

SPOTLIGHT

SEEND & BULKINGTON



Ok. We know this doesn't happen until
May 2nd – but you need to buy your
tickets in April or you'll probably find
it's sold out!

See p.2 for details.

April 2026

DIARY DATES FOR LATE MARCH

- 25th Nosh & Natter Lunch, Seend Community Centre, 12.30pm - **CANCELLED**
- 25th Brewery Quiz Night
- 27th Seend Playgroup coffee morning and Easter Bonnet Parade
- 31st Seend Parish Council Meeting

DIARY DATES FOR APRIL

- 1st Seend Shuttle to Salisbury
- 1st Bulkington Village lunch, Well Inn, 12.15pm
- 3rd Good Friday – Messy Church and egg hunt etc, Holy Cross Church, 10am-noon
- 4th Seend Wine Circle, Seend Centre, 8pm
- 5th Easter Day
- 7th First **Tuesday** Coffee Morning, Seend Centre, 10.30am
- 12th Seend House & Brow Cottage gardens open for NGS, 1-5pm
- 15th Link AGM Irene Usher Hall, 4 pm
- 17th RBL Lecture on Putin, Seend Centre, 8pm
- 18th **LAST DAY FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO MAY SPOTLIGHT**
- 20th Mobile Library 9.40am Seend, The Lye. 10.05am Seend Cleeve phone box.
11.00am Bulkington, The Well Inn car park
- 22nd Nosh & Natter Lunch, Seend Community Centre, 12.30pm
- 29th Brewery Quiz Night

DIARY DATES FOR EARLY MAY

- 2nd Seend Beer Festival
- 5th First Tuesday Coffee Morning
- 6th Seend Shuttle to Salisbury



Irene Usher Memorial Pavilion & Seend Lye Field
Available for parties, meetings, sports events. Book
online: www.seendlyefield.org or
email: seendlrf@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 APRIL 2026 SPOTLIGHT



Escape the depressing world news and settle down with your hot cross buns and chocolate eggs to enjoy the Easter holiday. We have an Easter egg hunt for the kids, wine circle for the grown-ups, plus Easter bingo, what sounds like a fascinating lecture about Putin and plenty of chances for coffee, tea or lunch with fellow villagers. Plus, of course, special church services over the Easter period.

Apologies to those contributors whose items we had to edit – we started off with about seven pages more than we could fit in!

Contributions for the May 2026 edition by Saturday 18 April 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 APRIL AND BEYOND



SEEND CENTRE

SPECIAL EVENTS AND DATES FOR THE DIARY

To keep up to date with Seend Centre Information visit:
seendcommunitycentre.com

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

See below for some great events to entertain us in the next few weeks:

Saturday 4th April Seend Wine Circle 8pm - Tickets £20

seendwine@gmail.com

This evening will feature the wines of Italy, a taste of the breadth and depth of wines from the world's largest wine producer.

You need to book in advance and will require cash if you wish to purchase raffle tickets.



Saturday 11th April Easter Bingo

Big Prizes. Doors Open 7:30pm. Eyes Down 8pm. No need to book just turn up!

Friday 17th April The Annual RBL Lecture

What Makes Putin Tick. 7:30 for 8pm

Tickets £10 available from the Centre or from Steve Cubberley 07711 127230



Saturday 2nd May - 24th Seend Beer Festival - 12 noon-11pm

A great selection of beers and ciders. Live music a Hog Roast & pizzas.

Tickets are available £16 or £16.50 online. See <http://seendbeerfestival.org.uk> for further info. Always a sell out, so it's highly recommended to buy your tickets early.

Saturday 16th May - Danny Lee Grew 24K Magic

Tickets £17:50 (£13.50 Concessions)

Join the Multi Award Winning Magician **Danny Lee Grew** in his mystifying one man show '24K Magic'. Expect a spellbinding evening jam-packed with jaw-dropping magic, astonishing illusions, laughs, gasps and stunning sleight of hand sorcery.

Community Centre Regular Events



First Tuesday Coffee Mornings: For a trial period the monthly Coffee

Mornings have moved from Friday to Tuesday. This will commence on Tuesday 7th April and the May date is Tuesday 5th from 10.30am in the Lounge. Come along and enjoy freshly made real coffee or tea (plus a refill) and delicious home-made cakes for £3. Everyone welcome! No need to book.

Nosh & Natter Lunches: The monthly lunch club meets from 12 noon for 12.30pm on the 29th April. 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.



Kitchen refurbishment – By the time you read this, the Centre's kitchen should be updated to better meet the requirements for catering for large groups and events! The old one has done us proud, but things move on.

Rusty's Cafe – The Community Centre Café- Lounge – Bar

A warm welcome to locals, walkers and wanderers! Dog friendly. 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.

Opening Hours

Wednesday 11am - 2pm for Coffee. (No food). 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

ARE YOU A MEDIA MOGUL?

Know your Instagram from Facebook and Snap Chat from Threads? Have you helped to develop a website, perhaps, or worked in publishing? Do you have IT skills and a bit of free time to spare?



WE NEED YOU!

Seend Centre is looking for a new Committee Member to support our manager, Tom, with social media advertising and general IT support. We have monthly meetings, which last about an hour, and we are a friendly bunch. If you are interested in joining us and helping to raise our media profile, please contact me at: karenm@cubberley.com.

BREWERY INN EVENTS

Wednesday 29th April – Quiz Night



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 CENTRE MONTHLY COFFEE MORNINGS CHANGE OF DAY

For the next three months the coffee morning will move from Friday to TUESDAY
Same venue; Same time (10.30 – 12.00); Same friendly faces
Please put the new dates in your diary - 7th April - 5th May – 2nd June

SEEND FAWLTY PLAYERS 46th Village Panto – Cinderella!

We had three full houses for our little show, as a result of which we were able to hand over £1400 to Dorothy House Hospice – the largest amount we've ever been able to give away to a charitable organisation! So many thanks for your support. We enjoyed ourselves and we hope you did too. See you next February 18th-20th.

CHRIS WENT FOR A WALK

Chris Dick achieved 172miles through February for the Dorothy House walk challenge, and raised an amazing £2.861.73p and would like to thank everyone for sponsoring and supporting him.



Date for your diary

SEEND CLEEVE OPEN GARDENS

On Saturday 13th June, 2026 - 1.00pm - 6.00 pm

Do consider opening you garden and please email me at tinayockney@btinternet.com or 01380 827139 for further information

TWO SEEND GARDENS OPEN FOR THE NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME

Sunday 12 April 2026 1-5pm. Entry £8 a head, child free.

Seend House, High Street

A Georgian house with 6 acres of gardens and paddocks, framed with yew and box. Highlights include cloud and rose garden, stream of lavender, view of knot garden from above, fountain with grass border and walled garden, as well as formal borders. Amazing view across the valley to Salisbury Plain.

Brow Cottage, Seend Hill (top of Inmarsh Lane)

Contemporary cottage garden owned by a garden designer, created over the past 26 years and featured in the April 2026 issue of *Gardens Illustrated* magazine. A garden of many harmonious parts including lawns, well-stocked borders, topiary, potager, sunken pool garden, wildlife pond, short woodland walk, species bulb lawn and canopied dining area with plenty of spring colour.

Teas and delicious homemade cakes in aid of Church of the Holy Cross will be served at Brow Cottage.

The Seend Shuttle will be available to transfer visitors between the carpark and WC at the Lye Field and the two gardens but there is also a (potentially muddy) footpath via the churchyard and fields connecting the gardens.

Wheelchair access to the gardens, but not all areas, and dogs on short leads welcome.

SEEND LINK AGM

Link is a vital service run by dedicated volunteers providing transport for people in our locality to healthcare appointments.

We are constantly looking for additional volunteer drivers without whom the service cannot operate. If you would like to learn more, please come along to our AGM on the 15th of April at 16.00 in the Irene Usher Hall.

Are you interested in joining the Seend Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group?

We are looking for 6 passionate residents who care about the future of our village and want to play an active role in shaping it.

What does a Neighbourhood Plan do?

A neighbourhood plan is a powerful community-led document that:

- Shapes where new homes and development should (and should not) go

- Protects green spaces, countryside views, and local heritage
- Influences the design and character of new buildings
- Supports local businesses and community facilities
- Helps improve leisure opportunities, play areas and community spaces
- Helps address transport issues, including traffic, road safety, walking and cycling routes, and public transport links
- Helps secure funding and improvements for local infrastructure
- Gives the community a stronger voice in planning decisions

Once adopted, the plan becomes part of the statutory development framework, meaning planning decisions must take it into account. It ensures that growth happens in a way that reflects the wishes and needs of local people.

Now that our Neighbourhood Plan is in place, it's time to look ahead to monitor its impact, review policies when needed, and continue guiding the future of Seend.

We warmly invite you to attend the next Parish Council meeting on the last Tuesday of March at 19.00pm at Irene Usher Hall to find out more about joining the Steering Group.

A huge thank you to all the residents and councillors who were involved in creating the plan your hard work and dedication have made a lasting difference to our community.

If you are interested in helping shape the future of Seend, we would love to see you

There - <https://www.seendparishcouncil.co.uk/community/seend-parish-council-18482/neighbourhood-plan/>

SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY – BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR!

Do you care about the future of Seend? Do you want to make a difference to where you live or work? Seend Parish Council is looking for community minded individuals to join us as Parish Councillors. This is your chance to give back, volunteer your time, and help shape the parish.

Why get involved? To help maintain and improve village life; be a voice for residents; influence local decisions; support local initiatives

Who can apply? You must be: ✓ At least 18 years old; ✓ a British, Commonwealth, or EU citizen; ✓ Registered to vote in Seend or have lived, worked, or owned property in the parish (or within 3 miles) for at least the past 12 months

No prior experience needed just a desire to make a positive impact! Interested? Please email clerk@seendparishcouncil.gov.uk a letter with how you can contribute to Seend.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW UPDATE

Whilst the process of creating our Neighbourhood Plan was ongoing, I wrote about the Steering Committee's activities every month in Spotlight to keep you informed about the progress. Our final version was approved by the official Examiner, so we were then in a position to put it to you in a Referendum on 19th May 2021. That Referendum asked you to vote on whether or not you wished the Plan should become a legal document with the power to regulate several aspects of the way our Parish developed. As the document was based on many consultations with Parishioners over 6 years, following Wiltshire Council's

guidelines, it was not surprising that it was passed with a 'yes' vote of 421 to 47 'no'. That is 89.96% of votes cast. Of course, that was pleasing for those of us who had worked on it.

Five years later, it is now time to review the Plan to keep abreast of up- and- coming changes to Wiltshire Local Plan, who in turn have to review their policies to reflect those at the top of the planning hierarchy i.e. the National Plan. Our Neighbourhood Plan will become invalid in certain aspects if we do not undertake this work. It is a complex procedure and was previously 'supervised' by a professional company called Place Studio. They are qualified in Planning laws and directives, which none of us had much knowledge of, and certainly without their guidance we would have stumbled and wearied of the work. The basics are in place and much of the Plan will stand as it is, so the review should not be so arduous.

Yesterday 2.3.2026, I received a copy of the latest Wiltshire update on their work on the Local Plan. <https://www.localplanservices.co.uk/wiltshirelpeamination>.

It is **terribly bad news** and just indicates how, as one descends the ladder of power, folk become less and less enfranchised. If those working on the Local Plan have their work dismissed in this way, it makes one wonder if it is worth us trying to work on a revision. Of course, those who have made these dismissive judgements are themselves working with the need to satisfy the requirements of the National Plan imposed by our present government. The poor folk who worked on the Local Plan review only have till 13th March to respond, but I guess we shall know the 'lie of the land' quite quickly. It's difficult to see a way forward ~ either not bother at all and wait for those in power to ignore the wishes of locals, or just try a limited review. Waiting for there to be a new Local Plan would seem to be two years away, and we had wanted a review to tie in with the Local Plan which was expected to be 'made' imminently. Nevertheless, if we fail to review our plan and it becomes 'out of date' we risk having no relevant legal basis on which to argue for or against any plans for development that come forward.

The Seend Neighbourhood Plan Review will be an item on the next Parish Council agenda (31st March) so please come along for the debate.

That brings me on to the need for a few volunteers from our community to join a Steering Group to undertake the work involved, as a small team (presuming the PC decision is that we should go ahead). Meetings would probably take place once a month, with some 'homework' in between, and a lot of email communication between the members, so you need to be computer literate and be prepared to meet on zoom occasionally.

Communication is key to creating a friendly collegiate group to undertake this piece of work for our community. Please get in touch if you think this is something you would like to be involved in, by contacting the Chair of the PC or by emailing me at carola.thorpe1@gmail.com.

Carola Thorpe 3.3. 2026

SEEND PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES EMAIL ADDRESSES

Seend Parish Council wishes to inform residents that, from **1st April 2026**, all council email addresses will be changing. Residents, local organisations, and service providers are kindly asked to update their records to ensure correspondence reaches the council without interruption.

The new email addresses are as follows:

- **Parish Clerk:** clerk@seendparishcouncil.gov.uk
- **Councillors:**

cllr.akerman@seendparishcouncil.gov.uk	cllr.drewett@seendparishcouncil.gov.uk
cllr.halliday@seendparishcouncil.gov.uk	cllr.johnstone@seendparishcouncil.gov.uk
cllr.lack@seendparishcouncil.gov.uk	cllr.manning@seendparishcouncil.gov.uk
cllr.robinson-gordon@seendparishcouncil.gov.uk	cllr.savage@seendparishcouncil.gov.uk
cllr.sdrewett@seendparishcouncil.gov.uk	cllr.springate@seendparishcouncil.gov.uk

Residents are encouraged to use these addresses for all council-related enquiries from 1st April onwards.

Hayley Bell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer Seend Parish Council

SEEND LYE RECREATION FIELD

The aged kitchen at the Irene Usher Memorial Pavilion was replaced during Seend Playgroup's half-term. The new facilities are a great improvement and long overdue. The Lye Field Committee would like to thank the fantastic village volunteers who removed the old kitchen in just 2 hours and also redecorated before the new kitchen was fitted. The Lye Field Crowdfunder: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/seend-lye-recreation-field-305565> is still open if you wish to make a donation to help defray the cost of the swish new facilities and roof repair. Better still, join the Seend Lye Field 100 Club at: <https://www.seendlyefield.org/100-club.html>. All donations are very welcome and help us maintain our attractive facilities at a good standard.

EXCITING UPDATES FOR THIS YEAR'S SEEND FETE!

SAVE THE DATE – Saturday 8 August 2026! Please pop it in your diary and join us for the 67th Seend Fete.



The theme for this year is 'Play'. We believe play should be creative, not expensive. The best stalls are interactive, hands-on and joyful — the kind that spark imagination and laughter. So come and awaken your inner child, let go of any inhibitions, roll up your sleeves, and get stuck in. We'll be hosting games both in the arena and across the site.

We are delighted to announce our band: Frome-based bloomduo, Thom and Charlotte.

Car registration is now open. Please contact seendfete@gmail.com to request your exhibitor form. Richard and his team will smoothly manage the arena on the day.

We'd also like to extend our thanks to Bluemay, based in Seend, and Kingston's Estate Agents in Melksham for supporting our fundraising efforts.

How can you help? Photos! Every so often, a wonderful old fete photo resurfaces on Facebook — and they are absolute gold. They remind us just how special this tradition has been over the years. If you have any historic Seend Fete photos, please email them to seendfete@gmail.com.

Follow us on Instagram (@seendfete). We'd love to grow our following so we can attract more businesses and acts.

Stay Connected. Follow us on Facebook @seendfete and visit seendfete.org to keep up with all the latest updates.

Join us for a fantastic day of fun, community spirit and entertainment on 8th August!

Warm regards, Seend Fete

CHURCH NEWS

Jesus Christ is risen today. Alleluia!



I was once advised to “be anything but predictable” and I do try! But I find that life is generally very predictable. The seasons come and go, night follows day, lunch follows breakfast, dropped objects fall...! Even our church calendar is predictable, taking us every year from Advent to Easter, from Easter to Pentecost, and from Trinity Sunday to Advent. Most of us generally live predictable lives.

But, thankfully, life can surprise us. The events we remember during Holy Week and Easter were not predictable and they changed the history of the world in almost every way. The cross and resurrection shocked and surprised people at the time and have changed and transformed peoples' lives, including mine, for over two thousand years. From the moment the disciples realised that something new was happening, from Palm Sunday to Jesus' crucifixion, they were caught up in a helter-skelter of unpredictability. All that they had known was changing; all their hopes were being dashed. Jesus' good news of unconditional love and forgiveness; his vision for peace and justice; his welcome to all, that brought wholeness and inclusion for the most wounded and excluded – all this was about to be crucified.

It was predictable that no one had expected the resurrection. Mary was so tearful that she almost missed her first encounter with the risen Christ. Some of the disciples were desolately walking away from Jerusalem and others locked themselves away in fear for their lives. In the days that followed, each encounter with the risen Christ surprised them again and gave them new hope, meaning and purpose. And this unpredictability did not end with the resurrection. Jesus departed from his disciples in an event we know as the Ascension, to be followed by the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and the excitement of the birth of the Church. Jesus' disciples were to continue the work of Jesus in the world. They were to show in their lives the transforming power of God. They were to embrace generous living and serve the needs of others.

But I think that this tale can be too familiar and predictable for us. Most of us know the story and our acceptance, rejection or indifference to it has become a part of the predictability of our lives. If only we could see Easter with new eyes, it could be life changing for us. The resurrection is still an exciting and fresh event. The risen Christ can

still transform our lives if we invite him to. Life, generally, *is* predictable but God can still surprise us. We can still be caught off guard by the Holy Spirit. We can still discover a truth and a purpose in our lives that we did not know was there. As, this Easter, we remember again the death and resurrection of Jesus, let's be open to be surprised by what God can still do to bounce us out of the wheel ruts of our predictable life.

The Revd. Maureen Allchin, (retired priest)



CHURCH SERVICES IN APRIL 2026

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

Weds 1st

7:30pm Compline Bulkington

Thurs 2nd (Maundy Thursday)

6:30pm Maundy Thursday Service and Vigil Seend
(beginning with shared meal)

Fri 3rd (Good Friday)

10am Good Friday Children's Crafts Seend
2pm Last Hour at the Cross Poulshot

Sat 4th (Easter Eve)

8pm Easter Vigil Potterne

Sunday 5th (Easter Day)

8am Communion (BCP) Potterne
9:30am Communion Worton
9:30am Communion (BCP) Poulshot
10am Communion Bulkington
11am Communion Potterne
11am Communion Seend

Sunday 12th (Easter 2)

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 19th (Easter 3)

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 26th (Easter 4)

9:30am	Communion (BCP)	Poulshot
9:30am	Morning Praise	Worton
11am	Communion	Bulkington
11am	Communion	Potterne
11am	Communion	Seend
6pm	Evensong (BCP)	Seend

Weds 29th

5pm	Celtic Service	Poulshot
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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.

From the Registers:

Baptisms

Henry Townsend on 1st March at Christ Church, Bulkington.

No weddings or funerals this month.

Easter Workshop & Easter Egg Hunt



Good Friday 3rd April 10.00 till 12.00

Holy Cross Church, Seend SN12 6NX

Parking near church or over the road in Rusty Lane

Crafts - Worship Refreshments Easter Egg Hunt

Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult



BULKINGTON NEWS

**The Bulkington Village Lunch
takes place on**

Wednesday, 1st April 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

will meet from 2.00 – 4.00 p.m. on Monday 12th April at 14 Chestnut Drive, home to Janet Rawlings.

New people always welcome.

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

BULKINGTON LADIES' GROUP

The Bulkington Ladies' Group are hoping to visit the bluebell woods in Great Cheverell on Thursday 30th April. Cars will leave Bulkington at 2.30 pm. Please get in touch if you would like to take part. This visit is weather permitting!

Liz Futter 828485

CHILDREN'S EASTER WORKSHOPS & EGG HUNT

Come along to Holy Cross Church on Good Friday 3rd April 10 am – 12 noon. Enjoy creating the Easter Garden, fashioning creatures out of clay, and other craft activities followed by a time of reflection, hot cross buns and an EASTER EGG HUNT.

Children, please bring a responsible adult with you! Look forward to seeing you there.

P.S. If you feel able to donate a few small Easter eggs for the hunt they will be much appreciated, thank you.

Liz Futter 828485 Hilary Hutchings 828129

The Mobile Library will be visiting the car-park of The Well in Bulkington on Monday 20th April 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@bulkingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the Bulkington Parish Council General Meeting held on Monday 9th March 2026 at 7.30pm at Bulkington Village Hall, Bulkington, Wiltshire.

Present: Councillors P. Oakey (Chair), J. Anderson-Hill, A. Breach.

Proper Officer: T. Hicks, Wiltshire Cllr. T. Reay.

The meeting started at 7.45pm.

Apologies - Apologies were received from Cllr. Macalpine-Downie, and the reasons given for this were unanimously accepted.

Minutes of the previous meeting - The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 12th January 2026 were approved unanimously.

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

Reports

The members received an update from Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. Reay, the main points being as below:

- Wiltshire Council have now agreed their budget for 2026-27, with a council tax increase of 5%, reduced spending on Highways and parish steward support, Parish Emergency Assistance Service to be removed, black bin collection to be moved to

collections every three weeks from 2027, parking charges in Wiltshire Council car parks to now cover 7am to 7pm with Sunday charges to be in-line with Monday to Saturday charges, and a booking system introduced at Household Recycling Centres. For more information on the budget, please see <https://tinyurl.com/4vrpczzp>.

- The Chair updated the meeting with the end of the service by ID Verde for the removal of the litter bin collections for lots of small parish councils. A discussion took place regarding the options for this. It was unanimously resolved for:
- Cllr. Breach to remove the bin in the play park.
- Clerk to investigate other services and options (private contractor etc), and when the final collection day would be. Clerk also to notify parishioners via newsletter and posters with the outcome.

The Clerk gave no 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 January 2026.

Maintenance - The council noted that there was no parish steward visit this month as they had all been diverted for pothole repairs.

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

The Clerk confirmed that there was no financial support from LHFIFG for white gates. See Chair's report.

The council discussed the woodland maintenance and future planning, and it was unanimously resolved to approve the spending from the grant already received on equipment and planting as required.

Finance

Payments Approved: Clerk's expenses to 28th February 2026.

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. Breach signed the bank reconciliation and bank statements.

Playground: Members received an update on the playground maintenance. It was unanimously resolved to only inspect annually due to time constraints of a very small parish council. It was agreed to bring to the Annual Parish Meeting for discussion regarding the reinstatement of the playground committee as volunteers are needed.

Governance: The council noted there has been no new applications for co-option.

The council discussed plans for the annual meetings, with permission to spend unanimously resolved to be given for the clerk to purchase refreshments.

Staffing: The council noted the Clerk's new CiLCA qualification.

The Clerk updated the meeting that no new applicants had been received, so the recruitment process will continue and the clerk will remain in post for the time being to support the council.

Confirmation of date of next meeting: The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Council meeting on **Monday 11th May 2026** at 6.30pm, followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

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

Minutes prepared by the clerk. 12.03.2026

SEEND CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS



SEEND WI

We were delighted to welcome Eddie, a volunteer for Dorothy House, and Clare, one of their Fundraisers, to our March meeting. They gave us a very informative talk on the history of the Hospice and how the charity depends on donations and fundraising. The hospice was started by a lady of strong Christian faith who called it Dorothy House as Dorothy means a gift of God. The hospice is rated outstanding and is one of the top three in the country, so we are very fortunate to have it on our doorstep. The profit from this year's Panto was in aid of Dorothy House. A cheque for £1,400 was presented to Eddie and Clare.

For our April meeting John Farrow will be giving us a talk on Avebury through the ages. This meeting will be held at 7.30pm.

If you are not currently a member of Seend WI but are interested in finding out more do contact us and we will be pleased to share our future plans with you.

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

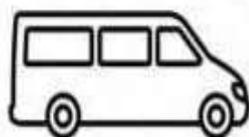
SEEND 100 CLUB MARCH DRAW

1	No.135	A Hunt	£50
2	No.179	J Field	£20
3	No.70	C Duparq	£20
4	No.34	M Burden	£20



Thanks to all the Beatles fans who helped with the draw.

Alison Bottomley



SEEND SHUTTLE NEWS

The next Salisbury trip will be April the 1st. (No, this isn't a joke!) As usual it leaves the Barge Inn at 9.30am and gets back about 3.20pm. £5 return. Phone me on 01380828757 or 07851008349 to book a seat .

Hope to see you then. All enquiries to [seendshuttle@gmail](mailto:seendshuttle@gmail.com)

Anita Shea

SEEND THEATRE CLUB

Members really enjoyed our trip to Bath Theatre Royal for "Operation Mincemeat", an award-winning production about a Second World War British deception. This musical turned out to be a fast-moving blend of comedy, terrific music and energetic performance.



Also in March we returned to The Wharf for "How The Other Half Loves ". This excellent play by Sir Alan Ayckbourn is a farce following the consequences of an adulterous affair! Our next trip in April is to Salisbury Playhouse to see "Inspector Morse: House of Ghosts", starring Tom Chambers. A chilling mystery unfolds when a young actress dies suddenly on stage and Detective Chief Inspector Morse embarks on a gripping investigation.

We always welcome new members so, if you are interested, please email: membership.seendtheatreclub@gmail.com for more information.

Ken Harvey

SEEND & DISTRICT RAMBLERS

On 8th March 18 members started the walk on a misty morning from Wadswick Country Store. We took a footpath to Westwells, passing Wadswick Retirement Village. From there we took lanes to Neston and passed through Chapel Plaister. We then went to Hazelbury Manor and finally returned to the start. Approx 5 miles. It was a lovely walk in an area new to most people. Thank you to Colin and Denny for leading.



On Friday 13th March, 28 people had fun at the annual skittles evening where an American supper was enjoyed by everyone. Prizes were given for the highest scoring lady and gent. Thank you to those who helped, especially Pippa for sticking up for us.

Next walk is on Sunday 19th April followed by Sunday 24th May, both at 10am.

Sandy



SEEND BRANCH – ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

This year's Annual Lecture will be presented by Air Chief Marshal Sir John Chesire KBE CB. The topic will be an update on his previous lecture on "What Makes Putin Tick". The lecture will start at 8pm on Friday 17th April and tickets are £10, obtainable from me (see contact details below) or at Rusty's

Bar in Seend Centre. You are welcome to bring your own snacks. Don't leave it too late – tickets are selling fast.

Our major social event this year will be a Rod Stewart tribute, on 17th October at Seend Centre. Tickets will be £15 and will go on sale nearer the date. Please save the date.

Our next quarterly meeting is on Thursday 9th April, at Seend Centre, starting at 7:30pm. Future meetings are 23rd July and the AGM on 22nd October this year. All are welcome.

We currently have 67 members in Seend Branch but could really do with a few more. If you are aware of anyone interested in joining, please get them to reach out to me.

Finally, if you are in need, or are aware of a member, veteran, serving person or family member who is in need, please reach out to either myself or our Welfare Officer, Christine O'Reilly. Our details are at the back of Spotlight.

steven@cubberley.com 07711 127230

SEEND PLAYGROUP



Thank you to Liz and Steve for doing the raffle at the Friday Pantomime. A great amount of £226 was raised which we have brought a new printer with.

Thank you to everyone who gave us raffle prizes.

At the beginning of March, we walked to the wall on the Lye Field and were looking for different coloured cars and lorries. The children waved at a Police car going by. It turned around and came back and stopped alongside of us. The put the sirens and lights on for the children who were very excited. The 2 Policemen got out and talked to the children and let them try on a police hat and hand cuffs. It was the highlight of their day.

Our topics this term are numbers 1-10 and under the sea.

Rose Dick Play leader , 01380 828003

SEEND SCHOOL NEWS



This term has seen the grand opening of our brand new library! This has been a big project which has been heavily supported by our amazing PTA, FOSS, and the Church. We opened the doors to our 'Woodland Wonderland' library on World Book Day, where the children and their families were invited to view the new space for the first time. The library transformation was made possible through the incredible generosity and teamwork of the school community and we couldn't be more thankful. A special mention of course has to go to former teacher, Natalie Johnson, who designed and painted the library and brought ours and the children's visions to life. We hope this will be a special place that inspires children to let their imaginations roam free. Look out for our press release coming soon, it will be on social media too!

Following on from that topic, we celebrated World Book Day in style, with so many fabulous costumes. A great effort from all children and staff! We ran two competitions that all pupils were invited to participate in, 'design a toilet roll character' and 'read somewhere unique'. We had some fantastic entries which made it very tricky to choose the winners! A big thank you to FOSS for funding all winners with a voucher for them to spend!

Our Year 5s & 6s have been on their residential to Osmington Bay in Weymouth and had the most incredible time. They have participated in activities such as zip lining, aero ball, den building, abseiling, climbing, rifle shooting, fencing, plus lots more! They should all be super proud of themselves for how much they have challenged and stretched themselves. Great effort by all!

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

KEEVIL SCHOOL

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Helen Rutt will be joining the Keevil School staff as our new Headteacher! She brings a wealth of experience with her. We are all very much looking forward to meeting Mrs Rutt when she starts her transition to our school after the Easter holidays.

We also extend a very warm welcome back to Mrs Baxter and Mrs Stainer who are taking care of Wildcat class until the end of the year. And a huge thank you goes out to parent Sam Wilson for his help cleaning the outside space enjoyed by Wildcats too.

Everyone at school thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the World Book Day celebrations. We had a wonderful array of costumes at school! Mrs Brown also organised a special visit from science writer Jack Challoner as part of the celebrations (thank you to FoKS for supporting this financially).

Don't forget to come and see us for the Keevil School Scarecrow Trail on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th May –details on Facebook. If you would like to promote your group or company, there is still time to sponsor a scarecrow and be seen by thousands of visitors during the weekend. Contact friendsofkeevilschool@gmail.com for more information.

Caroline Noonan, FoKS Chair

SEEND PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting on Tuesday 24th, February 2026, 18.30 – 20.30 in the Irene Usher Hall

Councillors Present: Cllr Savage (Chair), Cllr Bridget Johnstone (Vice Chair)
Cllr Paul Manning Cllr Pamela Akerman Cllr Jamie Halliday Cllr Phil Springate Cllr
Helen Robinson–Gordon

In Attendance: Proper Officer/Clerk– Hayley Bell; Public 10; Wiltshire Police 2;
Cllr Tamara Reay

Apologies for absence were received from: Cllr Lack.

Approval of minutes - Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2025 be approved as a true and accurate record.

Public participation

A member of the public informed the Council that the owner of Rusty Lane is considering gifting the lane to Seend Parish Council. This matter will be added as a formal agenda item at the next parish council meeting for further discussion.

A resident contacted the Chair to explore the possibility of designating Rusty Lane as a permanent bridleway. The Council will review the required processes and implications before progressing this request.

Concerns were raised regarding blocked gullies along the A361. **Action:** The Clerk will email Wiltshire Council, copying in Cllr Tamara Reay, to request that the matter be assessed and appropriate maintenance carried out.

The previously reported pothole has now been repaired by Wiltshire Council. Any remaining or new pothole issues should be reported via the **My Wilts app**, which provides the quickest route for logging and tracking highway faults.

A resident raised concerns regarding the regular checking of the community defibrillators and sought assurance that all required inspections were being completed. The Council noted the importance of maintaining accurate check records and ensuring that each unit remains fully operational at all times.

A resident requested that the Parish Council write to Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service to seek a formal response regarding recent closures and the potential impact these may have on local emergency provision. **Action:** Clerk to write to DWFS

A concern was raised regarding the “No Gaiger Homes Here” posters that have been displayed in the village for several months. It was noted that the posters are situated within the conservation area, which includes a number of listed buildings along the High Street. The Council acknowledged that the posters detract from the character and heritage of the area and do not align with the principles of enhancement normally encouraged through planning guidance. It was also observed that there is no indication of when the posters will be removed.

Wiltshire Councillor Tamara Reay

Wiltshire Council held a budget meeting on Tuesday, 24th February, during which the Conservative group proposed an alternative budget focused on fair funding and a three-year financial settlement. **Wiltshire Council's budget was approved** with several amendments.*

Parking charges will be extended to operate between **07:00 and 19:00**, raising concerns about potential impacts on local trade.*

The Parish Emergency Assistance Scheme (PEAS) will continue to be funded until **March 2027**, after which parish councils will need to budget for any further equipment. PEAS information:

- Flood guidance for towns & parishes (includes PEAS references):*

A trial booking system for waste services will be introduced.

Waste & recycling updates (incl. future booking system):

- Frequently Asked Questions*
- Recycling trial*

Council Tax has been confirmed to increase by **4.99% for 2026–2027***.

Wiltshire Council acknowledged Cllr Savage’s question regarding HGV traffic through Seend as part of the Local Transport Plan, and further updates are expected when the Freight Delivery Plan is released.

Electric vehicle charging infrastructure continues to expand, particularly for rural areas and residents without off-street parking.

Related funding updates appear in general council announcements*.

Action: Clerk will share information on social media and circulate the online meeting invite to councillors.

Kerbo Charge was noted*.

Bin collections will move to a **three-weekly cycle from April 2027***.

Chairman’s Announcements: Cllr Savage thanked John Williams for his dedication, hard work and commitment to the parish council over the past 8 years. The council will truly miss him, and we wish him well with his next adventures.

Area Board and Councillor Responsibilities

- Cllr Halliday will act as the Parish Council’s representative at the Area Board for the first meeting of this QTR 2026.
- Cllr Manning will act as the Council’s representative for Lye Field.
- Cllr Savage will become the flood warden in Seend. Cllr Springate will continue to be the flood warden for Seend Cleeve
- The Parish Steward responsibilities will sit with the Clerk, coordinating tasks and reporting requirements.
- The Fixed Asset and Maintenance Officer item will be added to the next agenda, including a review of the Asset Register. **Action:** Clerk to add to March agenda

LHFIG (Local Highways & Footways Improvement Group)

- Cllr Halliday will lead on LHFIG applications. Current priorities include:
 - Reviewing options for speed limitation through Seend Cleeve.
 - Exploring traffic-calming measures throughout the Seend.
 - Requesting the relocation of the National Speed Limit signs to support the continuation of the Community Speed Watch safely.
- The previous application for SID (Speed Indicator Device) socket installation was rejected for the Stocks because it was a 50mph limit road, and eligibility applies only to

40 mph roads. The council is waiting for Wiltshire Council for a site visit to look at approving the location.

Parking and Highway Concerns

LHFIG minutes Spout Lane: Concerns were raised regarding the residents' parking scheme and how enforcement will be managed.

Cllr Halliday will raise at LHFIG meeting to explore the possibility of installing yellow lines on one side of the residential area to improve safety and access.

Parking concerns at the lay-by near The Stocks, where vehicles turn into The Cleeve, were noted for follow-up. A LHFIG application needs to be completed in due course.

Upcoming Dates & Operational Notes

The next **LHFIG meeting** will take place on **12th March 2026***.

Community Speed Watch was not out in February due to bad weather, but with better weather, they will be fully operational in March.

Parish Steward Activities

Tasks to be requested include clearing leaves around the entrance to School Lane, addressing litter at the bus stop in Sells Green, and enquiring whether an additional waste bin can be provided. The issue with the bus stop light has been reported via the **MyWilts app**

Councillors' Updates

Cllr Helen Robinson Gordon

Cllr Helen Robinson-Gordon reported continued monitoring of a series of near-miss incidents at The Stocks which has reinforced the need for further safety review in this area. She also advised that several road-safety and speed-reduction charities may be able to support the parish by supplying relevant data, research, and pollution-impact information, which could assist future discussions and evidence-based decision making.

The pavement adjacent to Cleeve House remains significantly overgrown. This issue will be reported again to the appropriate authority to request further clearance.

The Seend Fork footpath has now been fully cleared, restoring safe access for residents.

Ongoing Metro Count monitoring is taking place near the garage area, and the data collected will contribute to future assessments of vehicle speeds and traffic flow.

Finally, a family of caravans has been observed in a nearby field. This matter has been noted for monitoring and any necessary follow-up.

Metro Count data is being collected near the garage in Littleton, and we wonder who is collecting the data, which would be valuable to the parish for weight reduction.

The Tennis Club, in partnership with the Church, will hold the **annual Plant Fair** on 16 June 2026.

Defibrillator (Defib) Checks: A resident requested clarification regarding the maintenance schedule for the community defibrillators. The Clerk confirmed that checks are logged through the *My Circuit* system, with weekly inspections carried out to ensure the battery and pads remain in date and fully operational. A checklist will be reviewed, and clarification will be provided on how frequently each device should be inspected.

Cllr Springate - Post Office Concerns: The Council noted residents' concerns about the Post Office service. As the Post Office operates as a private enterprise, it does not fall under the responsibility of the Parish Council. However, the Council will issue a communication to inform residents of the current opening hours.

Flooding outside Meadow View in Seend Cleeve, which is a regular occurrence, to ensure any issues are reported on my wilts app. The issue was reported by a resident to Wiltshire Council. Action: Clerk to follow up

Community Shop Contacts: Cllr Savage confirmed the contact details for local community shops.

First Aid and Defib Training: Cllr Halliday has arranged community training to take place on 16 March at 19:00, at *The Barge, Seend Cleeve*. The booking link is available on the parish website. The Council expressed appreciation to resident Mark Wood, who will deliver the training sessions.

Publication of Minutes: Cllr Manning reminded members that the full version of minutes should be published in *Spotlight* each month. Cllr Savage asked for them to be displayed on all four parish noticeboards.

Highway Issues – Inmarsh Lane, Spout Lane & Bath Road Pot Holes and Water Damage. Action: To contact the Wiltshire Council Officer to arrange a site visit.

Bolland's Hill – Sewage Tank and Construction Traffic: The Council noted that the large sewage tank on Bolland's Hill falls within existing planning permission. Highways will be asked to undertake a site visit. A letter will be issued to the site owners requesting that construction traffic is managed appropriately to keep the road clear of mud. **Action: Clerk to action.**

Seend Fund Report: Cllr Akerman requested an update on the Seend Fund. Representatives will be invited to provide a report at the next Parish Council meeting. Action: Clerk to invite to the annual parish meeting for a presentation.

SEN 66 Footpath – Surface Condition The SEN 66 footpath remains muddy as of 13 February 2026. A request has been submitted to Wiltshire Council for scalping to improve the surface and make the Bradley Lane section more accessible for pushchairs. Action: Clerk to investigate it.

Sewer System at Hook Hollow at Seend Cleeve Action: Clerk to email Wiltshire Council for a review of drainage in consultation with Wessex Water Environment Agency.

Tree Trimming Near Electrical Wires: Wiltshire Council will be contacted regarding the need for tree trimming where branches are close to electrical cables. Cllr Johnstone will take action.

Planning Applications

PL /2026 / 00944 - no comment from the Parish Council.

Parish Council Vacancy: Applications and supporting documentation will be prepared and brought forward for consideration at the next Full Council meeting in March. Action: Clerk to promote on social media and website.

Neighbourhood Plan: A resident raised concerns regarding the Neighbourhood Plan, noting that she had previously served on the Steering Group and remains keen to ensure continued community involvement. A recent meeting between Cllr Savage and Cllr Johnstone resulted in contacting Place Studio, who provided a quote. Cllr Johnstone emphasised the importance of strengthening community participation. Funding has been allocated from Bath Building Society to support Neighbourhood Plan activities. It was agreed that approximately six community volunteers will be required to form a refreshed Steering Group to progress the next phase of the Plan.

The Council also noted the importance of aligning future work with the current Seend Parish Neighbourhood Plan (2020–2030), which is a statutory planning document. The Plan and supporting documents can be accessed at: [Seend Parish Neighbourhood Plan \(official Parish Council link\)*](#). [Wiltshire Council version \(PDF\)*](#)

The Council further acknowledged the need to monitor and integrate the emerging Wiltshire Local Plan, which sets the wider strategic planning context for development across the county. Information regarding the Local Plan is available*.

FINANCE

Payments : The Clerk reminded councillors of the importance of conducting due diligence by checking all invoices against the corresponding payment schedule.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 31st March 2026 at 18.30, Irene Usher Hall

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.45

N.B. A fuller version of these minutes can be viewed on the Seend Parish Council website.

*** Indicates that a link is provided to further information on the full minutes.**

NURTURE NATURE - SUMMER VISITORS



House Martins: These lovely migrant birds fly from Africa to nest in the UK, many in our area. They spend a long time making their mud nests under the eaves of houses. Please be tolerant of their building habits. The birds do not cause too much mess and they become distressed if all their hard work is destroyed. If house martins cannot raise their broods, yet another species will be endangered. According to the RSPB their population has halved since 1969, and they are now on the Red List.

Sand Martins: These migrants can be seen from April to September especially around sand quarries and sandy banks, where they burrow out their nesting sites. Many of their ancestral breeding sites have gone. In some East Anglian areas the local ornithological groups have had built artificial banks for nesting which are well used. They can be seen in many areas of the British Isles. Plumage is sandy brown above and whitish below. Once numerous, they can still be spotted in their traditional habitats with fresh water nearby. These agile fliers make harsh twitter calls in flight.

Swallows: These beautiful birds always return to their old nest sites, so please ensure access to them. If, for reasons of security, access has to be shut, swallows will fly through small openings in order to reach their traditional nesting sites.

Swifts: Their nesting sites, some centuries old, are fast disappearing, due to development and property maintenance. They require an access tunnel of at least 18” long with a small entrance hole; please don’t block them off. Swifts are believed to spend as much as 9-12 months on the wing, and can nap whilst flying. Swifts were added to the Red List in the 2021 UK Conservation Status Report. Swift sightings can be reported to Bradford-on-

Avon Swift Group at climatechampions@gmail.com, or www.swift-conservation.org.

Note: These birds are all, of course, protected species – it is a criminal offence to disturb or destroy their nest sites and environments. Distressingly, a few years ago a house martin nest was wired over, preventing the young from leaving, and they perished inside the wire.

Cuckoos: Should a reader wish to track cuckoo migrations there are websites (such as the BTO one) which should give up to date progress of incoming birds. Please post any cuckoo sightings and hearings on your local Facebook page.

Regarding our garden birds - which appear to be ever more in decline according to recent surveys, please keep your moggies inside at dawn and dusk to protect foraging parent birds and fledglings - and other threatened species. And don't let your moggies out until well after dawn, as again this is a very vulnerable time for birds, fledglings and their young. Cat collars with bells are available from most pet shops, or can be ordered.

Otis Tarda

NEWS FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

Residents may have seen that Wiltshire's Local Plan has been rejected by Government inspectors. The draft Local Plan covering the period 2020–2038 proposed a “blueprint” for delivering nearly 37,000 homes (of which 21,900 are built or committed) and new employment land across Wiltshire. It was designed to meet housing needs, facilitate economic growth, protect the natural environment, and guide infrastructure investment.

However, changes brought in by the Government mean that the plan has been deemed to fall short because it failed to allocate enough land to meet required housing and affordable housing needs across the county. Wiltshire's target has increased by 81% as a result. More bad news is the end to funding for Neighbourhood Plans due to Spending Review decisions. Parishes will need to fund their own plan making, either through precept income or Community Infrastructure Levy. As you may know, locally, Potterne and Seend have existing Neighbourhood Plans and are currently progressing updates. Thank you to everyone who is involved.

Critically, the rejection of the Wiltshire Local Plan means that applications for speculative development are more likely across Wiltshire due to the absence of an up-to-date Local Plan and potential gaps in five-year housing land supply.

Another local issue is the Westbury incinerator which is a £200 million waste-to-energy facility proposed by Northacre Renewable Energy (NREL) – it will burn non-recyclable waste to generate electricity for the national grid. Despite significant local opposition it gained planning permission in 2023 from the Planning Inspectorate after Wiltshire Council had originally rejected the planning application. Construction began in late 2025, and the plant is scheduled to be operational by 2028.

A key factor for the business case is Wiltshire Council's long-term waste-treatment contract with Hills Waste Solutions, signed in 2013 and running until 2038. Hills is a stakeholder in NREL, giving it a direct commercial interest in the Westbury site. Under the contract, Wiltshire Council is required to supply set volumes of waste to Hills and would face compensation costs—estimated at £19million—if it withdraws.

Meanwhile, Andrew Murrison MP has argued that the UK already has an “over-provision” of waste incinerators, meaning there is more capacity than needed nationally - this creates

a “buyer’s market”, where councils have multiple alternative disposal options available and therefore do not need additional incinerators like the one proposed for Westbury. It is possible therefore that Wiltshire Council would save money in the long term by renegotiating with Hills and/or seeking alternatives. My colleagues at County Hall are therefore calling for this issue to be fully reviewed by a Scrutiny Task Group. I will keep residents updated on these issues.

Tamara Reay, Wiltshire Councillor for Devizes Rural West.

Tel: 07711 824864 Email: tamara.reay@wiltshire.gov.uk

WILTSHIRE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Last week, Wiltshire again demonstrated the strength of a united South West approach to tackling organised crime. Operation Scorpion brought together all five regional police forces, Police and Crime Commissioners, SWROCU and British Transport Police in a coordinated effort to disrupt drug supply and protect vulnerable people from exploitation. With Wiltshire Police leading this phase, the focus was on Class A drug supply and its clear links to missing children and child criminal exploitation.

Across Wiltshire, officers arrested 26 individuals, safeguarded 24 people and visited 52 cuckooed addresses, removing around £380,000 worth of drugs and more than £22,000 in cash from criminal networks. These results are more than enforcement statistics - each reflects harm prevented, a vulnerable person supported, or an organised crime group disrupted.

Protecting vulnerable people remains at the heart of this work. Organised crime groups rely on fear, silence and manipulation. By increasing awareness and supporting early reporting, we make Wiltshire a harder place for them to operate. Operation Scorpion shows again that our region is strongest when it stands together, and we will continue working to keep our communities safe.

GOLDILOCKS PLANET

Earth is a Goldilocks planet, a marvel to behold,
for fecund life it’s perfect , not too hot and not too cold.
But remember, with an ember more our blood will surely boil,
and just a snowflake colder we’ll lay down our mortal coil.
Young Goldilocks is unconcerned, a greedy little primate
she’s after more adventure and will disregard the climate.
Complacently she’s slashed a roadway right across the wood,
and claimed her squatting rights where only wild beasties should.
Tucked up in bed she slumbers caught completely unawares
of the paradise she’s squandered and the vengeance of the bears.
With a dragon’s roar the Daddy bear comes storming breathing fire,
while Mummy bear, the ice Queen, waits for all things to expire.
What of the baby’s future, is this how his story ends?
It’s time for Goldilocks to flee and start to make amends.

Anita Shea

SEEND SPORTING DRAMATIC AND LITERARY NEWS



TENNIS: Despite it being the hottest day of the year as I write, the winter league matches were hard hit by rain and frost with the result that we still have two matches to play which indeed might be left unplayed as the summer season's matches start in mid-April.

Seend will be again only putting out one mixed doubles team in the Chippenham and District league for 2026. Any keen to play please contact me.

The club Thursday evening social tennis, ably organised by Fiona Stanford, starts again on Thursday 2nd of April. This has been a great success for the last couple of years and all are welcome. Contact Fiona and she will explain how you can join up. All standards are very welcome.

FOOTBALL: We are now getting near what I understand is termed the business end of the season. Seend still head Division One in the Trowbridge and District League with just six matches to play. Their stats read played 17, won 12, drew 2, lost 3. With Dorrington having dropped out of the Division there are just 11 teams left meaning 20 matches to play in the season. Consequently Seend have just 3 more games to go starting with an away fixture at Heytesbury on the 21st of March followed by another away match at Freshford. Presently Seend top the division with 38 points shadowed closely by Devizes on 36 points, but Devizes have played 18 games so far, meaning that if Seend can win two of their last three matches then the title is theirs. *Stop press: Heytesbury 4-Seend 2.*

Despite losing 2-3 to Warminster on the 14th of March wins over Calne, 4-0, and Holt, 2-0, have kept Seend in pole position. I will be there for the next home match which may prove to be the one that brings the title home.

Many congratulations to the squad and their manager Andy Dyer for yet another great season. Fingers crossed for the next three matches.

CRIBBAGE : The present season of the Devizes Cribbage league comes to a close at Easter so I will ensure that I am there on any Thursdays at the Community Centre when Seend are playing at home over the next few weeks. Speaking of the Community Centre, the Friday evening sessions of nibbles and drinks in the lounge bar appear to have made a very welcome comeback so I hope to see many of you there on the forthcoming Fridays.

SHORT MAT BOWLS: I called in last week to watch Colin and the boys for a few minutes and at the same time had the chance to look at the ongoing works which are completely updating and revitalising the kitchen in the Community Centre. Those works should be virtually completed by the time we go to press so do go and see for yourselves the vast improvements that should not only help our Short Mat Bowlers but will do wonders for all those social events, meetings and performances that are now so regularly held at our Community Centre.

Seend are presently in second place in the Central Division having played 40 mats, won 23, drawn 1 and lost 16. Congratulations Colin !

DRAMATIC and LITERARY: Things are now somewhat quiet after the success of this year's Seend panto Cinderella, but I am hoping there will be a new release or two from some of our Seend authors over the next few months.

PLACES of GREAT HISTORIC SPORTING EVENTS: Last month's crossword quiz produced several correct responses, but none from New Buildings. A recap ; the clue was "4 across, Heavy going, and not too good at the very least. 9 letters". The answer was of course "Badminton". I will leave you to work that one out yourselves. Hayley Stockham, it is true, reported in with the first correct answer and demanded her large gin and tonic, but since I gave her so much help I thought it only fair to ask Tom to hold back on the gin and just serve her the tonic. April's clue for the sporting venue is "12 down, Very hot before I threw it in. 8 letters". Again the winner's free drink is there to be claimed at Rusty's bar in the Community Centre.

All sporting results, gossip and information to the Oval Office by 15th April, ...if any of us are still here.

Text to 07854 660582.

Frankie Goddard

BITS AND BOBS



Our lecture at 11am (please be in your seats by 10.45) on April 15th in the Corn Exchange, Devizes is: "**Around the World in Stunning Aviation Posters**" given by broadcaster and author **Mark Ovenden**. Spanning a century of art and design, from art nouveau images of the 'colonies', through Art Deco streamlined planes to satellite images of the planet... a visual delight.

Why not come to this lecture as a guest?- £8 on the door. Please email us first at theartssocietydevizes@gmail.com.

Or to join the Society, go to www.theartssocietydevizes.org

DEVIZES MUSICAL THEATRE

This Easter, Devizes Musical Theatre steps into the deliciously dark world of

***** **The Addams Family** *****

Evenings 7:30pm Wednesday 1st April – Saturday 4th April 2025,

Matinee 2:30pm Saturday 4th April

Where: Memorial Hall, Dauntsey's School, West Lavington, SN10 4HE

Tickets: available now at www.devizesmusicaltheatre.co.uk or Devizes Books.



Edington Arts' next concert will be **The King's Singers**, probably the world's most famous vocal ensemble, who come to Edington Priory Church on Friday May 15th for a fabulous concert starting at 7pm.

You can choose your seats, book and pay for your tickets through the Edington Arts website, www.edingtonarts.org/whats-on, or by phone on 01380 831256. We're anticipating strong demand, so don't delay!

The 2026 Devizes Arts Festival - Friday 29th May to Sunday 14th June.

A diverse mixture of top-quality speakers, music, drama, literature, and comedy. For only £15 per year, you can become a friend of Devizes Arts Festival and receive advance publicity of the event programme, discounted tickets for each event, an exclusive invite to the annual launch party, which takes place in April and an invite to the AGM. Visit - <https://www.devizesartsfestival.org.uk/become-a-friend/>



NATIONAL OPEN GARDEN SCHEME



April has the real feeling of spring. We have some lovely gardens for visitors to enjoy, two in Seend both owned by garden designers, a flower arrangers garden in Marston, Connock Manor opening for us in April for the first time, and Fonthill which is always popular and in a glorious setting.

<https://ngs.org.uk/wiltshire-gardens-in-april/>

As always we have gardens open by arrangement for a private visit organised directly with the garden owner. <https://ngs.org.uk/wiltshire-by-arrangement>

There is another opportunity to see **White Horse Opera's** production of **Cosi Fan Tutte** on **9th May at St Matthews's Church Rowde at 7.30pm. Tickets** from Devizes Books and www.ticketsource.co.uk/whitehorseopera - raising funds for the church.



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)



Do look at our April online colour supplement - available shortly on seend.org.uk - for photos of what's happened since the last issue – plus a look back at February's panto.

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

AND FINALLY.....

Some conversation stoppers.

How do you know when you've run out of invisible ink?

How do you know what the silent majority are saying?

Why is there only one Monopolies Commission?

How does the train get onto the Circle Line?

If Jean Paul Sartre menaced you would that be an existential threat?

Is there another word for Thesaurus?

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.seendlyeefield.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.gov.uk
Seend's Wiltshire Councillor – Tamara Reay 07711824864 tamara.reay@wiltshire.gov.uk
Seend Village Website: www.seend.org.uk – webmaster Chris Savage
Seend School – 828334
Bulkington Website: www.bulkington.org.uk
Bulkington Parish Council – Tekla Hicks clerk@bulkingtonparishcouncil.gov.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
Fawley 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.seendlyeefield.org
Neighbourhood Watch -
Seend - Brian Hunt 828581
Seend Cleeve - Owen Burton 828820
clerk@bulkingtonparishcouncil.gov.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
seendwine@gmail.com

