

**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*

YOU ARE MOST WELCOME TO JOIN ANY OF THE SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE

There are pew sheets in the churches which give details of all events in the Benefice.

| <b>Church Services<br/>October<br/>2013</b>       | <b>St. George's<br/>Semington</b>        | St Michael's<br>Hilperton   | St. Mary<br>Magdalen's<br>Horse<br>Road<br>Hilperton<br>Marsh | St. Mary<br>the Virgin<br>Whaddon |
|---|--|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday<br/>6th<br/>October<br/>Trinity 19</b>  | <b>9.15 am<br/>All Age<br/>Worship</b>   | 8 am<br>Holy<br>Communion<br><br>11 am<br>All Age<br>Worship &<br>Harvest<br>Festival | 11 am<br>Holy<br>Communion                                    |                                   |
| <b>Sunday<br/>13th<br/>October<br/>Trinity 20</b> | <b>9.15 am<br/>Methodist<br/>Service</b> | 9.15 am<br>Parish<br>Communion<br><br>11 am<br>Methodist<br>Service                   |   | 8 am<br>Holy<br>Communion         |
| <b>Sunday<br/>20th<br/>October<br/>Trinity 21</b> | <b>6 pm<br/>Evening<br/>Worship</b>      | 10.30 am<br>All Age<br>Worship  | 11 am<br>Morning<br>Prayer                                    |                                   |
| <b>Sunday<br/>27th<br/>October<br/>Trinity 22</b> | <b>9.15 am<br/>Parish<br/>Communion</b>  | 9.15 am<br>Parish<br>Communion<br><br>11 am<br>Methodist<br>Service                   | 6 pm<br>Evening<br>Praise                                     |                                   |

OCTOBER 2013

SEMINGTON

PARISH



MAGAZINE

Vicar

Rev. Stephen Ball

22 Warren Road

Staverton

Trowbridge BA14 8JZ

Tel. 01225 774903

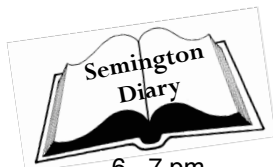
[sb54rev@googlemail.com](mailto:sb54rev@googlemail.com)

Churchwardens:

David Wildsmith

Bob Norton

Tel. 01380 871424



## OCTOBER 2013

|    |                         |                |                     |
|----|-------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| 2  | Kid's club              | 6 - 7 pm       | St. George's School |
|    | Christians in Semington | 7.45 - 9 pm    | 10 Pound Lane       |
| 4  | WWSPA                   | 6 - 7.30 pm    | Village Hall        |
| 7  | Belly Dancing           | 6.30 - 7.30 pm | Village Hall        |
| 9  | Kid's Club              | 6 - 7 pm       | St. George's School |
|    | Bible Study             | 7.45 - 9.15 pm | 9 Somerset Way      |
|    | Parish Council Meeting  | 7.30 pm        | Village Hall        |
| 10 | Semington WI            | 7.30 p m       | Village Hall        |
| 11 | Library Van             | 9.50 am        | Village Hall        |
|    | WWSPA                   | 6 - 7.30 pm    | Village Hall        |
| 12 | Book & Bacon Sale       | 12 - 2 pm      | Village Hall        |
| 13 | Quiz Night              | 7.30 pm        | Village hall        |
| 16 | Kid's Club              | 6 - 7 pm       | St. George's School |
| 18 | WWSPA                   | 6 - 7.30 pm    | Village Hall        |
| 23 | Kid's Club              | 6 - 7 pm       | St. George's School |
|    | Bible Study             | 7.45 - 9 pm    | 31 Pound Close      |
| 24 | Semington Village Hall  |                |                     |
|    | Men's Committee         | 7 pm           | Village Hall        |
| 25 | Library Van             | 9.50 am        | Village Hall        |
| 27 | Sunday Lunch            | 12.30 pm       | Village Hall        |
|    | Tickets £9              |                |                     |

Skittles Matches - Page 19

### EVERY WEEK IN THE VILLAGE HALL

|              |                |                |               |                    |             |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------|
| <b>Mon.</b>  | Egyptian Dance | 6.30 pm        | <b>Weds.</b>  | Weds. Bridge Class | 9.15 - 1 pm |
|              | Bingo          | 7.00 pm        | <b>Thurs.</b> | Coffee Morning     | 10 - 12 pm  |
| <b>Tues.</b> | Bridge Club    | 9.15 - 1 pm    | <b>Fri.</b>   | Bridge Club        | 9.15 - 1 pm |
|              | Stompers       | 2.30 - 3.30 pm |               |                    |             |

**POST OFFICE IN THE  
VILLAGE HALL**  
Monday and Thursday  
9.30 - 12.30

### 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](mailto:kemppotter@btinternet.com). Information will also go to Village website. Next **deadline** is **15th October** for **NOVEMBER** issue.



### 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,

Following on with the 'People who inspired me' series; the second person who deeply influenced me was Jack Hebditch. He was proud of his name, which he claimed came from 'hedges and ditches', though I have since found its origin is 7<sup>th</sup> century Anglo-Saxon and quite different. The point was that he was proud of his working background. Jack was a consummate and excellent tradesman, a Wheelwright and Joiner of the old school. I first met him properly waiting for a bus on the way to the Bournemouth and Poole College of Art. This interested him greatly and what he did caught my imagination too, especially as I had a keen interest in furniture design. I used to pop into his old dusty workshop often for a chat but mostly to watch and listen and learn. Even when he was busy he had the time and space for me to just 'be' there. I found the draw of that environment, the tools, the bench that had seen better days, the smell of the wood, Jack's deep connection with his craft and his stories irresistible. But it was to be another five years before I actually worked there.

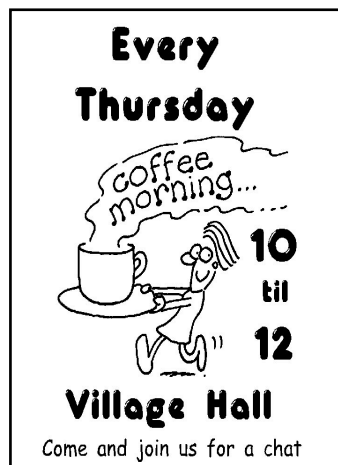
When Jack took me on and agreed to train me he was well past retiring age. Only his silver hair and weathered features betrayed this fact. His strength, agility and enthusiasm seemed undimmed as of a man twenty years his junior. He was always careful but he was not averse to walking along the ridge of a strong roof without aid to repair a single broken tile. His gentle manner and his sense of humour were infectious and we laughed together every day. What I noted was that this was especially true when things were going wrong, when we should have been moaning. But Jack didn't do moaning; he was an eternal optimist and I soon discovered why.

In his youth Jack had been a rebel. He didn't ever cross the line as far as the law was concerned. That seemed to have been kept in check after an acquaintance of his, 'Stickey' Wilson, received three strokes of the birch for some misdemeanour or another. According to Jack he went 'straight as a die' after that but Jack liked being a rebel. He owned a rather noisy Morgan three wheeler, which he delighted in parking outside the Methodist Chapel on a Sunday evening. He would wait for the sermon to begin and then rev the car up until the door to the chapel opened. He would then speed off much to the irritation of the steward. He once put his Morgan through an ornamental gate and had to make a new one in his time and at his expense. There were many more stories; in fact, I can't ever remember Jack running out of stories. "So", I said one day, "You were a real tearaway". "Arr", he replied, "I was that. That's why I have a lot of time for young people today. It's no good moaning when you were like that as a nipper". He had a point and he lived by that philosophy.

Several time youngsters caused mischief and damage in the estate yard. Whilst I fumed Jack simply tucked his thumbs behind his braces and said, "Oh well, let's have a cup of tea." He obviously had to inform the estate manager if the loss was really bad but his overall attitude was more of compassion than retribution. Jack taught me to be tolerant and look at the world and people in particular with more understanding. I thank God for Jack and his mentoring and for the skills he taught me. I thank God for the fact that I was able to tell him. Finally I am thankful that Jack found his way back to God and died full of faith in his late nineties, having only fully retired a couple of years before.

Every blessing.

*Stephen* (Rector) 01225 774903 sb54rev@gmail.com



## St. George's Church

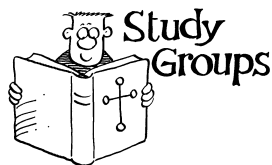
The church is usually open and available for quiet thought and prayer. You are always welcome to come and sit for a few minutes inside or enjoy the peace on the seats on the south side of the building. If lonely or in need of a friendly chat, the folk from the village offer a listening ear. Phone Bev 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 on, please ask at time of booking.

**Kids' Klub** - October 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd - all from 6-7pm at the School. You are welcome if you are in school years 3-6, the cost is 30p. We play games, have stories, make things, generally have fun! More information from 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.



**Bible Study** - 7.45pm, 9th October - 9 Somerset Way, 23rd October - 31 Pound Close. We're learning together about prayer - everyone welcome. Jack Woodward 870784

**Christians in Semington** - Wednesday 2nd October, 7.45 - 9pm, 10 Pound Lane. Join us to pray for our community.



## VILLAGE EVENTS & NEWS

### Fete Funds

This just to let everyone know what the Fete Funds are going to be used for by the different organisations.

**The School** will be having new library furniture being installed in September so the PTA will be spending their share on new books for the library.

**The Church** will be using their share towards the repairs on the roof we had earlier this year and in the future.

**The village hall** share will go towards the new toilet.

Thank you so much for choosing **Stepping Stones** as your chosen charity for the summer fete, we really appreciate your help and support. Some of the money will be used to fund the production of our own PECS cards. Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) is a strategy used to support children who have a speech and language disorder, and significant communication difficulties. It supports children by giving them a functional way of indicating what they want – initiating their needs.

It can be used to support children with no verbal language and to support and extend functional language where they are able to use some words. It provides an underpinning of the use of language and begins to develop the use of simple sentence structure.

We will be able to produce cards appropriate to each individual child for distribution to parents and other nurseries that the child attends. This would enable every child to have their own voice, we will be purchasing Printer ink, card, laminator pockets and files.

We will also be purchasing some of new equipment for our sensory room, that all of the children at Stepping Stones will be able to use. As you can see, all the funds have enabled the organisations to do what they would not have been able to without your support.

A BIG THANK YOU once again.

Bob Norton, Fete Chairman

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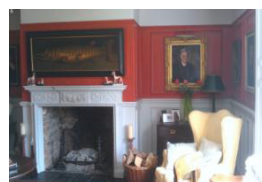
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Cllr. Rimmer agreed to investigate the availability of Grant Aid from the Melksham Area Board by contacting Cllr. Seed. The Clerk was asked to write a letter outlining the project and containing an invitation to parishioners and local businesses to make a donation and to pass a copy of this letter to Mr Heard.

**Co-option of a New Member** - Councillors reported that there had been no applications to be a co-opted member of the Council.

In the light of 12a above, there were no motions to co-opt a new member.

**Any Other Business** - Cllr. Lockwood - The children's swing in the Wessex Close Play Area were a mess with bird droppings on them. He stated that he would investigate ways of deterring birds from settling on the swing supports.

Cllr. Rimmer - In the absence of Leigh Swinden placing an order for the Time Capsule rotunda he would now do so and councillors noted that authority had already been given for this expenditure

Cllr. Wade encouraged all councillors to register their interest with British Telecom for high-speed broadband and he requested Cllr. Rimmer to put a similar request in the Newsletter inviting parishioners to do the same.

**Date of Next Meeting** - The Council noted the dates for the next Ordinary Parish Council meetings:

9 October 2013  
20 November 2013  
8 January 2014  
19 February 2014  
19 March 2014  
16 April 2014

The Annual Parish Meeting is to be held on 26 March 2014.



## Edited Draft Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 11th September, 2013 at 8 pm in the Village Hall

**Planning.** - The Clerk reported the status of the following planning application:

|                    |                               |                             |         |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| W/13/00287/<br>FUL | Land South of<br>Little Marsh | Proposed Agricultural Store | Pending |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|

There were no planning applications received after 4 September 2013. The Clerk reported that he had received correspondence from Hannick Homes (Connor Lee) who had expressed a wish to speak to the Parish Council about the development of the parcel of land south of St Georges Road. The Parish Council confirmed that it would be pleased to meet up with a representative from Hannick Homes and proposed that councillors would meet up with Hannick Homes at 7.30pm on 9 October for an informal discussion – the date of the next Parish Council meeting - and then invite the representative to stay for the Public Adjournment during the formal part of the PC Meeting; the Parish Council meeting starting, as usual, at 8pm.

*Clerk's Note - Subsequent to the meeting, Hannick Homes (Connor Lee) confirmed that a representative (or representatives) would attend as proposed.*

The Council noted the change from Written Representations to a Hearing for the Appeal in relation to W/12/02050/FUL (Littleton Stables) and councillors commented that Cllr. Smyth will be invited to represent the Parish Council at that Hearing

**Highways/Environment** - The Council noted the First Round results of The Best Kept Village competition. The Clerk was asked to place a Semington Parish map on the noticeboard in response to one of the comments from the Best Kept Village judges.

Cllr. Wade reported that brambles were obstructing a footpath. Cllr. Rimmer was asked to place a notice in the Newsletter asking householders to ensure that vegetation on their property such as hedges and shrubs is cut back to ensure that the full width of a footway is available for use.

Cllr. Lockwood commented that there were weeds in the pavements and at the kerbsides along many roads in Semington that needed clearing. He was advised to inform Cllr. Smyth who was the Highways and Streetscene Coordinator for the Parish Council.

**Semington War Memorial** -The Clerk stated that Ray Heard who had initiated the Semington War Memorial Renovation Project had offered his apologies for not being able to attend tonight's Parish Council meeting.

The Council **resolved** that the total sum to be raised for this project was to be £1500 and that this sum would comprise a Parish Council contribution of £500, Grant Aid of £500 and Donations from parishioners/local businesses of £500.

## Harvest Supper

The Harvest Supper at the Village Hall was a great success again this year. Our speaker was the Rev Pater Atwill who comes from the Canal Ministries. He was informative and amusing with his anecdotes of life on the canal and his previous profession as a chef. I don't think we will forget the story of the onions taken to a show by his grandfather.

The food was excellent and the friendly chats up to our usual standard. Thanks to all those who helped with the preparations in any way.



## 2013 Shoebox Appeal

Leaflets are available from St George's Church. Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November will be shoebox collection day at St George's at the 9:15 All Age Worship Service. Completed boxes and any additional items can be left in church during the previous week.

**BOOKS & BACON SALE**  
**100's of Paperbacks**  
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**Saturday, October 12th**  
**12 - 2 pm**

**Hot Rolls**



**Tea, Coffee**



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**WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER**

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> Live music with Triple JD  
from 8pm

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> Halloween Disco Fancy  
dress party From 8pm

New Autumn/Winter Menu from  
October 8<sup>th</sup>

Christmas party bookings now

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**Chippenham Summer Skittles League**


I would like to say a big thank you to everyone that played in the Chippenham Summer Skittle League for a very good season. We came 1st out of 10 teams for the first time in 6 years. We won the league by 4 points. Nigel Taylor had the highest aggregate with 21.64. Well done also to Stuart Taylor who won the Delegates Cup. We also entered two pairs in the Pairs Comp which were Pete & Lesley Vooght and Tony & Gill Rosling. Tony and Gill have got through to the final – we wish them good luck.

We finished the season with team meal at The Well, Bulkington which was very enjoyable. Once again, well done everyone. Looking forward to next year.

Marilyn Taylor

**October Skittles Matches**  
**8 pm Start - Village Hall**

|                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1 Sem B Ladies        | 16 Ladies' Cup   |
| 2 Angels Ladies       | 17 Men's Cup     |
| 4 Sem B Men           | 18 Men's Cup     |
| 8 Sem A Ladies        | 22 Sem B Ladies  |
| 11 Sem A Men          | 23 Angels Ladies |
| 15 Ladies' Cup        | 29 Sem B Ladies  |
| 31 Steeple Ashton Men |                  |



**Sadie Bliss and Philip Blanchard** were married on August 17th in Semington and would like to thank Rev Stephen Ball and also the ladies who did the flowers in the church, who were kind enough to incorporate our theme colours of green, cream and purple in their beautiful displays. The day itself was overcast but the rain held off long enough for our pictures. Reverend Ball led the service at 3pm on Saturday 17th August, Mac was great on the organ. I'd been advised not to walk too fast for the bridal march as there isn't a very long way to the Alter! Our daughter Grace who is 3 was our only bridesmaid and she did not co-operate at the rehearsal but was quite good on the day. After the pictures, our party all headed to the village hall for a barbeque and drinks and it was then that the heaven's opened which was lucky. Phil, Grace and I then went to Mallorca for a week for our honeymoon.

Its a bit strange being Mr and Mrs now; our wedding comes after 15 years together, buying a house and having our daughter! Now I've got the laborious and expensive task of changing my name on all my accounts, driving licence and passport etc.

Sadie Blanchard




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## **SEMINGTON CHRISTMAS MARKET** **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

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Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November 11am – 5pm  
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Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November 11am – 5pm

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## Baptism



WILLIAM MICHAEL WESTMACOTT on Sunday 1st September 2013 was welcomed into the church family at his Baptism. We pray God will bless him and his family, and as he grows, he will experience God's love for himself.

## NATURE NOTES

I don't know about "mellow", but 2013 looks set to be a year of fruitfulness, with evidence across the village of abundant apples, sloes, pears, blackberries, raspberries, haws and rowan. A bumper harvest, it seems. Perhaps *John Keats* would have recognised this time – the sort of autumn he immortalised in his **Ode to Autumn**. This is the first verse:

*Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,  
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;  
Conspiring with him how to load and bless  
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves run;  
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,  
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;  
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells  
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,  
And still more, later flowers for the bees,  
Until they think warm days will never cease,  
For Summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.*

The poem ends with the sounds of Autumn:

*... in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn  
Among the river shallows, borne aloft  
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;  
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;  
Hedge-cricket sing; and now with treble soft  
The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;  
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.*



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## Semington WI September Meeting



Where has the summer gone? How many times have I heard that remark, still on the whole we have had quite a good one, with several days of sun at a time. Yet friends have complained to me that it was too hot for their liking. Perhaps we are just never content with our lot. Most of us are fortunate to have so much going for us, this was brought home to me at this month's meeting when we had Sheila Sadler our visitor speaker, who came to talk about how her Canine Partner Kerly, has changed her life and opened the door to independence. Sheila was accompanied by her husband John, who is very involved in the charity- Canine Partners. We saw how Kerly has been trained to pick items up from the floor, empty the washing machine, open cupboards and give Sheila the contents she has asked for. He can even take off her shoes and socks! I think all our members were most impressed, and for many of us it was love at first sight. It costs £10,000 to train a puppy, and we all agreed this should be made available, funded by the NHS, to more people, to transform their lives and not have to rely totally on donations and fund raising. We had some great entries for the Doggie Poem competition, well done ladies, everyone was a winner. Next month's competition will be a hand crafted item, when we are joined by Ann Monico who will be giving us a demonstration of Needle Felting. This will be on 10<sup>th</sup> October, in the village hall at 7.30. As always, guests will be welcome.

Carole Ball, President.



The new season of quizzes started on the 15th with Pam and David Wildsmith, Sue and Geoff Brown and Bob Hughes as question masters. The quiz started off with a tricky round on Great Britain followed by Sport, Music (the James Bond films - name the artist and the film), Food and Drink, Board and other Games, and Pot Luck.

The evening was well attended, with 8 teams taking part and the final results had the Hilperton Hobos in third place with 63 points, the Seven Dwarfs second with 65 points and in the first. place, with 69 points, Then There was Five.

The Marathon round, which involved recognising the next 26 heirs to the throne, and putting them in order was won with just 21.5 points by Friends Reunited. Recognising the adults was not so difficult but there seem to be so many children between the ages of 5 and 10 that it was difficult to know who was who!

The next quiz will be on 13th October with Pete Vooght and his team setting the questions.

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

As I write, it is the end of my second week as Headteacher at St George's School and what a great fortnight it has been. I feel it is such an honour being involved in the life of our lovely little school. It has been a pleasure working with the team of staff and governors here, and the children have been brilliant! As you will see from the photo, the new Reception children have settled in really well. The word about our school is clearly spreading, and I have now been approached by a number of prospective parents wishing to visit to see what makes us so special.



I would like to invite members of our community to our Open Morning on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 9.15, whether you are prospective parents or just have an interest in the school. We will be starting at 9.15 with an assembly, followed by a very brief talk by me. Visitors will then be escorted around the school by our charming Year 6 children and we will finish with refreshments in the hall from 10.30. I do hope you can join us.



The children have now elected the School Council (pictured). They are full of enthusiasm and great ideas for moving the school forward. A special congratulations is due to all those children who put themselves forward for election. Our Chair is Sam Dowell, Vice-Chair is Tom Dowell, Secretary is Georgia Gregson and Vice-Secretary is Kieran Perks. The other members of the committee are Xavier Tyler, Rex Fry, Sophie Williamson and Oliver Saunders.

We are currently busy preparing for, and really looking forward to, our Harvest Service on 20th September and to distributing produce around the village to senior citizens. It's a great tradition at the school, one which I am delighted to continue.

Also, as part of developing the children's learning, we are going to have two workshop days in October on our topic of The Vikings with Ros Liddington who I have worked with before. She manages to combine learning and fun in a unique way which also often involves the Headteacher being dressed up for the occasion!

Finally, I am pleased to announce that there will be a toddler group starting at the school on Tuesday mornings very soon: more details to follow. Peter Krayner

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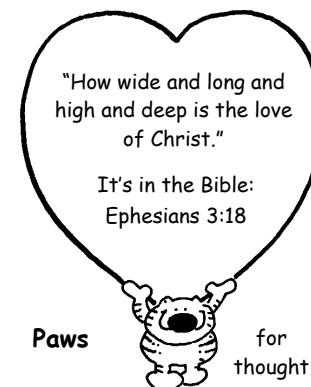
## WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR NEWS FROM JONATHON SEED

It was really great to see the success of three initiatives for involving thousands of young people launched by officers and volunteers working with the areas of my portfolio over the summer. This involved youngsters taking part in free positive activity provided by Wiltshire Council. 50 000 free swimming sessions in our swimming pools, 360 free tennis sessions and 8900 free reading challenge successes in libraries has to be a good thing and a really positive way of helping to get our youth out and about during the long summer break.

Now it is back to school, back to work and back to Council business! This all started with a meeting of the full Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> September where we approved the Business Plan which provides a framework for all our activity over the next four years. It is an interesting document and one which really will keep Wiltshire at the forefront of local government and more importantly will enable us to deliver the services that residents want, deliver these services locally and deliver them in the way that they tell us they want them delivered.

Locally we seem to be having an interesting time with planning issues and particularly big projects that will affect the residents of Summerham and Seend. The RAF Keevil tactical runway seems to have a delay whilst the Council obtains answers to the impact of construction on villages and the surrounding areas. In addition the prospect of a number of large solar panel developments has appeared and these are currently being discussed by consultants, applicants, residents and Parish Councils. I am looking at the plans and listening to the arguments for and against but I am conscious that if communities object so strongly to wind farms then we must at some stage go some way towards meeting our renewable energy targets for Wiltshire and solar panel developments may well be the least intrusive form of sustainable energy generation that we can live with. Still there is a long way to go with all of these developments and it is for the Council to decide and residents to make their views known to the Council to help that decision to be made.

*Jonathon Seed*





## High Speed Broadband

It was recently announced in the press that Wiltshire Council have selected BT to provide broadband upgrading throughout the county. This will use funds provided by BT, the Government and the Council. The project is to be completed by 2016 with the Council aiming to ensure that a minimum of 91% of all premises to have access to it. This is defined by a download speed of a minimum of 24 megabits per second (mbps.)

The remaining 9% of premises will be provided with a minimum speed of 2 mpbs. This might be a small improvement for some but unlike superfast broadband, it will not enable video streaming or easier transmission of large files, etc.

The next stage of the project is to physically survey existing resources and requirements throughout Wiltshire. The county will be divided into eight areas. It is not yet known which areas will be surveyed when. Results will be published as surveys are completed revealing which areas will get superfast and which will be left behind.

At the moment, Semington is scheduled to get superfast broadband early 2015. It is imperative to keep the pressure up so everyone is requested to register their interest even though you may decide not to take it up later on. You can do this by going to the BT website - [www.bt.com/broadband](http://www.bt.com/broadband). For further updates and information and survey results as they happen, visit [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wiltshireonline](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wiltshireonline) and click broadband roll out.

## Funding Available for Village Hall IT Equipment!

Village halls are vital to local communities and as the world changes, so village halls are looking to the future. Many village halls now offer wireless broadband access, projectors, screens and sound systems. This makes the halls useful for conferences, seminars and local training and learning events.

To help village halls move into digital age, Wiltshire's 18 Area Boards are inviting bids for funding for digital equipment - things like wireless networks, ceiling-mounted projectors, screens and speaker systems.

By having permanent presentation equipment installed, halls can be hired out for things such as training local people in how to use the internet, community reporters, and other functions and events and will save charities and other local organisations having to buy or borrow the equipment (and get it there!)

There are 18 area boards in Wiltshire and they all have a small amount of funding.  
Melksham Community Matters



## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

There was a rogue trader incident recently. A man knocked on an elderly lady's door and offered garden work. She asked how much it would be to cut two branches down and he said 550- to which she thought he meant £5.50p, so she agreed. He carried out the work and then went on to cut her hedge - she asked him to stop as she had not agreed to this. He then asked her for 550 and she gave him £5.50p. He became very verbally aggressive and refused to take the money stating that he meant £550. The lady was fortunately very switched on and able and told him that she would not pay him any more than £5.50 and had no cash in the house. The number plate of the white transit van was LB56HKT with "Acorn Tree and Landscaping" on the side. 2 men were on board (one late 20's and one late teens) they also had a child in the van. They left with no payment making threats to return. Please do not agree to have work carried out by these individuals and if he is seen visiting vulnerable addresses call 101 or 999 if a crime is happening.

We are frequently told not to deal with trades people who telephone or call at your door (to tell you your chimney is falling off but they can fix it!). You should only deal with reputable traders that you call in. There is an organisation called Ratedpeople.com - search on Google to get in touch. They are probably slightly more expensive than others, but the two we have used were excellent in every respect. I'm afraid you need a computer and the internet to contact them, so if you don't have one try and get a friend to do it.

We have been asked by Colin Goodhind, of the Melksham Community Area Board, to ask all NHW co-ordinators if they, or anyone they know, would be interested in being a volunteer to help monitor the CCTV system covering Melksham town, when it is up and running. They are looking for a pool of approximately 30 volunteers to offer just a few hours a week each, or whatever they can spare. They say they appreciate that everyone leads very busy lives but if you do know of anyone who would be prepared to offer their time, please let me know and I can then give Colin some figures and get back to you when the system goes on line. This really is a very important and worthwhile tool being put in place to help keep everyone using the town to be safe and minimise crime and antisocial behaviour. (Who knows, we might have one in Semington soon!)

Paul Bowyer



## Melksham market attracts the crowds

A new market in Melksham is attracting shoppers with its local produce.

Fish, fruit and veg and other products have been piled high on market stalls at the Church Street Car Park venue.

John Thomson, cabinet member for markets said: "People love the variety and local feel of their own market and the plan is for this new venture in Melksham to really boost the town, creating a lively atmosphere that will bring shoppers from all over to enjoy what's on offer."

The Melksham market is open every Tuesday from 9am to 2pm and will sell a variety of goods including fruit and vegetables, cheese, meat, fish, bread, pet food, flowers, cards, home furnishing and household products.