

JUNE 2022



SEMINGTON
PARISH MAGAZINE

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



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Village Hall

Bingo

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Village Hall

Semington WI

Thursday 9th June 7.30pm

Village Hall

Semingtones Choir

Fridays 10th, 17th and 24th 6.00pm to 7.30pm

Village Hall

Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 15th June 7.30pm

Village Hall

Village Litter Pick

Thursday 2nd June 10.00am

Village Hall

Book Club

Tuesday 28th June 8.00pm

Somerset Arms

Somerset Arms

Jubilee activities as per the newsletter

Quiz Night Wednesday 15th June

Calling All Young Artists!

Every year one of our younger residents provides us with a fabulously colourful picture to put on the front of our Summer Magazine and to advertise the village fête – entries need to be A5 portrait and as summery as they come. Email entries to semparmag@icloud.com by **Friday June 10th**.

Christians in Semington

Bev Woodward

Christians in Semington - are meeting via zoom, to pray for our community, on **Wednesday 1st June at 8.00pm**. Please contact Jack Woodward, 870784, for the zoom link.

Housegroup - we meet every other Tuesday, at 8.00pm. We're looking at Luke's gospel at the moment, to see how this can help us to live as God wants us to. If you'd like to join us please phone Jack/Bev 870784 or David/Pam 870030 for more details, including the venue.



Apologies from all of us who put together the Jubilee newsletter, we omitted to tell you about the Songs of Praise at St George's which will be kicking off the big day of celebration.

Editor's Note

Gillian Airey

Happy Jubilee month everyone! I do hope the weather is kind and we all have a great time celebrating Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. Next month is the double summer issue see page 2 calling for a fabulous colour cover to be submitted.

Deadline for June is **Friday 17th June** email as always semparmag@icloud.com

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This Month I'm Feeling a Tad Jubilant

Gilly Airey

You know you're getting old when you remember all four jubilees the Queen has celebrated..... of course you know you're really, really old when you can also remember her coronation! Her Maj's Diamond Jubilee passed me by a little I will admit, I was still working in hotels and for a company that was heavily invested in the London Olympics so was distracted by that – but I do remember the Royal Barge trip down the Thames.

My favourite jubilee had to be the Silver Jubilee in 1977. I was ten years old and high on orange squash, Angel Delight (butterscotch if you must know) and tinned salmon sandwiches. The Silver Jubilee was particularly important for us Derbians as the town became a city in 1977 and the one and only time I have seen the Queen in the flesh was when she visited Derby to bestow upon it its city status. I actually believe my Mum took us out of school to line the route for the motorcade.

After the gloom of the early seventies followed by the long hot summer of '76, Britain went a bit red, white and blue crazy.... I vividly remember the mums on our street being highly critical of the quality of the bunting on neighbouring streets – who thought you could have bunting wars, but oh yes they did! Not the right mix of red, white and blue (I would have thought that was pretty straight forward), different sizes of bunting flags on the same string (oh the shame) and the most deadly of sins – houses with no bunting (you'd never show your face again in the corner shop).

Meadow Farm, my primary school, was also a hotbed of 'jubilee-ism' each child was given a commemorative mug and Silver Jubilee coin (current value of said coin on eBay £1.99). Just like this year we also had a Jubilee procession – 200 kids in fancy dress, long before World Book Day had spawned mass-produced dressing up costumes for kids, these were well and truly homemade. We traipsed through the surrounding roads with no one more official than a ten year Paul Hambleton dressed as a policeman leading the way and shock horror Hi Viz vests had yet to be invented – 200 under 11s living hard and fast the Silver Jubilee way..... And then there was the school jubilee song lyrics written to the tune of Morning Has Broken, 45 years later and much to Gorgeous Hubby's dismay I still remember the opening lines; We're celebrating, this jubilee, With flags and bunting everywhere. I'm pretty sure you will have all had a go at singing that and yep you really do have to make 'jubilee' and 'everywhere' stretch to fit. Apologies for the earworm but if you'd like to join me in a rendition I'll see you on the high street on Sunday!

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Down The Local

John, The Landlord, John

So summer is officially here. Or is it? As you read this hopefully we will be enjoying the Jubilee weekend with some corking weather to make a real success of the holiday. Who will be football champions? Who will be karaoke king or queen and who will take the 2022 Soapbox crown home with them?

Over the last few weeks we have had our ups and down at the pub and when we are good we are very good. I am delighted to say that we now have a top chef and our food offering goes from strength to strength. However, we all need a day off and there have been times when we haven't been able to offer food which makes me sad. Rest assured we are working hard towards a solution and hopefully we will be sorted soon but for now, I am going to be honest and say give us a call and come see what we can do for you.

Quiz night is **Wednesday 15th June** so get your brains in training. A huge thank you to Derrick Edwards who put together a banging quiz last month, I hope you all enjoyed it but still no one can touch the mighty Orchard Pigs! Think you have what it takes. Let's see your metal!

We've got more live music planned at the pub throughout the summer. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and the pub blackboards for more details.

Volunteers Still Needed!

Sunday 5th June 12.00pm to 4.00pm

In order to make sure everyone is safe during the Soap Box Distance Trial, we're looking for volunteers to act as road marshalls or first aiders – you don't have to do all 4 hours but if you can spare some time that would be marvellous!

Pop into the Somerset Arms and see John, the landlord, John and you can get involved!

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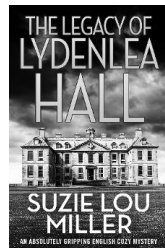
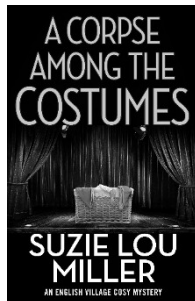
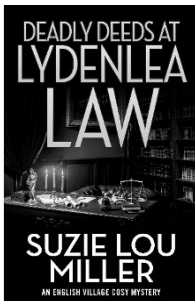
Suzie (Suzanne to you and me) lives in Semington and is mum to Harribo the black working cocker for all you dog walkers out there, here's Suzanne's story:

If you'd asked me a few years ago would I like to write a book, I would have said no I think that would be boring and too much like hard work. I know this because someone did ask me. Then 2020 hit with all it's lockdown joy and from nowhere characters and story ideas started whizzing around my brain.

Like many first-time authors I began writing with no clue there were rules to the craft and the first draft was pretty poor. Luckily I have a sister who has a Masters in creative writing and without discouraging me completely, gently guided me towards the right path. My journey took me from studying writing craft, understanding plot, characters and location to identifying the types of stories I like to write. I discovered there is a whole genre of fiction called Cosy Mystery and my stories fitted right in. More luck than judgement there, but The Legacy of Lydenlea Hall was born.

Wind forward to 2022, I have written two more books and now it's time to publish. More research and apparently you need an editor and a cover artist (who knew) and finally I learnt how to publish on Amazon.

So, in a nutshell it turns out writing a book is a lot like hard work but with it comes the fun of creating your own world, characters who take their own direction as you write and the reward of seeing your words in print. If you enjoy an irresistible combination of English villages, murders and mysteries, a smattering of paranormal and engaging characters who will compel you to turn the page then give them a try. I'd love to hear from fellow villagers what you think.



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On Scratchbury Camp - Siegfried Sassoon

Scratchbury Camp is an Iron Age hill fort on Scratchbury Hill, overlooking the Wylie valley east of Warminster. It's a favourite haunt of a number of ramblers in the village because of its views, birds, butterflies, flowers and history.

Although Sassoon is perhaps best known as a first world war poet, he drafted this poem on June 2nd 1942. He would have known this land well as he lived in nearby Heytesbury. In this poem, he captures something of the timelessness of our county.

*Along the grave green downs, this idle afternoon,
Shadows of loitering silver clouds, becalmed in blue,
Bring, like unfoldment of a flower, the best of June.*

*Shadows outspread in spacious movement, always you
Have dappled the downs and valleys at this time of year,
While larks, ascending shrill, praised freedom as they flew.
Now, through that song, a fighter-squadron's drone I hear
From Scratchbury Camp, whose turfed and cowslip'd rampart seems
More hill than history, ageless and oblivion-blurred.*

*I walk the fosse, once manned by bronze and flint-head spear;
On war's imperious wing the shafted sun-ray gleams:
One with the warm sweet air of summer stoops the bird.*

*Cloud shadows, drifting slow like heedless daylight dreams,
Dwell and dissolve; uncircumstanced they pause and pass.
I watch them go. My horse, contented, crops the grass.*



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WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR NEWS

Jonathon Seed - 07770774463

Spring moves into summer and our local countryside assumes its idyllic green mantle. Our gardens have greened up and the bright colours of summer are just emerging. However all is not idyllic in our lives. The spectrum of galloping inflation has raised its ugly head. Not everyone in our rural area will cope with the deep financial difficulties ahead and I often feel that we do not have as easy access to the same safety networks as those in towns. There are many around us on fixed incomes and pensions who are having to absorb 10% inflation and cope with rural isolation. This group also includes many families on low incomes who struggle not only to feed and care for families but also to fund the additional cost of travel to work from their villages. Many are too proud to ask for help but we all need to be very alert in the rural community in which we are privileged to live and keep a particularly close watch for those who may need a bit of help.

Every village that I represent experiences planning issues. Sometimes these are unwelcome housing developments, sometimes these may be unwelcome dwelling alterations, and sometimes these are simply developments that herald change. Most development plans are legal and a few are not. I well remember nearly twenty years ago the wise District Councillor who was retiring and where I was campaigning to succeed him giving me advice to go carefully with planning issues as there are no votes in planning. Some will be in favour and some against and how true that is. Occasionally as the local Councillor I end up in the role as mediator. More often than not this role is more accurately “rumour slayer” and calming emotions. We all have to live together and our communities will inevitably develop but where planning issues are concerned talking always is a good start. That is the case in the development of a local pub where most want the pub open and where I have recently been to see what is happening and have started to try to smooth relations and kill rumours as we move towards the inevitable reopening.

Last month I was privileged to take my family to attend the first Platinum Jubilee celebration at the Royal Windsor Horse Show. Her Majesty clearly hugely enjoyed the celebration as much as we did and was radiant as ever. Our Queen has given so much to our Country over the past seventy years and let us wish her a peaceful and happy remainder of her reign and a very happy Platinum Jubilee. God Save the Queen!

Parish Council Meeting

Abridged Minutes From Meeting Held Wednesday 18th May 2022

Present. Councillors W Scott (Chairman), R Bruges, S Chown, J Hailey, M Kasasian, C Wade and the Clerk, Roger Coleman. Wiltshire Council Cllr. J Seed attended Part-time. Cllr. W Scott was elected Chairman for the meeting.

Apologies. Apologies for non-attendance were received and accepted from Cllrs. P Smith and V Bodman.

The Chairman, Cllr. Scott announced the untimely death of Cllr. Steve Rimmer. He stated that Steve had been a stalwart and very active member of the Parish Council since his appointment in May 2007, and more especially to the parishioners of Semington. The Chairman commented that Steve left a lasting and enduring legacy to the village resulting from his enthusiasm and as a local advocate for promoting the planting of trees in the village and for leading on other green initiatives – examples of which included the Jubilee Wood, the ten oak trees opposite the Crematorium. Cllr. Scott concluded by stating that Steve’s legacy will last for a long time and that his humour and contributions at Council meetings will be missed.

Wiltshire Council Report. Cllr. Seed gave a brief report on the current situation regarding the refurbishment of the Lamb on the Strand Public House and he explained the reason for some of the controversy surrounding this refurbishment.

Planning and Development. The Council examined the following planning application and **resolved** to send comments to Wiltshire Council as shown in italics: PL/2022/03378 2 St George’s Court replacement front door and window - *no objections*. The Council examined the following planning applications received after 11th May 2022 and **resolved** to send comments to Wiltshire Council as shown in italics: PL/2022/03673 Land to west of 5A High Street; erection of 3 bedroom detached chalet bungalow – *no objections* and PL/2022/03696 5A High Street addition of dormer window to extend bedroom and create WC *no objections*

Neighbourhood Plan (NP). The Chairman, Cllr. Scott, gave the following report (shown in italics) which he read out to the Council: *As the parish council noted in April, the neighbourhood plan steering group has asked Wiltshire Council to write to all those landowners in the parish (and/or their agents) who have expressed an interest in developing their land. Wiltshire Council has now done this, requesting that the landowners / agents write to the neighbourhood plan steering group if they want their land to be considered as part of the neighbourhood plan. The steering group will then forward a proforma questionnaire asking for full details of what is proposed. The deadline for this response is the end of June. In parallel with this there will be an insert in the next parish magazine inviting all villagers to identify any land in the parish that they think might usefully have a change of use. The deadline for responses is also the end of June. After this, the proposals will be evaluated by external consultants who will report on the suitability of the land for whatever development is proposed. A village consultation will follow this and proposals will then be made about whether to identify land for development as part of the neighbourhood plan.*

Finance. Total balance in hand as at 8th May 2022 £56,724.80

Environment and Streetscene. Rights of Way: Following a comment by Cllr. Bruges the Clerk stated that he had yet to write to Wiltshire Council requesting that they investigate that Path SEMI 8/10 had recently had a further two gates fitted that provided an obstacle to horse riders and other users of that bridleway and whether such gates were appropriate on this bridleway when there were no animals to protect but would do so directly. The Chairman reported that a request had been received from the owner of the affected farm that said path be diverted. The Council resolved that it would support this diversion provided that the alternative path proposed was a suitable path and that the request was not designed to eliminate Path SEMI 8/10 without a replacement. Cllr. Bruges enquired whether the Parish Council was in a position to contribute financially to the installation of 'dog gates' and/or new stiles. The Chairman commented that the Parish Council could only do so for land within Semington parish and noted that a Ramblers / Wiltshire Council Rights of Way Team / local volunteers working party often did this work. He added that it was clear that there are a number of stiles in the parish that need repair or replacement. He asked Cllr. Bruges to bring problematic stiles to his attention.

Other Matters. Cllr. Wade confirmed that the Village Hall Management Committee had agreed that the existing three noticeboards could be removed from the front of the Village Hall and that two new Parish Council noticeboards could be installed to replace the removed Parish Council ones. The Chairman stated that the design of noticeboard will be decided at the next meeting. Cllr. Hailey stated that the application process had commenced for additional tree planting to address the Queen's Green Canopy initiative please see page 16 for further details The Chairman commented that he and Cllr. Smith intended to have a conversation with the various landowners involved and that this initiative fitted in well with the development of the Neighbourhood Plan as through this (and following approval) particular plots of land could be identified as areas for tree planting. Cllr. Hailey confirmed that the Village Litter Pick is to take place on **Thursday 2nd June 2022 10.00am** – Volunteers to meet at the Village Hall.

Transport and Traffic. Cllr. Wade reported that the results of the Wiltshire Council Traffic Survey at the High Street, Semington had been published and that they indicated that although mean recorded speeds were only very slightly above 30mph, Semington would qualify for the establishment of a Community Speed Watch Scheme. Cllr. Wade agreed to write an article on this matter for the forthcoming issue of the Village Newsletter.

Recreation and Wellbeing. Cllr. Wade stated that there was nothing to report in respect of the allotments. The Chairman and Clerk stated that there had been no costed proposals presented to the Parish Council for implementing the increased security at the Football ground. Cllr. Bruges reported that the church continues to investigate refurbishment – especially in respect of adding toilets. He added that the Parochial Church Council (PCC) is keen to obtain a detailed estimate of the work and cost involved and wished to engage a Quantity Surveyor to assist in providing this estimate – the cost of engaging a Quantity Surveyor was estimated to be £1000 and he enquired whether the Parish Council would consider making a contribution to this cost. The Council expressed their support in principle for making a contribution but requested Cllr, Bruges to ask the PCC to make a formal application to the Parish Council for it to consider.

Date of the next meeting. **Wednesday 15th June 2022 7.30pm**

Melksham Foodbank

Julia Wade - 870137



As ever, I would like to thank everyone who has donated items to the Melksham Foodbank. Although donations have gone down from the heady heights of two years ago, everything you give is greatly appreciated. With inflation on the rise and everyone feeling it, it is hard to keep giving, but their need is greater than ever and the demand for the Foodbank has increased, so please just keep giving whatever you can.

This can be done through a number of supermarkets in Melksham, or by bringing any long life items to St George's Church porch before 6.00pm on a Wednesday, or to the Somerset Arms pub anytime. I am grateful to John at the Church and John at the pub for their continued support. At the time of writing, the Foodbank is short of the following: tinned meat, tinned fruit, UHT milk, biscuits and toilet rolls. You may not be aware that the Foodbank volunteers are happy to also have bulk purchases of things like large bags of rice, which can then be decanted into many smaller bags for families or individuals in need. This is a cost effective way of buying in bulk. If you want to know what to buy there is a list on the noticeboard in the Church porch, but anything with a long best before date is very welcome. No fresh items though, thank you.

The Queen's Green Canopy

Jacqui Hailey

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, which invites people from across the United Kingdom to "**Plant a Tree for the Jubilee**".

The Woodland Trust are supporting the Queen's Green Canopy and have a scheme where schools and community groups (such as residents' associations, Scout and Girlguiding groups, youth and sports clubs, Rotary Clubs, etc) can apply for **free tree packs** and plant trees for the Platinum Jubilee. The application window for November delivery of trees is now open and is on a 'first come first served' basis. If applying for trees as a community group, the land needs to be accessible to the public. You should also make sure your local community are aware of your plans to plant and are happy for you to go ahead. For individuals wishing to get involved, the Woodland Trust recommends that you order a tree from a certified Plant Healthy nursery in your local area. Alternatively, the Woodland Trust will consider applications for their "Urban Tree Pack" to be split between neighbouring front gardens to green up your street.

More information on this initiative is available on the following websites:

<https://queensgreencanopy.org/> and

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/>

News From Westminster

Michelle Donelan MP for Chippenham Ward

Recently, I had the pleasure of receiving a 'hard hat' tour of the impressive zero carbon homes being built in Semington. St George's Mead is a collection of 24 zero carbon homes and bungalows, which include a variety of features such as solar panels, air source heat pumps and wiring provision for electric vehicle charging points. This scheme will also have new footpath connections, generous green space, large gardens and new allotments.

On Sunday 8th May, I and my team, took part in the 'It's A Knock Out' fundraising event organised by our wonderful Wiltshire Air Ambulance. The sun was shining at Melksham Rugby Club, and it was a fantastic day. I can report that me and my team received a respectful 108 points and finished in the middle of the pack. Stonewood Builders finished in first place and were very deserving of doing so. At the time of writing, we have raised over £1,600 for the Air Ambulance and I am very grateful for the kind donations from our local community. It costs £11,000 a day to keep our Air Ambulance in the air and the money raised will go a long way to keeping our beloved community asset flying. I look forward to returning next year and, hopefully, taking the crown from Stonewood!

The situation on the ground in Ukraine is truly terrifying and my heart goes out to all the people of Ukraine who have been impacted by President Putin's illegal invasion. My first instinct was to do what I can to help and I used my office as a collection point for local people to donate goods and supplies which were then shipped off to Poland to help. To further help, I have now launched my prize draw to raise money for the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC). At £5.00 per entry, you can enter any number of times, meaning £10.00 will get you two entries, £15.00 three entries etc. Prizes generously donated by local businesses include: A Bramblecrest Chatsworth Recliner Set, donated by Whitehall Garden Centres (RRP £989.99); An LG Mini beam Nano Projector, donated by Nestle (RRP c. £299.99), and a £200 voucher for Watling Goldsmiths in Lacock among many others. At the time of writing, I have raised over £1,800 in donations and I would like to gently encourage all of you to get involved and donate to this good cause – check out my page on crowdfunder.co.uk

If you would like to discuss this or any other issue, please do not hesitate to get in touch by emailing **michelle.donelan.mp@parliament.uk** or by calling **01249 704465**. I am also holding regular surgeries both in person and remotely for constituents so you can write or call to arrange an appointment.

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Green Party 60 Second Survey – Feedback

In January 2022 Catherine Read and Green Party volunteers undertook a survey in Semington to find out residents' concerns which will help to focus our efforts and set our priorities for local action. This is how well residents thought Wiltshire Council supported the following:

- Most residents thought there was too much new house building (68%)
- That waste and recycling services were just right (84%)
- Majority thought that there are too few road repairs, including potholes (81%)
- The vast majority of residents didn't know if Wiltshire Council were supporting care for older people (53%), social housing (68%), addressing climate change (58%) or apprenticeships/training for the young (66%)
- Views on public transport were more evenly split between too little (44%) and just right (33%).

The vast majority (90%) of residents thought that Wiltshire Councils performance was average or better, however, 68% did not think the council tax represented value for money. Nearly all (90%) residents surveyed were aware of the proposed A350 Melksham bypass and of those, just over half (51%) thought it **did not** warrant destruction of the landscape.

Two thirds were happy with the bus service, however, these problems were mentioned:

- lack of evening service: not enough buses
- school services: not regular: too expensive
- poorly maintained vehicles and furniture

The majority (82%) of residents found their broadband to be good or average.

Other concerns were raised about waste, transport/rights of ways and environment.

Catherine and the Green Party would like to thank all those residents of Semington who took the time to give us their views.

Catherine Read

Chippenham, Devizes & North Wilts

Green Party Member



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Middlewick Open Gardens Event to Support Two Local Charities

Adam Baker – Wiltshire Air Ambulance

Nick and Annette Mason will be opening up their garden to the public again to raise money for Wiltshire Air Ambulance and The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust. The Corsham event will be held over the weekend of **Saturday 30th July and Sunday 31st July, from 11.00am - 4.30pm each day**. In 2021 the event helped to raise £52,000 to be split equally between the two charities, following a postponement in 2020 due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Weekend visitors will be able to wander around the beautiful gardens and menagerie of animals, as well as seeing a selection of Nick's classic and high-performance cars. The family-friendly weekend will include plenty of stalls to browse, with lots of items for sale, including jewellery, plants, candles and art. Pink Floyd drummer Nick will be firing up his famous BBQ for the event to ensure visitors are well-fed. There's also the chance to come and say hello to the Wiltshire Air Ambulance team and the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust.

Entry will cost £8.00 for adults per day, with children under-12 entering for free. Friendly dogs are welcome but must be kept on leads. Tickets can also be pre-purchased, subject to a booking fee. Visit **middlewickhouseopengarden.com** to find out more.

Wiltshire Air Ambulance director of income generation and communications Barbara Gray said: "The Middlewick House event is always hugely popular with our supporters and we can't wait for this year's extravaganza. "We can't thank Nick and Annette enough for agreeing to hold the event once more, which will raise vital funds for our charity and the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust."

"It's a great weekend for families and we all look forward to welcoming you. Both charities are extremely grateful to the homeowners on Middlewick Lane; without their support it would be difficult to hold such an event." Middlewick House – formerly the home of Wiltshire Air Ambulance patron HRH The Duchess of Cornwall – can be found on Middlewick Lane, Corsham, SN13 0PX.

Semington WI

Deb Hurn

At our meeting in May we had with a talk with slides on Bees by Richard Rickett. It was an incredible talk and he was a wonderful speaker. We had absolutely no idea about the life of bees and the many different varieties. It was amusing and very informative, all the more impressive by him not using any notes. We will be inviting him back to give us a talk on how to attract bees into the garden.

Our meeting on **Thursday June 9th at 7.30pm** in the Village hall will include a talk on 'Life at the Royal Chelsea Hospital'. Anyone wishing to come along to find out more about Semington WI and have a listen will be more than welcome.

We are also looking forward to the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in the village. We will be taking part by selling tea, coffee and cake in the Village hall from **2.00pm until 4.00pm on Sunday 5th June**.

Semington Bookclub

Angela Grodzicka – 870756

Ten members of the group met on 10th May to discuss Golden Hill by Francis Spufford. This book had received glowing reviews but the majority of the group had found it a challenge as it is verbose and almost Dickensian in its prose style. The facts about life in early New York were interesting and the comments on the social life of the time but it was not a book that anyone would recommend. The next meeting has been fixed for **Tuesday 28th June at 8.00pm** in the pub to discuss The Safe House by Nicci French.

Your Village Hall Needs Your Help!

Gerald Taylor

We have a vacancy for a treasurer and a booking agent. For further details on either job please contact: G.Taylor on 01380 870530 or B. Woodward on 01380 870784

Steeple Ashton Films



Saturday 11th June at 7.30pm
(remember we start promptly)
The Village Hall Steeple Ashton
Doors open at **7.00pm** for refreshments

Thank you to all those of you who came to see the new version of West Side Story. It was a great success and enjoyed by all.

DEATH ON THE NILE (12A) Directed by and starring Kenneth Branagh as Hercule Poirot with a star studded supporting cast including Jennifer Saunders, Dawn French, Annette Bening, Russell Brand, Gal Gadot and many other familiar faces.

Following the success of Murder on the Orient Express, we are delighted to present Kenneth Branagh's next Agatha Christie offering. Hercule Poirot's Egyptian holiday aboard a glamorous cruise on the River Nile turns into a search for a murderer when a couple's idyllic honeymoon is tragically cut short. This film has everything; an intriguing story, a puzzle to work out and a thrilling cast set against the stunning Egyptian landscape. There is a lot to like about this new version of a classic. Those familiar with the story will not be disappointed with some twists and interesting variations throughout. A reviewer giving it a 5 star review said "*This is a great adaptation of the Christie classic. Murder mystery at its best. A varied and superb cast who are all suspects. Lovely locations, costumes and sets. This film will keep you guessing until the end!*".

TICKETS £6.00 FROM STEEPLE ASHTON VILLAGE SHOP.

For Reservations, please ring Alison on 01380 871345 or for up to date news about Steeple Ashton Films, join our mailing list e-mail or look on Facebook.

From the Church Register

Memorial Service for Jane Bousfield

A service of thanksgiving to remember and celebrate the life of Jane Bousfield was held at St George's Church on Saturday 14th May 2022. We pray that Jane's husband David, daughters Clare, Emma, Louise (Winkie) and Lucy, grandchildren, family and friends will know the love and peace of God.

number

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Catholic News

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

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

Evening Prayer at Clifton Cathedral: Bishop Declan invites every parish to an evening liturgy at Clifton Cathedral on **June 22nd at 7.00pm** when he will also present Clifton's Synod report to each parish. Please let Fr. Tom know if you wish to attend.

Celebration of Marriage: Bishop Declan is celebrating Mass in the Cathedral on **Saturday 2nd July (12 noon)** and is inviting all married couples to join him. He will send a personal invitation to those couples who are celebrating significant anniversaries during 2022 or those who will marry during this year. If you are celebrating a 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th, 65th, or 70th anniversary during 2022 or getting married this year please email (adult.education@cliftondiocese.com) so that a personal invitation can be sent out, leaving details of your names, address, and the number of years you are both celebrating.

Church Welcomers: We thank those who have been stewards in our Churches during the pandemic period. Their dedication ensured that we were able to open up safely after lockdowns and Church closure. As we return to normal, we need volunteers to offer to be welcomers at our Saturday and Sunday Masses. The duties are not onerous, mainly to be a smiling welcoming face to all Mass goers and keep the hymn books tidy before and after Mass. Please email Carrie almeidacm@aol.com if you wish to be added to the rota.

Weekly Children's Rosary on Sundays @9.50 in St. John's Parish Centre: Every Sunday morning 9.45am in the Parish Centre. All welcome. Rosary. Led by the children of the parish, suitable activities available for children maybe too you to participate fully.

300 Club Membership: If you wish to join the 300 Club, please ask Fr. Tom for an application form. They are also available on the parish Website. Thank you. May winners as follows: £200 119 Anne Henderson, £70 206 Angela McAuley, £50 284 John & Marion Sullivan, £10 256 Peter Wheen.

Thought from the Rectory

Rev. John Rees

On 6th February 1952, Princess Elizabeth became Queen. This year we celebrate the 70th anniversary of her reign and as I write, celebrations are reaching their final stage of planning to mark this amazing milestone.

The Queen has spoken on many occasions since of how her Christian faith has sustained her during her reign. In her Christmas message of 2014, the year we remembered the beginning of the First World War, she said, 'For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing. Christ's example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people, of whatever faith or none.' In our world today, we need reconciliation and forgiveness as much as ever and we will all do well to follow Christ's example as our Queen does.

In another quote, from 2010, she said, 'At the heart of our faith stands not a preoccupation with our own welfare and comfort but the concepts of service and sacrifice as shown in the life and teachings of the one who made himself nothing, taking the very form of a servant.' The Queen has dedicated her life to the service of her people, a role she was not born to but willingly accepted when her father became king. Our challenge as we mark her Platinum Jubilee is to dedicate our lives afresh to the service of others. This will be different for all of us but inspired by the example of the Queen and Jesus Christ who is her inspiration and anchor, let us honour her by finding ways to help others, in large and small ways, as we celebrate her Jubilee.

There have been many changes in the world, our country and in our families over the past 70 years. In 2018 the Queen said, 'Through the many changes I have seen over the years, faith, family and friendship have been not only a constant for me but a source of personal comfort and reassurance.' My prayer is that you will know that comfort and reassurance in your lives too as we journey into the future. There are some exciting events taking place over the Jubilee Bank Holiday – including a Jubilee Songs of Praise in St George's Church on **Sunday 5th June at 9.15am**. Everyone will be very welcome! With my prayers and best wishes, John



This year's village fete will soon be upon us.. keep **Saturday 23rd July** free in your diary! Pot up your plants for the plant stall, clear out your cupboards for grannies attic and box up some paperbacks for the book stall, and any bakers out there? Home made cakes are always appreciated. Last year's event which took place at venues in the High Street: the village hall, The Somerset Arms and Brook House gardens, it proved to be really successful, so we thought we would try it again.. but we will be mixing things up a bit with a few surprises this year.

All the usual favourites... music, entertainment, tombola, grannies attic, book and plant stalls, BBQ, cakes, children's games and lots more too.

Drop off for items for Grannies Attic will take place, as last year at the Village Hall... more details to follow in due course.

This year's charity will be the 'Independent Living Centre' based in the village. The ILC offers free and impartial advice to our older residents and also to people of any age with disabilities who live within the Wiltshire and BANES areas. Take a look at their website to see what services they offer: www.ilc.org.uk

We look forward to seeing you in July! Anyone who would like to help out... do get in touch with Bev, Sheralyn, John at the pub, Ian at the Lock House, Richard B or Mike K.

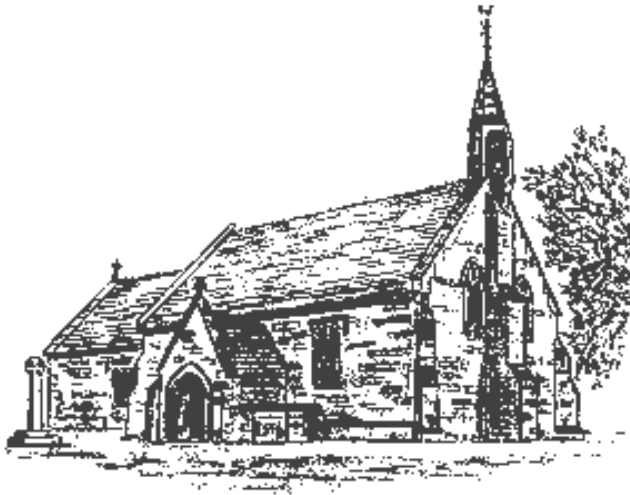
Thank you The Village Fete Committee

Paws for Thought



Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

It's in the Bible; Joshua 1 Verse 9



Services June 2022

Thursday 2nd June 9.00am – Morning Prayer for Semington via Zoom
Sunday 5th June 9.15am – Jubilee Songs of Praise
Thursday 9th June 9.00am – Morning Prayer for Semington via Zoom
Sunday 12th June 9.15am – Holy Communion
Thursday 16th June 9.00am – Morning Prayer for Semington via Zoom
Thursday 23rd June 9.00am – Morning Prayer via Zoom
Thursday 30th June 9.00am – Morning Prayer via Zoom

Contact Details for The Canalside Parishes:

Administrator – Michael Gamble, please contact Michael for initial enquiries about baptisms, weddings and general matters on **07795 400262**

E-mail: **canalsideoffice@gmail.com**

PCC Secretary/Treasurer - Jack Woodward **01380 870784**

Church Warden – Mr David Wildsmith

Lay Pastoral Assistants are co-ordinated by Marilyn Stubbs. Please contact Marilyn on **01225 753118** or John if you would like a visit.

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

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

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