

APRIL 2019

SEMINGTON
PARISH



MAGAZINE

Minister for Semington:

Rev. John Rees

22 Warren Road

Staverton

BA14 8UZ

Tel. 01225 764365

Semington Diary

Village Hall (Unless otherwise stated)



4 th	THUR	Book Club Somerset Arms	8.00pm
6 th	SAT	Semington Social Club Food Night	6.00pm
10 th	WEDS	Parish Council Meeting	7.45pm
11 th	THURS	Semington WI	7.00pm
14 th	SUND	Village Hall Quiz	7.30pm

SKITTLES

Tuesdays		Ladies Skittles	8.00pm
3 rd	WEDS	Armstrongs Angels	8.00pm
4 th	THURS	Steeple Ashton	7.30pm
17 th	WEDS	Armstrongs Angels	8.00pm
Fridays		Mens Skittles	7.30pm

Every Week in The Village Hall & St George's School

Bingo	Monday	7.30pm
Post Office	Monday & Thursday	9.30am-12.30pm
Baby/Toddler Group	Tuesday St George's School Hall	10.00am-11.30am
Bridge Club	Tuesday & Friday	9.00am-1.00pm
Zumba Fitness	Wednesday St George's School Hall	6.30pm
Coffee Morning	Thursday	10.00am-12 noon
Alzheimer's Support	2 nd Thursday of the month	10.00am-12 noon
Semingtones	Fridays	6.00pm-7.30pm

Village Hall News

Marilyn Taylor

Saturday 6th April sees the Semington Social Club Food Night and this month it's Pie Night. There will be a choice of 3 pies plus dessert. Tickets are £10 per person and are on sale in the Village Hall

Semington Village Hall – Books Required Paperback books required for the village hall bookcase, please drop off any books you no longer require. The hall is open Monday and Thursday mornings (as per Post Office times).



Christians in Semington

Bev Woodward

Christians in Semington - Wednesday 3rd April, 7.45pm – 9.00pm, 9 Somerset Way. Join us to pray for our community.

Housegroup - Tuesdays 9th and 23rd April, 7.45pm. Join us to drink tea/coffee, chat and have a laugh, and find out more about the Bible. Using resources from the Bible Society (see biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/the-bible-course), these sessions are for anyone, with a Christian faith, or none. For more information, including venues, phone Bev/Jack 870784, Pam/David 870030 or Victoria 871936.

It's Not Too Late to Drop Your Donation Off

Gillian Airey

Thank you to each and everyone of you that has taken the time to drop a donation in that cute little envelope we gave you last month. There's still loads of time to give a donation... in fact we'll accept them all year round!

The envelope can be dropped into the Post Office at the Village Hall on Thursday mornings, to John the landlord, John, in the Somerset Arms and of course to the address on the envelope, in fact just throw money in Jack's direction as you see him going around the village!

Editor's Note

Gillian Airey

So what are you doing now the lighter evenings are here? Thinking of what to write for the parish mag? The deadline for the May edition is Friday 26th April. New contributors are always welcome. Email me at semparmag@icloud.com Please note notices must be presented in portrait format.

The e-mail address for advertising enquiries is semparmagads@icloud.com Check out some of the new faces now advertising in the magazine and remember to keep it local!

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Few women admit their age; few men act theirs....

This month I've been ticking things off my bucket (and spade) list

Gilly Airey

Gorgeous hubby decided we'd had enough holidaying on foreign shores and the time was right to have a good old British seaside holiday. This of course came after he gallivanted to Majorca to undertake some extreme babysitting for three days – but that is a whole different column.

I remember all too clearly the seaside holidays we went on with our Mum and Dad. Growing up in the East Midlands meant that Skegness and Mablethorpe were the resorts of choice and if you ventured to Great Yarmouth it was deemed proper exotic. Somehow the great British seaside never loses its charm and whenever we go to the seaside I have a mental list of everything that I want and need to do whilst I'm there.

Lets start with the easy stuff, the beach. If you grew up in Derby you really couldn't get much further from the sea. I have just Googled this fact and the actual place is a village called Coton in the Elms which is in Derbyshire so as it's the same county I win 'living furthest from the sea Top Trumps'. Gorgeous hubby loves walking the beach, me, I love watching the beach, the people and the sea. In my head I'm rocking a surf chick look of wavy salt licked hair, but probably in reality look like an old bird who hasn't washed for days.....

Then there are the arcades, I'm sure they haven't shrunk but I used to think they were massive. There's only one type of amusement to play and that is the penny falls, or more accurately the two-penny falls. There are two styles; the flippers where your coin goes whizzing up in the air or the slidey ones. Either way it's woman vs machine and the joy at the sound of coins dropping down is as big today as when I was 7 years old.

Then there's the food, the Airey clan have a little competition each year who can have the first Mr Whippy of the season, Gorgeous Hubby won hands down this year. I have one question though, is he the only person who refers to the raspberry sauce as monkey blood or are there more of you mad people out there?

For me it's the fish and chips – cooked in beef dripping of course. Oh my goodness they were immense, so good I successfully stared down a seagull eyeing my lunch up as his own.

All together now.... 'Oh I do like to be beside the seaside.....'



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At The School Gates

Pip Hunter – Head of School St George's

Semington Primary School - one of the best performing schools in Wiltshire (Meksham Independent News Headline)

St George's C of E Primary in Semington has recently been congratulated by Wiltshire County Council for their incredible end of KS2 SAT results from last summer. In the words of the Director of Education and Skills the school's performance was 'amongst the best primary schools in Wiltshire.' 78% of our Y6 pupils achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics combined (compared to a national average of 64%). What is also incredible is the fact that 33% of those pupils were achieving at a higher standard (working at greater depth).

The letter also recognised all of the 'sustained commitment, hard work and success of the staff, governors and pupils' that goes into such a huge improvement. The school, in conjunction with all stakeholders, have worked tirelessly to improve outcomes for the children in the school since it was put into Special Measures back in March 2017. We continue to aim high for all of our pupils for this academic year.



Plans are coming together for this year's fete which takes place on Saturday 6th July.

This year we have chosen the Life Education Bus as our chosen charity to receive 10% of the fete proceeds. This is a specially equipped mobile classroom that visits primary schools across the county. It offers local school children an interesting and interactive learning experience, teaching them how to make healthy choices in their lives in a fun and exciting way.

Now that spring is here, it's time to have a spring clean (for granny's attic) , dust off those well thumbed paperbacks for the book stall and pot up a couple of extra plants for the plant stall!

More news to come, and we look forward to seeing you at the fete!

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Semington – Quiz Central

Julia Wade and John Adams

The next village quiz will be on **Sunday 14th April**, 7.30pm for a 7.45pm start. It was planned to have it on a Saturday night again, but that has had to be changed. It was good to try having the quiz on a Saturday night, for a change, in March, and we will probably do that again sometime.

Thanks to Esme and Philip for setting an interesting quiz. Sadly, I could not be there, but thanks to Esme and Colin for providing me with the information for this report.

The winners of the Marathon Round were Team 'The Railway Children' – newcomers Sue and Bob, with Helen, Howard and Colin – who scored an impressive 74 out of 80. We want to welcome Sue and Bob and hope they will return. The objective was to name political leaders and their country from photos – including a very young Winston Churchill and Barack Obama.

The Railway Children also did well in the main quiz, coming second by just half a point! The winners were Team 'Now we are 5' – Gaye, Angela, Bill, Vic and Helen – so congratulations to them.

There were some interesting rounds, causing much discussion, e.g., a multiple choice round on the derivation of phrases, such as 'daylight robbery'. Another round was on killers: Who starred in the film 'Murder Most Foul'? And from the Elements round: What phrase never actually appeared in any of the Sherlock Holmes books? Answers below.

Quiz time at the Somerset Arms; green was the theme and quizmaster Simon Tyler didn't disappoint with his leprechaun outfit.

'Twas a tough quiz and Simon tested the knowledge of even the die hard quizzers with rounds on Spring, Green and the Emerald Isle. Even the picture round had a green theme. Out of the 9 teams the final victors by a tiny 2 point margin was once again the seemingly unstoppable Orchard Pigs. (Neil S , Brian G, Sally T , Sally R and Lyn C.). No rollover for next quiz as they chose the cash envelope. Diary date for the next quiz is **Thursday 25th April**.

Answers: It came from the window tax imposed in the 17th century; Margaret Rutherford; Elementary, my dear Watson.

Parish Council Issues

Brian Smyth

No Entry Gate

Melksham Police have been monitoring vehicles unlawfully driving through the no entry point near the Air Ambulance HQ and advising them of the consequences of their actions. They found that on those occasions “the majority of people driving through the no entry were village residents” and requested this item be included in the magazine pointing out that the result could be £100 fine and 3 licence points. I would also add that this is undermining the Parish Council's efforts to prevent the the village returning to the days of high volume through traffic.

On-Street Parking

This is a reminder to for us all to keep clear access in the village for emergency vehicles, particularly on narrow roads such as Pound Lane and Church Street. Fire engines for example require at least 4 metres of space and significantly more at corners.

Litter Clearance

On a lighter note, the Parish Council would like to thank Lee Norris who, with Ron Robinson's assistance, has been regularly keeping the village clear of litter. Our thanks also to Barry Norris who kindly removed a metal trip hazard from the village hall car park.

Cantamus Chamber Choir

Alison Pratt

‘Orlando Gibbons’ stunning madrigal The Silver Swan inspired the title for Cantamus’ spring concert with choral music based on a theme of birds and flowers. Les Chansons de Roses by Morten Lauridsen and Eric Whitacre’s fabulously evocative Little Birds provide an American contemporary beauty while Dvorak’s Mass in D for organ and choir, written at the composer’s summer residence reflects his love of nature with a simple intimacy. And a treat is in store with a piano trio performed by Trefoil: Steven Hollas – Piano, Moira Alabaster – Violin and Xander Baker – ‘Cello.

Saturday 18th May 2019 at 7.30pm at Holy Trinity Church, Bradford on Avon

Tickets : £10/£5 students and under 18s available from:

Wiltshire Music Centre 01225 860100 web: wiltshiremusic.org.uk

Nature's Notes

This is **Shakespeare's 98th sonnet**. As we all know, if you're parted from your love all the spring birds and flowers in the world cannot make up for it, and in truth, it's winter still, as you long for their return:

*From you have I been absent in the spring,
When proud-pied April dress'd in all his trim
Hath put a spirit of youth in every thing,
That heavy Saturn laugh'd and leap'd with him.
Yet nor the lays of birds nor the sweet smell
Of different flowers in odour and in hue
Could make me any summer's story tell,
Or from their proud lap pluck them where they grew;
Nor did I wonder at the lily's white,
Nor praise the deep vermilion in the rose;
They were but sweet, but figures of delight,
Drawn after you, you pattern of all those.
Yet seem'd it winter still, and, you away,
As with your shadow I with these did play*

Great Bulkington Railway

Nev Boulton – Station Master



The Great Bulkington Railway will be open to the public on Easter Monday 22nd April from 1.00pm to 4.30pm when we will be pleased to offer rides to children and adults of all ages. Light refreshments will be served by the ladies from Christ Church Bulkington. Google 'The Great Bulkington Railway' for a video ride around the track.

We take no expenses whatsoever and all profits from the railway will be sent to the Wiltshire Air Ambulance. The railway and village hall may be hired for private birthday parties with BYO Party Food for £140.

Contact Station Master Nev Boulton; nev.boulton@outlook.com

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THE LITTLE STRANGER

SATURDAY 27th APRIL 2019 – 7.30pm

(DOORS OPEN AT 7.00PM FOR REFRESHMENTS)

AT THE VILLAGE HALL, STEEPLE ASHTON

Based on the novel of the same name by Sarah Waters, this is probably best described as an 'atmospheric mystery drama' but it could be said that it relies on the mysterious atmosphere rather than the drama!

The Little Stranger tells the story of Dr. Faraday (**Domhnall Gleeson** – son of Brendon), the son of a housemaid, who has built a life of quiet respectability as a country doctor. During the long hot summer of 1947, he is called to a patient at Hundreds Hall, where his mother once worked. The Hall has been home to the Ayres family for more than two centuries, but it is now in decline and its inhabitants – mother, Mrs Ayres (**Charlotte Rampling**), son, Roderick (**Will Poulter**) and daughter, Caroline (**Ruth Wilson**) - are haunted by something more ominous than a outdated way of life. When he takes on his new patient, Dr. Faraday has no idea how closely the family's story is about to become entwined with his own.

'Two hours can't do justice to the slow build up of tension achieved in the novel, yet it's an atmospheric and engrossing piece, which never drags despite a certain lack of action. Nevertheless this is an entertaining film, and worth watching.' (An audience members' review)

Tickets £6 from Steeple Ashton Village Shop. Reservations can be made, please ring Alison Wilson on 01380 871345

Play Your Cards Right

Eric Clifford 870922

A Whist Drive has been organised to support NCH Action For Children. It will be held on **Saturday 27th April in Shaw Village Hall near Melksham SN12 8EW at 7.30pm.**

Entry is £3.00 per person to include refreshments, there will be a raffle (please contact Eric or Helen as above if you have prizes to donate). Full details from Helen and Eric please call on 870922.

Parish Council Minutes

Abridged minutes from meeting held on 13th March 2019

Present: Councillors B Smyth (Chairman), P Bowyer, R Oglesby, S Rimmer, W Scott, P Smith, C Wade and the Clerk, Roger Coleman. There was one member of the public present initially.

Apologies: Apologies for non-attendance were received from Parish Councillors M Kasasian and R Robinson and from Wiltshire Council Cllr. J Seed and PCSO Maggie Ledbury.

Community Policing. PCSO Ledbury of the Community Policing Team had sent the Clerk the February monthly report that he had subsequently sent to all councillors. Reported crimes in Semington for February 2019: Unknown suspects have let all tyres down on a vehicle and there had been criminal damage to metal gate – Semington Area. Cllr. Wade stated that he had received a report of a firearm – presumed to be an air-rifle – being used against deer in a field with the shot damaging nearby property. He added that the police were also aware of this incident, although no action had been taken to date.

Wiltshire Council Report. In the absence of Cllr. Seed there was no report.

Planning. The following planning application was received after 7th March 2019. The Council examined this application and **resolved** to send comments to Wiltshire Council: 19/02523/FUL 15 Somerset Way, ground and first floor extension. The Parish Council has no objections to this proposed development. Cllr. Scott reported that he had not yet been notified by Wiltshire Council that an Inspector had been appointed for the Village Green Enquiry or the date of the Enquiry. Councillors agreed that the comments to be sent to the Boundary Commission in respect of the Local Government Boundary Review would be agreed at the next Meeting noting that comments had to be received by the Boundary Commission no later than 15th April 2019.

Finance. Total balance as at 13th March £23,671.23 The decision whether to transfer funds to the Tennis Court Maintenance A/C and the amount, if any, to be transferred was deferred until a subsequent meeting. The Chairman stated that he is continuing to seek this information from the contractor.

The Council indicated that it would support the renewal of the defibrillator contract with South West Ambulance Service and that a formal proposition to agree the £1800 plus VAT fee would be put to the Parish Council at the next meeting. The current contract expires on 6 May 2019.

Highways/Environment Cllr Smyth reported that the cuttings strewn across Pound Lane following hedge cutting and reported to the Parish Council by a parishioner had now been cleared away. Cllr. Scott stated that brambles from the 'church field' were very overgrown and that they were obstructing an adjoining footpath. It was agreed that the owner/tenant of the field will be contacted. The Chairman stated that he and Cllr. Robinson had surveyed the footways in the village and had identified a length of High Street – footways on both sides of the road – especially from The Hunt Close to Pound Lane as being in a very poor condition. The footways were broken up in many places with grass growing in them. He added that he had reported these defects and the locations to Wiltshire Council, namely Rhys Schell (as previously requested by him).

Cllr. Oglesby stated that Cllr. Robinson and Mr Lee Norris continue to undertake litter picking in the village on a regular basis. Councillors commented that the litter picking was undertaken on a voluntary basis for the benefit of the community and the tidiness of the village, in comparison to some others, was largely due to their efforts. The Council expressed its thanks to Cllr. Robinson and Lee Norris.

The Clerk stated that although he had been requested to contact the Operations Manager, Wiltshire Air Ambulance owing to the difficulty in contacting him experienced by Cllr. Smyth, he had had a conversation with Wiltshire Police (Insp. James Williams) who had confirmed that Wiltshire Police were very unlikely to support the 'Enforcement Camera' project because of lack of police resources. The Clerk commented that in a discussion with Cllr. Smyth it was agreed not to press the Wiltshire Air Ambulance for financial support for this project until support from Wiltshire Police could be assured. Cllr. Smyth stated that very recently he had managed to contact the Operations Manager and had discussed the issue of the Bus Gate and the subject of the 'Enforcement Camera' and although all the discussions were good-mannered, no specific agreements resulted.

Councillors commented that the police presence at the bus gate had proved very successful in identifying errant motorists and motorcyclists and issuing them with a fixed penalty notice (£100) and three points on their licence.

Semington Village Website. Councillors confirmed that the Working Group comprising Cllrs. Kasasian, Rimmer, Robinson and Scott had met and had reviewed the current website content. It was noted that Cllr. Robinson had also individually contacted the webmaster with various ideas for improving the website. Cllr. Scott gave a report on the findings of the Working Group and explained the possible improvements to it and gave an example of a 'home page'. There ensued a general discussion on the website and possible changes to it and it was agreed that the Working Party would meet up with the webmaster to agree with him the changes considered necessary and to present this agreement to the Parish Council for endorsement.

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Your Wiltshire Councillor News

Jonathon Seed 07770 774463

Spring is here and Easter beckons as you read this message. The dark winter days are past and the longer warmer and brighter weather is in front of us. There is also brighter news on the political front with a series of positive announcements from Wiltshire Council. These all come from a carefully constructed budget which Wiltshire Council is now delivering and one which included over £25 million of efficiencies. However the Council has also received additional and targeted funding for specific service areas from central government and has put aside its own local funding to invest in these and other critical services.

Over the next few years an additional £20 million will be invested in our roads with an additional £8 million being invested during the forthcoming financial year. This includes £3 million spending on road surfacing, £1 million on footway repairs, and £900k on pothole repair and patching. This is really good news for our long suffering county motorists and cyclists alike and also good news for pedestrians. In every town and parish we also continue to see the much valued Parish Stewards going about their very local business of smaller but equally important maintenance and repair jobs.

We have good news in other service areas. This is particularly important in children's services who look after the future generation of Moonrakers. In this area it is great to see that 98% of our children are being allocated a place at their first choice of secondary school. The Council is also continuing to invest in the health of our children and is one of very few councils in the country to provide free swimming for the under 16s during the school holidays. Not only that but we still have the same number of swimming pools that we had in 2009 (when Wiltshire Council was created) for our residents and our children to swim in. Add to all of this that several of these swimming pools are newly built or totally refurbished (and one more new one is planned) and perhaps spring really is here in local government!

Finally Semington is determined to tackle the abuse of the bus gate on the Melksham Road which is being used as an illegal shortcut by motorists. Instead of merely being monitored by the Community Gatewatch team enforcement action is now being taken. So motorists that persist in making this illegal journey now face prosecution and sanctions with possible points on their driving licences. Offenders beware!

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The world's oldest living tree was already 100 years old
when Stonehenge was built – *Q! Fact*

Do You Have Land For Trees?

Steve Rimmer

We have planted nearly 700 trees in Semington mainly on the wide grass verge on Littlemarsh adjacent to the football ground and they have been provided free of charge by The Woodland Trust.

We can still obtain 'free' trees upon application to the Woodland Trust as long as we can identify where we intend to plant, we also need the permission of the landowner and the general public must have free access to the area. Trees ordered now will be delivered in November which is an ideal time to plant when the trees are dormant and they can look forward to getting a good start in good (damp) soil conditions in the spring.

Tree packs can be as large as 420 trees which will need a field about half the size of a football pitch, but you could also consider tree packs of 105 trees or 30 trees.

You may wish to consider an urban tree pack consisting of 5 crab apple, 5 hazel and 5 rowan trees and these can be shared between neighbours. They meet the criteria for free trees as long as they are to be planted in front gardens where they will 'green up' the environment and be visible to passers by: Visit the Woodland Trust website:

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/free-trees/>

If you own land to which you would not want the general public to have access, you can still obtain subsidised tree packs from The Woodland Trust. There are a variety of pack sizes, but a good starting point might be to plant a shelter belt of 210 "Whips" which would cost £108.25.

Subsidised tree packs are available for landowners in a wide variety of sizes and types website link is: **<https://shop.woodlandtrust.org.uk/landowner-packs>**

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Semington WI Meeting

Deb Hurn



We met on Thursday 14th March for our Annual General Meeting. We were able to go over the events of the last year and realise just how much we've done. New crafts that we'd had a go at, very informative speakers, a joint venture with the Village Hall for WW1, Afternoon tea and a skittles night to name but a few. It also gives a good opportunity to say thank you to everyone for their continued support, to the tea ladies Sue Ludlow and Val Swaine who purchase and make the tea and provide the biscuits every month. To Jeanne Bailey for the lovely floral table centres she put together for WW1 night and last but not least to the committee.

The last thing to be done was the election of the new committee (not so new actually the same as last year with one exception a new Treasurer Cassandra Reynolds and Annie Martin who has returned to the committee).

Next months meeting on the 11th April at 7.30pm will be talk on gin by Holly who has started up Scout and Sage a very local gin distillery. There will also be an opportunity to taste the gin on the evening.

Book Club

Angela Grodzicka - 870756

Ten members, plus one new member, of the bookclub met on Friday 1st March to discuss *The Dry* by Jane Harper - a thriller set in Australia. Jan gave us some background on the author (who was born in Manchester but is now an Australian citizen) and her books.

Everyone agreed that the book was a well written, enjoyable read with great descriptive passages giving a real feel for the heat and discomfort of drought in Oz. Some felt it was a bit formulaic but others found it a compelling page-turner. It was agreed that it would make a good TV series or film so watch out! The next meeting will be on Thursday 4th April at 8.00pm. in the pub to discuss *Passenger 13* by Scott Mariani.



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An Open Letter to The Village of Semington

David Philpott – Chief Executive, Wiltshire Air Ambulance

It is almost a year now since we moved our lifesaving service into the purpose-built airbase opposite Outmarsh Farm. During the 10 months that we have been here, we have been overwhelmed by the warm welcome and many kindnesses we have been shown by residents of Semington, most of whom really value what we do.

Indeed, since we started operations from our 'new home' and until the end of February 2019, we have flown 365 missions by air and attended a further 583 in rapid response vehicles, often to Semington and the surrounding villages.


One outstanding matter – and one that is especially pertinent to the people in this village – centres around the bus gate. I'm aware there has been some suggestion that our charity has reneged on a promise to move it but this is not true.

As things stand, the Wiltshire Council planning authority do not want the bus gate moved and therefore we would be breaking the law should we unilaterally decide to do so. If this matter changed, we would work with Wiltshire Council and the parish council to come to the best solution for the bus gate in the future.

We also understand there is now a suggestion that cameras be affixed to the bus gate to deter unlawful use as, according to the parish council, 'more disturbing is the number of parishioners ignoring the bus gate restrictions and...if left unchallenged, the benefit of the bus gate for the villagers of Semington would be lost'.

Indeed we would welcome the publication of metrocount figures that suggest less vehicles are driving through the village since we relocated here, which in turn might allay concerns about the bus gate.

Once more, thank you for the very kind welcome we have been afforded since moving to Semington and we look forward to many years of happily operating from our airbase north of the village.



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Support Semington Village

Down The Local

John the Landlord, John

Another busy month for the pub. There were mixed emotions for the six nations although Hugo was clearly euphoric! Stuart Saye provided tunes to liven up St Patrick's day and in contrast a lot of villagers had their own go at singing at the karaoke night on Friday 22nd March.

The pub has lots coming up for your entertainment in April. On the Saturday 13th April we have the amazing Antigua Joe providing his unique blend of reggae complimented by some tasty Caribbean food from the kitchen.

The Easter break makes the perfect time to pop to the pub and hopefully enjoy a drink or a bite to eat in the sunshine.

Thursday 25th April is the date for the next quiz the first question to be answered is what the theme will be this month!.

Thank you for your support - we really do appreciate it, it makes a big difference.

There are one billion dogs in the world – Q1 Fact

Keeping Semington Sparkling

Many of you may have seen the recent article in the Melksham Independent News about the problem of dog poop locally. A number of villagers have also commented recently that dog poop is not being scooped, but being left where it landed, particularly around the school entrances.

I think that these words sum it up perfectly; ***'If your dog poops and you don't scoop and no one sees you... does that mean it won't stick to the sole of my shoe?'***



Crafternoons

Barbara – 07432 724177

Currently we're mainly focusing on knitting and tapestry but all crafts are welcome! Our next meeting is Friday April 5th. Everyone is welcome please call Barbara for more details.

Paws for Thought



When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"

It's in the Bible Matthew 27 verse 54

Catholic News

St. John The Baptist Trowbridge & St Bernadette's Westbury (inc villages)

St John the Baptist Trowbridge :

Sunday Masses: Sat: (Vigil) 6pm; Sun: 10.30am & 6.00pm

Holy Day of Obligation: See Newsletter

Weekday Masses: Mon: 9.00am; Tue: 6.00pm; Wed: 12.00 noon Fri: 6.00pm; Sat: 9.00am

Rosary: Weekdays before Mass.

Confessions: Sat: 9.30-10.15am; 5.15-5.30pm and on request.

St Bernadette's Westbury

Sunday Mass – 9.00am

Holy Day of Obligation Vigil Mass 6.00pm

Weekday Mass: Thursday 10.00am

Confessions: Thursday 9.15am – 9.30am and on request

Easter Triduum Services

Maundy Thursday - Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.30pm

Good Friday - Solemn Passion of the Lord 3.00pm

Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil & Mass of the Resurrection 8.30pm

Easter Sunday Mass

Morning Mass - St. Bernadette's Westbury 9.00am

Morning Mass - St. John's 10.30am

Evening Mass - St. John's Trowbridge 6.00pm

RUH Bath: Anyone who has a friend or relative in hospital, please contact Mandy Baker (a member of the hospital Chaplaincy team) text/phone 07775 895 814 or email: mandybaker@live.co.uk

THE NEW 300 CLUB 2019 - Subscriptions: £50 annually - £13 quarterly - £4.33 monthly. New members are most welcome to join at any time. **Monthly Prizes are: £200-£70-£50-£10.** For information and application form contact Francis Geraghty 01380 871083 email: f.geraghty303@btinternet.com

Mass Times At Nearby Catholic Churches

Immaculate Conception, Devizes (01380 723572) Mass on Saturday 6.00pm and Sunday 10.30am and 5.00pm

St Anthony Melksham (01225 702128) Mass on Saturday 5.30pm and Sunday 9.30am

Bradford on Avon (01225 862739) Mass on Saturday 6.00pm, Sunday 10.30am

Thought From The Rectory

John Rees

I can remember the excitement in 2012 when I waited with a crowd to see the Olympic torch procession pass by. Throughout the games, news of the successes and trials of the participants was beamed rapidly around the world. Everyone was talking about the Olympics.

At Jerusalem, just before the first Easter, crowds had lined the streets on Palm Sunday to cheer Jesus as he entered the city. There was excitement there too. Was Jesus really the hero who would overthrow the occupying army? News spread fast; of Jesus' arrest, mock trial and crucifixion (when he failed to deliver on the crowds' expectations) and then – three days later – at the news that Jesus has risen from the dead. Could it be true?

Most of us will enjoy the long Easter weekend, with perhaps a chance to catch up on DIY and the garden, or to enjoy chocolate eggs. Christians believe that Easter can offer us all much more than that. The Easter story is a sign that God loves every one of us more than we can fully understand. God loves us so much that he sent his Son Jesus to show us how to truly care for one another and for the world he created and then to die on the cross for us. Through Jesus' perfect life, death and resurrection, we are offered forgiveness by God for all the wrong we do.

Through Jesus we can have a personal relationship with God and no longer have to face the challenges of life on our own. We can bring before God all our failures, our hurts, our disappointments and our hopes and know that he loves and accepts us as we are. Through faith in Jesus our lives can have a new purpose and we may know new peace.

If you would like to know more do get in touch or come to one of our Easter Services; details can be found elsewhere in this magazine. You can be sure of a warm welcome.

Best wishes, **John.**

St George's Church Semington



Services April 2019

April 7th - 4.30 pm - Rev John Rees

Tea-time service with Baptism

14th April - 9.30 am

Palm Sunday - **Anthony Matthew**

21st April - 9.30am

Easter Communion - **Rev John Rees**



28th April - 9.30am

Morning Service - **Ray Guymer**



Morning Prayer 9.45 am on
Thursday 4th, 11th and 25th April

Holy Week Services at St Michael's Hilperton

Monday 15th - Compline - 6.30 pm

Tuesday 16th - Compline - 6.30 pm

Wednesday 17th - Morning Prayer - 9.00 am

Maundy Thursday 18th

Holy Communion and washing of feet - 7.00 pm

Good Friday - 19th - 2pm - 3 pm last hour meditation

Contact Details for The Canalside Parishes

Administrator – Michael Gamble, please contact Michael for initial enquiries about baptisms, weddings and general matters on **07795 400262**

E-mail - **canalsidebenefice@gmail.com**

PCC Secretary/Treasurer - Jack Woodward **01380 870784**

Church Warden – Mr David Wildsmith

Lay Pastoral Assistants are co-ordinated by Marilyn Stubbs. Please contact Marilyn on **01225 753118** or John if you would like a visit.

Rev John Rees, Rector, Canalside Benefice **01225 764365**

Email: **canalsidebeneficerector@gmail.com** **www.canalsidebenefice.org.uk**