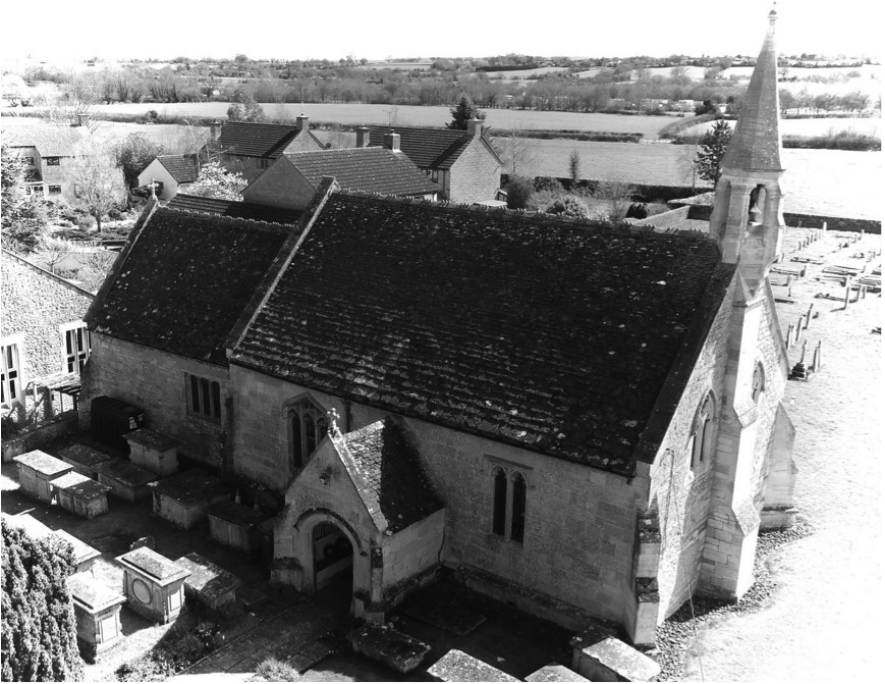


OCTOBER 2023



SEMINGTON
PARISH MAGAZINE



Post Office

Mondays 11.00am to 12.00pm

DG Car Sales

Food Bank Collections

Wednesdays 6.00pm deadline

Church Porch

Coffee Mornings

Thursdays 10.00am to 12.00pm

Village Hall

Bingo

Mondays 7.30pm

Village Hall

Semington WI

Thursday 12th October 7.30pm

Village Hall

Semingtones Choir

Fridays 6.00pm

Village Hall

Semington Book Club

Thursday 19th October 8.15pm

Village Hall

Semington Crib Club

Fridays 8.00pm to 10.00pm

Village Hall

Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 18th October 7.30pm

Village Hall

Semington Quiz Night

Thursday 5th October 7.00pm

Village Hall

Zumba in Semington

Wednesdays 6.15pm to 7.15pm

St George's School

Save The Date

Semington Winter Fete and Bonfire Night

Saturday 4th November starting at 4.00pm

See page 21 for full details and please note the entry requirements.

Outmarsh Farm

Christians in Semington

Bev Woodward - 870784

Christians in Semington - are meeting via zoom, to pray for our community, on **Wednesday 4th October at 8.00pm**. Please contact Jack Woodward, 870784, for the zoom link.

Housegroup - we meet every other Tuesday, at 8.00pm. We've almost got to the end of 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.

BBQ Church - thanks to Richard and Kate, BBQ Church was a great success last month. With worship, swimming, games and a delicious BBQ it was a memorable occasion!

Harvest Celebrations and **Breakfast Church** is on **Sunday 8th October**. There will be a breakfast of baked goodies, fruit, juice, tea, coffee and hot chocolate from 9.15am followed by a short service, when Sarah will be telling us more about the *Logos Hope*. ***See page 13 for full details of the Harvest Supper.***

Advent Calendars - I will be ordering Real Advent Calendars again this year. This is the only one with Fairtrade chocolate, a copy of the Christmas story and which supports charitable projects. The cost is £4.50 each, more details from **<https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk>** To ensure we have them for 1st December please get orders to me by **Sunday 5th November**.

Editor's Note

Gillian Airey

Crikey there's so much going on in the village that I ran out of space on the diary page so you'll find the Magpies' fixtures on page 9! Check out the details for the quiz night and advance notice for Semington Winter Fete and Bonfire night.

Our next edition is of course November and the deadline (which will be here before you know it) is **Sunday 22nd October**. I'd love to hear from you all my email as always **semparmag@icloud.com**

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This Month I'm Channelling My Inner Geek

Gilly Airey

Gorgeous Hubby and me, we're of the generation that when we first got t'internet at home (dial up speeds and no one allowed to use the phone at the same time) accepted the email addresses from our network provider and have pretty much used them ever since – like 25 years since....

All good things must come to an end though and Gorgeous Hubby did his sums and said if I wanted to keep the the Mighty Dibs in the manner to which he had become accustomed, i.e. he is allowed to turn his nose up at every other plate of food put out for him, then the time was right to leave good ole BT and broker a better deal for all things technologically inbound to Casa Airey. Now you know me, I'm am far from a party pooper but I did need to point out to him that this meant getting a new email address that wasn't bound to BT, I'm not going to lie I was pretty smug because some years ago I got me a snappy *me.com* email address a darn sight easier to type than *btopenworld.com*, so my mountain was a mole hill compared to his.

Now Gorgeous Hubby quite rightly says that there's no point in both of us being great at the same thing, a duplication of effort you may say... So when it comes to decorating he smashes it out of the park (our newly painted lounge is a superb example) and even though I say it myself my ability to fold a super-king fitted sheet single-handedly is beyond comparison, so in the division of specialist skills when it comes to all things tech I'm the geek in our squad.

First things first, we had to consciously uncouple our shared iCloud account (trust you're keeping up) and set the gorgeous one up with his own account whereupon he too could get a snappy email address to match mine. So far so good..... then the reality of just how many websites, online accounts, and profiles required changing hit home and get this – there is no universal standard in changing email addresses. This did not bode well for Gorgeous Hubby especially if changing email addresses required talking to someone in a call centre. His record breaking 'please stay on the line and we'll get to you as soon as possible, your call is important to us' was 43 minutes.

So how would I score my IT geekdom? Well if I told you I managed to book a hire car and get the confirmation sent to an email to what I thought was his new email address but which then turned out to be totally and utterly made up either that or someone in the world is thinking he's been hacked and someone has booked a hire car in Malaga in his name.... I think I'd better stick to folding sheets!

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Wiltshire

Gutter Cleaning Services

Parish Council - Chair's Report

Peter Smith, Chair of the Parish Council

Development of 26 homes north of St. George's Road – the developers (Green Square Accord) held an “informal” consultation event over a period of 5 hours in the village hall on 18th September. Over 40 people from the village turned up to look at the draft plans, to ask questions and to make comments. Parish councillors shared shifts to ensure we could listen to the views you expressed and to take these on board when sending in the council's response. These will be published on the council's website, on the village hall notice board and on the village Facebook page. Green Square Accord will consider all the comments and, in the next few weeks, submit to Wiltshire Council its detailed plans for this site. This will again be the subject of consultation, but this time “formal” when we will be asked to look at the “final” plans for the site and to make comment. Those comments will be considered by Wiltshire Council prior to its determination of the application, and it will be important for us all to make our views known at that time. The timeframe for comments will be publicised, again via website, notice board and Facebook page.

Notice boards – those of you who take time to look at the boards attached to the village hall will know that, for some time, they've been hard to read due to water ingress and condensation. New boards have now been installed (thanks to Colin Wade, John Hurn and team) so you should now be able better to keep up with parish and village hall news.

Rights of Way – lots of clearance work has been done over the last 4 weeks. Notably, these include the Corestreet Lane bridleway running south from the A361 and the footpath running east of Fairfield's caravan park, where work by the Wiltshire Ramblers has made these two lovely walks much more accessible. A big thanks to the Ramblers and also to our own village team which tackles smaller jobs mainly with only hand tools.

Parish Steward – since spring last year, we have had two new stewards (first Emma until June this year, now Connor) serving the village for 2 days a month. Both have provided a good responsive service to us, wanting to focus their efforts on our priorities, which in September included the footpath alongside the village hall. Connor's next visit will be mid-October. If you've noticed something you think needs his attention, please let me know on 870888.

Defibrillator Training – Wessex Ambulance Service will be at the Village Hall on 16th October at 7pm to provide training on how to use the defibrillator. It's very important that we have as many people as possible trained and able to act in an emergency. All are welcome so please come along, including those who might need their past training “refreshed”.

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Semington Magpies Match Report

Neil Taylor

The Magpies lost their first game of the season losing 4-1 at home to The Greyhound. It has still been a good start to the season from The Magpies, winning 2, drawing 2 and losing 1.

A big thank you to all the people that have come and watched us.

Our October fixtures are:

Saturday 7 th October 3.00pm	vs Trowbridge	Home
Saturday 14 th October 3.00pm	vs Bishops Cannings Reserves	Home
Saturday 21 st October 3.00pm	vs Holt	Away
Saturday 28 th October 3.00pm	vs South Newton & Barford Hornets	Away

Defibrillator Training

Colin Wade

Defibrillator Training will be given to villagers by South West Ambulance Service on **Monday 16th October at 7:00pm** in the village hall. There is no charge for attending.



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Nature Notes

It is a while since we've heard from **John Clare** but his ability to capture nature's essence is hard to beat. Here he is anticipating dull November days which, mercifully, are still a month away.

Anticipating the Coming Autumn

I love the fitfull gusts that shakes
The casement all the day
And from the mossy elm tree takes
The faded leaf away
Twirling it by the window-pane
With thousand others down the lane

I love to see the shaking twig
Dance till the shut of eve
The sparrow on the cottage rig
Whose chirp would make believe
That spring was just now flirting by
In summers lap with flowers to lie

I love to see the cottage smoke
Curl upwards through the naked trees
The pigeons nestled round the coat
On dull November days like these
The cock upon the dung-hill crowing
The mill sails on the heath agoing

The feather from the ravens breast
Falls on the stubble lea
The acorns near the old crows nest
Fall pattering down the tree
The grunting pigs that wait for all
Scramble and hurry where they fall



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Semington Book Club

Angela Grodzicka – 870756

Only five members managed to attend the meeting on Wednesday 13th September in the village hall due to family problems and sickness. Those present discussed *The Dictionary of Lost Words* by Pip Williams with two written reports from absent members. It received mixed reviews as two members absolutely loved it while others found the whole book a little long and a bit disjointed. However all the members found the background to how a dictionary is compiled extremely interesting and not something that is often thought about. The historical content surrounding the suffragette movement was also of interest.

The next meeting has been scheduled for **Thursday 19th October at 8.15pm** in the village hall to discuss *God Help the Child* by Toni Morrison. If anyone would like to join us please give me a ring.



Harvest Supper will be in the Village Hall on **Saturday 7th October, 7.30pm**. There will be ham/cheese/quiche and salad and various delicious puddings. After the food, Sarah Norton will be telling us about life on the OM ship the Logos Hope - the world's largest floating bookfair.

It remains in each port for about two weeks, and opens the gangways to thousands of visitors each day. Sarah was aboard throughout the pandemic, when life on the ship was rather different to normal. More information can be found on their website <https://www.gbaships.org/en/logoshope> Some of you will remember Sarah's parents, Bob and Maureen, who lived in Semington for 17 years. Tickets, still £5.00 each, available from coffee morning, Sylvia Clark, 870079 or Bev Woodward, 870784.

Abridged Minutes from Parish Council Meeting

Meeting Held Wednesday 20th September 2023

Present. Councillors P Smith (Chairman), R Bruges, M Carberry, S. Chown, J. Hailey, M. Kasasian, C. McGarvey, W.Scott, C. Wade and the Clerk, Roger Coleman. There were no members of the public present.

Apologies. There were no apologies. All councillors were present.

Declaration of Interests. There were no interests declared.

Wiltshire Council Report. In the absence of Wiltshire Council, Cllr. Seed no report was given.

Community and Communication. The Chairman reported that recent correspondence from Post Office Ltd confirmed that they were reconsidering the issue of opening hours for the Village Post Office and that he was awaiting a reply from Post Office Ltd to his latest correspondence dated 28th August 2023. The Clerk advised the Parish Council of the Wiltshire Council PEAS Scheme (Winter Preparations) and following this explanation the Council and in respect of extreme cold weather, it **resolved** to request five bags of salt and two tabards. The Chairman agreed to contact Wiltshire Council. The Chairman added that in future years it would be necessary to develop and adopt a Flood Plan and a Cold Weather Plan if the Parish Council wished to access items under the PEAS Scheme.

Cllr. Bruges explained in detail the proposed Community Event – a Bonfire Celebration – to be held at Outmarsh Farm on **4th November 2023**. He emphasized the community nature of the event with many local organisations taking part and he stressed that it was intended that parishioners and their children would be central to the celebrations with the event timed to encourage wide participation. Parish councillors expressed their support for the proposed event and thanked Cllr. Bruges for taking the initiative to sponsor the event. Cllr. Bruges explained the proposed budget for the event and invited the Parish Council to make a financial contribution. The Clerk confirmed that LGA 1972, especially s145 permitted such a contribution subject to it being proportionate to the event and that the parishioners of Semington would benefit from it. The Parish Council **resolved** to donate £900 towards the event.

The Council noted the offer of a Christmas tree from a parishioner but recognising that the Council, regrettably, no longer had the facilities for felling and transporting such a tree **resolved** to decline the offer, albeit thanking the Parishioner for the offer. Following a request from Cllr. Wade, the Council **resolved** that a maximum of £300 be allocated for the purchase and delivery of the village Christmas tree this year.

Cllr. Wade confirmed that there is to be a defibrillator training event to be given by South West Ambulance Service at the Village Hall at **7.00pm on 16th October 2023** and all interested parties are invited to attend. Cllr. Wade confirmed that the new noticeboards are awaiting installation.

Cllr. Chown raised the following matters and agreed to investigate the issues further, if necessary:

- The new website is performing well and is being well used.
- Councillors need to decide whether they each, personally, wish to adopt Parish Council email addresses or to remain using their own personal ones.
- There is historical/legacy documentation residing on the old website and it needs to be removed/deleted.
- If a user is directed to the old website does there need to be an automatic redirection to the new website.
- An offer has been received by the Cybercrime Project Officer to give a presentation on being 'safe on-line' to interested parties. Councillors supported this proposal, and a suitable venue and date were being sought.

Cllr. Wade offered to contact the old website's owner to discuss legacy and associated issues.

Cllr. Scott raised the question of the relationship of email addresses to Freedom of Information requests. Cllr. Chown agreed to investigate and send details to councillors.

Recreation and Wellbeing. The Clerk reported that the latest exchange of correspondence with Forrester Sylvester Mackett (Solicitors) and a recent site meeting between parish councillors and representatives from Newland Homes Ltd. addressed many of the outstanding queries. The Council **resolved** that subject to clarification of the boundary issue, the latest Transfer Document TP1 and Conveyance Plan (Allotments) attached to J Frayling email dated 12/9/23 was agreed.

Cllr. Chown confirmed that the transfer of the Wessex Close Play Area Asset from Wiltshire Council to Semington Parish Council was progressing satisfactorily, and she invited all councillors to review the latest documentation – the Wiltshire Council Section 52 Side Agreement – and to let Cllrs. McGarvey and Hailey have their comments as soon as possible so that the transfer can proceed. Copies of any comments are to be sent also to Cllr. Chown. Cllr. Chown added that it would be necessary for the Parish Council to raise an invoice for Wiltshire Council to credit the Parish Council with the £1000 in order to complete the transfer and that it may be wise to invite the 'Wessex Close Play Area Group' to arrange to have its own bank account – with support from the Parish Council – in order to also be able to access additional grants.

Cllr. Smith stated that there was considerable support for naming the winding path at Jubilee Wood at Littlemarsh after a previous councillor who was instrumental in creating more woodland in the village which can now be enjoyed by all parishioners.

Environment and Streetscene. Rights of Way. Cllr. Scott had reported that he has had a recent exchange of correspondence with Wiltshire Council in respect of the new SEMI9a/HILP22/10 'Cycleway' Safety Audit and associated Report and was disappointed to learn that the audit is to proceed before the outcome of the police investigation into a recent major accident on the cycleway had been concluded. The Council **resolved** that, subject to discussions and agreement with the owner and adjacent landowner, that councillors and other volunteers would clear the overgrown vegetation obscuring the pillbox and that a sum not exceeding £250 be spent on acquiring a refuse skip. The Chairman remarked that the Rights of Way Group and Wiltshire Ramblers had been particularly busy recently clearing many of the Rights of Way in Semington Civil Parish and on behalf of the Council and the parishioners of Semington he thanked the group, and especially, Cllr. Hailey for coordinating this task and for maintaining a record (a spreadsheet) of the current state of the Rights of Way.

Cllr. Hailey reported that the Parish Council had received requests from parishioners for additional litter/dog waste bins to be installed along the canal towpath and within the village. She commented that the towpath is in Melksham Without Parish Council and that she had advised the relevant parishioner accordingly. Cllr. Carberry agreed to investigate the viability and cost of placing additional bins within the village. Cllr. Bruges stated that many of the local drains, gullies and gutters were blocked and needed clearing. The Chairman replied stating that he had raised this matter with the Parish Steward and had learned that Wiltshire Council intended to take action to clear these in the very near future. Councillors commented that the street lighting in some parts of Semington was very poor and cited the area of Highfield Close/Pound Lane and Path 41 as examples. The Chairman stated that he would ask Stuart Renfrew of Wiltshire Council for options and advice to resolve the matter.

Transport and Traffic. Cllr. Wade stated that he had attended the recent LHFIG and that there was no progress in respect of reconsidering the redeployment of the possible Bus Gate cameras or relocation of the Bus Gate. Cllr. Wade added that it was likely that Melksham Without Parish Council would be requesting Wiltshire Council to undertake a traffic survey to ascertain the extent of the problem before seeking funding.

Planning and Development. The Parish Council noted that the Wiltshire Council Local Plan for Trowbridge had been approved by Wiltshire Council Cabinet and that comments on it were invited in the period 27th September to 22nd November. The Chairman stated that the draft comments from the Parish Council would be on the agenda for approval at the October Parish Council meeting. The Council reviewed the Green Square Accord Village Consultation in respect of Land North of St George's Road (Planning application 20/01306/OUT). The Council resolved that a formal response from the Parish Council to the planning application is to be sent to Wiltshire Council by 30th September 2023. Cllr. Scott agreed to draft such a response.

Finance. Total Balance as at 20th September 2023 £81,878.77. The Community Development Fund Working Group (CDFWG) stated that no other qualifying applications for funding had been received. Cllr. Hailey added that a new member of the Community Development Fund Working Group is soon to be appointed. The Parish Council resolved to make a donation of £50.00 to the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust. The Parish Council resolved that the Clerk is to invite St George's PCC to provide a figure and a breakdown of any proposed donation from the Parish Council and to request justification of the significantly higher sum for the hire of the Village Hall for the 2023 suite of Parish Council meetings.

Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr. Smith reported that the need to undertake a Strategic Environment Assessment in respect of one site identified in the Draft Neighbourhood Plan has introduced a delay of some four to six months of the formal Regulation 14 formal consultation.

The Council resolved that the request for Place Studios to undertake additional work was in accordance with a previous email agreement. The Council resolved that this item be the subject of a confidential discussion as per Schedule 12 of the Local Gov Act 1972 because the nature of the discussion could prejudice the public interest by reason of the disparate issues to be addressed. The Council resolved to invoke the confidentiality requirement.

Date of the next meeting: Wednesday 18th October 2023 7.30pm

Wiltshire Councillor News From Jonathon Seed

We move into autumn having enjoyed an Indian Summer in September. Temperatures of 33°C in the month of September are not unheard of (five times in the last century) but are unusual. Many of us who live in villages will have appreciated an extended season of ripening tomatoes and other vegetables (no green tomato chutney this year!) and a freezer full of excellent blackberries, apples and even cucumber soup! On a personal note I am now fully mobile after my knee replacement and getting on with local politics. To that end I am trying to get a newsletter out to all residents and if anyone is willing to help with the delivery of some leaflets in the village then please let me know.

Village life is often different from a more urban existence and a part of this is how we look after each other. We sadly lost an elderly neighbour last month. We only got to know him 15 years ago when his wife sadly passed away and he was in his seventies but since then he came for a cup of tea and biscuits every morning. He helped my wife with lots of little maintenance jobs around our smallholding and that gave him a real boost by being busy. We often fed him and helped him with his chickens etc. and we swapped garden produce. Last year he became ill and housebound but I kept his extensive lawn mowed simply because he was very proud of his garden and would have been heartbroken to look out into a jungle. A small vignette of village life but one that I suspect is repeated hundreds if not thousands of times across rural Wiltshire.

Wiltshire Council is now upping the game on highways repairs and this is very good news for all of us. Government funding for road repairs has only been increased in line with inflation in recent years. However the cabinet of Wiltshire Council has decided to invest an additional £10 million in road maintenance over the next two years. This funding has been found from existing budgets and is a straightforward result of sound financial management of the Council at a time when many other local authorities are facing a bleak financial outlook. We will see the direct results of this with road resurfacing, pothole repairs and verge improvements etc. These tangible improvements in local Wiltshire highways as a result of shrewd local financial management by the Wiltshire Council leadership are very good news indeed for all of us.

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THURSDAY
5 October 2023



TIMINGS

7pm - Doors Open
7:30pm - First Question



VILLAGE HALL

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L.A.B.

Semington Winter Fete and Bonfire Night

Following the success of the coronation celebration, then the rather subdued and rainy summer fete and the ongoing pub closure, both of which have reduced village mingling opportunities, the team behind this event is keen to arrange another village event to bring everyone together, with the opportunity to connect and chat before the year is over. We have therefore started planning for a gathering with games, food, bar, music, bonfire and fireworks on **Saturday 4th November, starting at 4pm.**

From Bonfires to Cookstoves: How Semington's Winter Fete and Bonfire Night can transform lives and nature in Africa's poorest countries.

One of the most serious global health challenges is also one of the least known: it's the crisis of 'dirty cooking'. 2.8 billion people still cook over polluting fires, essentially wood-fuelled bonfires, and these are a major contributor to carbon emissions, deforestation and climate change. Cooking this way emits one-quarter of global black carbon emissions, the second largest contributor to climate change after carbon dioxide.

For the millions of families who cook this way, it is catastrophic for their health. Household air pollution and the constant inhalation of smoke from cooking fires is the leading environmental cause of premature death and disability, ahead of unsafe water and lack of sanitation, causing more deaths than Malaria, HIV and TB combined. Not only is cooking so damaging to health, but the search for scarce wood can take 5 hours daily and is physically gruelling. Cooking and wood gathering are women's duties and so it is women and children who suffer the most, with children missing school to scavenge daily for wood. The provision of an improved cookstove transforms families' lives and reduces wood fuel use, keeping trees in the ground, preserving wildlife habitats and cutting carbon emissions.

However, for the poorest people in the poorest countries who are most affected by climate change, such a stove is unaffordable. DelAgua's Live Well programme launched in 2012 to tackle this challenge at scale and provide a free top-quality stove along with lifelong education and support. To date, over 1.6 million stoves have been distributed, benefiting 8 million people. The steel stove that Live Well provides is the best quality available, manufactured in Kenya. The design increases thermal efficiency, resulting in quicker cooking and 71% less wood than a traditional fire, requiring only a handful of sticks.

So how is this all paid for? Because the stove uses so much less wood than traditional fires, it avoids carbon emissions, and for each ton of carbon avoided a carbon credit is issued. These carbon credits are purchased by companies and individuals to offset their carbon footprint and this pays for the stoves, helping more families. Semington's Winter Fete and Bonfire Night will fund 6 carbon credits. This will buy 2 stoves for 2 families, saving a total of 70 tons of carbon over 10 years of stove use. The carbon emissions from our gathering will be around 7 tons and these credits will offset our emissions and more than that: there will be a lasting long term benefit for at least 10 people from the poorest families in rural Africa. We will end the daily fires that damage their lives and natural world. You can discover more about how Live Well is changing lives across Africa here: <https://www.delagua.org/project-rwanda/>

Semington Winter Fete + Bonfire Night

Entry with a copy of the Parish Magazine or ticket collectible from the Village Hall

Saturday
November
4th

Venue
Outmarsh Farm House
Semington, BA14 6JX

Entry Fee is
Free
Donations
Welcome!

Arrival
4pm

Fireworks
6pm

Live Music
7pm

Close
10pm

Live Music
Fete Games
Food & Drinks Stalls
Bonfire & Firework Display
Facepainting
Dance Performances by
NJ Dance & Emma

Scan QR Code
below to RSVP!



Emissions offset by funding clean cookstoves for Africa.

RSVP here for safety and insurance purposes:
: <https://www.easy-rsvp.com/Y5Gull-semington-bonfire-night>

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Village Walks

Eric Clifford 07511 370280

Following the postponement of the June walks, there is now a walk leaving Littlemarsh, meet at the letter-box at **10.15am on Thursday 26th October**. The walk will be approximately three to four miles long and should take two hours.

All welcome.

Cribbage

Eric Clifford 07511 370280

We have completed our inaugural season in the Westbury Crib League, winning 2, drawing 2, and coming second in 10. This means SAS (Somerset Arms, Semington) will be recipients of the wooden spoon.

A squad of 8 were rotated throughout the season, with our home matches at Semington Social Club. Again, a sincere thank you to Marilyn and Laura for providing our excellent buffet and liquid refreshments. We held our inter-house round-robin competition on Wednesday 13th September – Mike won 4 out of 5, Eric & Derrick 3, Dave & Lewis 2 and John 1 out of 5, so congratulations to Mike for being our SAS Champion this season.

Our team averages shows Derrick led with 50%, Eric 48.3%, Dave 40.3%, and Mike, Lewis and John on 33.3%. We look forward to the League's Presentation Evening, and the final cup competition on Friday 13th October at Westbury Labour Club, where we will receive the wooden spoon and Eric the Captain's Cup.

Plans are afoot for next season starting in March, and the squad would welcome new players – tuition and refresher courses available, please contact me my number is above.

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Semington WI

Deb Hurn



We had a lovely presentation from Eve Cale in September. We were shown different wrapping techniques using eco friendly materials to help save the planet. After being shown how to wrap a bottle and make a gift bag we were able to have a go ourselves. The gift bags were great. However, the bottle wrapping was slightly challenging for some of us!!! Once we were able to do it the packaging looked really effective, was extremely cheap and a lot nicer than just putting it in a bottle bag. Hopefully it will help make the Christmas wrapping a little easier this year.

Next month **Thursday 12th October 7.30pm** in the Village Hall, we will be having a go at Ballroom Dancing!

Zumba in Semington

Rose Costello

Ladies and gents, did you know that there has been a Zumba class running, in Semington, for nine years! We meet on a Wednesday, 6.15pm to 7.15pm, in St George's school hall. The class is suitable for all fitness levels, and we come in all shapes and sizes, young and old and some in between. Our instructor, Patty Perry, who used to live in the village, makes it fun and enjoyable encouraging us all to do as much or as little as we can.

If you'd like to join us feel free to just turn up at the school or you can contact Patty through Facebook.

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

A Day on Catechesis: A date for the diary. **On Saturday 28th October** at St. John the Baptist, Trowbridge, we are holding a day with the Dominican Sisters of St. Joseph to explore the ministry of catechesis. This rich day of formation is for seasoned catechists, and anyone who feels called to this ministry. We will begin with prayer at 10.00am, with refreshments from 9.15am. Please bring a packed lunch. The day will end at 4.00pm. If you are interested in attending this day, please register through the Eventbrite link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/668215439367>

First Holy Communion 2024: Application forms for First Holy Communion 2024 are now available to collect from Canon Tom after Mass. If your child is in Yr 3 or above then please collect, complete a form and return to Canon Tom. The closing date for application is **7th January 2024**. The first session of preparation will take place on the **18th January 2024 at 7.00pm** in St. John's Church. Children and parents will be given full details of the course at this meeting.

International Cuisine Evening: There will be an International Cuisine Evening at St. John's Parish Centre on **Friday 20th October**. Please sign-up to bring a dish from the nation of your birth or choice on the list in the porches for St. John's, St. Thomas More and St. Bernadette's. And of course, come along on the evening and taste the delights of the cuisine of our increasingly international parish community.

Paws for Thought



As long as the earth remains,
there will be planting and
harvest, cold and heat; winter
and summer, day and night

It's in the Bible; Genesis 8 Verse 22

Thought from Joy, Associate Priest in Canalside Benefice

The last few days as I have walked near my home I have enjoyed gathering blackberries despite the risks of encounters with thorns and nettles, with the anticipation of enjoying a blackberry and apple pie.

This time of year always takes me back to my childhood in Norfolk: the hedgerows laden with blackberries; fruit and nuts ripening on the trees; the garden full of vegetables waiting to be picked; and the combine harvesters trundling up and down the fields often only visible by the cloud of dust that followed them. We hardly saw my father during harvest time, and when he did come home, he was black from the dust of the fields, and his eyes were red from the goggles he had worn all day. (None of the luxury of cabs on combine harvesters in those days!) However, the other thing I remember about harvest at home, was this was the one time of year my father would scrub himself clean, don his suit, and come to Church to celebrate the Harvest Festival, to give thanks to God for his bounty.

Although today, far fewer of us are engaged in bringing in the harvest from the fields we can still witness the farmers about their labours, we can still enjoy the fruitfulness of our gardens, allotments and hedgerows, and most importantly we can still give thanks to God for his abundant provision for us.

So, in the coming days I invite you to come and celebrate the harvest at one of the services in the Benefice:

Sunday 1st October at 3.00pm in St. Mary the Virgin, Whaddon.

Sunday 8th October at 9.15am in St. George's Semington, for Breakfast Church,

Sunday 8th October at 10.30am in St. Mary Magdalen Church, Horse Road, Hilperton,

Sunday 15th October at 10.30am in St. Michael and All Angels' Church, Hilperton.

*Come ye thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest home;
All is safely gathered in,
Ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide
For our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come,
Raise the song of harvest home.*

Rev. Joy Albone
canalsidecurate@gmail.com

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.



SERVICES COMING SOON

**Sunday
8th
October**

**BREAKFAST CHURCH with
HARVEST CELEBRATION**
9.15am at St George's Semington

**Sunday
15th
October**

HOLY COMMUNION
9.15am at St George's Semington

**Sunday
29th
October**

**IN LOVING MEMORY SERVICE
for ALL SOULS**
3pm at St Michael's Hilperton



A SPECIAL SERVICE FOR THE CANALSIDE PARISHES TO REMEMBER WITH THANKSGIVING THOSE WE HAVE LOVED, WHO HAVE DIED. A GENTLE SERVICE OF MUSIC, READINGS AND REFLECTION, DURING WHICH CANDLES WILL BE LIT AS THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO HAVE DIED ARE RECALLED. IF YOU WOULD LIKE THE NAME OF A LOVED ONE REMEMBERED BY NAME DURING THIS SERVICE PLEASE LET US HAVE THE DETAILS BY THURSDAY 26TH OCTOBER.

Michael Gamble canalsideoffice@gmail.com
07795400262

**Sunday
12th
November**

ACT of REMEMBRANCE
10.15am at St George's Semington

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.