

JUNE 2014
SEMINGTON

PARISH



MAGAZINE

Vicar:
Revd. Stephen Ball
22 Warren Road
Staverton
Trowbridge BA14 8UZ
Tel. 01225 774903
sb54rev@gmail.com

Semington Diary JUNE 2014



4th	Wednesday	Kids Klub	6 - 7pm	St. George's School
		Christians in Semington	7.45-9.30pm	10 Pound Lane
5th	Thursday	SEM Skittles v Subs	8.15pm	Village Hall
6th	Friday	Library Van	9.50am	Village Hall
11th	Wednesday	Kids Klub	6 - 7pm	St. George's School
		Bible Study	7.45pm	17 Highfield Close
12th	Thursday	Afternoon - SEM Skittles		Away
		SEM WI	7.00pm	Village Hall
15th	Sunday	QUIZ	7.30pm	Village Hall
16th	Monday	Belly Dance	6.30pm	Village Hall
18th	Wednesday	SEM PC	8.00pm	Village Hall
		Kids Klub	6 - 7pm	St. George's School
19th	Thursday	Village Hall AGM	7.00pm	Village Hall
		SEM Skittles v Lacock	8.00pm	Village Hall
20th	Friday	Library Van	9.50am	Village Hall
21st	Saturday	Italian Food Night	8.00pm	Village Hall
		Tickets £8 & £9		
25th	Wednesday	Bridge Class	9 - 1pm	Village Hall
		Kids Klub	6 - 7pm	St. George's School
		Bible Study	7.45pm	17 Highfield Close
26th	Thursday	SEM Skittles v Wreckers	8.00pm	Village Hall

EVERY WEEK IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Bingo	Monday	7.30pm
Post Office	Monday & Thursday	AM
Stompers	Tuesday	2.30 - 3.30pm
Bridge Club	Tuesday & Friday	9.15 - 1pm
Zumba fitness	Wednesday	6.30pm - 7:30pm
WWSPA/Shine	Friday	4 - 6pm
Semingtones Choir	Friday	6 - 7:30pm

MAGAZINE DEADLINES & ADVERTISING

Details of village events and any subsequent changes by the 15th of the preceding month to Leon Karas, 8 The Hunt Close, Tel. 870708, or email **semparmag1@outlook.com**. Information will also go to Village website. Next deadline is 15th June for the combined July & August issue. For all advertising enquiries, please contact Jeremy Tyler on 870708 or email **jez_tyler@hotmail.com**. Please note we are now fully subscribed.



Fête July 5th – update

We have: Wessex Contraband and Run for Cover (a band with former Village School pupils), Steam Train Rides, our School performing their dance routine, Plant Stall, Cakes, Hog Roast, Beer Tent, Silent Auction, Coconut Shy, Teas, etc. etc.

Needs: Cakes (please bring to the school on fête day), Groceries, Bottles (of all kinds!), Plants, Home-made Produce, items from Granny's Attic, Books, Toys and Gifts (no jumble thank you).

ALSO a "Fruitandveg" Animal Competition: go to town and create your own amazing creature using any kind of fruit and veg. Certificates will be awarded for those in Year 6 and below and those in Year 7 to 99 years old.

AND a Grand Tug of War (or it will be if you enter a team!!) We need teams of 5 people (all male, all female, all children, all adults or any combination). Sign up on the day. See you there!!

News: Our chosen charity for this year is Hope for Tomorrow, a charity favoured by Carole Kemp-Potter, our late Magazine Editor. It is a national cancer charity dedicated to bringing cancer treatment closer to patients' homes. Their Mobile Chemotherapy Units effectively reduce the long distances of travel and waiting times for treatment that patient's often endure, and also help them to avoid the stresses and strains of busy Oncology Centres. A van called "Kayleigh" serves Wiltshire while "Bumble" serves Somerset.

Kids' Klub - June 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th, 6-7pm. You are welcome if you are in school years 3-6, the cost is still 30p! We play games, have stories, make things, generally have fun! More information from Bev Woodward, 870784 or Maureen Norton, 871424.

Bible Study - 7.45pm, Wednesday 11th June - 31 Pound Close, 25th June - 10 Pound Lane. Everyone welcome - we're all learning together. More information from Jack Woodward 870784.

Christians in Semington - Wednesday 4th June, 7.45 - 9pm, 10 Pound Lane. Join us to pray for our community.

Welcome. I am sure all Villagers will welcome our new Parish Magazine Editor Leon Karas who is producing June's Magazine as his first . If there are errors I am sure you will be as forgiving as you were of me last month. Hopefully Leon will be fully up and running ready for a perfect July/August Magazine. Maureen Norton, temporary Editor.

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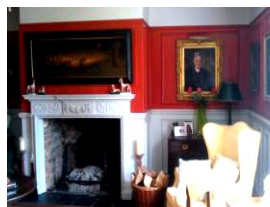
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St John's Catholic Social Group

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Info: Francis Geraghty 01380 871083. f.geraghty303@btinternet.com

CAROLE KEMP-POTTER - from her husband David and from Julia Wade, former editor.

David Kemp-Potter: We have only lived in this village for some seven years but have been made very welcome. Carole really joined in by instigating the Semington Bridge Club, starting the Book Club, assisting with coffee mornings, messy church and church flowers. She was an active member of the Phoenix Club and of course edited the Parish Magazine for some five years. My son and I are very grateful for the number of cards of sympathy we received and for the support from those who attended the service.

Julia Wade: As the previous Editor of the Semington Parish Magazine before Carole, I am able to testify to the amount of work it takes to produce it and so I would like to pay tribute to Carole and the effort she put into producing a really good magazine. From the moment she started as Editor, she put her own stamp on the magazine and showed her journalistic background in the changes she made. I was unaware of her background at the time when I had a couple of very enjoyable hand-over sessions with her – talk about teaching your Grandmother to suck eggs! Rather embarrassing in retrospect, but Carole was extremely gracious and we had a great laugh. Producing a good magazine really mattered to Carole and she threw herself into it wholeheartedly. For that, and her fantastic sense of humour, I am very grateful.



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Semington Churchyard

The churchyard at our village church is covered by some very strict rules regarding memorial stones. Recently a few people have fallen foul of the regulations with costly results. There are now forms on the table in the church from the Salisbury Diocese Office with the full details. Full information is available from the Vicar and on line at:
<http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/whos-who/registry/churchyards-headstones-and-burials/#memorials-in-churchyards>.

Extracts from the regulations:

Churchyards are legally owned by the incumbent (Vicar) of the church, during his term of office. No agreement should be entered into with any stonemason or funeral director before the written authorisation of the incumbent has been obtained. Because a churchyard is a public place, and because gravestones will remain in place for many years, some degree of control has to be exercised over inscriptions. They should be simple, dignified and reverent.

The incumbent does not have authority to allow any of the following:

- Kerbs, railings, fencing, chippings, statues or any stone in the shape of a heart.
- Anything fixed to or hung upon any monument, including insignia, crosses, images, models, paintings or photographs.
- Plastic and other synthetic materials.
- Artificial flowers except remembrance poppies from 20th Oct. to 20th Dec.
- Any carving other than flora, fauna and small crosses.
- Any badge or insignia other than of the armed forces.

Stone should be natural and with a non-reflecting finish. The type and colour of the stone should be in keeping with what is commonly used locally, and in particular with that used for the church itself, if stone built. If granite is used it must not be polished above eggshell, and dark grey, black or any colour not in keeping with the local environment are prohibited.

All interments, including ashes, whether in a previous grave or a new plot must pay the requisite fee. Current table of fees is on display in the church porch.

Revd. Stephen Ball



FROM THE CHURCH REGISTER

Funeral : Carole Louise Kemp-Potter

A private family service was held at St George's Church on Friday 2nd May 2014. This was followed by a service of celebration of Carole's life at West Wiltshire Crematorium, Semington. We pray that Carole's family and friends will know God's love, peace, comfort and strength at this sad time.

Wedding : Kelly Marie Bates and Martin Nicholas Vines

The marriage of Kelly Bates and Martin Vines took place at St George's Church on Saturday 3rd May 2014. We pray that God will bless this marriage and wish Kelly and Martin great happiness.

Funeral : Pamela Anne Mortimer

A service of celebration for Pamela's life was held at St George's Church on Thursday 8th May 2014. This was followed by a service of committal at West Wiltshire Crematorium, Semington. We pray that Pamela's family and friends will know God's love, peace, comfort and strength at this sad time.

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QUIZ NIGHT



The May quiz was set by Brian and Steve with a very wide ranging set of topics. We learned that

if you confuse your Brinnell scale with your Scoville scale you could end up with the hardest chillies in town. Can you name the first football player to be knighted, and who was the first footballer to get a transfer fee of a million pounds? What famous dish are you likely to be served at the Rovers Return?

The quiz was closely fought with just a couple of points separating the top three teams. In third place were the **Infamous Five**, in second place were the **Conchitas**, and the winners were an impromptu team formed on the night by **Peter, Leslie and Stuart**.

The marathon round was a picture quiz to identify famous screen detectives - the actors and detectives full names were needed for maximum points. Now what was Kojak's first name again? This quiz was won by the **Conchitas** who have volunteered to set the next quiz on the 15th June - this should give them all enough time to grow their goatee beards which were sadly missing on Sunday.

The dates for the next two quiz nights are **Sunday 15th June and the 13th July**. All are welcome, and if you do not have a team of your own there are always teams who will be glad of an extra brain to help out. Teams are of up to six people. It costs just £1 for each player and an extra £1 per team for the marathon. There are always prizes for at least the first two teams in the main quiz and a cash prize for the winner of the marathon.

ANSWERS: Sir Stanley Matthews was the first footballer to be knighted. Trevor Francis was the first to command a million pound transfer fee. Betty's hotpot is the staple diet of the Rovers regulars.

COLIN WADE

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Horses. Yes I know we haven't all got one but you may be interested to know that the police regularly publish Horsecwatch, especially for those who own one. It contains advice about keeping your fences in good condition, locks on your horsebox, etc.

Other news.

There have been 11 catalytic convertors stolen from vehicles since 5th April in our area, so if someone tries to sell you one down the pub, the police would be very interested to hear from you. (These thefts weren't in Semington by the way, but take care.) Batteries stolen from electric fence units is an ongoing problem, and we are seeing a general increase in scrap metal theft countywide again.

On Friday of last week:

A man called at a reader's door saying he was from Argos and that he was there to upgrade the circuit board on her washing machine. He also said that she should have received a letter from them making the appointment for that day. She had not received a letter and had not got her machine from Argos, so she didn't let him in, but he was very polite and looked like he had the correct ID. When he left she phoned Argos and of course they said they had no knowledge of the man.

Finally:

Just a general reminder not to leave windows open on your property with the warmer weather (er, pardon?) when going out for the day. **Paul Bowyer 870512**

MAGAZINE EDITOR'S NOTE

This is my first edition and I want to thank **Maureen Norton** (acting temporary editor) for all the constructive help she has given me. I volunteered as Editor because I wanted this Church Council magazine to continue on the strong path which previous editors and its many magazine contributors have already laid down. It is also my personal contribution to our village life.

If you have any **new items** which you think would interest or help our local community, please email me at **semparmag1@outlook.com** or call me on **01380 870708**. Unusual hobbies, amazing trips, surprising good deeds, special events? Just let me know.

Jonathon Seed wrote some few months ago of the Wiltshire Online initiative which is attempting 2 key goals. The first is to make fast broadband using optical fibre available to at least 90% of the Wiltshire community. The second is to give all adults **free**, yes **free(!)** help and training to access and use this fast internet technology. Training is provided through volunteers called "digital champion volunteers". And yes, you have guessed, I am one of those volunteers. Training can be on any device which uses internet access such as laptops, computers, tablets, smartphones, Kindles, etc.

But to make use of this **free service**, you have to register with Wiltshire Online at www.wiltshireonline.org or by ringing 01225 793349. Once registered, a Co-ordinator will contact you and will allocate you to one of the volunteers. He or she will then arrange suitable times and places for your one on one training.

So if you want to be get up to speed and impress your children and grandchildren, sign up **NOW**. And it's all free and at your convenience!



St. George's C of E Primary School



www.st-georges-semington.wilts.sch.uk

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

Since January I have been acting as the head-teacher of the school on a seconded basis but I was delighted to accept the governing body's offer of the position on a permanent basis from September. I feel very privileged to be given the opportunity to lead the school forwards. Since coming to St George's I have found the community to be very caring and I'm looking forward to continuing to encourage our children to have high expectations of themselves now and into the future.

St George's has been given an exciting opportunity to become part of a Multi Academy Trust. This will be along with the following schools: Melksham Oak, Seend, St Mary's Broughton Gifford, Bowerhill, The Manor and Shaw. The Trust will enable even greater collaboration between schools than we have at present and further enhance the learning experiences and opportunities of all our children. The trust will be known as 'ATOM', which stands for the Academy Trust Of Melksham.

In early May, 23 of our Y4, 5 & 6 children did a superb job representing the school at the West Wilts Tag Rugby Tournament. One team finished third in the first league games and so entered the Shield competition where they were knocked out in the quarter finals. The other team finished fifth in their league and entered the Vase competition; they made it to the final and finished runners-up. The children played with an excellent attitude and handled defeat and victory equally well and made the school very proud of both their attitude and efforts. Also in May our Y6 students did their end of primary school SAT papers. The attitude and effort they showed throughout the week was very impressive and as a school we are very proud of them.

In the last 2 weeks there has been a lot of excitement at St George's. This is the result of having very kindly been given some chick eggs. The children, staff and some parents and visitors have watched in fascination as the chicks have hatched and grown. They have been checking on the chicks each day and watching closely the changes they are going through.



Finally, the Friends of the school held a very successful film night to raise funds for the school and provide the children with yet another wonderful experience.

"Good in every category—2013"

Gordon Campbell, Headteacher

CATHOLIC NEWS

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St John's Sunday Masses : Saturday (Vigil) 6pm; Sunday 10.30am & 6pm

Weekday Masses: Mon: 9am; Tues: 6pm; Wed: 12.10pm; Fri 6pm Sat: 10am; 6pm (Vigil)

Rosary: Weekdays before Mass. SVP Fri 6.45pm

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

St Bernadette's Sunday Mass - 9am **Weekday Mass** -Thursday 11 am

Confessions/Reconciliation before Mass and any time on request.

THE NEW 300 CLUB 2014

Subscriptions: £50 annually - £13 quarterly - £4.33 monthly. New members are most welcome to join at any time. Prizes are: £200-£70-£50-£10 -£5 monthly. Information and application form from Francis Geraghty – details below

SHARING OUR FAITH. The Group meets in the Parish Centre Trowbridge on Wednesdays from 8-9pm. This is open to anyone wishing to learn more about the Catholic Church.

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

LIVING YOUR FAITH – SUMMER CAMPS 2014

These very exciting events will take place at Our Lady's Homestead, Nympsfield, Glos. The events for children aged 7 to 11 years runs 4th – 8th August and for 12 to 16 years old runs 11th to 15th August. **Details 07847 915415.**

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2014. This will take place from 22nd to 29th August. Details phone Canon Liam 01225 752152.

AUCTION OF PROMISES & SMALL GOODS—Friday 6th June in St John's Parish Centre, viewing from 7pm. Admission £2 to include wine & nibbles.

MASS TIMES at NEARBY CATHOLIC CHURCHES

St Joseph's, West Lavington (01380 723572) Mass on Sunday at 9am

Immaculate Conception, Devizes (01380 723572) Mass-Saturday 6pm and Sunday 10.30am and 5.00pm

St Anthony Melksham(01225 702128)Mass - Saturday 5.30pm, Sunday 9.30am

St George's Warminster (01985 212329)Mass - Saturday 6pm, Sunday 8am & 10am

(For information on any of the above contact Francis Geraghty 01380 871083 email: f.geraghty303@btinternet.com)

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WILTSHIRE COUNCIL NEWS FROM JONATHON SEED

As Joel Gray famously sang in Cabaret 'Money makes the world go around'. Luckily we are not faced with the hyperinflation and political instability of pre-war Berlin but the lyrics are still accurate and money still makes the world go around.

As you have already received your Council Tax bills you will know that the Wiltshire Council part has been frozen again for the fourth year in a row. The average household will have saved £382 over the last five years even when just compared with inflation.

The Police, Fire and Rescue elements have increased by a smidgeon under 2% and Parish Councils have made their own decisions on their own precepts. Wiltshire Council's gross annual budget is almost £900 million – including schools and public health which are directly funded by central government. The net budget (after taking out schools and public health) for 2014/15 is £333 million and is almost £7.5 million lower than last year (2013/14).

This is a bit technical but what it says in plain English is that we have once again had to manage increased demand, such as the increasing costs of looking after elderly residents and inflation, with less money from government and without increasing Council Tax. In summary it's tough as we have had to save over £26 million as compared with last year but that is what the Administration of Wiltshire Council is there for!

One of the great joys of being a Wiltshire Councillor with a role in the Administration (or Cabinet as we refer to it in County Hall) is getting out and meeting people across our diverse and very special County. In my Cabinet role over the past year I have visited all of our 23 Leisure Centres and all of our 31 Libraries and by the end of next month I will have attended meetings of all of our 18 Community Area Boards. This has been a big task but it has also given me a great opportunity to meet the dedicated staff who make our Wiltshire services and democracy work and to see just how effective our new "localism" is in our communities.

In Wiltshire we have taken a decision to maintain our library, leisure and some youth service offerings when other local authorities are cutting theirs and we have also chosen to think "outside the box" and place these services as well as some highways projects all under community management by Community Area Boards.

We are also trying to deliver the physical and community aspects of these services through Community Area Campuses with the first Campus opening next month in Corsham and a whole raft of others, including our own Melksham Community Area Campus, opening by the end of 2016.

In order to get all of this to work we go back to money making the world go around and are having to make efficiencies. Wiltshire Council is trying hard to do much more with much less money and the only way we can do that is to succeed in our core goal of creating more resilient communities and encouraging local people to help shape and deliver their local services. Wiltshire Council has been encouraging local people to volunteer to help to run local services and this has already been a spectacular success with the library service and there will be many more opportunities to volunteer to help to run local services in the future.

So although money clearly does make the world go around, here in Wiltshire we are determined to deliver more services with less money and make our communities more resilient.

Jonathon Seed

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NATURE NOTES

The Soote Season

THE soote season, that bud and bloom forth brings
With green hath clad the hill, and eke the vale;
The nightingale with feathers new she sings;
The turtle to her make hath told her tale.
Summer is come, for every spray now springs;
The hart hath hung his old head on the pale;
The buck in brake his winter coat he flings;
The fishes float with new repaired scale;
The adder all her slough away she slings;
The swift swallow pursueth the flies small;
The busy bee her honey now she mings;
Winter is worn that was the flowers' bale.
And thus I see among these pleasant things
Each care decays, and yet my sorrow springs.



This is by **Henry Howard**, Earl of Surrey, and first cousin to Anne Boleyn. He was executed, age 30, in 1547 having lost the trust of that other, more powerful, Henry. Howard is known, with Sir Thomas Wyatt, as the father of the English sonnet.

soote, sweet; **eke**, also; **turtle**, turtledove; **make**, mate;
brake, thicket; **minges**, mingles or remembers.



THE BOOK CLUB

I've taken over the challenge of running the Semington Book Club. Our next meeting will be on **Wed 4 June at 7.30pm in The Somerset Arms**. We will be giving our opinions on '**Solo**' by **William Boyd** and thinking about the next book for everyone to read. New or returning members are welcome, so just turn up if you wish to join. Every member gets the chance to select a book for all to read. If anyone wishes to have a meal in the pub at the end of the meeting that is possible but not obligatory.

Angela Grodzicka



mot@kingautoservices.co.uk

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Semington WI May Meeting. Our May meeting was a bit different this month. The theme was a swishing evening, with tea and cake and lots of chat. Swishing is an attempt to recycle pre-loved garments and accessories, a way to refresh your wardrobe in an inexpensive way and have an impact on the thousands of perfectly good clothes thrown away every year, by women in the western world. Does this mean do you ask, that men are innocent of this extravagant practise? Well without naming names or pointing fingers, most of the men I know are quite happy to wear their clothes until the said items fall to bits or have more mends than original fabric. Maybe I do the male of the species an injustice, but I have seen some husbands dragged kicking and screaming into M&S, by long suffering wives trying desperately to buy their other halves a new pair of trousers. I can't help thinking that if our men-folk had hosted a swishing evening, they may well have gone home with the donation from their wardrobe that they had come with! Our programme for the rest of the year promises some very entertaining talks and demonstrations, from a Lebanese food tasting evening, to a brilliant talk from an expert on life in the trenches in WW1. Keep your eyes on this space, and don't forget Semington WI are always pleased to welcome visitors to their meetings, in the village hall every second Thursday of the month. Next month we are having a talk on first aid, on Thursday June 12th. **Carole Ball**

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 PCC Secretary, Jack Woodward, 31 Pound Close or telephone 870784. If you require the heating to be put on, please ask at time of booking.

The Village Bible Study Group meets regularly for prayer and study—it all sounds very boring but actually we have lively, wide ranging discussions and never an evening passes without laughter between us all. Why not try us out? Ring 871424 for more information.



Edited Minutes of PC Meeting 14th May 2014 at 8:30pm in the Village Hall

Neighbourhood Policing. PC Thomas had sent the Clerk a written summary report of 16 reported incidents in Semington over the last year. Cllr. Oglesby reminded councillors that some parishioners had complained about the **indiscriminate vehicle parking** in the village, such as near the School/ Pound Close, and had enquired whether white kerbside lines could be painted on the road as a deterrent. Cllr. Smyth said he had spoken to Stuart Renfrew on this subject and he had indicated that such white lines were only appropriate where there are clear incidences of obstruction. The Clerk advised that in order to progress this matter it may be advisable to raise this at the CATG meeting and to consider whether the Parish Council would match fund any cost if Wiltshire Council supported the proposal.

Planning. The Parish Council noted the status of the following existing planning applications:

14/01696/FUL	7 The Hunt Close	Proposed rear extension	Pending
14/01401/LBC	30 Semington House	Replace existing lean-to with garden room. Reface south end of eastern lean-to.	Approved
14/02026/FUL	Littleton Stables	Retention of existing dwelling and construction of a single storey extension	Approved
14/02175/FUL	Brickfield Farm, Littleton	Stables and Outbuilding	Pending
14/02595/FUL	Aidans Field Farm Devizes Road	Construction of an agricultural dwelling	Pending
14/03102/FUL	1 High Street	Construction of flood alleviation wall and associated flood storage compensation	Approved

The Council examined the following planning applications and resolved to send comments to Wiltshire Council as shown in italics:

14/04110/FUL	Greenacres Mobile	Ancillary Day Room(Retrospective)
James Taylor	Home Park	Comments by 15/5/14

The application is incomplete. There are insufficient details relating to the dimensions of the Day Room. No scaled drawings have been provided. The Planning Inspector at the Appeal Hearing required the existing Day Room (and presumably this Day Room is the subject of this retrospective planning application) to be reduced in height. The Inspectors decision must be respected. The existing Day Room is a two storey building – not a Day Room as is commonly defined. The Parish Council seeks an explanation as to why the Inspector's decision has been ignored, why no enforcement notice has been served and why Wiltshire Council Development Control has sought to contrive a retrospective planning application to circumvent the Inspector's decision.

The following planning application was received after 7 May 2014. The Council examined this planning application and resolved to send comments to Wiltshire Council as shown in italics:

14/04565/FUL	2 Pound Close	Proposed new dwelling	NEW
<i>The Parish Council has no comments.</i>			

Cllr. Scott confirmed that Wiltshire Council had delivered the '**Rural Housing Needs Survey**' forms and he would deliver them to the Newsletter distributors for delivery to parishioners.

Finance. The Clerk reported the current financial position at 15 May 2014 – details available on request.

Highways/Environment. Cllr. Smyth stated that he had spoken to Stuart Renfrew, the Wiltshire Council Highways and Streetscene Focal Point and had raised the issues of **vehicle parking** on the pavements and **grass cutting** and he added that Mr Renfrew had noted that the judging for the **Best Kept Village Competition** was soon to take place. Cllr. Smyth reported that Wiltshire Council had now assumed the responsibility for cutting back the vegetation overhanging the footpath alongside the Village Hall. Cllr. Rimmer stated that he would make an S96 application to Wiltshire Council for **planting shrubs** along the earth bund at Littlemarsh and he invited Cllr.

Scott to investigate possible species of plants that would be suited to that environment. It was agreed that planting details will be decided at a subsequent PC meeting. Cllr. Smyth cautioned that following discussions with Mr Renfrew careful consideration must be given to the exact location of any planting and that local landowners should be consulted. Cllr. Scott offered to request Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to undertake a **full survey of Semington** and its environs and for it to propose suitable local environmental schemes and the means of encouraging wildlife to thrive in the area. Councillors supported this proposal. The PC resolved to thank **Martin Bray and Les Hiscock** for their hard work and voluntary effort in maintaining the Village's grass verges.

Semington War Memorial. The Clerk confirmed that the order for the renovation of the War Memorial and associated works had been placed on James Long (Masons) Ltd of Trowbridge following the last PC meeting.

Wilts & Berks Canal. Cllr. Smyth reported that the Wilts & Berks Canal Working Group is in abeyance awaiting approval of the planning application. There is still some environmental assessment work to be completed. He commented that not all of the funding required for the project is yet available for the Melksham Link and it is thought that landowners were waiting for the plans to be approved before they submit their plans for development and thereby providing the means for additional funds.

Any Other Business. Cllr. Smyth – It was agreed that a Village-wide **Litter Pick** will take place on Monday 19 May 2014 at 6pm starting at the Village Hall. Cllr. Scott reported that the **Canal and River Trust** had still not removed the graffiti on the canal bridges that he had reported over a year ago despite a reminder and a promise by the Trust to attend to it directly.

Dates of Next Ordinary PC Meetings. 18 June 2014, 16 July 2014, 17 September 2014 (Provisional)



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 Dioceses of Salisbury**

Dear friends.

When I was growing up getting a model aircraft kit for a birthday was considered to be a good present. I loved them but, for some reason, they didn't like me. They required me to be meticulous and careful; I was neither. They required me to read instructions and follow them and I preferred to just stick them together because I knew better. What? Paint the pilot *before* putting him in the cockpit? Why that would take weeks and I only had one hour. There were always bits left over and there were always tears and tantrums and my dad invariably took over and brought the ill fated project to a conclusion.

I wonder how many of you men still try and assemble flat pack furniture without reading instructions. In a very real sense I failed miserably as a child where Airfix kits were concerned. You might have discerned that I was not a practical child. So then, how come I ended up as a carpenter/cabinet maker working patiently on intricate commissions all day every day for a considerable period of my life? Well, for a start I grew up and then, along the way, someone taught me to persevere and never give up. Someone taught me that failure was the key to success.

For some people 'failure' is a dirty word; 'failure is not an option'. With respect, giving up should not be an option. Failure is a great gift and gives us great gifts. When we fail at something we are given an opportunity to grow, to become a better human being. It allows us to reflect on what we might do next time; it allows us to seek the wisdom and advice of others; it allows us to improve techniques and discover better materials; it allows us to become listeners, learners and it teaches us humility. Most importantly it allows us to empathise with others and become mentors who understand life's tricks and turns.

The 'big' society we live in applauds success and rewards those who do well but it excoriates those who fail; bullying or verbally crucifying them on Twitter or Facebook; and if they are public figures, in the press or on television. At the same time most individuals would recognise the value of failure. Strange aren't we? It seems to me that we should always remember our own journey, our own failures and victories as well as those who mentored us before pointing the finger at others.

Peter the Apostle was always putting his foot in it, always speaking out of turn. All of his indiscretions could be forgiven; after all he was bumbling and clumsy, a bit of a lovable, comical character. How could he, though, be forgiven for denying that he even knew Jesus, after Jesus' arrest, (*John 18:15*) especially after he had vociferously claimed that he would die for him (*John 13: 37*). So poignant then the way in which Jesus not only forgave him, after his resurrection, but also restored him to full fellowship and friendship (*John 21 15-17*). As we read on through the New Testament it is often clear what Peter had learned from his failures and how that affected the way he related to others. In his greatest weakness he found acceptance, strength, healing, hope and a future in Jesus - and we can too.

Every blessing.

Stephen (Rector) 01225 774903 sb54rev@gmail.com

SEMINGTON WAR MEMORIAL

Following successful fund raising, the refurbishment of our war memorial, to mark the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the great war, has been completed by James Long (Masons) of Trowbridge. A service of re-dedication will take place on **Sunday 3rd August 2014 at 3.00pm** in the churchyard (or if wet, inside the church). The regimental associations of the Royal Navy, Royal Engineers, Wiltshire Regiment and the Korean War Veterans will be attending with their standards. Afternoon tea will be at the village hall following the service. We hope all of you will support this important service.

Ray Heard

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.

Church Services JUNE 2014	St. George's Semington	St Michael's Hilperton	St. Mary Magdalen's Horse Rd Hilperton Marsh	St. Mary the Virgin Whaddon
Sunday 1st June	9.15 am Parish Communion	8 am Holy Communion 11 am Together in Worship	11 am Parish Communion	
Sunday 8th June	9.15 am Morning Prayer	9.15 am Parish Communion 11am Methodist Service	6 pm Evening Worship	8 am BCP Communion
Sunday 15th June	6.00pm Evening Worship	11am Together in Worship	4 pm Tea Time Service	
Sunday 22nd June	9.15 am Together in Worship	9.15 am Parish Communion 11am Methodist Service	11am Parish Communion	
Sunday 29th June				11am Benefice Service with Picnic