

MAY 2015
SEMINGTON

PARISH



MAGAZINE

Vicar:
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Staverton
Trowbridge BA14 8UZ
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Semington Diary



May 2015

2nd	Saturday	Books, Bacon & Soup	12-2pm	Village Hall
7th	Thursday	Voting for MP for Chippenham	7am-10pm	Village Hall
9th	Saturday	Semington Slog	10am	St George's
14th	Thursday	SEM WI	7.30pm	Village Hall
17th	Sunday	Quiz Night	7.30pm	Village Hall
20th	Wednesday	Annual PC Meeting	8pm	Village Hall
		Ordinary PC Meeting	just after	Village Hall

EVERY WEEK IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Bingo	Monday	7.30pm
Post Office	Monday & Thursday	9.30am - 12.30
Stompers	Tuesday	2.30 - 3.30pm
Bridge Club	Tuesday & Friday	9.15 - 1pm
Zumba fitness	Wednesday	6.30pm - 7.30pm
Coffee Morning	Thursday	10 - 12noon
Semingtones Choir	Friday	6 - 7.30pm

BIG THANK YOU!

Bob and Maureen Norton want say a big thank you to all in Semington who have made our 16 years here in the village such an enjoyable experience. We are sad to leave but feel it is time to move on and return to the south coast where we lived the rest of our lives. The Village community has been really welcoming and if you live in the Village we would recommend the weekly Coffee Morning and of course the wonderful Village Christian community too especially that experienced at Messy Church. Thank you all and we will continue to pray for the Village from our new home.



VILLAGE EVENTS & NEWS

Christians in Semington - Wednesday 6th May, 7.45 - 9pm, 9 Somerset Way. Join us to pray for our community.

Bible Study - 7.45pm, Wednesday 13th & 27th May - Everyone welcome - we're all learning together. More information, including venues, from Jack Woodward 870784.

Messy Church - **Saturday 16th May** 11-1pm in the school hall. There will be more activities, suitable for all ages, and lunch included so that you can forget about cooking for the day. (Suggested donation £1.) Please let us know as soon as possible if you can come, so that we have enough food! Phone Bev/Jack on 870784 or text 07922 105084. *Please note that Messy Church is for all ages, but children must bring an adult.*

MAGAZINE DEADLINES & ADVERTISING

Next deadline is Sunday 19th May 2015 for the June issue: email Leon, the Editor, at semparmag1@outlook.com. For all advertising enquiries, please contact Jeremy on 870708 or email jez_tyler@hotmail.com

EDITOR'S NOTES:

In the March edition we included an envelope for you to make a **contribution** for the ongoing support of the Parish magazine and its charitable works. If you have not yet made your contribution, we would very much appreciate it if you could do it now. Our sincere thanks to those who have already contributed.

Good IT tip: As you know, you should make **backups** to an external backup drive for all your computers, tablets, PCs and smartphones in your home, just in case their hard drives stop working (and they will stop working at the most inopportune moment!). But the "Good Tip" is NOT to leave the backup drive near to your devices, but hide it away, because if you do have a burglary, they will take the external drive as well!!!

Read the result of the **Greenacres** planning application on page 7.

And finally, read about the Melksham Link Development **Petition**. There is a link to it on the Semington web site www.semington-village.co.uk.

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Semington WI April meeting

The first meeting of the WI under our new committee was well supported. Sylvia Clark and Carole Ball gave us an insight into the centenary celebrations in Swindon & Tidworth. A good time was had by all who went. An update was also given on our WI skittles team. We came 5th which was very pleasing for a first season. Something we hope to be doing again as it was very enjoyable. The rest of our meeting was to talk about the forthcoming year and the things we would like to see happen in our WI.

Many thanks to Sue Ludlow and Val Swaine who kept us topped up with liquid refreshment and to Emma Connor who made some delicious honeybee cup cakes which sustained us throughout the evening. It turns out that there are many talents within Semington WI and we will be taking the opportunity to learn some of these skills throughout the year as well as inviting guest speakers. Next month our guest will talk about 'Brain Training Techniques for Weight Loss', something which may come in handy with summer just around the corner and if like me you ate too many Easter eggs. Next meeting - Thursday 14th May - 7.30pm - Village Hall. New ladies are very welcome to join us. We look forward to seeing you.

Deb Hurn

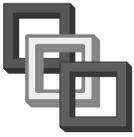
Now that the longer days and lighter evenings are with us our thoughts turn to getting out and about, be it in the garden or further afield. Maybe you would like to get out socially and would like to know more about social activities in your area, or you are thinking about taking up some exercise on a more regular basis? There are some great local walking groups, or gentle exercise classes in the Melksham area. Perhaps you need a bit of extra help with the garden? I can provide you with a list of trusted traders who may be able to help.



As your Good Neighbour Co-ordinator I can provide a range of information. No request is too big or too small, and I can visit you at home, or discuss your needs over the phone. Please contact me if you think you or someone you know would benefit from our service.

Lise Griffiths

T: 07541 353430 E: melkshamgnc@communityfirst.org.uk



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Wiltshire Council's Strategic Planning Committee - Greenacres

This Committee met on April 22nd to consider the application to add an extra 6 pitches to the Greenacres mobile caravan park, filling in the open paddock between the existing development and the crematorium. The committee voted 8 to 3 to approve the application. Conditions were applied, although there was no clear summary of these before the vote was taken.

Two villagers, a member of the Parish Council, and Councillor Jonathon Seed spoke against the proposal. The main points of these objections were: [i] the over-development of the site, [ii] the effects on people's experience of the crematorium, [iii] the lack of mains water at the site, and [iv] the fact that a government planning inspector had made it a condition of planning permission that the paddock area remain undeveloped. The Council's planning officers recommended approval.

Although these objections were reflected in what committee members discussed, it was clear that their site visit earlier in the day had persuaded many that having a traveller site right next to the crematorium was in fact quite ok, and certainly not the problem villagers think it is. Some said that the visit had changed their minds. The majority were quite unconcerned about the condition preventing development next to the crematorium by the planning inspector, and were happy, in effect, to over-rule him. The planning officer present said that the inspector's decision was not relevant as Wiltshire Council does not have a 5 year supply of traveller sites.

Summary by William Scott

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QUIZ NIGHT



Six teams attended the April quiz, which was set by Esme, Philip, Helen, Colin and myself.

We had a Pot Luck, round, one on

April, a Music round on national anthems, a round on computers and computer games, one on costume dramas and a pot luck round inspired by the late Sir Terry Pratchett's Discworld book series.

The Marathon was to identify various birds from their photographs, so knowing a swift from a swallow was useful. Team Terry's Turnips did especially well on the marathon.

The main quiz was very close, with three-quarter, half and even quarter points being awarded.

A couple of sample questions were:- "1961 was the last year to read the same upside down as right way up. When will be the next?" and "In which local village was Downton Abbey recently filmed?"

At half time Terry's Turnips were in the lead, but then dropped to 3rd by a whisker at the end, with Team I told you so! gaining second place by just a quarter of a point! The winners by 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ points were Team Close friends - Pam, David, Sue and Geoff.

We would love to see more people coming to the quiz, so do give it a go. It doesn't matter if you come on your own, we can put you in a team.

NEXT QUIZ: SUNDAY 17 MAY, 7.30 for 7.45pm start.

Answers: 6009 reads the same upside down. Lacock hosted Downton Abbey. Julia Wade

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WILTSHIRE COUNCIL NEWS FROM JONATHON SEED

By the time you read this the General Election will be all but over and our government for the next few years will have been pretty well decided - well less for the negotiations between parties etc etc! We will also have had two Wiltshire Council By Elections and those of us who are heavily involved in political campaigning will either be celebrating or licking our wounds but either way we will be ready for a bit of a break from it all.

In the course of the General Election the law is that there should be no political announcements by either central or local government during the course of the campaign. Sometimes that means that things have to slow down a little in County Hall but generally it is business as usual which in itself is problematic as many Councillors from all Parties are out campaigning and literally hundreds of staff are temporarily involved in election and voting preparations and counting.

One issue that has been progressing during the past weeks is the proposal to build a new link for the Canal between Semington and Melksham. This is estimated to cost £20million and will greatly enhance tourist and visitor use of the canal network, local villages and of course Melksham town centre. To enable this project, a master plan has been drawn up by the canal link Trust and it is hoped that this plan will generate all the funding for the canal link itself.

The first draft of the Master Plan has been unveiled and it is very much in the pre planning stage. Recently it was presented to the Semington Annual Parish Meeting where those residents present voiced real concerns with the layout. This was a useful exchange and it was critical that these concerns were raised at this stage whilst there is plenty of time and scope for altering the plans to accommodate the views of local residents. It is therefore vital that residents do participate and have your say in consultations on this matter as they appear. My personal view on all of this is that I very much support the principle of the canal link and will do all that I can to facilitate a reconciliation of the views of locals and the eventual plan.

Jonathon Seed
07770 774463

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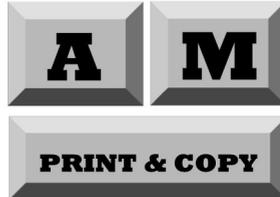


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Keevil Scarecrow Trail-16/17 May 2015

10am to 4pm

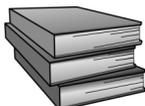
Keevil will be hosting its annual Scarecrow Trail with the theme 'Heroes and Villains'. There are great prizes to be won, each worth £100 and it's a great day out for all ages. Opening the trail will be **TV presenter Paul Martin**. Attractions include a tombola, book & toy stall, plant stall, children's entertainment, BBQ, bar/Pimms tent, home-made cakes, locally made ice-cream, candy floss and a Raffle. Prizes include theatre tickets, meals at local village pubs/restaurants, vouchers for local stores, days out, etc. All proceeds go to Keevil C of E Primary School.



Check out the website – www.kevilscarecrowtrail.co.uk

Easter Monday Great Bulkington Railway - Report

Easter Monday dawned dry and rapidly got warmer – the first locomotive was up and running by about 11am. By 1pm the first customers started to have rides pulled by the Class 20 diesel. An hour later we had a line of people waiting for a ride. We gave rides to over 200 very well behaved children and adults. Meanwhile in the village hall our three hard working ladies were busily selling teas and sticky buns. All cakes were kindly donated by ladies from the village. Proceeds of £120 will go to Christ Church Bulkington funds. We are all very grateful to everybody who came along to support us. Don't forget - the village hall can be hired for a Children's Birthday Party with 2 hours of train rides for £105. **Nev Boulton**



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In the run up to April much hard work was undertaken by school staff and governors towards the process of becoming an academy as part of the ATOM (Academy Trust of Melksham.) The conversion process is now complete and the school looks forward to working with the other schools in the ATOM group.

School life continues – this term pupils can enjoy participating in various clubs and activities including Judo, Violins, Cricket, Gardening, Board Games, and Guitar and Singing lessons. All these activities allow children to have fun and learn outside of the curriculum boundaries.

We are delighted to report that Mrs James (see opposite) has completed the Brighton Marathon on Sunday 12th April. This follows hours of hard work and training and we congratulate her on her achievement. She was sponsored for this event to raise money for the new path around the school field or 'Toe Path', and we are really grateful to her for helping the school in this way.

Saturday May 9th sees us put on our running shoes for our fundraising 'Semington Slog' – a 10k run to raise funds for the 'Toe Path'. Besides the 10k there is also a George and the Dragon Fancy Dress Fun Run for the children and lots more happening - come along and be a part of the day! For more details or to volunteer to help contact victoriafarmer1980@icloud.com or phone Victoria on 01380 870796.

The school Jumble Sale organised by the Friends of St Georges raised £605.98, and the Easter Chocolate Bingo raised £190 – many thanks to everyone who contributed to these events, the money collected will be put to good use by the Friends supporting projects around the school.

The Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers scheme finishes on 5th May – so just a few more days to submit any last ones you have collected. Many thanks for all your donations so far, pupils benefit greatly from this free equipment!

Headteacher: Mr Gordon Campbell



Brighton Marathon 2015

It was over a year ago that a friend persuaded me to enter the marathon, a distance I had never run before. I have now run six half marathons including one in training for the big one, but a marathon was unknown territory for me. Way back then, I pledged to Gordon Campbell, St George's headteacher that I would run to raise funds for the school and when the plans for the Toe Path were drawn up for the school field, it seemed a natural progression for me to run for that very cause.

My training started on 22nd December 2014 and apart from one week off at the end of January due to a niggling Achilles, I have completed 15 weeks of training, running on average four times a week and getting up to 20 miles in my longest training run. I have run on Christmas Day, New Years Day, Valentine's Day, my birthday, Mother's Day, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Training has not always been easy due to minor injuries, illnesses and the good old British weather, running 15 miles in really strong headwinds and driving rain on the 29th March was particularly memorable, but I stuck at it alongside my running partner Amanda who was also running her first marathon.

Marathon day came in the last weekend of the Easter holidays and it was good to wind down (or up) to the big day with gentle runs of shorter distances with lots of rest in between. I did suffer with waking up very early with the birds, in anticipation of the big day but I felt well prepared both physically and mentally.

I had a time goal in mind but that was abandoned in the second half of the race when fatigue kicked in, especially after 21 miles, which was unknown territory again and in a section of the course sparsely populated with supporters. The last four miles of the 26.2 were a mixture of running and walking and the feeling when I crossed the line was one of euphoria, doing so hand in hand with my running partner who ran with me for the whole race.

I have been overwhelmed by the support I have received from the staff and parents of St George's, some of whom tracked my progress on various devices and broadcasted on my behalf on social media. Thank you to those who gave me messages of support and encouragement- it really helped me!

Would I do another one? If you'd asked me one hour afterwards the answer would have been NO! But yesterday morning, I woke up with a familiar urge on the back of having done other long distance races- thinking- yes- I would like to...

Watch this space!

Nicola James

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VILLAGE FETE 2015 - Update

Date: Saturday 4th July St George's School Field 2.00pm

The Fete Committee is delighted to report that there will now be live music during the afternoon from both The Semingtones Ladies Choir and Wessex Contraband. A Hog Roast, Skittles, Bouncy Castle and Zumba Dancing Display are also among the afternoon's events.

When you are spring cleaning, please remember books for the Book Stall and items for Granny's Attic.

Offers of help are always needed and greatly appreciated, especially with setting up stalls and gazebos on the morning of the Fete, helping to run the many stalls during the afternoon and clearing up afterwards. Or.....just come along with your family, friends and money and enjoy a great afternoon!!

More news next month.....

Victoria Shackleton

STEEPLE ASHTON'S INDEPENDENCE DAY FROLIC - 4th July

After our Semington Village fete, why not attend the combined picnic and Church organ concert in the Manor gardens at Steeple Ashton in aid of their Church preservation trust.

Picnic tables and chairs will be available on a first-come basis with wine for sale from 5.30pm onwards.

Peter King, Bath Abbey organist acclaimed as "a virtuoso of world class standing" will showcase American organ music in St Mary's Church at 6.30pm. The audience will be able to see the organist displayed on a large screen in the Church.

Tickets for the concert (centre aisles), entry to the Manor gardens, a welcoming glass of fizz with apple pie and cream to close the evening, cost £20 each.

Tickets for the concert alone (side aisles) are £10 each.

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NATURE NOTES

May 1915

Let us remember Spring will come again

To the scorched, blackened woods, where the wounded trees

Wait with their old wise patience for the heavenly rain,

Sure of the sky: sure of the sea to send its healing breeze,

Sure of the sun, and even as to these

Surely the Spring, when God shall please,

Will come again like a divine surprise

To those who sit today with their great Dead, hands in their hands

Eyes in their eyes

At one with Love, at one with Grief: blind to the scattered things

And changing skies.

Charlotte Mary Mew was born in London in 1869. She is said to have been haunted by unrequited love and the fear of madness throughout her life. Mew is not known as a war poet, but this poem is as much about life and renewed human hope as it is about the seasons. It was written a hundred years ago between the landings at Gallipoli and the first Zeppelin raid on London.



WILTSHIRE GOOD NEIGHBOURS

Working with older people in our rural communities, as your local Good Neighbour Co-ordinator I can provide a range of information and put you in touch with sources of help for any issue, to enable you live a more independent life. I can visit you at home, or help over the phone.

Here are some of the things I have provided information on recently:

Applying for Attendance Allowance

Arranging to install a 'Lifeline'

Finding out about local social activities

Free fire safety checks from Wiltshire Fire and Rescue

Accessing support if you are a carer

Help with transport for care home visits or medical appointments

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



There is a current spam email campaign which is trying to infect email accounts by pretending to come from either Adobe or LinkedIn Support. The emails from LinkedIn claim ‘irregular activities have prompted a compulsory security update’, with the Adobe emails attempting to direct the user to the latest Adobe ‘updates’. These are known as ‘phishing, which is an attempt by a fraudster to steal valuable information by pretending to be a company that you know and use. It relies on people thinking the message is genuine. Victims are initially sent an email that will have either a link to a website, or contain an attachment. What the fraudsters want you to do is click on the link or attachment so that they can steal valuable information from your computer, like your bank account or credit card details

Protect yourself: Look at who the email is addressed to – many will say “Dear user” or “Dear valued customer” and will not be addressed directly to you. If there are images included in the email they may be of a poor quality but will try to look like the company they are trying to represent. The message may have a few spelling mistakes.

Do not click on any links provided on these emails as these release viruses to your computer, which steals your banking details and your address book.

These are clever people; they sometimes disguise their phishing attempts as follows:

‘Dear Sir, Madam, Re: Our Client Bank of Scotland PLC Account No:75050655 Balance:£2,345.00. We are instructed by Bank of Scotland PLC in relation to the above matter . You are required to pay the balance of GBP 2,345.00 in full within 7 (seven) days from the date of this email to avoid Country Court proceedings being issued against you. Once proceedings have been issued, you will be liable for court fees and solicitors costs detailed below. Court Fees GBP 245.00, Solicitors Costs GBP 750.00. Cheques can be sent as below quoting the above account number, or please contact us with your Credit Card details. We will then pass these details on to our Client in order that they may process your agreed payment. Kindly note that If you have any queries regarding this matter or have a genuine reason for non-payment, you should contact us within 7 days from the date of this email to avoid legal proceedings being issued against you, by filling the contact us form in the attachment below or click on the link supplied.’

DO NOT CLICK ON ANY LINKS SUPPLIED; DELETE THE EMAIL IMMEDIATELY.

A quad bike has been stolen from Poulshot Farm Lodge in the early hours of the morning; it belongs to the Operations Director at the Solar Farm. The vehicle was located within a compound but the key was with it. The owner believes that the suspects must have gained access via the bridleway and pushed the vehicle to a waiting van.

Paul Bowyer 870512

Summary Semington Annual Parish Meeting - 8 April 2015

Present: Robert Oglesby(Chairman), Roger Coleman(Clerk), Parish Councillors K. Lockwood, S. Rimmer, R. Robinson and W. Scott. Wiltshire Councillor J Seed also attended the meeting. There were 71 members of the public present for the initial Agenda items and then 10 members of the public present for the remainder of the meeting.

Wilts & Berks Canal (W&BC): A presentation on the proposed renovation of the W&BC and the proposed associated development was given by Mr Paul Lenaerts and Mr Jock Mackenzie, followed by a Question & Answer (Q&A) session. Following this, Cllr. Seed introduced himself to the meeting and made the following observations:

He explained his role as the Wiltshire Council Cabinet Member responsible for Housing, Leisure, Libraries and Flooding and described his actions in respect of recent controversial planning applications and the current position in respect to the planning applications relating to Greenacres and Lansdowne.

He stated that the revised proposal to add six pitches at Greenacres was unacceptable and gave the reasons for this view and added that it conflicted with the Wiltshire Core Strategy. He was hopeful that it would be rejected by the Strategic Planning Committee and cited the refusal by Wiltshire Council of the proposed development at Bromham based on the Wiltshire Core Strategy as evidence of the approach now being adopted by Wiltshire Council. Further, he explained that the site at Lansdowne exhibited breaches of the extant planning permission and that enforcement notices in respect of each breach had now been served on the occupant by Wiltshire Council. In respect of W&BC he commented that he valued and noted the views of the public expressed during the Q&A session and that it would be helpful for members of the public to send their views directly to the Parish Council.

Annual Report of the Parish Council: The Chairman presented a summary of the Annual Report of the Parish Council for 2014-15:

9 councillors for whole year - Full Council (9 members).

11 Ordinary PC Meetings, 1 Annual PC Meeting, 1 Annual Parish Meeting

Consideration of Planning Applications – Around 20 (25 last year)

- Travellers'/Gypsy Sites etc.

- Attending WC Planning Committee meetings.

War Memorial Project (Thanks to Ray Heard)

Neighbourhood Policing Team Activities (Tasking Meeting etc)

- PC Emily Thomas and PCSO Rose Baldock.

Village Environment/Expenditure:

- Semington Jubilee Wood – Time Capsule/Memorial Plaque.

- St George's PCC – Churchyard & Grass Cutting.
- St George's PCC – Village Newsletter.
- Christmas Tree/Christmas Lights.

Defibrillator Project.

Wilts & Berks Canal Trust involvement.

Website – Development/Maintenance.

Donations/Subscriptions: Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

Parish Steward - Footpath Clearance/Brambles/Grass Cutting/Overgrown Hedges.

Footpath by Village Hall – Reduce/Remove hedge?

Highways issues:

- *Reduced Speed limit on A361 road (CATG).*
- *'No Through Road' ignored.*
- *Grass Cutting (e.g. at Roundabout)*

Other Matters:

- *Melksham Community Area Board involvement plus Area Board grant.*
- *Melksham Campus (Support).*
- *Consideration/Consultation on numerous WC Documents.*

Parish Council accounts for Year ending 31 March 2015: The balance brought forward from 2013/14 is £15620 and, allowing for the payments and receipts during the year, the balance carried forward at the end of 2014/15 is £15211. The total receipts for the year to date are £11050, payments for the year to date total £11460 and the value of the fixed assets owned by the Council is £26793. Out of the balance of £15211 carried forward some £612 represents the remaining donations from the War Memorial Fund and £5306 represents the St George's Development Fund, namely the Tennis Court Fund. The General Reserve at 31 March 2015 was £9292.

Matters raised by those present:

(1) Canal Bridge – Vehicle parking on the bridge is dangerous as it prevents a view of oncoming traffic when travelling over the bridge. Cllr. Seed advised this should be raised with the Wiltshire Council Community Area Transport Group.

(2) Semington Information Board – Consideration should be given to the purchase of an information board to advise visitors of local footpaths and areas or features of interest. Cllr. Seed commented that this may attract an Area Board grant.

(3) It was reported that young children were seen playing in the ditch outside the crematorium near to Greenacres.

END OF SUMMARY

Summary - Parish Council (PC) meeting - 22 April 2015

Annual Parish Meeting. The PC noted two matters raised by parishioners. Parking restrictions on the Canal Bridge – Cllr. Robinson is to raise this matter at the CATG Meeting requesting that double yellow lines are installed on the bridge.

Semington Information Board – Cllr. Scott tabled photographs of the Berryfields Information Board. The Chairman requested that a similar board for Semington be considered with proposals discussed at the next PC meeting.

Neighbourhood Policing. PCSO Janet Gould stated there has been no crime reported in Semington over the last month although PCSO Gould wanted all parishioners to be reminded that outbuildings and sheds should always be secured as a Quad Bike had been stolen from Poulshot. PCSO Gould stated that fly-tipping had occurred on the bridleway leading from St Georges Road and she would consider issuing red ‘advice’ notices to motorists parking on the Canal Bridge. Cllr. Oglesby asked if Community Speed Watch scheme could be extended to monitor vehicles ignoring the No Through Road sign at Semington and PCSO Pugh said he would make enquiries.

Wiltshire Council Report. Cllr. Seed reported that the Strategic Planning Committee meeting had approved the 14/10797/FUL – Greenacres Mobile Park application despite vehement and cogent arguments against the application from members of the public, the PC and from him. He was very disappointed with the decision and less than satisfied with the conduct of the meeting (see summary report by Cllr. Scott on page ?).

Planning.

15/01251/FUL 14 The Knapps Erection of 4 bed bungalow and attached garage **REFUSED**

15/02347/CLE 33 Littleton Willows Residential Use (Certificate of Lawfulness) **PENDING**

Defibrillator. The Clerk stated that the payment and agreement for the defibrillator and its cabinet should take place over the next two or three weeks. The PC agreed that it should be delivered to the Clerk who would then pass it on to the Chairman for safe keeping in the Village Hall.

Highways/Environment. Cllr. Smyth asked other councillors to make him aware of any tasks that needed to be undertaken by Wiltshire Council. Current tasks proposed are:

Unwanted vegetation has encroached on to the telephone box and needed removing.

There are numerous weeds on the pavements and gutters that need removing.

Cllr. Rimmer suggested that trees could be planted on the wide verge opposite the Crematorium and that either a small copse or specimen trees could be planted. He asked councillors to give this proposal some thought for the next meeting.

Wilts & Berks Canal. The PC briefly reviewed the presentation given at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Tennis Court. Cllr. Rimmer reported that the net was damaged but it was agreed by councillors that no action was required at present.

Any Other Business. Cllr. Smyth requested all councillors to read his narrative for the Best Kept Village competition and to let him have any comments. Cllr. Bowyer observed that PC meetings are sometimes held at the same time as Area Board meetings. The Clerk agreed that from July he would attempt to make sure there was not a clash. Cllr. Scott reported that

CATHOLIC NEWS

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST TROWBRIDGE & ST BERNADETTE'S WESTBURY PARISH PRIEST CANON LIAM O'DRISCOLL

TELEPHONE 01225 752152 www.stjohnthebaptist.co.uk

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 11am

Confessions/Reconciliation before Mass and any time on request.

DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

This will be led by Bishop Declan from 21st to 28th August. Booking and information from Deacon Dave Wakefield - 07775 895814

THE NEW 300 CLUB 2015

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

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.

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



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

Earlier this week I was listening to someone as they told me about their son's budding career as a racing cyclist. This lad, we'll call him John, has all the potential to become a national and international champion. He is already doing really well in big events but there is a problem. John is quite disciplined and very enthusiastic but what he actually needs to be is *very* disciplined and very enthusiastic. He recently took part in a two day event. On the second day he had to drop out of the race and the medics informed him that he was suffering from dehydration. After completing the first day's task John was supposed to have drunk two litres of fluid, but he didn't and this was the predictable result. John also has trouble sticking to his diet and making sure he gets enough sleep. He is, in fact, a typical teenager but the discipline that this level of cycling demands requires more.

So there is the dilemma. John's parents sacrificially provide everything he needs – time, money, encouragement etc - to achieve his goal but they can't do it for him. John has to want this so much that he is prepared to be totally committed and keep to his disciplines. On the way home from the event John's dad asked if this is really what he wanted. John replied that it truly was. "So", said his father, "What is stopping you?"

That question has haunted me ever since. When an opportunity appears and all the resources are provided, or are at least accessible in some way, and when it is something that I dearly want, there is nothing stopping me from taking up an opportunity.... except me! How I know that to be true and how I wish I had been asked that question more often. What is it that stops us taking hold of opportunities? Sometimes, I suspect, we just like the idea. I liked the idea of being a doctor, swanning around in a white coat with a stethoscope draped round my neck. The actual work involved frightened me to death. I know now that I wouldn't have got through the first year. Fortunately I found out what I really wanted to do and finally my determination matched my goal.

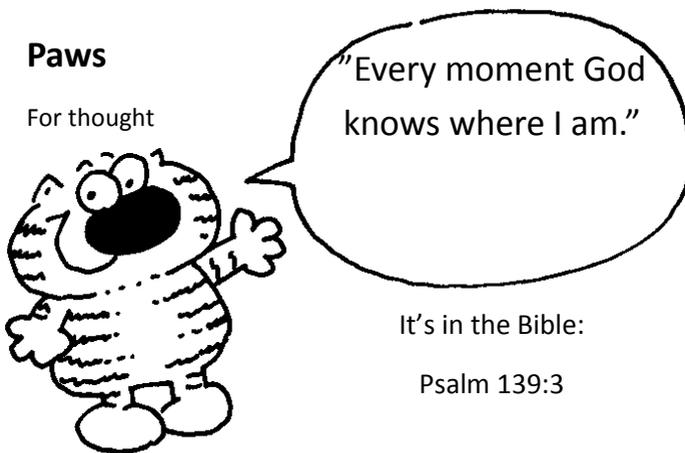
What is stopping you, if you find yourself faced with such a dilemma? Often it is not simply lack of discipline, determination or drive that prevents us; fear can be an inhibitor too. What will happen if.....? What will people say? Will people understand? At 60 I have, more or less, learned not to worry about what people say. The question is, what do you want and what will give you life and fulfillment?

In the Bible Jesus was always encouraging people to move beyond their narrow focus of vision and step out into new and life giving paths. He was also always berating those who prevented others from doing so. Indeed in the Gospel of John he implies that those who prevent life are thieves: *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”* (John 10: 10)

In point of fact it has always been my faith in Jesus and following his teaching and example that has freed me to take hold of opportunities I would only have dreamed of. I deeply commend that path to you too. Look, I am far from perfect and I still have much to work on in my life but stepping out in faith on to new paths and grasping new opportunities has truly given my life meaning. My prayer for you is that you will find the courage to step beyond what is stopping you and grasp life to the full.

Every blessing

Stephen (Rector) 01225 774903 sb54rev@gmail.com



**St. Michael's Hilperton with St. Mary's Whaddon
St. George's, Semington
St. Paul's Staverton with St. Mary Magdalen, Hilperton Marsh**

YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN ANY SERVICE IN THE BENEFICE

May 2015 Sunday Services

St. George's Semington

3rd	May	9.15am	Parish Communion
10th	May	9.15am	Methodist Worship
17th	May	6pm	Evening Prayer
24th	May	9.15am	Together in Worship
31st	May	10am	Benefice Service

St. Michael's Hilperton

3rd	May	8am	Holy Communion / 11am Together in Worship
10th	May	9.15am	Parish Communion / 11am Methodist Service
17th	May	11am	Together in Worship
24th	May	9.15am	Parish Communion / 11am Methodist Service

St. Mary Magdalen Hilperton Marsh

3rd	May	11pm	Parish Communion
10th	May	6pm	Evening Worship
17th	May	4pm	Tea Time Service
24th	May	11am	Parish Communion

St. Mary's Whaddon

10th	May	8am	BCP Communion
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