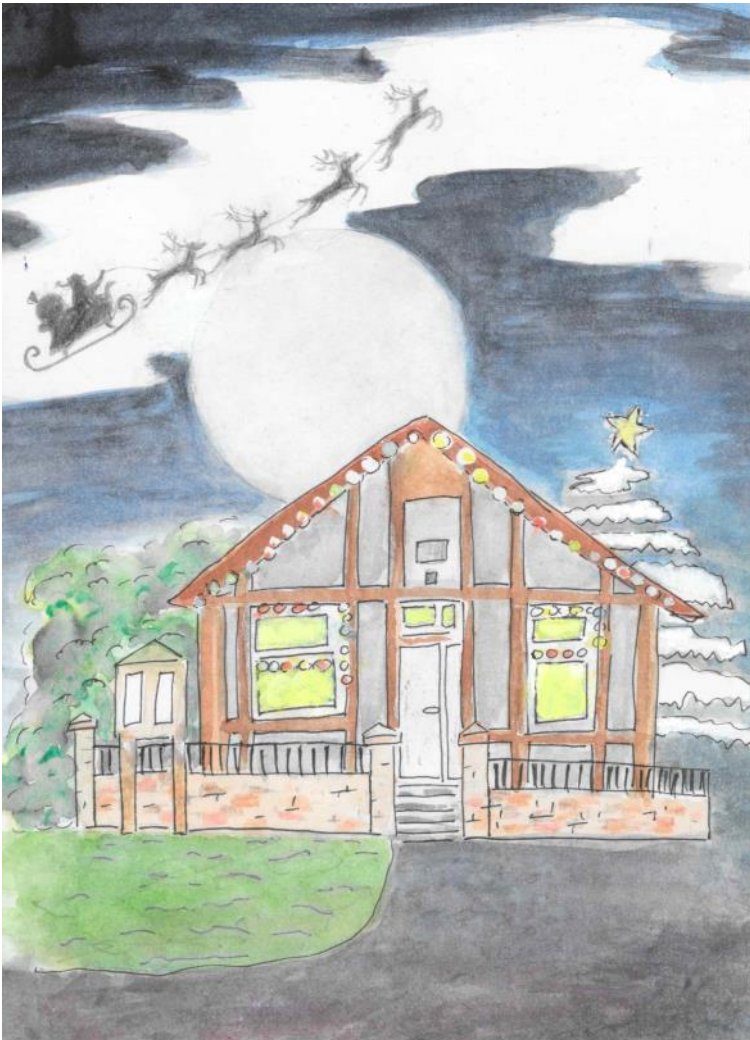


The Grapevine

SEAMER & TAME BRIDGE MAGAZINE

No. 183 Dec 2023—Jan 2024

Keep up to date with what's happening locally by visiting
Seamer Village Website: seamervillage.co.uk
or Facebook group: *Seamer Local's Chit Chat*



EDITOR'S NOTES

The dark nights are upon us and it doesn't feel like it will ever stop raining! Thank you for your support during 2023 Please accept our apologies, the last 2 editions have omitted some articles as we are not finding it easy to dual edit, but we'll keep trying. Thank you

In this edition we have included some tips on keeping your home safe that come from our community police which I hope you find useful!

Please let us have any articles which you think will be of interest or amusement for future editions. The next edition covers Feb and March 2024 and articles should reach us by the 22nd January.

In the meantime we would like to wish you all a very happy, peaceful and safe Christmas and New Year

Dave Campy and Allison Routledge

CHRISTMAS AT ST PETER & ST PAUL, STOKESLEY and ST MARTIN'S, SEAMER.

We do hope you can join us at our Church Services and events over this special Christmas time. **All are at Stokesley Church unless specified.**

Friday 1st December Preview of the Christmas Tree Festival, Wine and canapes, 7pm, Tickets £5, from *Sue Wardle 07909901240*

Saturday 2nd December Coffee and Cakes / Mince Pies. 9.30-2pm.

Sunday 3rd December 9.30am, Family Service, Holy Communion.

Sunday 17th December 9.30am Holy Communion
6pm Carol Service

Thursday 21st December 7.30pm, **Blue Christmas.** A service of reflection and contemplation, a sanctuary for those who find Christmas difficult.

Sunday 24th December No morning services.

5pm Crib Service and Carols

11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion

Monday 25th December 9.15am Holy Communion, **St Martin's Seamer**
10.45am Holy Communion and family service

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL - Stokesley Church will be open most days from 10am – 2pm so that trees can be viewed. (see following poster).



Come and enjoy a
wonderful festive event

Christmas

TREE FESTIVAL

ST PETER & ST PAULS
CHURCH

STOKESLEY

2nd December – 5th January

1st December Preview Evening

7.00 pm

with wine and canapés

Tickets £5.00

Available from The Yorkshire Store
and Sue Wardle, 07909901240

Mince pies tea/coffee will served on

Saturday 2nd, 9th, 23rd

10am -2.00pm

VILLAGE HALL NEWS AND EVENTS

POP IN

Held in the village hall on Mondays during school terms, from 10 - noon. Come along and meet up with friends and neighbours for tea/coffee and home made scones. Cost £1.50. Everyone welcome.

NOW & THEN magazines are available to collect from the village hall when open (see Hall Timetable page 7).



POP IN CHRISTMAS PARTY

Seamer Village Hall

Monday 18th December 11.30am for 12.00

TICKETS £5.00

All welcome

Pooled lunch * **please let Janet know what you will bring**

Telephone: Janet Bainbridge

01642 715728

PLAY AND STAY

Held in the Village Hall Village Hall, **Thursdays 10 – 11.30am**, for all pre-school children and their parents/grandparents/carers. **Cost £2 per child**. For more information contact

Allison at: allison.grapevine@gmail.com

BRIDGE GROUP

Are you an experienced player or would you like to learn how to play? Come along, it costs £2.50 per session and includes refreshments. Bridge is held in the Village Hall on **Thursday afternoons from 1–3pm**. **Please note the change of time for the winter months.**

Contact Yvonne on 01642 710804

NORMAL PILATES CLASS

This meets Tuesdays, 6-7pm Seamer Village Hall

You can either or pay as you go at the class which is £5, or book online via the website at : <https://gymcatch.com/app/provider/1491/events>

Please let me know if you would like to join in just for numbers and please bring your own mat.

Any questions contact

Rachel Chapman

email - thehealthtoolkit@outlook.com or message on **07946324080**

PILATES FOR THE MENOPAUSE

This meets Mondays, 6-7pm in Seamer Village Hall Open to anyone at any stage of the menopause. **£7 a class** Booking is essential.. For questions and bookings, message Racheal on **07946324080**

TABLE TENNIS

Held in the village hall on **Wednesdays from 7-9pm**. Cost £2 per session. Come along and join us, no experience required. Keeps you active and helps with fitness.

Contact **Mark** on medinnov8@hotmail.com or just come along on the night.

CARPET BOWLS

Held in the village hall on **Tuesdays from 10am – noon**. No experience required – we are novices. Come along and give it a try. The cost is £2 per session. Contact **Christine** on **01642 701733**.

BOOK CLUB

We continue to meet once a month usually on the **4th Tuesday** in the month at **8.30pm**, Village Hall, but there is **NO** meeting in December.

We take turns to provide refreshments and choose the book to be read. Our next meeting will be on the **23rd January**

If you enjoy reading and a good chat please join us!

Ann Thomas

VILLAGE HALL BOOK SWAP

Do you have any books that you have read and no longer want. Would you like to donate them to the village hall book swap for other residents to read and enjoy? They can be left at the hall when it is open for activities (see Hall Timetable on page 7).

SUNFLOWER COMPETITION WINNERS

(Missed out last edition)

Unfortunately this year hasn't been ideal for growing sunflowers and only two entries were received for the Coronation competition. I have been informed that several children did plant their seeds but they didn't grow or not very high.

The winners were:



1st Cole and Archie
Kendall 165cm



2nd Phoebe and Jake
White 161cm

Well done to you all.

SEAMER VILLAGE HALL 100+ CLUB

October winners (128 members)

1 st	£20	112	Adam Bernard, The Green
2 nd	£15	76	Jill Hill, Hilton Road
3 rd	£12	3	Jo Batey, Berwick
4 th	£10	48	Joan Barnes, Leconfield
5 th	£ 7	130	David Swales, off Hilton Road

November winners were (129 members)

1 st	£20	15	Debra Simpson, Tanton Road
2 nd	£15	136	Jane Bowles, Tame Bridge
3 rd	£12	120	Jan Morris, Leconfield
4 th	£10	123	Graham Family, Stokesley Road
5 th	£ 7	108	Helen Grunwell, Seamer Hill

For those members who joined in December/January last year, 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.

If you have recently moved here and 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

CANDLELIT CHRISTMAS SINGALONG

Saturday 16th December

7 - 9pm

Village Hall



**A musical Christmas evening (Songs, Carols) led by Ron Kirk
Bring your own drinks and food to share.**

(Voluntary Donation to the Village Hall to cover heating, etc)

Just come on the night and enjoy!

HALL TIME TABLE

Monday	<p>Pop-In 10 - 12 am <i>Pilates for the Menopause 6-7 pm</i></p>	
Tuesday	<p>Carpet Bowls 10.-12am</p>	<p>Pilates Class 6 - 7 pm Hall Committee meeting 7.30pm <i>(1st Tuesday every second month)</i> Seamer Parish Council 7.00pm <i>(3rd Tuesday every second month)</i> Book Club 8.30 pm <i>(4th Tuesday)</i></p>
Wednesday		<p>Table Tennis 7.00pm</p>
Thursday	<p>Play and Stay 10—11.30am</p>	<p>Bridge Group 1-3 pm</p>

<p>Seamer Village Hall Saturday 2 December 2.00-4.00 pm</p> <h3>Childrens' Christmas Workshops</h3>  <p>Make cards, decorations, cakes, and meet SANTA!</p> <p>£2 per child including refreshments</p> <p>ALL WELCOME!</p>	<p>Seamer Village</p> <h3>Christmas Tree Lights</h3> <p>LUCKY CHILD will SWITCH ON!</p>  <p>Sunday 10 Dec 4.00 p.m. Methodist Church Garden</p> <p>ALL WELCOME!</p>
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ITEMS TO RECYCLE

Used stamps

Please save your used postage stamps to donate to charity. Stamps need to be left with a 1 centimetre border all around.

Plastic milk bottle tops



I have been informed that only the bottle tops from plastic cartons of fresh milk are suitable for the project as they are a certain type of plastic.

These are the bottle tops to collect and can you please make sure they are washed.

Blister packs **Please note we are no longer collecting these.**

Thank you very much to everyone who has already given me used stamps and bottle tops. Please keep bringing these to the Village Hall or put them in the basket on the bench at the back door of No.21, The Green (in the back lane/alley).

Ann Thomas and Christine Cooper

SEAMER METHODIST CHURCH

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

We had a lovely service in our Memorial Hall led by Ken Hudson with 20 residents attending. It included The Last Post, 2 minutes silence and Reveille. We remembered, especially those from Seamer, who were involved in the two World Wars. Details of the plaque recently recovered from the Old Blacksmith's building (see article on page 13) was also included. Refreshments followed the service, which gave an opportunity to talk to others and recount our experiences.

The poppy display set off the front of the hall beautifully. Thanks to all who contributed to the display and helped prepare the hall before and after the service.

Donations of £75 were sent to The Royal British Legion.

Ann Thomas

TIMES OF WORSHIP

Services are at **10.30am (apart from 10th December which is the Tree Lighting service at 4pm and Christmas Day which is at St. Martin's Church at 9.15 am)** and everyone is welcome to attend.

The following lists those leading worship:

- 3rd December led by Christine Campy
- 10th December led by Rev Rob Weir at **4 pm, Tree lighting and Carols.**
- 17th December led by Ron Kirk, **Carol Service**
- 24th December led by Rev Rob Weir, **Holy Communion.**
- 25th December Christmas Day service in **St Martin's at 9.15.am**
- 1st January **United service at Great Ayton** led by Rev Andrew Robinson

7th January led by Christine Campy
14th January led by David Sills
21nd January led by Rev Rob Weir, Holy Communion.
28th January led by Ron Kirk

CAROL SINGING ROUND THE VILLAGE

We hope to do the usual Carol singing around Seamer and Newby again this year. We hope, **weather permitting**, to do the following dates

19th December - Methodist Church to Hilton and Stainton Road

20st December - Methodist Church to Holme Lane

21nd December - Newby

All are welcome . **Meet 6pm at the Church for Seamer** nights and **6pm at Newby Village Hall**, for Newby night. *Note that if the weather is so bad we will try one day later*

These are usually well supported by young and old and a great time is had by both singers and residents (we hope!!)

TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY (10th December)

Christmas Tree Lights Switch on 10th December at 4pm with a lucky child performing the actual switch on.

The tree was purchased this year by the Parish Council and erected and decorated by members of the Methodist Church.

Everyone is invited into the Chapel afterwards for refreshments, singing of Carols and Christmas songs and a **short** nativity service.

All children attending who are still at Junior school will also receive a small gift from the Church.

Seamer Methodist Church Congregation



MONTHLY HOUSE GROUP IN THE NEW YEAR

We're hoping to start a regular faith based, informal get together at Tom & Ann's house, The Green



If you're interested or for more details, contact Ann on [07840133857](tel:07840133857) or catcabcam@googlemail.com



QUIZ NIGHT



A very successful Quiz Night was held in the village hall, Saturday 18th October, which raised £337 for its funds.

Forty two quizzers in eight teams took part and our quizmaster Jim certainly tested our brainpower with subjects ranging from Latin phrases to pop culture. He was ably assisted by Mark who read out the questions and answers.

Bringing along your own food/snacks and drinks works well and some teams seemed to enjoy having a feast!!

Thank you, Jim for setting the quiz and to you and Mark for setting up the hall and to everyone else for your help clearing away at the end. Also, to everyone who donated raffle prizes.



A point to note is that there are nearly as many residents' family and friends who come along as there are residents. It would be lovely to see more of you coming and giving it a try. It is a fun night and not seriously competitive. As a team you will be surprised what you individually know and what you learn from each other.

Hope to see you at the next quiz in May/June next year.

Christine Cooper



OIL CLUB

Order dates: 1st week of January, March, May,

Delivery: approximately 3rd week in the month.

Contacts, *David Ward 01642 710333 or Gordon Reed 01642 711495*

STOKESLEY SCOUTS AND GUIDES CHRISTMAS POST

guides & scouts, brownies & cubs, rainbows & beavers
will deliver your 2023 Christmas Greetings
 Minimum donation **20p** per card

to addresses in **Stokesley, Tame Bridge, Seamer** no outlying farms please

Last posting day - **Wednesday Dec 20th** post boxes will be in

D.A.Grainge Style Yorkshire Store Bassleton's Fish Bar
Springfield Co-Op Newcastle Building Society
The Globe, Library Seamer Village Hall

One delivery, in time for Christmas, of all correctly addressed cards.

SEAMER PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

The *September* meeting of the Parish Council was held at Seamer Memorial Hall. Fifteen members of the public were in attendance.

The planning application for change of use to church in Seamer Road was discussed with many objections and expressions of concern as well as some supporters. On Councils website, noted 38 objections to date, so a high level of interest.

Bus Shelter update - This issue has taken a year and a half to date and is a continued source of frustration due to Council highway procedures and tender requirements. Its position is proposed to be amended following contact with a prospective qualified contractor after two mini tenders with no expressions of interest. This will require a crown lift of the horse chestnut tree adjacent to it, which is in hand as part of the authorized arboriculture works on Parish Council land (see below). The unit is in store with the supplier at present, to be installed after the facilitation works have been completed.

Village Gardener – The Village Gardener, who had done a sterling job, is retiring so we are looking for a new gardener to work approx. 2 hours per week, although the work was recognised as taking longer in the summer and at planting time. 2 or 3 of the tubs were rotten and needed to be removed. We have purchased 4 new half barrels to replace them, and others were to be scrapped as there are too many planters presently.

Village Pond – Labman have kindly offered to help with designing an aerator and are conducting a depth survey of the pond prior to installation. It was agreed that initially work would need to be done to clear the pond of debris and overgrown water lilies and straw bale before the new device could be installed. We will be looking for volunteers to help with this.

Tree Safety Audit The audit had been completed earlier this year by an Arborist and the work needed had been the subject of an agreed quotation. A qualified contractor had been appointed and the work was due to start imminently

Police – 2 incidents were reported in the period.

The police also came to the Village Hall Pop-In on September 18th. This was well attended by residents who all had the opportunity to speak to the officers and raise any concerns. Police Community Officers numbers are being reduced from c5 officers to c2. This may mean the number of visits by these officers to the Pop in per year will be reduced. Obviously, reduction in Police numbers may also have an effect on rural crime responses.

Community Fund – A request was submitted for £300 to support the weekly “Play and Stay” group held in the Village Hall and is to be used for purchasing extra resources. This group is a valuable asset to the village and PC resolved to support this application.

Village Hall Committee reported that the last meeting of the Village Hall Committee had been productive, with the following issues discussed: · More work to be done on the roof. Proposed works on lean to at rear had also been discussed.

Planned events included a jazz night on 7th October; Halloween 28th October; Quiz 7th November; Singing by candlelight 9th December.

Electricity contract discussed and need for solar panels which might feasibly also charge electric car parking. Noted that the Community Fund might also assist with the proposed installation cost.

Sound system is being assessed with a view to a potential upgrade.

Minutes of this meeting (and agendas prior to meetings) are displayed on the noticeboards and on the website.

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled to take place on 16th January at the Village Hall, commencing at 7pm.

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

- a) Attendance at the bimonthly Parish Council meetings, details of which are publicised in various locations: e.g., Parish Council noticeboards, website.
- b) The Grapevine, where articles are regularly published.
- c) Parish Council minutes; these are displayed on noticeboards and on the website.
- d) Residents can 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.

Maureen Marshall, Acting Chair of the Parish Council

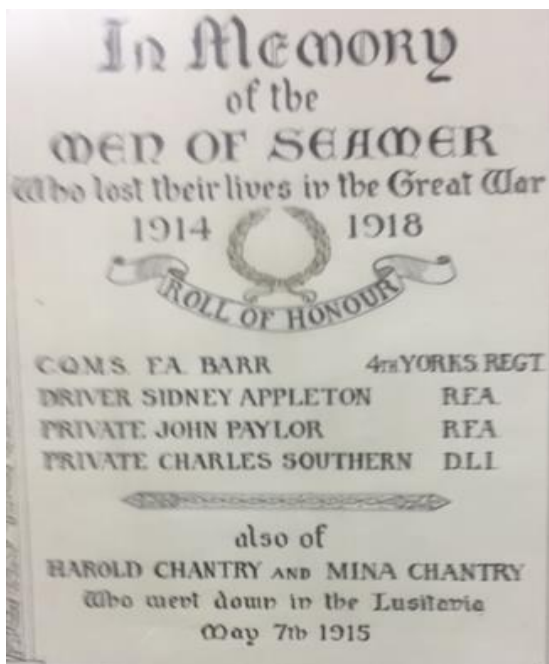
Email: allison.seamerpcc@outlook.com

Seamer Parish Council encompasses Seamer and Tame Bridge.

SEAMER REMEMBRANCE MYSTERY



The item as shown above was recently given to Christine Cooper when renovations started on the Blacksmith's building in Seamer.



It was known for some time in the village that, when the young men enlisted for war, each leaving was marked in some way. It was thought that horseshoes were pinned to the wall but it turned out that farthings were used.

There are 11 farthings in the shape of a horseshoe pinned onto the board and one possible missing one at the top.

Dave Thompson took the plaque, removed many layers of paint and presented it back to the Memorial Hall beautifully boxed and varnished.

So then the mystery of **who was represented** began.

Four names are on the Memorial Plaque in the hall shown earlier.

Driver Sidney Appleton of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary

Private John Paylor of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary

Coms T A Barr of the 4th Yorkshire Regiment

Private Charles Southern of the Durham Light Infantry

We know that **Jack Ward** returned safely but injured and our sixth farthing could represent **Percy Hutchinson**

That still leaves the mystery of the remaining five or six. Other names being followed up are

Fred Entwhistle

William Bayles

George Britten

Robert Alfred Smith

Jack Petlar

The tenant of The Kings Head.

We have done some research, with help from Jill Naylor in Stokesley and Kirsty Johnson in Yarm, but need a lot more information before we can solve the mystery

If you can help with any information or research please get in touch.

Ann Thomas

SOME CHRISTMAS JOKES

What happened to the man who stole an Advent Calendar? He got 25 days.

Who delivers presents to baby sharks at Christmas? Santa Jaws

What do they sing at a snowman's birthday party? Freeze a jolly good fellow

What do Santa's little helpers learn at school? The elf-abet

What kind of motorbike does Santa ride? A Holly Davidson!

What did Santa do when he went speed dating? He pulled a cracker!

Why was the turkey in the pop group? Because he was the only one with drumsticks!

What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck? A Christmas Quacker!

What goes "Oh, Oh, Oh"? Santa walking backwards!

Why was the snowman looking through the carrots? He was picking his nose!

Why does Santa have three gardens? So he can 'ho ho ho'!

What is the best Christmas present in the world? A broken drum, you just can't beat it!

What do snowmen wear on their heads? Ice caps!

What did Adam say the day before Christmas? "It's Christmas, Eve!"

JO BATEY MESSAGE



Cheers Seamer! It was a shame not to be in the area for the Seamer quiz in November but the Grapevine and winning a prize in the 100 club still makes us feel involved in the village life that was our life for so many years. We're loving it up here especially since mum moved up this year.

Happy Christmas and all the best for 2024

Now for a few festive funnies!

- Last Christmas I bought my friend a lie detector as a gift. "Oh I love it" she said, "we'll see" I replied
 - What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations? Tinselitis
 - I got a Christmas card full of rice in the post today. I think it was from uncle Ben
 - Why was the snowman embarrassed when he was spotted rummaging through carrots? He'd been caught picking his nose
 - What do you call a blind reindeer? No eye-deer
 - What do you call a blind reindeer with no legs? Still no-eye deer
 - Nobody bid for Rudolph and Blitzen on eBay, they were too deer
 - My Christmas jumper kept giving me static shocks so I swapped it for another free of charge
 - What do you call people who are afraid of Santa? Claustrophobic
 - What did the third wise man say after the gold and frankincense had been gifted? Hang on there's myrrh
 - What did Adam say on the day before Christmas? It's Christmas, Eve!
 - What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? Frostbite
- And the final groan is for my friend and former Seamer resident Gerry,
- What kind of motorbike does Santa ride? A Holly Davidson

Jo, Ray and Jim XX

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

Neighbourhood watch produces a regular newsletter with useful information and offers about security, both physical and virtual.

<https://s-url.co/uMUBA>

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS

Read and sign up to their digital newsletter to keep updated with news and stories from across North Yorkshire

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/ny-now>

DO YOU NEED A LIFT TO STOKESLEY? TO THE SHOPS?

The community Bus now comes to Seamer on Friday at approximately 10.10 am and returns at 12.00 noon.

MOBILE POST OFFICE

The mobile post office van comes to the village on **Tuesdays** from **11.15 – 11.45am**, parking on the low green near the post box. It offers a full range of services and greetings cards, newspapers, magazines and sweets can also be purchased.

PLANTED A TREE IN 2023, PLANT MORE IN 2024



Tree Planting on various farms in Seamer will be taking place later this year and in early 2024. If you would like to be involved in helping planting, please contact:

Vic Brown 07722941934 email: kathryntanton1@gmail.com

SPEEDWATCH NEWS

The Speedwatch team would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay safe driving!!

As the weather has got colder and wetter, we have decided that for road safety (and our comfort!) we will be suspending watches until the weather improves (probably February at the earliest).

The VAS has now left us and is not due to return to us until towards the end of January. We have had problems with the software after a new update to it and are still trying to find our way around it to get more information from the data.

However, we have found that in 21 days over 300 cars (15 a day) going through Tame Bridge towards Stokesley, out a total of nearly 20,000, exceeded 60 mph with a maximum speed of 85 mph and 3 over 80mph.

Also through Seamer towards Stokesley on Saturday, Sundays and Mondays, 40% of drivers exceed the speed limit dropping to nearer 30% on other week days. The maximum speed was 65mph.

Food for thought!!

INFORMATION FROM NORTH YORKSHIRE COMMUNITY POLICE

PROTECT YOUR HOME - LEAVE A LIGHT ON!

Is your house a target for a burglar?

Burglars are often opportunistic thieves who prey on houses and flats. They seek out any opening that they can take advantage of. A darkened or empty house is a target for a burglar. .

Close and lock all doors and windows, even only going out for a minute

Make sure valuables are out of sight

Keep handbags and keys away from the letterbox or cat flap, and hide all keys to cars and property

Set your burglar alarm

If out all day, then it is advisable to use a timer device to automatically turn lights and a radio or TV on at night

If required, call your local police on 101, In an **emergency**, call 999

BE AWARE OF COLD CALLERS.

We have had reports in North Yorkshire about cold callers knocking on doors and/or leaflets for traders being put through the door.

Scammers are most likely to target elderly and vulnerable people and our advice is to always say **NO** to cold callers. Seamer is in NO COLD CALLERS Zone (signs around the village on lamp posts) and therefore it is an offence to cold call here, **even if they say they have permission.** (*Editor:* I know of at least one elderly person in Seamer who recently was pressurised to buy goods at an inflated price).

Bogus traders will often point out a minor repair which, after they are let into the property, escalates into a list of jobs that may be overpriced, unnecessary and unsafe. They also try to sell goods at inflated prices on the basis of that they are helping the seller out.

'Take Five' – stop and take a moment and think, do I really need this work done or goods offered? Obtain other known traders quotes and seek advice, and recommendations from friends and relatives.

Top Tips

If it is out of the blue, it's not for you! Don't agree to work from an unsolicited, cold call.

Be aware of 'alarm bell' tactics, claims such as –

'I was working in the area and saw that your garden/roof needed urgent attention'; 'we are working at one of your neighbours' and we have some

material left over'; 'I can take you to the bank/cashpoint to get the money'.

If you want some work undertaken, get a number of detailed quotes in writing, including full contact details and a detailed breakdown of exactly what work will be done.

Be cautious about any requests for large deposits. For larger work, agree when staged payments will be paid and what work should be completed before any money is handed over. Stick to what is agreed.

Ensure the trader has sent over contract of the total price before any work starts and information regarding statutory 14 days cancellation rights. The trader should never ask someone to sign these away.

Check with friends and family for trusted recommendations and consider a trading standards' approved trader, from the Buy with Confidence scheme.

For more advice on consumer rights, or to report a rogue trader to trading standards, contact the Citizens Advice national consumer helpline on 0808 223 1133 or by visiting its website citizensadvice.org.uk.

If residents feel threatened or intimidated by a cold caller, they should report it immediately to the police by calling 999. Non-urgent issues can be reported to the police via 101.

THINK LIKE A THIEF

Before heading to bed tonight, doing these simple checks can mean our homes stay safe and secure

We advise on locking your doors behind you whenever you return home, but always best to double check front and rear doors are shut and locked before heading to sleep

We've found most burglaries happen via unlocked doors as opportunistic thieves seek out any opening that they can take advantage of.

Are all your keys and valuables out of sight, and not within reach of windows or letterboxes?

The most common items taken in a burglary are car keys, cash and bank cards so especially keep these items out of sight

Double check your vehicles are locked, don't give them the opportunity.

GARAGE THEFTS

Over the last few weeks we've noticed an increase in attempts to break in to garages, sheds and outbuildings. Some of these attempts have been unsophisticated, such as trying to pull back wood panels, or cut through locks, and it seems the thieves have been deterred by strong padlocks and other security measures.

These burglary attempts are a timely reminder to be vigilant, and improve your property's security. Here are some tips to help you do just that:-

It's worth having a good padlock on the door with no exposed screws.

Pay attention to hinges, as these are sometimes easily removable. If you have windows, these could be vulnerable unless they're secured with wire mesh or grills.

Alarm it – if not wired to the house security system, consider a battery operated garage or shed alarm.

Lock it, hide it or mark it - don't give them the opportunity for tools to commit a crime. Lock everything away securely. Tools can be locked inside a locker or box or secured with a chain. Secure your motorcycle or bicycle to the ground or to a lockable stand within a locked garage or shed. It's always worth draping an old sheet or blanket over the top of mowers or bikes to keep them covered from view.

Property marking your items is advisable and some tools can be painted with your name or postcode. Forensic marking is also an option.

If you do fall victim to burglary, check that your home insurance covers the contents of your shed or outbuildings from theft.

Lastly, but most importantly, never leave your garage or shed door unlocked if you're not around.

We urge residents and businesses to report suspicious activity or burglary incidents via the North Yorkshire Police website or by calling us on 101. If a burglary is in progress, always dial 999 for an emergency response.

As always, we're here to keep you, your loved ones and your property safe and secure

Thanks for taking the time to read all this information

Your Local Neighbourhood Policing Team

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All Landlines are prefixed with 01642

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