

APRIL 2023



SEMINGTON  
PARISH MAGAZINE

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



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Mondays 7.30pm Village Hall

**Semington WI**

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm Village Hall

**Semingtones Choir**

Fridays 6.00pm Village Hall

**Easter Trail**

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> to Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April Throughout the Village

**Parish Council Meeting**

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm Village Hall

**Neighbourhood Plan Consultation**

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 11.00am to 3.00pm Village Hall

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## Christians in Semington

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*Bev Woodward*

**Christians in Semington** - are meeting via zoom, to pray for our community, on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April at 8.00pm**. Please contact Jack Woodward, 870784, for the zoom link.

**Housegroup** - we meet every other Tuesday, at **8.00pm**. 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.

**Easter Communion with Breakfast** is on **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April - 9.15am** for breakfast, all ages very welcome.



*To all my friends in Semington,  
I would like to wish you and your  
families a very happy and peaceful  
Easter.*

*With love from Edna Jones xx*

## Editor's Note

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*Gillian Airey*

Apologies if your magazine is tad late this month, with the news of the pub closing and the date of the PC meeting I would always prefer to make sure you are fully communicated with and maybe nudge the publication date as a result.

The deadline for submissions for our May edition is early next month Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April – my diary is scarily full at the end of April! My email as always **semparmag@icloud.com** I look forward to hearing from you.

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## This Month I'm Raising A Glass

*Gilly Airey*

Gorgeous Hubby was always a bit of a corporate nomad even BG (Before Gilly). He was so proficient at moving house in line with career moves he could give Phil and Kirsty a run for their money. So when it came to the moment we were to be co-mortgagees I had lessons in buying a house from the master himself. In fairness his list of rules were short but perfectly formed tick those boxes and everything else was negotiable.

South facing garden – tick, off road parking – tick, decent pub within walking distance – tick, everything else as I said we could work round. So when we came to Wiltshire the Airey house buying rules came into play. I duly installed a compass app on my phone and all gardens were checked, off road parking was dead quick to work out, the fun bit though was the pub.

I remember vividly we did a drive-by of No 7 one Sunday lunch time – no mean feat bearing in mind the house is at the end of a cul-de-sac and then set off to find the pub. Seventeen years ago the Somerset Arms was still part of the Hall and Woodhouse estate – we walked in and thought yep this looks like our sort of pub.

The Somerset Arms has been the place where so many memories and friendships have been made. We've celebrated births, birthdays, retirements and said goodbye to some very, very dear friends in that there pub. When we were both still working at our proper jobs, Friday evenings in the pub were the perfect antidote to the stress of the week we had had, even if it meant racing Mrs C down the A350 to get to the pub first!

So I'd like to raise a glass to all of our landlords and landladies that have kept the pub going, to Bryn and Alice all those years ago, to Steve and Margaret who ran the pub before it closed abruptly (so abruptly they still owe me a half a bottle of wine) to Simon and Sally – your New Year's Eve parties were legendary who can ever forget Steve James dressed as shower for the fancy dress theme 'anything beginning with S', to Mick and Ally and of course John who put Uber Eats and Deliveroo to shame with his lockdown food delivery service.

We just need to keep everything crossed and hope that one day we'll be back at the Somerset Arms making more memories and friends.

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Things must be warming up, the fete committee have had their first meeting - this years fete will be held on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July**, more details to follow in the coming months. It is still our intention to hold the fete along the High Street and in Semington we're nothing if not imaginative and adaptable!

In the meantime - don't forget to plant up some extra produce, dig out those old paperbacks, and anything that can go on grannies attic. we look forward to seeing you in the summer, along the High Street.

*The Fete Committee*



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## Parish Council Matters

*Peter Smith – Chair of the Parish Council*

**Closure of the Somerset Arms** – by the time you read this, our pub will have closed, which is a truly sad event for this village. Some 46 people came to the March Parish Council meeting to voice their sadness and concerns about the closure, and to offer ideas and information on what we, as a community, might do to keep it as a pub and get it reopened. Amidst it all, there was warmth, sadness and a big thanks to John Adams and all in his team.

After this discussion, the Parish Council considered what options it had available to help keep the pub and to see it reopened soon. We decided:

- To register the pub as an Asset of Community Value, a process which will put the village in the position to make a bid for the pub should the owner ever decide to sell. We would get 6 weeks to decide whether to make a community bid, and a further six months to get into a position to bid. There is no obligation to do this, but better to have the chance than not.
- To build a regular contact with the owners of the pub so that they know it's important to us to keep the pub as a pub, and to encourage them to reopen it very quickly.
- To explore with the Village Hall management committee whether there is scope for it to provide a convivial space where village clubs and ex-pub customers can continue to meet.

Many thanks to those who attended the meeting and also to those who wrote in with thoughts and suggestions. Maintaining this level of interest and support will matter if we are to have any chance of convincing the owners that we value our local pub and want it reopened pronto.

**Post Office** – it may be possible for the outreach service to continue in the pub in the short term. Effort is being made to relocate the PO, though at the time of writing, there's no agreed new venue yet. We shall know more over the next two or three weeks.

**Litter Pick** – this was carried out on 11<sup>th</sup> March by 17 volunteers, two of whom operated from Little Marsh. We were so overwhelmed by this fabulous number that we hadn't got enough litter-picking kit to go round! The Parish Council has ordered more for next time. Great to welcome some new faces, and thanks to all who turned up and did such a good job.

**Neighbourhood Plan consultation event** – elsewhere in this magazine there is a page promoting this latest consultation on the emerging plan, and there is some important information that we'll be sharing with and asking your views about. It'll be held on **22<sup>nd</sup> April** in the Village Hall. Please get the date in your diaries, and come along to see for yourself.

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**Home thoughts from Abroad** is Robert Browning's poem of yearning for England written whilst living in Italy with his wife Elisabeth Barratt Browning. If you go onto YouTube you'll find an evocative reading by Geoffrey Palmer ([tinyurl/4jsbapyw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tinyurl/4jsbapyw)). Just listen to the feeling he puts into "gaudy melon flower". Happily, we don't have to yearn for all this as it's here in the parish: well, mostly.

Oh, to be in England  
Now that April's there,  
And whoever wakes in England  
Sees, some morning, unaware,  
That the lowest boughs and the brushwood sheaf  
Round the elm-tree bole are in tiny leaf,  
While the chaffinch sings on the orchard bough  
In England—now!

And after April, when May follows,  
And the whitethroat builds, and all the swallows!  
Hark, where my blossomed pear-tree in the hedge  
Leans to the field and scatters on the clover  
Blossoms and dewdrops—at the bent spray's edge—  
That's the wise thrush; he sings each song twice over,  
Lest you should think he never could recapture  
The first fine careless rapture!  
And though the fields look rough with hoary dew,  
All will be gay when noontide wakes anew  
The buttercups, the little children's dower  
—Far brighter than this gaudy melon-flower!

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## Semington Celebrates

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*Siobhan Chown*

As we look forward to another momentous event for the country with the forthcoming Coronation of King Charles III, we look to mark the occasion along the guidance and wishes of our new King. We hope that all residents of Semington will enjoy coming together once again at some point over the bank holiday weekend to celebrate.

### **All weekend - Let's turn the village red, white and blue!**

We would love you all to join us in decorating your windows, houses and front gardens. Whatever takes your fancy along the patriotic theme. Prizes awarded to the "Best in Village".

### **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May - Soapbox Distance Challenge & Street Party 12.00pm – 4.00pm.**

Test your vehicle design skills and enter a soapbox team into our Distance Challenge. See details on the poster.

All are welcome to come and watch all the action and join in the fun - bring your own picnic to the High Street, where there will be a live band and dancing display, as well as:

- \* Burger Stall
- \* Ice cream
- \* Candy-floss
- \* Tea & Cake

We are hoping that the High Street will be closed for a street party but this is subject to receiving the necessary approval from Wiltshire Council.

### **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May - Volunteering Day**

A massive event to work together for the good of the village and its residents. There will be lots of opportunities to join in with activities all around the village and, everyone, of all ages is welcome!

Do you have any secret skills? We'd love to hear from you if you are willing to help out at Semington's "Repair Shop" If you can turn your hand to repairing anything at all, then please get in touch.

Please call Siobhan on 01380 870197, text 07786 980608 or email [chownsiobhan@gmail.com](mailto:chownsiobhan@gmail.com)

## Abridged Minutes from Parish Council Meeting

*Meeting Held Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023*

**Present.** Councillors P Smith (Chairman), R. Bruges, S. Chown, J. Hailey, M. Kasasian, C. McGarvey, W. Scott, C. Wade and the Clerk, Roger Coleman. Wiltshire Council, Cllr. J Seed attended (Part-time). There were forty-six members of the public present initially.

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

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

**Wiltshire Council Report.** Cllr Seed gave the following report:

**Greenacres Site.** Pressure continues to be exerted on Wiltshire Council to resolve the issue of enforcing existing planning conditions.

**Somerset Arms/Post Office Closure.** Wiltshire council financial support may be available to assist in meeting Council Tax/Business Rate commitments.

In view of the value of The Somerset Arms to the Semington community, consideration could be given to registering the Public House as an 'Asset of Community Value'.

**Wessex Close Play Area.** The existing waste bin could be moved to a new site and Wiltshire Council will continue to empty it. However, a new bin would not be included on the existing 'emptying rota'.

**Planning Development.** Following the very successful 'Joint Surgery' with Michelle Donelan MP held at the Village Hall recently she had subsequently organised a Teams meeting with Michael Gove MP and had raised the issue of Semington suffering from a large number of residential planning applications because of the failure of Wiltshire Council to have an agreed 5-year land supply. Cllr. Scott enquired about the relationship between the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the proposed 'Levelling-Up' legislation. Cllr. Seed replied stating that the former would be the policy document and the latter would contain guidelines for the NPPF. In answer to Cllr. Bruges, Cllr. Seed stated that there was no further information regarding the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) camera that may be available and could be used to 'police' the No Entry Bus Gate. Cllr. Bruges commented that notwithstanding the current restrictions, the unrestricted use of the Bus Gate would be beneficial for a small number of nearby residents. Cllr. Seed confirmed that a bid for the ANPR camera should be made to the Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG). However, the cost of the camera needs to be obtained and details obtained of its use e.g. enforcement and subsequent data processing and analysis. It was confirmed that the next LHFIG is to be held in June.

**Community and Communication.** The Chairman and councillors remarked that they were appreciative of the large number of parishioners attending the meeting this evening and acknowledged that the closure of the Somerset Arms Public House on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023, and the subsequent loss of the Post Office, had prompted such a response and were matters that concerned them greatly. Please see Chairman's report on page 9 of this magazine for actions to be undertaken. In the absence of any adverse comments from the original contributors to the publication 'Semington – Past and Present' the Parish Council **resolved** to digitise the publication and to make it available on the website. A nominal cost of £45 plus postage was agreed.

**Recreation and Wellbeing.** Cllr. Wade reported that the transfer of the Allotment Site to the Parish Council was well in hand with details of the transfer having been supplied by Newland Homes Ltd, including a plan and details of the site He commented that he had prepared a detailed specification of the proposed transfer that had been sent to Newland Homes Ltd. He stated that a contentious point was the ownership of the allotment parking spaces and that Newland Homes Ltd had misinterpreted the wording in the associated s106 Agreement. He was confident that this would be resolved. Cllr. Wade stated that he had prepared a Draft Tenancy Agreement for potential allotment holders.

Cllr. Chown reported that following a recent meeting some twelve persons had registered an interest in creating a Wessex Close Play Area Group and that notes of that meeting had been sent to all councillors. She also gave details of possible Play Area Inspections training courses that she had researched. Cllr. Chown stated that she required answers to a number of questions regarding the responsibilities of the Parish Council if the ownership/maintenance of the Wessex Close Play Area is transferred from Wiltshire Council to the Parish Council by means of an Asset Transfer. She agreed to send details of the answers from Wiltshire Council to all councillors. The Council resolved that agreement by each Council member to the answers provided would have to be communicated to the Chairman (Cllr. Smith) by email and if a majority of councillors were in favour then he (Cllr. Smith) would inform the Clerk who would then inform Wiltshire Council that an Asset Transfer was required.

Cllr. Bruges gave a full report on the proposed celebrations for the King's Coronation on **6<sup>th</sup> May 2023** and Cllr. Chown provided a similar report for the 'Volunteer Day' on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023**. Following a request, the Council agreed that a flower display in the church to celebrate the Coronation would be appropriate and resolved that a sum of £300 be allocated to this project. Councillors added a caveat to this resolution: the £300 should only be spent on locally sourced flowers.

The Clerk reported that had had a lengthy conversation with Paul Cosh (South West Ambulance Service) – SWAS - regarding the Defibrillator contract which will run out in May 2023. He stated that the new contract would run from May 2023 for 4 years - cost £1800 (for the 4 years). A new cabinet would be included. The Council, after a short discussion, resolved to renew the contract at a cost of £1800.

**Environment and Streetscene.** Rights of Way. Cllr. Scott reported that he had had several exchanges of correspondence with Wiltshire Council regarding the conduct and the results of the SEMI9a/HILP22/10 'Cycleway' Safety Audit and associated Report – both of which displayed significant failings. He stated that the answers to his questions to date from Wiltshire Council did not address the issues raised by the Parish Council and that he will continue to seek clarification from Wiltshire Council. Cllr. Hailey gave a full report on the progress to date of undertaking tree planting in support of the Queen's Canopy project. She explained that Wiltshire Council had provided her with additional forms for completion that indicated that any land where tree planting is to take place would be transferred to the Parish Council and that any Wiltshire Council maintenance of the area in question would cease. Councillors commented that this appeared to be a new arrangement – contrary to that which had been the case in the past – and it implied a transfer of responsibilities and liabilities which the Parish Council may not wish to accept. The Parish Council agreed to delay this project until the legal position was clarified. *Cont'd on page 16.*

*Cont'd from page 15* Cllr. Hailey expressed her disappointment regarding this delay and added that the locations for tree planting and the species of trees had been agreed and the granting of permission for the tree planting by Wiltshire Council which had been anticipated was now in jeopardy. Cllr. Scott stated that a s106 Agreement in respect of planning application PL/2022/01367 has allocated £3800 for public rights of way improvements and that he is attempting to receive confirmation from Wiltshire Council that this money will be used to improve those rights of way in Semington. The Chairman stated that following his enquiries only Wiltshire Council has the authority to empty 'dog waste' bins and he would wish dog walkers to identify locations where such bins are required so that he can make the necessary approaches to Wiltshire Council.

**Transport and Traffic.** Cllr. Hailey observed that that the local bus service had a very limited timetable and restricted the ability of parishioners without their own transport to leave the village in the evenings and Sundays for recreational or social purposes. She questioned whether action could be taken to improve this bus service. The Chairman responded that the present 'Link' scheme may provide a solution.

**Planning and Development. PL/2022/01367 Land off St Georges Road** development of 18 dwellings - It was noted that this was approved, subject to conditions, at the Strategic Planning Committee meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 and that Cllr. Scott represented the Parish Council at that meeting. He observed that considerable weight was placed by the Planning Committee on whether 'Harm' was likely to result from the development and this feature appeared key to their decision-making. He suggested that a further submission be made by the Parish Council addressing 'Harm' in respect of planning application PL/2022/09397 (Pending) (**Outline planning permission land south of Pound Lane** development of 30 dwellings). The Council **resolved** to agree to this suggestion and Cllr. Scott agreed to draft an appropriate response. In respect of the correspondence received from Ashford Homes, the Chairman stated that the Neighbourhood Plan would address the possible development proposed by Ashford Homes at Church Street and the Neighbourhood Plan Community event planned for **22nd April** would also provide an opportunity to garner comments regarding this and three other possible developments from members of the public. Cllr. Scott agreed to draft a response to Ashford Homes.

**Finance. Total Balance In Hand as at 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 £84,883.52**

**Neighbourhood Plan.** Cllr. Smith reported on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NHPSG). He presented details of possible development sites within the village and stated that the next Village Consultation is to be held on **22<sup>nd</sup> April 2023** at the Village Hall. He added that comments received from the public will be central to the subsequent content of the Neighbourhood Plan.

**Date of the next meeting. Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023. 7.30pm**



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Please note that, due to the closure of the Somerset Arms pub, it will not be possible to leave donations there any longer. Please take all your donations to St George's Church porch by 6pm on Wednesdays. On behalf of the Foodbank, I would like to thank John for allowing people to leave donations at the pub for the last three years. It is greatly appreciated, and is typical of his public spirited attitude to village life.



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## Wiltshire Councillor News From Jonathon Seed

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Spring is always a lovely time in England and a particularly pleasant time in Wiltshire. This year we have Easter in early April and time to enjoy the daffodils, emerging hedgerows, grass, wildlife and all the other signs of our countryside waking up after a long winter of quieter activity.

There is plenty going on in local government both locally and in County Hall. I have also been quite active as your local Wiltshire Councillor in recent weeks. I try to attend as many of the six monthly Parish Council meetings as I can as well as getting involved with local community groups and taking up issues where I feel I can make a difference on your behalf. Recently these issues have included the Semington Bus Gate where we are making real progress with Wiltshire Council commitment to an Automatic Number Plate Recognition camera to enforce against illegal use of the route. I have also been active on the Common Hill flooding and carriageway repairs issue together with Great Hinton road verge repairs. Just three of many bubbling local issues!

County Hall matters have presented their own challenges. I generally support the administration of my Party and I think we are doing an exceptionally competent job in running the finances of the County, particularly when compared to those of neighbouring authorities. However it is also part of my remit as a senior backbencher to challenge decisions about which I have concerns. One of these issues is the Council campaign to increase recycling rates. I agree that we should be doing all that we can to improve recycling in Wiltshire. However I question and have challenged any rummaging through bins by Council officials and fundamentally disagree with any refusal to empty bins as a result. I take the view that we pay our Council tax to have bins emptied and not to have them left unemptied with red cards put on them. I have made this very clear to the new Cabinet member for Waste. I hope that in future he will consider waste initiatives more carefully alongside the needs and wishes of the Council Tax paying residents of Wiltshire.

Finally I am making an increased effort to communicate with residents via social media. I try to post useful information on community Facebook pages as well as posting regular updates on my own Facebook page 'Councillor Jonathon Seed for Melksham Without West and Rural'. Please feel free to follow my page on Facebook. Alternatively I am always happy to receive e-mails: at **[Jonathon.seed@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Jonathon.seed@wiltshire.gov.uk)**

Happy Easter.

# Semington Neighbourhood Plan



## HAVE YOUR SAY ON OUR FUTURE

It's been a while since we consulted with you about the Neighbourhood Plan, which aims to protect the rural character of Semington, Little Marsh and Littleton.

We've been busy gathering the evidence to support the policies that we'll be proposing. And we now have a lot to tell you about the important landscapes, local views and green spaces that we've identified.

But as we move into the policy stage, we would like your help to answer one big question:

### **SHOULD THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN ALLOCATE SITES FOR NEW HOUSING IN SEMINGTON?**

In the past five years, more than 70 houses have been built or granted planning permission, far more than had been envisaged. 30 more are being considered. You may feel that is enough.

But there are several other sites around Semington that could be put forward for development. And while the Neighbourhood Plan will influence future planning decisions, it will give greater protection from speculative development if it allocates one or more sites.

We'll explain the choice more clearly at our Consultation Event in April. We hope to see as many of you as possible, because we really want to hear your views on this important issue.

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 11.00am – 3.00pm, Semington Village Hall**

**Refreshments available**

## **Michelle Donelan MP – Chippenham Ward**

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Welcome to my latest update and I hope you are well. I wanted to start by letting you all know that in April I will be holding two surgeries near Semington.

The first will be held on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April from 9.00am until 11.00am at Melksham Town Football Club**. The second will be taking place on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April from 4.30pm until 6.30pm** at Bowerhill Village Hall. No appointment is needed, so please do feel free to drop by depending on which suits you best.

In my first update this year, I wrote about the issues raised with me at my surgery in the village on planning and speculative development, and what the Government is doing to ensure the right homes are built in the right places, and with the right infrastructure. To follow this up, I have now arranged a meeting this month with myself, your Wiltshire Councillors, and the Minister of State for Housing and Planning to discuss it further and raise the issues we have been experiencing locally. I know how important the issue is to the village, so I will of course keep you updated on what is discussed.

There has also been some really great progress on local crime, following the news that we now have 98 extra police officers in Wiltshire since 2019, delivering on our manifesto pledge. Generally we have seen a reduction in most crimes, which is good news – this includes a reduction in rural crime by between 50% and 60%, a 67% increase in speeding prosecutions, and an increase in the number of prosecutions for burglary. Some of the actions and initiatives your local officers will be using going forward to help keep our towns and villages safe include deploying community speed watch and enforcement officers in the areas directly where you are reporting speeding to myself and the Police and Crime Commissioner, deploying mobile police stations so rural areas and villages can have a recognisable face for raising concerns, and improving IT systems and efficiency, so that our local officers can spend more time on the beat. If you have concerns about crime in Semington or the areas nearby which you'd like to raise with me, please do get in touch.

Finally, I hosted a packed Google Digital Event for more than 70 businesses at the Business Cyber Centre in Chippenham on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March, providing a day of free digital skills workshops and mentoring for small, local and independent businesses from right across the local community, including businesses from the areas near Semington. The Business Cyber Centre was made possible with £3.7 million of Government investment which I helped to secure, so I could not think of a better venue to champion digital skills and support local businesses, something I am always keen to help with however I can.

As we look ahead, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very Happy Easter, and I hope to meet and speak with many of you out in the community whilst Parliament is in recess.

As ever, if there is anything I can do to help, or if you would like to speak to me at one of my surgeries, please do not hesitate to let me know. You can contact my office via email: [michelle.donelan.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:michelle.donelan.mp@parliament.uk) or by phone: 01249 704465.

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March is the month of our AGM which was held as usual in the Village Hall. The committee were elected as follows: Deb Hurn President, Sue Connor Secretary, Rose Costello Treasurer, Pam Ebsworth, Carole Ball and Cassandra Reynolds committee members. Many thanks goes to Cassandra for her work as Treasurer over the past years. The main business of the evening completed, we were able to sit and enjoy homemade biscuits courtesy of Carole. Tea, coffee and a glass of wine. All of which accompanied by a lot of chatter.

Next month our meeting will be on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm** in the Village Hall. We will be using our crafting skills! Please bring the following: Needle (preferably one with a big eye). A reel of cotton (white or a colour of your choice) and a small pair of scissors. Visitors and new members always welcome, we look forward to seeing you there.

Semington Book Club

*Angela Grodzicka – 870 756*

The group met on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February to discuss *The Woman in the White Kimono* by Ana Johns. It is a love story set in Japan in 1957. It was very interesting learning about Japan in the 1950s with its patriarchal society and post-war prejudice. The group found it an emotional story with its intermingling of fact and fiction. Overall a sad story but one which everyone enjoyed and would recommend as a good read.

The next meeting of the group is scheduled for Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 8.00 pm (please contact me to be advised of venue) to discuss *Adrian Mole The Prostrate Years* by Sue Townsend.

Sincere Thanks

*Rachael Aldred*

*John, Val & Rachael would like to thank all their family and friends for all their help and kind words of support, during this difficult time and for attending Paul Marshman's funeral on the 16th March.*

*We were able to give Paul an emotional and dignified send off and are comforted to know that over £300 was raised in his memory, which will be split between the RUH Critical care unit and Cat Protection.*

## 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

**Service Times during Holy Week:** Holy Week is very near! Mass and Service times as follows: **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April**, Chrism Mass, Clifton Cathedral 11.00am. **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April**, Mass of the Lord's Supper 8.00pm, St. John's. **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April**, Stations of the Cross at St. Bernadette's Westbury 11.00am, Good Friday Liturgy of the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ 3.00pm, St. John's. **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April**, Easter Vigil 8.30pm, St. John's. **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April**, Mass at 9.00am, St. Bernadette's and 10.30am at St. Johns.

**An Invitation:** All are welcome to attend a special Mass for Canon Liam in St. Johns on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April 6.00pm**. Bishop Declan will be attending. Refreshment served afterwards at St. Augustine's, Wingfield Road.

**Receiving Holy Communion from the Chalice:** We have been advised that the Bishops Conference of England and Wales desire us to re-introduce distribution of Holy Communion from the Chalice as from Maundy Thursday where possible. As you know this was prohibited when we were able to re-open our Churches after the Covid lockdown in June 2020. Many may be hesitant to resume this practice and that is understandable. But the invitation to receive the Precious Blood of Christ will be offered.

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

## Paws for Thought



The angel said, "Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead!"

It's in the Bible; Mark 16 Verse 6

## Thought From The Rectory

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*John Rees*

Easter Day is on April 9<sup>th</sup> this year. For many people, Easter is about bunnies and eggs – symbolic of the new life Easter represents. It is the day when Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus after his crucifixion on Good Friday. A few weeks ago, I went to Stourhead, the beautiful Wiltshire National Trust Garden. There were lots of snowdrops in flower, a lovely sign that Spring is on the way even though, as I write this in mid-March, it is still cold. In one area of the garden, I noticed some snowdrops in bright sunlight, really prolific and flourishing. Just behind them, under a bush in the shade, were some more snowdrops. They still looked lovely but there weren't so many, and they were thriving less well than those in the light. This reminded me of my belief in the great message of Easter – we truly flourish when we live in the light of the risen Christ.

As a Christian I want to become the person God made me to be, but, like all of us, I make mistakes. However, because of Jesus' death and resurrection, I know that I am forgiven and can have a restored relationship with God. You will be welcome at our services in Holy Week and Easter to discover more about this – details are included in this magazine.

*With my best wishes John*

### **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: **canalsidirector@gmail.com** **www.canalsidebenefice.org.uk**



# 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

CANALSIDEBENEFACTICE.ORG.UK

Date	Time	Service
Sunday 2nd April <b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	3pm	<b>HOLY COMMUNION from the BOOK of COMMON PRAYER</b> at St Mary the Virgin, Whaddon
Monday 3rd April	6.30pm	<b>COMPLINE FOR HOLY WEEK</b> at St Mary Magdalen's Hilperton
Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th April	6.30pm	<b>COMPLINE FOR HOLY WEEK</b> at St Michael's Hilperton
Thursday 6th April <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>	7.30pm	<b>HOLY COMMUNION FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> at St Michael's Hilperton
Friday 7th April <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	2-3pm	<b>MEDITATION FOR THE LAST HOUR</b> at St Michael's Hilperton
Saturday 8th April <b>EASTER SATURDAY</b>	10am	<b>EASTER@theTIN</b> The making of Easter Gardens with refreshments including Hot Cross Buns at St Mary Magdalen's Hilperton
Sunday 9th April <b>EASTER DAY</b>	7am	<b>EASTER DAWN SERVICE</b> followed by Breakfast at Hilperton House in the Knap
	9.15am	<b>ALL AGE EASTER COMMUNION with Breakfast</b> at St George's Semington
Sunday 16th April	9.15am	<b>MORNING WORSHIP</b> at St George's Semington