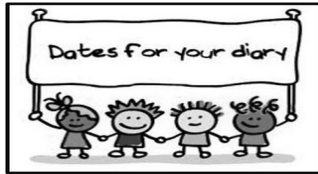


SUMMER 2021



SEMINGTON PARISH MAGAZINE

Minister for Semington:
Rev John Rees
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Semington WI

Cream Tea - Wednesday 7th July Carole's House

Thursday 12th August 7.30pm Village Hall

Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 14th August 7.30pm Village Hall

Wednesday 11th August 7.30pm Village Hall

Neighbourhood Plan Community Meeting

Wednesday 21st July 7.30pm Village Hall

Village Litter Pick

Saturday 24th July 10.00am Village Hall

Semington Village Summer Event

Donation drop off Monday 26th July to Village Hall

Thursday 29th July 5.30pm to 7.00pm

The Big Day **Saturday 31st July 2.00pm to 4pm** See back page for details

Christians in Semington

Bev Woodward

Christians in Semington - are meeting via zoom, to pray for our community, on **Wednesdays 7th July and 4th August at 8.00pm**. Please contact Jack Woodward, 870784, for the zoom link.

Housegroup - every other Tuesday, via zoom, at 8.00pm. If you'd like to discuss how the Bible helps us to live as God wants us to, phone Jack/Bev 870784 or David/Pam 870030 for more details.

Advance notice - We'll be celebrating Harvest on **Sunday 12th September** this year.

Editor's Note

Gillian Airey

Well I had planned this edition very carefully as I had hoped I would be sipping a Superbock on the Algarve when normally I would be playing editor...The best laid plans and all that! So here we are with our Summer edition. This year's summer cover comes courtesy of Freya Hallett in Ducklings Class, inspired by the plants and hanging baskets in her garden.

As always my thanks to A M Print Copy for sponsoring our colour summer cover. Our next deadline is **Sunday 22nd August** which will be for the September issue – I look forward to hearing from you my email is **semparmag@icloud.com**

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**

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This Month I'm a Little Out of Practice

Gilly Airey

What can I say – I have found myself a little rusty as I edge back into a more normal life and, I'm not going to lie, a little out of practice. Let's start with my ability to drive. Oh, don't get me wrong if I'm going to Waitrose or Sainsbury's in the 'Sham I am more than capable but after months of only driving a maximum of four miles in each direction my ability to drive long distances has become, how shall I put it, 'interesting'. Although Gorgeous Hubby did say that my driving was less interesting and possibly more death-defying, as I navigated into the fast lane of the M4 at what I considered to be a responsible 60 mph, because, let's face it after six months of pootling about at 30 miles per hour I was going twice as fast as normal right?

Then of course there was jumping right back in at the deep end of Aquafit. This is going to be a doddle I thought, especially as I had enrolled in an online Pilates Class back in January. I really quite enjoyed the online classes especially the lying down bit.... Once I was back in the water I realised that I could not have been more wrong. Besides failing to stay in my designated space (never good when social distancing is still expected even in the water) I had muscles long since dormant screaming at me for mercy and suggesting to me that maybe the Pilates lying down exercise malarkey may be an easier way to go!

Over the May half term we were lucky enough to have our three grandchildren over to stay – just like the old days, except the last time we had them altogether was back in October 2019 BC (Before Covid). It will be like riding a bike we thought and the fact that they were now 18 months older must mean it would be easy-peasy. That is until you factor in that it had been so long since anyone had stayed with us we were completely out of practice at having more than just me, Gorgeous Hubby and a very old puss-cat let alone a house full of very energetic, hungry, excitable little people. Little people who needed to do everything now, at once, while eating foods with highly questionable dietary values (because they implored us that Mummy and Daddy let them). We were so out of practice we fell for it twice, with Gorgeous George declaring he was allowed Coca Cola and that he loved pepperoni pizza. The former left us trying to calm the mother of all sugar rushes and the latter, well shall we say it was a fragrant after burn! There was one thing that we clearly hadn't lost our touch with and that was getting up to mischief with them – I can highly recommend Marks and Spencer's chocolate squirty cream served straight into the mouths of babes and adults alike, practice, shall we say makes perfect!

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Parish Council Matters

Peter Smith, Chair of the Parish Council

Neighbourhood Planning Meeting – the Parish Council wants to set up a Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group of up to 10 people drawn from both council members and local residents. The role of this group will be to help residents, businesses and community groups to shape the focus of the neighbourhood plan so that it properly represents us all and how we want our village to be in the years ahead. A community meeting has been arranged for **21st July, Village Hall, 7.30pm**, to gauge support for the neighbourhood plan and to set up the steering group. The council invites anyone interested, and particularly those interested in being members of the steering group, to come to the meeting.

Housing Needs Survey – this take place between **26th July and 30th August**. It will be conducted online, but there will be opportunities for those not equipped with a computer to complete a hard copy. Look out for a leaflet soon to arrive through your letterbox, which will explain all.

Neighbourhood Watch – is to be restarted over the coming months. Background work is going on now, and there should be more details available when the September magazine comes out.

Local Plan Campaign – at the start of Spring, many of you sent letters (over 70 in all) to Wiltshire Councillors based on a template letter from the Parish Council. In the absence so far of any response, the Parish Council thinks it is time to remind Wiltshire Council that we're still here and waiting for an answer. So another template letter will soon be posted on the Parish Council website and through the community Facebook page. It would be great if you could rejoin the campaign and write again, please.

Village Litter Pick – will next be held on **Saturday 24th July at 10.00am**, meeting at the **Village Hall** car park, so it's all tidy for the fete a week later. Bring gloves and a hi-viz vest, please!

Council Membership – is now full, the council having co-opted Jacqui Hailey and Steve Rimmer at the June meeting. A big welcome to both.

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Natures Notes - Summer Woods

Walking the various paths round the village in June it's easy to come across cheerful red campion flowers. Most often these are either in a small clump or solitary and the colour can range from a pale pink to a rich carmine. In Little Marsh, there's a large patch of them tucked away between the old road and a field running across to the A350. It's as unexpected as it is welcome.

It's fair to say that there is not a lot of poetry devoted to the campion, and the most you can hope for is a passing reference such as this one by the Victorian Gloucestershire writer Mary Howitt. She is best known for *The Spider and the Fly* which is a cautionary, moralistic verse warning against those who'd use flattery to disguise their malign intentions. *Summer Woods* is quite different. Here are the first five verses:

Come ye into the Summer woods;
There entereth no annoy;
All greenly wave the chestnut leaves,
And the earth is full of joy.

I cannot tell you half the sights
Of beauty you may see,
The bursts of golden sunshine,
And many a shady tree.

There, lightly swung in bowery glades,
The honeysuckles twine;
There blooms the rose-red campion,
And the dark blue columbine.

There grows the four-leaved plant "true love,"
In some dusk woodland spot;
There grows the enchanter's night-shade,
And the wood forget-me-not.

And many a merry bird is there,
Unscared by lawless men:
The blue-winged jay, the woodpecker.
And the golden-crested wren.



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Melksham Food Bank

Julia Wade – 01380 870137



As I write, in June, I have just delivered a fantastic amount of donations from our village to the Melksham Foodbank. Your consistency in contributing every week is so helpful to the volunteers who run the Foodbank. Thank you all. That said, donations are generally dropping a bit now, and recently, they told me, they have had to buy in some items that they were short of. Financial donations are also very welcome, for that reason I would like to thank Mick Mortimer for, once again, donating to the cause.

Every week I post their latest specific food requests on the village Facebook page, but a full list is on the noticeboard in the Church porch. If you want to know their specific requests and you are not on Facebook then do ring me and ask (tel. 01380 870137). At the time of writing they are particularly short of:- tinned meat/hot dogs, biscuits, tinned veg, squash, adults and children's sweets, but also instant mash, tinned potatoes, jam, sugar and tinned rice pudding. Nothing fresh, please. The Foodbank has its own Facebook page and website www.melkshamfoodbank.org.uk

Please take to either the Somerset Arms pub on Wednesdays before 6.00pm, or put in St. George's Church porch, any time. If the pub is closed then please leave your donation in the marquee at the rear of the pub. Please see the Support Group's Newsletter on the village website for any changes to these arrangements. Hard copies are available for those not on the internet.

Semington Book Club

Angela Grodzicka

I was hoping to be able to say that Book Club will meet over the summer but hey ho!

We're hoping that subject to the road map going ahead in July it is hoped that Book Club will be running again in September and we will hope to meet in the pub as we used to do.

Keep everything crossed!

Parish Council Meeting

Abridged Minutes From Meeting Held Wednesday 16th June 2021

Present: Councillors P Smith (Chairman), V Bodman, R Bruges, S Chown, M Kasasian ,W Scott, C Wade, S Rimmer, J Hailey and the Clerk Roger Coleman. Wiltshire Council Cllr. J Seed attended (Part-time). There was one member of the public present initially.

Co-option of a New Member: The Council **resolved** to co-opt two new members – namely J Hailey and S Rimmer. The Council co-opted Jacquolyn Hailey and Steven Rimmer as members of Semington Parish Council. J Hailey and S Rimmer each signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office Form in the presence of the Clerk who then countersigned them as the Proper Officer of the Council.

Wiltshire Council Report: Cllr. Seed commented that he was pleased to be able to continue his service as a Wiltshire councillor to Semington – his thirteenth year of such service and he gave a brief report on the following topics; **Housing Market Area (HMA)**. The new leadership at Wiltshire Council following the 6th May 2021 elections appear to be more receptive to arguing for a reduced number of required dwellings for Wiltshire and may be willing to re-examine the case for Semington to be moved from the Trowbridge to the Chippenham Housing Market Area. He acknowledged the campaign promoted by Semington Parish Council for this change of HMA and he encouraged the Parish Council to continue with this campaign including writing again to the relevant officers at Wiltshire Council and seeking their support. **Neighbourhood Plans (NP)**. He stressed the need for a strong management team/steering group to drive the development of a NP and for the direct involvement of the Parish Council in any decision-making. He advocated a joint Parish Council/Villagers Steering Committee and for the Parish Council ultimately to take the lead in the NP development.

Neighbourhood Plans (NP): The Chairman reported that following a recent meeting on this subject, it had been proposed that a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) be formed comprising parish councillors and parishioners, totalling some eight to twelve members – the latter appointed because of particular skills or knowledge that they possessed and that would benefit the group. He stated that it was also proposed to launch the commencement of the NP development with a Public/Community Meeting in the Village Hall on **21st July** to which councillors and parishioners would be invited and it would include a presentation by an organisation that had successfully produced a NP. A Q and A session would follow the presentation. Cllr. Bruges stated that the NPSG must have clear, unambiguous Terms of Reference and equally clear instructions regarding ‘governance’. He added that the Parish Council should not direct the NPSG in its work and that the development of a NP must be a ‘consultative process’ that had the support of the whole community. The Parish Council **resolved** that the Neighbourhood Plan Designated Area would be ‘The Civil Parish of Semington’. Cllr. Scott reminded councillors that it had been agreed previously that any decision regarding the development of a NP would only be taken following this public event to gauge the community support for such an enterprise.

Housing Market Area (HMA): The Parish Council noted the comments made earlier by Cllr. Seed and **resolved** to continue its campaign for Semington to revert to the Chippenham HMA and that a formal letter be written to Wiltshire Council requesting this change of HMA to Chippenham. Cllr. Scott agreed to write this letter on behalf of the Council. The Council also agreed to invite parishioners to write to Wiltshire Council - especially those parishioners who had written previously – to write again in support of the campaign. Cllr. Smith agreed to draft a possible letter for parishioners to copy and send to Wiltshire Council and to publicize this letter on the website and Facebook.

Rural Housing Need Survey (RHNS): Cllr. Bodman reported that the RHNS would take place **26th July to 30th August** and that it would be conducted ‘on-line’ with provision made for those households without internet connection. She explained that there would be a ‘leaflet drop’ – to advertise the RHNS and it was agreed that the NP Community meeting on **21st July** would be advertised at the same time. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Bodman for initiating the RHNS.

Finance: Total Balance as at 16th June 2021 - £40,901.81

Environment and Streetscene: It was agreed that Cllr. Rimmer would be appointed to this Theme Group. Cllr. Bruges stated that he had photographed some signs that may be suitable for Semington. The Chairman reported that he had discussed this subject with Wiltshire Highways. It was suggested that the Parish Council surveys the village and presents a proposal for changes, or additions, to the existing signage and presents this proposal to the CATG meeting. Cllr. Scott requested that there is an Agenda item entitled ‘Rights of Way’ at each Parish Council meeting. This was agreed by the Council. Cllr. Scott stated that owing to a dedicated group of parishioners a number of Rights of Way between Littlemarsh and the A350 road had been cleared and re-established after years of neglect. Councillors expressed their gratitude to the parishioners. Cllr. Bruges stated that he had been exploring with Hilperton landowners and parishioners the possibility of a ‘Nature Corridor’ being established in the Hilperton area to offset the proposed large scale housing development planned. Cllr. Smith advised the Council that Path SEMI 9/10 and the path along High Street below the bus stop required cutting back. Cllr Bruges added that the path behind the Poultry House also required clearing. The Chairman stated that he would request the Parish Steward to take the appropriate action.

Transport and Traffic: Cllr. Wade reported that he had attended the CATG meeting and had presented the issues raised by Little Marsh parishioners – especially with respect to speeding traffic and anti-social behaviour by uninvited individuals.

Community and Communication: It was agreed that Cllr. Hailey would be appointed to this Theme Group. Cllr. Bodman confirmed that the subject of the proposed logo for the website was in hand. Cllr. Rimmer invited the Parish Council to consider publicising the annual meeting of the Beer, Sports, Ethics and Values Event that is held in the village.

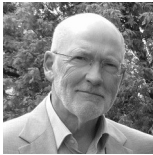
Date of the next meeting. 14th July 2021.

Meet Your Parish Council



Peter Smith – Chairman of the Parish Council

I moved to Semington in 2014, and loved the great community spirit here. I want to help harness community working to protect what we want protected, improve what we want improved, and help the village thrive.



Bill Scott – Councillor

I have lived on Pound Lane since the late 1980s and have a particular interest in planning issues, keeping rights of way open, and wildlife gardening.



Vicky Bodman – Councillor

I've lived in the village for over 7 years now. I enjoy helping bring the community together and am a co-founder of the Semington, Little Marsh and Littleton Support Group. You'll often see me running through the village.



Richard Bruges – Councillor

Born in Semington, I moved away in the 1980s and returned in 2012. My business life is in green product development and my interests include the environment, rural life and the smallholding we operate at Brook House. I aim to bring my experience of business and other communities to my involvement with the council.



Colin Wade – Councillor

I have lived in Semington since the 1980s and want to see the rural nature of the village preserved with access to the countryside which is safe for all users including walkers, cyclists and horse riders. I want to ensure the village hall continues to be a well supported and used community asset.



Mike Kasasian – Councillor

I moved to Semington 6 years ago and joined the Parish Council in May 2018, having a keen interest in this lovely, friendly village. I'm happy to undertake any task but prefer it to be outdoors.



Jacqui Hailey – Councillor

I moved to Semington in 2017, and have never looked back - one of my aims is to keep Semington such a wonderful place to live. I am a keen walker and enjoy photography and wildlife - you'll often see me walking through the village, along the canal and the neighbouring fields.



Siobhan Chown – Councillor

I have only lived in Semington since 2020 but have already been overwhelmed by its sense of community spirit. As a founding member of the Semington Community Group, I have jumped into village life with both feet and having been "persuaded" to join the Parish Council in the summer of 2020 and now find myself busy with many, many things and loving it!



Steve Rimmer – Councillor

I have lived in Semington with my wife Barbara since 1985. We live in Highfield Close I moved to Wiltshire to work for Avon Rubber finally retiring in 2019. My interests lie in attempting to improve the environment by planting trees wherever we can get access to land to do so. My photo shows me with my grandson who is now 9 and is currently living with us in Semington.



Roger Coleman – Clerk to the Parish Council

As Clerk to Semington Parish Council since 2002 I have witnessed and accommodated many legislative and Council changes over that period. It continues to be a privilege to be part of such a committed team as the Parish Council.

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Your Wiltshire Councillor News

Jonathon Seed

There will always be political changes after political elections and clearly this is the case in Wiltshire. A new Wiltshire Council with new leadership provides new opportunities and policies for the council, councillors and most importantly the county of Wiltshire. The new leader, Richard Clewer, has appointed a new cabinet and also filled the lesser appointments with councillors eager to support his administration. Some cabinet members are new to both the council and cabinet and we all wish both the newcomers and returning cabinet members and indeed all councillors well in their new roles. Most importantly we have hope for new policies delivering new opportunity across Wiltshire.

It will be no secret that my own election in May was a bitter/sweet affair. I was devastated at not being able to take up the role of Police and Crime Commissioner after such long and difficult campaign and such a resounding election victory. That is all still sub-judice but more on this will emerge in due course. I was however very pleased with my significant election victory in Melksham Without West and Rural and I have started to pick up the reins with both the old and new residents and Parish Councils. I look forward to representing you over the next four years and in doing so I want to make clear that I am always available to help residents with local issues. I can be contacted by e mail at jonathon.seed@wiltshire.gov.uk or by telephone at 0777 0774463. E mail is the preferred method of contact and allows for a more considered response.

Semington WI

Deb Hurn



We decided to have a games night for our last meeting. We played bingo (probably the longest first line & full house ever). However, it created a lot of laughter as did guess who's the baby and who does the car belong too!!! Laughter is something we all need at the moment. It was lovely to see everyone, some that we hadn't seen face to face for over a year.

Our next meeting will be at Carole's. Carole has very kindly offered to hold a cream tea for members (pre-booking required) at her house on **Wednesday 7th July at 2.30pm**. There will be no July meeting in the Village Hall. **Thursday August 12th 7.30pm** will be our next meeting in the hall.

Take care everyone.

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www.nextdaystairlifts.com

Michelle Donelan - MP for Chippenham Ward

With enormous pride, I watched the Red Arrows fly over our constituency for the G7 Summit this month, representing the UK and the unrivalled excellence of our Royal Air Force. It was another reminder of the deep and abiding relationship we have with the Armed Forces here in Wiltshire and the Red Arrows are simply the pinnacle of professionalism when it comes to showing our closest international friends and allies the best of Britain. The same talent for military precision was on display when the Queen hosted the President of the United States and First Lady and a Guard of Honour formed of The Queen's Company First Battalion Grenadier Guards gave a royal salute in the glorious sunshine. I could not think of a better welcome to Britain and a finer exhibition of our military traditions.

The same sunshine has bathed us all these last few weeks and I know residents will have joined me in making the most of the weather while it lasts, enjoying the fantastic canal and river walks around Semington and the stunning views of our waterways. After the year and a bit we have had, the blue skies, shining sun and fresh green grass are a delight to witness and remind me of why we love this place and why we continue to work hard and protect our lovely environment. As we look ahead and build out of this pandemic, I firmly believe we need to preserve the gains we have made in improving air quality, conserving local wildlife and thinking about the steps we can all take to safeguard the countryside for generations to come.

I also visited the vaccination centre at Spencer Sports and Social Club this month as I know many Semington residents will have already had at least one of their jabs and are very aware of just how amazing the team at the centre are. Quick, safe and friendly, they are doing a fantastic job and I made sure they knew how much we value their contributions and their hard work under tricky circumstances. I want to finally echo their call for everyone to attend their second vaccine appointment given the higher than usual number of DNAs (did not attend) at recent second dose clinics. Please do not miss your second dose and let's beat COVID together.

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** 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.

Priority for People: Melksham 2021 – Your Views Wanted!

Gerald Milward-Oliver from Townswork

How do you get to and from Melksham? Do you drive, walk, cycle or use a bus? Do you use the train service from the station? How could it all be improved? It's time to have your say!

Prior to the pandemic, Melksham Town Council commissioned a review of opportunities and challenges facing the town over the next 15 years, including the climate emergency and our changing lives. The report suggested a strategy covering the movement of people, goods and vehicles throughout the town and its hinterland.

Called 'Priority for People: Melksham 2021', the initiative starts by gathering evidence – with a survey asking for YOUR experience and opinions.

The survey can be found at **www.priorityforpeople.org**

It's designed to help build a clear understanding of the habits, wants and needs of those who move into and through Melksham – so the Council can plan ahead effectively and sustainably in a way that improves all of our daily lives, with long-term options as well as short-term fixes.

The Council would like to hear from anyone living and working in Melksham and its surrounding Wiltshire communities, including Beanacre, Berryfield, Bowerhill, Shaw, The Spa, Whitley – as well as Atworth, Broughton Gifford, Bulkington, Great Hinton, Holt, Keevil, Poulshot, Seend, Semington and Steeple Ashton.

Please complete the survey before **25th July 2021**. You can also contact the organisers direct through **feedback@priorityforpeople.org**

Those preferring paper can get a copy of the survey from a number of local shops and pubs or from Melksham Town Hall.

Your views matter!



Rural housing needs survey Semington

26 July - 30 August 2021

We are asking all residents and those people who do not live, but have a connection to the parish, to complete the housing needs survey.

The information will be used: to identify local affordable housing needs; to appreciate local residents' current housing situation and to find out what aspirations people have.

To access the survey and view housing needs survey information, please visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/housing-local-housing-needs Link to the survey is under the Current Housing Needs Surveys section.

For more information or assistance with completing the survey, please contact:
Vicky Bodman
Telephone: 07815015470
Email: semingtonvolunteers@gmail.com

Wiltshire Council



CHURCH SERVICES



In addition to the 'LIVE' services detailed below ONLINE services will also be available each weekend. See our WEBSITE for full details

CANALSIDEBENEFICE.ORG.UK

Booking is required for all 'LIVE' services via Michael Gamble
canalsideoffice@gmail.com / 07795400262

SUNDAY
11th
JULY

MORNING WORSHIP
9.15am St George's, Semington

SUNDAY
18th
JULY

HOLY COMMUNION
9.15am St George's, Semington

SUNDAY
8th
AUGUST

MORNING WORSHIP
9.15am St George's, Semington

SUNDAY
15th
AUGUST

HOLY COMMUNION
9.15am St George's, Semington

Paws for Thought



The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

It's in the Bible; 1 Samuel 16 verse 7b

-
Sue Cook

As we come to the final weeks of the school year for the children at St George's we look back on how much the children (and staff) have achieved. We are so proud of each and every one of them, and really hope to be able to return to some form of normal in September. For this month's magazine, I decided to ask each class for a round up of their class's favourite events to share with the community, so here it is...

Ducklings Class (Reception / Year 1) Over the year Ducklings have enjoyed a range of topics from Julia Donaldson to Animals. We enjoyed a walk around the village to see if we could find The Gruffalo that had been spotted outside a popular village location. Ducklings children also made a very exciting discovery as a Dragon left its egg in the outside area for the children to look after. On a Thursday afternoon we have been enjoying some outdoor learning and the children's favourite (which due to the rain we had to bring indoors) was Pendulum Painting. Finally from Ducklings, we would like to thank everyone for their huge support for our Easter Bunny Hunt, which raised over £500 to make improvements to our outdoor learning area. Keep an eye out for our next event to be advertised soon.

Hérons Class (Year 1 / Year 2) Herons class made lighthouses as part of our 'Sailing the Seas' topic by combining materials and including an electrical circuit. They also used maps to locate lighthouses across the South West, learned about the main features within a lighthouse and researched a girl called Grace Darling, who lived in a lighthouse and rowed out to sea to save the survivors of a shipwreck during a terrible storm in 1838.

Swans Class (Year 3 / Year 4) Swans Class have been very busy recently making volcanoes as part of our Extreme Earth topic! There has been a lot of arty mess using mod-roc and paints to help create great models. The children then went outside to find out if our volcanoes were active, dormant, or extinct!

Kingfisher Class (Year 5 / Year 6) Kingfisher Class are busy rehearsing their end of term play "The Pirates of the Curry Bean" which is a hilarious tale about pirates and missing treasure. They have been learning lots about their bodies in terms of the circulatory system and how blood carries essential nutrients around the body, during which they made 'blood smoothies' Strawberries were used to represent red blood cells, pineapple juice to represent plasma, marshmallows to represent white blood cells and sprinkles were platelets. These were blended in the correct proportions, then the class all tasted the results. They are now learning all about lifecycles. Two pupils from the school also put together a presentation to help raise awareness of Diabetes, they ran an assembly for the Key Stage 2 children, which I hear was excellent. Well done to Darcy and Oliver.

Thank you to everyone in the village for their continued support for our amazing school. We are really excited to welcome our new children to St George's in September and what the next school year holds.

Catholic News

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 and 12.00pm

Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9.00am, and Tuesday 6.00pm

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. 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 or on YouTube 'Mass in Trowbridge'

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

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**

Thoughts From The Rectory

The Revd John Rees

As I write this, the plants in the rectory garden are growing really rapidly. The mix of warm sun and rain we have had in June has transformed the garden – and it is becoming a blaze of colour and the flowers in bud show that it is still not at its best.

During the cold, wet Spring things were very different. I can remember looking at some of my pots to see which plants had survived the winter. I was, with regret, about to consign a fuchsia which had looked lovely last year to my green bin, when I spotted a small green shoot near the base. Instead of throwing it away I put it in a pot filled with new compost and watered it. It is now growing steadily, and I look forward, with anticipation to seeing it flower. But this is not a gardening article – others are far better qualified to write one than me! The growth in my garden reminds me of Jesus' parable of the mustard seed. In this parable Jesus described how a tiny mustard seed grows into the largest of garden plants; a tree so large that birds could shelter in its long branches.

Jesus used this parable to describe how God wants everyone and everything he has created to flourish. He also taught that this happens when we love God and as we love one another and care for the world around us. It has been wonderful to see the community life in Semington grow even stronger in these difficult times. The mutual care and support networks have truly flourished, and the wonderful Foodbank collections show that many in the village care for those in need.

We are just beginning to be able to meet again, with Thursday mornings resuming in the Village Hall and the Fete at the end of the month. It is so lovely to be able to talk to one another again. Although I have been very grateful for Zoom it can never replace human interaction.

At St George's Church we are praying for guidance on how we can contribute to village life as it resumes, whether in the services we offer or in other ways. We also want to make a decision on whether it would be beneficial for the village to have a toilet and drinks facilities in the Church. Please let me know if you have views on any of this. With my best wishes and my thanks to all who work so hard for our village, *John*.



This year's summer event, just like everything else over the last 15 months is going to be a little different!

The fete, just like the Euros will be held at different venues: the Village Hall, the Somerset Arms, Brook House gardens and St Georges Church.

All our usual favourites will be there: teas and cakes, children's games, BBQ, grannies attic, books, plants, gifts, toys, tombola, gin raffle, skittles and entertainment! music and dancing.... including this year Devizes Jubilee Morris Dancers and various bands performing during the afternoon and evening.

We will also have some new special features including displays from the village camera club and our lockdown craft displays (due to be on display all weekend).

We do hope that you will be able to join us and contribute if you would like. This year, instead of house-to-house collections, we will be holding a manned 'drop off' at the village hall between **5.30pm and 7.00pm Monday 26th July to Thursday 29th July** for all of your books, gifts, grannies attic and tombola items. We would be delighted if you could bring your plants and home made cakes along on the day to the Somerset Arms.

This year's event will continue into the evening at the pub with music and BBQ.

By spreading the event throughout the village, we aim to make it safer for all. We are all now used to keeping ourselves safer in public spaces, and by following these 'good practices' on the day, we can make it a safe and enjoyable event.