

NOVEMBER 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

Mondays 7.30pm

Village Hall

Semington WI

Thursday 10th November 7.30pm

Village Hall

Semingtones Choir

Fridays

Village Hall

Saturday 19th November in concert

See page 16 for details

Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 16th November 7.30pm

Village Hall

Semington Book Club

Tuesday 29th November 8.00pm

Somerset Arms

Christmas Tree

Raising the Tree Saturday 26th November 10.00am

High Street

Carols by the Tree Sunday 4th December 6.00pm

High Street

Handmade Crafts and Gift Fayre

Saturday 26th November 11.00am to 3.00pm

Village Hall

Somerset Arms

Crib and Chess Club

Wednesdays 7.30pm

Live Music - Junkyard Dogs

Saturday 12th November

Quiz Night

Thursday 17th November

Live Music - Beverly May Band

Saturday 19th November

Live Music - The Singing Herdsman

Sunday 20th November

Live Music - Redlight Featuring Caff and Gouldy

Saturday 26th November

Christians in Semington

Bev Woodward

Christians in Semington - are meeting via zoom, to pray for our community, on **Wednesday 2nd November at 8.00pm**. Please contact Jack Woodward, 870784, for the zoom link.

Housegroup - we meet every other Tuesday, at 7.45pm. We're continuing to look at Luke's gospel, seeing 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 the venue.

Harvest Celebrations - I write this at the end of a wonderful weekend of harvest celebrations! Thank you to everyone who decorated the Church so beautifully.

Great Bulkington Railway

Nev Boulton

A quick note to let you know I have retired the Great Bulkington Railway due to old age. Over the years the railway ran I am proud to say that we raised in excess of £6,000 for Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

Happy Birthday Greetings!

Mick Mortimer celebrated his 90th birthday in October. From all the village to you - we hope you had a great Birthday!



Editor's Note

Gillian Airey

All of a sudden the days are shorter and the mornings and evenings darker still. Welcome to November everyone! There are some lovely ideas of things to do in December in the magazine as well as the first report back from the Semington Camera Club meeting – maybe a new hobby could be in the offing.

Deadline for December/January edition is **Sunday 20th November** as it is the winter double edition any diary dates for January will need to be sent over also. My email as always **semparmag@icloud.com**

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This Month I'm Up The Amazon Without A Paddle

Gilly Airey

It really is the most wonderful thing, I order things with Mr Amazon and he never sends me a bill – I thought I had finally got one over 'The Man' until Gorgeous Hubby pointed out that the lovely Mr Bezos sent the bills directly to him – who knew! Henceforth Gorgeous Hubby is also known as the Amazon Fairy. I suspect he may also be the 'Fuel Fairy' as my car appears to always have a full fuel tank.

As a result of my blissful ignorance I do not even consider to look at whose account I'm logged into, I simply shop away to my heart's content. Mostly this involves haberdashery and cat food – yep my two big loves at the moment. Not eating cat food I hasten to add, just making sure the Mighty Dibs is well catered for and gives Mr M no stress whilst we're away on holiday.

You can't beat a bit of idle scrolling through the myriad of Amazon online 'catalogue'. It reminds me rather bizarrely of Friday evenings at my Nan Bright's house going through her Great Universal catalogue especially loving the autumn/winter edition where you could dream of all the Christmas toys your parents could buy you for less than 50p a week for, like, forever (again, youngsters this was the 1970s!).

The trouble starts when the Amazon cookies and algorithms come to play and start sending you suggestions that having 'looked at this why not consider that?' So far Gorgeous Hubby has been bamboozled by offers for iron-on interfacing, overlocking threads, as well as wash-away quilting tape – he's really not sure how on earth any of these can help him keep his log shed in good order and indeed his garage a paragon of man-shed happiness. He's even slightly concerned that the very delicious stew I made the other week may have had protein procured from Mr Amazon.

In my defence, however, this goes two ways, I have no idea why I would want a sanding disk, rawl plugs (only if I can choose to have them in purple – which inexplicably they are not available in) and a fire fandango thingy that apparently helps you make kindling like really, really quickly.

Of course there is another way of looking at this, and it is this, we are fooling Mr Amazon into thinking he knows us; Gorgeous Hubby applying for the next 'Great British Sewing Bee' and me going for a place on 'The Chop'. After all, all relationships thrive on a little bit of mystery don't they?

CHRISTMAS MENU

3 COURSES £30 2 COURSES £25 1 COURSE £20
£5 DEPOSIT PER PERSON

STARTER

Prawn Cocktail
Ham Hock Terrine with Crusty Roll
Breaded Brie & Cranberry
Butternut Squash Soup & Crusty Roll

MAIN COURSE

Roast Turkey or Beef

Served with all the trimmings - Yorkshire puddings, stuffing and pigs in blankets.
Roast potatoes, sprouts, cauliflower cheese, swede and carrot mash, parsnips
and topped with rich gravy

Vegetarian Wellington

with a white wine sauce served with new potatoes & seasonal vegetables

Seabass in a Prawn Sauce

served with new potatoes and seasonal vegetables

Homemade Lamb Shank

with mint gravy served with mash and seasonal vegetables

DESSERT

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Down The Local

John, the Landlord, John

Hello again Semington! The nights are starting to draw in and it's time to get the fires lit making the pub all cosy. November is traditionally a quiet month but hopefully that will change this year as we have lots going on. The dates for our live music are on the diary page of the magazine. We are delighted to have The Junkyard Dogs, Beverly May Band, The Singing Herdsman and Redlight featuring Cath and Goudly all appearing over the month. November's quiz is on the **Thursday 17th November** so dust off the old grey matter and come join in the fun. Remember even if you've not got a whole team I'm sure one of the teams will welcome you to join them.

We're also running a Christmas Draw this year with the draw date being **Friday 23rd December**. Tickets can be bought directly at the pub. Tickets are already selling well so expect some awesome prizes. Also keep an eye out on our social media pages for details of our monthly meat raffle. Speaking of Christmas it really isn't that far off and we are already taking bookings for our Christmas menu available throughout December. If you don't fancy cooking on Christmas Day then let us do it for you - Chef Rich will prep all the ingredients and cook it for you for collection on Christmas Eve then simply heat up for a delicious hassle free dinner.

Don't forget the Post Office is open at the pub on Mondays and Thursdays and have a look at our social media pages where you'll find details of our fabulous new autumn menus as well as full details of everything that is going on over the next few weeks and into December.

Village Pub Quiz Report

John, The Landlord, John

In the absence of the Orchard Pigs due to holiday Del Edwards' spooky quiz was wide open. With some great spooky rounds it was close all the way through coming right down to the wire on the final round. The final victors literally by half a point were The Misfits. Well done to Andrea, Mark, Heidi, Dorsie, Margaret and Paul who were lucky enough to win the cash. Well done to all and see you at the next one!

Next Village Pub Quiz is **Thursday 17th November**.

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Parish Council Matters

Peter Smith – Chair of the Parish Council

Community Development Fund – the Parish Council has funding available to support community developments that benefit the village. To help it decide how to allocate this money, the council has set up a working group to communicate with villagers and advise it on how to proceed with what we're calling Community Development Funding. As mentioned in my report last month, this working group is to be made up of 3 parish councillors and two volunteers from within the village. If you'd like to be one of those volunteers, please let me know by calling **01380 870888**.

Vacancy for Parish Councillor – the Parish Council wants to co-opt a parishioner to fill a vacancy on the council. There's always lots going on which affects us as a community, and plenty of scope for you to contribute to preserving what we love within, and making improvements to, our village. If you'd like to be considered for co-option, please either phone me for an informal chat (number above) or email our clerk on **clerksemingtonparishcouncil@gmail.com**

The Byway – I'm afraid there is still no news of the safety audit promised by Wiltshire Council. I know quite a few of you have written to the council. For what it's worth, my own experiences either walking or cycling along this byway have so far been OK: courteous and careful behaviour from everyone, including a couple of very respectful motorists. Courteous and careful road manners are, of course, the only way this newly surfaced road can work as a multi use route for all of us, whether in a vehicle, on a horse, riding a bicycle or motorcycle, or on foot.

Parish Steward – each month, we get a visit of 1.5 days from the parish steward employed by Wiltshire Council to serve a number of villages in the area. The parish steward helps to maintain the highways and pavements in our village. A new steward, Emma, was appointed to our area about 4 months ago. On her last visit in early October, she and her colleagues did a great job of sweeping the gutters along High Street, St. George's Road and other streets, as well as digging out and clearing the blocked storm drains near Church Street. If you have any highway/pavement jobs that you think need addressing on a future visit, please let me know on the above phone number, or email the Parish Clerk, also above.

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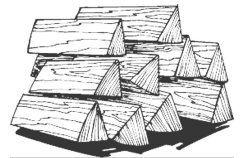
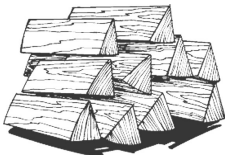
The Firewood Poem

If your thoughts have turned to burning wood over the coming winter in order to reduce heating costs, here's some guidance about which woods to choose for efficiency and effectiveness. A writing credit for the text shown here goes to Celia Congreve who first published it in *The Times* in March 1930. The basic advice is to avoid elm, poplar and elder and go for ash every time. Sadly, thanks to ash die back, there is plenty of the beloved weed tree around both now and for the foreseeable future.

Beechwood fires are bright and clear
If the logs are kept a year,
Chestnut's only good they say,
If for logs 'tis laid away.
Make a fire of Elder tree,
Death within your house will be;
But ash new or ash old,
Is fit for a queen with crown of gold.

Birch and fir logs burn too fast
Blaze up bright and do not last,
It is by the Irish said
Hawthorn bakes the sweetest bread.
Elm wood burns like churchyard mould,
E'en the very flames are cold
But ash green or ash brown
Is fit for a queen with golden crown.

Poplar gives a bitter smoke,
Fills your eyes and makes you choke,
Apple wood will scent your room
Pear wood smells like flowers in bloom
Oaken logs, if dry and old
Keep away the winter's cold
But ash wet or ash dry
A king shall warm his slippers by.



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News From Your Wiltshire Councillor

Jonathon Seed

I write a monthly contribution for the Parish magazines of all villages which I represent on Wiltshire Council. These are Broughton Gifford, Steeple Ashton, Keevil, Great Hinton and Semington and also the message goes out via Melksham Without Parish Council to the residents of Berryfield. I write as your elected Councillor to update you on headline Wiltshire Council matters and update on my involvement in village issues. I undertake to make my articles non political in their content. I would like to say an ongoing thanks to the Editorial Committee of the Parish Magazine for allowing me to contribute to the magazine.

There are several Wiltshire Council issues which are being taken forward by the Council. These include taking a lead on climate change, further funding and support for victims of domestic abuse and a commitment to more Parish Stewards for local highways and footpath improvements. I am often involved in several local village issues at the same time and these include planning applications, footpath concerns and trying to get help for local projects.

One very topical issue is how we help those struggling in the current financial crisis. Country dwellers are often very independent and very proud people. Even the most pressed are unlikely to publicise their lack of heating in winter. If we happen to notice someone who may be struggling, perhaps an invitation for a cup of tea and perhaps some cake in a warm house may really help. Alongside this personal touch Wiltshire Council is leading on a warm space initiative to encourage communities to offer warm spaces and sustenance to residents. Let's hope we can all do our bit for those that need a bit of help over the winter.

Finally I am always available to help residents with their local government issues. The easiest way to contact me is by email but I can also be contacted by phone. I try to attend most meetings of the Parish Council so it may be possible to arrange a meeting in person either to coincide with a Parish Council meeting or a personal meeting to suit residents.

My contact details are:

E mail: **Jonathon.seed@Wiltshire.gov.uk** Telephone: **07770 774463**

Abridged Minutes from Parish Council Meeting

Meeting held Wednesday 19th October 2022

Present. Councillors P Smith (Chairman), V. Bodman, R Bruges, S Chown, J Hailey, W. Scott and the Clerk, Roger Coleman.

There were two members of the public present initially.

Apologies. Apologies for non-attendance were received and accepted from Cllrs. C Wade and M. Kasasian and apologies were received from Wiltshire Council Cllr. J Seed.

Wiltshire Council Report. In the absence of Cllr. Seed no report by Cllr. Seed was given. The Chairman reported that Cllr. Seed had informed him that he would make enquiries of Wiltshire Council relating to the Greenacres travellers' site.

Cllrs. Bodman and Scott proposed that Cllr. Seed should also enquire into the extent to which Wiltshire Council had met the rural housing needs for affordable homes for local people in the allocation of houses at the Newland Homes development.

Chairman's Report. The Chairman, on behalf of the Council, expressed regret at learning of the resignation of Cllr. Bodman. He thanked Cllr. Bodman for her service as a councillor and complimented her for bringing a fresh and very welcome perspective to the Council during her time as councillor. He wished her well for the future. These sentiments were echoed by all those present.

Planning and Development. There were no planning applications received after 13th October 2022. Cllr. Scott stated that following his enquiries with Wiltshire Council he had learned that planning application 19/02147/OUT (26 Residential Dwellings, Land North of St Georges Road) had not progressed further than the 'Outline Permission' stage. He also commented that a statement from the Government today indicated that it was intending to abandon the 'top down' approach to determining local housing number requirements. The Council noted the concerns expressed by parishioners about the number of static homes located at the Greenacres site and possible safety concern regarding the storage of gas cylinders. The Chairman stated that he would write to Cllr. Seed with these concerns.

Neighbourhood Plan. The Chairman reported that the process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan had provided a wealth of useful and informative data about the village and the aspirations of its inhabitants. He added that the following steps had now been taken:

- A consultant had been appointed to undertake a Landscape Assessment. A report is expected by the end of November.
- Councillors (Cllrs. Scott, Bodman) had, with consultants from AECOM, examined the fourteen sites identified as SHLAA sites by Wiltshire Council regarding their suitability for development. An additional site – the (old) Motel Field, now owned by the Order of St Johns, was also examined.
- A Climate Change Survey has been undertaken and some fifty-five responses obtained.
- A list of businesses within the Civil Parish of Semington has been compiled – the aim is to seek views on how the Neighbourhood Development Plan might best support those businesses regarding possible development of those businesses.

The Chairman commented that it is intended also to undertake a 'Heritage Survey' of parish features that do not qualify for statutory designation (e.g. Listed Building status).

Finance. Total balance in hand as at 19th October 2022 - £79,581.67

Cllr. Scott explained that he would send an updated report on the Community Development Fund Working Group for comment to councillors and the Clerk which would also contain proposals for establishing the group and for seeking and assessing possible community projects. He added that he envisaged that the group would comprise three councillors and two parishioners but the approval of any project would be subject to approval by the Parish Council. Cllr. Scott commented that some possible projects are likely to emerge from the development of the Neighbourhood Plan development. The Clerk confirmed that he would scrutinize any proposed projects to ensure that they met any constraints imposed by the Community Infrastructure Levy and LGA1972 – especially s137 if applicable.

The Council resolved to approve a budget of £275 for the purchase of the village Christmas tree. The Council resolved to make a donation of £600 to St George's PCC (Village Newsletter & Grass Cutting).

Environment and Streetscene. Rights of Way: The Council noted the continuing safety concerns regarding Paths SEMI9A/10 and HILP22/10 as a 'cycleway' and that members of the public had expressed their concerns during the public participation prior to the Parish Council meeting. The Council reaffirmed that it was awaiting the results of the safety audit to be undertaken by Wiltshire Council and that would determine whether additional safety measures were necessary. Councillors commented that gates on Path SEMI8/10 were regularly closed when there was no livestock to protect and in the absence of any livestock, there should be unfettered access along that path. Cllr. Scott stated that he would make enquiries. Cllr. Scott reported that he had recently attended a meeting of the Wilts and Berks Canal Liaison Group which included representatives from Wiltshire Council. He added that Wiltshire Council was supportive of the canal project but would not support additional house building in the area to provide the funding for it. Cllr. Hailey expressed her thanks, endorsed by other councillors, to the Parish Steward for cleaning the gutters and drains in the High Street. The Chairman stated that he would contact the Parish Steward to pass on these thanks. The Chairman noted that there were a number of tasks needing to be addressed such as a litter pick, planting bulbs, a leaf sweep and he stated that he would send the list to councillors for their views.

Other Matters. In the absence of Cllr. Wade, agreement on the design/type of the new Parish Council Noticeboard/s was deferred until the next meeting. The decision on the number and species of trees to be purchased for the Queen's Canopy project was pending final consent from Wiltshire Council regarding the various proposed locations.

Recreation and Wellbeing. The Council noted that the defective Ludus Spinning Top had now been removed by Wiltshire Council and the ground reinstated. The Council acknowledged the reply from Wiltshire Council regarding a possible asset transfer and the contractual difficulties relating to this particular site. The Council discussed a number of possible arrangements for the Parish Council to be involved in the management of the Wessex Close Play Area and it was agreed to present these proposals to Wiltshire Council for comment. The Chairman agreed to draft a suitable note for the Clerk to send to Wiltshire Council. There was nothing further reported in respect of whether the future management of the Play Area will be undertaken by a Community Group.

Date of the next meeting. Wednesday 16th November 2022 7.30pm.

Village Hall Defibrillator

A situation arose last month where a villager was asked by the emergency services to take the defibrillator located at the village hall to the home of a villager who was in difficulty. Understandably there was a concern that in the event of the kit being needed for another emergency no one would know where it was!

In order to not over complicate a process if this were to happen again please could whoever needs to take the kit somewhere leave a note on the case advising where it has been taken to! Simple!

The Semingtones in Concert

Lorraine Mahoney

Join us next month when the Semingtones join the Great Day Choir for their fifth anniversary concert - it's going to be great fun! As well as The Semingtones, The Songbirds Choir will also be joining with The Great Day Choir and Vivavocals! **Saturday 19th November 2022 at 7.30pm** at St Lukes Church, Bath. Tickets can be purchased at greatdaychoir.co.uk



Village Christmas Tree

Colin Wade

It's almost that time of year again. The village Christmas tree will be erected on **Saturday 26th November at 10.00am**. If you can lend a hand please come and meet us on the High Street, that would be fabulous

There will be carols around the tree at **6.00pm on Sunday 4th December** followed by refreshments in the Village Hall.

Handmade Crafts and Gift Fayre

Get the Christmas shopping kickstarted by visiting the gift fayre at the Village Hall from **11.00am to 3.00pm Saturday 26th November**.

It is our privilege to invite you to our Light up a Life services this year on the **26th, 27th and 29th November**. For so many people in our community, Light up a Life provides a beautiful, poignant way to remember and celebrate special people. This year, the services will take place at the Dorothy House Hospice, Winsley, as well as at Bath Abbey, and will give families the chance to come together, to support one another and share special memories.

We are looking forward to seeing families and loved ones gather here at our beautiful Light Up A Life services, under the glowing lights of the Christmas tree. Christmas can be a particularly emotional and challenging time of year for some people – it may be their first Christmas without a loved one or it may bring back difficult memories of the past. For many, Light Up A Life serves as a pilgrimage in their lives. It offers them a meaningful place to honour and celebrate the people who have died – to remember them as lights that continue to burn brightly in their hearts.

Each year we invite our supporters to dedicate a light on our Christmas tree to their loved one. Dedicating a light on our Christmas tree is a way to remember those we hold so dear. These kind donations ensure other patients and families are able to receive the outstanding care they need now. We must rely on help from our community – from kind and generous people like yourself. If you feel able to make a contribution again today, it would make a huge difference to many people at this important time of year. You can make a donation and dedicate a light at: dorothyhouse.org.uk/light-up-a-life/

This year we will be holding three daytime services in the grounds of Dorothy House, Winsley, and one evening service at Bath Abbey.

Light up a Life Services: This year we will be holding three daytime services in the grounds of Dorothy House, Winsley, and one evening service at Bath Abbey. Our Winsley services will include the switching on of the lights on our beautiful Christmas tree. Numbers for all services are limited and places can be reserved by signing up for a free ticket at:

LUAL22.eventbrite.co.uk

Services of Light

Lighting Tree - 12 noon Winsley Saturday 26th November

Lighting Tree – 12.00pm and 3.00pm Winsley Sunday 27th November

Bath Abbey – 6.00pm Bath Tuesday 29th November

Each year, we really look forward to Light up a Life – seeing all those lovely faces, some familiar, some new. There's nothing quite like gathering around the Christmas tree, feeling the light that connects us, and just pausing for a moment to remember the special people that can't be there. I sincerely hope to see you there, in honour of your loved one, this year too.

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Wiltshire Air Ambulance News

Carols by Candlelight

Wiltshire Air Ambulance will be hosting a special Carols by Candlelight event leading up to Christmas.

The stunning Marlborough College Chapel is the venue for the festivities on **Tuesday 20th December**, which will include carols sung by The Military Wives Choir. Doors will open at **6.00pm for a 7.00pm start**, led by Bishop Andrew.

Wiltshire Air Ambulance's fundraising coordinator for events, Beth Knights, says: "We're incredibly excited to be inviting our supporters to come together and celebrate this Christmas. "We hope to see as many people as possible enjoying the festivities with us at the beautiful Chapel at Marlborough College."

Wiltshire Air Ambulance ambassador Paul Martin, star of TV's 'Flog It', will also be in attendance for a reading. Attendees will be able to enjoy refreshments, including mulled wine and mince pies. Tickets can be purchased online now, with the event costing £12.00 for adults, £8.00 for under-16s and a family ticket (for 2 adults, 2 children) is priced at £35.00.

Visit wiltshireairambulance.co.uk/carols to find out more or to secure your ticket now.



Wiltshire
Air Ambulance
funded by you, flying for you

Play our 2022 Christmas Raffle



**TOP PRIZE
£3,000**

Play online now:
www.wiltshireairambulance.co.uk/raffle

Concluding Green Party Survey

BUS SERVICE

MAJORITY WERE SATISFIED WITH THE CURRENT SERVICE

You told us that services are **infrequent** and school services **expensive**.

Maintenance of vehicles and furniture could be improved as well as introducing an evening service.



More frequent bus services needed to reduce reliance on private cars.



Few support destructive road building.

PROPOSED A350 BYPASS

NEARLY ALL RESIDENTS ARE AWARE OF THE PROPOSAL

Over half of residents thought this road **did not** warrant destruction of the landscape and another third were unsure.

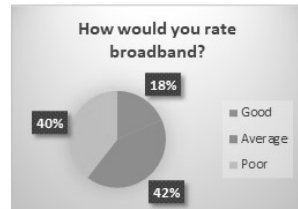
I **will not** be supporting construction of new roads that **destroy** our countryside, open green spaces & land for food production.

INFRASTRUCTURE

HOW GOOD ARE LOCAL ROADS AND INTERNET?

POTHoles/ROAD REPAIRS: the vast majority of residents were concerned about lack of highway maintenance

BROADBAND: Only a small proportion of residents have good broadband. Most find it average or poor.



No ultrafast broadband in Semington.

CAN WE HELP? WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET INVOLVED?



CATHERINE READ

Green Party Local Campaigner
Chippenham, Devizes & North
Wiltshire

✉ cathread5564@gmail.com



<https://cdnw.greenparty.org.uk/>



Chippenham Devizes and North Wilts
Green Party



@Cath_Read



Green Party

Promoted by Arthur McAuley on behalf of Catherine Read c/o Haverstock, Malmesbury Road, Minety, Wiltshire SN16 9OX. Printed by Digiprint, 5 New Road, Chippenham, SN15 1EL. Printed on recycled paper.

Semington Camera Club

Sue McDine

Nine of the group members gathered for the 2nd monthly meet at The Somerset Arms on Wednesday 5th October. The month's project was 'montage' where members could show an AV, projected images or prints of 10 different views of a subject of their choice. The range of subjects were a motorhome trip to Scandinavia, a pet cat, butterflies and bees, a hand, cloud formations, Tintagel Bridge and Gallos Sculpture. Anyone interested in joining the club please find us on Facebook - Semington Camera Club.



Gallos – Sue Mc Dine



Hand – Sheri O'Reilly



Motorhome Trip – John Rigg



Leo – Milena Sorlini

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Service Station



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Email: jez@kingsautoservices.co.uk

Semington WI

Deb Hurn

This month we had a go at Tai Chi under the tutelage of Anne Tottingham. A very calming evening, one where we realised that whilst you're doing Tai Chi you can't think of anything else. Definitely a bonus.

On **Thursday 10th November 7.30pm** in the Village Hall we will be making Christmas decorations from old books. I've seen different things made this way and am fascinated to see how it's done. We will also be taking numbers for our skittles evening in December and making menu choices for January. Watch WhatsApp etc for details

Semington Book Club

Angela Grodzicka – 870756

The Bookclub met on 18th October to discuss *Flying Under Bridges* by Sandi Toksvig. Not everyone had read it as the group had been struck by Covid but those who had enjoyed the book. It is a reverse murder story - we know the central character had committed an accidental but not inevitable murder and the back story is slowly revealed until we know the why. The author touches on several themes during the course of the story - sexism, homophobia, religious bigotry and the inequality of the sexes - and it is both very funny and very sad.

The next meeting has been set for **Tuesday 29th November** at 8.00pm in the pub to discuss *Waiting for Sunrise* by William Boyd and following that the January meeting will include a dinner - date to be decided.

Heartfelt Thanks on Behalf of the Wise Family

Sylvia Clark

We were overwhelmed to see so many people gather to celebrate the life of Peggy Wise on 30th August. A true villager with spirit, humour and popularity who leaves a big gap in our lives. Ros, Sandra, Phil and family sincerely thank you all for your support in being there to share memories of Peggys' long and happy life in Semington. Your donations raised £321 for the wonderful cause of Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

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

First Holy Communion 2023: Application forms for First Holy Communion 2023 are now available to collect from Fr. Tom. If your child is in Yr 3 or above then please collect, complete a form, and return to Fr. Tom. The closing date for application is **10th December**. The preparation sessions will begin in January. Full details will be given to parents after the deadline for applications happens in December.

Weekly Children's Rosary on Sundays: Every Sunday morning 9.45am in the Parish Centre. All welcome, especially in the Marian Month of October. The Rosary is led by the children of the parish, suitable activities available for children maybe too young to participate fully. Do come along!

St. Bernadette's Harvest Sale: Many thanks to all the parishioners who supported this event by making and buying items. It was lovely how so many people contributed to making this a great social event. It was a sell-out and raised £140 for 'Crosspoint Westbury'.

Sunday 12 Noon Mass: As from **Sunday 6th November**, there will no 12 noon Mass on Sunday. This Mass was introduced as a precaution against overcrowding at the 10.30 Mass on Sunday when we re-opened after the first COVID lockdown. Also, Fr. Tom may be asked to support other local parishes in the near future. This is preparing us for when there are fewer clergy in our Deanery. Please note the 6.00pm Sunday Mass will not resume.

Paws for Thought



The Father is a merciful God, who always gives us comfort. He comforts us when we are in trouble, so that we can share this same comfort with others in trouble

It's in the Bible; 1 Corinthians 1 verse 3 and 4

Thought From Joy - Associate Priest In Canalside

Joy Albone

November is always a time of remembering and remembrance, whether it is remembering the actions of a certain Guy Fawkes or more importantly the lives of those we have loved who have died and those who gave their lives during times of conflict.

November always begins with the twin days of remembering All Saints and All Souls. All Saints on 1st November, is when we think of all those who have been made saints by the church. In former years this day was known as All Hallows, and the evening before as All Hallows Eve, which eventually became known by most people as Halloween. Then on All Souls Day, 2nd November we remember those we have loved who have died as we traditionally pray for their souls to be at peace with God. Each year on the Sunday closest to All Souls Day, we hold an 'In Loving Memory' service in St. Michael's in Hilperton, where the names of those who have died are remembered and those who are mourning their loss are invited to light a candle in their memory. This year's 'In Loving Memory' Service will be on 30th October at 3.00pm in St. Michael's Church, Hilperton.

The key act of remembrance in our villages though is around Remembrance Day. Every year I am astonished at how many people choose to turn out, whatever the weather, to honour those who gave their lives in the service of our country, and to pray for future peace. Praying for peace is an important part of our Remembrance commemorations especially this year when the peace of the world, especially the peace of Europe has been threatened more than ever. Some people choose to wear a white poppy either alongside their red poppy, or instead of a red poppy. Both the red poppy and the white poppy are worn in the hope of a peaceful future, and whereas the red poppy commemorates the vital work of the armed forces, and the casualties suffered by them, the white poppy is worn to remember all casualties of war, especially the innocent men, women and children who become unwitting victims of conflict.

I cannot think of any in our villages who do not long for peace in the world, and in our services of Remembrance, we remember the hope that God gives us for peace and reconciliation. Hope and peace that comes from Jesus' death and resurrection. For Jesus died in our place, in the place of every person on earth, including all those alive now, all who have died and all who are yet to live, so that we might know that 'peace which passes all understanding' the peace that only God can give us.

Whatever colour poppy you choose to wear this year, or even if you choose not to wear a poppy at all, I am sure we all long for that peace.



CHURCH SERVICES in SEMINGTON and WHADDON

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

Date	Time	Service
Sunday 6th November	3pm	BOOK of COMMON PRAYER HOLY COMMUNION at St Mary the Virgin, Whaddon <i>A traditional service of Communion</i>
Sunday 13th November	10.15am	SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE at St George's, Semington
Sunday 20th November	9.15am	HOLY COMMUNION at St George's, Semington

Contact Details for The Canalside Parishes:

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

E-mail: canalsideoffice@gmail.com

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

Church Warden – Mr David Wildsmith

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

Curate: Revd. Joy Albone **07931 638524** email

canalsidecurate@gmail.com

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

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