



National & Local Updates

Somerset Arms

The pub successfully re-opened last week with tables socially distanced in the gardens at the front and the back. There is also a marquee in the car park for those rainy days that the great British summer is so good at.

In order to be Covid secure there is a one way system in place and the pub is following the government guidelines by taking contact details for everyone who uses the pub. Welcome back John and Team it's great to have you back in our lives!

Village Hall

The Post Office is still operating on Mondays and Thursdays. During this time you can also swap jigsaws and browse the rather brilliant second-hand books. If you've read loads during lockdown and your books need a new home the village hall would love to have them.

All Things Hair, Nails and Beauty

Hairdressers reopened their doors last weekend too... and hot off the press the government announced on Thursday 9th July that beauty salons, nail salons and tattooists could resume business from Monday 13th July. So whatever your fancy – go on be kind to yourself, stay safe follow the rules of your chosen salon because in the words of a very famous hair shampoo brand – you're worth it!

All Things Sporty

Whilst some professional sports have resumed behind closed doors the government also announced that indoor gyms, sports facilities and pools can re-open from 25th July. At the time of the newsletter going to press there were no further details available so check out the website placesforpeople.co.uk for details as they are published.

All Things Cultural

In the same announcement on Thursday, the government also announced that open-air gigs, festivals and theatre shows could resume from this weekend.

Any events that go ahead will have restricted audience numbers and will be subject to social distancing rules. Alternatively you could consider going to one of the many drive-in events that have replaced the usual outdoor summer events scene. It would appear that the nearest to Semington is Bath Racecourse.

St George's Church

The Church has reopened for private prayer it is available on Fridays from 10.00am to 11.30am.

Parish Council Updates – Peter Smith

Footpaths Group: correction to summer magazine article

I wrote an article on "maintaining Rights of Way" in the current (July and August) village magazine, inviting anyone interested in joining the village Footpaths Group to contact Brian Smyth by email. I have since discovered that I gave the wrong email address. The correct email address is: briansmyth1951@gmail.com Many apologies, especially to those who have tried to contact Brian. Please do try again.

Litter Pick and Gutter Clearing

Two exciting activities coming up soon. In preparation for a celebratory village event in September, there will be two Saturday mornings in late August and early September when we'll be asking you to join in with these two community efforts. Look out for the dates, times and meeting points for the litter pick and the gutter clearing in the next newsletter.

Peter Smith

Melksham Food Bank

Semington is the village that just keeps on giving and the Melksham Food Bank recently sent a lovely thank you note, which Julia posted on the Facebook Page. Each week the Food Bank publishes the list of most needed items and currently the list includes: tinned goods: meat, potatoes, carrots, mixed veg, custard, fruit and rice pudding, instant potatoes, noodles and pasta, jam, biscuits, squash and sugar.

Just a couple of dos and don'ts – please can you make sure donations are not out of date and if donating naughty but nice sweet treats please can you double wrap them so pesky ants don't get to them first!

There are two collection points in the village; you can leave food items in the box in the Church porch all week round or alternatively you can pop along to the pub on Wednesday afternoons and leave your donation there too!

Semington Celebrates September 2020

2020 will be remembered for the being the year that rewrote all the rules. Plans are afoot to bring the village together to celebrate everything that is great and good about the place we call home in 2020.

Watch out for August's newsletter when more details will be available and please, please, please feel free to give us your thoughts about how you would like to celebrate getting through Lockdown.

Short Stories and Tiny Tales Competition

Thank you to everyone who submitted their entries to the Semington Short Stories and Tiny Tales Competition. There was a really positive response to the competition so thank you to everyone who took part.

As planned the stories will be published in a book raising funds for Wiltshire Air Ambulance, along with the entries to the competition we think it would be a fabulous opportunity to include peoples stories from Lockdown – so Semington roll up your sleeves here's what we need from you:

We'd love to capture the spirit of the village during lockdown, photos from the window displays, diaries, the wildlife we all had time to marvel at – the list is endless.

Please e-mail your contribution to Siobhan who has bravely agreed to curate the book on behalf of the village s.chown@bearly-there.co.uk

Your Feedback Is Important To Us.....

Don't forget to complete your questionnaires on what next for Semington, questionnaires can be emailed to Semingtonvolunteers@gmail.com or dropped into the pub. Deadline is this weekend – get writing!

Siobhan would also love to hear from you for the 'Here's One I Made Earlier' details on the Facebook page.

Burning Issues

There has been some debate on the SLML Facebook page recently about garden bonfires so we have sought advice from the Environment Agency and Wiltshire Council with regards to bonfires. Private households may only burn garden waste that comes from their own property; that is plant tissue, sawdust, shavings and cuttings from untreated wood only. This means that treated wood such as fence panels cannot be burnt on a domestic garden bonfire. All other household waste must be disposed of by the appropriate methods either your bins or direct to a household waste recycling centre.

Bonfires may be deemed a nuisance by exacerbating existing respiratory conditions such as asthma or bronchitis, smoke affecting the visibility on public highways and the threat of fire spreading the neighbouring property. Wiltshire Council has stated that there are no local byelaws regarding bonfires and the hours in which they can be burnt. However, if smoke from a bonfire causes a nuisance they are empowered to take action under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. This applies to household garden bonfires where you are burning garden waste from your own garden.

Ultimately it is all about us all being considerate neighbours but if all else fails the first port of call for nuisance burning is Wiltshire County Council.

If the waste being disposed of is from a commercial organization then permits must be approved and granted by the Environment Agency, full details are available on their website; www.environment-agency.gov.uk/waste