

MARCH 2011
SEMINGTON

PARISH



MAGAZINE

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Churchwardens:
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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

It is nearly the time of year for taking cuttings and sowing seeds and it got me thinking about roots. You may remember the Parable of the Sower in the Bible. In his story Jesus gives us four pictures of different soils on which seed is scattered by 'the sower'. The first is the path where there is no soil and so the seed is eaten by the birds. The second is rocky ground where the seeds sprout quickly but come to nothing because there is so little actual soil. The third is ground choked by weeds and thorns, which smother the little plants. The fourth is good soil in which the seeds grow and come to fruitful maturity. For the meaning read Luke 8 v11 – 15.

Almost everywhere I have lived I have had some sort of vegetable plot. I remember one particular plot in Dorset that was situated next to a line of 7 metre tall Cupressus Leylandii trees. I was a relatively new gardener and didn't realise the effect that the trees would have on the surrounding soil. I can still see, in my mind's eye, the rows of vegetables getting shorter and more stunted the nearer they came to the trees. It was quite a sight and, indeed, a lesson.

It really matters where we plant our vegetables; the quality of the soil and how the roots fare. It really matters where we are 'planted' and how we are nourished too. Unlike plants we have the ability, mostly, to make choices that either bring us life or hurt us. I am thinking now of simple things. We cannot control everything but we can choose what we watch and read as well as activities we participate in. We can choose to do things that depress us or things that give us life. We are all different and will be affected in differing ways so what is right or wrong for us will differ too.

I know people who live in relative poverty in Africa and yet are contented and happy because of the way they view life. They consider the blessings of God and give thanks daily. I also know lots of people in this country who are well off, having everything they 'need', or think they need. Yet they are not content or particularly happy, which seems strange at first glance. I believe that the 'fruit' in these cases is the result of where people have their 'roots' planted and I believe these examples need little explanation.

In the Bible Psalm 1 reads *"Blessed is the one (...) whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers."* We are not talking about just a physical prospering but a spiritual, mental and emotional one. I certainly find that my faith in God is key to my contentment, even in difficult times. The key to contentment is certainly not what we have but who we are. In my case that is my confidence in God that I am a child of God; and that is available to all. As always I am available to chat about this; do call.

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.

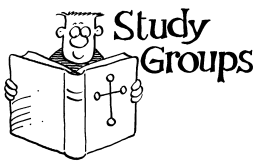
Church Bookings - to be made through JPCC Secretary, Maureen Norton at 10 Pound Lane or telephone 871424. If you require the heating to be put. please ask at time of booking.

Toddler Praise - March 31st, 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, 16th, 23rd and 30th March . 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



The Group normally meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, however, during Lent that will NOT be the case. The second Wednesday in March (9th) falls on Ash Wednesday and there will be a special service at St. Michael's Church in Hilperton that evening. Then there will be a Lent Course (called the Square Mile,

produced by the Evangelical Alliance) running on Wednesday evenings in Semington – 16th, 23rd and 30th March, plus 13th April. See Village Diary. You are very welcome to join in. 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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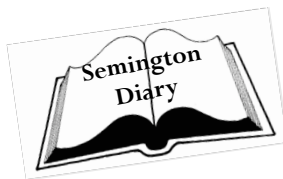
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March 2011

2	Kids Club	6 - 7 pm	St. George's School
	Christians in Semington	7.45 pm	10 Pound Lane
4	Library Van	9.50 am	Village Hall
9	Kids Club	6 - 7 pm	St. George's School
10	WI AGM	7.30 pm	Village Hall
12	Jumble Sale	2 - 4 pm	St. George's School
16	Kids Club	6 - 7 pm	St. George's School
	Lent Course Starts	7.45 - 9.15 pm	Highcroft House, High Street
	Parish Council Meeting	8 pm	Village Hall
17	Sem. VH Committee	7 pm	Village Hall
18	Library Van	9.50 am	Village Hall
23	Kids Club	6-7 pm	St. George's School
	Lent Course No. 2	7.45 - 9.15 pm	14 Somerset Way
24	Phoenix Skittles Night	7 pm	Village Hall
26	Curry Night	7.30 - 9 pm	Village Hall
	Tickets £8; Guests £9		
30	Kids Club	6 - 7 pm	St. George's School
	Lent Course No. 3	7.45 - 9.15 pm	31 Pound Close
31	Toddler Praise	2 pm	St. George's Church

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EVERY WEEK IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Monday	Bingo	7.30 pm
Tuesday	Bridge Club	9.30-1 pm
	Tai Chi	3.30-5 pm
Thursday	Coffee Morning	10-12 Noon
Friday	Bridge Club	10 am - 1 pm

See page 21 for Skittles Dates

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 kemppotter@btinternet.com. Information will also go to Village website. Next **deadline is 15th March for April** 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 go out in pairs and the work will be very gentle, a matter of saying 'hello' and offering a newsletter. Volunteers are urgently needed. Contact Canon Liam 01225 752152.

LIVING YOUR FAITH

Young persons Summer Camps will be held at Our Lady's Homestead, Nympsfield, Glos., for children 7-11 years of age from 8th to 12th August and for 12-16 yr olds from 15th to 19th August. 07841 915433 or email allinsonsiobhan@hotmail.com

THE NEW 300 CLUB 2009

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 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

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.

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.

(For further information: contact Francis Geraghty 01380 871083 email: f.geraghty303@btinternet.com)



An evening at the Filling Station normally consists of welcome, testimonies, sung worship with live music, teaching and prayer ministry. All meetings are informal and accessible to non-believers and peripheral Christians. The church building is prepared in a 'café style' for the evening meetings. The guest Speakers are different each Service. Other parts of the meetings are led by the Box team. You are very welcome to join us. Meetings 8th and 22nd March at 7.30 pm. Box Methodist Church, Box.



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Lent Course 2011

This year in the village the Lent course is “Square Mile”. It is an Evangelical Alliance initiative which aims to catalyse and equip Christians to take a truly integrated approach to mission, expressed in four dimensions:

Mercy: demonstrating God's compassion to the poor

Influence: being salt and light in the public life of the community

Life Discipleship: equipping Christians for missional living as workers & neighbours

Evangelism: faithful and relevant communication of the gospel

More information is available at www.eauk.org/squaremile.

Anyone is welcome to join us in the review and discussions which will take place each Wednesday from 7.45pm to 9.15pm on the following evenings:

1. Wed 16th March – Lent Course - Highcroft House, High Street
2. Wed 23rd March – Lent Course 14 Somerset Way
3. Wed 30th March – Lent Course 31 Pound Close
4. Wed 13th April – Lent Course 9 Somerset Way



AN UPDATE

Last month I reported that our funds had dropped to less than £90, but since then various churches and individuals who support the Foodbank have donated generously. By 17th January funds had swelled to nearly £850!! If you are one of the people who helped in this way, thank you very much.

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 situation described 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 870137. **Thank you.** Julia Wade

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spring menu



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Shoebbox News

Last Novemeber/December over 1.1million shoeboxes left this country to be sent to distadvantaged children in fourteen countries around the world. In this country alone over 400,000 children and adult were involved . Together they wrapped, packed shoe boxes bursting with joy.

Two snap shots of children who received a box. Amacia Clement, 11 years old lost everything in the Haitian earthquake. She was thrilled to receive her shoebox saying "I never received anything like this before". When remembering the moment she opened her box said "I was so happy because everything I had was destroyed in the earthquake." She and her family lost more than their home and possessions in the quake of January 2010. Her seven year old sister was killed.

Lisa is an eight year old who lives in Saki, a little town in the north of Crimea. Two years ago she was diagnosed with leukaemia. Right now she is doing very well. But her liver is not in a very good condition, due to a blood infection that happened when she was having chemotherapy. The Operation Christmas Child team delivered her box to her home. Her mother said "You know, we appreciate these gifts very much. "Children only need a few things to make them happy. These gifts are more than enough to make our children happy".

Once again "Thank you!" for being part of last year's Shoe Box appeal. A simple shoe box filled with simple gifts does make a huge difference to a child's life.

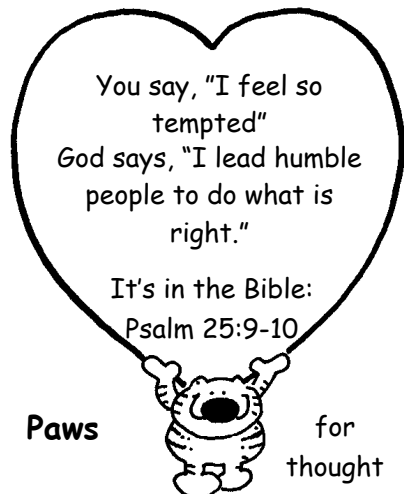
Marilyn Stubbs, Samaritan's Purse

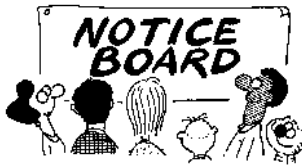


SUPPORTING THE VILLAGE MAGAZINE

You'll find an envelope enclosed with this magazine.

Once a year we give people the opportunity to make a donation towards the cost of printing - we rely on your generous donations to help us break even. If you wish to contribute, please put your donation (cash or cheque to St. George's Church PCC) through the door of Jack Woodward, 31 Pound Close. This magazine is distributed to every home in the village by our wonderful band of volunteers who undertake these jobs with an enthusiasm that is part of our community.





Royal Wedding Celebrations in the Village

Thanks to all of you who came forward and offered help for the celebrations. The Somerset Arms will host a Pig Roast at the front of the pub, with live music, starting late afternoon.

The Semington Village Hall & Social Club, plans for a BBQ and other entertainment in the Car Park starting at 4pm. It is hoped that this will be treated as a movable feast with people wandering between both venues. Tickets will be on sale at both venues in April. More details next month. Anyone wishing to help please let Pete Vooght know on 870665.

Sunday 1st May 3pm "Thanksgiving for Marriage Service, St George's Church, Semington

We will have watched the Royal Wedding on the Friday so why not come together with your family and celebrate all that is good in marriage in Britain today.

All welcome whether married or not! Cake and tea to be served after this time together.

Village Fete

The Village Fete will take place on Saturday, July 9th. Put it in your diary now so you won't forget.

Special Birthday Celebrations

Mrs. Mary Bodmin would like to thank everyone, especially those from the village, for the many beautiful cards she received on the occasion of her 100th birthday. She was very touched by all the attention she has had and would like to say how appreciative both she and her family, are. Her party, in the Village Hall was attended by approximately 95 - 100 family and friends who enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch together. Thank you to all who made this a special day for her. The total amount of donations, collected for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance, came to £655, which was a really splendid effort.

Bath Bus Service

Don't forget this wonderful direct service to Bath.....every Wednesday morning at 9.15 am by the Somerset Arms. The return is from Grand Parade at 1.30 pm. If it is not supported, we could loose it.

Dog Fouling



It has been brought to our attention that an increase in dog fouling has been seen on numerous occasions in the Highfield Close area as well as the High Street.

All areas are covered by legislation that requires dog owners to pick up and remove dog waste. Suitable bins are provided for its disposal.

Anyone not complying with this law is at risk of receiving a fine of up to £1,000. Those residents who witness incidents are encouraged to record full details of date, time, where, type of dog and any other known information of the incident to the Wiltshire District Council.

St. George's School Fund Raising Results

Our last Jumble sale in November raised £402 and our Christmas Shopping Evening also in November raised £436. We would like to pass on our thanks to the villagers who supported these events. All support is greatly appreciated. Many Thanks Laura Gregson



Ernie Clark and Kevin Robert of Hilperton Hobos set the February 13th Quiz. They showed they can set a fine quiz with a pairs picture round and a music puzzler.

Winners of the Picture Round Marathon were the Piglets with only one wrong.

Main Quiz results were:

1st	Terrys Turnips	70 1/2
2nd	Piglets	65 1/2
3rd	Piston Broke	64 1/2

Next quiz is 13th March set by Neil Stockley in the Village Hall.

Don't forget Hilperton's Quiz Night on March 19th - 7.30 for 8 pm.

Pete Vooght

Semington Social Club Ltd

March Food Night

Curry Night

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**St Georges Church of England Primary School, Semington
are holding a**

JUMBLE SALE

**at St Georges School in the Hall, Semington
Saturday 12th March 2011**

2.00pm to 4.00pm

Refreshments and Home cooked cakes also available.

Admission – 50p

It would be lovely to see you on the day and/or if you are able to donate items for sale we would be extremely grateful for any of the following:

BRIC A BRAC, TOYS, BOOKS, CLOTHES OR GOOD QUALITY JUMBLE ITEMS

The above items can be brought into the school on Friday 11th March at 3.15pm or taken directly to the School Hall on Saturday 12th March between 10.00am and 12 noon. If you would like donated items collected please ring Laura Gregson on 870053

KEYS- If you have any spare / miscellaneous keys we would also be grateful to receive these as we can make money from them as scrap metal
Many thanks for your support with this and previous events.



Village Eye

Over the past few months the Village Eye has pondered on many things and we thought a bit of a round up of where we have got to with them might be in order. We interviewed both old and new faces in the village all similarly talking with much affection for the village we call home. We would love to have the opportunity to meet and interview more village residents as we try to further understand what makes our village tick. So if you fancy us buying you a drink and a nice natter that will later be published feel free to contact the editor.

The Eye also posed the question of how we can bring about seasonal celebrations such as Christmas and Easter into the heart of the village and provide a focus of activities that the community can come together to enjoy, this I'm sorry to say still has some way to go, but perhaps the royal wedding and next year's diamond jubilee may provide us with the impetus we need to kick start something. We do hope that we will be able to get the calendar off the ground and hopefully raise some funds for village based activities. BT revealed the winners of its Race to Infinity at the start of January and unfortunately the Keevil exchange did not make the top ten, but at least we tried!!

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

There have been a number of break-ins in Great Hinton and Seend, also thefts in Semington of oil, tools and scrap. It seems that thieves are turning to the villages in their disgusting 'trade'. The Great Hinton burglaries were by breaking a window, and stealing jewelry and valuables. Lock up your sheds, garages and cars, and don't leave tools outside.

The British Council has been made aware of a telephone scam across the UK in which residents are being asked for their bank details in order to claim a 'cash prize' or council tax refund to be deposited into their account. The callers claim to be from the British Council or variations of that name. We would advise that the British Council is an international cultural organisation and has absolutely no connection with this scam. We wouldn't be silly enough to fall for this scam though, would we?

I'm still collecting orders for Smart Water; don't miss out on this substantial offer. Paul Bowyer 870 512

NATURE NOTES

I saw my first primroses poking out of a grassy bank on January 31st and they were, as always, wonderful to see because of their foretelling of Spring. Is this unusually early for primroses, or quite normal for flowers that are said to bloom around "late winter"? If they were early, I guess this might have been because of the warming south-westerlies that followed what was the coldest December since 1890, with The Times saying that temperatures in January across central England were 3 degrees Celcius above average.

The 17th Century English poet, Robert Herrick, would not have been thinking of temperature or timing, as he usually had other things on his mind ...

THE PRIMROSE

Ask me why I send you here
This sweet Infanta of the year?
Ask me why I send to you
This primrose, thus bepearl'd with dew?
I will whisper to your ears,
The sweets of love are mix'd with tears.



Ask me why this flower does show
So yellow-green, and sickly too?
Ask me why the stalk is weak
And bending, yet it doth not break?
I will answer, these discover
What fainting hopes are in a lover.

.....

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St. George's School: a place of learning, caring and sharing



Our building work is moving ever closer to completion. We have been to visit the new classrooms which are looking amazing. Our Year 6 photographers, Kaylee and Aaron have added some internal photographs to our visual diary.

The Friends of St. George's School are holding their Jumble Sale on Saturday 12th March here at school. Everyone is welcome and donations are appreciated.

Board Games club started this term with the children enjoying learning the rules of playing a game together and also having fun sharing each other's games! I have been really impressed with the way the children have played so well - even when losing!

We were pleased to be able to welcome Appleton Games who visited last week with their prototype game- GB Racers. The children enjoyed trying out the new game which isn't even available in the shops yet. We hope to see Appleton Games again soon.

Benjamin Crook was so inspired by their visit that he made his own racing game which he shared with us all this week- well done Benjamin!

Mrs. Rawlings will be leaving us to go on maternity leave at the end of February. We wish her much happiness and look forward to hearing her good news sometime in May!



The Y6 children are busy learning to cycle safely on the roads around Semington. (Bikeability).

The supermarket voucher schemes have started again – Tesco vouchers are available from 28.2.11 to 8.5.11 and Sainsbury's from 9.2.11 to 31.5.11. If you would like to donate them we would be very grateful - the ICT and Sports equipment we receive is really useful!

Laura Hilliard Headteacher

WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR NEWS FROM JONATHON SEED

Councils across the Country are having to look carefully at their income and expenditure and by the time you read this there will be a Wiltshire Council budget set for next year and a Financial Plan for the next four years will have been adopted. In Wiltshire we are taking a long term view of how we address our financial planning and not simply making cuts as we move into the age of austerity. This means taking a long hard look at our spending priorities and as well as making savings we are increasing expenditure on roads but especially on adult social care where we are the only Council in the country to allocate an additional £52million to address the forecast increase in demand for adult social care over the next four years. The detail of the Financial Plan is available on the Council website and is worth a read if you really want to see exactly how the Council is planning for all of our futures.

The Wiltshire Council proposals for the new £23million Community Area Campus were unveiled at the Area Board in February. These proposals outline the provision of all Council services on one site adjacent to the Melksham Oak School. The plans now includes a new swimming pool, leisure centre, a new and bigger Library complete with community IT suite, and an indoor bowls centre as well as catering and other services. Free parking and bus transport to the Campus also form part of the plans. These are exciting times for the Community in and around Melksham and you can have your say on how the Campus is developed by taking part in the Campus consultation run by the Community Area Partnership at <http://melksham.communityarea.org.uk>. You can also 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 on the Campus proposals will be made by your Councillors.



Semington WI February Meeting.

Thursday February 10th saw the members of Semington WI greeting each other and welcoming visitors to the meeting in the village hall, looking forward to another entertaining evening. As we settled down to the business of the evening I stole a curious glance at the front table, which held a couple of trays of tempting plants, that I knew would not be there at the end of our meeting. When the winter has been a long and cold one it is such a joy to wander out in the garden during a spell of slightly warmer sunny weather, and spot a group of snowdrops, or the nodding heads of hellebores in their rich velvety colours.

Gordon Cottis was our speaker this month, talking about his speciality, spring bulbs and perennials. He had brought a selection of these for us to see and maybe buy for gaps in our spring borders, and also some slides of the hellebores in a mature garden. A few members have some in their gardens already, but as I am always saying to my husband, you can't have too much of a good thing! Gordon also showed us how to propagate the plants we already had. My large garden has hellebores in several areas, but I have to protect them from marauding deer with chicken wire domes, as in past years I have had all the emerging buds eaten off.

Our speaker kindly judged the competition for this month, which was P&Q, the winner being Linda Hillman, we had a refreshment break, and drew the raffle. Our next meeting will be our annual meeting on March 10th in the village hall. It is an occasion when many decisions are made, a new committee is appointed, and the new programme is announced. We have planned an interesting and varied programme and hope some new ladies will join us as we still have space for more members.

Carole Ball, President

Football's Coming Home II - Good Friday Football Returns!



On Good Friday last year, Semington footballers present and past gathered for an inaugural football match to showcase the village's new football pitch. This was followed by a hugely successful post-match celebration.

Unfortunately the football pitch wasn't fit to play on for the 2010/11 football season but lots of progress has been made in the last year, changing rooms are in place and goals are ready for action. So on Good Friday 2011, we really will be celebrating the homecoming of football in the village.

Post match festivities will again be hosted at The Somerset Arms and this will include a barbecue and live music. Once again we look forward to your support.

Good Friday, 22nd April

Pitch: Kick-off at 4pm

Pub: Post match barbecue from 6pm and live music from 7pm

Semington B Men's Skittles Team

The 2010/2011 season has been going well for the B team so far. After some new signings in the summer, lowering the average age of the team, we have had a couple of good cup runs which included getting into the final of the front pin first cup at Seend village Hall on Saturday 29th January. We won the semi final game against Cons A which included a 18 spare by Gerald Taylor on the last leg. Unfortunately we came up short against Cons D in the final. Our league form is going well, so far winning 10 out of 14 games putting us in the top quarter of the table and Pete Vooght is currently leading the averages. Here's hoping for a strong finish to the season.



Skittles Matches - March

1	Tues.	8 pm	Sem Ladies B	15	Tues.	8 pm	Sem Ladies B
4	Fri.	8.15 pm	Sem B Men	18	Fri.	8.15 pm	Sem B Men
8	Tues.	8 pm	Sem Ladies A	22	Tues.	8 pm	Sem Ladies A
9	Weds.	8 pm	Angels Ladies	23	Weds.	8 pm	Angels Ladies
11	Fri.	8.15 pm	Sem A Men	29	Tues.	8 pm	Sem B Ladies



Semington Bridge Club Spring Competitions

The **member/guest** competition on March 1st is called **The Spring cup**. A member plays with someone that has never played at Semington. The winner is the highest partnership member/guest on the day. Normal duplicate for everyone else.

Summer Mixed pairs on April 5th . Prize also for member/guest. Normal duplicate for everyone else.

Summer Ladies pairs on May 3rd. Prize also for member/guest. Normal duplicate for everyone else.

Summer Mens pairs on June 7th. Prize also for member/guest. Normal duplicate for everyone else.

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Wednesday, February 16th at 8 pm in the Village Hall

Neighbourhood Policing - PC Thomas reported on behalf of the Neighbourhood Policing Team. She stated that there have been a number of thefts along the canal involving the theft of red diesel oil and heating oil; a theft of some 1000 litres was reported. She commented that there had been two burglaries at Great Hinton during the daytime and at Seend some outhouses belonging to some of the larger properties, were broken into and property stolen. She advised that all residents must remain vigilant as some of the thefts were blatant.

Councillors Robinson and Lockwood reported that they had been made aware of some thefts within the village by local residents and gave details.

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

W/10/02972/FUL	Land Adjacent to Somerset Arms, High Street	
	Barn Conversion and Extension	Refused
W/10/02973/LBC	Land Adjacent to Somerset Arms, High Street,	Refused.
	Barn Conversion and Extension	

There were no planning applications received after 9 February 2011

Highways-Cllr. Vooght restated the problem with private vehicles sales on the highway at Crossroads. The Clerk stated that a similar problem had been experienced at Southwick and a robust approach had been adopted by Wiltshire Council/Trowbridge Area Board in dealing with the matter. The Clerk stated the issue of 'car trading on the highway' is being addressed by Wiltshire Council and the 'new' process will ensure that appropriate signage is displayed in the affected areas and thereafter, following an initial thirty days' notice, the 'offenders' will see their vehicles seized and the seller informed via the displayed telephone number. The Clerk stated that he would ask the NPT at Southwick (PC Mark Hough) and the Trowbridge Area Board Manager (Rachel Efemey) to talk to their opposite numbers at Melksham/Semington to ensure that similarly robust action is taken at Semington.

Cllr. Bowyer reported the poor state of the pavement outside Highfield House and agreed to report it to Clarence.

Cllr. Smyth stated that he had been approached by a parishioner who had asked when the pavement at Littlemarsh was to be cleared of weeds. After a short discussion, Cllr. Smyth stated that he would contact Angela Weston and request that the Parish Steward be asked to undertake this task.

Sports/Recreation Field - Cllr. Lockwood reported that the development of the sports field was progressing well and the next tasks were to install the cesspit and to install the netting required to prevent balls being kicked into the road. Councillors suggested that some equipment, such as netting and benches may be available from the (old) George Ward School now that its use as a school has ceased. Cllr. Lockwood commented that the initial sum of £29,700 provided as a grant from Wiltshire Council had been found to be £5700 higher than that which Wiltshire Council had intended to pay and that the £5700 had now been repaid to Wiltshire Council. He added that this shortfall would present some difficulties but would be overcome.

Village Hall Improvements - Cllr. Vooght stated that the plans for the repair had been drawn up and that costings for the repair scheme were awaited. Cllrs. Vooght and Rimmer gave details of the proposed work necessary to stabilise the building. Cllr. Vooght added that it was the intention to seek grant aid from Wiltshire Council via the Melksham Area Board. Cllr. Lockwood advised Cllr. Vooght to discuss the proposed grant application with Cllr. Seed (Wiltshire Council).

The Clerk advised the Council to be vigilant about any extant, or proposed, s106 Agreements relating to the Village Hall and to ensure that any monies are secured from Wiltshire Council in line with the Agreement wording. He added that Wiltshire Council record of s106 Agreements and their implementation is poor.

Bus Shelter - Cllr. Bowyer confirmed that the new Bus Shelter is to be installed on 18 February 2011. The Clerk reported that Wiltshire Council was ceasing the Bus Shelter Grant Scheme with effect from 1 April 2011 but he had been assured by Sarah Anderson, Wiltshire Council, that the 50% grant for the Semington Bus Shelter was secure and would be paid.

Environment - Cllr. Rimmer reported that during heavy rain the High street in the vicinity of The Somerset Arms and Brook House was flooded. He observed water emanating from a manhole near the centre of the road. He thought that this may be because of blocked drains. The Clerk was asked to write to Wiltshire Council to request that the problem is investigated and that the drains in that area are cleared.

Cllr. Smyth stated that he had observed a large volume of rubbish in the layby near to the field where the Car Boot Sale is regularly held. He added that he telephoned Wiltshire Council on the 'fly-tipping' number and reported that this rubbish had since been cleared'

Wilts & Berks Canal Trust working Group - Cllr. Smyth reported that he and Cllr. Robinson had attended the recent Working Group meeting and that he had sent a written report to all councillors. Cllr. Smyth stated that one of the main issues raised at the meeting was whether Semington Parish Council would wish to become part of the Canal Partnership and he had been informed that Mr Ken Oliver would be writing to the Parish Council inviting the Parish Council to do so. Cllr. Smyth gave a brief summary of the other points arising at the meeting – access, car parking, residential and industrial development along the route, possible s106 Agreements to fund some of this development. He commented that the next meeting was to be held on 17 February and, once again, he and Cllr. Robinson would attend.

Councillors observed that a large mobile home appears to have been installed at the Travellers' Site near to the crematorium and that this development was not permitted. Cllr. Robinson agreed to send photographs of the mobile home to the Clerk for him then to make representations to Wiltshire Council.

Cllr. Vooght stated that the new houses at The Turnpike are very nearly completed and that he was pleased to learn that the new tenants have been invited to a 'signing up' ceremony and an initial induction talk at the Village Hall. He commented that one outstanding matter at that development is the boundary line of the development site with properties in Hunt Close.

Next Meeting - Wednesday, 16th March, 2011 at 8 pm

Annual Parish Meeting - Wednesday, 20th April 2011

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 March 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 March Next before Lent	9.15 am All Age Worship	8 am Holy Communion 11 am All Age Worship	11 am Parish Communion	
Ash Wednesday 9th March		9.15 am Holy Communion with Ashing 7.30 pm Holy communion with Ashing		
Sunday 13th March Lent 1	9.15 Methodist Service	9.15 am Parish Communion 11 am Methodist Service		8 am Holy Communion (w)
Sunday 20th March Lent 2	6pm Evening Worship	9.15 All Age Communion	11 am Parish Communion	
Sunday 27th March Lent 3	9.15 am Parish Communion	9.15 am Parish Communion 11 am Methodist Service	6 pm Evening Worship	