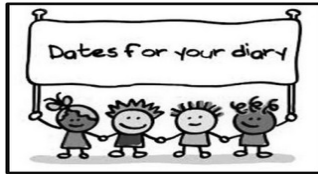


SEPTEMBER 2021



SEMINGTON PARISH MAGAZINE

Minister for Semington:
Rev John Rees
22 Warren Road
Staverton, BA14 6UZ
Tel. 01225 764365



Post Office

Mondays and Thursdays 10am to 12pm From 2nd September
Books and puzzles available for sale in the hall during these times.

Food Bank Collections

Wednesdays 5.00pm deadline Church Porch and Pub

Coffee Mornings

Thursdays 10.00am to 12.00pm Village Hall

Mobile Library

Wednesday 8th September 10.30am Littlemarsh

Wednesday 22nd September 10.30am Village Hall

Semington WI

Thursday 9th September 7.30pm Village Hall

Harvest Supper

Saturday 11th September 7.30pm Village Hall

Somerset Arms Quiz

Sunday 12th September TBC

Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 15th September 7.30pm Village Hall

Book Club

Thursday 16th September 8.00pm Somerset Arms
(See details on page 19)

Crafternoon

Wednesday 29th September 2.00pm to 4.00pm 29 Highfield Close
(see details on page 19)

Christians in Semington

Bev Woodward

Christians in Semington - are meeting via zoom, to pray for our community, on **Wednesday 1st September 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.

At the time of going to print, we are hoping to have a Harvest Supper on **Saturday 11th September, 7.30pm** in the Village Hall - cold meat salad with a vegetarian option, scrumptious puds, and all for £5 adults, £2.50 under 18's. Tickets are available at coffee morning or from Bev Woodward - 870784. The following day, **Sunday 12th September**, there will be further celebration at Harvest Communion, **9.15am**, in the Church.

News From Semington Social Club

Gerald Taylor

After 17 months of lockdown we are hoping to reopen mid-September. This will all depend if we can get some bar staff. Due to health issues Gerald has had to pack up working behind the bar.

If you want a Social Club we need bar staff, for further details contact Gerald on **01380 870530**.

Editor's Note

Gillian Airey

I'm not going to lie, I am genuinely a little bit excited about our September edition of the Parish Magazine, because for the first time since March 2020 BC (Before Covid) we see the return of both the Book Club and Crafternoon, as well as hopefully the return of the Semington Social Club (see above).

Deadline for the October edition is **Sunday 19th September** – but if inspiration strikes earlier feel free to send over your contribution at any time, it really is most welcome. My email is semparmag@icloudcom

*Cleeve Cats
Boarding Cattery
Seend Cleeve*

We Only Board Cats



www.cleevecats.co.uk
01380 828025

**GOOD QUALITY
HARDWOOD LOGS**

FOR SALE

**CALL JOHN
ON
01380 870264**

**HALL
FOR HIRE**

**Semington Village
Capacity 100**

Phone 07519393668

or

**Gerald 01380
870530**



**LAWN HOUSE
CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC**

**Lawn House, 29 High Street
Steeple Ashton, Wiltshire, BA14 6EU
Tel. 01380 871555
www.lawnhouse.co.uk**

*Treatment of back & neck pain,
shoulder, arm, hand, hip, leg & foot pain,
arthritis, spondylitis, tennis elbow,
slipped disc, pins and needles,
headache & migraine, sports injuries
Children treated*

**S.J. PRIOR B.Sc., D.C.
DOCTOR OF CHIROPRACTIC**

**REGISTERED MEMBER OF THE
BRITISH CHIROPRACTIC
ASSOCIATION**

This Month I Have a Spare Hour

Gilly Airey

When I left home to go to university 36 short years ago – my Mum and I started a tradition which we only deviated from when one of us was on holiday. Every Sunday morning Mum used to phone me and we would natter. I mean we are talking about back in the '80s when if you were lucky student digs may have had a phone, and if they did, they were either a rudimentary pay phone or more likely incoming calls only, the concept of which must seem like, really odd, to you youngsters out there.

My Mum would tell me that my Dad would consign himself to the Sunday papers whilst we literally talked about nothing for the best part of an hour each Sunday. It didn't really matter that we were miles apart and that in addition to the phone call Mum would send me a handwritten letter every Saturday with a £10.00 note carefully stapled to it, we still found stuff to talk about.

Even through all the years of my hotel career we would still find time for our 'Sunday Phone Call'. In the later years when Sundays became my own, Gorgeous Hubby would supply the coffee as I settled down for my weekly natter, careful always never to go over the hour because BT are cheeky blighters and charge you the whole hour if you go even one minute over! Please don't ask me what we talked about, if we were to analyse the content we would probably have shrugged our shoulders and replied not a lot really – because it's not only a girl thing, it's a mother daughter thing too.

During the last lockdown after Dad had shuffled off this mortal coil I upped my phone calls to three or four times a week. My sisters and I trying desperately to offset the isolation that I know my Mum and many elderly people living alone felt at that time, amazingly we could still natter for almost an hour and still talk about everything yet nothing at all.

And now, now my fabulous, patient, kind and generous Mum has too shuffled off this mortal coil. I knew things were bad when one day she simply said, I have nothing to tell you today and I knew this was the truth..... So what to do with my spare hour on Sunday mornings? Well Gorgeous Hubby has been nothing less than fantastic and trying to keep me busy at that key moment at the weekend – although planting forty trees may have stretched it a tad too far!

When we started clearing Mum's house I found an envelope with every piece I have written for this magazine carefully filed, it would seem we were each other's biggest fan.....

THE SOMERSET ARMS
SEMINGTON
PRESENTS
**THE PENSIONERS
PORTION**

SUBJECT TO
AVAILABILITY

£5

EVERY WEDNESDAY

FISHY FRIDAY

EAT IN
£7.50

TAKE AWAY
£5.00

BOOK EARLY TO AVOID
DISSAPOINTMENT

CALL : 01380 870067

Down The Local

John, The Landlord

Semington - How are ya? Feels like it's been a while – well it has, the mag has had its summer break and I missed my deadline for words the month before... one of the few drawbacks of being a male, same thing happens same time every month but you still forget it!

So here we are with the latest version of normal. We've come through a lot together as a village and finally we can talk of good times, starting with what an awesome day the fete was. Even from very early doors the village had a buzz about it and you could tell something good was happening.

It was a great turnout, the three venue approach worked well and a great day and night was had by all involved. It was so nice having live music back at the pub that when the opportunity presented itself to do it again we snapped it up, The Who jam night was a great success and we thank you once again for making this happen.

Meanwhile indoors, the pub is getting some of its old vibe back. It's been lovely to see people eating and drinking in a safe and pleasant environment. The staycations are noticeable with good trade from the canal as well as friendly faces, both old and new, from around the village slowly starting to come back. We are not out of the woods yet and winter causes worry but we are getting there. So moving forward we hope to get a few more acts in the garden before the weather changes! Once it feels right we shall bring bands back inside as well.

Our kitchen team are busy putting together our new winter menu and ideas for Christmas and at this point it would be remiss not to say a big thank you to Robbie Reed who worked at the pub man and boy and did so much to keep us afloat, pies and McRobbies to name a few. We wish him luck in his new adventure!

So in keeping with getting back to normal I thought it high time we had a village quiz!! At time of press we hope to have done a warm up over Bank Holiday weekend, but keep an eye on social media for details of the first quiz league event. Keep **Sunday 12th September** free just in case!

Much love as always, The Somerset Arms Team

CAROL'S CABS LTD

PRIVATE HIRE & TAXIS

Airport & Party Runs

8 & 6 Seats Available

N.V.Q. Qualified

M: 0789 4873129

E: carolscabs@hotmail.co.uk

J.D. PRICE BUILDING SERVICES EST. 1987

- Extensions
- Garages
- Renovations
- Patios, Drives, etc.
- General Building Works

Phone for expert advice
and a free quotation
Tel. 01225 344624
Mob. 07970 737321

City & Guilds Accredited



Wedding flowers
Hand-tied bouquets
Arrangements
Funeral tributes

**Beautiful Stylish
Flowers
For Every Occasion**

www.stemsfloristwiltshire.co.uk

01225 700020
Local delivery available

Canal Bridge, Semington,
Trowbridge, BA14 6JT



Plumbing Services & Home Improvements

**For a Friendly Reliable &
Local Service**

Kitchen & Bathroom Installations

Showers • Taps • Toilets • Tiling
Ball Valves • Burst Pipes
& All General Plumbing Work

For a free quotation please call

Chris on 07837 589919

Fully Insured & All Work Guaranteed

Parish Council Matters

Peter Smith, Chair of the Parish Council

Neighbourhood Planning – the open meeting on 21st July was attended by about 30 people, with lots of questions asked and ideas floated. In response to suggestions, an open event was held on 14th August at the Village Hall, with some 20 or so of you dropping by. Broadly speaking, from what you told us, there is support for a Semington Neighbourhood Plan. Two of you have signed up to join some of the Parish Councillors as members of the steering group, and about 10 more have made offers to help but not as part of the steering group. The Parish Council will decide whether or not to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan at its next meeting on September 15th. Information on Neighbourhood Planning can be found on the notice board at the Village Hall and on the Parish Council’s website at: **semington.org.uk**

Housing Needs Survey – Thank you to everyone who completed the survey, it will help us as a community to say to housing developers what we do and don’t need.

Wiltshire Local Plan – in the review of its local plan, Wiltshire planners moved Semington from the Chippenham Housing Market Area (HMA) to the Trowbridge one. The Parish Council (PC) complained about this and the lack of open communications surrounding the change. It said it wanted to remain in the Chippenham HMA. It received what it felt to be an unsatisfactory response and has written back to Wiltshire Council. If you want to see the response and the PC’s latest letter, please find these (under “Planning”) on the PC website, or on the notice board at the Village Hall. If you want to add your voice, please write to Councillor Botterill, Cabinet Office, Wiltshire Council, Bythesea Road, County Hall, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN. If you support the line taken by the Parish Council, you might want to make these points:

- You agree with the views of the Parish Council;
- You want to see Semington remain in the Chippenham HMA;
- You do not want Semington to be absorbed into an ever expanding Trowbridge;
- You are very disappointed by the lack of open communications by Wiltshire Council planners in the lead up to the decision to switch HMAs.

Post Office – it seems very likely that Sophie will become the Postmistress of Seend and Semington from the beginning of September, supported by some familiar faces, and that a regular, reliable service will resume again from **2nd September**. Please return in droves to support our local PO, because after the shenanigans of the last 10 months, which have driven many away, we don’t want to lose what I expect to be a good rebooted service through lack of support.

EJS Dog Grooming Studio

- Pet grooming services in rural location
- One to one service
- Tailored to individual needs
- Large of small
- Collection available
- City & Guilds qualified

Contact **Jackie 07904 405636**

jackiesimmons2410@gmail.com



Nikki Beech

Decorating Services

19 years experience

All aspects of decorating, both internal and external

Modern builds and restoration

Prompt courteous service

07535 084769

nbeechdecorating@hotmail.com

Peace of Mind Funeral Plans

Buy at today's prices

With a *Peace of Mind Funeral Plan* you benefit from

- ✓ Protection against rising funeral costs
- ✓ Your choice of funeral director
- ✓ Complete flexibility to choose the funeral you want
- ✓ Guaranteed acceptance.

To discuss your choices contact

Jack Woodward
01380 870784

www.peacefuneralplans.co.uk

All plans registered with the Funeral Planning Authority



Is your PC feeling sick or misbehaving itself?

Pop it in to us for a FREE health check

At Eagle IT we will give your PC or laptop a 24 point health check and report back to you with our recommendations to restore its sparkle

01225 962102

www.eagleitsupport.com

Eagle IT Support
21A CHURCH STREET
MELKSHAM SN12 6LS
helpdesk@eagleitsupport.com



Natures Notes

Now that we can no longer pretend that the days are not shortening or that the equinox looms, it's good to look back to summer as thinking about it lets it linger. A common sight along the canal in high summer was the cream frothed heads of meadowsweet, a flower favoured by moths, bees and hoverflies. It has a sweet, delicate smell; some say it resembles candyfloss; others liken it to a lemony honey. In times past, this queen of the meadows would be strewn on floors to freshen the air.

It was one of the flowers noted by **Edward Thomas** from a train in June 1914, an experience he used to immortalise the blissfulness of an English summer. This is a poem best read as if a memory were slowly coming back, pause by pause; first as matters of fact, and then as wistful reflection. Just search on-line for "Palmer Adelstrop" and you'll see what I mean.

Yes. I remember Adlestrop—
The name, because one afternoon
Of heat the express-train drew up there
Unwontedly. It was late June.

The steam hissed. Someone cleared his throat.
No one left and no one came
On the bare platform. What I saw
Was Adlestrop—only the name

And willows, willow-herb, and grass,
And meadowsweet, and haycocks dry,
No whit less still and lonely fair
Than the high cloudlets in the sky.

And for that minute a blackbird sang
Close by, and round him, mistier,
Farther and farther, all the birds
Of Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire.

EMMA PUTNAM

- ✓ Friendly & reliable service
- ✓ Competitive hourly rate
- ✓ Eco-friendly



For those jobs around your home and garden that you haven't got time to do or need help with...

Whatever the task, whatever the time of year... ASK ME



POP BY FOR A CHAT FROM 11.15
EVERY THURSDAY
SEMINGTON VILLAGE HALL



@ASKMELOCAL



07895 455673



EMMA@ASKMELOCAL.CO.UK

Newhouse Farm Bed & Breakfast



Comfortable, country style farmhouse accommodation. Two double rooms: One on ground floor, plus twin room, all en-suite

Littleton, Semington,
Trowbridge, Wilts BA14 6LF
Carole & Derek Ball on 01380 870349

Email: stay@newhousefarmwilts.co.uk
www.newhousefarmwilts.co.uk

N K Plastering

07534129011

01225 2871138

n.kplastering@hotmail.com

www.melkshamplasterer.co.uk

All aspects of internal plastering covered

- Plastering over artex
- Plasterboarding
- Full house replaster
- Patch repairs

Contact for a free no obligation quote

Julia Wade – 01380 870137

As we approach the Autumn demand at the Foodbank often increases with back to school expenses for families who are already struggling. Donations have dropped off a bit during the summer so I would really encourage you all to keep going. Everything you donate makes a difference to a family or individual in need. All the volunteers are so grateful for the regular supply of food which you have provided. I know they'll be delighted to have been the designated charity in receipt of a donation from the Village Fete takings.

In-date, long life items can be brought to the Somerset Arms pub any time or to St George's Church porch. They are collected at around 6.00pm on a Wednesday. Many thanks to John at the pub and John at the Church for enabling this. Updates on specific food requests are put on the Semington Facebook page and on the Melksham Foodbank's own Facebook page. Or ring me on 01380 870137. Many, many thanks, Julia Wade

News From St George's

Sue Cook



We are really looking forward to welcoming the children and parents back through the gates in September after a strange couple of years, hopefully this one will allow more normality for the children. We have lots of fun things planned. This also means we are very excited to be able to start allowing visitors into the school. On this note, if there are any volunteers interested in being DBS checked that would like to come in to support with reading, cooking, gardening, sewing etc, please get in touch as these are such valuable experiences for our children and you would be more than welcome. Email; admin@st-georges-semington.wilts.ac.uk

We would like to also take this opportunity to thank the organisers of this year's village fete. They raised a fantastic amount of money, of which some is being donated to our school, we plan to use some of the money on updating our school reading books.

Parish Council Meeting

Abridged Minutes From Meeting Held Wednesday 14th July 2021

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

Apologies: Received and accepted from Cllr. R Bruges.

Wiltshire Council Report: Cllr. Seed was invited to give his report during the Planning and Development Agenda item as it related entirely to the matter of the allocation and possible change of the Housing Market Area (HMA).

Planning and Development:

Melksham Bypass: The Council noted the details of the current proposals and consultation relating to the (new) A350 Melksham Bypass – especially in relation to Route 10c - and **resolved** that it had no comments to send to Wiltshire Council. The Council **resolved** that it supported the proposal to construct a cycleway alongside the northern edge of the A361 road (Semington to Hilperton – from the Turnpike to Trowbridge Rugby Club) and that any new cycleway along this route must not be to the detriment of the existing Byway (SEMI9A/10 – HILP21/10) between Semington and Hilperton that must be repaired and regularly maintained. The Clerk was asked to respond to Wiltshire Council along those lines.

Housing Market Area (HMA): The Chairman invited Cllr. Seed to participate in relation to the discussions on the HMA. The Council noted the response from Wiltshire Council (Cllr. Botterill) to the earlier letter from the Chairman (Cllr. Smith) which was less supportive than had been hoped regarding returning Semington to the Chippenham HMA. Cllr. Seed commented that had the change of HMA (from Chippenham HMA to Trowbridge HMA) been proposed post the May 2021 Elections with the current officers at Wiltshire Council now in post, the outcome may have been different. The Chairman added that neither the Parish Council nor the Wiltshire Council member for Summerham & Seend had been explicitly consulted on the change of HMA. Instead the consultation exercise had buried this information in appendices to the main report, allowing Wiltshire Council to say that everyone had been consulted. Cllr. Smith was passionate in his condemnation of the manner in which Wiltshire Council had decided to transfer Semington Parish and three other local parishes to the Trowbridge HMA from the Chippenham HMA – a decision based solely on a few lines in a Consultant’s Report. He commented that the Report indicated that a slightly greater number of Semington residents travel for work to Trowbridge than to Melksham (55% v. 45%), even though Semington has been active and firmly established in the Melksham Community Area for many years thereby qualifying it to remain in the Chippenham HMA.

He argued that the rationale for creating the Community Areas (initially advocated in a Wiltshire Council commissioned study detailed in a short book by John Chandler entitled 'A Sense of Community') and the existing closeness of community ties of Semington with Melksham (and not Trowbridge) had been ignored by Wiltshire Council in its pursuit for the opportunity to increase housing development in the area. Cllr. Seed stated that there does appear to be solid evidential grounds to continue to challenge the decision of Wiltshire Council to transfer Semington to the Trowbridge HMA. The Parish Council **resolved** to write again to Wiltshire Council challenging the decision to change HMAs quoting the evidential grounds that such a decision was wrong. The Chairman stated that he would write to Wiltshire Council on behalf of the Parish Council and that he would publish the key facts of his argument to encourage parishioners to also write to Wiltshire Council along similar lines. Cllr. Seed stated that he would fully support the Parish Council and that he would also write to the relevant officers at Wiltshire Council and would challenge the decision and the evidence on which the decision was based.

Planning Appeal: The Council had noted the details of the Appeal (Y3940/W/10/32336869/19/02147/OUT) – Land North of St Georges Road - and Cllr. Scott agreed to draft an appropriate letter from the Parish Council to the Appeal Inspectorate addressing the latest issues raised by the developer in relation to this planning application.

Rural Housing Need Survey (RHNS): Cllr. Bodman reported that the RHNS would take place 26th July to 30th August and that it would be mainly conducted 'on-line' with provision made for those households without internet connection. She explained that there would be prepared postcards to advertise the RHNS and they would be delivered to each household at the beginning of August. She commented that posters advertising the RHNS would be displayed at the forthcoming fete to be held on 31st July. Cllr. Bodman commented that the results of the RHNS are likely to be available October/November.

Cllr. Bodman stated that Wiltshire Council is to take on the ownership and management of the 'affordable' housing that is to be built as part of the Newland Homes development. Cllr. Scott reported he understands that there is to be a further Melksham Link (Kennet & Avon Canal/River Avon) Scheme planning application submitted.

Finance: Total Balance as 14th July 2021 £39,978.20

Minutes continued on page 16

Environment and Streetscene:

Rights of Way: The Chairman invited Brian Smyth (Semington Village Rights of Way Working Group Leader) to join the discussion on this subject. The Chairman, on behalf of the Parish Council, expressed thanks to the parishioners who had cut back the Pound Lane/Highfield Close/Wessex Close hedge. He added that with the rapid growth of vegetation this year it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep all the Rights of Way clear and some are now proving impassable. Brian Smyth stated that there is an initiative to establish a 'Parish representative' in each parish to be the focal point for establishing a team within the village that would be responsible for regularly maintaining rights of way (RoW) and identifying those paths and structures e.g. stiles, gates that need particular attention. Mr Smyth added that he now has access to a spreadsheet that identifies where work to RoWs is necessary and he commented that Wiltshire Council is several years behind undertaking work on RoW and that duplication of requests for work to be undertaken on RoW had, and still is, causing a problem when Wiltshire Council is attempting to identify specific problems. Mr Smyth reported a blocked RoW – PathSEMI37/10 – a path shared with Keevil.

Other Matters: The Chairman reported that the new planters at the entrance of the village have now been constructed, installed and planted. The Chairman was thanked by councillors for his work in undertaking this project. A parishioner had enquired whether he could 'sponsor' a planter i.e. be responsible for planting it out each season and for a notice to advertise the sponsor be erected. The Council decided that the possibility of 'sponsorship' should be open to the whole village and it was agreed that such an opportunity should be advertised more widely. Cllr. Rimmer reported that area around the tennis court needed clearing of overgrown vegetation.

Recreation and Wellbeing:

The Chairman stated that he had recently sent all councillors relevant and current literature in relation to the establishment, maintenance and management of allotment gardens. Cllr. Wade offered to be the Parish Council Focal Point with respect to the proposed allotment gardens at the Newland Home development. Cllr. Chown confirmed that she and other parishioners had recently cleared the telephone box of rubbish and had tidied it up. She and other helpers were thanked for their efforts by councillors who remarked how the appearance of the telephone box had been much improved. Cllr. Chown added that she was attempting to progress the appointment of a Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator.

Community and Communication:

Cllr. Bodman confirmed that a logo for the website had now been designed and she displayed this to councillors who offered many helpful comments in return.

Date of the next meeting. Wednesday 15th September.

Your Wiltshire Councillor News

Jonathon Seed – 07770 774463

Summer in local government is generally quiet. This is the time when many local government officers take a well earned break and also when there are very few council or committee meetings as a result. However this year has been slightly different in that there have been post-election issues that needed to be addressed. These included looking at the housing plans for the immediate future in Wiltshire. In addition we had an unexpected election for a new Police and Crime Commissioner in August which was run by officers of Wiltshire Council.

The housing issues have been carefully followed by members of the public and councillors alike. It is good news that the new leadership of Wiltshire Council has reduced the number of houses that they are prepared to accept in the county by over 10%. This will have a direct result on local villages, many of whom have quotas of houses that they have to take in the next 20 years. These houses can be developed either in accordance with a Neighbourhood Plan or within the village limits where planning permission can be obtained by developers or individuals. Communities that want to control their development do need to put a plan in place to do so.

A part of the county local development plan has been a reorganisation of housing market areas. This was done with virtually no consultation or notice to the villages concerned. The movement of Semington, Great Hinton, Keevil, and Steeple Ashton from Melksham into Trowbridge housing market area has caused great angst in local communities. Both this decision and the way that it was made need to be addressed. I am determined to help local communities in this fight.

As well as representing the local community in Melksham Without West and rural I am also a Parish Councillor in my own village of Bromham. Two months ago we lost our social centre as a result of a fire. After the distress at the loss of our village hub we need to look forward and rebuild our village hall. I have been appointed as chairman of that rebuild committee and it is great to be able to do something to help my local community. The spirit that has come out of the village is quite fantastic with people volunteering all sorts of skills to both help with our temporary building and help design and plan our new hall. It is this community spirit that makes involvement in local government so worthwhile.

Kavanaghs

SOLD

01225 706 860
www.kavanaghs.co.uk



LET

01225 790 529
www.kavanaghs.co.uk



On the move?

For Sales or Lettings Residential or Commercial

Dealing with all types of property in the Melksham and Trowbridge area, Kavanaghs Chartered Surveyors are leading professional estate agents for all your property needs.

Call Melksham 01225 706860
Trowbridge 01225 341504

Email info@kavanaghs.co.uk or go to www.kavanaghs.co.uk



FORGET ME NOT GARDENING



*General maintenance
supplied by a
professional gardener*

-  Weeding
-  Pruning
-  Planting
-  Mowing

Call Jessica on **07896 627428**
forgetmenot21@hotmail.co.uk



Donna
WILLIAMS

ADI 318571

Registered Approved Driving Instructor

- STRUCTURED TRAINING**
- PATIENT FRIENDLY INSTRUCTOR**
- COMPETITIVE RATES**
- ASK ABOUT DISCOUNTS**

**Tel: 01380 870767
Mob: 07855 708045**

Semington WI

Deb Hurn

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

We had a fabulous Cream Tea at Carole Ball's in July. Carole had worked very hard and we were treated to a variety of delicious cakes, scones, cookies, jam and cream with plenty of tea and coffee. We had a wonderful time and the rain held off long enough to have a walk around the garden. Many thanks from all of us to Carole.

Hats were the theme of our August meeting. We were instructed in the art of making beautiful Fascinators and Hatiners by Deb from Morrison Millinery. We spent the meeting with various hats on, all of which were very comfortable (Ascot ladies next year??..). Deb is very local and has a unit opposite Paxcroft Farm shop. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Next WI meeting will be on **Thursday 9th September at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall.

Crafternoon



Wednesday 29th September 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Come along and join us at Crafternoon, regardless of how crafty you are - knitting, tapestry, crocheting or sewing – all crafts, levels, ages welcome. If you're stuck there's sure to be someone to help or give advice! **Please let Christine know if you're intending to come along.** Contact details 29, Highfield Close, tel: 871979 or email: whites1966@btinternet.com

Book Club

Angela Grodzicka – 01380 870756

Bookclub had an informal first meeting on 5th August to catch up and pick up where we left off in February 2020. Nine members were able to meet in the marquee at the pub and it was agreed that at the next meeting we would discuss *Dead at First Sight* by Peter James which was the book we would have discussed at last March's meeting if we had held it.

The next meeting was set for **Thursday 16th September at 8.00 pm** in the pub. All welcome.

CARE AND SUPPORT AT HOME



You love your home and feel safe there. The need for additional care and support shouldn't change that.

At Bluebird Care we offer a range of services including: Personal Care, Domestic Help, Medication Support, Companionship, Complex and Live-in Care.

Call our friendly team today

01225 863565

wiltshirenorth@bluebirdcare.co.uk



Inspected and rated
Good



Kieren Bourne Garden Maintenance

Regular or one-off service

Lawn mowing, pruning, wedding, hedge trimming, planting, edging, digging

May also help with interior, and some, exterior household painting

Bourne Gardening

01225 705782

kowhai45@hotmail.com

ACORN STAIRLIFTS **ACCREDITED PARTNER**

NEXT DAY STAIRLIFTS



LIFTS MADE IN THE UK ~ 24/7 EMERGENCY COVER
LOCAL WILTSHIRE SURVEYOR

FOR A FREE BROCHURE PLEASE CALL

0800 016 9276

www.nextdaystairlifts.com

Michelle Donelan - MP for Chippenham Ward

I hope you have had an enjoyable and relaxing summer and you have had plenty of opportunity to spend quality time with friends and family, in a way that has not been easy for such a long time. I have particularly enjoyed the bumper summer of sports, which has been very successful for the country, but it is now time to get back to work (and school or university). My best wishes to you or any of your family members who are starting school or university this month.

The autumn is due to be a busy time, with some important business relating to the environment. In particular, the much-anticipated COP26 (the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of Parties) is taking place in Glasgow between 31st October – 12th November. It will bring together key representatives to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The UK Government has been working with partner countries, businesses and civil society to inspire and drive action. It is truly a fantastic opportunity to bring the world together in focusing on this urgent and critical issue.

In the next session of Parliament, I expect to see the Environment Bill signed into law. It has been working its way through the Parliamentary process since January 2020 and is now reaching the final stages of review in the House of Lords. This important piece of legislation responds to the new and emerging challenges of protecting our environment, including people and animals. Included in the Bill are important regulations on waste and resource management, air quality, water quality, chemicals and biodiversity. Given the range and complexity of these items it is not surprising that it has taken this long to progress through Parliament, but I will be delighted when it is finally on the statute books, and I intend to keep pushing for the UK to be a world leader in environmental protection and climate change action.

It would be amiss of me not to mention the dreadful situation in Afghanistan - it has been awful to see the images and scenes as the Taliban have advanced through to Kabul. I can't even begin to imagine how those who served in Afghanistan must feel seeing the situation unfold. We now have a duty to support the most vulnerable and provide sanctuary to those Afghans forced to flee their country. This is taking place through a new and bespoke Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme. It will welcome up to 20,000 people forced to flee Afghanistan and prioritise women, girls, children and others most in need.

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. I am also holding regular surgeries remotely for constituents so you can write or call to arrange an online appointment.



From Siobhan Chown – Organiser of “Here’s One I Made Earlier”

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our exhibition. Visitors enjoyed paintings, drawings, knitting, crochet, lace-work, embroidery, cross stitch, patchwork, quilting, dress making, miniature model buildings, upholstery, tea-bag folding and basket weaving.

Many exhibits came with touching stories of the motivation behind the work and a new found admiration of our neighbours’ skills and artistry. Semington Camera Club falls into the category of “Small but Mighty” as it’s members showed over 40 prints in a varied and eye-catching display. The talent and creativity on display was humbling and whilst we hope and pray that we don’t have to endure another Lockdown, we do hope that we can do another exhibition in 2022.

From the Village Fete Committee

It may now be but a distant memory but the village fete committee would again like to say a huge ‘thank you’ to everyone who supported, donated, performed, contributed, cleared up and of course attended the village fete this year. The format was different, we aimed to keep everyone safe, but still retain a village feel. We had a super day with great weather and it was great to see the village come together.

We would also like to say a huge ‘thank you’ to Siobhan, the village crafters and the Camera Club for the fantastic exhibition at the village hall, which again added something different this year.

The Event made around £1800 which will be split between the village school, church, village hall plus a charity donation. Thank you Semington!

Bev, Victoria, Sheralyn, Ian, John, Mike and Richard

Memories of The Village Fete

Thank you to Roy McDine who captured the scenes around the village and Sue McDine who took the Village Hall images. Here's just a selection from what was a perfectly lovely day out! More photos are available on the community Facebook page.



Semington's
MOT & **Mobil II**
Service Station



Accredited Member



KINGS

AUTO SERVICES

Mobil II
Authorised Supplier

RMI
Approved Member

Kings Auto Services

Est. 1989

Serving Semington
for over 15 years

Offering discounts to local residents
and Businesses

Loan car available on request

Your local
MOT Station with
On-line booking facility

Free Local collection & delivery
From work or home

14 Turnpike Industrial Estate, Semington BA14 6LB
Tel: 01380 870999 Web: www.kingsautoservices.co.uk
Email: jez@kingsautoservices.co.uk

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 Curate

Joy Albone

Recently my daughter and her family acquired a butterfly kit and there was great interest and excitement as the five tiny caterpillars arrived and began to eat their own bodyweight in food, visibly getting bigger day by day. My grandchildren enjoyed the entire process of watching the caterpillars grow, turn into chrysalis, and eventually emerge as butterflies ready to be released into the wild habitat that is their garden.

In our villages, September sees so many of our young people entering new 'habitats', whether it is starting school for the first time, changing class or school or even heading off to university. Our prayer for all our young people is that they will grow in love and knowledge, secure in their learning environment and that those who struggle will know where to look to for help and support.

Indeed, after a year during which many of us experienced the challenges and difficulties of home-educating our children, we also pray for all teachers and support staff, especially those at our three village schools, Hilperton, St. George's, Semington, and Staverton, for resilience and joy in educating our young people.

However, it is not just our young people who are emerging into new or resumed 'habitats', many of us are welcoming the opportunities of the resumption of village clubs and church gatherings, or even trying something new, although we are all conscious that life has not returned fully to what it was prior to the pandemic.

Returning to those butterflies for a moment, in the end, it was only possible to release three butterflies, one caterpillar didn't make it to the chrysalis stage, and one butterfly failed to unfurl its wings fully so it could not fly properly. Likewise, some of us have not made it through the last eighteen months and some have long-lasting, if not permanent effects from the experience.

With this in mind, the plan for this years 'In Loving Memory Service' on **31st October**, (where we recall the names of those who have died in recent years) is that it will also include a period of reflection for all those who have been affected by COVID, not just those who died, but those who have emerged with 'damaged wings', and for all those who have served our communities so faithfully during the pandemic. If you have a loved one you wish to be remembered at this service, or you know of someone who has been or still is being affected by COVID please contact either Rev. John Rees or myself, so that their name or their situation may be included in the service. The following prayer was written for the National Day of Reflection that marked one year of lockdown, but it is still relevant for today.

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us
from your love in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Paws for Thought



A few vegetables where there
is love are better than the
finest meat where there is
hatred.

It's in the Bible; Proverbs 15 verse 17



CHURCH SERVICES in SEMINGTON

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 **NO LONGER** required to attend services

SUNDAY
12th
SEPTEMBER

HARVEST THANKSGIVING
9.15am St George's, Semington

SUNDAY
19th
SEPTEMBER

COVENANT SERVICE
9.15am St George's, Semington

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: canalsidirector@gmail.com www.canalsidebenefice.org.uk