

FEBRUARY 2011
SEMINGTON

PARISH



MAGAZINE

Vicar
Revd. Stephen Ball
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Trowbridge BA14 8JZ
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Churchwardens:
David Wildsmith
Bob Norton
Tel. 01380 871424



The Canalside Benefice

St. Michael and All Angels, Hilperton with St. Mary the Virgin, Whaddon;
St. George's, Semington;
St. Paul's, Staverton with St. Mary Magdalen, Hilperton Marsh;
near the Kennet and Avon Canal, within the Diocese of Salisbury

Dear Friends

On the 16th October 1987 we were living in Bletchingley (near Redhill) in Surrey. Within minutes of leaving for work that morning I was stopped in my tracks; a tree was down and the road was impassable. I turned back to find an alternative route and as I was passing our house I glanced up to see that a third of the front elevation of our roof was missing. I looked around I realised that there was a lot of damage in the village and it was now obvious that I had slept well that night and missed something momentous. Needless to say I did not turn up for work that day. I whizzed down to the local reclamation yard and purchased dozens of slate at 50p each. By the afternoon I heard that they were £2.00 apiece. I learned later that there were over 100 trees down on the 5.3 mile stretch between Bletchingley and my place of work. Over the following days and weeks the scale of the devastation became apparent with over 15 million trees lost, including six of the famous seven oak trees at Sevenoaks in Kent, countless houses damaged with an estimated 2 billion in insurance payouts and, worst of all, 22 people dead and many injured over the range of the storm.

This was an extraordinary event and, as is often the case, people began to emerge from their houses to help each other and to check that no one was seriously injured. Cups of tea and were made and shared, chainsaws began to buzz and the clearing up operation commenced. A spirit of cooperation burgeoned aided by the fact that the normally busy A25 that transected the village was now stilled. A few good days followed as we tackled the destruction wreaked by our common enemy. I had hopes that this might be the beginning of something creative and communal in our largely dormitory village. My hopes, however, were mostly dashed, with the exception of a few relationships that remained. As the rumbling river of metal and fumes cut our community in half again people vanished back into their worlds. It was as if that aspect of community had gone into hibernation until the next disaster granted it permission to re-emerge.

I still have mixed feeling about that time. I was encouraged that people responded so well and disappointed that the sense of cooperation and community was so short lived. The need for community cooperation used to be a necessity for survival. In many parts of the world it still is. Now, however, for the most part we are so self sufficient that many barely seem to need anyone else at all. The truth is that we need each other more than we can know. As Christians we believe that we are made in God's image and that the Trinity, the community relationship between Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is fundamental to the expression of that image. In short Community is a fundamental expression of our humanity and to deny this or to pay little or no attention to it is to deny ourselves a key part of our nurture as a society. In our village community is stronger than in many places but it still needs nurturing, even when there is no obvious 'need'. The more developed our sense of community the more it will be a strength to us all. Let us be encouraged to pay special attention this precious gift this year.

Every blessing

Stephen (Vicar) 01225 774903 sb54rev@gmail.com

St. George's Church



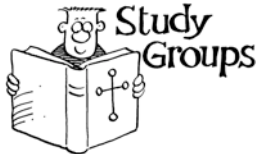
The church is usually open and available for quiet thought and prayer. You are always welcome to come and sit for a few minutes inside or enjoy the peace on the seats on the south side of the building. If lonely or in need of a friendly chat, the folk from the village offer a listening ear. Phone Bev. on 870784 or pop into the regular Thursday coffee mornings in the Village Hall.

Church Bookings - to be made through JPCC Secretary, Maureen Norton at 10 Pound Lane or telephone 871424. If you require the heating to be put. please ask at time of booking.

Toddler Praise - February 24th, 2pm in the Church, 20 minutes of songs, prayers & a story, with drinks, biscuits & chat afterwards! All ages welcome. More information, Bev Woodward, 870784

Kids' Klub - come and join us if you're in years 3-6 at school - it's just 30p, we'll be meeting at school from 6-7pm for games, stories, craft and fun on 2nd, 9th, and 16th February. More information - Bev Woodward, 870784 or Maureen Norton, 871424

31 Club - for you if you're at senior school. We meet once a month, usually on a Friday evening, sometimes at our house (31 Pound Close), and other times we go elsewhere for other activities – swimming, games, ten pin bowling etc. It's a Christian club, we have fun together, find out about God and what he thinks of things that matter to us. If you're interested in coming, contact Bev & Jack Woodward, 870784.



St George's Church Bible Study Group

This year is the 400th anniversary of the Authorised King James Version of the Bible, the best selling book of all time. People in China and elsewhere are crying out for copies of the Bible. Why not see what all the fuss is about for yourself and open it up? – even in this increasingly secular society, the vast majority of homes have a Bible.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Semington Bible Study Group, whatever their knowledge of the Bible, as we open up this book together. You could study it for several lifetimes and still find something new or rediscover a familiar passage that you can understand in a different way.

The Group meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. We have coffee and start with some sung worship. We are a very informal group (you do not have to go to church to come along) which simply seeks to learn more about God in our lives; different members of the group lead the sessions, using materials from various sources. Please see the Semington Diary Dates for dates and venues, as they change each time, as we meet in various homes in the village. For more information join us in church at a Sunday Service or 'phone Julia - 870137.

Christians In Semington

This group meets on the first Wednesday of the month.

All are welcome, as we pray for the needs of people in our village and community. For further information ring Julia Wade, tel. 870137 or Bev or Jack Woodward on 870784



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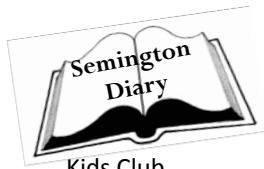
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FEBRUARY

2	Kids Club	6 - 7 pm	St. George's School
4	Library Van	9.50 am	Village Hall
9	Kids Club	6 - 7 pm	St. George's School
	Bible Study	7.45 pm	31 Pound Close
10	WI - 'Plants For A Spring Garden'	7.30 pm	Village Hall
13	Quiz Night	7.30 pm	Village Hall
16	Kids Club	6 - 7 pm	St. George's School
	Parish Council Meeting	8 pm	Village Hall
18	Library Van	9.50 am	Village Hall
23	Bible Study	7.45 pm	9 Somerset Way
24	Toddler Praise	2 pm	St. George's Church

Skittles Matches - Village Hall

1	Sem B Ladies	8 pm	18	Sem B Men	8.15 pm
8	Sem A Ladies	8 pm	22	Sem B Ladies	8 pm
11	Sem B Men	8.15 pm	24	Angels Ladies	8.15 pm
15	Sem B Ladies	8 pm	25	Sem A Men	8.15 pm

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Tuesday	Bridge Club	9.30-1 pm
	Tai Chi	3.30-5 pm
Thursday	Coffee Morning	10-12 Noon
Friday	Bridge Club	10-1 pm

MAGAZINE DEADLINES

Details of village events and any subsequent changes by the 15th of the preceding month to Carole Kemp-Potter, The Old Manor House, High Street. Tel. 871728; or email kemp Potter@btinternet.com. Information will also go to Village website. Next **deadline is 15th Feb for March** issue.

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CATHOLIC NEWS

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST TROWBRIDGE & ST BERNADETTE'S WESTBURY

including VILLAGES *St John's Sunday Masses* :

***St John's Sunday Masses* :**

Saturday (Vigil) 6pm; Sunday 10.30am & 6pm

Weekday Masses:

Mon: 9am; Tues: 6pm; Wed: 8.30am; Fri 6pm

Sat: 10am; 6pm (Vigil)

Rosary: Weekdays before Mass. SVP Fri 6.45pm

Confessions: Sat: 10.30-11.15am and 5-5.45pm

PARISH VISITING

The plan is to visit every home in the parish has begun. The visitors will go out in pairs and the work will be very gentle, a matter of saying 'hello' and offering a newsletter. Volunteers are urgently needed.

NEW YEAR CONCERT

Welcome in the New Year on Friday 28th Jan 2011 at Holy Trinity Church Trowbridge in a concert of delightful contrasts featuring the renowned Eddington Barbershop Quartet & Dotty Pink Productions.

SHARING OUR FAITH

This group meets on Wednesdays at 8pm in the Parish Centre for those interested to learn more about the Catholic Church & Faith. Everybody welcome, contact Canon Liam for more details 01225 752152.

PRAYER & PRAISE GROUP

Meets on Mondays at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. Just come along – everyone welcome (For further information: contact Francis Geraghty 01380 871083 email: f.geraghty303@btinternet.com)

St Bernadette's Sunday Mass - 9am

Weekday Mass -Thursday 11 am

Confessions/Reconciliation before Mass and any time on request

MASS TIMES at NEARBY CATHOLIC CHURCHES
St Joseph's, West Lavington (01380 723572)
Mass on Sunday at 9.00am

Immaculate Conception, Devizes (01380 723572) Mass on Saturday 6.00pm and Sunday 10.30am and 5.00pm

St Anthony Melksham (01225 702128) Mass on Saturday 5.30pm and Sunday 9.30am

SICK AND/OR HOUSEBOUND

Any catholic who is sick, housebound or in hospital should let Canon Liam (01225 752152) know as he would be pleased to arrange a visit and bring Holy Communion, if desired.

THE NEW 300 CLUB 2011

Subscriptions: £50annually - £13quarterly - £4.33 monthly. New members are most welcome to join at any time. Prizes are: £200-£70-£50-£10 -£5 monthly. For information and application form contact Frank Geraghty 0138087108 emailf.geraghty303@btinternet.com



The Filling Station meets on Tuesday evenings, 7.30pm - 9.30pm in Box Methodist Church.

8th February - Rev. Keith Powell

The Filling Station is a group of Christians in the Box area meeting together for teaching, worship and Holy Spirit inspired prayer ministry Please feel free to join us for any of our meetings. Coffee and muffins served. Church but not as you know it.

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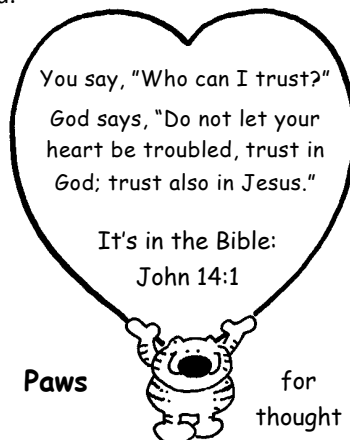
AN UPDATE

Since starting in October 2007, up to the end of 2010, 595 single food boxes and 331 family food boxes have been given to agencies for distribution to single people and families in need, in this area. During 2010, 183 single food boxes and 133 family food boxes were given to agencies for distribution. When compared to 2009, this represents a reduction of about 4% in the number of single boxes but an increase of 40% in the number of family boxes.

In addition to food donations, financial donations are also welcome as these can be used to make up shortages in the food donated. During 2010 we received financial gifts amounting to £897.12 but spent £1,500.64 (almost entirely in making up shortages in food boxes). This meant that although we started 2010 with a healthy balance of £911.53 we ended the year with a not so healthy balance of £308.01. This trend of expenditure outstripping income has continued into 2011. As at 6th January our funds stand at £89.81.

Thank you very much to all those who have left produce in the box at St George's Church. It is much appreciated. Please do continue to leave items as the need for this service continues to be high, year round. As you can see from the information above, financial donations are also vital for this work to continue.

Should you want to know what items to give then please consult the list on the notice board in the church porch or look in October's Parish Magazine – or you can ring me. A large labelled box is kept at the rear of St George's Church where villagers can put any items they wish to donate (please make sure they are well within the use by date). This will be emptied regularly. Or you may wish to bring items directly to me at 8 Pound Lane. If you have any queries please contact me on 01380 870137. Thank you. Julia Wade



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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Wiltshire Neighbourhood Watch sent a Christmas message containing a few hints on deterring crime. I have removed the references to Christmas.

1 - Deterring would-be criminals is one of the most effective forms of crime prevention. Security mark your gadgets & valuables and register them on Immobilise.com who can also provide window stickers warning casual thieves that your goods are marked, traceable and not worth the risk of stealing!

2 - Protect your Identity. It is good practice never to dispose of receipts and personal paperwork without first shredding (or burning) it. Be careful though not to shred any important warranty details and make sure documents you keep are stored somewhere secure.

3 - Check doors and windows for weak spots. Government statistics show that 30% of burglaries happen through windows. Installing a few dead-bolts and new window hinges could increase the security of your home.

4 - Keep your curtains, drapes and window blinds closed at night, making sure valuable items are out of sight. When going out for the evening make use of inexpensive timers to give the illusion of occupancy.

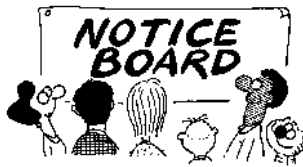
5 - Secure garages & sheds. Garages are often targets for burglars looking for tools, bikes and gardening equipment - make sure the garage is secure and your possessions are secured too. Naturally make sure anything portable / valuable is recorded on Immobilise.

6 - Don't hide keys & use alarms if you have them. Burglars know to look for hidden door keys so don't hide spare keys, instead give a spare key to family or trusted neighbour. Many houses these days have alarms, make sure yours is on and protecting your home..

7 - Register on Immobilise. Lastly, don't forget to register your Christmas gifts on Immobilise - Most electronics have a unique identifier such as a serial number or an IMEI number (phones) which can found easily by pressing the following keys on your handset: * # 0 6 # . [It works, I've tried it!] If your item doesn't have a unique identifier there are several affordable marking kits available from the Immobilise store allowing the police to easily identify the owners of items they recover and so detect crime.

To these I would add lock your car on leaving it, even if it's on your own drive.

I've mentioned before that Neighbourhood Watch gets very much reduced rates on *Smart Water*, used to indelibly and invisibly mark any items you wish to protect. However we have to at least 10 to get the reduced rates. Don't miss out - order now (through me). Paul Bowyer 870 512



Christmas with Spirit.

I would like to say a big thank you for all who helped and participated in services and event over the Christmas period. There were those that trudged through the snow singing carols around the village, those singing in carol services and celebrations, the children performing in the Nativity Play and many others who faithfully worked in the background.

This support really does make a difference and talking with people at work, this is the sort of community spirit that is lost in so many of our towns but, thankfully, still alive and kicking here in Semington. Bob Norton (churchwarden)

A big thank you to Christine who managed to deliver the enormous loads of Christmas Post through all the ice and cold in December. Editor

Carol Singing

Thank you to all involved in our recent carol singing around the village. The marvellous sum of £102 has been forwarded to Alabare, Trowbridge, helping the homeless in our area.

Thank you to carollers, those providing seasonal refreshments during and after our singing, and, of course, those who contributed to this excellent sum.

Bev Woodward and Eric Clifford



Semington Weather 2010

We will all remember this year for the snow in January, and more in November and December. Not very deep but enough to cause chaos for anybody who needed to travel. Overall the year was cooler than average.

Statistically 2010 was noteworthy for two things:

One you will know - We had a prolonged cold spell with freezing nighttime (and some daytime!) temperatures from 24th November until after Christmas. The coldest nights were 19th December and also Christmas night when we recorded minus 11c.

One you may not know - it was a very dry year with just 22.4 inches (568mm) of rain. Only the months of January and August had above average rainfall, whereas May and July were exceptionally dry. Overall the year was the driest since these records began over 30 years ago!

Jack Woodward

Home Help

If you or you know of someone who is finding housework becoming just too difficult, contact Jenny Wren on 870883. She is just setting up a home help service and would be happy to come to your assistance.



Royal Wedding Celebrations



With your support, there is a possibility we could have a street party. If you are interested in helping, please contact Pete Vooght on 870665 or the editor on 871728. It could also be a start on raising some of the funds

BT infinity Broadband

At the moment, BT has no plans to include Semington in its new fibre optic Infinity broadband although they are putting Trowbridge on this March. However, if 1,000 people from this exchange which includes Keevil register their interest on the BT Infinity Broadband Website, we will be allowed to have it. By registering your interest, you are not committed when it does become available but will help to speed things up for those who do wish it.

Car Parking Review



Thank you to everyone who took part in the car parking strategy consultation, the strategy has been developed as parking charges in Wiltshire were a lot lower than in surrounding local authority areas and that, as a result of having four former District Councils, there were many differences in parking charges across Wiltshire.

In Melksham, the new charges proposed will start from £0.40 an hour. Town and Parish Councils have the options of buying back a proportion of spaces.

In addition, funding for concessionary fares and the bus services operator grants will be reduced by central government, this will have a major impact on sections of the community. Some 16% of households in Wiltshire do not have a car, and nearly 46% only have one car that is used by the breadwinner to get to work leaving their partner without transport during the day. Buses are very important to families particularly in a rural authority like Wiltshire and many of these buses would not exist without a subsidy from the Council. If they are not subsidised they will disappear.

A decision has been taken to use the additional funds generated by the increase in car parking charges to subsidise transport that is needed for the more vulnerable in our community.

Melksham Community Network

Ordinary Parish Council Meetings - 2011

Wednesday, 16th February at 8 pm

Wednesday, 16th March at 8 pm

Wednesday 13th April at 8 pm

Wednesday 18th May at 8.30 pm (to be preceded by the Annual PC Meeting at 8 pm

Wednesday 15th June at 8 pm

Wednesday 13th July at 8 pm

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As the rush of Christmas is over and we race headlong into another year, there are rituals you go through at the start of the year; first footing, new year's resolutions and hanging up the 2011 calendar.... which set us thinking about capturing the Semington year in the form of a calendar. Now we're not suggesting for a minute that we go down the route of the now famous WI calendar but it did occur to us that there is so much going on in our village we should chronicle the months throughout 2011. Over the next 12 months Village Eye would love to receive photos of activities in the village with the aim of using the best of the photos in a calendar which would be sold to raise funds for say the village hall, our football club and even to sponsor the village hall coffee morning for a month. Please send your photos to the editor throughout the year and we will report back on progress as we go. We do hope we can really get this off the ground and for it to become an annual event (pardon the pun!).

Many thanks to the 40 households that voted on race to infinity for high speed internet connections at www.racetoinfinity.bt.com. We're ahead of North Trowbridge who only have 32 votes, we have 51, but well behind Box who have mustered 116 votes. So please, if you haven't voted, take a moment to vote at the website mentioned. As the editor said in the last edition, if you know people who also come off the Keevil exchange, give them a nudge too to vote. So a couple of favours begged this month! We'd love to have Christmas photos as soon as possible for the calendar as we will need to send it to print in the autumn so looking forward to receiving them soon.



Semington Sports Club

No games have been played by Semington Magpies since end November due to the weather. Seminton Rovers have played 3 games over the Christmas period - lost 2 and won one. The Performance grant that was awarded to us last year was over paid to us by £5.700. We have received a letter from the Council grant committee asking for us to repay this. The original figure of £24.000 still stands. We are waiting for better weather so that more work on the pitch can go ahead.

Kevin Lockwood

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Wiltshire Councillor News From Jonathon Seed

Firstly a Happy New Year to you all. We enter 2011 knowing that we will all have to tighten our belts and enter an age of austerity. Our national finances are in a mess and that means local cuts also, however we are where we are and the news is not all bad. Your Council in Trowbridge has planned well for the expected cuts although even we only planned for 27% ad not the 28%, with loading in the first two years, that we were told to make. Life will be tough but we are determined to do our best for the people of Wiltshire. There are times to justifiably have a go at your Wiltshire Council when we get it wrong but I am proud to be a Member of a Council that is getting it right most of the time. To illustrate my point just recall the news stories over the dreadful weather in December and early January and you will see what I mean. We have seen rubbish piling up in the streets of Bristol, rubbish not being collected n Gloucestershire, deep staff cuts in Somerset and roads being left ungritted across the country due to lack of funds. Just for once have a smile and recall what happened with our rubbish and our roads in Wiltshire during the same period. Our rubbish was collected almost entirely on time regardless of weather or holidays and even many of our minor roads were gritted whenever the gritters could be spared.

Let us also turn to our future and one issue that is very close to home is the development of modern buildings where we can enjoy our leisure time and deal with our Council services. The Wiltshire Council Cabinet has agreed that the Melksham Community Area Campus will receive £10million investment and will be complete by mid 2013. Ask yourself when was the last time that anyone invested £10million in Melksham and which other Council has the vision to do this in an age of austerity? This will be a project with a new swimming pool, a new leisure centre, a new indoor bowling facility and a range of new service delivery centres plus possibly a new library. It will be run by a Melksham Trust Board and so you will have a say in how it is run. Not only that but the Melksham Area Board will be advising the Council just what detailed facilities they believe the Melksham Community Area should have in the new Service Campus. You can have your say in forming this opinion in one of three ways:

- Turn up at the Melksham Area Board on Wednesday 2nd February at ShawSchool at seven o'clock and hear the options for the Melksham Community Campus unveiled.
- Take part on the Campus consultation run by the Community Area Partnership at <http://melksham.communityarea.org.uk>
- Turn up and have your say at the special Melksham Area Board Campus Meeting on Tuesday 29th March at six o'clock in the Melksham Assembly Rooms. It is here that decisions will be made by your Councillors.

So look forward to a 2011 when Wiltshire people can be justly proud that not only are we getting the services for which we pay our Council Tax and investment in our future but we generally get our services with a smile and we can all have our say on how our services are delivered.

Jonathon Seed



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NATURE NOTES

As frost seized the land over Christmas, the fieldfares returned. These large, grey-headed thrushes are winter migrants but never spend time with humans unless the cold drives them to it, as it did last year, and this when I saw over 50 of them jumping about and chattering in our trees. They were assertive enough to see off the resident blackbirds and easily won the competition for the remaining windfall apples. There seem few poems about fieldfares although the Lakes poet, Norman Nicholson, writes tellingly about their (and his) Norse origins. However, John Clare, described as England's most articulate village voice, is as evocative as ever, even if not all his 19th century Northamptonshire dialect is familiar: a *bumbarrel*, is a long-tailed tit.

EMMONSAILS HEATH IN WINTER

I love to see the old heath's withered brake
Mingle its crimped leaves with furze and ling,
While the old heron from the lonely lake
Starts slow and flaps his melancholy wing,
And oddling crow in idle motions swing
On the half rotten ash tree's topmost twig,
Beside whose trunk the gipsy makes his bed.
Up flies the bouncing woodcock from the brig
Where a black quagmire quakes beneath the tread,
The fieldfares chatter in the whistling thorn
And for the awe round fields and closen rove,
And coy bumbarrels twenty in a drove
Flit down the hedgerows in the frozen plain
And hang on little twigs and start again.



Semington WI December/ January Meeting.



After a spell of atrocious weather, I was relieved to welcome lots of ladies to the village hall to enjoy our December WI meeting which was to feature our speaker Lynda Warren talking on a topical theme entitled—A Dickens of A Christmas. We heard about the Victorians' idea of Christmas, influenced by the famous writer, starting with a little glimpse of his lowly beginnings, and unfortunate family life, and his rise to the successful writer he became. Lynda introduced lots of Christmas ingredients to the mix, including the origins of Christmas trees, the pudding, mince pies (which really had meat in them) carol singing, who invented the cracker as we know it today, and cards being more affordable after the introduction of the Penny Post. So much information in such a short time! To end it all Lynda required us to sing some Victorian carols! Quite a challenge for some of us, who had already attended a carol service in the afternoon at St John's Upper Studley, and we were all "sung out".

We then had refreshments on a Christmas theme—just for a change, drew the raffle and Lynda judged the competition, this month the letter being "O" which was won by Gaye Firmager.

January saw us all gathered in the Somerset Arms for our Birthday Supper, a change from our usual home made offering, which is always excellent, but does entail a lot of work for the committee. The evening was a great success, a good, well presented two course dinner and coffee followed by our usual Secret Santa. Thanks to The Somerset Arms staff for looking after us so well. Our February meeting on the 10th will feature Mr Gordon Cottis introducing "Plants for a Spring Garden". As usual visitors will be made most welcome.

QUIZ NIGHT



Nine teams gathered for the Annual Christmas Quiz in the Village Hall on 12th December and a good time was had by one and all. It was great to do something just for fun in the run up to Christmas. After each round a number was drawn and the team who had that score got a prize. This led to a couple of ties having to be decided by a bonus question. Once again, the results were quite close, with the Infamous Five getting 73 points in 3rd, 2nd place was taken by the Hilperton Hobos with 75 and the winners, with 77 points, were Terry's Turnips (or even, tulips!!). Team Ho, Ho, Ho got a special prize for propping up the scoreboard. Thanks to Pete Vooght for setting the quiz.

During that quiet time between Christmas and the New Year another Quiz was held, this time in the Social Club lounge. Joint 1st place in the main quiz was taken by teams 2 + 1 and Xmas XS, both scoring 50 points, with team 4 + 2 in 3rd with 49 points. Team 2 + 1 had the top score in the Picture Round, where we had to identify sportsmen from photos of them when very young!

We were warned in advance to start our vocal practices early, but nothing really prepared us for the Steve Rimmer 'Special' Music Round, which followed the main quiz. We were given the task of naming the singers of ALL the Christmas No. Ones from 1950 to 2010. Could you name who sang Save your love in 1982 or Moon River in 1961? More to the point, could you SING them??!! Accompanied on guitar by Steve's son Andrew (who was really good) we attempted to sing most of the 60 songs with Steve doing his Liverpudlian pub singer act to encourage us! 1972 was a highlight, with our very own Long Haired Lover from Liverpool! The winners of the Round were The Three of Us, with a whopping 45 out of 60 scored. It was a really fun evening and many thanks go to Pete, Steve and Andrew for putting it on.

The winners of the Round were The Three of Us, with a whopping score of 45 out of 60. It was a really fun evening and many thanks go to Pete, Steve and Andrew for all their contributions.

January's Quiz was compiled by Neil from Terry's Turnips team all on his own, and an excellent quiz it was too. The Marathon Round was photos of various album covers where you had to name the artist. Just 3 points separated the top 3 but the winners were Oh Crumbs! At the half way stage of the main quiz just 2 points separated the top 4 teams, so it was another very closely fought contest. The final outcome was that the Dynamic Duo came 4th with 77 points, Joint 2nd place was taken by Oh Crumbs! and Uninspired and the Hilperton Hobos came 1st with 80 points, so their 'reward' is to set the next quiz. Join us then on 13th February for another good evening at our Village Hall.

Julia Wade

**List of Objections to Planning Application W/10/02972?FU
From Parish Council Minutes Wednesday, November 17, 2010**

Land Adjacent to The Somerset Arms.

**Semington Parish Council Reasons for Objection to this development
(W/10/02972/FUL)**

1. Because of the location of the site, we believe this application would lead to overdevelopment, and the siting of a private house in what is effectively a pub car park certainly seems inappropriate.
2. This is an application to build a private house.
The reference to a disabled facility seems to be a cynical attempt to gain support.
3. The headroom in the bedrooms is about 2100mm. Is this enough for building regulations?
4. The Heritage and Biodiversity statement says this is a listed building. It has an asbestos roof and is in a very dilapidated condition, but apparently the internal has been converted to an office and WC. (See photograph on the front of the Protected Species Survey). Was any permission obtained for this work and dilapidation?
5. The red-lined area on drawing 010/053-1 (bottom right-hand corner) and that on the OS Sitemap indicates that the applicant's land extends much further than just the barn, and appears to include the access off the road to the pub car park. This is not the case - the actual land owned by the applicant is not clear but it certainly does not include the access road to the car park. The applicant may have right-of-access to the barn, but this is different.
6. The height of the chimney is 5.5m. Is this high enough considering the surrounding properties? Also, considering the 2 sources of fumes (multifuel stove in the kitchen and wood burning stove in the lounge) is there a missing chimney?
7. The removal of the asbestos roof could be a major health hazard in what is almost a public area, and adjacent to the pub kitchen.

Draft Minutes of the Meeting Held on Thursday, 13th January, 2011 at 8 pm

Cllr. Seed gave the following report: Wiltshire Council Savings/Community Charge. Wiltshire Council has to achieve a 28% saving in expenditure over four years. The Wiltshire Council Annual Budget is £830m. This is a challenging target when it is recognised that the 'savings requirement' is front loaded with disproportionately high savings required in the first two years. There is to be no increase in Council Tax for the next two Financial Years.

Planning - The Council noted the status of the following Planning Applications:

W/10/02972/FULLand Adjacent to Somerset Arms, High Street, Barn Conversion and Extension	Pending
W/10/02973/LBCLand Adjacent to Somerset Arms, High Street, Barn Conversion and Extension	Pending
W/10/03176/FUL58 Littlemarsh Single Storey Extension	Permitted
W/10/03528/FUL550 Canal Bridge Conservatory/Kitchen Extension	Permitted

There were no planning applications received after 5 January 2011.

Village Hall Improvements - Cllr. Rimmer stated that there had been an engineering inspection of the Village Hall, concentrating on the stability of the side walls of the Village Hall. He stated that there was some evidence of movement – more prominent on the southern wall – caused by the roof trusses. He commented that a solution to the problem is to strengthen the foundations by adding concrete. An alternative, less acceptable solution is to add a new, lower roof truss that would intrude into the open space of the Village Hall. He added that ground movement appeared not to be the cause of the problem.

Community Area/Area Boards - Cllr. Rimmer suggested that Cllr. Vooght may wish to consider applying to the Area Board for a grant to assist in meeting the cost of repairing the Village Hall walls.

The Clerk drew the attention of the Council to the following:

- Wilts & Berks Canal Trust Working Group Meeting.
- The Royal British Legion 'Poppy Weekend' - 10 to 12 June 2011.
- Melksham TC – Invitation to Mayor's Reception (18/2/11).
The Council declined to accept the invitation.
- WRHA – Affordable Homes Update, Winter 2010.
- Wiltshire Wildlife Fund – Questionnaire.

Cllr. Smyth reported that he and Cllr. Robinson attended the recent meeting of the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust Working Group. He stated that the meeting discussed a number of issues including the development of the Canal Marina, the Whitson 2011 'River Festival', the timescale for the Melksham Canal Link – stated to be completed by 2014, a possible 'white-water facility' and the possibility of generating power using an Archimedes Turbine (similar to the Dart valley one) at the weir. Cllr. Oglesby expressed his concerns that any changes to the existing weir arrangement on the River Avon may give rise to flooding at Melksham – something that the existing weir had been installed to prevent. Cllr Smyth stated that when asked about the views of Semington Parish Council to the proposed development of the Marina he had replied that the Parish Council would support it in general but would be concerned about increased traffic flow through Semington over the Canal Bridge. He added that access to the Marina was most likely to be from the north on the old road from Melksham to Semington and not through the village.

Cllr. Oglesby drew the attention of the Council to the proposed provisions of the 'Localism Bill' and, in particular, its effect on the existing 'Standards' regime. He stated that the Standards Board of England is to be abolished and in its place each Parish Council would have to establish its own 'Standards Committee'. He added that this new committee had very few sanctions that it could impose on those councillors found to be failing to meet the 'agreed' standards. Cllr. Dobbyn commented that the existing laws are already sufficient to deal with serious transgressions and that any new committee formed to deal with minor transgressions would not be a sensible use of Council Tax money.

Cllr. Wade suggested that the Parish Council could consider supporting a fund raiser for local charities and a Duck race – previously proved to be a successful fund raiser – may be an idea.

Cllr. Dobbyn stated that the temporary permission granted for the Travellers and Gypsy site at Semington was due to expire soon and that the Parish Council must continue to press Wiltshire Council for a solution to this problem and to be robust in its enforcement of planning laws.

Date of the next meeting.The Council noted the date of the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting: **Wednesday 16 February 2010 at 8.00pm.**

**St. Michael's Hilperton with St. Mary's Whaddon:
St. George's, Semington;
St. Paul's Staverton with St. Mary Magdalen, Hilperton Marsh;
near the Kennet and Avon Canal, within the diocese of Salisbury**

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Church Services February 2011	St. George's Semington	St Michael's Hilperton	St. Mary Magdalen's Horse Road Hilperton Marsh	St. Paul's Staverton (s) St. Mary the Virgin Whaddon (w)
Sunday 6th February 5th Before Lent	9.15 am All Age Worship	8 am Holy Communion 11 am All Age Worship	11 am Parish Communion	
Sunday 13th February 4th Before Lent	6 pm Evening Worship	9.15 am All Age Communion	11 am Parish Communion	
Sunday 20th February 3rd before Lent	6pm Evening Worship	9.15 All Age Communion	11 am Parish Communion	
Sunday 27th February 2nd before Lent	9.15 am Parish Communion	9.15 am Parish Communion 11 am Methodist Service	6 pm Evening Praise	11 am Parish Communion (s)