

## Government Guidance and Local Information

### Government Update

At Thursday's Government Daily Briefing, the Prime Minister indicated that next week the Government would publish a road map towards easing the current lockdown restrictions.

It is important to remember though that current restrictions still remain in place until such a time that changes are announced.

So as a village we need to dig deep into our resolve and keep soldiering on – remember we're in this together and we will come out of it together too!

### Acceptable reasons to leave

#### the house:

- Shopping for basic necessities and only one member of the household.
- Providing care for a vulnerable person or collecting medical needs.
- Travel to and from essential work that cannot be done at home.
- Key workers may leave to take their children to school.

### Local Facilities

As a wider local community the rhythms of life seem to be settling down and supermarkets are working hard to manage social distancing rules and keeping staff and customers safe.

If you keep an eye on the Support Group Facebook page, you'll be able to find out where certain supplies are more plentiful – thanks to Emma for the flour and yeast run this week!

If you're not online then please ask your Road Lead for support.

### Life on The Canal



Nature has a fabulous way of keeping us grounded by providing the regular rhythms of life and nowhere is it more evident than down at our very own canal. The newsletter has been inundated with pictures of ducklings – the collective noun for which I discovered is a brood (and not a flock as I thought). Here it appears one mum has nineteen of the cheeky little things to try and keep her eye on! Thanks to Jack and Bev for this beauty.

If you love walking down the canal but find that social distancing is very difficult on the towpath (a one-way system would work marvelously!), consider walking the bridleway on the opposite side of the canal between Pound Lane and Whaddon bridge, it allows ample opportunity to socially distance. #lovewhereyoulive

## VE Day 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May the country is being encouraged to take part in the Stay at Home Garden Party for the VE 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. To reiterate Wiltshire police have confirmed that they have no concerns if households keep to their own gardens and the rules on social distancing are upheld at all times.

There is a wealth of online resources to help you mark the occasion; Wiltshire Council have put together a VE Day At Home Party Kit. Visit ; [wiltshire.gov.uk/public-health/coronavirus](http://wiltshire.gov.uk/public-health/coronavirus) to download your kit. Need inspiration or help to make bunting? Then it's [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk) you need to go to.

**Jacqui's VE Challenge** – Jacqui has laid the challenge down this week! She has asked for as many photos of your VE garden parties to be sent through to the newsletter – we will then do a commemorative newsletter of the photos see page 4 for my email address.

### Road Leads and Volunteers

Siobhan has been working incredibly hard on the a definitive list of all the volunteers and who can assist with what. If you need help – don't be shy contact your Road Lead initially, then the Road Lead decides whether they can help you directly or delegate. If the Road Lead needs additional help then rest assured they will contact one of the Core Team for details of another volunteer from the central spreadsheet who will be able to help. Simple!

### Note of Appreciation

From Semington Parish Council:  
An e-mail motion from Cllr Bill Scott:

"Semington Parish Council is very grateful to everyone in the Semington, Little Marsh and Littleton Support Group for all that they are doing in the village to support vulnerable members of the community. We are expressing these thanks on behalf of the whole village, and look forward to continuing to support your very valuable activities."

## Lockdown Living – Jessica Goodman

As a nine-year-old girl, I would like to tell you what it's like to be on lockdown.

As you all know schools have been shut down all over the UK. On days like these, I am supposed to be at school. Instead, I am sitting at my kitchen table doing schoolwork my teacher sent me.

Because I really like sport and the swimming pools are shut, I can't go for my usual 3 times per week swimming training. Instead, I am going running and for walks with my family and dog.

In March it was my birthday and I was supposed to be having a party but I didn't. Can you guess why? Yep, you guessed correctly it's because of the Coronavirus! My party had to be postponed to when the lockdown is all over. I am a bit disappointed but that means people could stay safe and keep healthy.

Here are a few things about lock down:

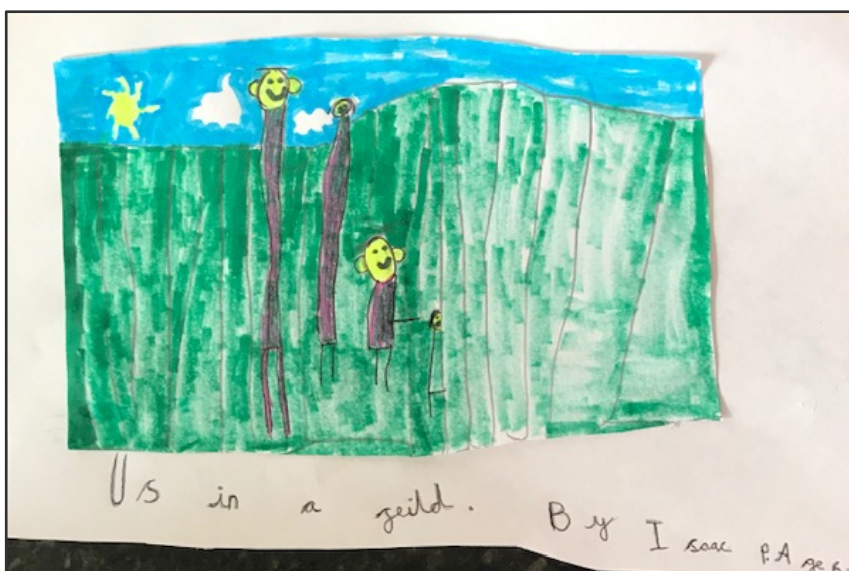
#### Positives

- Spend time with your family
- Get to know the people better in your Close by helping
- Getting post because people send you letters
- Get to write letters and emails to everyone you know

#### Negatives

- You can't go to school and see your teachers
- You can't see your friends
- You can't see your grandparents or neighbours
- You can't do your favourite sports

**Stay fit everyone and keep washing those hands!!!**



Isaac made his Mummy promise to send his picture of the family's daily exercise over to the newsletter - so here it is Isaac, Mummy kept her promise!

There's so much great art going on in the village and we'd love to share more in the newsletter. Send them to [semparmag@icloud.com](mailto:semparmag@icloud.com) and we'll squeeze as many of them in as we can!

## Wiltshire Council Covid-19 Updates – Cllr Philip Whitehead

**PPE** - As you are aware, PPE supply and distribution continues to be an issue of national importance at this time. As Wiltshire Council recently had a PPE delivery, staff were able to respond to an urgent call from the Royal United Hospital (RUH) in Bath and provide 4,500 FFP3 face masks to support the hospital's efforts in the fight against COVID-19. The RUH has a key role to play in the wellbeing of many residents from Wiltshire, and we know that by working together we are all much stronger and more prepared to deal with the challenges we face. The hospital was hugely grateful for the support received and the council continues to work with partners in our collective efforts to be effective and resilient in these unprecedented times, ensuring we have supplies for all critical services requiring PPE. Public Health England has published a PPE resource for care workers delivering homecare during the outbreak. This resource is primarily for care workers and providers delivering domiciliary care in visiting homecare, extra care housing and live-in homecare. This provides further guidance written specifically for the social care frontline services.

**BUSINESS SUPPORT UPDATE** - For grant schemes administered by the Council. We have received around 7,300 grant forms which are currently being processed. So far, over £63 million has been issued to support over 5,400 local businesses through these challenging times. The contact centre has directly supported over 2,000 business. We estimate around 2,000 businesses have not yet applied for a grant and we are contacting these businesses by telephone or email to encourage them to apply. A dedicated team are having to do more detailed work around 1,300 of these businesses where we do not have up to date information or contact details. We are also contacting 150 additional businesses which we believe are now eligible for a grant following changes to the eligibility criteria by the government. In addition, there are around 160 businesses that have multiple properties and we are contacting them to request they complete individual grant forms for each rateable property. If businesses think they are eligible they should apply asap at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/business-advice-support-covid19](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/business-advice-support-covid19)

**WELLBEING HUB UPDATE** - The Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub is continuing to work at pace to provide support and guidance for the most vulnerable members of our community. The Wellbeing hub has to date; delivered over 853 food parcels; contacted over 10,398 people; received 2,853 calls and received 1,263 e-mails. I'd like to reiterate my thanks for the fantastic work that you, partners, voluntary groups and many individuals are undertaking throughout the county for our most vulnerable members of the community. The collective effort from the outset have been fantastic and it bears testament to the spirit of Wiltshire to support one another and get through this crisis. I do believe we will be a stronger community after COVID-19 than before from the connections and relationships built at this time.

## Food Banks – Peter Smith Vice-Chair Semington Parish Council

There are food banks locally in Melksham and in Trowbridge (Storehouse food bank). They are there to provide practical short-term help to a person or a family in need whilst social services or another agency (e.g. the Citizens Advice Bureau) help to organise benefits. A food parcel containing food basics sufficient for 3 days is supplied to those in need. This is a temporary fix that allows the person or family to concentrate on resolving their problem, helped by the appropriate agencies, without having to worry about their food needs.

**Getting help;** The agencies who can help refer you to a food bank in Melksham or Trowbridge are: Wiltshire Council Social Services: Tel 0300 456 0100, Hope Debt Melksham: Tel 0701 210510; The Citizen's Advice Bureau, Melksham and Trowbridge, are both accessed through the same phone number: 03444 111 444. Additionally, the Storehouse food bank in Trowbridge can consider referrals from supporting professionals such as a teacher, social worker, doctor, key worker, or minister.

**Donating food or money;** Melksham Food Bank: food and toiletry items can be donated at Asda, Sainsbury's or Waitrose supermarkets in Melksham, or at other locations in the town. Please visit the website: [melkshamfoodbank.org.uk](http://melkshamfoodbank.org.uk) for further information on the list of items wanted, and how to donate money. Trowbridge Storehouse: food and toiletry items can be delivered directly to the food bank (Emmanuel's Building, Church Street Trowbridge) between 9.30am and 12.30pm on the days that they are open (see below). Please visit their website: [communityactionwestwils.org](http://communityactionwestwils.org) for details of how to donate money, and the list of items wanted.

**Opening times** Melksham Food Bank: open Mondays (1.30pm to 3.30pm) and Thursday (10.00am to 12.00 noon) (there is no direct phone number, please use one of the agency numbers, above). Storehouse Food Bank, Trowbridge: open every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday (10.00am to 12.30pm). Tel: 07702 583143.

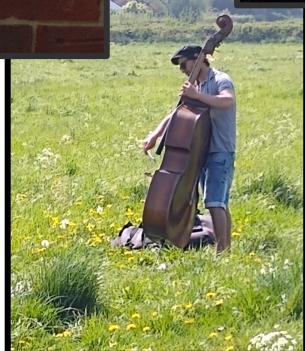
## Semington Bear Hunt Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May to 3<sup>rd</sup> May

Are you all ready to go hunting bears this weekend? Bears have been popping up all over the village so you'll need to look high and low to make sure you catch them all. After you've found them all why not treat yourself to a Teddy Bears' Picnic back at home?



## That Was The Week That Was!

Wow – what busy little bees everyone has been, from the pub’s midweek madness to egg hunts, dragon hunts, rainbow displays, jigsaw puzzling, double bass playing, wildlife spotting and good luck cards for Les the Postman. Here’s a selection of photos from around the village.



### Useful Contacts – Road Leads and Community Support Core Team

#### Road Leads –All Road Leads now carry ID.

Highfield Close – **Tania Russell, George Evans & Cameron Evans**

The Hunt Close – **Siobhan Chown**

The Orchard & Palmer Grove (inc The Conifers) **Mark Rollinson**

Turnpike Close – **Rachel Sweeney**

Pound Close – **Emma Day**

Canal Bridge - **Ian Williamson**

Pound Lane - **Robbie Reed**

St Georges Road - **Cindy Wyllie**

St Georges Place - **Cindy Wyllie**

St Georges Court - **Diane Walker & James Walker**

The Knapps - **Kirsty Coetzer**

Somerset Way - **Stuart Taylor**

Church Street - **Emma Putnam**

High Street - **Paul Randall & Kip Airey**

Wessex Close - **Sharon Adams**

Manor Close - **Margaret Marsh**

Little Marsh - **Vicky Bodman**

Littleton - **Julia Wade**

#### Community Support Core Team

Vicky Bodman – victoriabodman@gmail.com 07815 015470

Emma Putnam – emma@askmelocal.co.uk 07895 455673

Siobhan Chown – schown@bearly-there.co.uk 01380 870197

For contributions to the Newsletter or Parish Magazine contact Gillian at [semparmag@icloud.com](mailto:semparmag@icloud.com)