

MAY 2023



SEMINGTON  
PARISH MAGAZINE

Minister for Semington:  
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See page 19 for hours and details

Village Hall

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See page 17 and separate flyer for details

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Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm

Village Hall

**Semingtones Choir**

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Village Hall

**Semington Book Club**

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 8.00pm (see page 25)

3 Wessex Close

**Parish Council Meeting**

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm

Village Hall

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## Christians in Semington

*Bev Woodward*

Thanks to everyone who made the church building look so beautiful over Easter!

**Christians in Semington** - are meeting via zoom, to pray for our community, on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 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 14<sup>th</sup> May** – 9.15am for breakfast, everyone's very welcome.

## Advertising in The Parish Magazine

We have one quarter page advertising slot left to fill. The revenue we get from our advertisers goes directly to supporting the cost of producing the magazine. The cost is £40 per annum renewed each December so pro rata charges apply to the end of this year. Email: [semparmagads@icloud.com](mailto:semparmagads@icloud.com) We've welcomed some new advertisers over the last couple of months so if you normally skip the ads - take a minute you never know when you might need their numbers!

## I Tell You What I Want – What I Really, Really Want

Have a read of Peter's article on page 9 and in particular the bit about making sure your views are heard about the future of the village, if you don't and then don't like what you see.... then, well you know the rest. So channel your inner Spice Girl and tell Peter what you want what you really, really want!

## Editor's Note

*Gillian Airey*

We certainly live in historic times – I do hope you enjoy the Coronation weekend celebrations, I'm dusting down my crown as we speak! With so many bank holidays in May we shall just bounce from one to another. The deadline for submissions for our June edition is **Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup>**. My email as always [semparmag@icloud.com](mailto:semparmag@icloud.com) I look forward to hearing from you.

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## This Month My Get Up and Go has Got Up and Gone

*Gilly Airey*

It's my birthday in May, so as I write this I am still 55 and 11/12ths and clinging on to this. In my head 56 is a neither here or there age, so maybe I'll assume celebrity status and make up how old I am, my head says I'm still only 34 – my knees beg to differ.....

Weirdly over the last few weeks I've felt just a little bit meh, not really able to muster any enthusiasm for anything. Maybe it's because of the impending birthday, maybe it's because of the weather – my tulips haven't recovered from the hailstorm we had in April or maybe and I'm pointing the finger of blame at this – it's because I caught a cold.

I can't remember when I last caught a cold, I have dodged two of Gorgeous Hubby's colds this year and the transatlantic variant that our fellow travellers on our recent holiday brought with them. I'd forgotten how bad a bad cold can be. Whenever I get a cold it's always the cough that I major on, as my mother would have said it always settles on your chest and let's face it, it's hard to avoid my chest! I have abs of steel from all the coughing and ladies of a certain age will understand that coughing can be a precarious business.

So as I have come out of my self-imposed miserable 'I've got a cold' mood – I've just found myself dragging my feet a little. However, the best efforts of Gorgeous Hubby and friends have started to have a positive effect. The lovely Wet Therapy girls enticed me down to a game of badminton at the Campus where I did a pretty good impression of Stretch Armstrong trying to see how far I could stretch my arms to hit the shuttlecock whilst staying rooted to the spot, I loved every minute of it especially when a 10 year-old shouts 'JUST HIT IT' at you every time the shuttlecock comes close to you. Gorgeous Hubby fired up the pizza oven on the windiest day so far this year, the pizzas were great and weather less so, pizzas can be very frisbee-like in windy weather! I was even enticed to do a little weeding in the garden 'You can't see the trees for the weeds' – Gorgeous Hubby wasn't far wrong on that! Trees can now be seen independently of weeds in the garden.

By the time my birthday comes around I'm sure I shall once again be firing on all cylinders especially as I have been promised a trip to my most favourite fabric shop in the world (it's in Newcastle Upon Tyne) and an evening out at Everards Beer Hall in Leicester (check it out) that is definitely worth getting up and going for!

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The advertisement features a central graphic of a house silhouette with a chimney. To the left, a person is shown using a long pole to clean a gutter. The text "Wiltshire Gutter Cleaning Services" is prominently displayed in a large, bold, sans-serif font across the bottom. Above the house, the contact information is presented in a curved, stylized font: "Wiltshireguttercs@gmail.com" and the phone number "07935821117".

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**Wiltshire  
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## Your Parish Council Needs You!

*Siobhan Chown*

'Sit on the Parish Council.....oh no, that's not for me' I have lost count of how many times this has been said to me and, if I am completely honest, I have said it to others many times too.

Before moving to Semington, my opinion of a Parish Council was that it consisted of a group of gentlemen of a certain age, all of whom had previously successful careers, now retired, driving their wives mad at home and having dreams of getting into local politics. They spent hours debating the minutiae of parish life only to come to the decision that no decision could be made and that the item needed putting on the agenda for the following meeting. Am I getting close ?

Well, whilst some of the misconceptions are valid (I will leave you to decide which!), I can confirm that our Parish Council is bucking the trend and we're keen to keep that going and truly represent everyone who lives and works in the parish. So what's involved I hear you cry!

Well, initially, your attendance at one meeting per month, held on a Wednesday evening. They start at 7.30pm and are normally finished between 9.30pm -10pm. Yes, there are boring bits to the meetings and some of the documents that are circulated for our consideration are unbelievably dry, but at the core of every meeting is a desire to make the Civil Parish of Semington a wonderful place for us all to live. And we do have a giggle along the way!

Yes, there might be additional work to do, but you get an incredible sense of fulfilment knowing that you have helped in a small way and to be honest you can take on as much or as little as you have the time and energy for. Yes, there are difficult decisions to be made sometimes but, you are part of a team of councillors who all get their say and voting goes with the majority. No one person is responsible.

Yes, dealing with Wiltshire Council can be frustrating, disappointing and slow, bordering glacial, but we do get to have our say on matters and the little wins are so worth it!

We currently have vacancies on the council and we would love to have some new faces join our team. As the old cliché says, 'many hands make light work'. Sadly, our number of hands is diminishing whilst the work load is getting heavier so it would be marvellous to be able to tip the balance back again.

So why not pop along to one of our meetings to see what it's like.....you never know you might like it!

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## Parish Council Matters

*Peter Smith – Chair of the Parish Council*

**Semington Neighbourhood Plan** – as I write this, the consultation event about the plan (held in the village hall on 22<sup>nd</sup> April) has just finished. It was attended by 55 of you (many thanks), and you spent time giving your views on **Landscape, Green Spaces**, and the possibility of allocating **Housing Site Land** within the plan. What follows is “headline” feedback on what you told us. More detailed feedback will follow when we’ve had a chance to analyse all the comments and ideas.

**Landscape** – 44 thought that the plan should include a policy to protect sensitive landscape areas.

**Green Spaces** – 42 thought that the plan should include a policy to designate some green spaces that meet designation criteria.

**Housing Site Allocation** – 27 thought that the plan should consider allocating a site for development, with 9 saying “maybe” and none saying “no”.

Where you thought that the plan should consider allocating a site for housing development, you gave your views on four sites assessed by our consultants as “suitable” or “potentially suitable”. You said that if the plan were to identify such a site, one site (Site 1, west of Semington Turnpike and north of the A361) was clearly preferred to the other three sites.

If you didn’t manage to attend the consultation, **we still need your views**, and you have until **10<sup>th</sup> May** to contribute. There are two ways for you to do this:

- Visit the Parish Council website: [semington.org.uk](http://semington.org.uk) and, under the Neighbourhood Plan tab, you will find the consultation papers and questions.
- ‘Phone me on 870888, and leave a message plus your ‘phone number if I’m not able to take your call.

If we don’t hear from you, the next stage is for the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to analyse all the information and use it to shape our landscape, green spaces and housing allocation policies.

**Post Office** – is due to open on **24<sup>th</sup> April**, operating out of the DG Car Sales office with support of Dennis, for which many thanks. Opening hours from 10.00am – 12.00noon on Mondays and Thursdays. Please support Kate our postmistress by using the service.

**Village Hall Social Club** – the Parish Council passed a vote of thanks to all involved in very quickly extending the opening hours of the club which, following the very sad closure of the Somerset Arms, offers an alternative convivial space for people to meet and relax.

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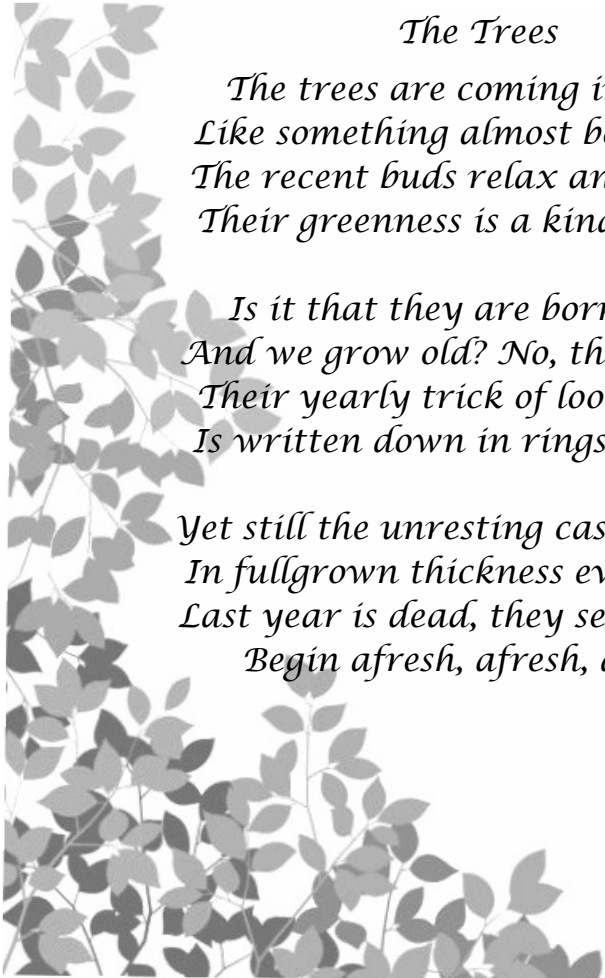
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Philip Larkin was born in 1922. It's said that he had a difficult childhood, but, as Alan Bennett once remarked, poets should be grateful for tricky beginnings as it gives them something to write about.

This poem is about new beginnings and, for someone known to have a tendency to gloom, is positively cheerful.



*The Trees*

*The trees are coming into leaf  
Like something almost being said;  
The recent buds relax and spread,  
Their greenness is a kind of grief.*

*Is it that they are born again  
And we grow old? No, they die too,  
Their yearly trick of looking new  
Is written down in rings of grain.*

*Yet still the unresting castles thresh  
In fullgrown thickness every May.  
Last year is dead, they seem to say,  
Begin afresh, afresh, afresh.*

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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

### **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 19<sup>th</sup> April 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. There were no members of the public present.

**Apologies.** Wiltshire Council, Cllr. J Seed tendered his apologies for non-attendance.

**Wiltshire Council Report.** In the absence of Cllr Seed no report was given. However, the Chairman stated that in a recent conversation with Cllr. Seed, the following matters were raised: Cllr. Seed had been in contact with Michelle Donelan MP regarding the closure of the Post Office and the Somerset Arms Public House and she had offered her full support in maintaining these assets in the village. The Post Office is to reopen and is to be relocated in the DG Car Sales premises – Mondays and Thursdays 10am to 12 Noon.

**Community and Communication.** The Chairman confirmed that an application has been made to Wiltshire Council to register the Somerset Arms as an ‘Asset of Community Value’ and that this application had been acknowledged. A key date is 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 when a decision by Wiltshire Council whether to register the ‘asset’ will be made. Cllr. Bruges stated that he had been in contact with the Managing Agents for the owners of the Public House – the Wellington Group – and it was confirmed that attempts are in hand to re-let it to new tenants. Cllr. Bruges commented that the Social Committee of the Village Hall had been very supportive of providing additional facilities at the Village Hall – especially longer and earlier opening hours for the bar – in order to compensate for the closure of the Somerset Arms – a move that had proved very popular. The Parish Council **resolved** to express its thanks to the Social Committee and especially to Marilyn Taylor. Cllr. Scott confirmed that Pinnacle Data Management Ltd had completed the digitising of the ‘Semington Past and Present’ book and that he now had the software file copy.

**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). He added that he would invite them to provide an update and to also copy all correspondence to the Chairman. Cllr. Chown stated that a site meeting is to be held at the Wessex Close Play Area on 20<sup>th</sup> April with Wiltshire Council (Craig Campbell and Fiona Waind) in order to clarify the outstanding matters relating to a possible Asset Transfer to the Parish Council. Outstanding matters related mainly to 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. Cllr. Scott stated that it would be necessary for Wiltshire Council and the Parish Council to agree on the specification and exact area to be covered in any Asset Transfer. Cllr. Chown added that she had received a draft s52 Agreement relating to the Asset Transfer from Wiltshire Council. The Council resolved to delay a decision whether to accept the Asset Transfer of the Wessex Close Play Area until the May Parish Council meeting. Cllr. Scott emphasized that the role, responsibilities and status of the proposed Friends of Wessex Close Play Area Group need to be defined and agreed and that its relationship to the Parish Council also needs to be discussed and confirmed. Cllr. Bruges gave a full report on the proposed celebrations for the King’s Coronation on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023 and he identified the likely expenditure that it would involve.

The Council **resolved** to agree a budget of £750 within which there was to be an immediate and approved expense of £250 for the Coronation Band and a further £250 for the purchase (as a long-term Parish Council asset) of a marquee. Other costs identified and approved were £76.98 – Road Closure signs, Bunting - £24, Publicity - £50 (to be confirmed), Prizes - £50 (to be confirmed). He added that the Road Closure Order had been approved and would operate 12 noon to 4.00pm.

**Environment and Streetscene.** Cllr. Scott reported that he had not had a reply from Wiltshire in relation to his queries concerning the results of the SEMI9a/HILP22/10 'Cycleway' Safety Audit and associated Report. He stated that he will continue to seek clarification from Wiltshire Council and would investigate possible additional safety measures that could be introduced. Cllr. Hailey stated that she was still awaiting a response from Wiltshire Council to her remaining queries regarding the tree planting in support of the Queen's Green Canopy project. Cllr. Scott reminded councillors that a s106 Agreement in respect of planning application PL/2022/01367 had allocated £3800 for public rights of way improvements and that he is still awaiting confirmation from Wiltshire Council that this money will be used to improve those rights of way in the parish of Semington. Cllr. Scott drew the Council's attention that Path SEMI 6/10 had been ploughed up and planted with crops. The Clerk was asked to write to the owners of the field and to request reinstatement of this public footpath. Cllr. Hailey commented that it may be necessary for the Parish Council to purchase its own lawnmower and other gardening implements if the Parish Council was likely to take on the responsibility of several grassed areas in the village. The Clerk was asked to add this item to the Agenda for the October or November Parish Council meetings.

**Transport and Traffic.** Cllr. Wade confirmed that he would ensure that the subject of the ANPR Camera that Semington Parish Council wished to be used for the 'Bus Gate' enforcement would be on the Agenda for the next LHFIC Meeting that will be held in April. The Chairman confirmed that Melksham Without Parish Council, in whose parish the camera would be located, fully supported this project.

**Planning and Development.** There were no planning applications received after 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023. The Chairman commented that in respect of the possible Ashford Homes development, the Neighbourhood Plan Community event planned for 22<sup>nd</sup> April would provide an opportunity to garner comments regarding this and three other possible developments from members of the public. There was no further discussion in relation to the Greenacres site.

#### **Finance. Total Balance in hand as at 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023 £79,880.43**

The Community Development Fund Working Group (CDFWG) confirmed that only one application for funding had been received and this was being considered. The Council **resolved** that the Insurance Policy with Zurich Municipal is to be renewed for one year only at a cost of £931.21 because it is likely that there would need to be major changes to the Policy resulting from additional responsibilities being adopted by the Council and any benefit from a 3-year deal that was offered by Zurich Municipal was unlikely to be realised. Once the changes are added, the Council will be invited to decide whether, for 2024/25, it is content to renew with Zurich Municipal or if it chooses to seek further quotes from other insurers. Continued on page 16

The Council **resolved** to make the payments of £250 for the Coronation Band, £250 for the Marquee, £54 to Pinnacle Data Management Ltd and £8.65 to Cllr. Scott (Land Registry application and postage). The Council noted and **resolved** that further payments of £76.98 and £24.24 are to be made for the road closure sign and bunting respectively. The Clerk invited the Council to examine the current reserves held by the Parish Council and to agree to earmark some of these reserves for previously identified projects. It was acknowledged that the majority of these reserves had accumulated as a result of the Community Infrastructure Levy (£28324.42) and the Neighbourhood Plan Grant (Groundwork UK) (£12083).

Councillors commented that the Parish Council had adopted a formal process for inviting parishioners to propose possible ‘community projects’ for the disbursement of the Community Infrastructure Levy funds and that this process was now operating. The Council resolved to earmark reserves as shown:

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>

**General Reserve** **£21,500**

**Neighbourhood Plan.** Cllr. Smith confirmed that Neighbourhood Plan Group is continuing to meet on a regular basis and that development of the Neighbourhood Plan is continuing. Cllr. Smith stated that the next Village Consultation is to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2023 at the Village Hall – 11.00am to 3.00pm – and that the event had been, and will continue to be, well advertised. He expressed the wish that it would be well attended and added that comments received from the public will be central to the subsequent content of the Neighbourhood Plan.

**Date of the next meeting.** Councillors commented that in the past, the Annual Parish meeting had been very poorly attended – and on occasions no members of the public had attended. Additionally, a number of Community meetings have been held this year with particular reference to the Neighbourhood Plan which had been well attended by members of the public and the Parish Council meeting was always preceded by a ‘Public Participation’ item when parishioners and electors were invited to raise any matters of interest. The Parish Council had also taken the opportunity on a number of occasions to extend the Public Participation element to accommodate concerns raised by members of the public. A vote was taken, and the Parish Council **resolved** unanimously not to hold an Annual Parish Meeting this year.

The Council noted that the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting would be held on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023** commencing at 8pm and preceded by the Annual Parish Council meeting at 7.30pm.



## Semington's Coronation Celebrations

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The Coronation of King Charles III is nearly upon us and what better way to celebrate than joining the village for one (or all) of the events that have been planned to help the weekend go with a swing.

### **All Weekend**

**Let's turn the village red, white and blue!** Get busy decorating your windows, houses and front gardens. Whatever takes your fancy along a patriotic theme. Prize awarded to the "Best in Village".

**Flower Festival** Come along to St Georges' Church to marvel at the flower display created by the very talented ladies who arrange flowers for the Church.

### **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May**

Events start at 9.15am (see programme of events flyer) and hopefully there is something for everyone to enjoy.

- \* Children's Crown Competition & Parade
- \* Picnic table "Fit for a King" competition
- \* Soapbox Distance Challenge
- \* Hacky Racers
- \* Dance Displays
- \* Live band "The Junkyard Dogs"
- \* Bring-your-own picnic to the High Street Party
- \* Social Club and Beer Tent open
- \* Teas, coffees, cake, ice creams and candy floss.

### **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May**

10.30am - 1.00pm : We would love to have lots of willing volunteers to come and join one of the work parties and give something back to the village in celebration of the Coronation. You'll even get a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits as a reward ! Anyone who would like to volunteer, please contact Siobhan on 07786 980608 or email [chownsiobhan@gmail.com](mailto:chownsiobhan@gmail.com)

Let's hope for good weather and another wonderful event for the whole village to enjoy.

A reminder that the High Street will be closed to traffic from 12noon - 4.00pm on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May. Please can residents of the High Street ensure that their cars are not parked along the road during this time. Temporary parking for High Street residents only, will be available in the Brook House Paddock.

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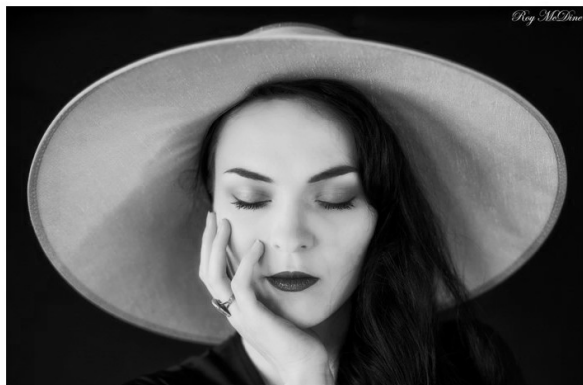
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# *In Focus and Semington*

*Camera Club*

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

## Semington Social Club

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Semington Social Club at the Village Hall has revised their opening hours to make sure villagers have somewhere to meet up and have a natter. Remember under the terms of the club's licence people must be a member to use the bar – so remember to make sure you join up!

The bar is open:

Mondays	9.00pm to 10.30pm (following on from bingo)
Tuesdays	Closed
Wednesdays	7.30pm to 10.30pm
Thursdays	7.30pm to 10.30pm
Fridays	4.00pm to 11.00pm*
Saturdays	7.30pm to 11.00pm
Sundays	Closed

\* These times are being trialled if it is a success it will continue.

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## Wiltshire Councillor News From Jonathon Seed

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There is always considerable activity as we move into the new Financial year. Easter is behind us and summer beckons. Council and Councillor activities also change. For my own part the round of evening Parish Council meetings becomes less of a struggle through dark and wet lanes and more of a drive of appreciation for what we are lucky to have in our local rural Wiltshire landscape.

However there is often considerable clearing up to do after a wet winter and before the autumn rains come again. In the local area there is considerable work still outstanding on Common Hill, Steeple Ashton, with extensive drain and carriageway repairs needed. A knock on from this is the damage caused to lanes and verges around Great Hinton by diverted traffic. In addition there are blocked drains and gullies in several villages that need attention. All of this will be followed up by both me and your Parish Council over the summer.

There is good news for Wiltshire Council Highways in that the Council has received more than £26m Government funding for highways maintenance and to continue the potholes fight. This funding will be spent on a range of highways maintenance and improvement programmes including resurfacing, new road markings, replacing traffic signs and signals, and filling potholes. The council has also received an additional £3,684,800 from the Department for Transport's Pothole Fund which the Council will use to repair potholes around the county. The Council have filled 11,130 potholes and completed 28 major resurfacing projects so far this financial year. However to get roads repaired and potholes filled in our area we must use the MyWilts app and report them. It is quick and easy to use. IF A POTHOLE IS NOT REPORTED IT WILL NOT GET FILLED! So the more local activity with smart phones in roads the better our local roads will become.

Finally I join with many residents to express concern over the future of our village pubs. The Lamb on the Strand remains closed and the Somerset Arms has also closed its doors. Let us hope that both these closures are temporary. However the mantra with village pubs is very much "use it or lose it". So as we enter the summer months using village pubs is a necessary and welcome challenge for us all!

**[Jonathon.seed@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Jonathon.seed@wiltshire.gov.uk)**



## Michelle Donelan MP – Chippenham Ward

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Welcome to my latest update, I hope you are well and were able to have a peaceful and enjoyable Easter break with friends and family. I was making the most of recess from Parliament in the first two weeks of April, including holding my regular constituent advice surgeries and visiting local charities and businesses.

To update you on my article in last month's issue, I recently organised a meeting with Wiltshire Councillors to raise their concerns with the Housing Minister regarding planning and speculative development. From my surgery in the village earlier this year with Cllr Seed, I know that this is something which many are concerned about. Melksham and the surrounding areas have had its fair share of housing over the years, and I have been actively advocating for measures to address this with successive Housing Secretaries. As part of this effort, I have campaigned successfully to lower the number of new builds allocated to Wiltshire.

During the meeting the Minister spoke about the new Infrastructure Levy, which will be paid by developers based on the sale price of new builds directly to councils to ensure that local infrastructure grows in line with the number of new homes being built. Additionally, the Levelling Up Secretary has changed the rules to ensure that Councils with up-to-date local plans will no longer need to demonstrate a 5-year supply of housing sites, which will make a real difference in reducing the number of speculative planning applications. Overall, the meeting was a useful opportunity for local councillors to feed into the process based on concerns of residents and help ensure the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill works successfully for areas like ours. The Bill is still going through Parliament currently, so I will be following up by writing to the Minister to feed in suggestions and thoughts from our councillors to help make sure the system works for Wiltshire.

Elsewhere, more than 20,000 pensioners in our constituency will receive a 10.1% increase to their state pension from last month - the largest cash increase ever. This record increase is a result of our commitment to the Triple Lock, coming on top of other support like Pension Credit, Winter Fuel Payments, Pensioner Cost of Living Payments and free TV licences for the over 75s. Maintaining the Triple Lock is something I have always consistently supported and pushed for directly since becoming your MP, as I believe it is absolutely vital we support those in later life and make sure everyone receives all of the support they are entitled to.

Finally, I have worked with my fellow Wiltshire MP's to help secure over £5.4 million of further Government funding to extend the Household Support Fund, supporting vulnerable families in our community with the cost of living. This funding has already helped to support local families through one-off payments, and comes on top of other support like dedicated Cost of Living Payments, uprating benefits in line with inflation, Government energy bill support, and increasing the minimum wage. I do absolutely understand that families and individuals who are not in the benefits system have also faced difficulties with the cost of living, so this fund will ensure that there is help available in Wiltshire for those who need it but are not claiming specific benefits. If you know of anyone who may need some further support, the team at Wiltshire Council can be contacted on **0300 456 0110**.

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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This April we were treated to a crafting session courtesy of Pat Burtenshaw. She very kindly made everyone a kit to make a lavender bag with a difference, they looked like very pretty pinwheels. They were also multipurpose you could use them as a pincushion, an ornament for the Christmas tree or to hang in the wardrobe to make it smell lovely. They were fun to make and everyone went home with one that looked good.

Next month we look forward to the Coronation. We will be taking part in the village celebrations on **7<sup>th</sup> May** by selling tea, coffee and cakes in the Village Hall from 12.00 to 4.00pm.

Steph Pawling will be our speaker on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall. She will be giving a talk on being adopted in Ireland. Some of us heard her talk last year and it was so interesting that we thought we'd ask her to speak to all of us at one of our monthly meetings.

Semington Book Club

*Angela Grodzicka – 870756*

The dreaded cold and cough hit the Bookclub but five of us managed to meet on 6<sup>th</sup> April and discussed Adrian Mole The Prostrate Years by Sue Townsend. It did not appeal to everyone but all agreed it was light entertainment and was not difficult to read. One member had listened to it and thought this helped the humour come to life as there are some good one liners which benefit from the delivery timing rather like a sitcom.

The future venue for meetings also came under discussion and members are being asked for their opinions. Meanwhile the next meeting will be at 3 Wessex Close on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 8.00pm** to discuss The Outback by Patricia Wolf.

New members are always welcome. Our meetings usually allow about 5 weeks to read a book and it is appreciated that not everyone will enjoy every book, but we do read books that we might otherwise not have picked up.

## 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 17<sup>th</sup> June 2023:** Bishop Declan will be hosting a Diocesan Day on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June 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).

**First Holy Communion:** The children preparing for their First Holy Communion in June have started their preparation. The next session will be on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May** at 7.00pm.

**St. Bernadette's Drop in at Westbury:** St Bernadette's Drop-in at Westbury will be on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2.00pm-4.00pm**. Tea, coffee and chat everyone welcome.

**Children's Liturgy:** will take place once a month at the Sunday 10.30 Mass. All children are welcome to take part in this and will be made very welcome. The next children's liturgy will take place on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023**.

**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



Then they brought out the king's son and put the crown on him. They gave him the Law, and made him king. They poured oil on him and said, "Long live the king!"

It's in the Bible; 2 Chronicles 23 verse 11

## Thought From The Rectory

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Anne Rees

When Queen Elizabeth II died in September, her son Charles immediately became King. In our constitution, there isn't any moment when we don't have a monarch, but because we need a time of mourning and the arrangements take a while to organise, the coronation of the new monarch is arranged a few months later. As I'm sure you are all aware, the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla will take place on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

British coronations have at their heart an Anglican service conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury at Westminster Abbey. The King is the Supreme Governor of the Church of England, "The Church in which my own faith is so deeply rooted," he said, following the death of his mother.

The King's coronation will include three significant ceremonies: his taking of oaths, his anointing and then the crowning. It is the anointing which is the most sacred moment and will take place in private, away from the television cameras. It is a personal moment for the King, between him and God, when oil prepared and blessed in Jerusalem will be used to signify God's blessing on him, to sustain him through the years ahead. We use oil to anoint those being baptised and confirmed in our Churches for the same reason. Although very significant, it is only an outward sign of the special relationship God wants to have with each of us, whoever we are. We are all equal in God's Kingdom and his blessings are available to all of us.

May God Bless King Charles III and Queen Camilla richly during their reign.

### **Contact Details for The Canalside Parishes:**

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

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

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

Church Warden – Mr David Wildsmith

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

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


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

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



# 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  
CANALSIDEBENEFACTURE.ORG.UK

Date	Time	Service
Sunday 7th May 	9.15am	<b><i>A SERVICE of CELEBRATION for the KING'S CORONATION</i></b> <i>at St George's</i>
	3pm	<b><i>HOLY COMMUNION from the BOOK of COMMON PRAYER</i></b> <i>at St Mary the Virgin, Whaddon</i>
Sunday 14th May	9.15am	<b><i>BREAKFAST CHURCH with refreshments</i></b> <i>followed by Semington's Annual Parochial Church Meeting at St George's</i>
Sunday 21st May	9.15am	<b><i>HOLY COMMUNION</i></b> <i>John's last Communion at St George's</i>