pulling together the 2026 Devizes Arts Festival, which will run from

Friday 29th May 2026 through to Sunday 14^t June 2026.

We have secured a diverse mixture of top-quality speakers, music, drama, literature, and comedy for your delight, so keep an eye out for updates on our social media pages, local press and around the town.

Devizes Arts Festival is a charity, run by volunteers and receiving no public funding. We are supported solely by ticket sales, local businesses, and Friends subscriptions.

Our Friends are an integral part of our success, supporting us each year with their subscription. For only £15 per year, you can become a friend of Devizes Arts Festival and

- Receive advance publicity of the event programme
- A pre-sale Priority booking window, which includes our 2026 headline acts
(sign up deadline to be included in 2026 priority booking window is 24th February 2026)
- Discounted tickets for each event (max 2 per event).
- An exclusive invite to the annual launch party, which takes place in April
- An invite to the AGM

Visit - <https://www.devizesartsfestival.org.uk/become-a-friend/> and become a friend of the Devizes Arts Festival today.

Your subscription will help secure the future of the festival.

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MELKSHAM FLOWER CLUB

Meets on the third Tuesday of each month
at 2pm in Seend Community Centre

DEVIZES FLOWER CLUB

Meet on the 3rd Wednesday every month upstairs in
Devizes Town Hall 7 pm for 7.30pm
visitors £6 on the door.

Annual subscription £35.

Contact us: devizesflowerclubuk@gmail.com - facebook:
[@devizesflowerclub](https://www.facebook.com/devizesflowerclub) instagram: [@devizes_flowerclub](https://www.instagram.com/devizes_flowerclub)



Don't forget to look at our February online colour supplement to include seasonal festive events and northern lights - 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 will Cinderella never make a good footballer?

Because she keeps running away from the Ball.

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
Nosh & Natter – Frank Teasdale
07719 918310
Poetry Group - Tessa Doe 07719 917814
Preschool -(Playleader) Rose Dick 828003

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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