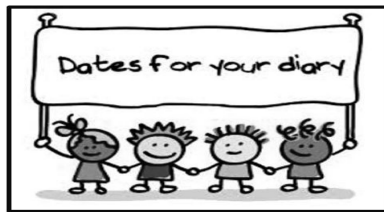


FEBRUARY 2022



SEMINGTON  
PARISH MAGAZINE

Minister for Semington:  
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Village Hall

**Parish Council Meeting**

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm

Village Hall

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Village Hall

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**Book Club**

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm

Somerset Arms

**Somerset Arms**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February 7.00pm

Crib Club

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 7.00pm

Jubilee Planning Meeting

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> to Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February

Valentine's Menu

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February

Poker Evening

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February

Quiz Night

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February

Live Music

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February 7.00pm

Crib Club

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February

Poker Evening

6 Nations Rugby – all the matches will be shown live

## Christians in Semington

---

*Bev Woodward*

**Christians in Semington** - We will be meeting via zoom in our own homes, to pray for our community, on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 8.00pm**. Please contact Jack Woodward, 870784, for the zoom link.

**Housegroup** - on Tuesdays, 7.45pm to 9.00pm, every other week. We're looking at the Gospel of Luke, and how this helps us to live as God wants us to. Please phone Jack/Bev 870784 or David/Pam 870030 for more details.



Thank you to Sue Stainer and her team for the beautiful flowers in Church at Christmas. Thank you too to the children who were brilliant telling us the Nativity story on Christmas Eve.

## Semington Weather 2021

---

*Jack Woodward*

A year of few extremes with temperatures a bit higher than average for the year, but rainfall a bit lower. There was one unusually hot week, 16<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> July with temperatures being around 30 degrees. The coldest night was -5C on 11<sup>th</sup> February.

Annual rainfall was a bit less than average, with 26.25 inches (667mm). The driest months were April and November, and October was the wettest month for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year!

## Editor's Note

---

*Gillian Airey*

So much is happening in our little piece of heaven! Jenson has started a new club see page 19 for details. For our next edition the deadline for submissions is a touch earlier than normal, **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February** – feel free to drop me as many Valentine's cards as you want! Email me at [semparmag@icloud.com](mailto:semparmag@icloud.com)

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## This Month I'm feeling very resolved

*Gilly Airey*

How are you doing with your new year's resolutions? As I type we're three weeks into 2022 and my resolve is patchy to say the least..... I resolved that I would once more give up work and re-retire (is that even a thing?) Yet here I am still temp-ing at Th'Avon – the end is in sight though as from February I am once again a free woman – free to do whatever I like – or more precisely focus on my resolutions.

My first resolution has been to start Pilates again (there's a lot of 'agains' going on here.....). I've got the athleisure wear back out and I am still particularly enjoying the lying down on the floor part of the exercise, but on the plus side I am finding putting my socks on a tad easier. I'm back at Aquafit too, although the new cozzie I bought from M & S with a front zip has had a couple of malfunctions mid-exercise so I think I will need to get me a new cozzie, which brings me neatly to my next resolution.

I absolutely will not, never, ever go near the internet after I've had a sherbet or two and to make this a double-decker resolution I will stop asking Gorgeous Hubby 'Did you order this?' every time an unexpected item arrives on the doorstep, because I know the answer and it's me. Instead I am going to simply put things in my virtual basket and leave them there until I get emails saying 'Have you forgotten something' – well clearly I have, I am a menopausal woman of a certain age who rarely remembers her breakfast let alone what I got up to on the internet version of window shopping.

On a more serious note my resolutions also centre around trying to make up for the last two years where life has felt like it has been on hold. I feel I need to catch up with my grandchildren, suddenly Princess Ava is 10, has her own phone and is racing towards 'big school', Princess Bella becomes more and more her own person and George, well Gorgeous George has started school and is no longer the baby and no doubt dinosaurs will be replaced by all things football.

I didn't get all the time I'd hoped with my parents when I finished work the first time in early 2020, but I got some, so now my resolution is about spending time with my sisters building new relationships with them without the glue that was my Mum and Dad – I have to say it is all going rather well!

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## Down The Local

---

*John, The Landlord, John*

So here we are in 2022. Hopefully we can look forward to a better year than the last couple. I won't lie but January hasn't been great but trade is slowly picking up as we hopefully learn to live with Covid.

We had some good events in January mind and although we seem to have a card theme both poker and crib have been well supported and we are looking at continuing it on a bi-weekly basis. We had a good quiz this month with the infamous Orchard Pigs taking the spoils once again but only winning wine so it's a triple cash bill rollover next month. Next quiz is the **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February** (avoiding half term).

We are getting bands booked for the last Saturday in the month so keep an eye on Facebook for the latest bookings or come on down and see who is playing.

Don't forget February is romance month so make sure you treat your lover to our Valentine's menu. We will be running it all weekend **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February through to Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February**.

See the village diary on page 3 for confirmation of events dates there's loads on! We look forward to seeing you soon!

## Planning for the Platinum Jubilee

---

*John Adams and Vicky Bodman*

As I'm sure you know the Queen will be celebrating her Platinum Jubilee in June this year and a double Bank Holiday has been declared. We are being encouraged as a nation to hold street parties on **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June**. We very much want to ensure our community is part of this by holding a huge party on the High Street.

A number of ideas have already been suggested including a band on the green and the return of the Soap Box Derby as well as celebratory food down the street. The Parish Council are looking to apply for the road closure.

If you would like to be involved in the planning there will be a meeting at the Somerset Arms on **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 7.00pm**. Come along and get involved, the more the merrier.

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## Parish Council Matters

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*Peter Smith, Chair of the Parish Council*

**Ultrafast Broadband** – the Parish Council supports a project led by Malcolm Bond of Steeple Ashton Parish Council to gauge the level of support for a “fibre to the premises” infrastructure programme. He is asking for expressions of interest from anyone living in the parishes (Steeple Ashton, Semington, Keevil and Great Hinton) which are linked to the Keevil sub-exchange. There is no financial or contractual commitment at this stage. If you are interested, email Malcolm at **malbond1@btinternet.com** or phone him on 01380 871427. He will need this information: your name and full postal address including postcode, your landline number linked to your Openreach line, and whether the number is private or business. This will enable him to register your interest on the Openreach portal. If you are part of the Semington Facebook group, you can also read details there.

**Newland Homes proposal for further housing** – the community meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> January to hear from this company on its proposals was cancelled due to Covid concerns. A new date has yet to be arranged. In response to the written consultation conducted by Newland Homes, which ended on 9<sup>th</sup> January, I know of at least 20 letters which were sent in by us offering views and comments on the proposal for a further 18 homes (in addition to the 24 already being built) along St. George’s Road. A representative of Newland Homes has said that he will write to us in response to the points raised – please see page 19.

**Queen’s Jubilee** – initial ideas and plans to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee are beginning to be shaped by some enthusiastic folk in the village. It’s too early to say what will happen and when, but it seems certain that we will have a community event that all can enjoy. No doubt we’ll learn more in the coming weeks.

**Cycle Path** – Wiltshire Council is to go ahead and create a cycle path along the byway from St. George’s Road to Devizes Road in Hilperton (also known as Gypsy Lane). This will involve drainage and resurfacing work, and is likely to start before **31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**.

**Neighbourhood Plan and Neighbourhood Watch** – on page 11 in this edition there’s information about the **March 5<sup>th</sup>** Neighbourhood Plan consultation event. Please get the date in your diary and come along. And, sticking with the “neighbourhood” theme, please read a separate item on the launch of a new **Neighbourhood Watch** scheme, and how you can join it.

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*It's 2036. Semington is a great place to live, with its character and rural surroundings preserved. Small scale and sympathetic development has met a local need for housing and employment. Community life is flourishing, with facilities and services maintained or improved and precious buildings, landscape and wildlife protected.*

## **SEMINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

### **Have your say on the future of your village**

The Steering Group established by Semington Parish Council to create a Neighbourhood Plan will be holding an Open Day at the Village Hall on **Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> 2022**.

There we will unveil our suggested Vision and Objectives for development in Semington up to 2036. These are the result of consultation with villagers over the past couple of years. We are grateful to those of you who have already taken part, but there is still plenty of time to tell us if we've missed anything, or if your priorities are different from ours.

Once we've heard your views and made any necessary amendments, the Vision and Objectives will be the cornerstone of the Neighbourhood Plan. Around it we can build planning policies to preserve the rural character of Semington, Littlemarsh and Littleton, and the evidence to support our proposals.

You will be involved every step of the way, right up to a referendum on the final plan before it can be enacted. Once in place, it will have to be given serious consideration before any planning application is determined.

We can't halt all development, even if we wanted to, but the Neighbourhood Plan will be a powerful tool in ensuring that it benefits the village, and not just the developers.

So please make a note in your diary to join us on the next stage of this journey...

**SATURDAY, MARCH 5th 11.00am-3.00pm SEMINGTON VILLAGE HALL**

*You will also be able to view the draft Vision and Objectives on the Parish Council website, **[www.semington.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan](http://www.semington.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan)***

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## Nature Notes

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If you're lucky you might still see in some sheltered spot around the village, lingering into winter, the cheerful herb Robert, a member of the crane's bill family. You'll be familiar with its five bright pink petals and it's so widespread that there are over a hundred folk names for it, including robin's eye, stinking bob, red shanks, fox geranium, granny thread the needle, candlesticks, kiss-me-love-at-the-garden-gate, red robin, dragon's blood, bachelor's buttons, and dolly's nightcap. **Robert Bridges** mentions it in his long poem, *The Idle Flowers* which reads like an ecological cook's tour of the English countryside.

This is how it begins:

I have sown upon the fields  
Eyebright and Pimpernel,  
And Pansy and Poppy-seed  
Ripen'd and scatter'd well,

And silver Lady-smock  
The meads with light to fill,  
Cowslip and Buttercup,  
Daisy and Daffodil;

...

High on the downs so bare,  
Where thou dost love to climb,  
Pink Thrift and Milkwort are,  
Lotus and scented Thyme;

And in the shady lanes  
Bold Arum's hood of green,  
Herb Robert, Violet,  
Starwort and Celandine;

...



And ends:

Let Oak and Ash grow strong,  
Let Beech her branches spread;  
Let Grass and Barley throng  
And waving Wheat for bread;

Be share and sickle bright  
To labour at all hours;  
For thee and thy delight  
I have made the idle flowers.

But now 'tis Winter, child,  
And bitter northwinds blow,  
The ways are wet and wild,  
The land is laid in snow.

## Parish Council Meeting

*Abridged from Draft Minutes From Meeting Held Wednesday 15th December 2022*

**Present:** Councillors P Smith (Chairman), V Bodman, R Bruges, S Chown, J Hailey, M Kasasian, W Scott, C Wade and the Clerk Roger Coleman. There was one member of the public present.

**Apologies:** Apologies for non-attendance were received and accepted from Cllr. S Rimmer. Apologies for non-attendance were also received from Wiltshire Council Cllr. J Seed.

**Declaration of Interests:** Cllr. Bodman declared an interest in Agenda item 6d 'Rural Housing Need Survey'.

**Wiltshire Council Report:** In the absence of Cllr. Seed no report was given. Cllr. Scott requested that Cllr. Seed be contacted and requested to confirm, or otherwise, of a rumoured slippage until 2024 for the release of the approved Wiltshire Local Plan and if confirmed to provide an explanation for the slippage. In an unrelated matter, the Chairman was asked to write to Wiltshire Police to complain about the lack of crime statistics available for Semington instead of now being directed to rely on 'generic' statistics that related to Wiltshire.

**Planning and Development:** Cllr. Scott explained the current position, as he understood it, in relation to the Wiltshire 5-year Housing Land Supply and the implications of the shortfall in that supply – a point addressed by the Planning Inspectorate in a recent Appeal Hearing which also stated that the exact extent of this shortfall in housing land supply was not even agreed. He commented that this would have significant implications for Wiltshire, including Semington, and would increase the pressure from developers for house building generally. Cllr. Scott Invited the Council to consider whether it was now appropriate for the Parish Council to change its policy towards housing development in the village and to look at preferred policies for the short and long term.

Cllr. Scott, supported by other councillors, expressed disappointment with the recently conducted Rural Housing Need Survey (RHNS) in that there were few respondents and the nature of some of the questions was ambiguous – especially in relation to obtaining views relating to additional housing in the village. He was particularly critical that there had been no opportunity for the Parish Council to comment on, or influence, the questions in the survey – unlike the previous RHNS which had proved particularly informative and helpful in deciding Parish Council policy towards future housing development.

The Council agreed that Cllr. Scott is to contact Wiltshire Council (David Way) in order to establish the implications if the Parish Council 'refuse' to accept the survey results because of its shortcomings and to understand whether or not the perceived 'ambiguities' do taint the results.

The Chairman stated that Newland Homes had provided part of the village – the area nearest to the proposed development – with details of the proposed housing development (a further eighteen houses) on the remaining space on the field at St Georges Road in the form of a flyer. The Parish Council **resolved** to advertise this proposed development more widely in the village to ensure that all parishioners were aware of this proposal.

The Chairman confirmed that he had written again to Cllr. Botterill regarding the unacceptable change of Housing Market Area (HMA) for Semington – as requested at the last Parish Council meeting – and the Clerk added that he had received acknowledgement earlier today that Cllr. Botterill had received that letter and that he would be replying in due course.

Cllr. Wade reported that he had learned at the recent CATG meeting that a cycleway alongside the A361 road was unaffordable and that Wiltshire Council considered that the only viable route was utilising the Rights of Way SEM19A/10 and HILP22/10 – also known as Gypsy Lane. He added that there was a divided view at Wiltshire Council regarding the possible surface treatment and its subsequent maintenance – Wiltshire Council would choose to install a metalled surface and Wiltshire Council Highways would be prepared to maintain it but Cllr. Wade and other councillors commented that this would only encourage its use by motor vehicles to the detriment of other users, such as casual cyclists and horse riders who currently enjoy that route as a purely rural and currently unspoiled route. He added that if that route was retained in its present state, as a Right of Way, it would not be maintained by Wiltshire Council and would deteriorate over time. The Clerk was asked to contact Cllr. McClelland to enquire whether a decision regarding the route of the cycleway had now been made.

**Neighbourhood Plan:** The Chairman reported that the Steering Group had met on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and that a draft document was circulated and work was now proceeding on a draft 'Vision and Objectives' document. He added that a budget had been approved and that grant aid of £1580 was now being secured. Cllr. Smith stated that a Community 'Consultation Event' had been arranged for **5<sup>th</sup> March 2022 between 10.00am and 3.00pm.**

**Finance: Total balance in hand as at 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021 £42,666.40**

The Clerk stated that he had today received notification from Wiltshire Council that the Parish Council Bank Account had been credited with a CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) payment of £13139.03 in respect of planning application 19/07938. Councillors expressed a view that this CIL payment should be earmarked for specific projects that would benefit the community of Semington. The Council noted the financial forecast (FY2021/22) and budget FY2022/23 (provisional). Cllr. Bruges commented that future spending would possibly include new village signs and a 'Back to Nature' survey both of which could be accommodated within the proposed Budget figures. There ensued a discussion regarding the proposed Budget and possible Precept and the Council resolved that the proposed budget was a fair representation of the intended Parish Council programme for FY2022/23 and that there was some room to manoeuvre within it. The Parish Council **resolved** to request a precept of £13500 from Wiltshire Council – the same as last year – and the Clerk commented that this represented a reduction in the Parish Council element of the Wiltshire Council Tax bill of 1.43% compared to last year.

**Transport and Traffic:** Cllr. Wade reported that the subject of a traffic speed check in the village would be raised at the next CATG meeting as it had proved too late for it to be added to the CATG Agenda for the recent meeting. Cllr. Wade confirmed that the project to provide 'SLOW' road markings at Littlemarsh was to be implemented. Following a discussion prompted by Cllr. Bruges, the Council **resolved** to resuscitate the 'Bus Gate Watch' scheme subject to confirmation from Wiltshire Police that they would support the scheme if reintroduced. Councillors reported that they had received reports from Parishioners regarding buses exceeding the speed limit in the village. The chairman stated that he would write to Faresaver Bus Company to remind them of their legal duty not to exceed the speed limit.

## Parish Council Minutes - continued

**Recreation and Wellbeing:** Cllr.Wade reported that he is continuing to progress the acquisition of allotment plots and continues to liaise with the developers. Cllr. Chown reported that the creation of a Semington Civil Parish Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is progressing well and she encourages all councillors to 'sign up' to it on the website. Cllr. Chown confirmed that the Wessex Close Play Area team has been active in identifying possible items of play equipment and possible surface treatments. It was reported that the Tennis Court needed attention but this was in hand but there was a possible need for the clearance of intrusive vegetation beforehand. Cllr. Scott assisted by Cllrs. Wade and Kasasian agreed to undertake a survey of the area and to agree the programme for vegetation clearance. It was noted that the residents of Pound Lane would need to be informed.

**Community and Communication:** Cllr. Chown stated that following the resolution to purchase two new Noticeboards for the Village Hall she was continuing to investigate possible designs and costs. Cllr. Chown commented that it may be necessary to investigate how best to communicate with parishioners if a further 'lock down' becomes a reality. The Chairman referred to correspondence relating to the provision of faster Broadband Internet connections that he had recently received and had forwarded it to all parish councillors prior to the meeting. The Parish Council discussed this initiative at some length and **resolved** to endorse and support it and indicated that it would donate £20 towards the publicity costs.

Cllr. Scott requested that the subject of HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee be placed on the Agenda for the February Parish Council meeting.

**Date of the next meeting: Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022 7.30pm**

## Semington Camera Club

I just had to share this fantastic image from Roy McDine – I never knew there was a Shepherd's hut at Littlemarsh.





## Your Wiltshire Councillor News

*Jonathan Seed 07770774463*

January is the month in which councils set out their plans for council tax for the next financial year. Wiltshire Council has just published its plans which will be discussed and voted on at a meeting of the council in mid February. The headline is that general council tax will increase by 1.99% and the social care levy will increase by 1%. An effective increase of 3%. I have seen and voted on over a dozen of these annual taxation decisions and I have been closely involved in the formulation of several of them. I have looked carefully at this year's Wiltshire council budget proposals and I see a well prepared and sound proposal. There is even a commitment to build up unacceptably dwindling reserves and whatever happened to the £120 million reserves Wiltshire Council started with in 2009? Finally it is of note that this is a balanced budget - which is no longer the case with many local authorities.

In addition to the headlines some of the wider detail is impressive in its broad agenda. In this I include the commitment to deliver investment in our communities and leisure provision such as the Melksham Campus, which opens later this year, and a £1 million continued investment in our market towns. Our roads need investment and there is a commitment to invest in major road and transport schemes. In addition there is a £20 million uplift for children's and adult social care. All in all there is something for everyone in this budget and it has been carefully crafted. In summary in my opinion the proposed budget represents mature governance in difficult circumstances.

Other issues continue to concern local residents and the A350 Melksham bypass looks like it will be going ahead, pretty much on the route put out for consultation. My experience of the history of local bypasses is that if communities do not take what is on offer they do not get a bypass. Evidence of this can be seen in the failure of the Seend bypass offer in the 1970s because locals could not agree on a preferred route and the never ending saga of the arguments over a Westbury bypass route. My view is that if our community area wants to see a bypass then we should try our best to get the most acceptable route but we should take what we can get even if it is the least worst option.

In Semington I continue to work closely with the Parish Council on many issues. Latterly we have worked together to try to ensure that Wiltshire Council investment in a local by-way does not result in an illuminated cycle road that is unsuitable for shared use with walkers or horse riders. In addition we have also worked together to remove the public health threat of raw sewage being discharged into local ditches. It is this very type of local working partnerships that makes local government so effective in our county.

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## Newland Homes – Letter of Response

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Following the response from our recently distributed consultation material which invited comments for new homes off St. George's Road and the constraints faced organising in person discussions due to Covid 19 we are grateful to the Chairman of Semington Parish Council to be given the opportunity to provide a response in this magazine. We hope this will help to address some of the questions and concerns raised.

To help clarify the general position and give a bit of context for us coming forward now, the current landowner would like to market for the remaining portion of the site and, given our ongoing commitments we are keen this isn't progressed by another developer, which has ultimately guided the timing for these proposals.. Our existing development provides high quality, environmentally friendly housing. All homes are carefully orientated and designed to be net zero carbon with electric car charging infrastructure and ecological benefits. These high standards far outweigh those being offered by larger developers, as is the attention to detail and quality of design throughout our developments.

We appreciate and understand the comments that Semington has seen a number of planning approvals for housing approved in recent times and the question on the need for more homes in the village. While the current Local Plan identifies housing numbers for the Trowbridge Housing Market Assessment which Semington comes under this needs to be taken as part of the wider context with Wiltshire Council currently not delivering the required housing numbers.

Wiltshire's Local Plan and subsequent required housing numbers are currently under review and will assess the distribution and required level of housing needed albeit greater protection will be possible with a robust housing supply which can be met through delivering quality housing on sites such as this. As part of any approval for the scheme put forward, the local area would benefit from financial contributions in the form of CIL payments with a set amount passed to the Parish Council to directly benefit the local area while also supporting improvements to roads and transport facilities, schools, sporting, and recreational facilities as well as open spaces. In addition to these contributions our proposals provide several homes which meet the requirements for affordable housing which would provide housing opportunities at affordable levels for those who live locally and want to stay in the area.

In response to concerns over additional cars along St. George's Road, the proposed scheme would use the already consented vehicular access through our current site which has been tested to ensure there are safe and suitable visibility splays in both directions to provide safe use for additional houses. This will also be assessed by the Highways department to ensure there is suitable capacity to take additional vehicles and ensure the wider road network doesn't come under unsatisfactory additional pressure.

A large portion of the site will be set aside as open space with existing boundary hedges retained and houses set away from the boundaries to create a habitat corridor around the site. This will ensure connections for wildlife across the development which combined with a small wetland area and area of woodland planting will help to create new wildlife habitats. With all homes designed to be zero carbon, utilising renewable sources for heating combined with car charging infrastructure across the entire site, we feel these additional homes would provide quality housing for the village. With the additional benefit of financial contributions and ecological benefits with a variety of habitats created throughout the site along with the provision of affordable homes we trust this short text goes some way to address some of the concerns and questions raised.

We will continue to monitor and consider feedback as part of our ongoing dialogue with the community and as part of any planning application.

If you do have any further comments, please provide these these, by writing via post to Newland Homes, Brighthouse Court, Barnett Way, Barnwood, Gloucester, GL4 3RT or send to our dedicated email address at [feedback@newlandhomes.co.uk](mailto:feedback@newlandhomes.co.uk)

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**[kowhai45@hotmail.com](mailto:kowhai45@hotmail.com)**

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Your savings need to be less than **£8,000**.



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Secure online referral form here [www.warmandsafewiltshire.org.uk](http://www.warmandsafewiltshire.org.uk)

## Semington Bird Watch

*Jenson Day*

Semington Bird Watch is a wonderful way to get out into nature and discover the hidden wonders of the village!! We would like members of Bird Watch to be interactive sharing pictures and information about birds. We will be doing regular activities and walks to discover the avian community of Semington. We will aim to gather information to share about the effects of our environment.

To get involved we have a Facebook page called Semington Bird Watch, or if you aren't on Facebook you can email **emtday27.ed@gmail.com** or text 07526217809 so we can update you with when we do activities

Look forward to seeing you all on flying adventures soon!

## Semington WI

*Deb Hurn*

We had a very enjoyable Skittles Evening for our December meeting. Two teams of ladies battling it out for supremacy, whilst eating chocolates and bearing in mind the bar was open. Team A triumphed. Hopefully this year we will be able to include partners and friends. Grateful thanks go to Marilyn and Gerald for providing the food and running the bar, also to Steve for sticking up, writing the scores on the board and providing a Christmas quiz. It was definitely a happy evening to end the year on.

January saw us playing bingo. I didn't realise that bingo could provide so much laughter. It's the longest bingo game that I've ever been involved with but very worth it. On a more sensible note, thanks to Sue T who brought the materials so that we could have a go at making felt flower brooches. Very good they were too. Activities such as these give us opportunity to chat and smile, much needed after the last couple of years.

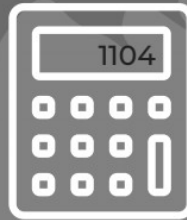
Next month's meeting will be on **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022** in the Village Hall at **7.30pm**. If you want to give it a try just turn up on the evening.



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# mission report 2021

**1,104**  
TOTAL  
MISSIONS



**653**

**451**



**306**

**CARDIAC EMERGENCIES**  
*28% of total incidents*



**211**

**MEDICAL CONDITIONS**  
(INCLUDING COLLAPSES AND STROKES)  
*21% of total incidents*



**194**

**ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS**  
*18% of total incidents*

**BUSIEST MONTH:** April (114 missions)  
**MOST VISITED HOSPITAL:** RUH Bath (78 times)

## Neighbourhood Watch back in Semington

*Siobhan Chown*

Gone are the days of curtain twitching busy-bodies, the Neighbourhood Watch Association is now much more about supporting local communities and their vulnerable residents. The idea is that hopefully we can combine the new scheme with our already established support group network that was set up during Lockdown 1, to form a support group with local knowledge of our environment and our residents along with added input from the local police and the council.

So, we will start small, with a village-wide scheme rather than individual roads, but if we discover that there is a particular area with great support then they could form their own scheme. The quickest way to subscribe to the scheme is via their website, **[www.ourwatch.org.uk](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk)**

You first need to register as a member and then you can request to join a scheme. Our scheme is called "**Semington Parish**". Members sign up and select the information (called 'Alerts') that they would like to receive and these will be sent via email.

I would stress that we particularly want to include any residents who do not have access to a computer. If you would like to join the scheme then please contact Siobhan on 01380 870197 and I can add you onto the mailing list. You will then receive information in printed form.

The scheme is in it's very early stages and there will be much more we can do to tailor it to our needs and requirements. Hopefully we can have a meeting in the Spring to discuss how we would all like this to evolve.

Do check out the Neighbourhood Watch website as there is loads of information on there.

As always, contact me with any queries;

Siobhan Chown  
01380 870197  
**[s.chown@bearly-there.co.uk](mailto:s.chown@bearly-there.co.uk)**

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## Semington Book Club

*Angela Grodzicka - 870756*

Ten members of the club met for a New Year dinner in the pub on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January and one member joined for the following meeting.

We were discussing two books: *The Authenticity Project* by Clare Pooley had been enjoyed by those who had read it. Its themes of loneliness, the importance of facing the truth and the coming together of community struck a chord for us all as we have survived Covid together. It was an easy to read, entertaining, page turner of a book. *The Bookseller's Tale* was a more difficult read and divided opinion. It is not a story but an account of the author's lifelong affinity with books and some fascinating facts about historical book owners with a passion for collecting and the foundation of great libraries from their collections. A book to be dipped into and returned to.

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm** in the pub when we will be discussing *The Seventh Scroll* by Wilbur Smith and/or *The Hand that first Held Mine* by Maggie O'Farrell. All welcome.

## Changes to General Waste Collections

*Wiltshire Council*

From **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February**, household waste collection days for nearly all Wiltshire properties will change. This change will only affect your general household waste collections – there is no change to recycling or garden waste collections, which will still take place on their usual day. You do not need to do anything at the moment.

To ensure you're informed about your new collection day, you will receive a personalised letter that explains how your collection day will change and what you need to do. You'll also have a hanger label placed on your general household waste bin on your last collection under the old schedule that will give you more information.

Letters will start landing on doormats from **31<sup>st</sup> January** and for the following two weeks, so if you don't get a letter straight away, don't worry. Please do not contact us about the changes – all the information you need will be in your letter, and you do not need to do anything until you receive your letter.

Find out more about waste collections [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/waste](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/waste)

## Thought From The Rectory

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Anne Rees

I love visiting Stourhead, the National Trust garden in South West Wiltshire. Walking along the paths around the lake through the year brings a sense of delight and feelings of well-being. From the stark, bare branches of winter trees to the fresh green leaves and blossoms of Spring, the abundance of flowers and foliage in summer and the beautiful rich colours of autumn, each season can be appreciated and enjoyed. There are also quotes displayed around the garden and one particularly caught my eye on my last visit. It was written by Octavia Hill, one of the founders of the National Trust:

*'We all want beauty for the refreshment of our souls. Sometimes we think of it as a luxury, but when God made the world, he made it very beautiful, and meant that we should live amongst its beauties, and that they should speak peace to us in our daily lives.'*

The beauty of nature can indeed refresh the soul and I consider a trip to Stourhead a real treat. However, I also appreciate the natural beauty I see locally, particularly walking along the stretch of the canal towpath between Staverton and Semington or spending time in one of our Benefice churchyards. At such times, Octavia Hill's words really resonate with me. I believe that God made the world for us all to enjoy and whether that is looking out of our windows to see a bright blue sky and tall trees, walking from our homes or visiting somewhere further afield, in our country almost everyone can experience the beauty of nature – the sights, sounds and smells which vary with the changing seasons. The beauty of nature is freely available for us to enjoy – and what a spectacular gift it is! As with all gifts, we have a responsibility to appreciate and look after it. So our challenge as we start another year is to enjoy the beauties of God's world, to let them speak peace to us and treat them with the care and respect necessary to ensure that future generations can experience that beauty and peace too.

As the days lengthen and Winter turns to Spring, may the beauty of God's world speak peace to your daily lives. With my prayers and best wishes,

Anne Rees

Lay Worship Leader in the Canalside Churches

## 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

**300 Club Membership:** Since the launch of the 300 Club in 1993 several thousand pounds have been raised to help fund essential projects in the Parish. However membership is on the wane, so this note is to ask you to help continue with this very effective form of fund raising, giving money to the parish whilst enjoying the opportunity to win a prize or two. Currently over £300 a month is paid out, doubling at Christmas. If you can help through the following options, please do so. Simply join up if you are not already a member. It only costs £1.00 a week. If already a member, please encourage other family members, friends and neighbours to join in. Contact Mike Heather on [mike284305@btinternet.com](mailto:mike284305@btinternet.com) or phone 01225 762966, for further info, or grab a form from the Parish Website.

**New Electric Piano:** We have taken delivery of a new electric piano at St. Bernadette's after the breakdown of the old one. This has been purchased at some cost to the Parish. If you wish to contribute to the cost then please take an envelope available at church and place your contribution inside. Adding your personal details if you are eligible to gift-aid your donation. Please ask Fr. Tom if you want to know how much the piano cost. We know it will add to our singing during Mass and other services.

## Paws for Thought



Jesus said "if you are tired from carrying heavy burdens, come to me 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

Date	Time	Service
Sunday 13th February	9.15am	<b>MORNING WORSHIP at St George's</b>
Sunday 20th February	9.15am	<b>HOLY COMMUNION at St George's</b>
Sunday 27th February	10.30am	<b>BENEFICE COMMUNION: CELEBRATING THE MINISTRY OF LAY PASTORAL ASSISTANTS AND LAY WORSHIP LEADERS at St Michael's in Hilpertion</b>

## 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**

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