

**Seend Parish Neighbourhood Plan**

**Local Green Space Report**

**Appendix 1 – Spotlight Articles**

*See overleaf*

### **RURAL ARTS WILTSHIRE – Organiser(s) wanted**

We still seek a new village organiser for the excellent Rural Arts Wiltshire touring scheme. It's an interesting and rewarding voluntary role – easily shared - organising events twice a year. Organisers' perks mean that you get to choose who you would like to see perform! It would be a great pity if the village lost out on the quality entertainment that the scheme provides.

To find out more, please call Steve and Karen on 01380 828423.

### **DAY TRIP to HIGHCLERE CASTLE – Wednesday 11th July 2018**

This trip is open to all villagers and friends but is now fully booked. If you would still like to come then your name will be added to the waiting list in case of any last minute cancellations. Numbers are very restricted but there is the possibility to increase these if vacancies arise. Do get in touch with me [tinayockney@btinternet.com](mailto:tinayockney@btinternet.com) or 01380 827139 if you are interested.

### **RECLINER CHAIR**

Mel Walker has an electric recliner chair she was loaned while recovering from an operation, which she found very useful – ‘a wonderful aid to recovery’. The person who loaned it does not require it back, so Mel wonders if there is a local organisation or individual who can make as good use of it as she did.

Please email her on [x9mel64@gmail.com](mailto:x9mel64@gmail.com)

### **SEEND PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP**

#### **Update**

This month we can again bring you good news! We have two new Members of the Steering Group: they are Peter Newsom and Darren Nichols, who we welcomed and they signed our revised Constitution at the last meeting. We look forward to their input as we push ahead with our draft NP. We also met with our Consultants, ‘Place Studio’, ([www.placestudio.com](http://www.placestudio.com)) for the first time; it was useful to meet face to face and for us all to know with whom we will be working. We have already received a ‘road map’ from them detailing the work ahead: it is a long document and will probably require that the SG meet more frequently to tackle this amount of work. The monthly meetings on the last Thursday of the month, will remain ‘open’ ones to which all Parishioners are welcome. Our additional meetings will be closed and arranged ‘ad hoc’ to suit those who are available.

Steering Group members, Aldetha Raymond and Sarah Chard are reviewing our website and we look forward to seeing the ‘make-over’. Please be patient in the meantime. It will retain the same address, [www.seendparishplan.org](http://www.seendparishplan.org)

We need your thoughts as to which ‘Green Spaces’ in the Parish you think should be protected. This is important because the NP will reflect your views and it is a wonderful opportunity for the community to shape the way we want our Parish to look. But any policy we write into the NP has to reflect your ideas so we need to collect this information to create an evidence base. An example might be the BRAG

picnic site, or the triangle at the top of Spout Lane. When you are out and about take note of what you feel is important, as there will be an opportunity for you to register your ideas later in the year.

“Local communities through local and neighbourhood plans should be able to identify for special protection green areas of particular importance to them. By designating land as Local Green Space local communities will be able to rule out new development other than in very special circumstances.” (National Planning Policy Framework, paragraph 76).

The Steering Group would welcome anyone who is interested in being our Minute Secretary. Please do come forward if you think you could take on this role. Georgina A’Bear (Chair) would be delighted to hear from you for an exploratory chat (828288).

The next meetings will be on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February and Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March in the Pavilion. These meetings are open to all Parishioners and we welcome your involvement.

Carola Thorpe on behalf of the S.P.N.P. Steering Group

## **SEEND COMMUNITY LAND AND ASSET TRUST – DROP-IN SESSIONS**

Our Seend Community Land Trust Steering Group is holding two parishioner drop-in sessions at the Pavilion on Thursday March 22 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm and Saturday March 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Steering Group members will be on-hand with information and membership forms. This is your chance to influence how Seend housing for local people will develop to meet local needs. See the CLT insert in this issue and please come along to any of the advertised sessions. If you need additional forms they can be downloaded from the Seend CLT web site or collected from the shop and pubs. More info & news at [www.seendclt.org/news](http://www.seendclt.org/news) and [www.communitylandtrusts.org.uk](http://www.communitylandtrusts.org.uk). - Seend CLT Steering Group.

Steve Vaux

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## **CHURCH AND CHAPEL NEWS**

### **The View from my window**

Will it come in as a lamb or a lion? (March that is.) You know that old tale “March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb” or the other way round. By the time you read this you will know the answer. At the time of writing it is very cold, with rain and snow in the air and the promise of spring is just a promise, although the snowdrops are looking beautiful. They are as good a weather forecaster as anything on the television, for when it is cold and wet they stay curled up tight, but when it is sunnier and drier they unfold to accept the light. There’s a metaphor. They unfold to accept the light!

March is a great month in the church year. This year most of Lent falls in March, and Holy week the last week of March and then Alleluia, Easter Day falls on April 1st. I know I say it every year, but it’s good to remind ourselves that the meaning of the word Lent is spring, so it’s not just about giving things up, but taking things up,

for the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan, but this will be the last year for it. We have also increased the Contingency budget to help us finance any unexpected costs. In the 2017-18 financial year, we paid for a planning consultant to help us fight the Blossom Hill planning application out of this budget heading. The Clerks hours have been increased from 9 to 12 hours per week to better reflect the true amount of hours actually worked on behalf of the Parish Council. The hours had been set some 13+ years ago, and had not changed, despite a huge increase in the duties required of the Clerk. We hope you will understand our reasons for the increase. When you look at the Council Tax bill as a whole, the Seend Parish Council element is extremely small.

### **Annual Parish Meeting**

The date is set for Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm in the Irene Usher Hall. This is an open meeting and all residents are welcome to attend. All Seend clubs and societies are invited to present an annual report of their activities.

### **Dogs**

Please can we remind all dog owners to ensure that their dogs are kept on a lead whilst walking through the residential areas of the village, and to clear up after them. Dogs are not allowed on the Lye Field or in the school grounds. Following a recent incident of a dog attacking sheep in Seend, which resulted in the death of the ewe and its two unborn lambs, dogs must be kept on leads in areas where there are livestock.

### **Keevil Flying Schedule**

The RAF have released their new website and with that comes a new link to the Keevil flying schedule. You can access the document through the following link: [www.raf.mod.uk/ourorganisation/stations/raf-brize-norton/flying-info](http://www.raf.mod.uk/ourorganisation/stations/raf-brize-norton/flying-info) and selecting 'scheduled local training sorties' where you will find the link to Keevil.

Late night fixed wing flying is scheduled for four nights from 3<sup>rd</sup> April and two nights from 19<sup>th</sup> April with a large exercise for two weeks from 23<sup>rd</sup> April. All of these dates are subject to change and weather so please check the website .

## **SEEND PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP**

### **Please engage with us!**

The last update included this statement: "Local communities through local and neighbourhood plans should be able to identify for special protection green areas of particular importance to them. By designating land as Local Green Space local communities will be able to rule out new development other than in very special circumstances." (National Planning Policy Framework, paragraph 76).

Since our last update, the Steering Group has started to compile an initial list of potential Local Green Spaces to be designated in the NDP. Such designation is a way to provide special protection in the Plan for green areas of particular importance to local communities.

We asked for your thoughts on this. This time we ask for your ACTION. Please engage with us: communicate your ideas and tell us which and why you have chosen the specific sites. What makes that site special to you? A view? Bluebells in a wood? A delightful place to picnic? Do you own a site that you would like to protect?

For a green space to be eligible for LGS designation, it must satisfy the following criteria:

- Be in reasonable proximity to the community which it serves.
- Be local in character and not an extensive tract of land.
- Be demonstrably special to a local community and hold a particular local significance because of any or all of the following:
  - Beauty;
  - Historic significance;
  - Recreational value (including as a playing field);
  - Tranquillity, or
  - Richness of wildlife.

The Neighbourhood Plan is designed to reflect YOUR wishes, so please either email us on [seendparishplan@gmail.com](mailto:seendparishplan@gmail.com) or drop a hard copy through the letterbox of Beech House, High Street with YOUR thoughts. Remember, any policy we write into the Neighbourhood Plan has to reflect YOUR ideas so we need to collect this information to create an evidence base. It is YOUR chance to affect the way in which this Parish develops. Please make use of it.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group took part in the Canal & River Trust Seend Lock Open Day on 10<sup>th</sup> March to spread the word and chat to people about the NDP. Watch out for news on more events and opportunities to get involved!

The Steering Group would welcome anyone who is interested in being our Minute Secretary. Please do come forward if you think you could take on this role. Georgina A'Bear (Chair) would be delighted to hear from you for an exploratory chat (828288).

The next meetings will be on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March, and 26<sup>th</sup> April, held in the Pavilion at 7.30pm. These meetings are open to all Parishioners and we welcome your involvement.

Carola Thorpe on behalf of the S.P.N.P. Steering Group

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## **CHURCH AND CHAPEL NEWS**

Dear Friends,

As I write our country is recovering from the recent bad weather and snow storm which the media called 'the beast from the east'! This wreaked havoc across the UK and seemed to bring the nation to a complete standstill. For some it meant staying indoors and attempting to keep warm and safe, while others were making the most of the snow and getting out and enjoying some tobogganing.

The headline news of the media at the moment is focused on the city of Salisbury and the use of Chemical agents to attempt to poison a Russian spy! As the story unfolds it seems more like something that we would read in a spy novel or watch in an action movie, rather than something that is taking place on our doorsteps.

Just recently when I hear of so many terrible things happening in everyday life, and not that far from us, I start to wonder whether the few things we do ourselves make