

Welcome to the August/September edition of Spotlight

Looking back to July, what a busy month it was for fund-raising. On the 1st, we had the wonderfully inventive Bulkington Scarecrow Trail followed by their village fete and Family day: a trio of entertaining and enjoyable events. Another successful Seend Church Fayre followed this on the 8th. Bravo to the Rector who bravely (or foolishly) volunteered to be the target in the wet sponge throwing competition. Following this was the barn dance in aid of Seend School. It was a sell-out and a great family evening with all ages promenading and dosie-doing like old hands. Congratulations to everyone who worked so hard to raise money for the various good causes.

But.....don't think that fund-raising is over for the summer. Now we look forward to 12 August and this year the sun will shine on Seend Fete (we hope). Ok, we will settle for no rain! This year there are free breakfasts on offer. See inside for details.

The summer fun continues into September with the Patronal Festival. There is also an Organ and Choral Music recital, rambles and the Macmillan Coffee morning – something for everyone.

When Spotlight returns in October it will be autumn and we will be thinking about Harvest Festivals and Halloween. So keep feeding those pumpkins!

School is out! Enjoy the summer.

Spotlight Contacts

Contributions for the October issue (*copy deadline 9th September*) can be sent by e-mail to spotlight@seend.org.uk or delivered to the Post Office, High Street, Seend or for Bulkington contributions to Jo Bell at 1 Northfields, Bulkington (e-mail to trevor@bell8490.freeserve.co.uk). Comments and queries – Meg Combs 828229 or Tina Yockney on 827139.

VILLAGE NEWS

SEEND SOCIAL CLUB AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

In conversation with Peter Fisher 12th June 2006

Brief History

The Social Club dates back to 1922 when Col. Bell, concerned about the lack of facilities for ex servicemen, donated “a corner of my field” and acquired three huts, one of which became the Social Club. In the following years the Club flourished and its members enjoyed games such as skittles, dominoes and darts. Eventually a license to serve alcohol was obtained and the bar became the main source of income which progressively funded the structure that we see today. However, in recent years, skittles which was one of the main attractions has declined as a social activity and the loss of income caused deterioration in the Club’s financial results.

As a consequence of new legislation, many areas of the Club require improvement and upgrading. Toilets, the kitchen, the position of the oil tank and inadequate heating are some examples. The need for maintenance, new furnishings and decoration is obvious and detract from the appeal of the hall for letting and village functions. The Social Club did not have the cash for these urgently needed improvements and without which closure was inevitable. Some three years ago application was made to the Charity’s Commission for the existing premises to become the Seend Community Centre and Social Club based upon a 99 year lease. Last August the application proved successful. The licensed area of the Social Club is now the trading arm of the Community Centre. A formal request has been made to the Financial Services Authority, which has absorbed the Friendly Societies, to cancel the registration of the social club.

Current Situation

It is extremely difficult to imagine any form of community without a focal point and the loss of the Community Centre and Social Club would create this condition. The Community Centre can hopefully provide facilities for all types of village needs, dinners, dances, meetings, shows, wakes etc and with funds, the hall and patio areas can be ideal for these purposes. What is now needed is a Chairman and Committee members who will stimulate new ideas and activities with wide appeal to the parish and neighbouring communities. This amenity is here for the good of the village and we need to get people through the door who will use it constructively. Efforts are

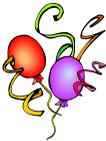
being made to raise money from the Lottery Fund and other sources to provide the improvements that are listed but above all we want enthusiastic volunteers to help make it a success.

As a community we should become members to support this facility and if you wish to use the bar and take advantage of Club prices, membership is only £8 per annum (less for Senior Citizens). The bar is there for your use and open every evening. Contacts: Graham Hickman (Secretary) 828868 or BJ Tilley either directly at the Social Club or Tel No: 828796.

For special events there is a large screen projection facility and already a thriving table tennis group. The more members we can acquire the better, so come on MAKE A REAL EFFORT TO KEEP AND DEVELOP THIS ASSET within our community.

TY

EVENTS IN AUGUST SEEND AND BULKINGTON



Saturday 12th August
Seend Village Fete &
Flower Show



On the Lye Field

12.45 pm Procession of Floats

1.00 pm Fete opening by Princess

Come and have fun with lots of entertainment

Music by The Downtown Six,

Wiltshire School of Gymnastics,

Devizes Dazzlers, Mr Snuffy's magic Show

Lots of stalls, games, trains rides and refreshments

Flower show in Social Club

See you there!

Programmes for Flower Show and Fete
available from Seend Post Office

SEEND FETE 2006 ANNOUNCEMENTS

FREE BREAKFAST - AN OFFER YOU CAN'T REFUSE!



If **you** will give **us** at least 1 hour of your time on the morning of Saturday, 12th August 2006, in return **we** will give **you** breakfast. But this is not just breakfast, this is a **2006 Seend Fete Full English FREE Breakfast**. And it's yours when you bring the voucher below to the WI Hall between 7.00 am and 9.00 am on Saturday, 12th August. Present the voucher, swear an oath of commitment to the Fete (as defined on the voucher), and enjoy the start of a wonderful day. You know you want to!

If you are **already committed** to working on a Stall or Game on the day, you are of course **included in this offer**. So clip the voucher and come on down!

2006 SEEND FETE – FULL ENGLISH FREE BREAKFAST

*To be served in the WI Hall from 7.00am to 9.00am on Saturday
12th August, 2006*

*The Bearer of this voucher will be provided with a 2006 Seend Fete Full English Free Breakfast **free of cost but in return for** a commitment to spend a minimum of 1 hour on the Lye Field between the hours of 8.30am and 11.30am on Saturday 12th August, 2006 assisting in the construction of the fete, viz. erecting gazebos, tents, setting up tables, setting up stalls, and carrying out other diverse tasks as required or directed by the Fete Team.*

*A 2006 Seend Fete Full English Free Breakfast will also be provided - **on the same terms** - to any other family member(s) who is (are) present at the time this voucher is presented.*

It's Your Fete. Enjoy It – But First Enjoy The Free Breakfast!

FETE DONATIONS

“You Know The Fete’s Coming, So Just Bake A Cake...”

We have a Cake Stall for which we need cakes – lots of cakes, Fruit cakes, Victoria Sponge, Battenberg, Carrot, Sacher – whatever you can bake, we can sell. Call Jo Vaux on 828970 if you need your contribution collected or deliver to Bradley Farm (opposite the Pavilion) or the cake stall in the Pavilion on the Saturday morning. Don’t delay, call today - and Bake that Cake!



.... And Scones!

We also need scones for the afternoon Cream Teas in the WI Hall (see below). So if you can make scones, make some for the Fete. The more scones **you** make, the more money **we** make! Again, call Jo for the delivery details.

TOYS....TOYS....TOYS

If your children have outgrown that pram, bike, buggy, game, and it’s in good condition, we can sell it. We desperately need toys for the toy stall. We have bags and bags of Cuddlies, but not much of the hard stuff. So if you’ve got it but don’t want it, we’ll take it. You can deliver or we’ll collect. For details, call Bernie on 828391 or Susan on 827065.

WHITE ELEPHANT STALL

Turn out your cupboards, cellars, attics, lofts, garages, sheds, whatever and bring us your base metal which Ron Apted and his Team will turn into coin of the Realm. Deliver it to the Pavilion on the following days, at the following times: Wednesday 9th & Thursday 10th August: 7.00pm – 9.00pm Friday 11th August: 10.00am – 9.00pm. If you can’t wait until then to get rid – donate it to us, take it to Ron at 24, The Lye, or call 828427 and Ron will arrange to collect. Couldn’t be simpler!

AFTERNOON TEAS IN THE WI HALL

Although Rosemary Mayell and her team of WI ladies will no longer provide the afternoon refreshments in the WI Hall, the Seend Ramblers Club has manfully – and womanfully - stepped into this very big breach. They will be present in the WI Hall, from 2.00pm to 5.00pm to provide us with English Cream Teas (hence the need for the scones!) and Strawberries and Cream.



BOTTLE STALL

Calling all volunteers for collecting bottles for the Bottle Stall. As promised here are the details of times and meeting places:



SEEND Tues 8th August - Meet at Community Centre at 7.30 pm
 SELLS GREEN Weds 9th August - Meet at Three Magpies at 7.30 pm
 SEEND CLEEVE Thurs 10th August - Meet at The Brewery at 7.30 pm

Please may we have as many volunteers as possible for each venue, the more who turn up, the quicker it will be done. You should bring something to carry bottles in and we should be finished by 9.00 pm at the very latest.

NB Please do not think that by volunteering you will be expected to turn up each evening. Your presence will be more than welcome at any venue or combination of venues.

Roger Brind

PLANT STALL

Seend & District Gardening Club are manning the plant stall. Please bring any offerings to their stall on the morning of the fete. Or if you wish to have anything collected, please ring Joyce on 828433. Thank you.



Joyce Brand

BEER TENT

Despite the rumours to the contrary, the Fete Beer Tent is very much alive and kicking. There has simply been a change of management. After many years of constant and faithful service to the Fete and the Lye Field, the Social Club, though willing to continue, has been obliged to retire from the scene due to lack of resources. The Fete Committee offers our thanks to BJ and the boys for all their hard work over the years. The baton has thus been handed to the Fete Committee who has entrusted the management of the Tent to volunteers Kate & Gerry Elston and friends. Together they will operate the Beer Tent and the Wine Bar, so between them they will be able to meet all liquid refreshment requirements. Cheers!



CRAFT FAYRE - CLEEVE HOUSE

Bank Holiday Monday 28th August - 10am-4pm.

EVENTS COMING UP IN SEPTEMBER

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS - PATRONAL FESTIVAL AND CONCERT 16TH/17TH SEPTEMBER

On this weekend there will be a 2 day celebration to mark this event. Our village church will be specially decorated and the bell ringers will be in action on both afternoons. During the day Ploughman's lunches and Strawberry cream teas will be available. Wine, tea and coffee will also be served.

A treasure hunt is to be organised and there will be a children's art exhibition in the church. During the evening of the 16th there is a recital of organ and choral music. See below for further information.

We hope that as many of you as possible will come to enjoy this special event which promises to be an enjoyable occasion for all.

Recital of Organ and Choral Music
Church of the Holy Cross
Seend

Saturday 16 September 7.30pm

Choir of Holy Cross, Seend and Christ Church, Bulkington

With

Jo Bell (Soprano) and David King (Organ)

Music by

Bach, Tallis, Mendelssohn, Boyce, Lefébure-Wély and others.

Tickets £7.50 including glass of wine.

Will be available nearer the time from the Post Office,

Bob Howe 828544/Hatty Stafford Charles (828380)/

Tina Yockney 827139/Tony Hill 828397

Proceeds to Church Funds

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING - Friday 29th September

10.30am to 12 noon in the WI Hall, Rusty Lane, Seend. There will be a bring & buy, raffle. All welcome.

Advance Notice - October

Harvest Supper - Monday 2nd October 6pm

Harvest Supper will this year be held at Seend School. It is hoped that the earlier time will make this event a more family-friendly one and further details will become available nearer the time. We look forward to seeing you there.

For those of you not involved with the school service the following day,

Harvest produce brought to the church on *Sunday 1st October* (Harvest Festival) would be much appreciated

Silent Auction - Friday 27th October

To be held in the pavilion at 7.30pm in aid of church funds. Details to be announced in next edition of spotlight



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Civic Awards 2006. Congratulations to Dennis Frith of Seend Cleeve who has received a Civic Award for “Service to the People”. Dennis is President of Devizes Amateur Swimming Club and was honoured for all the hard work he has put into the club since 1969. It is a big commitment every week and is completely voluntary.

Birthdays

Happy Birthday Drew Barham on 3rd September!



Wedding Congratulations

Congratulations to Oliver Coles and Sally Williams who will be married at Christ Church, Bulkington on 16th September in Christ Church, Bulkington, and to Ian Bolton and Anne Longden who will be married at Holy Cross, Seend, on 23rd September.

Obituary – Doris Pickett

Ann, Ivor and Joanne would like to express their sincere and heartfelt thanks to all friends, neighbours and relatives for their kind thoughts, messages of sympathy and the generous donations given in the memory of Doris (Mum). Thanks also to the Reverend Sacha Pearce for her support and beautiful service.

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

CHURCH SERVICES

CHURCH SERVICES FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER AT: CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, SEEND; CHRIST CHURCH, BULKINGTON AND ST PETER'S, POULSHOT

6th August	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	(Seend)
	9.30am	Family Eucharist	(Bulkington)
	11.15am	Parish Eucharist	(Seend)
	6.00 pm	BCP Evensong	(Poulshot)
13th August	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion.	(Seend)
	9.30am	BCP Mattins	(Poulshot)
	11.15am	Parish Eucharist	(Seend)
	6.00pm.	Evensong	(Bulkington)
20th August	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	(Seend)
	9.30am	Parish Eucharist	(Bulkington)
	11.15am	Parish Eucharist	(Seend)
	6.00pm	BCP Holy Communion	(Poulshot)
27th August	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	(Seend)
	9.30am	Family Eucharist	(Poulshot)
	11.15am	Family Eucharist	(Seend)
3rd September	6.00pm	Songs of Praise Eucharist	(Bulkington)
	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	(Seend)
	9.30am	Family Eucharist	(Bulkington)
	11.15am	Parish Eucharist	(Seend)
10th September	6.00 pm	BCP Evensong	(Poulshot)
	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion.	(Seend)
	9.30am	BCP Mattins	(Poulshot)
	11.15am	Parish Eucharist	(Seend)
17th September Seend Patronal Festival weekend	6.00pm.	Evensong	(Bulkington)
	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	(Seend)
	9.30am	Parish Eucharist	(Bulkington)
	11.15am	Parish Eucharist	(Seend)
24th September	6.00pm	BCP Holy Communion	(Poulshot)
	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	(Seend)
	9.30am	Family Eucharist	(Poulshot)
	11.15am	Family Eucharist	(Seend)
	6.00pm	Songs of Praise Eucharist	(Bulkington)

First Steps Benefice Parent & Toddler Church Service

There will be no service in August, but there will be one on 5th September at 2.15pm-2.45pm in Holy Cross Church, Seend . All welcome.



From Where I Stand...

...the early part of this summer has been extremely busy but also a privilege with a significant number of both weddings and funerals. You may think it rather strange to think of such different events in the same sentence but from where I stand...

Both occasions are times of change for all involved, time for celebration of life, time to look back over the past, as well as time for reflection on what the future may hold. Before being ordained I never really enjoyed weddings but now find it an honour to spend time with the soon-to-be-married couple and support them through a life changing experience. I remind them that while we take time to prepare for the wedding it is a lifetime's work to sort out the marriage!

Similarly I too have experienced the transforming nature of bereavement when my mother died several years ago, her funeral being the first that I led, and now find that it is not only my clergy training and experience but my own personal encounter with loss that helps me 'be alongside' those who are arranging the funeral of a loved one. From where I stand then both kinds of life experience has something to say to us all. It is a crossroads, a point of change, a new direction, the change from one kind of living to the next. In commitment for life to someone you love there is both hope and trust, the building of a relationship that is two-way, that can understand love to mean wanting the other person to grow to be all that he/she can become, not to change him or her, but to celebrate the person you love as a whole being. In dealing with the loss of one we love through death also involves hope and trust, the willingness to let go, to let God make him or her complete in life forever with Him, for them to know only love that celebrates all that he or she had been in this earthly life but also to live in God's love forever. It is to celebrate the whole of their being that we have known in life, both the good times and the bad, and to let them go certain that we are, with God, united with those we truly love forever.

Both these great life 'crossroads' are times of change along the journey of our lives.

As we ease through summer and onto autumn so our lives follow that same pattern, that sense of journey, the change of scenery, events, encounters, experiences. It takes courage, patience and time, to be able to see rather less

dramatic but no less valuable occasions when we may notice even small changes in our own lives and learn from them.

Perhaps many of us could find time to pause like this for a 'stand and stare' moment, to allow one experience to lead us to other reflections and realisations. In that place of pausing and reflecting we can journey a long way and may begin to sense the presence of God and so be led to see Him more clearly and find ways of knowing Him more deeply.

Revd Sacha Pearce, Rector
July 2006 for Aug/Sept edition

SEEND METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER:

- | | | |
|----------------|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6th August | 10am | Mr Derek Gard |
| 13th August | 10am | Mrs Geraldine Mann |
| 20th August | | No Service |
| 27th August | 10am | Mrs Ruth Woodhouse |
| 3rd September | 10am | Mrs Janet Clark |
| 10th September | 10am | Sacrament of Holy Communion Revd Morris Munns
(County Ecumenical Officer) |
| 17th September | 6pm | Harvest Festival (Ecumenical Service)
Mr John Stones |
| 18th September | 7.15pm | A short service of praise and thanksgiving will be
followed by the sale of Harvest produce. |
| 24th September | 10am | Mr Symon Haynes |
- Everyone is always welcome.

On 16th July, as Spotlight went to print, Rev Stanley Pipet was due to conduct his final service in Seend. As he reported in last month's issue, he and his wife, Joyce, are heading off for a well-earned retirement in Burnham-on-Sea. Stanley's role in our village life is well known but not every one knows that, for 7 years, Joyce worked as a supply teacher at Seend School. Many parents and children have fond memories of her. So Seend has a double reason to say we will miss you. We wish you both a long and peaceful retirement.

PILGRIMAGE TO ISRAEL/PALESTINE

ADVANCE NOTICE – The Revd. Sacha Pearce and I are planning a 10 night pilgrimage and holiday to **Israel/Palestine** from **2nd-11th October 2007**. The main tour will include 6 nights in the Golden Walls Hotel in Jerusalem with its splendid view of the old city walls and 3 nights at the Ron Beach Hotel just outside Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee. Visits will include sites in and around Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum, the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. We will walk along the Via Dolorosa, float on the Dead Sea, take a cable car up the Mount of Masada, meet with local people, and worship with the Christian community. There will also be some time for relaxation and personal exploration. There is also a recommended optional 3 day extension in our hotel on the shores of the Sea of Galilee returning on 14th October). In the Middle East the reality “on the ground” is often far removed from what we see and read in the news. We consider it a safe place to visit and will not travel if the situation becomes dangerous. This will be my 48th visit to the “land of the Holy One” and I have led over 20 such tours. The brochure will be out in the Autumn with costings, etc. But put the dates in your diary now!! We hope you will join us.

The Revd. Maureen Allchin

Bulkington Church Cleaning and Flower Rota

If you are unable to do the weeks allocated, please find an alternative person to take your turn.

Bulkington Church Cleaning

August

1st – 15th Mrs M Webb
16th – 31st Mrs M Webb

Bulkington Church Flowers

August

6th and 13th Mrs Topp
20th and 27th Mrs Difford

Bulkington Church Cleaning

September

1st – 15th Mrs E Futter
16th – 30th Mrs M Jones

Bulkington Flowers

September

3rd and 10th Mrs Forsey
17th and 24th Mrs Griffin

CONFIRMATION 2006 Do you think you may be ready to confirm your faith?

The Rector invites anyone interested in thinking about ‘being confirmed’ to share in preparation sessions with a view to taking part in a **Diocesan Confirmation Service in Salisbury Cathedral** with all 3 Bishops on **Saturday 4th November 2006 at 18.30**. This means that each candidate will have the opportunity to receive Holy Communion in the Benefice at a Sunday service the next day. There will be Confirmation sessions at the Rectory for

both teenagers and adults on the following dates (all Saturday dates): **2nd, 9th and 30th September, 7th, 21st and 28th October**. For teenagers (aged 11 or over) we will meet at 16.00 until 16.50 and their parents will be asked to sign a letter saying that they are happy for their teenager to meet with the Rector and with a group in this way. For adults (of any age!) we will meet at 17.00 until 18.00. While there are only 6 sessions we will cover a great deal of material and both groups will be invited to meet again a few weeks after the Confirmation and pursue any topic further. ***If you are interested and would like to discuss this please call Sacha on 828615 as soon as possible.***

CLUB AND ORGANISATION NEWS

100+ CLUB

...and still the number of 100+ Club members rises. A renewal plus a new subscription (32 this year) takes our total of members to 187, with receipts exceeding £2,800 for the first time ever - £2,805 to be exact, £935 of which goes to the Lye Field, while £1,870 goes back as prizes, an average of more than £155 per month!

On behalf of the Lye Field Committee may I send a big thank you to all who have supported the 100+ Club so magnificently this year. To those who have taken a break, thank you so much for your invaluable support in the past, and we look forward to hearing from you again in the future.

Draw for June 2006 The draw took place on Tuesday June 21st at the Pavilion, following a meeting of the Lye Field Committee.

The winning numbers, which were drawn by members of the Committee are as follows:

1 st Prize:	£35	115	Mrs Pat Fisher
2 nd Prize:	£30	6	Mrs C Springate
3 rd Prize:	£25	123	Mrs S Newman
4 th Prize:	£20	85	Mr Charles Garton (new member 2006)
5 th Prize:	£15	124	Mrs A Bottomley
6 th Prize:	£10	76	Mrs N Miller

SEEND SHUTTLE

Don't forget that the Shuttle only runs because of the volunteers who give up their time for it. If you'd like to find out about being a volunteer driver, ring Pete on 828757. If you fancy giving it an occasional clean, ring Tessa on 828617.



See the timetable on www.seend.org.uk

Just moved in or got new neighbours?

The Seend 'Welcome' booklet is available from Richard and Melanie at the Shop.

Tessa Doe

SEEND AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS**Saturday 12th August - Seend Fete**

This year our Club have volunteered to help serve teas from the WI Hall. I will be very pleased to receive offers of help from any of our members during the hours of 2pm to 5pm, so that we are able to work out an hourly rota system (contact Lin on 01225 706451).

**Sunday 20th August**

Meet in Rusty Lane for 9.30am departure. Walk commences in Amesbury and covers the Woodford Vale. 6 1/2 miles. Bring refreshments. Leaders: Sheila and Terry Williams (01225 704800).

Sunday 24th September

Meet Rusty Lane for 9.30am departure. Commence walk from Westwood Church. A fairly level distance of approximately 5 1/2 miles over farmland and woods between Westwood, Farleigh Castle and Iford Manor. Coffee stop of route (01225 793227).

Lin Salter

SEEND AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB**Club Trip to Brittany**

On the 14th June, a coach load of members set off for Brittany; for the first time we used Calne Coaches and found we had a very comfortable vehicle, with ample leg room and a very efficient air conditioning system. Our driver, Andy, proved to be good and we knew that we had an efficient organiser in Jim Fish, of Newbourne Travel.



On the way down to Portsmouth, to catch the ferry to St Malo, we stopped at Fursey Gardens at Minstead in the New Forest. This is sited in a very sheltered spot, so that we saw unusual shrubs flourished and was reminiscent of the variety of plants that we saw on the Club's visit to Southern Ireland a

few years ago. This delightfully informal garden was set up in 1922 and is run by a charitable trust offering training and residential care to young people with learning difficulties. A very peaceful place.

After a night's rest and a continental breakfast on board Brittany Ferries, we set off for the Gardens of Broceliande, which has several of France's National Collections of plants, including Iris and Roses. The various gardens are used to illustrate myth and legend and have an element of surprise as we moved from colourful flower beds, through sunken ways and water features. Our French guide did her best to explain everything to us, with a little help from us. The gardens are used to help older people with disabilities and during the year have festivals and special weeks for artists.

We stopped for a while in the delightful old town of Dinan, to look around and shop, before descending from its prominent position on the hill, to our hotel by the River Rance. The Hotel Jerzual proved to be comfortable and in a quiet spot by the river, but the narrow road and old bridge proved to be a test of Andy's driving skills!

The next day we were off to Chateau de Bienassis, which was in truth well situated having good views all around. It possessed fortified walls all around and an impressive gatehouse and moat. Its origins dated from the 15th century, but had been damaged and partially rebuilt over the centuries and altered as domestic arrangements improved. The present owner took us around the house, which an aunt had spent a lifetime restoring. Consequently there were many original pieces of furniture, panelling and objects of great interest. The whole edifice was built of the local rose coloured sandstone, which is very attractive. After visiting the formal gardens, we were offered a drink of cider, made from their own apples, and a dish made by the lady of the house, which were both delicious.

The house at Montmarin, is typical of those built by wealthy St Malo ship owners, as a summer residence in the 18th century, on the banks of the River Rance. The view across the widest part of the river is quite spectacular, with steps leading down to the water. The gardens are in both English and French styles. The whole estate is now classified as a National Monument. There were interesting plants for sale from the Nursery. On our return to the hotel, some took a boat trip downstream for an hour where the River Rance becomes a canal, built by Napoleon to provide an escape to Nantes, when the British were blockading the port of St Malo. We saw at the village of Lehon, a magnificent Cathedral, which had been built by Welsh monks—it is now used as a museum; quite unexpected, in what now seemed to be a remote spot. Next day, we visited the Chateau de La Ballue, 12 miles south of St Malo. There is a formal garden laid out at the back of the house, to take advantage of the view, but the rest of the gardens are formed into enclosed spaces, a

labyrinth and perspective alleys by walls of greenery formed from a variety of trees and shrubs. These secret gardens are unusual and form a temple to Diana, an open air theatre, a maze and a fernery and in each there is a piece of modern sculpture.

We travelled on to the port of St Malo to have lunch and to spend an afternoon exploring or shopping, as we wished. On the way back to Dinan, we stopped, as is tradition on these visits at a supermarche, for a final stock up on French goodies.

On the following morning, we set off for the ferry with much regret and wishing that we could stay longer - surely a sign that everyone had enjoyed their time in Brittany. Apart from a few of our strong men having to bump a car out of the coach's way, at the entrance to the ferry park, we arrived back in Seend without incident. Our grateful thanks to Jean and Roger Allen, both for their hospitality before the trip and for their part in organising it, and also to Jim and Andy for their professional help. We hope that Margaret will soon be fully recovered and were sorry that she had to cry off at the last minute. Perhaps next year.

Club news

Our thanks to Monica Ridgeway and Edna Fry for manning the plant stall at the Church Fete.

The Club's new programme begins on Tuesday evening, 12th September at 7.30pm in the Pavilion. The speaker will be Malcolm Thomas who had to postpone his talk earlier this year. His subject is simply "Weather". The competition will be for a "vase of garden flowers".

We look forward to welcoming our members and any guests or prospective members at this meeting. Meanwhile, enjoy your gardens for the rest of the summer.

Joyce Brand

WESSEX FUCHSIA GROUP

21st September - 7.45pm in The Pavilion. Ric Reilly from Cornwall. Ric has a polytunnel where he grows the species in the ground naturally and will talk on "Species and other strange stuff".

WEA - SEEND BRANCH

Our Further Education studies this Autumn are entitled "20th Century British Theatre" and they are described as a fun trip through the decades of the 20th century when realism and theatricality fought for domination. Reading short extracts from the works of playwrights, you'll hear tales of artistic movements and dramatic personalities. It should enable those with a liking

for drama to gain both enjoyment and an understanding of one of British Theatre's most exciting and changing eras.

We meet on Monday evenings in the upstairs room of Seend Community Centre, Rusty Lane, Seend from 7.30pm—9.15pm. The Tutor will be Christopher Scott and there will be 8 sessions commencing 9th October (with a half-term break on 23rd October. The complete cost of tuition is £38.

Don and Heather Hyde

SEEND WI

We enjoyed a fun evening at our June meeting. Mr Tanner accompanied by Janet Francis introduced us to the art of Hand Bell ringing. Hand Bells were pictured in the Pyramids and neck bells have been used for centuries to locate sheep and cattle. Wiltshire is the original home of handbells in the UK.

William Corr and the Potter family were the first recorded to introduce them. We were divided into two groups and learned how to strike our bell when our number appeared on the music sheet. One group mastered 'Happy Birthday' which they played for Lorna Hillier who celebrated her 90th Birthday this month. Mr Tanner and Janet Francis were given a combined vote of thanks. May Ferris won the competition 'A Decorated Bell'. During social time we enjoyed a slice of Birthday cake made for the occasion by Shirley West - and we also indulged in strawberries and cream!

At our July meeting, PC Neil Sampson gave a most interesting and informative talk on the **Work of the Wiltshire Police Dogs**. He has been a policeman for 20 years and has spent 13 years as a police dog handler. There are 30 dogs in the service comprising five different breeds - mainly German Shepherds that are used in General Purposes. PC Sampson brought along 3 dogs that are his responsibility: TAZ, a spaniel, aged 11 years; SKIP, a younger spaniel, and SAM, a German Shepherd. The spaniels were very friendly and enjoyed being petted but we were told not to attempt to fondle SAM!! PC Sampson was thanked by Mrs. P. Hillier. The Competition - 'A Model of a Dog or Police Car' was won by Mrs. Judith Biggs.

Our August meeting is on 9th August when Mrs Nicky Creek will talk about the work of the Carers Support in West Wiltshire, and the competition will be 'Flower of the Month'. The September meeting is on the 13th when Ms Helen Astill will speak on "Indian Head Massage". The competition will be 'A Holiday Photo'. Visitors will be warmly welcomed to our meetings.

Betty Smith

Seend WI Archive

I am sure I am not the only one to think of the WI as an old fashioned institution where the compulsory singing of Jerusalem was enough to put

anyone off, whether they could sing or not, from trying out a meeting and that the WI is all about handicrafts (no time/no good/won't go) and tea hostesses (once in a while – everyone mucks in) and competitions (well yes, there are competitions, but they are optional too).

A relatively new member (studying, work, parent, children commitments, you get the picture!) here in the Seend WI, I have so far enjoyed talks on the work of the Citizens Advice Bureau and had a “Walk Up Everest”. Most recently without any musical knowledge or experience at all I spent an evening with fellow WI ladies ringing handbells and with a little practice and coaching we soon turned an incredible rendition of noise into a recognisable tune!

Sheepbells (no relation to the above bells but actually a joint meeting with other WI groups) consisted of a talk worthy of a West End stage performance about life at the Hawk Conservancy at Ampport near Andover by Mr Ashley Smith whose family started the centre and about his continuing work with endangered wild birds. He literally had us rolling with laughter at some of the events over the years. And yes, there was the singing of Jerusalem at this one, although not compulsory to join in, the vibrancy of the 70+ who did was delightful to hear by those who did not sing (yes, I confess that was me too).

As well as the monthly meeting, Seend WI has a long history of collecting pictures for an archive of Village events in their famous scrapbooks. As this is an ongoing project please let us have copy photos of your events as they happen so they can be included for future generations. We are now considering recording interviews with people who have memories of living, working, going to school, etc here in the village to complement the scrapbooks. If there is anyone out there who would like to be included in this project, knows of someone who should be interviewed or who would like to help please contact me, Jo Vaux, on 01380 828970 or email me at jvaux@mcbursary.org.uk.

If you would like to come to a meeting in the coming months, there is a preview above of what is on offer through to September. Come along and try it for yourself and bring a friend/relative with you. If you have been before and wasn't sure/did not like it, then try it again, you never know, this time it may be for you.

Note: www.hawk-conservancy.org/indexie.htm for more information on conservation.

Jo Vaux

SEEND TENNIS CLUB

This year the club went up to division 2, having won division 3 last year. After a very wet start, 2 out of our first 3 matches were cancelled, we have enjoyed fairly good weather on Wednesday evenings. We have won 3 and

lost 4 matches, so we are currently in mid division, and with luck, and a few more wins under our belt, we will stay in division 2. I have been very lucky with a committed ladies' team. Well done to all the players.

Elaine Davis, Ladies' Captain

MOTHERS' UNION - SEEND AND BULKINGTON

Seend Mothers' Union

The summer months provide an opportunity for members of the Mothers' Union to meet representatives from other branches and areas, and to share news of what they are doing.

On Monday 12th June, West Lavington Branch were the hosts of a garden party held at Wyneshore House, courtesy of Mr and Mrs Terence O'Flynn. The Diocesan, Archdeaconary and Deanery Presidents were all there and took advantage of the opportunity to speak to the guests.

The Speaker was the Revd Pad Strowger and her challenging subject was "Answering God's Call". In her own case this had led her from a career in Primary School teaching to becoming a priest. Sometimes this was a long and difficult journey, but ultimately rewarding.

Margaret Coley

Dates for August and September

16th August—we are invited to Derry Hill

7th September—Brittox Stall

20th September - Revd M Allchin - Israel and Palestine.

Seend M. U. is supporting 'First Steps' - a new Benefice parent and toddler service held in the Holy Cross church on the first Tuesday of the month in the afternoon from 2.15 to 2.45 p.m. We would greatly appreciate any additional help at this service and anyone interested should come along to the next service on 5th September.

Betty Smith

Keevil and Bulkington Mothers' Union

August events are as follows:-

Saturday 5th August at 3.30 pm there will be a Cream Tea held at Pine Tree Cottage (Rosemary's home). Wednesday 9th August is Mary Sumner Day – still to be arranged. Wednesday 23rd August at 10.30am there will be a Deanery Coffee Morning to be held in Keevil Village Hall in aid of the MU Overseas Fund.

September date

On Wednesday 27th September at 10.30am Mrs Gillian Bowden will give a talk entitled 'Hatched, Matched and Dispatched'. Venue – Manor Farm, Keevil For further information on any of the above, please contact Dorothy Tyler on 870340.

SCHOOL NEWS



SEEND SCHOOL

The end of our school year is nearly here and we have all been very busy. The list seems to be endless: Charity Concert, Sports Day, sports festival, visit to the cathedral, football tournaments, sponsored walk, museum visits, arts week, SATs, parent meetings, school disco, swimming gala and theme days in school. As well as lessons!

Last week the Year 5 and 6 pupils spent a week at a study centre in the Brecon Beacons learning about the countryside and the National Park and more importantly how to get on with each other away from home. It was a great success and all the pupils gained, in different ways from the experience. The Year 6 pupils are about to leave our school to move on to the next stage of their educational journey. The whole school community wishes them a smooth and exciting start to their secondary education and we hope that they remember their time at Seend with a smile.

Steven Bennett, Headmaster

Danywenalt in the Brecon Beacons

At the centre we had small rooms we had to share and I slept in a bunk bed. The food was very nice and we had lots to eat. I liked the cooked breakfasts the best. Everyone had lots of fun in Wales we climbed mountains, caught mammals (and let them go), made and tested shelters, made story sticks, walked under a waterfall and went down a real coal mine. We had a race to see who could carry the most water in twenty minutes; we had to work as a team to do this. It was great and I found it very enjoyable and I would go again to Wales.

By Sam Chard. Year 6

SEEND SCHOOL PSC

Clothes Collection

The school will be collecting bags of unwanted, but in good condition clothes, shoes, curtains, bed linen, table cloths, etc that is then sent to Eastern Europe. The school gets a small amount of money for each kilo collected and this has proved a good fundraising activity in the past. So, please save up your unwanted clothes, in readiness for the collection which will happen some time in October (to be announced in next issue of Spotlight). Please do not bring your bags to school before the date given as the school has no storage space.

Barn Dance Thanks

Well done to the organisers of the school barn dance. It was a fun evening

and raised over £460 for school funds. Thank you to the parents who helped man the barbeque, etc. Thank you to: Wadworth Brewery; Whitehall Garden Centre; Great Thornham Farm Meats; Brian and Ann Hunt (Advanced driving courses and Aromatherapy); Pots and Planters (Jane & Paul); Rose Dick; Lesley Meredith and Karoli Kreations who all donated raffle prizes.

Midsummer Concert

Seend School's Junior Choir and all of Sycamore Class gave a magnificent concert of singing and music in Holy Cross Church on 28th June. The concert was in aid of Ndemban Upper Basic School in Besse, Gambia. Seend School is really blessed to have such a brilliant music teacher, Mrs Schonfeld, who really inspires the children to do their best. It was a magical performance that stirred the hearts of all who watched. Well done.

BULKINGTON and DISTRICT JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP

Another academic year over and for youth group it's been a successful year. We regularly have 25 boys and girls come on a Friday evening to the Pavilion and we have a healthy waiting list. During the warmer weather the children have enjoyed using the Lye Field for football, cricket and other games. In the winter months table tennis was a big hit and we should apologise to all those parents whose children came home with multi-coloured hair, we do hope it washed out easily! During Lent the children, and we're sure their parents, saved their tuck money and bought from World Vision some school kits and fruits for children in the third world; we are very proud of their efforts. Our finances are in good shape and we would like to thank our treasurer, David Raby-Cox for all his hard work. We would also like to thank the Pavilion team and especially Ron Apted, for the use of such a lovely hall; you couldn't get better landlords!

Our thanks go to all the parents who help out on the rota and to Lesley and Liz who help when one of the leaders needs a Friday off. As leaders we give our time voluntarily and after 3 years at the helm we feel it is time for some new blood. If you feel able to give a couple of hours, Friday evening term time, and would be happy to have a CRB check, then we would appreciate the extra hands. It would mean that we wouldn't have to give up every Friday night. If extra hands are not forthcoming then unfortunately youth group will only open alternate weeks and may even face closure.

Well done to all our members for your good behaviour, your energy and your enthusiasm. We have to say goodbye this year to George Caine, Sam Chard and Joshua Dobson, good luck with secondary school. We will see all our other members in September – have a good holiday.

Andrea Dobson (01389 827126), Helen Hook and Sue Taylor.

SEEND PARISH COUNCIL

The June meeting was attended by 7 Councillors, with Mrs Savage in the Chair.

There have been enquiries to rent the allotments opposite The Bell. These are presently very overgrown, and the PC will investigate the costs of clearing them, and reinstating the opening, in order that they can be used.

Several parishioners were in attendance at the meeting, and wished to discuss the siting of a mobile home and works being undertaken in Spiders Paddock, Bradley Lane. Mrs Carr told the PC that Kennet DC is aware of the problem, and she outlined the action that would be taken. A temporary stop notice would be issued on 28th June, and will cease to have effect on 24th July, by which time the Council will have served a full stop notice to prevent further works, and enforcement notices for the removal of the mobile home, hardstanding and all items not required for the authorized use of the land for agriculture. The owner of the paddock will have a right of appeal. The stile on the footpath had been reinstated, and the “private property” notice taken down. The PC will investigate the historic rights in Bradley Lane for vehicular access.

It has been noted that the sign for Sells Green, coming from Devizes, is actually in Martinslade. The PC will contact Kennet DC about this.

The PC are again concerned at the traffic chaos when car boot sales are taking place near Redstocks crossroads, and the organizers will be requested to resume use of the parking signs, as these did make a difference towards the end of the last season.

The dates of the next village skips will be:

Friday 28 th July	Wessex Water site
Friday 25 th August	Seend Social Club
Friday 29 th September	Three Magpies

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 25th July at 7.30 pm in Seend Social Club.

Mrs. Rosemary Fisher
Clerk

BULKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 20th September at 8.15 pm in the Village Hall

VILLAGE BITS'N'BOBS

Did you read the article in June issue of 'Spotlight' written by Phil Springate entitled 'Grave News'? As someone who is interested in history, especially social history, I found the article extremely interesting. I wonder, is there anyone in Bulkington who you would like to remember or pay tribute to? Is there an event that you would like to tell the rest of the residents about? There have certainly been quite a few characters in the village over the years. Even I can recall a few and I've only lived here about 16 years – Bill and Joan Breach, Jack Pickett, Lil and Len Jones.....to name but a few. If you would like to put pen to paper, please send me your memories. I know there are two residents of Bulkington who were both born in the village, Baptised, Confirmed and married in our Church, they are a wealth of information, and it would be lovely if they would share their memories with the rest of the village. Perhaps you don't want to write the article yourself, well I would be pleased to take a few notes and we could write the article between us. It is so important that these people, their way of life and their contribution to our village are not forgotten. I look forward to hearing from you, my phone number is inside on the back page.

Jo Bell

BULKINGTON FUN WEEKEND THANKS

Many thanks to everyone who came and supported our Fun weekend. The weather was perfect, perhaps a trifle too hot! As always, many thanks are due to the people who organised and ran the events over the weekend. There are too many to mention individually, however, the following people did so much to help that they must be mentioned:- Our Village Princess and her attendants who opened the fete, the Maypole dancers, the tea ladies and the people who made the refreshments, the people helping on the stalls and the attractions in the playing field, the Scarecrow committee who have worked so hard making the figures since January, Ron Apted and his team who generously helped us to erect two marquees. We must also thank Bulkington Parish Council for their generous financial support and also the people who ran fund-raising events prior to the weekend and gave all their money unreservedly to the cause.

Thank you Rebecca for being our Princess, also thank you to Lauren, Maddy and Brook for being her attendants. You all looked beautiful, and also a thank you to Tim for being the chauffeur. Audrey.

The Church Wardens wish to say a big thank you to all who contributed to making the day such a huge success. Liz and John.

Jo Bell

KENNET CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU

If you are interested in becoming a voluntary advisor, the CAB is interested in hearing from you. Their next training course begins in August. For further information, please contact: Sandra Long, Kennet CAB, Commercial Road, Devizes SN10 1EH (tel: 01380 722242 or e-mail bureau,kennetcab@cabnet.org.uk).

MOBILE LIBRARY

Wiltshire Council are looking for ways to improve and deliver their library services to you. Are you happy with the schedules? Would you be interested in a premium reservation services with items posted directly to your home? Would you like them to sell stationery items/stamps, etc? All comments can be handed in at any of the Wiltshire Mobile library vans or main libraries, preferably by 4th August!

ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE

'Alexander Technique' in a word is about poise, which in turn may improve how you move, perform, look and feel. The technique teaches people how to release unnecessary muscular tension and how to improve posture and the better realignment of the body.

A guiding principle of the Technique is that use affects functioning ... our everyday activity. For example the way we align our body affects our breathing, and so in turn our general well-being. A good posture relieves pressure on the internal organs and their better functioning improves the body's health. If we accept that good health is our bottom line and that health improves our spirits, our sense of purpose, our composure etc then such a Technique is worthwhile

"Why are you here?" asks the teacher; the chances are that you are presenting with shoulder, back or neck problems. Making yourself aware of a habitual posture which adversely affects you and causes tension and discomfort is a key part of the teaching. For everything you think or do is translated into tension so long as habitual body posture interferes with daily activities. The awareness of what you are doing, the alignment of the body, the unrestricted breathing the release of muscular tension combine to give a remarkably improved sense of well-being both physically and mentally.

The founder of the Technique, Frederick M Alexander, developed it to assist the projection of his voice in his career as an actor. The Technique is taught as a matter of course in theatre, dance and music. Schools .STAT (the Society of Teachers of the Alexander technique (1958)) was founded in the UK to ensure standards of teacher training and practice, Workshops and one to one lessons are the usual means of promoting the Society's teachings

JL for PP

