

# Semington Village Fete



Saturday

22<sup>nd</sup> July



2.00pm

Semington Parish Magazine  
Summer 2023



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**Semington WI**

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July 3.00pm

Afternoon Tea, Lacock

**Semingtones Choir**

Fridays 6.00pm

Village Hall

**Semington Book Club**

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July 8.00pm

Village Hall

**Semington Crib Club**

Fridays 8.00pm to 10.00pm

Village Hall

**Parish Council Meeting**

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 7.30pm

Village Hall

**Semington Magpies Football Club**

See Page 13 for pre-season friendlies

Little Marsh

**Semington Board Games Night**

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 7.00pm

Village Hall

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July 7.00pm

Village Hall

**Don't forget you can find out more about what's happening in the village on the Parish Council Website [semington.org.uk](http://semington.org.uk)**

## Christians in Semington

*Bev Woodward*

**Christians in Semington** - are meeting via zoom, to pray for our community, on **Wednesdays 5<sup>th</sup> July and 2<sup>nd</sup> August 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 read and discuss 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.

**The next Breakfast Church** is on **Sunday 9th July - 9.15am** for breakfast, finishing by 10.00am, everyone's very welcome. There will be no Breakfast Church in August.

## Editor's Note

*Gillian Airey*

Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of Summer! I do love to plant an earworm when given the chance. However, I also recognise that a number of our younger villagers will be slightly lost.... Google it, I promise you, it should be this year's Euro-pop banger. Anyway back to business, welcome to this year's summer double edition. It's chocker-block with parish news, fete news and village news. In addition to the usual Parish Council meeting minutes there is also a copy of the annual parish meeting minutes too.

Our colour cover comes courtesy of Roy McDine – many thanks Roy for sharing the images from past fetes with us – it looks like the sun always shines on Semington! My eternal thanks as always to Andy and Roxi at A M Print & Copy for sponsoring the colour copy and for putting up with my ever shifting page numbers and remote editing!

Also a very big welcome to our new residents into the village I know that people are gradually moving into Kendall Lane too. If you need to find out anything there's the Parish Council website **semington.org.uk** as well as this glorious little tome that comes out ten times a year.

We're not back until September and the deadline for submissions is **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August**. I'd love to hear from you all my email as always **semparmag@icloud.com**

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## This Month I'm Going Underground

*Gilly Airey*

Apologies once more to the younger ones amongst you as I reference yet another 80s classic (yes all you music pedants who are thinking are you sure? think you'll find it was 1979.... it was released in March 1980 and if Professor Google says so and Wikipedia seconds it that's good enough for me) Anyhow I digress (yet again). I write this whilst currently on a road trip with Gorgeous Hubby. I think we're in San Sebastian slowly turning into the human form of a pintxo.

Where we are is actually not my point, my point is the way the rest of the world approaches car parks. Everything is either very below ground or very above ground... which then leads me to an even earlier musical reference 'Underground, overground Wombling free' seriously there were some amazing children's programmes back in the day (first aired 1973, yep Google said so) During our current road trip Gorgeous Hubby and I have agreed to share the driving – but we know our places, me the daughter of a bus driver has the rare ability to read a map from any angle so when we get to the tricky bit of city centres there's only one place for each us, me in the passenger seat and Gorgeous Hubby himself behind the wheel. On motorways, autopista and autobahn it's anyone's call.

Then there are the car parks, Gorgeous Hubby territory all the way. Why can't they be like the Southgate car park in Bath, wide open lanes, no alloy crashing kerbs and loads of space to turn and go down a level. So far we've only stayed in three hotels and each car park has had me holding my breath as we descend on a ramp that like feels like 1 in 3 (yes youngsters there were no percentages for steepness in our day) in modern terms that's a 33% incline. These inclines are then partnered with 120° turn with a car parked opposite you and you can see the scars left by other cars over the years. Not only have I held my breath I cannot lie I have also closed my eyes and waited for all the parking sensors and for Gorgeous Hubby to stop bleeping.

The worst ever though was a going up car park, this time in San Diego, it even came with a health warning like a pack of cigarettes, 'this is a corkscrew ramp car park you must be a confident driver to enter'. I kid you not Gorgeous Hubby drove a typically oversized US car up 11 floors – don't ask me how he did it – I had my eyes closed the whole way and yes since you ask all the way down the next day! Fancy playing car park poker with me? I'd love to hear your best and worst car parking stories email [semparmag@icloud.com](mailto:semparmag@icloud.com)

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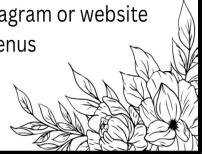
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## **Hello From St George's School**

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*James McKenna – Assistant Principal*

Recently, we have had an opportunity arise for a Midday Supervisor to play a key role in supporting our children at lunchtimes. This is an opportunity to join us, working in a school environment to support our primary-aged children and ensure they have as safe and positive lunchtime experience.

### **All About You**

Do you have what it takes to join us? The Midday Supervisory Assistant we would like to join us will be:

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- Our children are engaged and eager to learn.
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Why not come and see for yourself? We would love to welcome you to our school and show you around so that you can better understand our school environment. Please get in touch with the school office to arrange a visit.

### **Vacancy Details**

Hours per week: 5

Actual salary per annum: £2,314 - £2,356

Start date: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023

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# Semington Summer Fete

## Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July Semington High Street

Phew! What a scorcher (at time of writing anyway!) let's hope the fine weather holds for the Semington Village Summer Fete. We hope that you have got the date in your diary.

The Village Hall is hosting for Grannies Attic, Hilperton Scouts games, an exhibition of the work of the Semington Camera Club and more. Outside the Somerset Arms for outdoor bar... and more keep an eye on Facebook for final confirmation. Beautiful Brook House gardens for afternoon teas, stalls, cakes, raffles, children's games, delicious Lacock gelato, magic and much more.

During the afternoon there'll be songs by the Semingtones, and dancing with Devizes Jubilee Morris to enjoy too.

And drum roll please the ducks are back! At roughly 5.00pm down at the brook, follow the signs and remember to purchase your duck from the Hilperton Scouts!! Don't forget this will be a cash only event... so get digging down the back of your sofa, go to that quaint old ATM machine at Sainsbury's, raid your penny pot and bring your purses and spare change, we will be most grateful as always.

Here's the small print: all donations for grannies attic, books, toys, tombola etc can be brought to the village hall on **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> and Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July between 5.30pm and 7.00pm** for drop off. If you have any fresh produce, plants or delicious home made cakes, please bring them along on **Saturday morning** to Brook House gardens, we will be delighted to see you and really grateful for all donations received.

Our charity this year is Melksham Foodbank, who provide emergency food for local people in crisis. Since the first lockdown in 2020 the village have supported this Charity with weekly food donations and collections that have been warmly received by both volunteers and clients at the Charity based at Melksham Baptist Church.

We do look forward to seeing you on Fete day!

Semington Village Fete Committee

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## Nature Notes

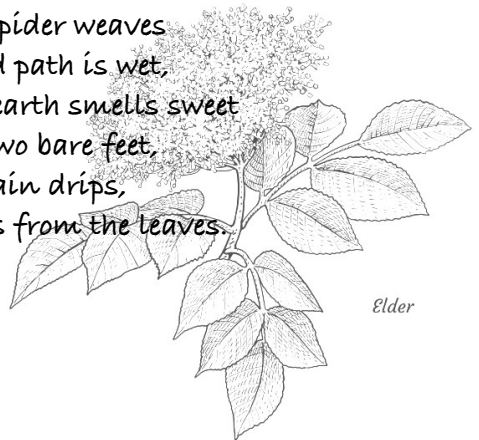
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Winifred M. Letts (1882 to 1972) was born in Lancashire but lived in Ireland most of her life. She wrote poetry, novels, and plays. In the Great War she worked as a therapist with wounded soldiers, serving in Manchester and Alnwick. She is remembered today as a war poet but her first publications were lyrical in nature. Almost every line here says Ireland.

### *A soft day*

*A soft day, thank God!  
A wind from the south  
With a honeyed mouth;  
A scent of drenching leaves,  
Briar and beech and lime,  
White elder-flower and thyme  
And the soaking grass smells sweet,  
Crushed by my two bare feet,  
While the rain drips,  
Drips, drips, drips from the eaves.*

*A soft day, thank God!  
The hills wear a shroud  
Of silver cloud;  
The web the spider weaves  
The woodland path is wet,  
And the soaking earth smells sweet  
Under my two bare feet,  
And the rain drips,  
Drips, drips, drips from the leaves.*



*Elder*

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## Semington Book Club

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*Angela Grodzicka – 870756*

Eight of the group met on 14<sup>th</sup> June to discuss *The Dig* by John Preston. This book concerns the background and people involved in the archeological discovery of an Anglo Saxon longship and its treasure at Sutton Hoo just before the Second World War. The author is the nephew of one of the characters in the book. It is beautifully written and understated with poignant aspects surrounding the loneliness of the child in the family, the illness of the mother and the unsatisfactory marriages involved. Those of us who had also seen the film felt that extended the characters and deepened our understanding of their relationships.

The next meeting has been scheduled for **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July at 8.00pm** in the village hall to discuss *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus.

## Semington Magpies Are Back

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*Neil Taylor 07359 472277*

Your Saturday village football team will be making a welcome return for the 23/24 season. Anyone who is interested in playing we train on Tuesday evenings 6:30pm start at Little Marsh as long as you are 16 years old and above. If you would like more information please contact me – my details are above.

If you would just like to come along and watch a game of football. You will always be welcome. Our opening pre season friendly is on the **1st July 2.00pm** vs Seend at Little Marsh.

Upcoming pre season games

8 <sup>th</sup> July 2.00pm	Greyhound - Away
15 <sup>th</sup> July 1.00pm	Heytesbury & Codford - Home
18 <sup>th</sup> July 6.30pm	Trowbridge Town Tigers - Home
22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2.00pm	Bromham - Away
29 <sup>th</sup> July 3.00pm	Cricklade - Home
5 <sup>th</sup> August 2.00pm	Ludgershall - Home

## Abridged Minutes from Parish Council Meeting

*Meeting Held Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023*

**Present.** Councillors W.Scott (Chairman – See Agenda item 2), R. Bruges, S. Chown, J. Hailey, M. Kasasian, C. McGarvey, C. Wade and the Clerk, Roger Coleman. There were three members of the public present initially.

**Apologies.** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. P Smith and from Wiltshire Council, Cllr. J Seed.

**Election of Chairman.** In the absence of the Chairman of the Parish Council (Cllr. P Smith), Cllr. Scott was unanimously elected as Chairman for the meeting.

**Declaration of Interests.** There were no interests declared.

**Annual Parish Meeting (APM) – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023.** The Council noted that the two items raised by electors at this meeting namely the Street Light at Pound Lane/Highfield Close and the security arrangements at the Football Club were addressed at subsequent agenda items under community and Communication. The Council agreed to appoint a small working group of councillors to review the 2023 APM, and to propose a date, time, content and format for the 2024 APM. Cllrs. Smith, Chown and Bruges were appointed as Working Group members.

**Wiltshire Council Report.** In the absence of Cllr. Seed no report was given. Cllr. Scott reported that he had written to Cllr. Seed in respect of recent statements associated with the Secretary of State for Levelling up, Communities and Housing (Michael Gove) and Michelle Donelan MP relating to Local Plans and Housing Supply/Numbers and seeking clarification of the current position.

**Community and Communication.** Councillors reported that the Post Office continues to operate successfully. Cllr. Wade stated that the request for improved lighting on the path in the vicinity of Pound Lane/Highfield Close could, if necessary, be raised at the Wiltshire Council Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group (LHFIG) meeting. Meanwhile, Cllrs. Scott and Hailey agreed to investigate the reported problem further. Cllr. Chown reported that she had reported the concern regarding the railings on the canal bridge via the Wiltshire Council 'My Wilts' app and had been informed by Wiltshire Council that their current state needed no further attention and if the Parish Council continues to be concerned the issue should be reported to the Canal and River Trust.

*Clerk's Note.* Mr Paul Chown gave a full and detailed report on the work that he had undertaken in respect of the Semington Website during the Public Participation immediately prior to the Parish Council meeting. The Chairman invited the Parish Council to consider making a donation to Mr Paul Chown for his significant and time-consuming work updating and reconfiguring the Semington Website. Cllr. S Chown declared an interest in this matter and left the meeting. The Council **resolved** to give a £100 Wine Voucher to Paul Chown and further **resolved** that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr Chown. Cllr. S Chown rejoined the meeting. The Parish Council **resolved** to allocate a Budget of £200 for the acquisition of essential software to support the updating and reconfiguration of the Semington Website.

**Recreation and Wellbeing.** The Clerk reported that he had not received any further correspondence regarding the transfer of the Allotment Site to the Parish Council from either Newland Homes Ltd or Forrester Sylvester Mackett (Solicitors) and he had been recently assured by FSM (Solicitors) that they were seeking a response from Newland Homes Ltd to the queries raised by the Parish Council in the letter from the Parish Council to Newland Homes Ltd and Appendix dated 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023. Cllr. Chown stated that there has been evidence that Wiltshire Council is preparing the Wessex Close Play Area to ensure that it is a satisfactory condition to hand it over to the Parish Council as an Asset Transfer. She confirmed that Wiltshire Council had received the necessary authorisation from the Parish Council for the transfer to take place and that the transfer documentation is with the Wiltshire Council Legal Team. The ‘on-site’ meeting to examine and to review the security arrangements at the Football Club/Football Field is to take place over the next couple of weeks.

**Environment and Streetscene.** Rights of Way. Cllr. Scott reported that there had been a number of exchanges of correspondence with Wiltshire Council regarding the conduct and results of the SEMI9a/HILP22/10 ‘Cycleway’ Safety Audit and associated Report and that there remained outstanding issues for Wiltshire Council to address. He added that Cllr. Seed had also written to Wiltshire Council (Director, Highways) Parvis Khansari expressing his view that the audit was seriously flawed and should now be undertaken again. Cllr. Scott commented that the Wiltshire Councillor for Hilperton (Cllr. E Clark), who has also been very critical of the Safety Audit, suggested that the Cycleway could be subject to a six-month Traffic Restriction Order whilst the significant safety issues are addressed. Cllr. Clark had commented that changing the status of this Cycleway to a Restricted Byway could be very costly and lengthy and would involve a number of legal processes and there would be little support for this course of action from Wiltshire Council. Cllr. Scott stated that there had been significant activity by parishioners, the Parish Steward and the Ramblers Association in clearing local Rights of Way.

Cllr. Scott reported that the £3800 resulting from the s106 Agreement (St Georges Road) is to be spent locally and following a meeting involving the Wiltshire Council’s Rights of Way team it was agreed to install three kissing gates and to improve the condition of a number of footpaths. It was also agreed that a brush cutter strimmer would also be purchased for use by the Semington Parish Rights of Way Group.

Cllr. Bruges expressed his support for increasing the ‘wilding’ of areas – especially grass verges – in Semington and proposed that a formal schedule and programme be developed by the Parish Council to put this into effect.

**Transport and Traffic.** The Council noted the public concern regarding the location and operation of the Bus Gate expressed during the Public Participation and, in particular, the current location of the Bus Gate and the possible use of APNR Camera enforcement. The Council acknowledged that the Bus Gate continued to give rise to mixed feelings within the Parish but its existence has improved the quality of life beyond measure for the vast majority of parishioners owing to the much reduced through traffic and that its continued existence was supported by the majority of parishioners. Cllr. Wade explained the legal issues associated with the existence and use of the Bus Gate and that any change to the current arrangement would be prohibitively expensive in terms of construction and legal costs. The Parish Council resolved that it supported the presence of the Bus Gate.

## **Abridged Minutes from Parish Council Meeting**

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*Cont'd from page 15*

**Planning and Development.** The council noted that there was no change from the previous Parish Council meeting in respect of the status of extant planning applications. There were no planning applications received after 8 June 2023.

**Finance. Total balance in hand as at 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023 £80,703.72**

The Community Development Fund Working Group (CDFWG) confirmed that no further applications for funding had been received. The Council **resolved** to make the payments shown under 'Payments to be authorised' (see full minutes on line for detail) including a payment of £100.00 (Wine Voucher) to Paul Chown.

**Neighbourhood Plan (NP).** Cllr. Scott stated that good progress is being made with the development of the Neighbourhood Plan and gave the following Report:

The NP steering group is now preparing for what is termed the 'Regulation 14' public consultation. The next steering group meeting will consider the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan and then ask the Parish Council to agree it at its July meeting. Regulation 14 is the first formal consultation with parishioners about the draft Plan. The steering group will carry this out on behalf of the Parish Council. It is scheduled to last for 6 weeks, beginning on September 1st. The draft plan will comprise vision, objectives, policies, and the evidence base on which these have been determined. Parishioners will be asked to comment on the draft plan in writing. This feedback will then be used to take the draft plan to the next stage of development.

The steering group has prepared documentation for a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) screening by Wiltshire Council. Wiltshire Council will determine whether it needs a full SEA to determine the draft plan's impacts on biodiversity, heritage, design, etc, or whether a short form of assessment will suffice. If a longer form of assessment is needed, then the Regulation 14 consultation will be delayed. A draft developer engagement protocol was agreed and forwarded to the Parish Council Clerk with a request that it be placed on the June Parish Council agenda with a view to the Council adopting the protocol – see Agenda item 14b below.

The Council **resolved** to approve the Community Pre-application Protocol dated June 2023 that had been sent to all councillors prior to the meeting.

Date of the next meeting: **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 7.30pm**

**Full minutes are available online at [semington.org.uk](http://semington.org.uk)**



# Annual Parish Meeting

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*Meeting Held Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023*

**Present.** Peter Smith, Chairman, Semington Parish Council and Chairman for the meeting. Roger Coleman, Clerk. There were twenty-one members of the public present, which included Parish Councillors W Scott, S Chown, J Hailey, R Bruges and M Kasasian and Wiltshire Council Cllr. J Seed.

**Introduction and Welcome.** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the nature of an Annual Parish meeting to those attending.

**To approve the Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019.** The minutes were signed as a true and accurate record.

**Annual Report from the Parish Council - Year 2022 – 2023** The Chairman explained that there are five ‘theme groups’ within the Parish Council with individual councillors assigned to each theme. He gave the following report of the work of the Parish Council and the topics addressed by the Theme Groups to the meeting:

## **Community and Communications**

- CIL Funding for village groups: two awards so far.
- PC website: information of local interest including PC work and about village organisations.
- Pandemic: thanks to Support Group and all community volunteers, especially during early 2020.
- Facebook page: great for local comms, village groups participating, 600 members.
- Christmas Tree.
- Other grants to village groups: e.g. Parochial Church Council.
- Support, both in participating in the organisation of, and in funding, village events: Platinum, Jubilee, Village Fete, Coronation.
- Somerset Arms: asset of community value registration.
- Post Office: making the case to regional PO.
- Neighbourhood Watch Scheme: attempts to revive this have been abandoned due to lack of interest.
- Semington Past and Present: a digital version is now available on the Parish Council’s website.
- Broadband improvements: joined with other local parishes but currently stalled awaiting BT Response.

## **Recreation and Well-being**

- Wessex Close Play Area: village volunteer group working with PC to manage and improve the fenced play area.
- Allotments: PC finalising transfer of responsibilities from the developer, thereafter PC will enable allotments to be let within a management framework.
- Tennis Court: 2 x working parties to clear overgrowth, plus installation of weed buffer around court.

## **Environment and Streetscene**

- Litter Picks: in last year, 3 working party picks, and 3 informal picks by one or two people
- Leaf clearing: once.
- Gutter clearing: once by volunteers, once by Parish Steward.
- Crocus corm planting: annual event, about 2500 planted by volunteers last autumn.
- Rights of Way: 2 new kissing gates (improved accessibility), footpath clearance working parties x 3, Wiltshire Ramblers huge help, discussions with local landowners and Wiltshire Council about maintaining RoW.
- Queen's Green Canopy: efforts to plant 25 trees including fruit species hampered by new WC rules, so ongoing.
- Trees: 2 x clearing overgrowth around trees opposite the Crematorium.
- Removal of fallen branches from storm damaged ash tree.

## **Traffic and Transportation**

- Littlemarsh: speed reduction efforts at A361 Turnpike roundabout entrance, including "SLOW" and line hatching on road surface.
- Bus Gate: attempting to get ANPR camera installed.
- Speeding survey on High Street: mean recorded speeds slightly above 30mph.
- Byway resurfacing to convert to Cycleway: still trying to get WC to understand safety concerns over mixed usage on 60mph lane, still pursuing reasons for ignoring concerns in safety audit.

## **Planning and Development**

- Major planning applications: coordinating village response to 18 homes south of St. George's Road (Newland Homes phase 2, permission granted by WC) and to 30 homes south of Pound Lane (Greystoke phase 2, permission refused by WC.)
- Wiltshire Local Plan Review: co-ordinating village response, including views on the expansion of Trowbridge eastwards across Hilperton to our parish boundary, and the transfer of Semington from the Melksham HMA to the Trowbridge HMA. Revised plan due out on 7<sup>th</sup> July.
- Greenacres: continuing to ask WC for answers as to apparent infringements of planning restrictions, so far to no avail.
- Neighbourhood Planning: 18 months into preparing the Semington plan, about one year to go to village referendum, with fuller report next item on agenda.
- Housing Needs Survey 2021: mentioned because completed since the last Annual PM.

## **Statement on the Parish Council accounts for Year ending 31 March 2022.**

The Clerk presented the following report:

The balance brought forward from FY2021/22 had been £51,865 and, allowing for the payments and receipts during the year, the balance carried forward at the end of FY2022/23, is £84,000. The total receipts for the year to date are £54,783, payments for the year to date total £22,647 and the value of the fixed assets owned by the Council is £25,874. Latest Governance guidance has been used in the valuation of assets.

Main Receipts in the year were:

Precept:	£13,500
HMRC VAT Refund:	£847
Bank Interest:	£15
HMCTS	£14
Groundwork UK (N. Plan Grant)	£12,083
Wiltshire Council (CIL)	£28,324 (an earlier £12,139 was received in FY20221/22)

Main Payments in the year were:

Staff Costs:	£3,665
Office Expenses:	£425
HMRC PAYE:	£2,440
Neighbourhood Plan:	£8,098
St George's PCC:	£600
Wiltshire Council	£970
Solicitors	£500
Website	£240
Insurance	£847
Subscriptions	£215 (CPRE £36, SLCC £139, Info, Comm. £40)
Audit Fees:	£360
Hall Hire:	£154
Christmas Tree etc	£280

The Annual Return has been completed and the Internal Auditor has undertaken the Internal Audit and has confirmed that all is in order and the Annual Return has been approved by the Parish Council. It has now been sent to PKF Littlejohn, the Government appointed External Auditor who will submit their report later this year. The exceptionally high 'Carry Forward' figure of £84,000 is because of a Wiltshire Council Community Infrastructure Levy receipt in respect of Planning application 19/07938 (land at St Georges) totalling £40,463 and a grant of £13,663 from Groundwork UK for the development of the Neighbourhood Plan. It is worthy of note that the Parish Council has opted for a Parish Community Tax precept of £13,500 for the last three years – a modest increase over the years when compared to 2018 when it was £12,750.

The Parish Council has agreed to identify specific community projects to benefit from these reserves, namely:

Provision of Allotments	£5,000
Adoption & Refurbishment of Wessex Close Play Area	£20,000
Tennis Court Maintenance & Repair	£7,500
Neighbourhood Plan	£10,000
Community Projects	£20,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£62,500</b>

This will leave a General Reserve of £21,500 – which is more in line with accepted practice.

## **The Neighbourhood Plan**

The Chairman explained the purpose of a Parish adopting a Neighbourhood Plan and gave details of the progress in developing the Semington Neighbourhood Plan. He emphasized that the plan is designed to address the views of the whole of the Semington community and that a number of public consultation events have been held in order to inform the plan. He added that further consultation activities are planned before the Neighbourhood Plan is subject to a Parish-wide Referendum vote. He directed members of the public to the Semington website – for details of the developing Neighbourhood Plan.

## **Community Groups - Presentations**

Cllr. Seed addressed the meeting and provided details and updates on the following topics:

- Wiltshire Council Core Strategy and Housing targets.
- The Semington/Hilperton Byway (SEMI9a/HILP22/10 'Cycleway'), including the Safety Audit.
- Melksham Area Board Grant opportunities.
- Semington Bus Gate – and the need to address local concerns.

## **Brief Presentations were given by:**

Martin Bray (Football Club) – addressing the need for improved security for the hut/changing rooms. The Chairman (Cllr. P Smith) confirmed that he would meet with Mr Bray at the club in order to understand how best the Parish Council might help.

Gillian Airey (Semington Parish Magazine) – She explained that there are 10 monthly editions with 420 copies distributed each month. She invited parishioners to provide her with their views and feedback regarding the magazine content.

Stephen Turpin – Semington WW2 History in respect of artefacts remaining in Semington as part of a wartime defensive line

## **To invite electors to raise any matters of concern to them that relates to their local community**

The following matters of concern were reported:

- Wessex Close Play Area – When is the Parish Council to assume responsibility for that area? The Chairman commented that arrangements with Wiltshire Council have nearly been completed and that he anticipated that the Parish Council would have responsibility for it within the next couple of months.
- Wessex Close Street light is not working and requires repair.
- Wildflower Meadow planting – There should be areas identified within the village for developing as a 'wildflower' area.
- Consideration should be given to introducing summer flowering bulbs.
- The end of the Pound Lane/Highfield Close pathway is very dark – especially at the Pound Lane end and there is need for an additional street light. Cllr. Seed advised that a grant towards this project be sought either from the Melksham Area Board or that a bid for joint funding is made to the Melksham LHFIG. The Chairman (Cllr. P Smith) confirmed that this matter would be taken up by the Parish Council.

**To consider matters raised by those present.** There were no other matters raised or advised beforehand.

## Spotlight on Local Business – The Lamb on the Strand

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We delighted to announce The Lamb on The Strand has now reopened with local Semington couple Tara and Jordan leading the pub as a warm and inviting place for everyone!

The Lamb on The Strand is a traditional village pub with self catering cottages. Enjoy carefully selected beers and wines whilst enjoying exceptionally prepared seasonal food. In the colder months sit back by the log fires after a countryside walk or enjoy the sunshine in the garden in the summer.

Tara has carefully curated the drinks menu to ensure there is something for everyone from beers and ciders from Jeremy Clarkson's

Hawkestone range, whiskey and gins from the Cotswolds to a sparkling red wine that's been developed, grown & bottled in Chew Magna. All of which you can enjoy in the garden during the summer months or by one of the three fires inside the pub itself.

Head chef Jordan has worked in and led many well loved kitchens across Wiltshire and now it's time for him to take to the ropes his very own kitchen in his own pub! With a passion for freshly cooked, local and seasonal food Jordan's menus feature a careful selection of the finest ingredients, being The Lamb you'll be sure to see a lamb dish featured on our ever changing menu.

Our service times are:

Lunch - Thursday to Saturday 12.00pm – 2.00pm

Dinner - Thursday to Saturday 6.00pm – 9.00pm

Sunday - Lunch served every Sunday 12.00pm – 3.00pm

Tel: 01380 871599

Web: [thelambonthestrand.com](http://thelambonthestrand.com)

Instagram: @the\_lamb\_on\_the\_strand





# *In Focus and Semington* Camera Club

*22<sup>nd</sup> / 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 Photography Showcase*  
*Semington Village Hall*



## From The Church Register

On Sunday 11th June Frederick Hensley Kingsbury (Freddie), and Isabelle Rose Kingsbury were baptised. We thank God for them, and pray for them, their parents Georgina and Daniel, and their Godparents, as the children begin their Christian journey.

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## Semington Post Office – Use or Lose It!

A local resident recently contacted the magazine with concern about our Post office service – here they write: *'I have just been to the Post Office in the village. Dennis has made it very welcoming and is apparently planning a disabled ramp - the whole facility is free to the village so thank you very much Dennis. BUT the footfall is so low that we are in danger of losing it.'*

At time of going to print it was announce the intention to reduce the hours to just one hour a week – please see Kate's post on the village Facebook page about the need to challenge this decision.



**The Semingtons!**  
**Ladies Choir**

**SATURDAY 8TH JULY 2023**  
**7PM START**  
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**Join us to celebrate 10**  
**wonderful years**  
**With Guests**  
**The Songbirds Ladies Choir**

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To book - go to **www.eventbrite.co.uk** and search Semingtons - this should take you straight to the booking section.



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## Wiltshire Councillor News From Jonathon Seed

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The summer continues with long and hot days producing their fair share of issues for Councils of all types. However Wiltshire Council can finally try to catch up with the never ending list of potholes that require repairing after a "perfect pothole storm" of a winter which was both wet and cold. The numbers of repairs and the quality of those repairs are improving. A 10% weekly gain on repairs over reports is really good news and new machines are making a better job of those repairs. I repeat the mantra that if it is not reported then it will not get repaired so please keep using the MYWILTS app to report potholes. It is of note that Wiltshire Council ran a very well attended Pothole webinar in June to update residents on the work that the Council is doing in this area and it is hoped that this very informative event will be repeated.

Transport and highways remain really important parts of our lives in our rural County where we rely so heavily on our cars to get about. However not everyone has a car so it is good news that the £2.00 bus fare was extended by Wiltshire Council. The Council is also looking to improve cycling and walking routes in our local towns. The three Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) set out proposals for cycling and walking networks in each town (Trowbridge, Devizes and Chippenham), and highlight how these networks will be improved and connected to make it easier and safer to walk and cycle in the towns. Have a look on the Wiltshire Council website in order to have your say on these plans.

Wiltshire Council is also trying to modernise its Waste Collection and Recycling services. Every household should have had a leaflet to explain what is happening and this is worth a read. It is particularly important to comply with what you can and cannot put in various bins as the Council is checking bin content on a random basis before they are collected (a practice which I have opposed). However one new and useful service is that the Council will collect small rechargeable electrical items if you put them in a carrier bag and leave the bag next to your blue bin on collection day.

Finally, on a personal note, I am pleased to have been elected by fellow Melksham Wiltshire Councillors to Chair the Melksham Area Board once more. I have chaired the Board for eight of the past fourteen years and I am looking forward to a term of office where I can concentrate on services and serving within our Community

Tel. **07770 774463** Facebook: **JSforWC**  
Email: **Jonathon.seed@wiltshire.gov.uk**



Trowbridge Wessex Mead Rotary

## **Canal-side Cream Tea**

Cost £7.50 per person

Saturday 29 July, 2023

2pm - 5pm

At Semington Dock, BA14 6JT



**All proceeds to Rotary Charities**

Charity registration no. 1119985

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Richard Ricketts the the “Bee Man” joined us once again to give a talk on the bees. He’s an excellent speaker and all of us were extremely interested In what he had to say. Some of the facts and figures that he gave in relation to how we are destroying the countryside and even the things that we are doing in our own gardens, is having a huge detrimental affect on our bug life.

Bees are extremely important. We don’t want to find ourselves going from tree to tree, plant to plant etc brushing pollen on them. He gave a list of plants that will attract bees to the garden and suggested that on visiting garden centres we buy plants that have not had Neonicotinoids used on them, as this is highly poisonous to bees.

**July 13<sup>th</sup>** is our next meeting and we won’t be meeting in the hall. We will be going out for afternoon tea at **3.00pm** to the Sign of the Angel in Lacock.

We will be back in the Village Hall for our August meeting where we will have a games night mixed with crafting things for our Air Ambulance stall.

## Save The Date – Fun Dog Show

*Ian Williamson*

Trowbridge Wessex Mead Rotary are proud to announce their second annual Fun Dog Show, to be held at Semington Dock on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 11.00am.**

## Semington Board Games Night

*Kate Stacey and Stuart Taylor*

Board game nights are fully underway now with a vast array of games to join in with. From some classics to brand new kick-starters.

The July dates are **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July and Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July at 7.00pm** start in Semington Village Hall. At just £3.00 to attend if you would like to come along or would like more information please email us at [stuart@semingtonvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:stuart@semingtonvillagehall.co.uk) or join our facebook group 'the Semington board gamers'.

We are a friendly bunch, and would love to see some new faces join us!

## 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

**Diocesan Day 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023:** Bishop Declan will be hosting a Diocesan Day on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October** at St. Brendan's Catholic Sixth Form College Broomhill Road Bristol BS4 5QR. Bishop Declan would like at least two representatives from every Parish in the Diocese. This means for us, that we can send 6 representatives. If you would like to represent St. Thomas More, St. John's and St. Bernadette's please let Canon Tom know. The day will begin with prayer at **10.15am** (refreshments from 9.30am) and finish with Mass at 3.45pm (approximately). *Please note change of date. Hopefully those who have already committed to go to this still can, if not please let Canon Tom know.*

**Glastonbury Pilgrimage 9<sup>th</sup> July 2023:** Bishop Declan invites us to come to the Glastonbury Pilgrimage on **9<sup>th</sup> July 2023**. We have arranged a coach for those who wish to go. It will pick pilgrims up from Bradford-on-Avon (Station Car-Park) 9.15am, Trowbridge (St. Augustine's Car-Park) 9.30am, Westbury (by the old Police Station) 9.45am. Return departure from Glastonbury 5.00pm. Cost per pilgrim £15 adults & £10 for Children. Please sign up to ensure your place on the posters provided in the Church Porches.

**300 Club:** If you wish to join the 300 Club, please ask Canon Tom for an application form. They are also available on the parish website. Thank you.

## Paws for Thought



The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known.

It's in the Bible; Psalm 19 verses 1,2

## Thought From Joy, Associate Priest

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*Joy Albone*

My mind is very focussed on transition at present. On **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July**, the Benefice will say its final farewells, to Rev. John and Anne Rees, as John retires after 7 years in this Benefice and they move to Dorset, where they have a new home. I know many people will miss John and Anne and all they have done in our villages in the time they were part of our communities. However this means for a time the post of Rector will be vacant, and although I will continue as Associate Priest in our Benefice I will not be able to do all that John and Anne have done in recent years. This period of vacancy will inevitably mean some changes will have to happen as it will not always be possible to hold every service or event we could when we had a full time rector in post. One of the initial changes you may notice is that during the month of August there will be just one service in the Benefice each Sunday, rotating around our four churches details of these services will be available on our Benefice website:

**[www.canalsidebenefice.org.uk](http://www.canalsidebenefice.org.uk)** and the village Facebook pages.

However, the churches are not the only ones in transition in July, as we say 'farewell' too to the Year 6 children leaving our Primary Schools and preparing to move onto their new schools. I was reflecting with one headteacher recently that in many ways this is the biggest change these children will have experienced in their lives and they will need all the support and prayers we can give them. Then there are those moving into our villages into the new housing may I say 'Welcome' to you, and I hope that you will find your new homes and communities a blessing to you.

In all our transitions I believe we need the help of God and I am reminded at this time of the prayer sometimes known as St. Patrick's Breastplate.

Christ be with me,  
Christ within me,  
Christ behind me,  
Christ before me,  
Christ beside me,  
Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me,  
Christ beneath me,  
Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet,  
Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in the mouth of friend and stranger.

May you know the presence of Christ wherever you find yourself in the coming weeks.

Until our new Rector is in post the normal service pattern may change. However, a service is held in the Benefice every Sunday, and one is usually recorded and available online. Full details are on our website, address below.



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 2nd July	10.30am	<p><b>BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION</b>  <i>at St Michael's in Hilperton</i>  <i>The Rector's (Rev John Rees) final Service</i>  <i>in the Benefice followed by a Farewell</i>  <i>Bring and Share Lunch at St Mary</i>  <i>Magdalen's in Horse Road Hilperton</i>  <b>ALL WELCOME</b></p>
Sunday 9th July	9.15am	<p><b>BREAKFAST CHURCH</b>  <i>at St George's</i></p>
Sunday 16th July	3pm	<p><b>HOLY COMMUNION from the</b>  <b>BOOK of COMMON PRAYER</b>  <i>at St Mary the Virgin, Whaddon</i></p>
Sunday 30th July	9.15am	<p><b>BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION</b>  <i>at St George's</i></p>
Sunday 6th August	3pm	<p><b>HOLY COMMUNION from the</b>  <b>BOOK of COMMON PRAYER</b>  <i>at St Mary the Virgin, Whaddon</i></p>
Sunday 20th August	9.15am	<p><b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>  <i>at St George's</i></p>

**Contact Details for The Canalside Parishes:**

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

Email: **canalsideoffice@gmail.com** Benefice website **www.canalsidebenefice.org.uk**

PCC Secretary/Treasurer - Jack Woodward 01380 870784

Church Warden - David Wildsmith

Associate Priest - Rev Joy Albone 07931 638524

email **canalsidecurate@gmail.com**

Please contact Joy if you would like a visit from someone from Church.