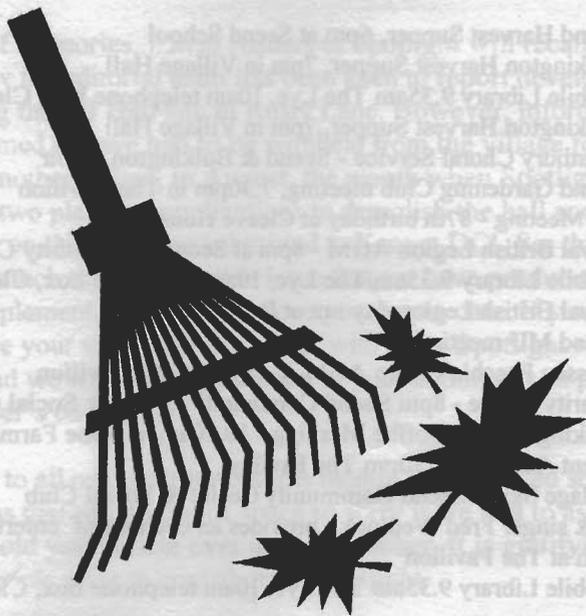


# SPOTLIGHT

Seend and Bulkington



October 2006

## Welcome to the October edition of Spotlight



The school holidays have flown by and here we are entering the “season of mists and mellow fruitfulness”. So put away your sandals, dig out your boots and prepare to rake up all those falling leaves! This is a time of change for many of us in our villages especially the children as they start a new school year and face new challenges. What memory does this time of year stir in you?

Speaking of memories.....avid readers of Spotlight will recall that for months now the editorial team has been keen to report developments surrounding the WI Hall site in Rusty Lane. However, information always seemed to have had to be withheld from the village for one reason or another. Then, in August, the month when Spotlight isn't published, two planning applications to demolish the hall and erect two houses on the site were submitted to Kennet DC! So, this month there is so much to report on this issue that we have produced a special supplement to try to bring everyone up to date. If you would like to share your views on this matter with other Spotlight readers let us know and we will include as many of your comments as possible in November's edition.

Thank you to all our contributors this month. We received so many submissions that we ran out of space so sorry if we had to ask you if we could hold your article over until November. It is gratifying that so many people want to contribute to Spotlight.

### **Spotlight Contacts**

Contributions for the October issue (*copy deadline 14th October*) can be sent by e-mail to [spotlight@seend.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:trevor@bell8490.freeserve.co.uk)). Comments and queries – Meg Combs 828229 or Tina Yockney on 827139.

## **VILLAGE NEWS**

### **WI HALL**

There are currently two planning applications with Kennet District Council: one for *the demolition of the WI Hall* and the second for *the removal of the WI Hall and replacement with 2 dwellings with garages*. Whilst the WI Hall has not yet been sold, the planning applications have been submitted by the Estate Agents acting on behalf of the Trustees of the WI Hall.

Anyone wishing to comment, needs to do so within 21 days of the submission date of 4th September (it might already be too late for the demolition application as we think the deadline for this is 19th September). The Parish Council are asking for an extension to the consultation period, but this is yet to be confirmed. The Planning Application reference numbers are K/54973/CAC (demolition) and K/55043/F (development). The plans can be viewed on their website: [www.kennet.gov.uk](http://www.kennet.gov.uk) or by visiting Kennet District Council Offices, Browfort, Bath Road, Devizes SN10 2AT on weekdays from 9am-5pm..

This is the village's main opportunity to voice its concern over the future of WI Hall site and to question how any development would effect the Seend Community Centre and Social Club and the Irene Usher Hall. If you have an opinion, you should voice it before it is too late!

The matter was discussed at the Parish Council Meeting on 30th August, the minutes of which are in this issue of Spotlight.

*There is an interesting article on the history of the WI hall, in the Bits-n-Bobs section of this issue of Spotlight by Pam Hillier.*

### **SEEND FETE & FLOWER SHOW - THE FINAL CHAPTER**

There is a tradition in Seend regarding the Summer Fete, and it is that first-and-foremost a resoundingly good time is had by all, and if, at the same time, a useful sum of money can be raised, well, so much the better! Oh, and it never rains...



Fete 2006 started with a committee meeting in November 2005 and ended at 5 o'clock in the afternoon on August the 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006, in total triumph. Thanks to all the volunteers – more than 100 this year - who set up the Fete, ran the stalls and games, and dispensed food and drink, all the while taking care to ensure that our Visitors had a good time; thanks also to the Visitors for whom the whole event is staged, and who had such a good

time that they spent record sums, for their friendship and loyalty; and thanks to our Sponsors and Advertisers who this year provided us with more money than ever before. This is a clearly a Community determined that the tradition of the Seend Summer Fete shall be upheld.

And I have no doubt that this year's event on August 12<sup>th</sup> did not disappoint! From the early morning Fete Breakfast, and the construction phase – although de-struction seemed to be the purpose of the wind as it whipped across the field - through the parade and the entertainments and the games and the food and the drink and the stalls, to the final performance of the Dazzlers, a feeling emerged of being present at some gigantic family party to which only your favourite relatives have been invited. And in a sense that's what it was. It was our village coming together to have fun – and fun we did have!

And a useful sum of money was raised as well. More than £6,500, a record amount. Oh, and it didn't rain...

The Fete Committee enjoyed the fact that it didn't rain, we enjoyed the evident enjoyment of everyone present, we enjoyed the privilege of having been involved in the planning, but most of all we just enjoyed the day. To be surrounded by all that fun and goodwill is, as they say these days, awesome! See you next year...

Bernie Prolze

### **BULKINGTON FETE AND FUN DAY - An update**

We are still waiting for monies to be collected in, but the Treasurer thinks that the total amount raised will be about £2,000. A final amount will be published in Spotlight as soon as possible.

Jo Bell

## **EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER** **SEEND AND BULKINGTON**

### **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.



### **LONG WALK BY SEEND GROUP FOR CHARITY**

Ron Westacott MBE and friends Ron Apted, Mike Bryan and Steve Comley are embarking on an 84-mile walk of the entire Hadrian's Wall over the six days from 25th September to 1st October. Back-up support and participation is being provided by a fifth



member of the team, Colin Waldeck. It is confidently expected that the Dorothy House Hospice and Breakthrough Breast Cancer Charity will benefit handsomely from this venture. Anyone wishing to donate to either or both charities by way of sponsorship of the team's effort may contact Ron on 828424.

Ron Westacott



**Seend Community Centre and  
Social Club  
Presents:**

**RACE NIGHT**

**30th September**

**First Race: 8.00pm**

**Free Entrance**

**Tote multiples of 25p**

**All Horses for sale at Auction**

**CHARITY DANCE IN AID OF DOROTHY HOUSE  
HOSPICE - 21ST OCTOBER**

Top Dance Band to play classic hits from 50's to 80's at Seend Community Centre and Social Club on Saturday 21st October from 8pm til-late. Tickets priced £7.50 (includes ploughman's supper) from Geoff Wiltshire 828603 or Ray Willis (01225 708811).



**SILENT AUCTION IN AID OF CHURCH FUNDS - 27th October**

- What is a Silent Auction? It is a way of selling without the services, noise and "expense" of an auctioneer.
- Where will it be held? In the Irene Usher Hall (the Pavilion) commencing at 7.30pm
- What will be sold? Any item kindly given for sale by anyone. So please search your cupboards!! Items can be sold on a 50/50 basis if required and a reserve price can be placed on them.

When are items required for sale? Items should be brought to the Pavilion between 2pm-4.30pm on the day of the auction or given to a Churchwarden at any time before.

Is there an entrance charge? Yes. £4. This will include light refreshments. Tickets can be purchased before the event at the Village Post Office or from churchwardens and members of the PCC. Alternatively, pay at the door on the night. Glasses of wine and soft drinks will be available for purchase.

How do I buy them? By silent bidding. How this is done will be explained on the night.

Please mark the date in your diary. Please give an item to sell and please do come and join in the fun evening. You are sure to find something that you will want to buy!! For any further information, please contact Tony Hill on 01380 828397.

Tony Hill.

### **FRED WEDLOCK COMES TO SEEND ON OCT 28TH**

In aid of the Lye Field Committee and on behalf of the Rural Arts Wiltshire, we are extremely fortunate to have Fred Wedlock appearing in the Irene Usher Pavilion on the 28th October . The event will start at 8pm.

As some of you will remember, Fred had a string of smash hits in the 70's including "Oldest Swinger in Town" and provides a lively adults evening of funny stories and folk music. (Over 18's only).

Tea/Coffee will be provided during the interval, but if you require something stronger, please bring your own supplies. There will be a raffle during the interval, so donations for prizes would be warmly received.

Prices: Adults £6, Senior Citizens £5. Tickets available from the Post Office, Jan Harding 828778, Jan Crabtree 828687, or Tessa Doe 828617.

## **EVENTS COMING UP IN NOVEMBER**

### **SHOW NIGHT - 11TH NOVEMBER AT 8.15PM**



Seend Community Centre and Social Club Presents an evening of lively entertainment with tribute singers ELTON JOHN and RUBY WASHINGTON and comedian JOHN LORY. Tickets priced £12 from the Social Club (828796) or Sam (828157).

Please support your Community Centre by joining us for a great night out!



### **LADIES' EVENING - 18TH NOVEMBER**

A Ladies' Evening will be held at the Seend Community Centre and Social Club on Saturday 18th November from 7.30pm. There will be lots to see and buy with Christmas in mind, ie Weekenders Fashion Catwalk; flower arranging demonstrations, exotic crafts; chocoholics; Body Shop; Candle crafts; hand-made jewellery; aromatherapy products and much more. Entrance fee is £2.50 and the bar will be open. All welcome.



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



**THANKS** - Don Hyde wishes to thank the many people who expressed their concern and sent their best wishes during his stay in hospital and eventual operation in Bristol. The help given was much appreciated. He is now home and making steady progress.

**HELP!** - Are there any homemade wine makers out there? If so, could you please let me know where to buy corks, yeast, fermentation locks, etc. I can't find a shop that sells them anymore. Thank you.

Ron Apted - 828427

## **CHURCH SERVICES**

1st October	8.00am BCP Holy Communion	(Seend)
Harvest Festival	9.30am Family Eucharist	(Bulkington)
	11.15am Parish Eucharist	(Seend)
	6.00 pm BCP Evensong	(Poulshot)
8th October	8.00am BCP Holy Communion.	(Seend)
	9.30am BCP Mattins	(Poulshot)
	11.15am Parish Eucharist	(Seend)
	6.00pm. Evensong	(Bulkington)

15th October	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	(Seend)
	9.30am	Parish Eucharist	(Bulkington)
	11.15am	Parish Eucharist	(Seend)
	6.00pm	BCP Holy Communion	(Poulshot)
22nd October	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	(Seend)
	9.30am	Family Eucharist	(Poulshot)
	11.15am	Family Eucharist	(Seend)
	6.00pm	Songs of Praise Eucharist	(Bulkington)
29th October	10.00am	United Benefice Service	(Bulkington)
		No service at Seend or Poulshot	

### **First Steps Benefice Parent & Toddler Church Service**

This month's Parent & Toddler service at Seend will take place on Tuesday 3rd October from 2.15pm—2.45pm. All welcome.



### **From Where I Stand...**

...preparing a quiz or treasure hunt means you have to look very carefully for clues! I was asked to create a quiz for people to do while visiting Holy Cross Seend during our Patronal Festival weekend in September. In any church the Patronal Festival is like one big birthday party usually kept around the date in the year when the saint or name dedication given to the church is celebrated. In our Benefice St Peter's Poulshot have theirs at the end of June when St Peter and St Paul are remembered and Christ Church Bulkington now have theirs on a day in November called the Feast of Christ the King. Holy Cross Day is 14<sup>th</sup> September and celebrates the way in which the whole Christian Church has come to see the cross on which Jesus was crucified as the symbol for the Christian faith journey.

Like any birthday style celebration the time is meant to give thanks for the years passed and look with hope to the future. The church gives thanks for the generations of those who have worshipped there before us, looking forward with hope for the future, being aware of our responsibilities to care for both the church and be part of building the community in the parish around us...

So as part of the preparation for the Holy Cross weekend I started to think about this treasure hunt quiz... Finding the clues meant carefully looking around the church, at the windows, the memorial plaques, the stonework... Many of the windows have stained glass images of saints like St John and St Paul, as well as Mary and Jesus, and saints linked with Salisbury Cathedral, like St Osmund and St Aldhelm, as well as women's names from the Bible like Dorcas and Lydia. There's also the great Millennium window with scenes from the Seend area like the canal and the farmland. The memorial stones

remember the names of generous church benefactors over several centuries who have given bequests of money for the life of the church and the parish.

From where I stand, looking for clues for the quiz, it seemed to me that when looking at other people's lives we can often tell something about our own. The saints were people who knew their need of God, and followed Him, pointing others to discover Him too. They gave something of themselves, took seriously the need to get to know God better, and saw the benefits of this experience. The local church benefactors were ordinary people, part of the life of the church and community, who wanted to see the church and its work continue. All these names represent the people of the past for whom the church was important, for whatever reason, and they gave something of themselves not only to help the upkeep of the church building but as living stones being part of the church and community life.

The church is not a museum but a living breathing evolving place of worship and nurturing faith just as the Christian faith is not a static once only fact provable by logic or debate but is an evolving experience, a spiritual resource, within our inner being. Really 'the church' is far more than its building and it is the people who live out their faith in the community around them, being living stones, just like the names on the windows and stones, taking their turn in building up and sharing our neighbourhood and village life. The whole village community shares in the puzzle of how we can do this together, looking for clues to our future - for it is building a community of love that isn't just the mission of God but it is for us all!

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

**Bulkington Church Cleaning**

1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> October Mrs M Webb

16<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> Mrs J Raby-Cox

**Bulkington Flower Rota**

8<sup>th</sup> October Mrs J Raby-Cox

15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> Mrs A Elliott

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

**HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICES AND SUPPERS**

Harvest Festival Services in each of the three churches take place on Sunday 1st October. For those of you not involved with the school service the following day, please bring your



Harvest Produce to the Sunday Services. Seend's Harvest Supper will be held at Seend School on Monday 2nd October at 6pm.

Bulkington's annual Harvest Supper will be held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October in the Village Hall at 7.00pm. Further details will be announced as soon as possible.

### **WESTBURY CHORAL SERVICE**

On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October there will be a Choral Festival at All Saints Church, Westbury. As most of the clergy in the diocese will be attending, there will be no Evensong on that Sunday. If you would like to attend the Festival and require transport, please contact Liz Futter on 01380 828485 who will make the necessary arrangements for you. It would be lovely if some of you were able to attend this service and support the choir and the Musical Director David King.



Jo Bell

### **SEEND METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES FOR OCTOBER**

1st Oct	No service at Seend.
4pm	Area Service at Devizes at St Andrews Church Preacher: Revd Graham Jones
8th Oct	10am Revd Chris Cory with Sacrament of Holy Communion
15th Oct	6pm Ecumenical Service led by Revd Graham Hoslett
22nd Oct	No Service at Seend (We shall join another Chapel for worship)
29th Oct	10am Mrs Grace Mortimer

Everyone is always welcome.

### **REVD STANLEY & MRS JOYCE PIPET'S RETIREMENT**

A large number of people from the Mid-Wiltshire United (Methodist/URC) Area Churches, together with folk from many previous circuits where Stanley and Joyce had served, had gathered at Upper Littlecote Farm, Hilmarton for a farewell party and service. Stanley and Joyce were presented with a garden seat, cheque, flowers and other gifts. At his last service here, as a special memento of Seend, they were given a china jug, part of an inscribed set used for many years at Sunday School, treats and other functions. The inscription reads "Wesleyan Chapel, Seend", so was obviously purchased pre 1932, the date of union between the Wesleyan and Primitive Methodists.

Our new Minister is Revd Roy Fowler and his Welcome and Induction Service will be on 2nd December at Calne Methodist Church.

## CLUB AND ORGANISATION NEWS

### SEEND SOCIAL CLUB AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

**Skittles:** Anyone wishing to play skittles on a Friday night please contact Sam on 828157.



**Village Breakfasts** During July and August, many village residents, plus visitors from beyond our bounds, enjoyed sizzling, succulent, juicy, luscious etc village breakfasts in the Seend Community Centre & Social Club. In addition to catering for “the inner man”, the occasions provide a good community atmosphere and much-needed funds for the Centre.



Trudy Waylen and Lesley Scrase supplied the initiative that started these gastronomic treats, with their examples being swiftly followed by other volunteers. We are very grateful to Trudy, Lesley and all of the other helpers for their great efforts.

Next year, if all goes according to plan, there will be at least six breakfasts on the menu again. However, we should be pleased to have a few more volunteers to help with the activities. If you would like to be involved in a busy task in a happy environment, please contact the Community Centre on 01380 828796. There is an answerphone to take your offer should the Centre be unattended.

**An Edwardian Evening** July 22nd seems a long time ago, but those of you who did not attend the above spectacle missed a delightful treat. A melodramatic comedy where all of the dialogue was in verse. The villain of the piece turned out to be the Squire’s son who had taken advantage of the poor serving maid, but he received his ‘come uppance’ in the closing scene. After a tasty snack, we enjoyed the equivalent of an old fashioned music hall.

It was an excellent evening and we are most grateful to The Faulty Players for their splendid performance. It also produced £280 from ticket and raffle sales, and to this, the Players donated £550 from the proceeds of their earlier pantomime. The Committee Members of the Community Centre express their thanks for this strong financial help.

John Smallshaw

## **SEEND FAWLTY PLAYERS**

Put February 22nd-24th in your diaries now! Our 28th village panto is one we bet you've never seen before – 'The Laidley Worm'. It's a Northumberland folk tale that has all the necessary ingredients for a successful panto, so don't miss it. And thanks to those of you who supported our music hall and melodrama evening back in the heatwave that was July. You helped us to raise £280 for the Community Centre.



Tessa Doe

## **SEEND SHUTTLE**



**Provisional Thursday timetable.** The change of timetable, to include Bromham, all happened rather quickly at the beginning of August – so apologies to anyone who got caught unawares. The revised timetable can be viewed on [www.seend.org.uk](http://www.seend.org.uk) or copies are available on the Shuttle – or you can ring 828617 for a copy. The trial period ends in mid-October and we shall display posters and put information on the bus and on the village website to let you know what happens after that. Or you can phone Terry Sleightholme on 828203 for information. There may also be changes to the Tuesday timetable at that time.

Meanwhile, you can also ring Terry to book your place on the First Wednesday-of-each-month shopping trips.

And, fellow-wrinklies, don't forget that you can use your bus pass for a free ride on the Monday, Tuesday and Thursday scheduled services.

**Shuttle cleaning rota:** Calling all Shuttle users! If you value our community bus, you may wish to join the voluntary rota for cleaning it. At present, there are seven names of individuals or groups on the rota, which means that we each clean the bus a little under twice a year. Our mission is to find another five names to go on that rota so that each one only has to do it once a year. If a group of friends, neighbours, club members or a family all muck in, it can be quite a fun activity, believe it or not.

Cleaning materials are provided, and if you don't have a driver in your group to collect the bus and return it to the Barge car park yourselves, we can provide someone to do it for you. (If you want to become a volunteer driver, ring Pete Wallis on 828757.) If you are able to add your name to the cleaning rota, please ring Tessa Doe on 828617.

Tessa Doe

## **SEEND AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS**

Thanks to everyone who helped with the 'cream teas' project at this year's Seend Fete. This was our first attempt at something different to the White Elephant Stall of previous years and it all went off extremely well, making a handsome profit for the Lye Field upkeep.



There will be no monthly walk in October as a week-end in the Forest of Dean has been organised during this period and involving 36 members.

Our next walk will be Sunday 5th November, organised by Ron Westacott. Meet in Rusty Lane for 9.30am departure. Details not yet finalised.

Please keep the evening of Thursday 23rd November free. This will be our Annual Social Evening and had to take place on a Thursday in preference to Friday, to accommodate the particular speaker in mind. Major Nigel Lewis, who is an authority on providing nest boxes for Owls and Raptors in the environmental surrounds of Salisbury Plain, will be coming along to enlighten us on this subject. Further information will appear in the November issue of Spotlight.

Lin Salter

## **SEEND AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB**

**Flower Show & Fete:** Our grateful thanks to Edna Fry, Monica Ridgway, Allen Stack, Judy Edmonds and Clare Headley for helping all day at the Club's Plant & Produce Stall, and for clearing up at the end of a tiring, but useful day. Thank you also to all those who kindly supplied the plants and produce. It was good to see all the entries for the Club Class and congratulations to Judy Edmonds for winning.



**Club trip to Wantage:** The gardening club visited 2 gardens on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Our first visit was to Wantage and after coffee in the museum restaurant opposite the church we made our way to Old Church House. This was a lovely house in a beautiful situation in the centre of Wantage but in a very peaceful spot, with the garden sloping down to the Letcombe Brook in a series of garden rooms. Alas Wantage is in the Thames water area and as a result of the hosepipe ban, the garden was in a very parched state. However it was a pleasant place to have a picnic while the sun shone and some of us had time to hit the shops as well!

As we left Wantage the heavens opened and we arrived at Waterperry Gardens in Wheatley, outside Oxford, during torrential rain, which stayed with us for most of the afternoon. However as one person noted, the rain was coming straight down so if you had an umbrella you were OK! After

spending some time in the tea room we ventured out and went through all the indoor attractions – the museum (very interesting), the shop (good quality), the craft gallery (good but expensive), and finally the plant centre (very good quality plants). Finally we made it into the garden itself and despite the awful weather it was a real hit, beautifully designed and very well tended. It started life as a horticultural school for ladies founded by Miss Beatrix Havergal in the 1930's, the present layout owing much to one of the later students, and is composed of formal and informal gardens, shrubberies, herbaceous borders rose and woodland gardens all in immaculate order.

The trip in 2007 is now being planned. It will be to Gloucestershire some time in mid July. There should be more information by our October meeting.

**The next meeting** will be at the Pavilion on Tuesday 10th October at 7.30 pm, when Bob Swaffield will talk of his life and work in a “Victorian Garden”. The Competition will be “In the Red” - a title to stretch the imagination.

**A Reminder:** The WI are still looking for photographs and anecdotes for the Village Record Book. Would members look out photos of Club events and outings, with a note of where and when they happened; please give to Joyce, who will pass them on. Thank you.

**Club Visit to Amateur Gardening Show** at Shepton Mallet on 2nd September. A group of members and friends took the Shuttle on a wet and windy day to the Show. In spite of a delay, due to a traffic accident and the Air Show at Longleat, we got there in time to enjoy a day of good value for money at the Show. Everyone had a good day in spite of the increasing strength of the wind and had a quicker run home with all their purchases.

Joyce Brand

### **WESSEX FUCHSIA GROUP**

The Annual General Meeting will take place on 19th October at 7.45pm in The Pavilion. This will be followed by a members' evening.

### **WEA - SEEND BRANCH**

A reminder about the Autumn course with tutor Christopher Scott, entitled 20th Century British Theatre - details of which appeared in the Aug/Sept issue of Spotlight.

You will be most welcome to attend the first meeting on Monday 8th October from 7.30pm-9.15pm in Seend Community Centre, Rusty Lane. Do come along.

Don & Heather Hyde

**SEEND WI**

At our August meeting Mrs. Nicky Creek gave us a most interesting and informative talk about the work of the Charity 'Carers Support - West Wiltshire'. She was accompanied by a carer, Justine, who told us about the help she had received from the Charity. There are about 89,000 people in West Wiltshire of whom 11,000 are carers and 42% of these are men. Mrs. Creek and Justine were given a combined vote of thanks. Several of our members had been carers when their elderly relatives were alive and some still were. The Competition 'Flower of the Month' was won by Mrs. Florence Rowse.



Our meeting on 11th October will be celebrating our 87th Birthday and will be held at CLEEVE HOUSE - the home of our first President, Miss Bell.

Betty Smith

**SEEND HISTORIC HOUSES CLUB**

19 members of the Club recently visited Wells Cathedral and the Bishop's Palace on a beautiful Summer's day. After an excellent lunch in the Cloisters Restaurant we enjoyed a guided tour of the magnificent Cathedral, followed by a guided tour of the Bishop's Palace and its lovely gardens and surroundings.

Our next meeting will be our AGM on 9th November at 7.30 pm in the Pavilion. After the formalities and refreshments, Mr Chris Perry from the National Trust will give a talk on Avebury, which we plan to visit next year. Suggestions for next year's programme will be discussed and the Committee welcomes any suggestions from members.

Joy Stack

**SEEND SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB**

AGM is on 7pm Wednesday 8th Nov at 7pm. Everyone Welcome.

Colin Waldeck 828946

**100+ Club**

...and **still** the number goes up. Two new subscriptions and 2 renewals – it's never too late! – gives us 34 new members this year, and takes our total of members to 191 - the **200 Club** gets ever closer! Receipts now total £2,865, of which £955 goes to the Lye Field while £1,910 is returned as prizes! Watch out for the Christmas 2006 draw – first prize £100!

**Draw for July 2006** The draw took place on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 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 <sup>st</sup> Prize:	£35	175	Mrs Angela Knocker
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize:	£30	180	Mrs Anne Ewing (new member)
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize:	£25	176	Mike Moore (new member)
4 <sup>th</sup> Prize:	£20	120	Mr M D Park
5 <sup>th</sup> Prize:	£15	135	Mrs Ann Hunt
6 <sup>th</sup> Prize:	£10	71	Seend FC

**Draw for August 2006** The draw took place on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July at Thyme House, following the final pre-fete meeting of the Seend Fete Committee. The winning numbers, which were drawn by members of the Committee are as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize:	£35	196	Mr J H B Dent
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize:	£30	50	Mrs Sheila Turner
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize:	£25	149	Mrs D Hickman
4 <sup>th</sup> Prize:	£20	93	Mrs Janet Giles
5 <sup>th</sup> Prize:	£15	52	Mrs Joyce Brand
6 <sup>th</sup> Prize:	£10	117	Mrs L Puntis

Bernie Prolze

### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

A recent case of a distraction burglary occurred in this neighbourhood. A fish van arrived in a particular street with two operators. While one operator invited residents to come to the van, the second person jumped over the fence into the back garden of the resident, who was looking at the fish. Luckily one of the residents involved, had previously experienced a similar attempt and had subsequently been burgled, was able to foyle the attempt. Just beware!



A further incident occurred when two people turned up at an address asking the elderly occupiers whether any gardening work needed doing. This person was hard selling and possibly taking advantage. Fortunately, due to neighbours in the area being vigilant, the elderly couple were warned and no money was exchanged. One male stayed in the vehicle and the other was described as of stocky build with short fair hair. The vehicle was a Ford transit registration K887PGE.

Anthony Hodgkinson

### ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

**Annual General Meeting** All members are reminded that the AGM will be held in the Upper Room in the Community Centre on Thursday 12th October

at 8pm. Please put this date in your diary and endeavour to attend as there is at least one very important item to be discussed and, with a membership of 101, it would be encouraging to have more than the usual half dozen.

**Remembrance Sunday - Warning Order** The usual parade and service will be held in the Church of the Holy Cross, Seend on Sunday 12th November, followed by a social gathering in the Community Centre, Please put this date in your diary and let us see if we can increase the good turnout out we had last year. Further details of this and the Act of Remembrance on Saturday 11th November will be published in the November edition of Spotlight.

**Day Out at Bath Races** A day out at Bath Races is being organised on Tuesday 17th October in aid of The Royal British Legion. This is open to anyone, regardless of whether they are members or not, and a coach will leave Dial Close at 12 noon. The cost of entry to the Premier Enclosure will be a reduced price of £15 and the Grandstand and Paddock Enclosure £10. There will be a charge for the coach dependant on how many people travel. Anyone wishing to take part should contact either Peter Fisher (828305), Tony Hill (828397) or Derek Barnes (01225 793135 ) for further details.

**Children's Christmas Concert** It is hoped to hold a Christmas Concert in the Community Centre on Saturday 9th December using local talent. Father Christmas will attend, but the rest of the programme is up to you. So, if you can dance, sing, juggle tell funny jokes, play an instrument, do conjuring tricks, turn somersaults or do anything to entertain children between the ages of 3 and 93, please come along to a meeting in the Upper Room of the Community Centre at 7pm on Tuesday 3rd October. If you cannot attend this meeting, but would like to take part, please contact Roger Brind (828830) as soon as possible.

Roger Brind

## **MOTHERS' UNION - SEEND AND BULKINGTON**



### **Seend Mothers' Union**

In company with most other village organisations, Seend Branch is looking ahead to renewed activity in the Autumn, but the Summer months have not been spent in idleness! Our Branch provided the Toiletries Stall at the Church Fayre and individual members gave their support to the Village Fete and Flower Show, and also helped with the Churches Cycle Ride and the Patronal Festival Celebrations.

The Branch was welcomed by the Derry Hill Branch in August and joined in a service led by the Revd Derek Frost (former vicar of Holy Cross).

On 7th September, together with the members of the 16 other branches in

Devizes Deanery, we helped run a stall in the Brittox to raise funds for the work overseas. These funds will support many self-help schemes run by African members tackling the awful poverty in that country, orphans from Aids, family support and care for those traumatised by violence and the resettlement of refugees.

Our Diocese through its holiday fund offers two holidays to families in need and on limited income. There are two caravans at Durdle Dor available throughout the season and in August, there was the annual holiday on the Isle of Wight organised and run by the MU members.

At the Service of Welcome for the new Bishop of Ramsbury (the Rt Revd Stephen Conway) at St John's Church, Devizes on 17th September, we formed part of the catering team providing refreshments.

The regular September meeting was enlivened with the presence of Revd Maureen Allchin who spoke enthusiastically of visits she had led to Israel and Palestine.

To join the Mothers' Union one doesn't have to be a mother, married or even female - more and more men are joining as they recognise the part they can play in the MU's aim "Christians caring for families world-wide". There are 3.6 million members internationally, but always room for more!

### **October Dates:**

18th - Mrs Hilary McFall "Operation Christmas Child" Please bring items for the shoe boxes.

25th October - We join in the mid-week Parish Eucharist at 9.45am, Seend.

Margaret Coley

### **Keevil and Bulkington Mothers' Union**

A coffee morning for Mother's Union Funds will be held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October at Hone Farm, Bulkington. The coffee morning will start at 10.30am and it is hoped that everyone will stay for lunch afterwards. For further information, please contact Dorothy Tyler on 01380 870340.

### **Bulkington Ladies Group**

The ladies have had some enjoyable evenings this summer, including a murder mystery evening on the East Somerset Railway and an evening tour around local beauty spots. Then, in August the 'sunflower police' were out in force, measuring-sticks in hand, to find out which one of us had nurtured the tallest sunflower. Congratulations to winner Jan from the Topsy Toad, whose sunflowers were head and shoulders above the rest and deserved the cup. Thanks to Jill for the seeds and for making it all happen – the evening was great fun and finished in the Village Hall with food and wine. Maybe next year we'll invite everyone in the village to participate! New Ladies are always

welcome to join us – phone 828664 for more information.

### **WELCOME TO THE SEEND & DISTRICT LINK SCHEME**

This scheme is open to all persons within the area covered by Spotlight. There may well be people who have moved into the area in the past year or two who may not be aware of what we are and what we do, so I thought a little reminder would be appropriate.

The Link Scheme is run entirely by volunteers to assist members of our community who need help with transport, a little assistance with daily living tasks to make life easier, or a little companionship. The following guidelines are intended to advise you in making requests for the help you need and ensure as many people as possible can be helped.

All requests for help should be made with at least 2 working days notice to the Co-ordinator on duty on 01380 828190. Short notice requests can sometimes be met but more often it is not possible to find a volunteer. The Co-ordinator is generally available from 9am until 4-30pm Monday to Friday. Emergencies only at the weekend.

Help is for those:

- \* who are without their own transport;
- \* who are unable to use public transport;
- \* where no public transport or other service, for example the ambulance car service, is available;
- \* people who have mobility problems who cannot use public transport; and if no one else is available to take you.

Please tell the Co-ordinator: - if you need assistance with walking eg you use a stick or a frame; if you need a wheelchair; if you want to take someone with you; any medical details you consider important.

Please mention all the details of your visit and any extra stops eg for shopping on your way back.

Please remember to cancel a request if you no longer need help. Acceptance of a request is always subject to the availability of a volunteer. The Co-ordinator may be able to direct you to another agency which could provide you with a more suitable service.

When you receive a service the volunteer will ask you if you would like to make a donation. You will be given an envelope in which you may place an anonymous donation. These donations are used to pay costs and volunteers' expenses. The Link Scheme has a Public Liability Insurance policy. Your details will be held confidentially and never disclosed to a third party.

We are here to help and we hope all present users and future users will be happy with the service we provide.

Tony Ewin, Chairman

## SCHOOL NEWS



### SEEND SCHOOL

Once again our new intake of children has arrived at school. They have settled in really well to school life and we are all happy to have them at our school as well as our new class teacher, Mrs Katherine Toyne, who starts her teaching career in our school.

Our new children are: Thomas, Harry, Magnus, Claudia, Ellie., Jack S, Jack B, Joshua , Joni, Isabelle, Edward, Chloe, Aslan, Bethany, Evie, Sophie and Mikey.

This year promises to be exciting as last and we have just booked our year Five and Six Residential activity at a centre in Dorset, while teachers are considering out of school activities for the coming year. Our next community event will be the Harvest Service in the parish church on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, the church will also be hosting a Harvest Supper in the school in the evening at which children will be attending. Once again the children will be bringing in Harvest gifts that will be donated to the Trussell Trust, a Christian organisation in Salisbury that supports the homeless.

### PSC Textile Recycling Bag Collection - 20th October

Our school is very keen to recycle and we are at present looking at the type of light bulbs we use, we already recycle paper and fruit waste and hope to look at how we source our supplies in the near future. Last year the PSC ran a Textile bag collection to raise money for our school. Parents were asked to collect a plastic bag from school and fill it with unwanted clothing, towels, quilts, shoes, bags, curtains and general textiles. Can any members of the village help us to raise funds through recycling? If you are able to help drop a bag, (you can use your own if you wish) of unwanted items off at school. We will be accepting bags from Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October and the bags will be collected from school on Friday 20th October.

### SEEND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Seend Social Club on Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> July 2006 at 7.30 pm.

**Present:** Mrs T Carr, Mr P Manning, Mr J Padfield, Mrs. J Savage (Chair), Mr.T Simkins, Mr CW Smith, Mrs A Tilley and Mr L Tucker

**Apologies:** Mrs P Rugg

**Minutes:** There were no amendments. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Mr Smith, and seconded by Mrs Padfield.

**Matters Arising**

*Allotments opposite The Bell* – There had now been three enquiries to rent an allotment. Because of the difficulty in getting machinery into the allotments, it wasn't practical to get them cleared. It was decided to offer the allotments rent-free for two years, to enable tenants to clear the plots. Once the plots had been taken up, the water would be installed.

*Car Boot Fairs* – Mr. Cottle was in attendance, and traffic problems at Redstocks crossroads was discussed. The Chairman asked Mr.Cottle to keep an eye on matters, and to use the “No Parking” signs, as these had proved useful in the past.

*Meeting at County Hall* – Mr. Simkins had attended the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> July, and outlined items covered.

**Planning Matters**

A letter had been received from Kennet DC concerning the change of use of land, erection of a pole barn and siting of a mobile home at Spiderweb Paddock, Bradley Lane. This confirmed that a full stop notice will be served to prevent further works, and enforcement notices to remove the mobile home, hardstanding and all vehicles and goods not required for the authorized use of the land for agriculture.

The following application had been refused by Kennet DC:

K/54142/F Mr & Mrs M Hibberd 72 Seend Cleeve  
*New dwelling*

The following applications had been approved by Kennet DC:

K/54396/LBC Wiltshire County Council, Knightsmead Farm, Inmarsh  
*Replacement of timber windows*

K/54484/LBC Mr R C Kelloway, Canty Neuk, High Street, Seend  
*Installation of oil fired central heating, to replace night storage heating*

K/54498/TR2 Seend School, School Road, Seend  
*The removal of a small tree to the rear of the main school building*

The following applications were considered by the Parish Council, and no objections raised:

K/54657/TR2 The Bell Inn, Bell Hill, Seend

*The felling of one ash tree in the rear garden of the public house*

K/54713/F Mr & Mrs Smith, Goosebutt Barn, Spout Lane, Seend

*Extension to existing garage and store*

K/54734/F Mr & Mrs G Burgess, Cleeve Lodge, Trowbridge Road, Seend

*Two-storey extension replacing existing flat roof garage wing*

K/54736/F Mr P Martin, Dormer Cottage, Pelch Lane, Seend Cleeve

*Construction of stable block*

K/54800/F Mr & Mrs C Garton, Ferrum House, Seend Cleeve

*Demolition of existing extension, construction of a new kitchen utility extension. Construction of new timber stables and outbuilding*

### **Correspondence**

Letter received from Wiltshire Highways Partnership, with information on the new Parish Steward scheme that will replace the Parish Lengthsmen.

Letter received from Kennet DC outlining the recharging policy for the 2007 Parish Council Elections.

Letter received from Wiltshire Police, outlining the new Police records management system.

Letter received from Kennet DC, advising that a Planning Seminar would take place on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September. This is the same date as a PC meeting. The Clerk to request any paperwork produced for the Seminar.

Letter received from Wiltshire Police Authority, advising that the next Kennet Police Community Consultative Group meeting would be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October.

Letter received from Wiltshire CC with information about the decriminalized parking enforcement that will be introduced on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

Letter from Wiltshire CC, enclosing the Statement of Community Involvement that was formally adopted on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2006.

### **Financial Matters**

There were no financial matters to discuss, or invoices to be paid.

### **Any other business**

There was a large bush overgrowing the bridge at Scotts Wharf. It needs either cutting back or taking out. The Clerk to contact Mr. Ellison.

The Clerk was asked to contact the Milestone Society again about conservation of the milestone in the High Street.

The PC discussed the future of the WI Hall, following on from earlier in the year when it was learned that Seend WI were considering selling the site. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Wansbroughs Solicitors, acting for the WI, to ascertain the current position.

A request was received from a parishioner in attendance at the meeting, that hedging adjacent to the High Street from School Road to the shop, be cut back, as it reduced the footpath available for pedestrians, which could be dangerous with the amount of heavy traffic using the road. He also pointed out that the tactile flooring at School Road, and in the High Street between the bus stops by Weavers Cottages was overgrown, causing a problem for partially sighted persons relying on these indicators at the edges of the road. The Clerk to write to Wiltshire CC and householders concerned.

### **Date of next meeting - 30th August**

### **DISCUSSION OF WI HALL PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The August meeting was attended by 9 Councillors, with Mrs. Savage in the Chair.

Prior to the formal Parish Council meeting, there was an open meeting, attended by 42 members of the public. This was to discuss the planning application relating to the demolition of the WI Hall and replacement with two dwellings and garages.

K/54973/CAC            Trustees of Seend WI Hall  
*Demolition of WI Hall*

K/55043/F             Trustees of Seend WI Hall  
*Removal of existing hall & replacement with two dwellings and garages.*

Presentations were given by Mr. Peter Fisher, Mr. John Smallshaw and Mr. Philip Proven. These presentations raised various concerns.

- Whether the WI land and buildings have been sold and, if so, whether they were sold in accordance with the terms expressed by the donor in the original Declaration of Trust.
- The future financial viability of the Community Centre & Social Club if occupants of the new dwellings sought to restrict noise and any form of pollution from events held in the Centre.
- The loss of the allotments from April 2007, and whether any alternative comparable allotment space is being provided.
- Parking, passing and turning of vehicles in Rusty Lane, and the loss of a significant number of parking spaces once the new dwellings were built, and the attendant problems of parking elsewhere in the village, or along the High Street.

Several other parishioners expressed concerns about the loss of the allotments; the loss of parking along Rusty Lane; the safety aspects of loss of parking for groups using the Pavilion, such as mothers and toddlers; the fact that the Lye Field and Rusty Lane are the social and amenity area of the village and the erection of new dwellings on the land would involve a change of use; who would benefit from the development compared with the loss to the village of the amenity of the WI Hall.

The Chairman, Mrs. Savage, said that the comments and concerns expressed would be passed to Kennet District Council and the Trustees of the WI Hall.

The following applications have been approved by Kennet DC.

K/54657/TR2      The Bell Inn, Bell Hill, Seend  
*The felling of one ash tree in the rear garden of the public house*

K/54713/F      Mr & Mrs Smith, Goosebutt Barn, Spout Lane, Seend  
*Extension to existing garage and store*

The following application was re-considered by the PC, and objections raised to the siting of the stables.

K/54800/F      Mr & Mrs C Garton, Ferrum House, Seend Cleeve  
*Demolition of existing extension, construction of a new kitchen utility extension. Construction of new timber stables and outbuilding*

The following applications were considered, and objections raised.

K/54872/F                      Mr Shearmon, Paddock off Rusty Lane, Seend  
*Siting of mobile home for residential use*

K/54873/F                      Mr Shearmon, Paddock off Rusty Lane, Seend  
*Construction of pole barn*

The following applications were considered by the Parish Council, and no objections raised.

K/54901/F                      Mr & Mrs Borwell, Knapp Cottage, Seend  
*Erection of a single storey, timber framed, glazed conservatory*

K/54964/TR2                      Mr N Knocker, The Hatch, High Street, Seend  
*Works to a large horse chestnut tree on the south side of the garden to consist of: the shortening of heavy lateral limbs by 30%-40% in length on the south side of the tree, the thinning of thicker stems in area of cavities to relieve weight on the uppermost crowns, and the shortening of other lateral branches to balance the tree.*

K/54990/F                      Mr & Mrs A P Norris, The Stables, Cleeve House,  
Trowbridge Road, Seend  
*Two storey extension*

The dates of the next village skips will be:

Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	Three Magpies
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Seend Social Club

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 p.m. in Seend Social Club.

Mrs Rosemary Fisher, Clerk

**YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE ... DON'T WASTE IT!**

Kennet District Council started its annual voter registration campaign during the August Bank Holiday weekend.

Registration forms have been sent to every household in the district, if you have not responded, you will be sent a reminder form in September and may receive a personal visit during October.

“As a new service this year, electors with no changes to make to their registrations will be able to confirm this fact by simply calling a free 0800 telephone number or using a dedicated internet site. You can also opt-in or out of the edited register to keep your personal details more secure and even request a postal vote”, Jim Waite, Electoral Services Officer explains.

“This will make it more convenient to re-register your vote and save costs on returning forms via the postal service.

However, those needing to make changes to their details (additions, deletions or amendments) should return the form in the pre-paid envelope in the normal way.

Whether you decide to vote or not is up to you but if you’re not registered you have no choice and non-registration may adversely affect your credit rating status.”

Complete your annual vote registration form – or you could lose your right to vote.

If you have not received a form or require further information please telephone 01380 724911 or e-mail [kennet@kennet.co.uk](mailto:kennet@kennet.co.uk)

## **VILLAGE BITS’N’BOBS**

### **SEEND VILLAGE LIFE - THEN AND NOW!**

Picture this. The year is 1919, the First World War has ended in 1918 and, on October 8<sup>th</sup> 1919, Seend Womens’ Institute was formed and meetings were held in the “Iron Room”. Under the leadership of their President, Miss. Dorothy Heward Bell, the members put their heads together to try to resolve the problem of a need for a hall to hold meetings, dances and concerts. In February 1920 the President reported that she had heard of an army hut for sale which might be suitable as a Hall. She asked the permission of the members to go and inspect it and – if it proved a good one – to authorise her to buy it on behalf of the W. I. The money for the purpose should be borrowed from the bank. This was agreed to.

Thanks to Mr. W. Heward Bell J.P. it was not long before the army hut was purchased, transported, and re-erected in the village on land given by him. On Saturday December 18<sup>th</sup> 1920 the Hall was opened by Squire Bell. The purchase price was £180 plus £90 to move it from Salisbury Plain. The total cost, with re-erection etc. amounted to £497.19.6d. The members had raised £269.6s. – leaving a bank overdraft of £256.6.6d

Fund raising came from a Grand Fete and Baby Show, Dances, another Fete and Flower Show, joint W I & Royal British Legion Skittles week. Meanwhile good progress had been made and membership on October 20<sup>th</sup> 1920 numbered 90. The Annual subscription was 2 shillings and each member must bring 2 buns or a small cake and sugar (if taken) to meetings. They celebrated their first Birthday with a lecture on refooting old stockings and how to select poultry for breeding!

Over the years refreshments have progressed to Strawberries & Cream, Buffet Suppers, Tea & biscuits and Birthdays celebrated with a two course meal and Birthday cake followed by entertainment.

In June 1923 the Tennis Courts (now allotments) alongside the Hall were opened by Miss Bell and, with a membership of 37, they were well attended each evening – even allowing men to join the Tennis Committee. On July 12<sup>th</sup> 1923 Miss. Dorothy Heward Bell married Mr. H. C. Hony and moved to live near Winchester, and so we said farewell to our beloved President.

Over the years the Institute carried on under new Presidents and during the Second World War there was a lending library in the Hall. When the war ended the WI supported the servicemen by holding ‘Welcome Home’ parties. Fund raising continued holding Dances, Plant Sales, Whist Drives, etc. Hirings included Wedding Receptions, a Baby Clinic, 60+ Club, Youth Club, Cub and Scout meetings, Auctions, Play Group (Before the Pavilion was built!) and then came the “Saturday Morning Breakfasts” for 38 years – providing a service and raising the not inconsiderable funds needed to pay for the Hall repairs and running costs.

Picture this. The year is 2006 and a lot of water has flowed under the bridge. We live in a world of gadgets, Political Correctness, Rules for this that and everything else. A First World War army hut cannot compete with modern buildings built to comply with the rules, rising costs and membership of 18. Annual subscription is £22 and rising each year; we can no longer continue with Breakfasts to raise the necessary funds so, with dwindling income the members have reluctantly decided to move out in September and hold future meetings in Seend School - commencing in November.

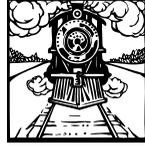
Our 87<sup>th</sup> Birthday will be celebrated on October 11<sup>th</sup> this year at Cleeve House – the home of our first President, Miss. Bell.

The future of Seend WI Hall is uncertain, but we will have many happy memories to cherish as time goes by.

Mrs Pam Hillier

## **GREAT BULKINGTON RAILWAY**

Bulkington Village Hall awarded Second Lottery Grant this year. Who said that lightning never strikes in the same place twice?



In January 2006 Bulkington Village Hall received a grant from Awards for All for £4,272 for a new suspended ceiling and storage shed. In July 2006 (only three weeks after applying!) we received a Second Award of £3,708 to pay for a tarmac approach/car park at the front of the hall. Just under £8,000 in total in one year!

The Management Committee Chairman Nev Boulton is ‘Over The Moon’ and somewhat amazed at this second grant. “It really is like winning the Lotto twice! We have worked so very hard at restoring our village hall – Some three years ago we nearly lost it. We raised a lot of money ourselves with an Auction of Promises and steam train rides to see Santa. We have fitted a new floor, had the walls re-pointed, re-plastered inside, new window, a new suspended ceiling & lighting, a disabled toilet and exterior ramp and new electrics. It is really smart inside and the new tarmac approach will finish the job.”

The Chernobyl Children Visit to Bulkington Friday 04 August. A group of around 10 girls (and their UK host families) from the atomic Chernobyl disaster area visited the Great Bulkington ‘sit-on-and-ride’ Railway on Friday on 4th August 2006. The West Wiltshire Society of Model Engineers provided the locomotive crews plus the steam and diesel engines, which gave the children rides on the railway. By the end of the afternoon all the girls (many of whom had been orphaned by the disaster) were driving the railway engines. Around 4pm the children adjourned to the recently refurbished Bulkington Village Hall for a tea party provided by villagers led by Liz Futter. We had been instructed not to offer them any dairy products because dairy foods in Belarus are still contaminated by radiation and the children must not get in the habit of eating them.



Nev Boulton

## **To All Donators at the Memorial Services for Mo Laycock**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all so much for your donation to Mum’s Memorial Fund. I know it will mean a great deal to the children at Al Athan School in Sri Lanka. As so many of the donations were anonymous I wanted to ensure that everybody knew their contribution was greatly appreciated.

So far we have managed to raise a staggering £3,300.00! I’m sure Mum would be amazed at this total. It really has been a comforting process to organise this fund and to see something so good come from such a tragic few months.

Currently I am in contact with the Headteacher of the school to find out what they would like to spend the money on. I want to ensure that all of your donations are used for something permanent that current and future pupils will benefit from, that will also act as a lasting tribute to Mum. The kinds of things that we are discussing are computer equipment, a new minibus, some playground equipment or establishing a small farm to enable the children to learn animal husbandry and farming skills. We also intend a small amount to go into individual bank accounts that have been set up for the children. This will give them a small pot of savings to draw upon in future life.

My intention was to take all of the donations out to the school myself in November, but due to work commitments I think I will have to postpone my trip until 2007. In the meantime I will liaise with the school to arrange for the funds to be wired to them as soon as possible so that they can put the money to good use.

Once again, thank you so much for your kind donation and for contributing to a fitting legacy for my mum. If there are any outstanding donations to be made, please could I ask for them to be sent to myself, Miss P Laycock, 3 School Lane, Westbury Leigh, Westbury, Wiltshire BA13 3SA, or alternatively left with Julie and Howard at Gilbert's Cottage, Main Street, Keevil.

Yours sincerely, Pip Laycock

### **PAST TIMES – Frenny & Violet Hughes**

Frenny and Violet's parents were both Romany Travellers who used to come through Bulkington in their horse drawn caravan to graze their horses on the Drove. They liked Bulkington so much that they decided to settle down here. They bought a piece of land opposite the War Memorial and built a bungalow on it. Frenny and Violet's brother, Michael, had a Wood Yard which was situated near to where the Bus Shelter now stands. When Violet's Mother died they burnt her caravan down the Drove and all the travellers from far and wide came to Bulkington for the wake. Frenny and Violet came back and forth to Bulkington, but still liked their caravan life so they bought a site near Swindon and much of their time was spent there. Both were very colourful characters – Frenny travelled all over the world, and Violet would carry all her worldly possessions with her in her bag, (gold sovereigns etc) even when going into the pub! When Frenny died Violet had a vault built for his grave according to the custom of the Romany Travellers. They are buried together, in the Churchyard, with a pure gold cross in their grave.

The contributor of the above article would like to remain anonymous. Thank you for sharing your memories with us. Would anyone else like to share their memories with us?