

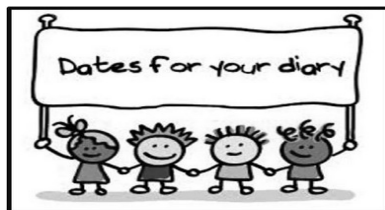
# OCTOBER 2021



OUR FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL  
MONDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2021

## SEMINGTON PARISH MAGAZINE

Minister for Semington:  
Rev John Rees  
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Tel. 01225 764365



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Littlemarsh

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 10.10am

Village Hall

### **Semington WI**

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm

Village Hall

### **Steeple Ashton Films**

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October 7.00pm

Steeple Ashton Village Hall

See page 19 for details

### **Parish Council Meeting**

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm

Village Hall

### **Book Club**

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October 8.00pm

Somerset Arms

### **Great Bulkington Railway**

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October 11.00am to 2.00pm

Great Bulkington

## Christians in Semington

*Bev Woodward*

**Christians in Semington** - are continuing to meet via zoom, to pray for our community, on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 8.00pm**. Please contact Jack Woodward, 870784, for the zoom link.

**Housegroup** - every other Tuesday, 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.

**Harvest** - It was good to meet for Harvest Supper last month - great food, a talk by Anthony Matthew about Farming Community Network, and a quiz from Pam. It was lovely to be back in the Village Hall, and with profit from the evening, and money given, we've sent £141 to that charity. Thank you everyone for your generosity.

## Your Parish Mag Needs You!

*Julia Wade*

After many years of faithful service Rose Lockwood is handing over her magazine delivery duties – so we're looking for someone who could take a little time out to deliver to the 19 houses on Somerset Way on the ten times a year when the Parish Magazine is delivered. Please make contact with Julia – either by phone or via the Village FB Community page.

## Your Village Hall Needs You!

*Gerald Taylor*

The Village Hall Social Club is looking for bar staff. If you're interested or want more information contact Gerald on 01380 870530 or 07732 169387.

## Editor's Note

*Gillian Airey*

Our cover stars this month are the lucky children joining our fabulous village school – read all about what they have been up to so far and have planned on page 17.

Deadline for the November edition is a little earlier than normal **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October** – 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**

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## This Month I'm a Lady of Letters

*Gilly Airey*

I'm not talking about letters after my name, although my Grandad's disappointment was palpable after I gained my honours degree and chose not to declare the fact every time I wrote my name, it didn't however stop him making sure it was on every card he ever sent me. I even joined a professional body and could have added even more letters after my name, but at that point it would have looked like a particularly challenging choice of letters on Countdown or an over enthusiastic (and possibly cheating) Scrabble hand. Which brings me neatly back to the point of being a lady of letters.

As you know it's been a difficult year Chez Airey and Gorgeous Hubby decided he needed to get me away and allow us some down time. We left it too late to find anywhere in the UK so we masked up and headed to Spain. Every family has its holiday traditions and for the Southern Aireys UNO is their game of choice, the Northern Aireys it's Yahtzee and the South West branch? For us it's Scrabble and in fairness this is because Scrabble was the game of choice in my family as we grew up and my Mum and Dad used to play every day and would even pack a full sized game when they went away.

Anyhow, every holiday we go on the Travel Scrabble comes too and battle commences pretty much as soon as the first gin is poured (which in fairness is pretty soon after we've checked in). Gorgeous Hubby is relatively new to the game, he's only been playing for 25 years or so – me I'm a veteran. So why is it I have not won a holiday tournament in over ten years. How do I know this, because like a diary, I have kept all of our score books over the years. I even put a little star next to seven letter word scores so we can award the Golden Tile (very much like a Golden Boot Award in football). Somehow despite being the holder of the Golden Tile every year I still don't win the tournament. Gorgeous Hubby doesn't allow a dictionary, if you are challenged over a word you must be able to use it in a sentence and quite frankly sometimes our acceptance of slang and 'street' words would leave some Scrabble purists shaking their heads in dismay, especially if the gin has been open a while.....

So we spent a glorious two weeks in Spain, played Scrabble, felt the sun on our backs and really just let normal soak a little further in our bones before of course I embraced all those other new letters; LFT (lateral flow test), PLF (passenger locator form) and PCR (not a clue what it stands for) and came back to this fabulous village we call home.

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## Down The Local

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*John, The Landlord*

Here we are again, so what's occurring? If you've been walking through the village you may have noticed we have brand new benches out front. Step inside and we also have a new layout of seating with new high tables and smaller tables allowing for smaller groups to gather and maintain social distancing. It's almost a bar away from the bar! We've taken the stools away from the bar as we still like to keep this clear so you can order at the bar with maintained social distancing.

By the time we go to press we should have our fresh new winter menu ready to go as well as our Christmas offering. So many parties missed last year so book a Christmas table now for family and friends. We're going to operate a maximum table size of 10 people so that we can again, keep you feeling safe and sound down the local.

If you're still more comfortable outside than in, and with the darker evenings creeping up, the marquee has a lovely feel when the fairy lights kick in making it a cosy inside/outside environment. It won't be long before we are lighting the fires inside making the pub a fabulously cosy hub to the village.

Be it morning coffee and a bacon bap, light lunch, evening meal or a cheeky pint we would love to see you. As people feel a little more comfortable coming out now is a great time to pop down the pub. Remember you can still book tables so why not book ahead and make sure you get your favourite spot.

Last Saturday in the month is music night. Live bands and either a disco or maybe some karaoke. My cough has inhibited the quiz but keep an eye on Facebook and the pub for the next quiz. We may even do a bit of bingo who knows. Halloween is not far off and we are looking to see if it's viable to throw a party so dust off your costumes.

As always take care stay safe and come say hi anytime, we'd love to see you!

PS. We were going to put a photo in, but it doesn't do it justice, you'll just have to come and see it for yourself!

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## Parish Council Matters

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*Peter Smith, Chair of the Parish Council*

**Neighbourhood Planning** – the Parish Council, at its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> September, took the decision to develop a neighbourhood plan. The first Steering Group meeting of 4 parish councillors and 4 parishioners will take place on **29<sup>th</sup> September**. You can read more about this on the Parish Council website: [semington.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan](http://semington.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan)

**Wiltshire Local Plan** – we have been joined by Great Hinton and Keevil Parish Councils in opposing the switch from Chippenham to Trowbridge Housing Market Area. We are supported in this by our local Wiltshire councillor, Jonathon Seed. We have not yet had the response from Wiltshire Council. If you want to add your voice, don't forget to 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 could make these points:

- You agree with the views of the Parish Council;
- You want to see Semington remain in the Chippenham Housing Market Area;
- 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 housing market areas.

Over 75 of you wrote in back in the Spring when we first challenged Wiltshire Council on this. It would be great if similar numbers were to do the same now.

**Village tidying** – there have been some super contributions these past few weeks. On two separate Saturdays, working parties hit the streets to clear weeds from the kerbs, and had a big impact. Many thanks to them, and thanks also to the public-spirited people who cleared the weeds from the kerbs outside their own properties. A big help. The parish steward service has been a bit patchy in recent months, but a huge blitz by the steward and council contractors on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September ensured a number of outstanding jobs got done. Thanks to them. Thanks also to Phil Smith who regularly cuts the grass and trims the trees in Little Marsh, to Adrian Lowson who mows the grass on the green opposite the village hall, and to all the rest of you who pick up litter, clear up after your dog, and generally help keep the place looking good.

**Planters** – talking of looking good, our small planters are in need of attention, so look out for a date when we'll be calling on volunteers to help refresh and replant.

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## Natures Notes

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It has been a good year in the village for the flower that some know as Red Archangel: in gardens, lawns, fields and road edges. Also known as red dead nettle, this common plant can flower from February to Michaelmas. With its bright pink flowers and dark red tinged leaves it stands out more than it ought to given how much it hugs the ground. Back in the Spring, I remember walking across a field between Little Chalfield and Holt when it was impossible not to tread on the flower there was so much of it.

**Cicely Mary Barker** (1895 – 1973) was an English illustrator, designer and writer, much influenced by the Pre-Raphaelites. She wrote this brief verse and captured something of this lovely flower's qualities and habits.

### *Qualities of Dead Nettle*

Through sun and rain, the country lane,  
The field, the road, are my abode.  
Though leaf and bud be splashed with mud,  
Who cares? Not I!—I see the sky,  
The kindly sun, the wayside fun  
Of tramping folk who smoke and joke,  
The bairns who heed my dusty weed  
(No sting have I to make them cry),  
And truth to tell, they love me well.  
My brothers, white, and yellow bright,  
Are finer chaps than I, perhaps;  
Who cares? Not I! So now good-bye.

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### From Julia Wade

A big thank you to everyone who built, installed, filled with soil, planted and watered the two new planters at the entrance to the village. It makes a lovely, bright welcome to our village.

Also a huge thank you to all the volunteers who have been clearing the road gutters of weeds and clearing footpaths to make them passable again. You help make our village tidier and look loved.

### From Kay Ferneyhough

I would like to thank all my friends and neighbours for your help and support since the loss of my husband Les.

By the time you read this I hope to have moved. It has been a traumatic time and I have lived in the same house for 57 years, but I have been helped through this by the phone calls and companionship of the people of the village. I will still have close ties to the village of Semington where I have spent many happy years and have lots of wonderful memories, of serving for many years in the shop, and of fetes - especially on the cake stall, Messy Church, carol singing, Church services and bus trips chatting to friends.

Melksham is not far, and I would welcome any visitors to my new home once I have settled in.

## Parish Council Meeting

### *Abridged Minutes From Meeting Held Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021*

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**Present:** Councillors P Smith (Chairman), V Bodman, R Bruges, S Chown, J Hailey, S Rimmer, W Scott, C Wade and the Clerk Roger Coleman. There were no members of the public present.

**Apologies:** Wiltshire Council Cllr. J Seed offered his apologies for non-attendance.

**Chairman's Report:** The Chairman stated that the November Parish Council meeting will now be held on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November**. Cllr. Smith commented that in respect of the ongoing discussion with Wiltshire Council regards the Housing Market Area (HMA) he had asked Cllr. Seed to 'call-in' the decision to move local villages (including Semington) to the Trowbridge HMA. He added that a letter supporting the case presented by Semington Parish Council had been received from Great Hinton Parish Council. The Chairman stated that it will be the November Parish Council meeting when the forthcoming budget for FY2022/23 and the required Precept will be agreed and he invited all 'Theme Leads' to give thought to their forward plans and possible expenditures.

#### **Planning and Development:**

Extant planning application 21/01623/FUL Lansdowne - Proposed family room etc; refused.

New planning applications:

21/0649/FUL 19 Highfield Close – Conversion of garage to annexe. Council comments; *The PC has no objections to this application provided that the Annexe remains as an integral part of the main residence and is not severed from it to become an independent and separate dwelling.*

PL/2021/06541 Littleton Stables – Change of use to 2 x 2 bed holiday lets. Council comments; *The PC has no objections to this application provided that the holiday lets remain as an integral part of the main residence and is not severed from it to become an independent and separate dwelling.*

PL/2021/07764 25 St Georges Court – Replacement front door and frame to match existing. *This application is to be referred to the Conservation Officer for comment.*

Cllr. Bodman reported that the Housing Needs Survey (HNS) was completed on 30<sup>th</sup> August and the analysed results are expected in a couple of months. She added that replies from parishioners totalled around 20% of the survey forms distributed.

Other Planning Matters.

Planning Appeal APP/Y3940/W/10/3236860 (Land North of St George's Road) – Cllr. Scott confirmed that this appeal had been allowed and in view of that it was important that the Parish Council engages with the developer and Wiltshire Council to ensure that any resulting s106 and/or Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) accords with the needs of the village. The Parish Council **resolved** that Cllr. Scott is to write to Greystoke Land Ltd and Wiltshire Council along those lines. Cllr. Bruges suggested that it may be appropriate to invite Greystoke Land Ltd and/or the subsequent developer to a Parish Council meeting.

**Finance: Final Balance in Hand as at 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021 £37,992.01**

### **Neighbourhood Plan:**

The Chairman explained the rationale for the development of a Semington Neighbourhood Plan and added that two Community Meetings had now been held at which it was evident that there was support from parishioners for such a plan to be developed.

Following a brief discussion, the following decisions were made by the Parish Council:

- 1) The Parish Council resolved to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for the Civil Parish of Semington.
- 2) The Parish Council resolved to formally apply to Wiltshire Council to register the whole of the Civil Parish as the designated area for the development of the plan. Cllr. Bodman offered to complete and to submit the formal application to Wiltshire Council.
- 3) The Parish Council resolved to form a Steering Group to oversee the creation of the plan, It was agreed that the following councillors would join the Steering Group – Cllrs. Bodman, Chown, Scott and Smith and a further four parishioners who had already expressed an interest in joining the Group. The Chairman added that it was evident from the meetings that there was a further ‘support group’ of some twelve persons.
- 4) The Parish Council resolved to approve the initial Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Steering Group (SG). The agreed ToR are available on Parish Council website.

### **Environment and Streetscene:**

Rights of Way. Cllr. Scott reported that an active and enthusiastic group of Semington parishioners continue to survey the various Rights of Way in the parish taking action to clear such paths where necessary. The Council expressed its thanks to all those involved.

Cllr. Bruges reported that Wiltshire Council was currently running two consultation events – ‘Climate Strategy’ and ‘Our Natural Environment Plan’. He stated that he attended an ‘Engagement Event’ earlier on the 15<sup>th</sup> September and he encourage the Parish Council to become involved – especially in relation to the latter consultation. The Parish Council accepted his offer to draft a response on behalf of the Parish Council to that consultation which he agreed to send to all councillors for comment before submitting it to Wiltshire Council. The Chairman asked the Clerk to place these consultations on the Agenda for the next meeting. It was noted that the consultations are from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 to 17<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

Cllr. Hailey reported that there were blocked drains in Pound Lane and High Street. The Chairman stated that he would inform the Parish Steward.

Cllr. Chown reported that she would recommend purchasing ‘Men at Work’ safety signs that could be displayed when councillors and others are undertaking work to clear kerb edges and gutters. The Council **resolved** to support this proposal and requested Cllr. Chown to send details, including costs, to all councillors for a decision to be made.

The Chairman reported that the recent attendance of the Parish Steward in the village had been very poor. There was no presence in June, July and August, although a visit is promised for 17<sup>th</sup> September with an offer to return shortly after if tasks still remain to be completed.

### **Transport and Traffic:**

Cllr. Wade reported that he had met with the Wiltshire Council highways engineer on issues pertaining to Little Marsh and that following that meeting, action had already been taken to change signage in the area such as replacing the existing 'National Speed Limit' sign with a 'No Through Road' sign. He added that further road safety measures could be implemented – introducing a 'Gate Scheme' costing £1500 to £2000 or new road markings costing £500. He commented that there was availability within the current CATG Programme for these additional projects but that the Parish Council would be required to contribute 50% of the cost and approval for the project must be sought from the CATG at its next meeting to be held on 11 November. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Wade for his comprehensive report. The Council resolved to support the 'road marking' scheme and gave Cllr. Wade the authority to inform the CATG.

### **Recreation and Wellbeing:**

Cllr. Wade confirmed that he had retrieved the list of those parishioners showing interest in acquiring an allotment plot but was uncertain whether it truly reflected current interest. The Parish Council resolved that he should open the list to any 'newcomers' and to seek reassurance from those already on the list. It was proposed that the Village Newsletter and Facebook were suitable vehicles for advising parishioners of the opportunity of acquiring an allotment plot – noting that there are only a limited number of plots available.

Cllr. Chown added that she was continuing to seek individuals to become involved in the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. She explained that she had various ideas for improving engagement with parishioners, many of which would involve use of the Village Hall. The Chairman commented that it would not be necessary for her to seek approval from the Parish Council for each event, although the Parish Council would wish to be informed, and that any likely costs should be reflected in her proposed budget to be discussed at the November Parish Council meeting.

Cllr. Chown confirmed that the Semington Parish Council logo had now been agreed and was available for use.

### **Community and Communication:**

The Parish Council resolved that Cllr. Wade arranges for the delivery of a Village Christmas tree and, if necessary, additional/replacement lights at a cost not exceeding £350.

Date of the next meeting. **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October**



## News From St George's School

*Sue Cook*

Wow, what a fantastic start back at St George's. The children have all come back in with such enthusiasm and motivation, and it is so lovely to have all the children back together, playing together at playtime and lunchtimes, and the whole school enjoying lunches back in the hall. We have also been able to welcome back visitors to the school, so members of the local benefice have come in to lead worship and Mrs Schonfeld has been able to resume music lessons in school, rather than via Teams.

We were lucky enough to have 11 Children join St George's School in Ducklings Reception class see our picture on page . They have settled in so well and it has been such a pleasure to get to know every one of them, and we are looking forward to supporting them to grow and learn in the coming years throughout their school journey. We also had several new members of staff join the team, Mr Cowley as Swans' Class teacher (Year3/4) and Mrs Richardson, Mrs Advent-Barber and Mrs Coleman as part time TA's, MDSA's and wrap around care leaders. They have all been made feel very welcome by the whole school.

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September saw the staff and children wearing yellow and green for the day in support of Air Ambulance Week. We raised an amazing £131 for Wiltshire Air Ambulance. Well done everyone. We have also restarted our wrap around care and are able to offer breakfast club, and after-school club, along with other clubs such as football & gymnastics being offered to the children. Swans class have also taken up recorder lessons with Celia, and all the children have been given the opportunity for guitar lessons with Gary Lucas.

Our fantastic Friends of St George's School had their meeting this month and have some great events planned for their children and their families, starting off with a BBQ and games evening. Events to look forward to include a 'Spooky School Disco' Christmas Film night and a Friday treat.

And finally... If your child is due to start school in September 2022, please feel free to contact Jan Palmer our admin officer and book a visit to come and look around our lovely village school. We would love to meet you.

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We had a very heart rendering talk by Pam Turner on the Wiltshire Wheelchair Foundation at our last meeting. It's a charity supported by Rotarians. They aim to get wheelchairs to those who need them in third world countries. The smiles on the faces of the people receiving these chairs were wonderful. The change the chair makes to their life is beyond belief. It certainly made us realise how lucky we are.

Our next meeting is on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall. If you have knitting needles, crochet hooks, red wool and black wool, please bring with you. Not to worry if you haven't anything in the list there will be spares as well as help!!! I'll leave you to guess what we will be trying to make!!!

## Steeple Ashton Films

DREAM HORSE (PG)

**FRIDAY 8<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2021 – 7.30pm (prompt start)**

Doors open at 7.00pm for refreshments

Village Hall, Steeple Ashton

Based on the true story of Dream Alliance. Jan Vokes (Tony Collette) a cleaner and bartender, recruits her reluctant husband. Brian (Owen Teale) and local accountant, Howard Davies (Damien Lewis) to help her bring together a syndicate of villagers to breed a foal – which they raise on an allotment and name Dream Alliance.

This British comedy drama, directed by Euros Lyn, offers an evening of gentle humour, drama and hope - and even a cameo performance from Kathryn Jenkins!

Inspirational, this film is heartwarming when a community come together to make a dream come true.

Tickets £6 from Steeple Ashton Village Shop. Reservations can be made, please ring Alison Wilson on 01380 871345 or for up to date news about Steeple Ashton Films, join our mailing list e-mail [safilms268@gmail.com](mailto:safilms268@gmail.com) or look on Facebook



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## Michelle Donelan - MP for Chippenham Ward

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This month the new academic year begins for our young people and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our local students for their hard work during the last 18 months. Schools and colleges are maintaining proportionate protective measures such as ventilation, testing and extra hygiene precautions that help keep children and staff safe and minimise disruption to face-to-face education.

The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, provided an update on the Government's review of preparedness for autumn and winter. The plan will give the nation the best possible chance of living with Covid without the need for stringent social and economic restrictions. There are five pillars to this plan. The **first** is further strengthening our pharmaceutical defences by extending the vaccine programme further to protect even more people. This includes extending the offer of a Covid-19 vaccine to even more people and a booster dose programme to those people who were vaccinated in priority groups 1-9 in phase 1. **Secondly**, over the autumn and winter period, PCR testing for those with Covid-19 symptoms and contacts of confirmed cases will continue to be available free of charge. **Thirdly**, the Government is supporting the NHS and social care through a £5.4 billion injection for the NHS to support the Covid-19 response over the next 6 months, including £1 billion extra to tackle the backlog caused by Covid. **Fourthly**, the Government will be embarking on the largest flu vaccination campaign that the country has ever seen. The **fifth** and final pillar is pursuing an international approach in order to lead the global effort to accelerate access to vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics.

At the end of this month I and a keen member of my team will be walking 87 miles of the beautiful Kennet & Avon Canal in just 3 days in order to raise money for Holt Pre-School. Wiltshire Council owns the building and the council has recently funded some repairs in the short term; however this is not a sustainable position and a new long term solution is needed. I have been exploring all avenues to look for sources of funding and will continue to press the case. The fantastic local team have raised £155,000 however, there is an additional £45,000 that needs to be raised. You can donate and keep up to date with my progress by searching Michelle Donelan on [www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com)

If you would like to speak to me about any issue, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me by calling 01249 704465 or email [michelle.donelan.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:michelle.donelan.mp@parliament.uk) I am also holding regular in person surgeries for constituents so you can write or call to arrange an appointment.



At the end of May 2020 I was diagnosed with prostate cancer and along with my two sons Andrew and Ian we decided to enter for the Great North Run on behalf of Prostate Cancer UK. In the end I was not able to run the 13 miles, but I completed it on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September with my team including my two sons Andrew and Ian as well as Andrew's best man Nick Rutherford.

The boys faithfully pushed me round the course in a wheelchair and even losing one of the front wheels after losing a fight with a pothole didn't deter us. Nick and Andrew ran back to a first aid station and borrowed one of their wheelchairs to make sure we made it round.

This is a heartfelt thank you to all the supporters who chipped in to raise £2,152.50 (including gift aid) so far on our Justgiving page, I would like to thank you all individually but the task is a bit overwhelming. In addition there will be contributions "in the bucket" from people working at Avon Rubber and Checkmate. On top of this Nick Rutherford has his own Justgiving page which takes our team total up to over £3,000 between the four of us.

If you want to donate you can still do so at the **Just Giving** website and search for **Steve Rimmer** or go to: [www.tinyurl.com/rimmersonthrun](http://www.tinyurl.com/rimmersonthrun)

*Steve Rimmer*

## Great Bulkington Railway

*Nev Boulton -Station Master 01380 828101*

The Great Bulkington Railway will be running between **11.00am and 2.00pm on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October** in Support of the MacMillan Coffee morning at Bulkington Village Hall. Children and Adults Train Rides - £1.00 a ride! The railway covers 2000ft including a tunnel and signals and don't forget to pop into the Village Hall and support the coffee morning at the same time!

Use Sat Nav details: Mill Lane, SN10 1SW to find us.

## Book Club

*Angela Grodzicka*

Ten members met on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September to discuss Dead at First Sight by Peter James. Most people had read it with varying responses. It was agreed that the book had an up to date topic - dating scams, which was well researched. The short chapters appealed to most and it was thought the book would translate well onto the small screen. One member felt his earlier books had been a better read and the recent ones were becoming formulaic. The next meeting will be on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October at 8.00pm** in the pub when we will discuss A Month in the Country by J.L.Carr. All welcome.

## From The Church Register

*Victoria Shackleton*

### **The Funeral of Diana Burbidge**

A celebration in the Thanksgiving for the Life of Diana Burbidge was held at St George's Church on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021. We pray that Susan, Gary, Sarah, Nicola and Michael, Diana's sister Pat, Diana's grandchildren, great-grandchildren, family and friends will know God's love and peace at this sad time.

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## 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:**

Saturdays 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

**First Holy Communion 2022:** Applications for First Holy Communion will begin in September. If your child is in Yr3 or above, please ask Fr. Tom for an application form. The closing date for applications is **December 10<sup>th</sup> 2021**. Course details will follow after all applications are received.

**Confirmation 2022:** We were not able to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2020 or 2021 because of the Covid restrictions. We are glad to announce though that Bishop Declan has been invited to Trowbridge to celebrate the Sacrament Wednesday 6th July 2022 at 7pm. If you are in Yr 8 or above from September 2021, then application forms will be available from Fr. Tom at St. John's or St. Bernadette's in September 2021. (**Closing date 10th December 2021**) Course details will follow applications.

**300 Club:** Thank you to all who have supported the 300 Club over the years, raising much needed funds for our parish. 2021 subscriptions are now due. If you wish to join the 300 Club, please contact Mike Heather at [mike284305@btinternet.com](mailto:mike284305@btinternet.com) Please ask Fr. Tom for bank account details if you wish to pay via BACS. August Draw Winning results as follows: £200 Jim & Maria Conway, £70 Alistair Erdozain, £50 Ray Barlow, £10 Marion Allen.

**With Sadness:** It was with sadness that we heard of the death of Frank Geraghty last week. Frank will be brought into Church on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October at 4.00pm**. His Requiem Mass will be celebrated on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 10.00am** followed by a committal at Semington Crematorium at **11.30am**. We keep Frank and his family and friends in our prayers. May he rest in peace.

## Thoughts From The Rectory

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*Anne Rees- Lay Worship leader*

How wonderful to celebrate harvest in Semington in September! In 2020 we couldn't share in a harvest supper or a harvest festival service in the village. It was therefore extra special to gather in the Village Hall this year to enjoy lovely food and company and listen to an interesting yet challenging talk and then to meet again on Sunday morning to thank God for his generosity to us and again be challenged to share what we have with those who have less than us. We sang the words of well-known harvest hymns and a couple of more modern worship songs, all reminding us of our reliance on God in all circumstances.

One of those songs is Blessed Be Your Name written by Matt and Beth Redman. The words that particularly stand out for me are:

*Blessed be Your name  
When the sun's shining down on me  
When the world's 'all as it should be'  
Blessed be Your name.  
Blessed be Your name  
On the road marked with suffering  
Though there's pain in the offering  
Blessed be Your name.*

This song calls us to bless the name of God in all seasons of life. It can be easy to bless God's name when things are going well and everything in the garden is rosy. However, it might not be so easy in challenging times when we face illness, loss, or other difficulties. As a Christian, I believe that God is with me in all circumstances, that is why I can bless his name when things are difficult. I know he is walking with me. Our harvest supper speaker this year was Anthony Matthew who spoke about the work of the Farming Community Network, a charity whose mission is to provide practical and pastoral support to the farming community.

## Thoughts from The Rectory continued

FCN is a voluntary organisation and charity founded on Christian principles. Their volunteers work with farmers and members of the farming community in times of difficulty, supporting and working with everyone who seeks their help. Anthony shared some of his experiences of supporting farmers and I think all who heard his talk were touched by the difficulties some farmers have experienced, particularly recently through the pandemic, and grateful for the support FCN offers. More information about FCN is available at . The work of FCN is just one example of how God works through his people to support those who are on the road marked with suffering. That is why I can bless his name.

With my prayers and best wishes, Anne.

## Help Raise Money for Our Church

*Jack Woodward*

Ecclesiastical Insurance have insured our church building for many years. Now we can save money with them. For every new home insurance policy taken out with Ecclesiastical, one of the UK's most trusted home insurance providers, they will donate £130 to the church. Simply phone **0800 7830130** quoting reference **TrustP21**. On acceptance of their quote, you will be asked which of the participating churches you would like the £130 to go to - hoping you will choose St George's Church Semington!

## Paws for Thought



Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest'.

It's in the Bible; Matthew 11 verse 28



# 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**  
**10th**  
**OCTOBER**

**MORNING WORSHIP**  
**9.15am St George's, Semington**

**SUNDAY**  
**24th**  
**OCTOBER**

**HOLY COMMUNION**  
**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](mailto: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](mailto:canalsidecurate@gmail.com)

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

Email: [canalsidirector@gmail.com](mailto:canalsidirector@gmail.com) [www.canalsidebenefice.org.uk](http://www.canalsidebenefice.org.uk)