

SPOTLIGHT

SEEND & BULKINGTON



May 2026

DIARY DATES FOR LATE APRIL

29th Brewery Quiz Night

DIARY DATES FOR MAY

2nd Seend Beer Festival
5th First Tuesday Coffee Morning, Seend Centre 10.20 am
6th Seend Shuttle to Salisbury
6th Bulkington Village Lunch
7th Seend Theatre Club AGM, Irene Usher Hall, 7.30 pm
11th Bulkington Tea Craft & Chat
13th Seend WI
16th Danny Lee Grew 24K Magic, Seend Community Centre
16th Seend Plant Sale, Irene Usher Hall, from 1 pm
16th **LAST DAY FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO JUNE SPOTLIGHT**
18th Mobile Library 9.40 am Seend, the Lye. 10.05 am Seend Cleeve
opposite the Brewery, 11.00 am. Bulkington, The Well Inn car park
24th Seend & District Ramblers
27th Nosh & Natter Lunches, Seend Community Centre, 12.30 pm
27th Brewery Inn Quiz Night
29th Start of Devizes Arts Festival



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 MAY 2026 SPOTLIGHT

Happy May day to all.

I hope that everyone who wanted a Beer Festival Ticket managed to buy one. It will have the best ales in the land. And plenty of live musical entertainment for all the family.

If you normally donate to Christian Aid week, there will be no envelopes this year. But you can still contribute, have a look at page 7.



Contributions for the June 2026 edition by Saturday 16th May 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 MAY AND BEYOND

**seend
centre**

AT THE HEART OF
OUR COMMUNITY

SPECIAL EVENTS AND DATES FOR THE DIARY

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

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

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



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

Over 30 West Country Cask Ales and Real Ciders. Live music, Hog Roast & Wood Fired Pizzas.

Tickets are available £16 or £16.50 online (including booking fee)

£9.00 for non-beer drinkers (non-beer drinker tickets can be purchased on the door).

Children and dogs welcome (free)

See <http://seendbeerfestival.org.uk> for further info, including a list of the Bands playing.

Wiltshire Concert Band Sunday 10th May Tales from Around the World 2pm

Tickets £12 from www.wiltshirepoliceband.com

Raising funds for Beyond Dementia.

“We Meat Again” Food truck Friday 15th May

“We Meat Again” Food Truck will be parked out Seend Centre between 5 – 8pm selling Burgers & Loaded fries.

Despite its name Vegetarians are also catered for.

Their last visit was well received. I can vouch for the fries – they were delicious!

Do bring your food into the club and enjoy a drink while you eat.

Saturday 16th May Danny Lee Grew 24K Magic Tickets £17:50

(£13.50 Concessions, £12 groups 10+)

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.

Saturday 13th June Summer Village BBQ 1-3pm

Summer sun and community spirit with delicious BBQ treats – Save the date!

More details to be finalised

Saturday 13th June Seend Wine Circle 8pm

More details to follow from seendwinecircle@gmail.com



Community Centre Regular Events

First Tuesday Coffee Mornings

Continuing the trial period the monthly Coffee Mornings have moved from Friday to Tuesday. So, the dates are Tuesday 5th May and Tuesday 2nd June from **10.20am** 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 27th May. 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



Rusty's Café . Lounge . Bar

A warm welcome to locals, walkers and wanderers! Dog friendly – Recently referred to as 'The Village Living Room'
From Artisan Coffee & Cakes to Brunches, Toasties and Lunches.
Full bar available (of course) from 11:30am
New Summer Menu Now Available!

Opening Hours

Wednesday	11am -2pm (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



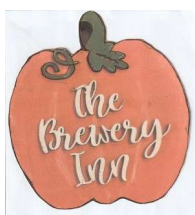
ARE YOU A MEDIA MOGUL?

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!

Send 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.
Karen Cubberley

BREWERY INN EVENTS



Quiz Night Wednesday 27th May
Live music 'The Dirty Shillings' 31st May, 4—6pm

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 Don't forget that the next coffee morning is Tuesday 5th May

Same venue; Same time (10.30 – 12.00); Same friendly faces

HUGS Despite other world events, the war in Ukraine continues, and your help would be very much appreciated.

Help Ukraine Group Support (HUGS) is a group of Hungerford-based volunteers who have been working since the start of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. They focus on delivering supplies directly, and have a reliable network of drivers providing humanitarian and medical aid to hospitals, front-line communities and first responders. They also work with established Ukrainian charities to ensure wider distribution where it is most needed. Do look at their website -

www.helptoukraine.co.uk which lists their current priority needs, including tools, electronics and optics, and outdoor living, to see if you can contribute in any way.

Please contact Jenny Phillips, emailjennyp@btinternet.com for further information or to organise a collection. Jenny Phillips.

SEEND PLANT SALE The 2026 Seend Plant Sale is on Saturday 16th May from 1pm at the Irene Usher Hall. Funds from the day go towards the upkeep and running of the village tennis courts - for use not just by Seend Tennis Club members, but also anyone on a pay as you go basis.

We are expecting a great variety of plants and vegetables at the sale - thanks to many people in the village - as well as having home made cakes, scones and teas available.

We will be taking card and cash payments.

It's also not too late to donate a plant or two. Please contact Helen at seendplantsale@gmail.com

SEEND FLOWER SHOW - SATURDAY, 8 AUGUST 2026

Planning for this year's flower show is in full swing. We will be sending out the Flower Show Programme in July, delivered to homes with your Spotlight at the end of June, to give you plenty of time to think and prepare. The theme of the show will be "Summer in Seend". This year we have a number of new and exciting classes in the Children's Section, 9- 12 years age group, for example, Summer cupcakes, create a lego insect, a summer inspired photograph, dried flower/leaf wall art, summer on a tray or a vegetable scarecrow or a wooden spoon flower design. Friendships bracelets are also included. Quirky and fun! We will also include a couple of interesting recipes in the programme for you to try out.

We welcome volunteers, particularly on Friday 7th August from 10am to assist in the set up of the hall and the "take down" at the end of the show on Saturday, 5pm onwards. We thank you all in advance for your participation and assistance. Please contact me or any committee member should you wish to assist.

Julia White, Seend Flower Show, Chairperson, 07904791743

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW UPDATE

REMINDER ~ You may remember that 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.

Five years later, it is now time to review the Plan to keep abreast of up- and- coming changes to Wiltshire 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 NP 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.

FRESH NEWS ~ At the Parish Council meeting, (31st March) I was invited to lead the work needed to review our NP and I accepted that role, with the proviso that Place Studio were again appointed as Consultants, and that we don't get going until September as I am busy moving home.

We now need a few volunteers from the Parish to form a Steering Group that I will lead due to my previous experience of working on our current Plan, although we will rely heavily on Katie Lee's professional expertise.

This is very interesting work, as it can teach one how the planning system works and what governs the way our villages and towns develop. It might suit a young person who is thinking of a future in this or an associated field. It will also teach you about teamwork and project management, which would look good on a youthful CV. I also welcome interest from anyone who is prepared to become engaged in this project for our village, whether youthful or 'mature'...!

Meetings would probably take place once a month, in person (on a weekday evening) 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. Being able to say "I don't know" or "I don't understand" is a bonus...! Its only by admitting that, that we open the space to learn.

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 15.4.2026 (on behalf of Debbie Savage, Chair Seend PC and Bridget Johnstone, Vice Chair of Seend PC).

SEMINGTON IS FIGHTING TO SAVE ITS LAST PUB

Like Seend, your neighbours in Semington have a strong community spirit. And like you, many of us enjoy the occasional drink. So we're grateful to the **Seend Beer Festival** for an opportunity to promote our campaign to buy and restore the last pub in the village.

The Somerset Arms has stood on our High Street for more than 200 years and its origins could go back to the 1600s. It was a great survivor, but struggled through covid and closed in 2023.

Like many things in life, we didn't know how much we'd miss it until it was gone. The pub was the heart of the village. With no sign of a new tenant, the building was decaying with every passing week. So disappointment turned to determination to bring it back to life, better than ever.

It's taken a year, but we've confirmed that Semington really wants a pub and could provide the financial and practical support we'll need. We've formed a Community Benefit Society, and have just launched a pledge campaign to find out how much money we can expect to raise by selling shares.

It's a big challenge. The Somerset Arms is on the market at £395,00 plus VAT, and restoring it could cost as much again. But we're encouraged by successful campaigns like The Hop Pole at Limpley Stoke and The Ivy at Heddington, which have been generous with advice and encouragement.

We've found a wealth of talent and experience in Semington for our campaign, though we are still looking for a solicitor and an architect. But success could well depend on the support we can find outside the village, and we'd love it if some of you join us on this adventure. Please take a look at our website *savethesomersetarms.co.uk* for details of the share offer and opportunities for volunteering.

With your help, we could own the Somerset Arms later this year and re-open it in stages from 2027. In the meantime, we'll be enjoying Seend's pubs and trying not to be jealous.

Ian Williamson, Chair of Semington Community Benefit Society

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.co.uk a letter with how you can contribute to Seend.



Christian Aid Week 10-16 May 2026

Where hardship means hunger... urban farmers can grow hope...

In the crowded and noisy settlements of Nairobi, most parents wake every single day knowing that they must go and earn money, otherwise their children won't eat that evening. With no formal work

opportunities, heartbreakingly low pay, and no social support, it's a precarious and frightening daily struggle that no family should have to face. Christian Aid and its supporters are joining together once again during Christian Aid Week (10 -16 May) to fundraise in all kinds of ways – With **seven days to make a difference**, every gift, act and prayer counts.

What will you do to support someone to grow food, protect their children from hunger, and nurture hope?

- **£5** could buy the seeds that kickstart a family's nutritious vegetable garden.
- **£10** could pay for the pair of chickens that produce fertiliser for an urban farmer.
- **£15** could purchase the hand tools that mean an urban farmer can tend their crops.
- **£30** could buy the trio of cone garden planters that host hundreds of plants in a tiny city space.

Please scan the QR code to donate

There will also be collection tins in Holy Cross, Seend and Christ Church, Bulkington



THE CLEEVE OPEN GARDENS

At Seend Cleeve Saturday 13th June 1—6pm
Beautiful gardens and views

Tickets £10 per person (accompanied children free) includes parking and Shuttle bus service between gardens For Parking follow signs at SN12 6PS

Enjoy teas & delicious home baked cakes at the Whites's Farm barn.
Also Ice Creams & Plant Stall.



Tickets available from the car park and from any of the Open Gardens.

For further information contact Tina on 01380 827139

Restricted wheelchair access to some gardens.

In Aid of Seend Church Funds

CHURCH NEWS



The view from my window.

I write this in the week following Easter and what a glorious day.

The spring flowers are really putting on quite a picture and so fitting for Easter. I know all the churches have looked lovely and we all need to thank all those flower arrangers. I choose to be optimistic in these difficult times. Who knows what lies ahead but what I know is that this world is an amazingly beautiful and exciting place if we care to notice.

If you were an astronaut what would you have been feeling as you set off far beyond where anyone has gone before; surely at very least excited? Every astronaut there has ever been seems to come back overwhelmed by the beauty of the earth.

This planet, this cosmos which was there long before any organised faith system, was there; and the older I get the more I wonder who or what put it there. When we see those wonderful pictures of the milky way, or the planets with all their moons, I have come to the conclusion that there is a divine purpose and when we eventually turned up so many millennia later we realise that we too are made of star dust; star dust and God dust. How wonderful is that and then because things began to go so badly wrong through the choices of human beings, along came Jesus, God dust and star dust in the form of a man and he showed us the beauty of creation; he showed us what to do, how to make the world a better place for all time; how to be kind; how to respect each other; how to love one another, he showed us the nature of the Almighty creator. Sadly we didn't listen, and so he died. He took on board all the things we had done wrong; betrayal, cruelty, cowardice, all those things, and he took them with him to the grave. It seemed that they killed him. But creativity is so much more alive than destruction; to put it another way, love is stronger than death. Three days later, Jesus's tomb was empty and he was seen by some of his disciples and then in the ensuing weeks 500 more.

Of course I can't explain it, but after 80 years of trying I have come to the conclusion that that's what happened, and what could have been just a footnote in some long forgotten journal has become the story that still captivates the world. We could just choose to go along with the cynicism, or the evil that is in the world today or we could choose, to see the beauty of creation that is all around us and be thankful. I choose the latter.

Wordsworth has been quoted on the television a lot lately, and I recommend him, so much more creative and beautiful than all those bombs.

"It is a beautiful evening, calm and free; the holy time is quiet as a nun breathless with adoration. The broad sun is sinking down in its tranquillity; the gentleness of heaven broods o'er the sea. Listen the mighty being is awake and does with his eternal motion make a sound like thunder everlastingly" Thank God.

Jane Knowles

CHURCH SERVICES IN MAY 2026

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



Sunday 3rd (Easter 5)

8am	Communion (BCP)	Potterne
9:30am	Communion	Worton
9:30am	Matins (BCP)	Poulshot
11am	Communion	Potterne
11am	Communion	Seend
6pm	Evensong (BCP)	Bulkington

Sunday 10th (Easter 6)

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

Thurs 14th (Ascension Day)

7pm	Ascension Day Service	Poulshot
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Sunday 17th (Sunday after Ascension)

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 24th (Pentecost)

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

Weds 27th

5pm	Celtic Service	Poulshot
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Sunday 31st (Trinity Sunday)

10am	Benefice Service	Bulkington
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Every Tuesday, 9am Daily Prayer service at Poulshot

Churches are open for private prayer during the week.

From the Registers:

No baptisms, 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.

BULKINGTON NEWS

**The Bulkington Village Lunch takes place on
Wednesday, 6th May 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—pm on Monday 11th May 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 Trowbridge Garden Centre for lunch at 12.30 on Thursday 28th May. Please let me know asap if you would like to come. Liz Futter 828485

The Mobile Library will be visiting the car-park of The Well in Bulkington on Monday 18th May 11.05 – 11.30 am.

BULKINGTON 100 CLUB

We held the April draw at the village lunch in The Well and the winners were :-

£30	No 10	Tim Taylor
£25	No. 9	Felicity Price
£20	No. 84	Claire Jones
£15	No. 19	George Morton
£10	No. 7	Emma Love



Well done to the winners and thanks to our diners for their help with the draw.

Phyl Yarde

**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**

SEEND CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS



SEEND WI Chris Lovelock, a very experienced dog handler, gave an interesting talk on the amazing work of “Pets as Therapy” at our April meeting. She had lots of stories to tell when Chris and Brock, her highly trained therapy dog, sought to make a difference when on their visits. This could be to hospitals, care homes and schools.

Brock’s friendly presence could simply bring joy and comfort but equally help ease stress with someone who was finding life more challenging. He certainly brought a smile to our meeting and made a room full of new friends.

The talk on 13th May at 7.30 pm will be on “Avebury through the ages” given by John Farrow.

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

kenharvey2005@yahoo.co.uk

Joyce Harvey

SEEND THEATRE CLUB

As part of our varied programme, members have just enjoyed a coach trip to Salisbury Playhouse to see “Inspector Morse: House of Ghosts”, starring Tom Chambers. The “ghosts” were the younger selves of Morse and his peers, who were reminded of their time at Oxford in 1962, 25 years before the story took place. Concentration was certainly needed to follow all the strands of the plot before the killer was revealed!

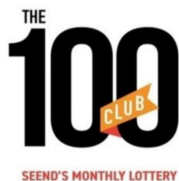


The Annual General Meeting is to be held on Thursday 7th May at 7.30pm in the Irene Usher Memorial Pavilion, Seend. Members will have the chance to hear about our programme and enjoy refreshments, before an entertaining talk by our guest speaker. Our May trip is to Bath Theatre Royal, for “The Constant Wife”, adapted from the play by W. Somerset Maugham and starring Kara Tointon.

We have booked ahead for events until the end of 2026. Highlights include “Hamlet” (1960’s version) with Shakespeare Live at Cleve House in July; “Chitty, Chitty, Bang, Bang” at the Watermill Theatre in September and “The Sea” at Bath Theatre Royal in November. Details of all other trips can be found on the Village website (<https://seend.org.uk>).

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

SEEND 100 CLUB APRIL DRAW



1	No 5	J Hawkins	£50
2	No 129	B Powell	£20
3	No. 54	P Jackson	£20
4	No. 39	V Bowes	£20

Thanks to all the gardeners at Holy Cross who helped with the draw.

Join the fun, 100 club starts again in May

Email for a form avbottomley@yahoo.co.uk

Alison Bottomley

SEEND & DISTRICT RAMBLERS

On Sunday 19th April, 13 members met at the rebuilt community centre in Bromham for a circular walk of approx 4.5miles. Reg led us round the outskirts of the village towards Rowde, following mainly footpaths and the occasional small section on quiet lanes. We walked along the bottom of Roundway hill and returned to the village through Netherstreet.

It was a lovely flat walk on a sunny Sunday morning with no stiles and only the occasional kissing gate.

Next walk - Sunday 24th May, why don't you come and join us!!

Sandy



SEEND BRANCH – ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

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 23rd July, at Seend Centre, starting at 7:30pm. The AGM is 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

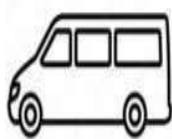
This term we welcome Hudson, Lex, Ralphie and Robin and hope they enjoy their time at Playgroup.

The children enjoyed making chocolate nests and putting chocolate eggs in the nests and resisted eating the eggs. It rained on the last day of term so the cardboard eggs were hidden in the hall. The children found lots each and then put them in a pot in exchange for a small chocolate rabbit, which they ate.

They paraded around the room with their lovely Easter Bonnets all so very different. Parents and grandparents enjoyed a tea, coffee, hot cross bun or a biscuit and joined in with the children play. Thank you to the committee for serving refreshments.

14th April we walked to the church and enjoyed looking at the colourful tulips either side of the path. We looked at the stain glass window and sang a song.

We enjoyed looking at the Easter Garden which was made at the Good Friday Crafts. One child talked about it as he had been with his family. On our return to playgroup a scaffold lorry pulled all the way across the road so we could cross safely and then waved and beeped the horn at the children. Rose Dick Play leader , 01380 828003



SEEND SHUTTLE NEWS

The next trip to Salisbury will be May the 6th. Please contact me to book a seat and arrange where to be picked up by phoning Anita on 01380 828757 or texting 07851008349. Still only £5 return so

probably cheaper than the petrol and parking!

All enquiries to [seendshuttle@gmail](mailto:seendshuttle@gmail.com)

Anita Shea

SEEND SCHOOL NEWS



We hope everyone had a fantastic Easter break with their families. It has been lovely welcoming the children back to school and hearing about all the exciting things they got up to!

We have had a great start to the new term and the children have settled quickly, showing positive attitudes, enthusiasm and a real readiness to learn.

On the last week of term, our year 3's and 4's went on a two night residential trip to Braeside Education Centre. They participated in problem solving, climbing, zip wire, orienteering, archery and more! The weather didn't stop them either, a mix of sunshine, rain and hailstones! The children gave everything a go and we are very proud of them all. Some very tired campers by the last day so it was a warm welcome going straight into the Easter holidays! We are looking forward to an exciting term ahead, filled with new opportunities, enriching experiences, and continued progress for all our learners.

Looking for an alternative primary school choice for September to the one you have been allocated? Do come and see what makes our little school so special. You can contact us on 01380 828334 or email admin@seend.wilts.sch.uk to arrange a tour.

KEEVIL SCHOOL NEWS

We are back from the Easter break and already getting stuck into everything that is going on in Term 5. We had a meet-and-greet session with our new headteacher, Mrs Helen Rutt, as part of her induction to the school. Mrs Rutt explained how she is looking forward to becoming part of the Keevil School community and exploring how she can bring her love for outside play to the school. We can't wait to see more of her in Term 6.

The year 4 pupils are getting ready for their residential trip to Danywenalt at the end of the month. They will spend 3 days in the Brecon Beacons getting up to all sorts of wonderful outward-bound activities. Very exciting! Huge thanks to the staff for going above and beyond to make these residential trips happen, and to FoKS for the financial support.

Miss Norris is busy organising rehearsals for our KS1 dancers as they prepare to take part in the Dance Festival next month. The children are all super excited to be performing at the Bath Forum – what a wonderful experience for them. Two of the Keevil School children have been chosen to host the evening. Well done Patrick and Aurelia - enjoy your compere duties.

The year 6 pupils are very busy this term. As well as preparing for their SATS, they will be taking part in Bikeability sessions which will give them key skills for staying safe while cycling on the road. These sessions are another example of how we make sure our pupils are completely ready for the transition to secondary school. Thank you to everyone involved in making these sessions happen, and to the parents for arranging bikes to be brought to school!

SEEND PARISH COUNCIL

Go to the Seend Parish Council website for Minutes of Meetings and all other information. <https://www.seendparishcouncil.co.uk/>

Seend has entered the 'Best Kept Village' Competition. Judging will take place from mid-May onwards. So to show off our village at it's very best do keep your frontages tidy, and care for your green spaces and verges!

NEWS FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

Annual Report

This is the time of year for Annual Meetings, with Parish Councils holding their Annual Parish Council Meetings and hosting Annual Parish Meetings. These meetings provide an important opportunity for Parish Councils and local community groups to report back on the year just passed and to look ahead to the year to come. As your Wiltshire Councillor, I attend these meetings whenever possible and give an annual report, and I hope to see many of you there.

It has been an interesting and, at times, challenging year at Wiltshire Council. The Liberal Democrat minority administration brought forward its budget for 2026/27 alongside a three-year financial forecast. My Conservative colleagues and I had serious concerns about several elements of the proposed budget and its long-term impact on Wiltshire taxpayers. These concerns included plans for three-weekly bin collections, the rebuild of St Stephens Car Park, significant increases in parking charges, and £20 million of new borrowing, contributing to more than £76 million in long-term costs.

Following a series of U-turns by the Liberal Democrats — including reversing proposals to close the Household Recycling Centres at Lower Compton and Purton and to cease support for Community Transport — the budget was ultimately passed with the support of Independent and Labour councillors. Regrettably, the alternative Conservative budget, which focused on strategic savings and greater financial stability, was rejected. I remain concerned that this approach will lead to service reductions, harm to the local economy and residents paying the price for decades to come.

At the Full Council Budget Setting meeting, I spoke on behalf of Devizes retailers to highlight concerns about proposed parking charge increases, including raising Sunday charges to match Monday–Saturday rates and extending charging hours to 7am–7pm. These changes will inevitably affect hospitality businesses, retail workers and people attending places of worship. A technical Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) consultation is now open for comments from residents and businesses until 5 May. It is important to be clear that this is not a full public consultation, as the anticipated increase in income is already built into the budget. More worryingly, the Liberal Democrat Leader, Cllr Ian Thorn, has publicly stated that there is a strong case for harmonising parking charges across the county — meaning towns such as Devizes and Melksham could be brought into line with higher-charging areas like Salisbury. I urge residents to take part in the consultation, even though it is not easy to navigate: <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/18434/Wiltshire-Council-launches-consultation-on-proposed-changes-to-parking-charges>

Changes to waste and recycling services have also been agreed, which I spoke out against and voted against. These include moving general household waste (black bin) collections from every two weeks to every three weeks and introducing a slot-booking system at Household Recycling Centres, changes that many residents are understandably concerned about.

Concerns about highways, road conditions and potholes continue to fill my inbox and are raised regularly at Parish Council meetings. As always, please report issues via the MyWilts app. If problems persist, please escalate them through your Parish Clerk and contact me directly — I am always happy to follow up with highways engineers on your behalf. I am particularly concerned that the Liberal Democrat budget relies on borrowing £15 million to supplement the Department for Transport highways maintenance grant.

By contrast, the Conservative alternative budget provided £18.6 million of additional revenue funding over three years without borrowing. The £15 million loan is forecast to cost £58 million in interest and charges over 50 years — meaning, quite starkly, that our great-grandchildren will still be paying for the road repairs carried out over the next few years.

On a more positive note, I am pleased that the Black Dog crossroads project, commissioned and funded by the former Conservative administration, has now been completed. Everyone I speak to agrees that the junction is much safer for all road users. I am now looking forward to seeing plans come forward for the proposed improvements at Caen Hill, including the Poulshot Road and Marsh Lane junctions. Finally, I remain concerned about the rejection of Wiltshire's draft Local Plan by Government inspectors following nationally imposed changes that have increased the county's housing target by 81%. This creates significant uncertainty for communities and increases the risk of speculative planning applications across Wiltshire. The council now faces restarting an extremely complex and costly plan-making process that is likely to take several years, made even harder by the withdrawal of funding for neighbourhood plans.

I will continue to keep you updated over the coming months on all these important issues by my monthly magazine articles, reports at Parish Council meetings and via facebook.

Thank you to all our Parish Councils and the many community groups who work tirelessly to keep villages across Devizes Rural West vibrant, resilient and wonderful places to live.

Wiltshire Councillor for Devizes Rural West.

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

WILTSHIRE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner

Philip Wilkinson has welcomed Chief Constable Catherine Roper's announcement of Wiltshire Police's new operational priorities, saying they clearly reflect the concerns of local communities and will help ensure policing remains focused on safety, confidence and support for victims.

From April, Wiltshire Police will focus on three key priorities: Safer Public Spaces, Reducing and Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls, and Improving Outcomes for Victims. The priorities will guide operational activity across Wiltshire and Swindon over the coming year.

“Keeping public spaces safe remains fundamental. Visible local policing, tackling antisocial behaviour, knife crime and youth offending, and strengthening neighbourhood teams are all essential to maintaining confidence and reassurance, particularly in our town centres, villages and rural areas.

“Crimes such as domestic abuse, stalking and sexual violence cause serious and lasting harm, often behind closed doors. Making this a core operational priority reinforces the importance of prevention, strong partnership working, effective support for victims and firm action against those responsible. “Coming forward to report a crime can be daunting. People deserve to be treated with care, kept informed and supported throughout the process. High-quality investigations and a positive victim experience are not optional extras, they are essential to building trust and confidence in policing.”

“Wiltshire's strength as a smaller force is its ability to respond quickly, maintain strong local relationships and ensure leaders remain closely connected to frontline reality and community concerns.

SEEND SPORTING, DRAMATIC AND LITERARY NEWS

FOOTBALL: As we go to press the bare statistics for Seend are played 19, won 13, drawn 2, lost 4. All of which leaves Seend in third place just 1 point behind the leaders but with a game in hand so a win for Seend in their final match against Melksham Town Development would give the team its third successive league title.



TABLE TENNIS: Having recently seen the film Marty Supreme I thought that I should learn more about the Seend table tennis scene and to that end Chris Brooker kindly gave me the low down on the local Ping Pong picture.

Sessions are held each Thursday at the Community Centre between 4pm and 6pm with a tea break midway followed by the full bar adjournment at the end of the matches, all of which are classed as “friendlies”. Bats and balls are provided, and dented, not cracked, balls can be re-inflated using an electric kettle in the wonderful new Community Centre kitchen. Chris is a master of this technique, often called the Martini Manoeuvre after the late great Dean Martin and immortalised in the lyrics of his classic hit “That’s Amore”.

All welcome on a Thursday.

TENNIS: This season Seend has just one mixed doubles team playing in the Chippenham and District tennis league. The fixtures start on Monday 27th April. Unfortunately even before the first match the team are hampered by injuries. Harry, lower back: Mark, early silage making:

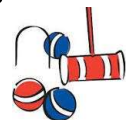


Frankie, rotator cuff tear: Jordan, too good: Ric, past peak: Tom C, difficult shift pattern: Tom J, moved to Bath: Liam, semi-retired: hence we are looking for new players for this season’s matches so please contact me if you are keen to play. Thursday evening social tennis continues to be organised by Fiona. Contact her if you would like to play. Start time is at 5pm, all welcome.

SHORT MAT BOWLS: I was looking at the website for the Wiltshire Short Mat Bowls Association over breakfast and was pleased to see that Seend, under Colin’s leadership, are currently lying in second place in the Central Division behind Dinton Beeches. Seend SMB are yet another Seend sporting club that uses the Community Centre as its home ground.

CRIBBAGE: I was not aware that cribbage features in the novel Moby Dick until recently leaving me wondering if it was just one of those coincidences that the fish and chip van that turns up outside the Community Centre from time to time often does so on a cribbage match night. Anyhow my match reporter tells me that all the three Seend teams continue to achieve as expected in their leagues but new players are always welcome.

CROQUET: Croquet often features at Manor Cottage and now that the lawns are being mown and rolled in preparation for the coming season please contact me if you would like to play in the odd match over the summer.



Local rules apply.

PLACES of GREAT HISTORICAL SPORTING EVENTS:

Last month’s clue was “ 12 down, Very hot before I threw it in. 8 letters “ and the answer was of course HELSINKI.

May’s clue is:- “ 8 across, Skulduggery afloat among honey then males.” 6-2-6 letters. The first correct answer delivered to the Community Centre bar gets the usual free drink.

All news, results, fixtures to the White House Bunker by 15th May please.

Text to 07854 660582.

Frankie Goddard

BITS AND BOBS

JOIN US FOR LIVE MUSIC AND DANCING
Food & drink • Auction • Free drink with ticket

Saturday 20th June
Plough Lane, Marston
Join us for a fun evening
- all in support of



Tickets available via the OR code or JustGiving page:

<https://tinyurl.com/chrisrocksfest>

Tickets are only available online and prior to the Festival



Our lecture on May 20th in the **Corn Exchange**, Devizes, and is:
” Tale of Vanity Fair : Constable’s Treslove Portraits Rediscovered” given by **Sarah Cove**

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

Until 2019, when it was brought to Sarah for cleaning and restoration, the whereabouts of Constable’s sumptuous portrait of his

neighbour in Charlotte Street, Mrs Emily Treslove, was unknown. It had come down, along with a volume of her diaries, through 5 generations of her family to the present owners. Following this discovery, its companion, a portrait of Emily’s husband Thomas, came to light, also in the family collection. Cleaning and technical examination revealed that Thomas’s portrait had to be altered to sit well against her vivid pink dress! 3 years later, in 1829, Emily (then aged 45) asked Constable to give her portrait a quick ‘nip-and-tuck’ to “make the likeness stronger”. 2026 is the 250th anniversary of Constable’s birth, and in this lecture Sarah reveals a story of wealth, vanity, fashion and politics.

Sarah Cove ACR, FIIC, FBAPCR has worked as a painting conservator, technical art historian and lecturer since the mid-1980s. Having trained at The Courtauld, she founded the Constable Research Project in 1986 and is now the recognised authority on John Constable’s painting materials and techniques. She has appeared in a number of TV programmes including BBC’s ‘Fake or Fortune?’.

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

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

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
instagram: devizes_flowerclub





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!

JESS GILLAM COMES TO EDINGTON

On Saturday June 20th Edington Arts will be welcoming one of the most exciting contemporary trios around -The Jess Gillam Trio. The youngest winner of the woodwind final of the BBC Young Musicians competition in 2016, the first saxophonist to do so, she has gone on to have a stellar career performing and presenting. She is vivacious, energetic, supremely musical and produces electrifying performances. For this concert she will have alongside her her long-term bass and piano collaborators Sam Becker and Zeynep Özsuca.

Her programme combines jazz-influenced music by the likes of Sidney Bechet and Rudy Wiedöft with the baroque energy of Corelli, joyous Gershwin and shades of folk. Truly something for everyone.

Tickets for this concert will be available through the Edington Arts website, www.edingtonarts.org, where you can choose and pay for your seats. Priority

booking will open on May 9th for Edington Angels, and general booking will open a week later on May 16th.



The Devizes Arts Festival Kicks off on the 29th May. Here's a list Of What's On.

Booking & tickets are available from Devizes Books or online at www.devizesartsfestival.org.uk

Date	What	Detail/Who/What	Where/When
29 th May	Music	Salseology – Havana Nights	Corn Exchange – 8.00pm
30 th May	Talk	Sacha Dench – Journeys of the Human Swan	St Mary's Church – 2.00pm
30 th May	Piano Recital	Beatrice Nicholas	St John's Church – 6.00pm
31 st May	FREE Talk	John Handby – AI – The future is now	Cheese Hall, Devizes Town Hall – 2.00pm
31 st May	FREE Music	Elly Hopkins	Hillworth Park Café – 5.00pm
31 st May	Walk	Stuart Hislop - Drews Pond Wood	Drews Pond Wood – 10.00am

**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.

STEEPLE ASHTON OPEN GARDENS 11am-6pm Sunday 31st May

This popular event returns this year with over 16 gardens on show, including the Manor House and a beautiful five acre meadow.

A plant stall on the green will be laden with goodies, they'll be a teddy bear hunt for the children and lots of delicious food – bacon butties, a BBQ (weather permitting) and delicious cream teas and cakes in the village hall, not forgetting Pimms on the lawn!

Proceeds go to the Steeple Ashton Preservation Trust for the upkeep and development of the church. A fun day for all!

Tickets: Advance tickets online at Ticketmaster @ £8.50 each or from the village shop @£8 each. Tickets on the day (subject to availability) £10ea. Children under 16years go free. Well behaved dogs on short leads welcomed in most gardens.



**Spring Concert
A Voice from Heaven**

Sunday 10th May 2026, 4pm

We are delighted to announce Cantamus Chamber Choir's Spring Concert: A Voice from Heaven - a concert celebrating music by women composers.

Imogen Holst's stunning *Mass in A Minor* for five part unaccompanied choir bears more than a passing resemblance to Vaughan Williams' *G Minor Mass* with all the skill but little recognition in her lifetime.

Kerensa Briggs is enjoying immediate recognition for her *Requiem* for choir, organ and mezzo solo. Using centuries-old plainsong chants with contemporary twists, this work will nourish the soul and features an English setting of the Lux aeterna, *I Heard a Voice from Heaven*. Marie Elliot is our mezzo soloist who will also perform music by **Florence Price** and **Rebecca Clarke** with accompanist Steven Hollas.

After her Proms debut last year, **Lucy Walker** was thrust into the choral spotlight, and her mesmeric *I Saw Eternity* rounds off this enticing afternoon concert.

Featuring **Cantamus Chamber Choir**, conducted by **Mike Daniels** with organist **Steven Hollas** and Mezzo Soprano soloist **Marie Elliott**.

Holy Trinity, Bradford on Avon, BA15 1LW Sunday 10 May 4pm

Tickets £16 / Students & U18s £10. Available on the door at Holy Trinity, Bradford on Avon and in advance from [Ticket Tailor](#) or from choir members.

Tea and cake will be available.



NATIONAL OPEN GARDEN SCHEME

Great news. The Community Garden Awards given by The National Garden Scheme have been announced. In Wiltshire we have four awards that have been given to worthy Community Gardens:

Calne Pocket Park and Community Garden - £1500, Park Lane Community Garden - £2276, Swindon Night Shelter - £1750 ,
F3 Project Salisbury -£2200

We have a wonderful selection of gardens opening for NGS in May,



MELKSHAM FLOWER CLUB

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



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

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

AND FINALLY.....

If we're going to be serious about saving the planet, we should stop printing calendars. They're the reason our days are numbered.

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.gov.uk
Seend's Wiltshire Councillor – Tamara Reay 07711824864 tamara.reay@wiltshire.gov.uk
Seend Village Website: www.seend.org.uk – webmaster Chris Savage spotlight@seend.org.uk
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
Fawly 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
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.seendclt.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



Shop and café opening hours

Monday - 9.30am – 4pm

Tuesday - 9.30am – 4pm

Wednesday - 9.30am – 2pm

Thursday - 9.30am – 4pm

Friday - 9.30am – 4pm

Saturday - 9.30am – 2pm

Buy one get one free on Breakfasts until the end of April!

We do hot drinks, sandwiches and great breakfasts.

The Post Office hopefully will re-open soon.

