

The Grapevine

SEAMER & TAME BRIDGE MAGAZINE

No. 169 September - October 2021

Keep up to date with what's happening locally by visiting
Seamer Village Website: seamervillage.co.uk



EDITOR'S NOTES

Sorry for this slightly late edition, I have been enjoying a holiday (UK) with my wife, daughters and two grandsons. Not much time to think about Grapevine! I hope you all well and ready for action as things begin to get more settled. The next edition of Grapevine will cover November and December and articles should be with me by Friday 29th October at 08.00 hours

Dave Campy

ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH

The coffee morning held in Stokesley Town Hall on August 27th raised. £192.33.

Many thanks to those who contributed to the cake stall and those who attended, we are most grateful.

Jean Webster.

Stokesley Parish Church will be having its Friday Morning Coffee in Stokesley Town Hall on 24th September.

Marie Groom

VILLAGE HALL NEWS AND EVENTS

Village Hall, slowly reopening! Already Bowls on Tuesdays 10-12 and Table Tennis on Wednesdays from the 16th at 7.00pm. Pop-in (Mondays) may begin in October.

SEAMER BOOK CLUB.

During the pandemic I am pleased to say that we have still kept going via Zoom and with the help of our members who have sorted the technology and hosted outside meetings. Many thanks to all!

We have read about 18 books (at least one a month) and enjoyed our virtual and real meetings.

This month we return to the Hall on the last Tuesday of every month. Our book is "The Cows" by Dawn O'Porter. We would welcome anyone who would like to join our friendly group.

Just come along on ...

Tuesday 28th September at 8.30 pm. £2.00

Or

Email me on catcabcam@gmail.com for more information.

Ann Thomas

RECYCLING

Thank you to everyone who has helped with this.

I continue to collect

STAMPS

BLISTER PACKS

Please leave these at our back door at 21, The Green or at the Village Hall.

Ann Thomas

PILATES

Restarts Tuesday 21st September, 6 - 7pm

£5 per class which can be pre booked and paid online at

<https://gymcatch.com/app/provider/1491/events> or on the night.

My number is 07946324080 for any further details

Rachel Chapman



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Saturday September 25th

10 – 12 noon

Seamer Village Hall

This is another opportunity for residents to meet one another for a catch up chat and raise funds for this valuable charity.

Offers of cakes, scones, raffle/tombola prizes, bring and buy items as well as help on the day will be gratefully received.

Please contact:

Joan Barnes 01642 713837

Christine Cooper 01642 701733

CYSTIC FIBROSIS TRUST COFFEE MORNING

We had a great response to our fundraising coffee morning. Thanks to all those that helped make it a great success but also thanks to all those that attended and hopefully had a good time. It managed to raise nearly £700 including the Gift Aid (nearly £100 - donated by the Government from the tax you paid). Thanks again

David and Christine Campy

SEAMER VILLAGE HALL 100+ CLUB

July winners were (124 members)

1 st	£20	3	Sue Shields, Stokesley
2 nd	£15	9	June Brodrick, Leconfield
3 rd	£12	47	Mark Murphy, Leconfield
4 th	£10	66	Dorothy Pearson, Tame Bridge
5 th	£ 5	70	Kath Cook, Hilton Road

August winners were (124 members)

1 st	£20	149	Julie Finch, Tame Bridge
2 nd	£15	148	Jean Peace, Hilton Road
3 rd	£12	132	Alan Harbottle, Holme Lane
4 th	£10	65	Viv Hyman, Hilton Road
5 th	£ 5	86	Bill & Lynn Burn, Stainton Road

For those members who joined last September/October, this means that you are due to join again. I will contact you by email, phone or call and see you. If you are not at home, I will leave a letter with details of how to contact me.

To help me to remind you when your renewal fees are due, could you please let me have your e-mail address or telephone number. This is easier than me coming to see you.

At the moment the village hall is still not fully open and this is its main source of income, so I hope you will continue to support it. If anyone would like to become a member, it costs £12 a year per number and each month half the monthly money is given out as prize money and the other half goes to the village hall funds.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Christine Cooper

chris_cooper1@hotmail.com 01642 701733

PETER STARTIN

Ann, Julie, Kay and family wish to thank neighbours and friends in Seamer and Stokesley for their support, cards and flowers following their very sad bereavement.

God bless you all.

LIFE DOWN ON THE FARM.

When walking the footpaths leading through the Seamer Grange Farm land I could not help but notice how well some of the hedges had been laid, a skill which seems to have almost died out. Then it dawned on me that they were probably laid by my Grandfather whom I never knew, Thomas Watson.

Fortunately I have been able to gain a great deal of knowledge about my

grandparents, Thomas and Elizabeth Watson, from my two sisters (one now deceased at 94) and the other nine years my elder. They farmed Seamer Grange Farm and by what I have gleaned it was a very tough but contented life.

The Watson's had six children. Elizabeth (Mother) died of Spanish Flu (the last pandemic) in 1918. Consequently my Mother Lillian had to leave school early to take over her mother's household duties, with the help of a maid; and looking after the other five children including baby Monica three months old. Further tragedy struck in 1924 & 1925 when her brother William 21 and sister Annie 17 died.

Despite the tragedies **life/work** had to go on. In the early days, it was all hard manual work combined with horsepower. The horses had to be fed and watered very early in order to complete a full day's work.

Apart from the family, a further two men were employed, who apparently had to climb a ladder from the kitchen to sleep in a loft space; one of my sisters remarked that it must have been freezing.

Additional to the farm work, the old earth toilets had to be cleaned out on a regular basis and the waste was spread on the land, not one of the most pleasant jobs, but probably good fertilizer.

The house water supply had to be pumped via a large hand pump in the kitchen, possibly from a well or underground spring. Hot water was via the side boiler of the kitchen cooking range, which had to be filled manually. Lighting was by oil lamps. My mother once remarked that when playing cards in the evening, in their excitement, one of the lamps was knocked over resulting in the oil spilling out across the table and setting the table cloth alight.

The vast majority of the **food** was produced on the farm. One of my sisters was put off black pudding for life as she remembered my Mother with her arms in a bowl of the necessary ingredients, which was mainly pigs' blood.

As there were very few local slaughter houses, a man called "Kingey" (full name Kingston Allison) used to come on his bike to kill a pig. It was cured and fed the family. "Kingey" must have lived to a ripe old age. As a young child, I remember him still coming to the farms in Seamer on his bike. As children we use to scrounge the pig's bladder, blow it up and use it as a football.

Every day eggs, homemade butter, fruit and veg etc were sold on Stockton Market involving at least an hour journey each way via pony and trap.

Despite all of the work and time consuming methods, the yard and road in

front of the pond had to be fully swept by hand to Granddad Watson's high standards every Friday night. No excuse accepted.

A tramp use to call a couple of times a year and was always fed and watered and given a bed in the hay loft for a night or two.

In later years, my mother married but stayed on the farm where she had one daughter, Helen, and a son Norman. Regrettably he fell into a stone water trough and died several days later; he was eighteen months old. Granddad Watson never forgave himself as the child had been with him at the time. She had a further daughter and me after leaving the farm.



Even though horses were still mainly used, a tractor was later acquired, a real bone shaker, steel wheels with lugs known as spade lugs.

They also acquired some sort of vehicle as they had gained a milk round covering Brookfield and Acklam. Son Tom would deliver the milk

usually accompanied by my Sister Helen. At Christmas time, Tom would be given drinks by many of his customers resulting in 14 year old Helen driving back to Seamer with Tom laid out in the back. She was very keen on driving, winning a number of ploughing competitions, later joining the RAF despite being in a reserved occupation. I reckon the move was for the love of driving, which following her acquiring a Heavy Goods licence. **During the war**, she was assigned to Bomber Command where one of her duties was to drive the crews and bombs out to the planes. She was obviously very brave, as son John would put her on the back of the horse he was breaking in.

Two Italian prisoners of war were sent from the camp at Stokesley to help on the farm every day excluding Sunday. Only necessary work was done on Sundays. One of the prisoners was too young to fight, the other was far too old. Instructions were not to feed them but hearty dinner was always given. It appeared that escape was the very last thing on their minds.

Donkeys from one of the seaside towns came to the town for their winter break, my sister advised that when the children tried to ride them they would only go so far then turned round and returned to their starting point!

Grandfather Thomas died in 1945, eventually leading to the farm being sold. My parents moved into Seamer, Monica married and moved to Darlington, Tom bought a small farm at Topcliffe (unfortunately he died shortly after) and John retained some of the land building a house, stables and cow byre known as Boy Hill Farm.

Alongside machinery, he continued to use working horses for some time. He later bred and trained horses, his daughter Dorothy became a leading point to point rider. I owe a great deal to John as in my early twenties he put me on a racing fit horse, pushing me into riding, Fifty plus years later I was still exercising racehorses and must say that I have ridden some wonderful horses, many will remain in my mind forever.

In conclusion I always thought I missed something in life having one living Grandparent. My father's father lived in Glebe Cottage opposite the pub. It was quite primitive, outside water supply, three rooms one of which had a bed which folded up into a wardrobe, which fascinated me as a child. I have many happy memories of playing in his large garden.

He was quite self-sufficient, keeping hens, a pig, bees, fruit trees and great vegetable garden. To my delight I mostly remember an ample supply of strawberries during the long hot summers.

David Ward.

SEAMER METHODIST CHURCH

BACK TO NORMAL - ALMOST!

It is very pleasing to say that we are almost back to normal. Specifically being able to sing is a real treat after so many months of recorded Hymns and/or music. So we welcome all with real pleasure.

This forward movement is happening throughout the community. One of my observations over the last 18 months is how important it is being part of a caring community. Thank you to all who have looked out for neighbours in so many ways. Jesus is recorded as saying that the first commandment is to love God with all our hearts and minds, and the second is to love ones neighbour as oneself.

NEW MINISTER

As many will know Methodist Ministers are normally appointed for five years with the possibility of extensions. The Stokesley Circuit, of which we are a part, has been without one Minister for the last year. From 1st September a new Minister has been appointed. He is **Rev Bob Weir**. He and his family are now living at Great Ayton. He has responsibility for Great Ayton, Easby and Seamer. I will invite him to write an introduction for the next issue. His first service at Seamer is on Sunday morning 12th September at 10.30am. Everyone is welcome to come and greet him as he commences his time as our Minister.

TIMES OF WORSHIP

All services are at 10.30am

- Sept 5th organised by members of the congregation
- Sept 12th led by Rev Bob Weir
- Sept 19th led by Peter Jackson – *Harvest festival*
- Sept 26th led by Ron Kirk
- Oct 3rd led by Christine Campy
- Oct 10th organised by members of the congregation
- Oct 17th led by Rev Bob Weir
- Oct 24th led by Rev Graham Peacock
- Oct 31st led by Ken Hudson

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Our love of God is measured by how much we love others.

(Based on a quote from ‘Thought for the day’ on BBC Radio 4.)

TIME FOR A SMILE

If you think nobody loves you try missing the payment of a utility bill.

Ron Kirk

SEAMER PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

The *May* meeting of the Parish Council was held at Stokesley Town Hall as the Memorial Hall was closed. No members of the public attended; however they have the opportunity to contact the Parish Council if desired. Within the main meeting agenda, several planning applications and the Parish Council's response to these were noted. Village maintenance issues were discussed. Issues of flooding in Tame Bridge were discussed and an update provided. The Chairman reported that Speed Watch deployments had restarted with 14 Speed Watches having taken place to date. The Chairman also reported on progress with the VAS. There had been no new applications to the Community Fund. Cllr Murphy reported that the Village Hall Committee AGM was due to take place in July. Accounts for the last two financial years (2019/2020 & 2020/2021) were now complete. The Hall is reopening from Monday 24 May. The Constitution remains in draft format (since 01/19). A resident had expressed interest in becoming the new Parish Clerk. It was noted that YLCA run courses for new Clerks.

Minutes of this meeting are displayed on the noticeboards and on the website. An update from the July Parish Council meeting will appear in the next Grapevine once ratified at the September Parish Council meeting. The Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 21 September will take place at the Village Hall, commencing at 7pm.

Residents can access information about Parish Council and Community Fund matters in the following ways:

- Attendance at the bimonthly Parish Council meetings, details of which are publicised in various locations: e.g. Parish Council noticeboards, website.
- The Grapevine, where articles are regularly published.
- Parish Council minutes; these are displayed on noticeboards and on the website.
- By attendance at the Pop-In on Monday mornings (once these recommence), which Parish Council members attend whenever possible. If there are any points that need clarification, these will be fed back to the main PC meetings.
- Residents are able to contact the Parish Council via email or telephone to discuss any matters that are of concern to them.

All matters concerned with the Community Fund are discussed as an agenda item at Parish Council meetings. Any residents who attend form part of the discussion and all viewpoints are taken into consideration when making a final decision.

Philip Taylor, *Chair of the Parish Council*

Email: scapa20@hotmail.com (Parish Clerk)

Seamer Parish Council encompasses Seamer and Tame Bridge.

PHIL TAYLOR AND SPEED WATCH



The speed watch team met together one evening in late August to present Phil Taylor with a small gift to thank him for all his hard work in setting up and organizing the Speed watches as he prepares to move on to pastures new. Phil replied by saying thanks and that he could not have done it without the help of all those that volunteer!

Phil Hyman will be taking over the coordinator role and would welcome anyone who wishes to help us continue the good work. One hour a week is all it takes and its also a fun time to catch up with other residents. No requirements as training is done on the job!!

For further details contact

Phil Hyman at twilzip@gmail.com

TIME FOR A LAUGH

A Police Officer pulls over a speeding car and says "I clocked you at 80mph sir."

The driver says, "Sorry, officer, I had it on cruise control at 60. Perhaps your radar gun needs recalibrating."

Not looking up from her knitting the wife says “Now don’t be silly dear, you know this car doesn’t have cruise control.”

As the officer writes out the ticket, the driver looks over at his wife and growls “Can’t you keep your mouth shut for once.”

The wife smiles demurely and says to the officer “You should be thankful your radar detector went off when it did.” The driver says “Damn it woman! Shut up!”

The officer then says “I notice that you are not wearing your seat belt. That’s an automatic £75 fine.” The driver says, “Yeah well you see officer, I had it on but took it off when you pulled me over so I could get my licence out of my wallet.”

The wife says ”Now dear, you know very well that you didn’t have your seat belt on. You never do when your driving.”

As the officer is writing out the second ticket the driver turns to his wife and shouts, “WHY DON’T YOU JUST SHUT UP?! The police officer looks over at the woman and asks, “Does he always talk to you this way, Madam?”

The wife replies, “Only when he’s drunk!”.

THE HOUSE MARTINS OF LECONFIELD JUST BEFORE LEAVING FOR AFRICA.

(At last, something not afraid of self isolating)



Tony Barnes

OIL CLUB

Don't the months go quick, it doesn't seem five minutes since we were ordering oil at the beginning of the year. We will be taking orders for the September delivery during the first week in September so have a look at your tank, don't get caught out if the weather changes.

Order dates, 1st week in January, March, May, September and November.

Contacts: David Ward 01642 710333 or Gordon Reed 01642 710495

GRAPEVINE CONTACTS

All Landlines are prefixed with 01642

Magazine Layout, Editor, Printing and Distribution Coordinator

David Campy, 5a Holme Lane, Seamer

E mail: david.campy123@btinternet.com 710320

Front Cover Illustration

Vivien Hyman 269663

St Martin's

Judith Turland Judithturland@gmail.com 710489

John Groom john@hillviews.co.uk 712138

David Hand david.h49@talktalk.net 07801 366029

Methodist Church

Ron Kirk, 2 Rosehill, Great Ayton 722053

Seamer Village Hall

Chairperson: Mark Murphy Email : medinnov8@hotmail.com

Bookings: Ann Thomas catcabcam@googlemail.com 710822

Village News and Events

Contact: Ann Thomas catcabcam@googlemail.com 710822

Dave Campy david.campy123@btinternet.com 710320

Oil Club

Contacts David Ward 710333

Gordon Reed 711495

Seamer Parish Council

E-Mail: scapa20@hotmail.com

Seamer Correspondent for Darlington and Stockton Times

Christine Cooper 701733

Seamer Village Website seamervillage.co.uk

The Globe, Stokesley Website <http://www.theglobalibrarystokesley.org>

ooooOOOOooo