

JUNE 2023



*Thank you Revd John - Enjoy your retirement
From Everyone in Semington!*

SEMINGTON PARISH MAGAZINE

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



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Thursday 8th June 7.30pm Village Hall

Semingtons Choir

Fridays 6.00pm Village Hall

Semington Book Club

Wednesday 14th June 8.00pm Village Hall

Semington Crib Club

Fridays 8.00pm to 10.00pm Village Hall

Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 14th June 7.30pm Village Hall

Social Club Opening Times

Monday	9.00pm to 10.30pm
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	7.30pm to 10.30pm
Thursday	7.30pm to 10.30pm
Friday	4.30pm to 11.00pm
Saturday	8.00pm to 11.00pm
Sunday	Closed

Christians in Semington

Bev Woodward

Thank you to everyone who made the church building look so beautiful over the Coronation Celebrations!

Christians in Semington - are meeting via zoom, to pray for our community, on **Wednesday 7th June 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 11th June - 9.15am** for breakfast, finishing by 10am, everyone's very welcome, followed by a baptism service at 10.15am.

Editor's Note

Gillian Airey

Well here we are at June – I hope you enjoyed the bumper Brucie bonus bank holidays! Next month is Village Fete month so I'm throwing open to everyone the chance to have their design, artwork or photo on the front cover of the magazine.

So if you fancy your artwork being immortalised on the front of the magazine get it to me via the wonders of the internet no later than **Sunday 18th June**. The drawing, design or photo needs to be A4 portrait and sent as a hi-res JPEG or PDF file.

Remember next month is the summer double issue so anything for August can be included too as well as save the dates for September. Deadline for submissions is also **Sunday 18th June**. My email as always **semparmag@icloud.com**

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This Month I'm No Longer Cherished

Gilly Airey

Many moons ago, in a distant galaxy, far, far away – well actually when Gorgeous Hubby and I lived in that there Sarf East and Gorgeous Hubby was only Hunky Boyfriend, I am slightly embarrassed to say that I ran out of useful things to buy him for Christmas. So one year I hit upon the bright idea of getting him his very own cherished number plate. Quite when private number plates morphed into cherished number plates I have no idea, but there you go.

Anyhow, I digress, I was inspired by a white Volvo I used to see on my commute into Oxford with the registration plate K1 PPY – sadly I had clearly missed the boat on the most appropriate number plate ever for Gorgeous Hubby so settled on the next best one I could find namely K1 PCA and this has graced the faster, sleeker of our cars ever since – I personally have always tended to favour having a more 'sofa' style of car.

Since we have embraced village life here in Semington it's become apparent that a car with a personalised number plate can be more recognised than the person driving the car, simply driving out of the village can take twice as long in the K1 PCA as it does in the other car. Unfortunately we were involved in a road traffic accident last month and the K1 PCA has gone to be mended and it looks like it's going to be at the garage for quite some time so now we have a courtesy car for the duration.

But there is an upside to this – a courtesy car is equivalent to having a Harry Potter cloak of invisibility – I can get up to all sorts now! No longer will my parking skills be brought to task via WhatsApps from friends – I may even positively choose to park across the white lines in Sainsbury's without fear of naming and shaming. I could even just drive down to the village High Street instead of walking – just because I can and no one will know it's me being a proper lazy bones. I could even overtake people and they will never, ever know it was me who was desperate for the loo!

I will even be able to visit 'Spoons under the cloak of invisibility instead of the K1 PCA acting like a homing beacon telling anyone who knows me where to find me at 4.00pm on a Monday afternoon..... well at least for a few weeks anyway!

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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 written in a curved path: "Wiltshireguttercs@gmail.com" and the phone number "07935821117".

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Parish Council Matters

Peter Smith – Chair of the Parish Council

Planning – Wiltshire Council has refused the planning application for 30 homes on land south of Pound Lane (application number PL/2022/09397). The Parish Council and many of you wrote to Wiltshire Council objecting to this proposal, so this decision is welcome news. The full “Reasons for Refusal” can be found on Wiltshire Council’s website and include: failures to comply with three Core Planning Policies, and failure to supply groundwater flooding evidence.

Neighbourhood Planning – following the consultation event on 22nd April, the Parish Council at its May meeting considered and approved five recommendations from the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group, which were driven by what you told us at the event. These approved recommendations can be found within the council minutes elsewhere in the magazine.

Wessex Close Play Area – the Parish Council has decided to take over responsibility for the fenced area with the play equipment, so that we can invest in improving it, including introducing new equipment. Don’t expect things to happen immediately (there will be legal documents to be agreed for the formal transfer), but we are on the right track. Many thanks to Siobhan Chown and the group of volunteers who have got us to this point.

Allotments – we know that many who have expressed an interest in taking on a plot will be wondering when they will be available. The transfer of the land from Newland Homes to the Parish Council, along with associated responsibilities, is under scrutiny by solicitors acting for each side. We hope that outstanding issues can be sorted soon to enable access to the land.

Annual Parish Meeting – the date for this meeting is **Wednesday 31st May, 7.30pm** at the village hall. This is an informal meeting which will include a verbal report from the Parish Council on its work past, present and future. There may also be information from other village organisations, and from parishioners with views on community topics. A written report summarising the meeting will be published, including in July’s village magazine.

Somerset Arms – no news yet of a reopening. However, we have heard from Wiltshire Council that our application for the pub to be listed as an Asset of Community Value has been successful. This means that, should the current owners decide to sell or enter into a long lease, they have to notify Wiltshire Council and then we, as a community, have six weeks to decide whether we want to put in a bid and, if we so decide, up to six months to prepare and present the bid.

Coronation Celebrations – what a brilliant day we had on 7th May! The weather helped, of course. But the community effort on show was fantastic, including all the support from villagers who came and joined in. There’s a report elsewhere about the day, but the Parish Council voted thanks to all those on the organising committee and to the many community groups and individuals who helped make it happen, including a special mention for the young people from Hilperton Scouts.

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Well Semington, the King's Coronation event showed that we do like to party in the sunshine! Let's hope that it has whetted our appetite for the Village Summer Fete. Do come and join us on the afternoon of **Saturday 22nd July** at venues along the High Street; see the Camera Club exhibition, grannies attic and join in with Hilperton Scouts fun and games at the village hall; enjoy a leisurely afternoon beverage outside of the Somerset Arms, and of course don't forget to come to the beautiful setting of Brook House gardens for childrens games and events, afternoon tea, musical entertainment, ice cream plus lots of stalls and magic too. Look out for a timetable of events. Also don't forget to purchase your ducks for the afternoon duck race at the brook, again more details to follow in due course, via Facebook and the Parish Magazine.

Collections for grannies attic will take place at the village hall on the evenings of **Thursday 20th and Friday 21st July**, (times to be confirmed). Produce, plants and cakes can be brought to the village hall or Brook House gardens on the morning of the **22nd July**.

This year's chosen charity will be Melksham Foodbank. The villagers of Semington have continued to support Melksham Foodbank since the beginning of the Covid-19 crisis. This organisation is run by a small group of volunteers providing emergency food for local people in crisis.

We do look forward to seeing you on the day. Details of the event will be posted around the village and also on the Facebook page nearer the time.

Thanks, The Fete Committee

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Nature Notes

There sometimes seem to be more poems about roses than all the other flowers put together. This is translated by Rodney Bennet from a 15th Century French song where the sense of longing is conveyed by both words and structure.

L'amour de moi

There is a garden that all sweetness encloses,
Where my love is wont to stray;
There blow the fairest flow'rs of May
And, lovelier yet, soft damask roses.

There by her side among the flow'rs
Would I might pass the days of June,
Fleeting the careless summer hours,
Whether by night or by noon.

Happy the nightingale that haunts its closes,
Telling his love as best he may:
Freely he sings both night and day,
And then at last in peace reposes.

Fairer than blossom red or white,
Lily or violet wet with dew,
No flow'r that blooms the summer through
Half so fair is to my sight.

I saw her gathering matchless posies,
Yet were they not so sweet as she.
Would that my fortune were to be
As dear to her as are the roses.

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Semington Book Club

Angela Grodzicka - 870756

The Bookclub met on Tuesday 16th May and welcomed two new members. We discussed *The Outback* by Patricia Wolf, which is a psychological thriller set in Australia. Everyone had enjoyed the book and most found it a real page turner with an atmospheric feeling for the heat, dust and distances involved. The short, well titled chapters gave a sense of urgency although some people felt the detective lacked dynamism. Voted a good holiday read.

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 14th June at 8.00 pm** in the village hall to discuss *The Dig* by John Preston which is the story of the background to the archeological discoveries at Sutton Hoo.

From The Church Register

Victoria Shackleton

Mrs Grace Lilian Greig

A service in celebration of the life of Mrs Grace Greig was held at St George's Church on Friday 19th May 2023. We pray that Grace's sons Michael and Colin, daughter-in-law Jan and grandson Ryan, family and friends will know the love and peace of God at this sad time.



In FOCUS and Semington

Camera Club

22nd / 23rd July 2023 Photography Showcase

Abridged Minutes from Parish Council Meeting

Meeting Held Wednesday 17th May 2023

Present. Councillors P Smith (Chairman), S. Chown, J. Hailey, M. Kasasian, C. McGarvey, C. Wade and the Clerk, Roger Coleman. There were four members of the public present.

Apologies. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Bruges and Scott and from Wiltshire Council, Cllr. J Seed.

Declaration of Interests. There were no interests declared.

Wiltshire Council Report. In the absence of Cllr Seed no report was given. Cllr. Wade stated that he had attended the Local Highways and Footpath Improvement (LHFIG) meeting which was chaired by Cllr. Seed and he would be seeking clarification regarding the views of the LHFIG regarding the existing Bus Gate and the request from the Parish Council for an APNR camera to be used for its enforcement.

Community and Communication. The Chairman confirmed that Wiltshire Council had accepted the registration of the Somerset Arms Public House as an 'Asset of Community Value'. Cllr. Chown explained possible ways of communicating the Council's policy on GDPR and the Council **resolved** that a shortened version should be adopted generally with a link to the Parish Council website to enable access to the full version. It was agreed to keep this subject under review especially in relation to any legislative changes. The Chairman and councillors reported that the Post Office is now operating very successfully following its move to the car showroom/garage building. The Council **resolved** that a letter of appreciation be sent to the owner/occupier of the building. Cllr. Chown commented that it would be helpful if a 'formal' Post Office sign was displayed indicating its location in the village and that it may be advantageous to erect a ramp at the entrance to assist those less mobile customers. Cllr. Smith agreed to investigate obtaining a 'Post Office' sign and the need for an access ramp.

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) but understood that Newland Homes had passed documents to FSM Solicitors for consideration. He added that he would seek an update from FSM Solicitors. Cllr. Chown stated that she had circulated the responses from Wiltshire Council to questions that had arisen following a very helpful and informative site meeting at Wessex Close Play Area. She expressed her gratitude to Craig Campbell and Fiona Waind of Wiltshire Council for their cooperation and assistance at the site meeting. Cllr. Chown confirmed that volunteers were in place to manage the Play Area and that terms of reference for the Working Group had been agreed. Cllr. Hailey enquired how the 'green space' was to be managed and whether the Parish Council would need to purchase additional equipment for the Group. The Chairman recommended that those details should be left to the Working Group and that the Parish Council would be willing to assist financially if required. Cllr. Chown stated that the railings on the Canal Bridge were in a poor state and needed painting. She agreed to report this matter to Wiltshire Council on 'My Wilts'. The Parish Council **resolved** to request that the Wessex Close Play Area (i.e. the area within the existing boundary fence) be transferred to the Parish Council under the 'Asset Transfer' scheme.

Cllr. Chown stated that she would inform Wiltshire Council. The Clerk added that it may be necessary for the Parish Council's solicitors to review any papers received from Wiltshire Council relating to the transfer of ownership. The Chairman and councillors stated that the celebrations for the King's Coronation on 7th May 2023 had been very successful and that it was heartening to witness such an obvious community spirit evident within the village. The Chairman added that Cllr. Bruges had provided a full written report on the day's events and that this report would be publicised within the village. The Chairman, on behalf of the Parish Council, thanked the Organising Committee and all those parishioners who had made the day so memorable. Cllr. Wade requested that a letter of thanks be sent to the Scouts for their superb assistance in organising and managing various events during the day.

Environment and Streetscene. Rights of Way: Cllr. Scott had reported that he was still awaiting a reply from Wiltshire in relation to his queries concerning the results of the SEMI9a/HILP22/10 'Cycleway' Safety Audit and associated Report. The Chairman stated that the planters needed refreshing and that this was in hand. The Chairman reported that Path SEMI9/10 (St Georges Court to Pound Lane) needed clearing and that he would request the Parish Steward to undertake this task. Cllr. Hailey commented that there were brambles hanging over Pound Lane from the field owned by the church. The Chairman added that he was aware that Cllr. Scott had informed the Churchwarden and has requested that they are cut back. The Chairman explained that there were four sites identified as tree planting sites in support of the Queen's Green Canopy project and that only one of these was on land maintained by Wiltshire Council – two of the remaining sites were maintained by the parishioners and one was in Wessex Close and although on land owned by Wiltshire Council, Wiltshire Council had agreed that an 'Ash Die Back' tree could be replaced at that site. The maintenance and tree planting on a further site at Highfield Close still needed to be agreed with Wiltshire Council. It was agreed that confirmation of the order for new trees will be a subject at the next Parish Council meeting.

Transport and Traffic. Cllr. Wade stated that the discussions and outcome of the LHFIG meeting held recently in relation to the Bus Gate and provision of the ANPR enforcement camera were unclear and that he needed to clarify matters with the Chairman of the meeting – Cllr. Seed. He added that a further complication was the fact that the Bus Gate is located in Melksham Without Parish Council. Cllr. Wade explained that car parking problems on the (old) A350 road north of the Canal Bridge had resulted in a formal 'Parking Review' being undertaken in Melksham Without Parish Council, the results of which could have an adverse effect on Semington Parish Council, south of the Canal Bridge. He stressed that Semington now required its own formal 'Parking Review' to safeguard its own environment and that Wiltshire Council had undertaken to do this, though no date has yet been set.

Planning and Development. The Chairman confirmed that he had heard, just prior to this Parish Council meeting, that Planning application PL/2022/09397 had been refused by the Wiltshire Council Strategic Planning Committee. There were no planning applications received after 10 May 2023. There was no further discussion in relation to the Greenacres site. Councillors expressed their disappointment at the refusal of Wiltshire Council to recognize that newly built affordable homes in the village should be available to those individuals with a local connection. A recent case was cited and following intervention by the Parish Council, it was noted that Cllr. Seed had referred the matter to the Wiltshire Council Cabinet member for Housing. Cllr. Hailey suggested that the 'local connection' issue should feature in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Continued from page 15

The Chairman stated that the Parish Council had sent a comprehensive response to Wiltshire Council in respect of its invitation to participate in a Peer Review and he thanked all councillors, especially Cllr. Scott, for their significant and valuable contributions.

Finance. Total Balance in Hand as at 17th May 2023 £82,323.28

The Community Development Fund Working Group (CDFWG) confirmed that one application for funding had been received and this was for the provision of Flotation Devices for the local Scout Group at a cost of £75 each – a total of five were requested. The Council **resolved** to approve this request.

Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr. Smith gave a full report on the Neighbourhood Plan Community Consultation event held on 22nd April 2023 and added that it was encouraging and refreshing to hear the views from members of the public and added that their views will now help to shape the Neighbourhood Plan. He added that there will be two further formal consultation events, followed by a Referendum and that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will continue to meet regularly.

The Parish Council, as the Qualifying Body for the Neighbourhood Plan **resolved** the following:

- That the Parish Council note and validate the main evidence bases (Sites and Landscape) and community consultation process as robust and sound.
- That the Neighbourhood Plan should propose designation of Local Green Spaces in accordance with evidence and feedback.
- That the Neighbourhood Plan should propose to allocate land for housing led development informed by and accordance with evidence and feedback from the community to date.
- That the Parish Council request that the steering group progress the preparation of draft housing allocation and green space designations to be included in a Reg 14 draft Neighbourhood Plan and that the draft be brought back to Parish Council for its validation prior to formal public consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan.
- That the Parish Council pass any further comments back to the steering group.

Date of the next meeting. **Wednesday 14th June 2023 commencing at 7.30pm.**

Revd John Rees Retirement

As you may be aware Revd John is retiring as Rector of the Canalside Parishes after 7 years in the post. Both John and his wife have been Governors at Staverton School. They are moving to Bradpole in Dorset for their retirement.

His last service will be on **Sunday 2nd July** at St Michael's in Hilperton followed by a farewell Bring and Share Lunch at St Mary's in Horse Road. All Welcome.

Armstrong's Angels – End of Season Skittle Report

Rose Costello

A fairly uneventful season, with the team finishing 8th in Division One, which actually means third from bottom. We very much missed Louise Gunner who returned to play for Semington A when they rejoined the league. It shows how good Louise's skittles playing is as Semington A were promoted straight back to the Premier Division while we languished near the bottom of Division One. We were however pleased to welcome back Lesley Williams and Diane Walker, and that Jane Cottrell was able to play a couple of matches.

Karen Newbrook had the highest average, 30.8 pins and both Karen and Lyn Cobley had the highest score, of 38 pins. The team were a bit lacking in spares this season with Karen, Vicky Bodman and Andrea Bowland each getting one. Andrea also played the most matches, playing in all but two of the games. Special mention to Gillian Airey whose average improved enough to no longer be bottom of the averages!

Both the Knockout and Front Pin First cups were reintroduced this season, however we sadly didn't last long in either! There was, however, one league match where we excelled ourselves – each of us scored 30 or more pins, something which has never happened before whilst I've been captain. Sally Rigg was set the task of scoring a 9 to bring her total to 30 and she duly produced a stunning 9.

As ever my thanks go to Andrea my Vice Captain and to Sally for doing the board. We welcomed two new sticker ups, Bee and Jenson Day and my thanks go to both of them.

Finally I have to report that I am stepping down as captain after 15 years and am looking forward to continuing to play and being able to chat to everyone. So thanks to Andrea for taking over and I hope she'll get the same support from the team that I've had. Knowing that I was stepping down as captain must have taken a weight off my shoulders as I managed to finish third in the averages!

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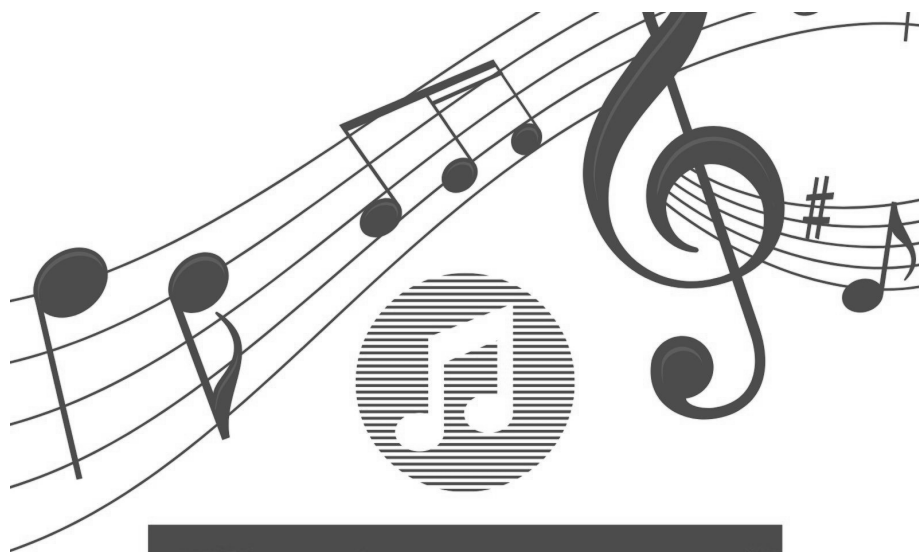
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Wiltshire Councillor News From Jonathon Seed

I write this message after an unusually cool month of May but just in advance of my departure for a week in the warmth of the coast of Croatia for a small family celebration. May was a month of national celebration and how good it was to be able to watch the Coronation of our new King on TV, albeit taking place in the rain. The reduced ceremony from that of seventy years ago was clearly a success but also very moving. State ceremony is something that our country can be very proud of and something that we are very good at. I have personal experience of just how much is involved in all of this having served for several years at mounted ceremonial duty with the King's Troop RHA in London in the eighties. Many of those who come to watch the hugely successful execution of the Coronation ceremony and parade are from abroad and it's an interesting response to those who question the cost of it all that over the Coronation weekend there was not a hotel room to be had in London and an estimate of £1billion was earned in tourism.

Back to Wiltshire where I have been spending a good deal of time on local planning issues. These range from concerns of Parish Councils on larger applications to much more localised individual concerns, many of which affect daily lives. I have sat on a planning committee of some sort for fifteen years on various Councils and so bring a good deal of experience to the subject. I am always happy to help where I can and it is particularly satisfying to be able to help get results for Parish Councils where they are concerned about larger applications.

Latterly I have worked closely and in great detail with Melksham Without Parish Council on detail of an application for 144 houses in Berryfields and was pleased to see that we were able to get the concessions that the community wanted in the Western Area Planning Committee where I had asked the matter to be determined. I was also pleased to help to resist the latest forced application for 30 houses in Semington, a village which has had more than its fair share of predatory applications in recent years. In addition there are several small applications that could affect residents that I am working on and let's hope we can get a sensible resolution that does not blight neighbours lives. The point of all of this is that if you have a planning concern I am happy to listen to it and to help if I can.

Finally if any resident needs to contact me on any local government issue of concern then please feel free to do so by e-mail or phone.

Jonathon.seed@wiltshire.gov.uk 07770 774463

Coronation Celebration Success

Not wishing to blow our own trumpets, but what a resounding success our Coronation Celebrations were. A trusty team of Semington Elves started at 9.00am decorating the pub, weeding, grass cutting, cable running, litter picking, gutter clearing and putting up bunting, flags, tents and stands. We were ready to close High Street at 12noon to enable everyone to have their picnics, run the races, judge the competitions and enjoy the music and dancing. Everything wound up at 8.00pm and the Semington Elves ensured that everything was put away by 9.00pm. Up, enjoyed and down in 12 hours with about 300 people attending, over 50 people helping and all in the most glorious spring sunshine. Simply marvellous!

Thanks need to go to the following people, all of whom helped to make the day happen:

- The Scouts who ran stalls, the soap box challenge and helped with the marshalling.
- The Hacky Racers who were such an exciting addition to the entertainment in their small electric vehicles, whizzing up and down the High Street oohs and ahhs at their near misses!
- Judges Revd John and Anne Rees, to Peter Hall, our Royal British Legion standard bearer and to all the children for making such amazing crowns. The crown competition was delightful, proceeding from the school to the village hall behind our Royal British Legion standard bearer. Our vicar, Revd John, had the unenviable task of selecting the best crown. Congratulations to everyone who made a crown and in particular to the winners, Alice, Issac and Tamara.
- Peter Smith, our Parish Council Chairman who judged the 'Table Fit for a King' competition with no need for VAR! Congratulations to the winners Sharon Adams, Sheralyn Milburn and Sally Tyler.
- Natasha Jones and her fabulous NJ Dancers who put on two lovely performances, to great applause.
- The talented bakers of the WI, who organised the tea stall in the Village Hall. Three tables laden with cakes at the start of the day and all sold by the end.
- Marilyn Taylor and her staff who kept the Social Club bar open throughout the day, providing much needed access to lavatories and electricity.
- John Adams and Sally Tyler for organising the beer tent and their team of bar staff who kept us all hydrated!
- The wonderful ladies who arranged such a stunning Flower Festival at the Church. They made our beautiful church look even more glorious.
- Roy & Sue McDine for capturing the day 'on film' and to the Melksham Independent News photographer who came and captured the scene in a full page montage.
- Junkyard Dogs and impromptu DJ Jim Bruges who helped to round off the day in such style!

And lastly, HUGE thanks to the organising 'committee': Richard Bruges, Siobhan Chown, Catherine McGarvey, Chris Braham, Deb Hurn, Sally Tyler, John Adams, Bev Woodward, Derek Edwards, George Braham, Natasha Jones, SHERALYN Milburn, Ian Williamson and Lewis Broad. A simple example of people giving freely of their time to help their community.

In closing, while it was such a lot of work to organise and coordinate, we eventually had dozens of people happy to help. The whole event should make us proud of our village. We know how to get stuck in and organise stuff and we know how to enjoy ourselves. Bring on the Summer Fete!



The lovely ladies who decorated the church so beautifully.



And the lovely ladies who made and served the cakes!



Picnic on the High Street



Unbridled fun and joy!

Photo Credits Roy McDine

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Semington WI

Deb Hurn



Our speaker for our meeting this month was not as planned. Unfortunately they had to cancel due to Covid. However, Pat agreed very kindly on the day to fill in with another crafting session. She was able, with very little notice, to pull together all the materials needed to make a flower that could be used as a brooch or a hair clip. Once again she managed to test everyone's skill. The time passed very quickly and there was a lot of chatter and laughter. The flowers actually looked like flowers and they were all very different. So once again sincere thanks to Pat.

Richard Ricketts will be at our next meeting speaking about "Attracting Bees to Your Garden" on **Thursday 8th June at 7.30pm** in the village hall. He spoke to us last year about the "Life of Bees" and was an excellent speaker and highly amusing.

As a WI we had a lovely Coronation Celebration. We were part of the wonderful village events on Sunday 7th May 2023. The village hall was decorated with Union flags a plenty, the number of which was matched only by the lovely cakes, scones and cookies that our members and friends had taken time to bake.

The sale was very successful and huge thanks go to the ladies who baked and to those who came on the day to make teas, coffees, sell the cakes, help decorate the tables and organise on the day. Also to those that came and bought the cakes.

Semington Crib Club

Eric Clifford 07511 370280

Semington Crib club has a new home at the Village Hall. We meet to play social, informal crib especially for beginners **8.00pm – 10.00pm Fridays** – Please remember membership is necessary to use the Social Club.

Walks From Semington

Eric and Helen Clifford - 870922

Saturday 10th June 10.00am meet Somerset Way / Pound Lane junction

Thursday 29th June 2.00pm meet Littlemarsh post box

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 17th June 2023: Bishop Declan will be hosting a Diocesan Day on Saturday 17th 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).

St. Augustine's: St Augustine's are really looking forward to welcoming their new cohort this summer for their induction days, to get them ready for September. Please spread the word of an exciting opportunity, as a few spaces have unexpectedly become available. We would be delighted to consider further applications to join our Year 7 this September. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please ask them to contact us directly as soon as possible on admissions@sta.cc and 01225 350001 ext. 242. Or they can apply direct to Wiltshire Council.

300 Club: If you wish to join the 300 Club, please ask Canon Tom for an application form. They are also available on the parish website. Thank you. May Draw Winners as follows: £200 (140) Lucy Arnold, £70 (165) Ted Rockliffe, £50 (214) Johanna Duffy, £10 (47) David Hull.

Paws for Thought



Those who plant seeds
of peace will gather
what is right and good

It's in the Bible; James 3 verse 18

Thought From The Rectory

Rev. John Rees

Life is a journey with many twists and turns along the way. This time of year is exam season for many of our young people, before they move on to the next stage of their education or to the world of work. We have just witnessed the coronation of our new monarch, seventy years after the previous one.

After 7 years as Rector of the Canalside Churches, it's a time of change for me too; I will be retiring, and Anne and I will be moving to Dorset. I have been privileged to serve the villages of Semington, Hilperton, Whaddon and Staverton; my final service will be in St Michael's Hilperton at 10.30am on **Sunday 2nd July**. As we move on to the next stage of our journey, we know that God will be with us, and we will continue to pray for all of you, wherever your journeys take you.

It will be a while until a new Rector is in post. In the meantime, from July, please contact our Administrator, Michael Gamble on 07795 400262, email **canalsideoffice@gmail.com** on Church matters. With my prayers and best wishes, John

Editor's note - we hope you and Anne enjoy your retirement, thank you for everything you have both done in the village over the years..... and here's some of our memories!



Crown judging duties



Leading worship via Zoom during Lockdown



And cake duties at the fete!

Photo Credits:
Top left and bottom right -
Roy McDine



CHURCH SERVICES in SEMINGTON and WHADDON

In addition to the 'LIVE' services detailed below ONLINE services will also be available each weekend.
See our WEBSITE for full details
CANALSIDEBENEFICE.ORG.UK

Date	Time	Service
Sunday 4th June	3pm	HOLY COMMUNION from the BOOK of COMMON PRAYER at St Mary the Virgin, Whaddon
Sunday 11th June	9.15am	BREAKFAST CHURCH Followed by BAPTISM at St George's
Sunday 25th June	9.15am	HOLY COMMUNION at St George's
Sunday 2nd July	10.30am	BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION at St Michael's in Hilperton The Rector's (Rev John Rees) final Service in the Benefice followed by a Farewell Bring and Share Lunch at St Mary Magdalen's in Horse Road Hilperton ALL WELCOME

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