

MAY 2021



SEMINGTON  
PARISH MAGAZINE

**Minister for Semington:**

**Rev. John Rees**

**22 Warren Road**

**Staverton**

**BA14 8UZ**

**Tel. 01225 764365**

## Where To Go To Stay in The Know

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### **Canalside Benefice**

The Canalside Benefice website **canalsidebenefice.org.uk** has a number of useful links on it. It has resources for worship and Messy Church resources for children. In addition there is a link through to YouTube so that you may worship from your own home. Check out the Benefice website for the most up to date link.

### **Semington Little Marsh and Littleton Support Group**

The Support Group is still very active in the community especially during the current Lockdown. The Group has a Facebook page which is the principal source of information, updates, offers of help and requests for help. Search Semington Little Marsh and Littleton Support Group on Facebook to join.

The newsletter is now printed on an ad hoc basis as the need arises to communicate issues, news and updates that fall between the publication of the Parish magazine. Distribution is via the Support Group Facebook page. For anyone who would like a hard copy of an issue of the Support Group Newsletter, including all past issues, the spares are in the Somerset Arms and the Village Hall, which can be accessed when the Post Office is open on Mondays and Thursdays from 9.30am to 12.00pm. There is a fantastic selection of books and jigsaws available to buy when the Village Hall is open.

### **Village Websites**

The village now boasts two websites; **www.semington-village.co.uk** and **www.semington.org.uk** Back issues of both the Parish Magazine and the Support Group Newsletter are available on semington.org.uk

### **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: **canalsideoffice@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.

Curate: Revd. Joy Albone **07931 638524** email **canalsidecurate@gmail.com**

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

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

## Christians in Semington

*Bev Woodward*

**Christians in Semington** - We will be meeting via zoom in our own homes, to pray for our community, on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 8.00pm**. Please contact Jack Woodward, 870784, for the Zoom link, or if there are things you'd like us to pray about.

**Housegroup** - This continues on alternate **Tuesdays** via zoom, at **7.45pm**. If you'd like to discuss how the Bible helps us to live as God wants us to, please phone Jack/Bev 870784 or David/Pam 870030 for more details and the Zoom link.

**Semington Praise, St George's – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 10.00am** If you wish to attend please ensure you book a place via email **canalsideoffice@gmail.com**

## Village Hall Coffee Mornings

*Bev Woodward*

If all goes according to the Government's plan, the Village Hall will re-open on **17<sup>th</sup> May**, and this means that Coffee mornings will resume on **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 10.00am - 12 noon**. There will have to be a few changes, with table service, six to a table, no moving from one table to another and masks worn when not seated, but we will get used to the changes!

A mug of coffee or tea and biscuits will be £1.00, as before. It's been a long time since we could meet together - looking forward to meeting up inside again!

## Editor's Note

*Gillian Airey*

There are many small but significant things to celebrate in May – the beer at the Somerset Arms is fresh and gorgeous, we have diary dates appearing in the magazine for the first time in over a year and the hint of a village fete on the horizon. Make sure you check out Ray Heard's article on page 19 – it is a fascinating insight to family tree research and what you can unearth as well as a fabulous example of the theory of six degrees of separation.

We'll be back next month as always and if you have something you'd like to share the deadline for submissions is **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May**. My email is **semparmag@icloud.com** I look forward to hearing from you.

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## This Month I'm Lost In Music

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*Gilly Airey*

I bet there was a whole host of you that read the top line of the page and in your head carried on singing *'Caught in a trap, No turnin' back, I'm lost in music'* not forgetting the na-na-na at the end. Well of course you would if you were an 80s babe like me!

Gorgeous Hubby is a passionate music fan and one of the things he has missed the most in the last fifteen months is the loss of live music and the curtailment of his regular forays into Bristol to watch an eclectic roll call of live music in places like Thekla and The Louisiana. So Gorgeous Hubby's hi-fi has been an important part of life Chez Airey, filling the void left by live music. That is until his speakers broke down..... The wait for lockdown to lift so we could go and collect them from the menders seemed to take forever but last week we made the trip to collect them.

Gorgeous Hubby was over the moon to be collecting his speakers, me I was cock-a-hoop because I got to visit the original Hotel Chocolat factory outlet shop near to the speaker workshop. You can see where our differing priorities lie!

I am not going to pretend that I am in anyway an audiophile like my husband, but I trust him when he says the now mended speakers were better than ever. You know that old adage *'dance like no one is watching, sing like no one is listening'* (just as well in my case) well that's just what we did. We lost ourselves gloriously in the music singing at the top of our voices and busting some moves in the kitchen.

Every song had a reason to be on our improvised play list, memories both happy and sad, gigs attended both together and apart, as well as songs that time-stamped our lives both before and after we had met. What was the standout song on the play list? It depends who you ask, for me it was the Doobie Brothers' *'Black Water'* memories of US holidays which I miss so much and for Gorgeous Hubby it was *'Something More Beautiful'* by Beth Orton, because it does what it says on the tin, it is simply a beautiful piece of music.

I freely admit that most of my words didn't match the original lyrics. I have a very special skill in being able to sing only the very last two words of every line in a song. But here's what I do know - for the first time in such a long time everything just felt a little bit rounder, brighter and that normal was edging back into our lives.

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## Down The Local

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*John, The Landlord, John*

So as I write we are at the end of our first week of being open again. It's been outside only but what a week. I literally haven't stopped moving since 10.00am on Monday and have just shut the doors on Sunday evening. A massive, massive thank you to everyone who has come down and supported us. The weather gods have been nice to us and albeit outside only we have had a fantastic week.

It's a challenge only serving in the garden but we have overcome many obstacles through the week and have had nothing but happy customers. A few broken staff as running drinks outside as well as pouring them doubles the workload. Our order app has worked well in the main and has really helped us keep on top of things. It's hard when you are sat in the garden to visualise that the reality is we are a couple deep at the bar. Everyone has been understanding though especially as we ran out of a lot of stock towards the end of the weekend.

So more of the same for a few weeks before we can hopefully open up inside as well. We have had a few chilly nights in the garden as once the sun goes down you remember you are outside even with the heaters. It will still be table service inside still but at least we will be warmer.

We are continuing take outs and midweek madness so keep your eyes open for our deals. We hope to be able to open for morning coffee and breakfast over the coming weeks if demand is there so please do call in to warm up those walks. Also don't forget fishy Friday and our delicious roasts on a Sunday.

We are of course ensuring track and trace is in place but don't panic if you are not smartphone literate as we have a manual sign in system and will happily take your drink and food order at the table.

The coming weeks will be key for us and as the initial rush to get down the pub dies down please remember us and pop in either for coffee, a nice baguette or jacket for lunch or some tea or a take out.

We are taking life one step at a time but hopefully in the coming weeks we can get some music in the garden as we take those baby steps back towards the new normal. This village has been fantastic through lockdown and we are proud to be a part of that. As always, much love and stay safe.

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## Parish Council Matters

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*Peter Smith, Acting Chair of the Parish Council*

**Update on possible development of land off Church Street** – it is likely that an open meeting about possible plans will be held in the village hall for all the village to attend once covid rules allow for larger gatherings. At the earliest, this might be late June. Obviously, any such meeting will be well publicised.

**Development of land south of St. George's Road** – this is the field where Hannick Homes received planning permission to build 24 homes, including affordable homes and bungalows plus 12 allotments. The land has now been sold to another developer, Newland Homes. Representatives of Hannick and Newland Homes joined the April Parish Council meeting to answer questions about how the sale might affect the original plans. The short answer seems to be “not a lot”. You can read the answers to all the questions in the April Parish Council minutes, available at [www.semington.org.uk](http://www.semington.org.uk)

**Spring LITTER PICK!** – yes, try to contain your excitement, it's time for a fun-packed morning making Semington clean and tidy. The litter pick will be on **8<sup>th</sup> May 2021**, meeting at the **Village Hall Car Park** at **10.00am**. I hope to see all the usual enthusiastic suspects, plus anyone else who'd like to join in. All are very welcome. As well as our normal pick areas, could you all think about any other areas of the parish that could do with clearing e.g. footpaths, bridleways, towpaths. As ever, please come equipped with hi-viz vest and gloves. Picker sticks, bags and hoops will be supplied.

**Otters** – have been spotted along the waterways around the village. The Canal and River Trust has asks for this message to be passed on: can dog owners please keep their dog on a lead when close to the canal, brook and streams?

**Post Office** – we all know that, since last October, the service on our two days a week has been great when Sophie has been there. However, staffing issues have meant that it has become unreliable. The problem has been raised with the regional Post Office, which is working to find a satisfactory solution.

**Robert Oglesby** – last, but not least, Robert retired from the Parish Council after over 30 years on the council including 24 as chairman. A huge thanks goes to Robert for his service to us across those years. We all wish him well for the future and hope to see him around

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### A Single Cowslip

This was all there was to see at the very beginning of April on the steep chalk slope as it fell away from the ridge path. One single cowslip on ground that in six weeks time will be overrun with colour, and where upwards of thirty different species might be found in one metre square of turf. It was quite a contrast with village gardens at the moment, grassy areas and hedges at the moment where there is already a colourful display.

Cowslips get a few passing mentions in poetry; in *The Tempest*, for example:

*Where the bee sucks, there suck I:  
In a cowslip's bell I lie;  
There I couch when owls do cry.  
On the bat's back I do fly  
After summer merrily.  
Merrily, merrily shall I live now  
Under the blossom that hangs on the bough.*



And in John Clare's *Clock-O-Clay* (the ladybird):



*In the cowslip pips I lie,  
Hidden from the buzzing fly,  
While green grass beneath me lies,  
Pearled with dew like fishes' eyes,  
Here I lie, a clock-o'-clay,  
Waiting for the time o' day. ...*

Clare did write poems that were more explicitly about the cowslip. For example:

*The dancing Cowslips come in pleasant hours;  
Though seldom sung, they're everybody's flowers:  
They hurry from the world, and leave the cold;  
And all the meadows turn from green to gold ...*

Though they are not his most memorable.

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## Your Wiltshire Councillor News

*Jonathon Seed*

*Dear Semington Resident,*

*As I approach the election I have no idea whether I will continue as your Councillor - that is up to you! If I am not re-elected I bid you farewell and thanks for the past twelve years as your Wiltshire Councillor. It has been a privilege to represent you on Wiltshire Council, to take up issues, fight battles and try to get things done on your behalf. If I am re-elected on 6<sup>th</sup> May I look forward to looking after your issues and representing the village for the next four years.*

*Best wishes,*

*Jonathon*

## Melksham Food Bank

*Julia Wade – 01380 870137*



Your generosity continues to amaze me, when I collect from the church porch or from the Somerset Arms every Wednesday. The Foodbank volunteers are grateful for all you do, but especially for the way you all respond to the specific shortages they often have. At the moment they are very low of toilet rolls, sugar and tinned meat but are also in need of tinned peas, tinned custard, tinned rice pudding, tinned fruit, jam and squash.

Everything you donate makes a huge difference to those in need - so much more than we can imagine. Thank you.

## Parish Council Meeting

*Abridged Minutes From Meeting Held Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021*

**Present:** Councillors P Smith (Vice-Chairman and Acting Chairman for the meeting), V Bodman, M Kasasian, R Oglesby, W Scott, C Wade, R Bruges, S Chown and the Clerk Roger Coleman. Wiltshire Council Cllr. J Seed attended (Part-time). There were three members of the public present plus a representative from Hannick Homes and a representative from Newland Homes

The Chairman reminded the council that Cllr. Oglesby would be retiring after this meeting, after over 30 years' service, 24 of which he served as Chairman. On behalf of the council and the village, he thanked Cllr. Oglesby for the huge contribution that he has made to the community, always conducting himself cheerfully yet conscientiously.

**Declaration of Interests:** Cllr. Wade declared an interest in Planning application 21/01165/FUL. No other interests were declared by councillors.

**Wiltshire Council Report:** Wiltshire Council, Cllr. J Seed stated that he had nothing significant to report except that Wiltshire Council is again attempting to increase its housing supply figure for Wiltshire.

**Planning and Development:** The Council examined the following planning applications and **resolved** to send comments to Wiltshire Council as shown in italics:

**21/01623/FUL** Proposed family dayroom to approved pitch No.3 and the resulting rearrangements of layouts of the remaining 3 gypsy/traveller pitches at Lansdowne No 3 Unit 2 Littleton Semington. *The Parish Council objects to this proposed development for the following reasons:*

- 1. The proposed Family Dayroom for pitch number 3 would only be appropriate for a commercial and licensed caravan site but, as this is outside of the approved usage for the Lansdowne site, it should be refused.*
- 2. The desired wet room could be achieved by approving a change of the already agreed bathroom/dayroom plans to plans for a wet room/dayroom with associated disabled access.*
- 3. Even allowing for the estranged status of the co-owners, that is insufficient grounds for granting planning permission for a bathroom/dayroom on each one of the 7 pitches.*
- 4. The aerial photograph seems to show that, despite there having been a number of past variations to the original and later planning permissions, those approved plans are not implemented and, instead, a new plan is submitted to broaden still further the extent of approval. The current application is simply the latest manifestation of this trend.*

**21/01165/FUL** Single storey extension to side of property at 37 Pound Close. *Council has no objections*

**Greystoke:** The Council noted Cllr. Scott's report on the recent decision of the High Court regarding the appeal by Greystoke challenging Wiltshire Council's refusal of planning permission for 26 houses on land north of St George's Road. He stated that this decision had the effect of the Appeal Inspector having to rerun the Appeal Hearing.

**Hannick Homes:** The Chairman welcomed Conor Lee (Hannick Homes) and Mark Kurton (Newland Homes) to the meeting and he invited them to provide answers to questions raised by councillors regarding the sale of the planning permission obtained by Hannick Homes for the development at St Georges Road to Newland Homes. The Parish Council had provided both parties with a written copy of the questions posed.

The questions covered the onward sale of planning permission, number of dwellings, the allotments and provision of services and alternative energy solutions. Please refer to the Semington Parish Council Website for the full dialogue of questions asked and the relevant responses. [www.semington.org.uk](http://www.semington.org.uk)

**Ashford Homes:** The Chairman reported that Cllr. Bruges had discussed the proposed development at Church Street with the applicants in respect of examining alternative ‘frameworks’ for the development of this land – such as placing greater emphasis on wildlife and ecological features. Cllr. Smith asked the Clerk to put this subject on the Agenda for the first meeting of the new Council, scheduled to be held in May. He added that this subject should also be the subject of a Community meeting or Annual Parish Meeting when it is possible to hold such meetings in the Village Hall without restrictions on number attending and suggested that a meeting in June (post 21<sup>st</sup> June) or July might be appropriate.

Cllr. Scott stated that the Parish Council had previously agreed to request Wiltshire Council to undertake a new Housing Needs Survey, probably in mid-2021, but this was a decision for the new Council. Cllr. Bodman advised that it can take some time to initiate such surveys and that it would be best to make the request now to Wiltshire Council to undertake the survey.

**Neighbourhood Plans:** Cllr. Smith stated that a meeting had been arranged with Wiltshire Council (Mr. Kilmister) to discuss this subject. Cllrs. Bodman and Scott will also be attending that meeting.

**Finance : Total balance in hand as at 14th April 2021 £36,538.14**

The Clerk commented that the financial reserves held by the Parish Council exceeded twice the Precept of £13500 and that an explanation had to be given on the AGAR for this ‘large’ reserve. The Clerk stated that he had stated that it was as a result of anticipated work to improve the Wessex Close Play Area, including the purchase of new play equipment and that some additional funding may be required as an ‘Allotment Start-up Fund’. The Chairman requested that the subject of ‘Allotments’ is placed on the Agenda for the July meeting.

**Environment and Streetscene:** Cllr. Scott reminded councillors that at the last meeting that he and the RoW Group had been exploring RoWs to the east of the village and that the route of many of the paths did not correspond to their recorded position on the RoW Definitive Map. He added that he had recently revisited these paths with the Rights of Way Officer (RoW) from Wiltshire Council and that the RoW Officer was now entering discussions with landowners and others to consider how best to address this anomaly. The Parish Council noted the tree planting scheme proposed by a parishioner to celebrate ‘Earth Day’ 27<sup>th</sup> April and raised no objection. Cllr. Bruges reported that otters had been observed in local watercourses. Cllr. Bruges stated that he had recently engaged with the Avonmead Trees Group and learned that they have funding available for planting a woodland/orchard in an ecological way with the support of the local community to enhance the periphery of villages. He commented that Semington village could be such a candidate. The Chairman stated that it is about time for a Spring Litter Pick soon and a date for this event needs to be agreed. Cllr. Bruges added that it would be helpful to extend the Litter Pick beyond the village and to include some of the Rights of Way. Cllr. Smith stated that the project to replace the existing plant ‘barrels’ with wooden planters at each end of the village has been discussed with Wiltshire Council and an S96 Licence is being sought to allow this project to proceed. He added that a suggestion has been made to replace the existing Village Signs with newer, more modern, signs and this suggestion will require further research.

**Transport and Traffic:** The Chairman reported that he and Cllr. Wade went to Littlemarsh to meet with the parishioners there to learn of their concerns – primarily related to anti-social behaviour – such as speeding and loud gatherings of youths. It was noted that the speed limit there was 60 mph and that it was a No Through Road which provided the incentive for the behaviour experienced. It was agreed that the possibility of new or revised signage and a reduced speed limit for Littleton would be raised at the next CATG Meeting.

**Recreation and Wellbeing:** Cllr. Chown stated that she had been in contact with a parishioner who might be interested in the role of Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator. She also commented that the proposed 'Post-Lockdown Celebration' could be combined with the Village Fete this Summer.

The Parish Council **resolved** to authorise the acting Chairman to lodge a formal complaint about the poor service with the Regional Post Office as and when he judges the time to be right, and to report on progress at the first meeting of the new parish council.

**Local Elections – 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021:** The Clerk stated that there would not be a Parish Council election because there were only five candidates for the nine parish councillor positions available and that those five would automatically form the new Council with co-option being available for filling the other vacancies. The Clerk stated that co-option could take place at the May Parish Council meeting and, in answer to a question from Cllr. Scott, he said that he would ensure that the opportunity for parishioners to put their names forward for co-option would be publicised on the website.

**Website:** Cllr. Wade enquired whether the Search Engines used to locate the new Semington website could be adjusted to ensure that when searching 'Semington' it is the new website that appears highest in the list. Cllr. Bruges answered that it could be done but it could be a lengthy and laborious process.

**Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 8.00pm preceded by the Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm**

The venue for these meetings is to be Semington Village Hall and appropriate COVID restrictions relating to such meetings will be strictly observed.





**Semington  
Village Fete  
Summer 2021**

Well hello there – remember us, we’re the Village Fete Committee!

We have had our first meeting to provisionally organise some sort of village fete this year, to be held late July. We’re just waiting to firm up a few decisions and then hopefully we will be able to share more details with the village.

As we’re sure you’ll appreciate nothing is confirmed as yet and it will only be feasible if restrictions are continuing to lift as per the roadmap.

There will of course be more information coming up in due course via the Support Group Facebook page too, once we know what we can and can’t do!!

So in the meantime watch this space and keep everything crossed for the data and dates to align!

Sorry for vagueness, but that’s par for the course in all of this isn’t it!!

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## Semington Past

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*Raymond Heard*

Linda and I moved to Semington in 1980 because of my work. Although I was born in Wiltshire, we had no connection to Semington or so I first thought... I believed my only connection with this part of Wiltshire was through my paternal grandmother Emily Elizabeth Heard nee Moxham and great-grandmother Jemima Heard nee Watts, who both came from Potterne. Little did I know what I would later unearth.

Since my retirement one of my hobbies has been researching the family tree and I have found connections in Canada, Australia, Tasmania, USA, and Ireland. As a result, I have been able to make contact with my global family and we have made visits to family in Canada, Australia and Tasmania.

Through my research I now have five family trees with 25,109 names and over 4,000 associated photos. But closer to home up came the Semington connections! Mary Watts who is a cousin three times removed, married John Naish who was a resident of Semington in 1891. Adelaide Naish their daughter was married to Henry James Stockwell who was the grocer and sub-postmaster in Semington from 1891 to 1911. Their daughter also called Adelaide who was my cousin five times removed was the granddaughter of Mary and John and in 1911 was a post office assistant in Semington. Adelaide married William Jonah Bolwell in 1913 and went on to have four children.

The four children were Henry William Bolwell 1914-1993, Ronald Charles Bolwell 1915-1998. Adelaide M.N. Bolwell, and Muriel A Bolwell 1925-2021. Muriel married Kenneth G Gover in 1945. Through my research into my family tree I found out that Muriel and her siblings are all cousins six times removed and thus my connection to Semington goes back much further than I knew!

The final twist? Linda worked in Semington Post Office as an assistant in the 80s.....

*Get hunting on your family trees , you never know what you will find.*

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## Michelle Donelan

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*MP for Chippenham Ward*

As we take the next big step on the roadmap out of lockdown, it has been fantastic to see the shops reopening and to see our beer gardens once again welcoming residents, albeit with a mild beginning to the month! The lengths which the Somerset Arms have gone to, making their garden Covid-secure and creating as much space as possible has been incredibly impressive, particularly with the construction of the two marquees to drink and eat under. I hear the actual reopening was a distinct success and I know many residents will be thrilled to see their local once again pouring pints and cooking up meals to serve on the table and not just to takeaway.

One of the things I have made my priority during the pandemic is to support our pubs and to support our high streets, putting the case to my ministerial colleagues that they are the heartbeat of villages like Semington and desperately need our support. With a new round of “Restart Grants” expected to shortly open through Wiltshire Council, I want to make sure local shops and businesses in Semington get their applications in as soon as possible as I know how vital the grants will be for the cost of preparing and reopening in the weeks and months to come. You can find out the details online, but please do get in contact if you need any help: <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/business-advice-support-covid19-grants>

Finally, with the death of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh in April, I know residents will want to share in sending our thoughts and prayers to the Queen and members of the Royal Family at this time. Here in Wiltshire, as around the entire country, so many people made a personal connection with Prince Philip and actively enjoyed working towards one of his lasting legacies - the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, building a sense of accomplishment and achievement through charity and through the outdoors. With more and more of our loved hobbies, recreations and activities restarting, I think we can all draw lessons from the example he gave in living life to the fullest and giving back to the place we call home.

If you would like to speak to me about any issue, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me at [michelle.donelan.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:michelle.donelan.mp@parliament.uk) or by calling 01249 704465. You can also write or call to arrange a COVID-secure surgery appointment with me to discuss anything over the phone.

We had what is hopefully our last Zoom meeting on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April. With guidelines permitting we can hopefully meet in person next month. Details to follow.

At our Zoom meeting the winners of our Easter competition were announced. 1st and 2nd Fran, 3rd Carole. The entries were so well done by everyone that I'm glad I delegated the judging to someone else. We obviously have a talented group of ladies!

See you all next month in the meantime stay safe. Take care.

Community Thank You's



From Pat Hiscocks

I would like to thank all the neighbours and villagers for their lovely flowers and gifts celebrating my birthday. It was all very much appreciated.

Paws for Thought



There are many other things Jesus did. If every one of them were written down, I suppose the whole world would not be big enough for all the books that would be written

It's in the Bible; John 21, verse 25



Semington Lamb – Jacqui Hailey

Lacock Lambs – Sue McDine



Kevin the Kingfisher – Jacqui Hailey



Squizzer the Squirrel – Roy McDine

## Semington Camera Club

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Dandelions featured last month on the Semington Camera Club Facebook page. Myths, magic and folklore surround dandelions, at times called the shepherd's clock because the flower opens one hour after sunrise and closes at dusk. They are also known as a predictor of the future, with folklore saying that when you blow a dandelion seed head the number of seeds left indicating how many children you will have. Making wishes is also associated with dandelion seed heads. When you see the beautiful images captured by the Camera Club members you can see how such magic and myths have evolved.



Photo Credits:  
Clockwise from top left:  
Sue Wilthew  
Susan O'Connor  
Susan O'Connor



## Door Safety Sticker Scheme

*Angela Gifford – CEO Able Community Care*

Able Community Care is a Norfolk home care company which was established in 1980 and now provides care 24/7 throughout the UK and beyond. We continually read news/articles flagging up the activities of doorstep criminals: fraudulent roofers, gardeners, service officials and other non-genuine visitors who target older people. Over the years we have also had first-hand evidence from our own clients and carers.

As a company we have decided to see if we can help prevent this on a small scale and so we have had the Door Safety Sticker to give away to older people. To date we have sent out 60,000 upon request, since February 2019.

If you would like to take up this offer please call 01603 764567 or email to **info@ablecommunitycare.com** We will not keep your details other than to send out the door sticker to you.

## Keeping It Local – Seend News

*Rich Walker*

Seend News delivers newspapers and magazines on a daily basis to Semington and the surrounding areas and what could be nicer than reading your paper over breakfast without getting out of your pyjamas!

Contact Rich on 07702 868863 to set up your newspaper delivery or pop into the shop on Rusty Lane, Seend, SN12 6NS to see what else this local village shop can offer.

Rich has asked us to point out that with the change of management of Seend Post Office the new proprietor is unwilling to collect newspaper payments, vouchers or take details of cancellations. These can be done in the usual way. Rich is very sorry about this.

## Catholic News

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

**Weekly Timings: Please check newsletter for changes**

**St John the Baptist – Trowbridge Sunday & Weekday Masses:**

For the duration of the Corona Virus Mass times are:

Saturdays 12.00pm and 6.00pm (Vigil Mass), Sundays 10.30am & 12.00pm

Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9.00am, Tuesday 6pm

**St Bernadette's – Westbury Mass times are:**

Sunday 9.00am and Thursday 10.00am

Masses will be live streamed each day and are recorded for later viewing. For social distancing and safety protocols will be followed, and face masks are required to be worn whilst in church.

**Live Streaming Details:** All masses are streamed live on [www.churchservices.tv](http://www.churchservices.tv) or on YouTube 'Mass in Trowbridge'

**Parish Newsletter:** This is available weekly on the Parish website:

[www.stjohnthebaptisttrowbridge.co.uk](http://www.stjohnthebaptisttrowbridge.co.uk) Should you wish to have an emailed copy please contact Francis Geraghty – details as below.

**The Bible in a Year with Fr Mike Schmitz:** Ascension's Bible in a Year Podcast, hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz and featuring Jeff Cavins, guides Catholics through the Bible in 365 daily episodes. Each 20-25 minute episode includes: two to three scripture readings, a reflection from Fr. Mike Schmitz and guided prayer to help you hear God's voice in his Word. <https://ascensionpress/pages/biy-registration>

**THE NEW 300 CLUB 2021:** The monthly draws 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 on any of the above contact **Francis Geraghty tel 01380 871083 and email [fgeraghty303@btinternet.com](mailto:fgeraghty303@btinternet.com)**

## Thought From The Curate

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*Rev. Joy Albone*

I am writing this during the days of national mourning following the death of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, when Her Majesty the Queen and the other members of the Royal Family are facing decisions that have affected so many families in the last year, over who to invite to the funeral service, and what sort of service it will be. The limits on attendance at such services have caused heartbreak to so many who have been unable to participate in the final farewell to their loved one, or who have felt that their final farewell was not the memorial or celebration of a person's life that they had anticipated prior to Covid.

In the last year, so much of what we took for granted in life and death has been put on hold not least those celebrations and times of reflection that mark the key moments in life, the key rites of passage; birth, marriage and death. Births have not been marked with cuddles and gifts from the extended families and in our churches it has not been possible to baptise children into the family of God. Most couples have postponed their weddings, although the few that have taken place have enjoyed a much more intimate ceremony than initially planned. It has been a privilege to be part of two such weddings in St. Michael's Church last year, when the couples love for each other and their desire to celebrate their union in the eyes of God were possibly even more evident than they might have been in a packed church with a big wedding celebration to follow.

However, it is the funerals, where myself and other colleagues have felt the restrictions most keenly and have been aware of them for all who mourn. Even the simple action of a touch on the arm has not been possible. I starkly recall the first funeral I took during the lockdown last May where the widow had to drive herself to her husband's funeral and even her children were unable to offer her the comfort of a hug.

In these days of Easter, when we are beginning to emerge from the darkness of Covid restrictions into what we hope will be the light of new life provided by the vaccines; we also celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus and we are reminded once more that Jesus is the light of the world and darkness always gives way to light! Living and dying is an unbroken pattern for all of us but we live as people of the light!

So, I pray that you, along with members of the Royal Family and all who mourn will know the comfort and joy of the light of the world in the coming days.



## **WORSHIP**

**DURING LOCKDOWN**

Following the introduction of the latest national Covid-19 lockdown the Ministry Team and PCC Standing Committees have decided that our worship should now be focused online rather than in church. In this way we can keep everyone as safe as possible. Hopefully the lockdown measures and vaccine programme will mean that soon we will be able to gather together again for worship in church.

All our pre-recorded Online Services can be watched by going to our website <https://canalsidebenefice.org.uk/> and clicking on the link on the front page.

## **PRIVATE PRAYER**

**DURING LOCKDOWN**

Although our churches are generally closed at the moment St Michael's in Hilperton will continue to be open for private prayer each THURSDAY FROM 10am-12 Noon.

If you would like to visit any of our churches at other times for a period of private prayer please contact the Benefice Office and we will do our best to arrange that for you.

## **SUPPORT**

**DURING LOCKDOWN**

This is a difficult time for us all and if you need, or you are aware of others who may need support, please contact the Benefice Office. Similarly let us know if you are able to offer shopping or other help - and thank you to those who are already providing this support. If you would like someone to pray with you or for you, or if you would like to speak with someone, please contact us.

## **CONTACTS**

**DURING LOCKDOWN**

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CURATE: Joy Albone 07931638524 [canalsidecurate@gmail.com](mailto:canalsidecurate@gmail.com)