

**OCTOBER 2015**

**SEMINGTON**

**PARISH**



**MAGAZINE**

**Contact Minister for Semington:**

**Rev. Hugh Hoskins**

**42 St. Mary's Close**

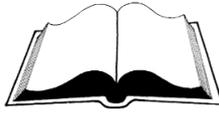
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**Trowbridge BA14 7PW**

**Tel. 01225 781579**

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# Semington Diary



## OCTOBER 2015 (in the Village Hall)

6th & 20th	Sem B Skittles	8pm
13th & 27th	Sem A Skittles	8pm
14th	Parish Council Mtg	8pm
1st, 15th & 22nd	SA Skittles	8pm
2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th	Skittles	8pm
2nd	School Toe Path Opening (St. George's School)	9.10am
6th	School Harvest Festival (Semington Church)	11am
31st	Murder Mystery Evening	7pm
8th	Sem WI	7pm
12th	Defibrillator Awareness	7pm
18th	Quiz Night	7.30pm
25th	Book Club (Somerset Arms)	7.30pm

## 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	6.30 - 7.30pm
Coffee Morning	Thursday	10 - 12noon
Semingtones Choir	Friday	6 - 7.30pm



## VILLAGE EVENTS & NEWS

**Christians in Semington** - Wednesday 7th October, 7.45 - 9pm, 9 Somerset Way. Join us to pray for our community.

**Messy Church** - The 'Messy BBQ' at Brook House was great fun - and lovely sunshine for swimming! On **Saturday 3rd October** we have the next Messy Church, 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 if you can come so that we'll 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.*



### SEMINGTON VILAGE FETE JULY 4TH 2015

*Editor's Note: Apologies for forgetting to insert this into the September Edition. Entirely my fault.*

The Semington Village Fete Committee would like to say a huge "thank you" to everyone who contributed, collected, donated, set up, performed, manned a stall, and of course attended this year's village fete on the school field on July 4th.

It was lovely afternoon, we were entertained by the likes of the Wessex Contraband; Run for Cover; Patty, Erick and Maria, our Latin Zumba and salsa dancers; Enigma Twirlers, and of course The Semingtones Ladies Choir. The silent auction was a roaring success, we were refreshed by the real ale bar and the teas, we enjoyed the local fayre at the barbecue, ice cream and cake stalls, and candy floss and tried our luck on the numerous stalls and games.

We raised £3200 on the day, and the money is still coming in! This will be split between St George's School, St George's Church, the Village Hall and local charity Stepping Stones.

Thank you again Semington for your support this year. We look forward to seeing you on a sunny Saturday in July 2016.

***Bev Woodward, David Kemp Potter, Elaine Furby, Sheralyn Milburn, Toby Marriott and Victoria Shackleton***

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### Semington WI September Meeting

Apologies for not being able to make the September meeting. However, I have it on good authority that the 'Dementia Friends' talk was very informative and made people more aware of the person and not the disease. I gather that there were several non members at the meeting which is fantastic to hear. Our October meeting on Thursday 8th will see a speaker on 'Exercise to Healthy Eating'. We will also be deciding what we want to make in sugar icing (with a Christmas theme) in November under the excellent tutelage of Sue Ludlow and Val Swaine. Once again all welcome.

**Deb Hurn**

### Semington "NO THROUGH ROAD" - Call for Volunteers

Despite police efforts, some drivers continue to take shortcuts through Semington village, sometimes at speed. There is a proposal to set up a group of volunteers who will periodically monitor the vehicles that ignore the "No Through Road" restriction and will report the registration numbers back to the Police. This would be run along guidelines similar to the Community Speed Watch and volunteers would be given a briefing to clarify what they can and cannot do. Anyone wishing to take part in this exercise is invited to pass their names and contact details to our Parish Council Chairman, Mr Robert Oglesby, at the Post Office on Monday and Thursday mornings in the Village Hall - alternatively pass the details to any Parish Councillor.

### **St George's Baby and Toddler Group**

Tuesday's 10am – 11.30am

(Term Time Only)

Come along and join in the fun.

**Baby &  
Toddler  
Group**



## EDITOR'S NOTES:

So what's in the news this month. Well, a much reduced Traveller's Planning Application for Lansdowne has been accepted by the Parish Council provided certain caveats are authorised (page 22), the bus situation looks like it will get worse before it gets better(!), the Harvest Supper in the village hall was great (as usual) and we were entertained there by Michael Gamble with his unique slide show presentation. Our No Through Road is getting abused (page 5), the September Quiz night had a unique twist to it (page7), Ray heard has produced a new book for the village (page19), the Air Ambulance is looking at the village for its new operating site (page 24), and we have a 2 page spread (page 26/27) celebrating all the work that Stephen Ball has done for us and his very last letter to us all. We shall truly miss him.

And of course, we are all starting to think about Christmas and hoping we can get all our family members around the same table at the same time!!

And I've included a poem which caught my wife's eye and we both loved it. (page 17).

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**Kieren Bourne**



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Sadly, only two teams attended the September Quiz, which was a shame as the team setting it had obviously put a lot of work into it, especially



the Marathon. So well done to Stuart, Tony and Lyn for producing the quiz. The Marathon was unusual, Stuart produced 25 mini Ordnance Survey map extracts showing Wiltshire villages that only have one pub, minus the village name. There was a list of pub names and we had to match them up to the maps, using clues such as rivers, roads and even map contours. Team A won the Marathon by virtue of the fact that Colin and Brian must have visited most of the pubs listed on their bikes... and they resolved to get round to the rest asap!

Amongst the rounds for the main quiz were rounds on acronyms, so you had to know your NCO from your NUJ, and another on Food & Drink, where it helped to know your types of tripe (blanket and honeycomb) and 'which is the UK's favourite comfort food' (toast apparently). Team B was victorious so well done to them.

We look forward to seeing more people at the next quiz. If you come alone we can always put you in a team. See you there!

**NEXT QUIZ: SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER, 7.30 for 7.45pm start.**

**Julia Wade**

### BOOK CLUB

At the last meeting on 23 July the members discussed The Language of Flowers by Vanessa Diffenbaugh. Joy gave us some background information on the American author and everyone enjoyed the book, finding it delightful and easy to read with sad undertones. We meet next on Friday 25 September at 7.30 p.m. in the pub when we will be discussing Summertime by Vanessa Lafaye. All welcome.

**Angela Grodzicka 870756**



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**Getting Ready for Winter**

Few of us look forward to the arrival of the winter months, and as we get older our bodies can find it harder to cope with the cold, but by being prepared, we can stay **warm and healthy this winter**. Here are a few things to consider, and information about where you can find sources of help:

Check the exterior of your property – are there any loose tiles, damp patches? Ensure your boiler has been serviced and chimneys have been swept. If you need it, Age UK has a list of registered traders to help you find the right person for the job.

Is your property fully insulated? This will help keep your home warm and lower your bills. There are schemes running locally to provide advice on this, and you might be entitled to help with the cost.

Are your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms working? Wiltshire Fire and Rescue carry out free home fire safety checks for qualifying households.

Have a supply of salt and sand ready to put on icy surfaces.

Ideally your living areas should be 18 – 21 degrees C during the day. We have a supply of room thermometers, so please contact me if you would like one.

Are you concerned that you may not be able to cover your fuel bills? There are grants available to support older people on state benefits who spend more than 10% of their income on fuel.

I can provide more information on all of the above, so please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any problems about preparing for winter.

Lise Griffiths, Co-ordinator – mob: 07541 353430 or email [melkshamgnc@communityfirst.org.uk](mailto:melkshamgnc@communityfirst.org.uk)

**MAGAZINE DEADLINES & ADVERTISING**

Next deadline is Friday 23rd October 2015 for the November issue: email Leon, the Editor, at [semparmag1@outlook.com](mailto:semparmag1@outlook.com). For all advertising enquiries, please contact Jeremy on 870708 or email [jez\\_tyler@hotmail.com](mailto:jez_tyler@hotmail.com)



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Rev. Prebendary Ivor Hughes 01225 760275

Can. Ray Guymer 01225 751063

Catherine Warr 01225 765686

Marilyn Stubbs 01225 753118

### **For any General Help.**

**Any Church Warden** as shown in the magazine.

## News from the Friends of St George's

The new all weather path and learning huts look fantastic in the school grounds. A grand opening is planned for Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, as an opportunity for the school and village community to celebrate the successful fundraising from last year. There will also be an opportunity to look at forthcoming plans for the future of the 'Toe Path' project. Everyone is welcome to come along and we hope to see many of you celebrating with us.

### Jumble Sale

We are looking forward to another very successful Jumble sale on Saturday 14th November. If you have any Jumble then please bring it along to the school on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November after 3pm or Saturday morning from 10am onwards. Many thanks.

### Easyfundraiser Reminder

If you shop online to purchase items, such as food, clothes, toys or insurance you could be raising money for the school at the same time. Register on the easyfundraising website and you could start raising money too! We have raised over £112 so far! [www.easyfundraising.co.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.co.uk)

### Empty Ink cartridges

The school are also collecting empty ink cartridges which can be turned into money for the school. Therefore, if you have any empty ones please drop them into the school.

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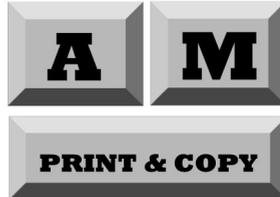
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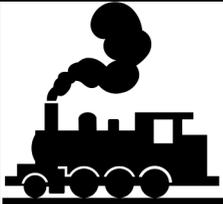
For thought



"Praise the Lord! Every day He helps us with the loads we must carry. He is the God who saves us."

It's in the Bible:

Psalm 68 verse 19



## August Bank Holiday GBR Train Rides – Report

The morning of 31<sup>st</sup> August dawned with loads of rain pouring down but with a 'Dry Forecast' in the afternoon. Clearly this put lots of families off – but happily lots of determined train lovers turned up in the afternoon. The ladies from Christ Church Bulkington (led by Jane Coles) had a magnificent supply of home-made cakes and teas which sold well making about £100 to go towards repairing the cost damaged ceiling of Christ Church. The GBR raised about the same, which together with the monies from all the GBR birthday parties held earlier enabled us to send £534 to the Wiltshire Air Ambulance. May I respectfully remind the Mums and Dads that you can hire Bulkington Village hall for your child's birthday party with two hours of train rides for a mere £110. Although we run all the year round - please don't plan on having too many children born in the winter months!

We have recently been recruiting people to help to run and maintain the railway – if interested please contact me.

**Nev Boulton 01380 828101**

## **WILTSHIRE COUNCIL NEWS FROM JONATHON SEED**

Autumn is here and we seemed to have missed out on any really long summer spells of hot weather. The “experts” say that this is due to global warming which makes summers cooler! Anyway we are into autumn as the leaves are falling and the countryside is preparing itself for winter. Wiltshire Council must do the same and stocks of grit are ready for the winter and employees are briefed and ready to do their bit when the freezing nights and days arrive. Work is also needed to prepare for rain and the resultant floods. It is a sad fact of life that flooding will never be totally eradicated but there is much that we can do to improve flood alleviation. This does not just involve the Council,- it also involves each and every one of us in our community. One truth that I have learnt during my seven years of working in flood alleviation in Wiltshire is that locals know best. ***So if you see autumn’s leaves blocking a drain or gully as you walk past PLEASE do your bit for our community and pull them out.*** Who knows, it could be your house that you save from flooding!

There are also all sorts of consultations that are being organised both locally and by Wiltshire Council. These are always genuine consultations whether they are on housing, planning or more local matters. It is really important that when you are asked for your opinion that you give it at the time. It really is no use complaining at a later date when some decision or another has been made and local opinion has not been given. This is our community and we need a real say on what happens in it whether it is by consultation, ballot box or survey.

More locally we have seen concerns expressed over local traveller sites and these have become a real local issue. We all accept that gypsies and travellers need somewhere to live and that they should have the same rights as the rest of us to live in this Country and the countryside. Where the local difficulty has arisen is that a perception has grown that travellers seem to have more planning rights than the settled community. Some of this is actually the result of local consultation where people were asked for their views. The settled community made it clear that they would rather not have traveller sites in villages and the travelling community made it clear that they would prefer to live on the edge of rather than in villages. So that is what we have in gypsy and traveller planning guidance and this is a classic example of taking part in a consultation. However I think that we may just be at the end of the latest local traveller planning saga with a much more modest application having been submitted for completion of the Littleton Site and one which seems to be met with some tacit local approval.

### **Jonathon Seed**

Cabinet Member for Housing, Leisure, Libraries and Flooding

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## **St. George's C of E Primary School**

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### **Headteacher: Mr Gordon Campbell**

St George's is looking forward to a new and exciting school year – we have welcomed our new Reception pupils, and they are settling well and off to a good start.

The school has its highest ever number on roll – we are very proud of this and pleased to welcome so many pupils each day.

Over the summer our Toe Path has been constructed. This is an excellent addition to school facilities, and will making the grounds more accessible to our students. We hope its construction hasn't caused too much disruption to our neighbours. The Grand Opening takes place on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 9.10am. Members of the local community are warmly invited to attend. The path will be opened by the oldest ex-pupil currently living in Semington, and the youngest current pupil at the school.

Later that same morning the school will be having an Open Morning, for prospective parents for next year's reception class, as well as any other members of our community who would like to look around the school and find out more about what makes St George's special.

The school would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed to fundraising for the Toe Path; those who supported, were involved in, or were affected by the Semington Slog, and those who supported Mrs James financially in the Brighton Marathon.

We would also like to invite you to celebrate Harvest Festival at the church with us on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 11am. Anyone who would like to attend would be most welcome.

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**SEMINGTON BASED**



## 2015 Shoebox Appeal

Our shoebox appeal was launched in the benefice at the beginning of September. We are donating our shoeboxes through Link to Hope again and they will go to Eastern Europe to bring love to those less fortunate than ourselves.



Link to Hope collect shoeboxes for Families and the Elderly. Please pick up a leaflet (available in all of our churches) or look online to see lots of wonderful ideas of things to be included in our boxes. There are even details of the £10 challenge shoebox.

There is also a box in St Michael's for 'top-up' and knitted items for people who wish to bring those in rather than complete a shoebox.

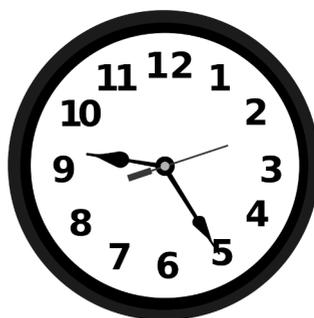
All items, shoeboxes or gifts of money need to be at the Together in Worship service on 1st November ready to be blessed before beginning their journey. Thank you very much for your support.

## Time to Go!

It's good to know you're welcome when visiting a friend;  
Compare your news and air your views,  
And know it won't offend.

It's good to share the silence when heart  
communes with heart,  
And thought takes wings, the spirit sings,  
And doubts and fears depart.

It's good to feel at home there with one  
whose ways you know;  
But the greatest thing, when visiting,  
Is knowing when to go!



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## NATURE NOTES

### Lamenting Autumn Rains

Blusterous winds, unending rains, autumn of chaos,  
The four seas, eight directions one solid cloud:  
Horses going, cows coming, who can make out for sure?  
Muddy Jing river, clear Wei, how to tell them apart?  
From grain tips, ears sprouting, millet heads turned to black;  
No word of how farmers, farmers' wives are faring.  
In the city, exchange a bed of quilt, get a meagre peck of grain –  
Just agree, don't argue over which is worth more!

**Du Fu**, one of China's greatest poets, wrote this in 754 CE when the weather had been even wetter in northern China, than it was here at the end of the Summer, although we are unlikely to suffer the food shortages and inflation they did because of ruined crops. The poem is about more than the weather, though, as it reflects the sense of a civilisation under attack from outside.

### Planning - Thank You!

A big thank you to everyone who wrote recently to Wiltshire Council planners to oppose the latest developments at the Lansdowne / Littleton gypsy and traveller site. With your considerable help, this proposal was rejected by planning officers. As Councillor Seed reminds us, it's important to keep bringing such pressure to bear. Meanwhile, the Parish Council will keep trying to ensure that Wiltshire Council makes the owners of the site meet all existing planning conditions. **Robert Oglesby, Chair, Semington Parish Council**

### Semington at War

Following the restoration and service of re-dedication of our memorial last year, I have now produced a book of all the fallen. It includes details of family, grave, where they fell or were lost, plus photos.

I am in discussion with the Parish Council to see if we can raise funds to place a copy in the Church, School, and Village Hall. Details will be in the magazine in due course.

If anyone would like to view the book, send me your e-mail to [rayheard1937@btinternet.com](mailto:rayheard1937@btinternet.com) and I can forward to you. I will order for any one and try to get bulk reduction. **Ray Heard 01380-870746**



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## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



We are advised of a new scam whereby flat screen televisions are advertised for sale which are below market value and do not even exist. Payment is being requested via bank transfer and will offer no protection to the consumer when the television does not arrive. Payments made via bank transfer are not protected should you not receive the item. Always make payment via a credit card or PayPal where you have some avenue of recompense should you not receive your product.

If you are ordering on-line from a site you have not used before, conduct some online research on the website, company name and business address to identify any poor feedback or irregularities. Check the authenticity of websites before making any purchases. A search on the website will identify when the website has been created, so be wary of newly formed web sites. A search can be conducted using the website - <https://who.is/> or google '[who.is](https://who.is/)'. If the item advertised seems too good to be true, it is. There are lots of crooks out there!

If you believe that you have been a victim of fraud you can report it online at [http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report\\_fraud](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud) or by telephone on 0300 123 2040.

There is a scam where you receive a telephone call from someone claiming to be from the Ministry of Justice or other government department. These callers usually have strong foreign accents and use fake anglicised names. Consumers are typically told that they are eligible to receive payments such as the repayment of bank charges or tax, compensation for mis-sold payment protection insurance (PPI), or other debts. Consumers are asked to provide personal information, such as bank account details and make an upfront payment, often by money transfer eg Western Union or Post Office Money Gram, Ukash, or any other unusual method of payment. These callers have no connection with the Ministry of Justice, or any other genuine organisations.

There has been a burglary in the village. Make sure your tools, garages, sheds and cars are securely locked up.

If you lose your mobile phone in the UK or abroad it is essential to contact your phone company and local police within 24 hours (get a crime number). People who delay reporting the loss or theft can end up with a bill of many thousands of pounds.

**Paul Bowyer 870 512**

## **Summarised Semington Parish Council (PC) Minutes - 16/9/2015**

**Present:** Cllrs Robert Oglesby (Chairman), P Bowyer, K Lockwood, W Scott, B Smyth, C Wade and Roger Coleman (Clerk). Wiltshire Council Cllr J Seed attended (Part-time).

**Apologies for non-attendance:** Cllrs S Rimmer and R Robinson.

**Co-option of New Member:** deferred until the October PC meeting.

**Neighbourhood Policing:** The Chairman reported that volunteers are being sought to monitor and to report vehicles ignoring the No Through Road sign at the northern end of the village. Cllr. Wade reported that there had been a burglary in the village and jewellery was taken.

**Adjournment:** Ray Heard presented his Semington Memorial Book for Cllrs to examine.

### **Planning:**

15/02347/CLE 33 Littleton Willows **PENDING**

Residential Use (Certificate of Lawfulness)

15/05678/FUL Aidans Field Farm **APPROVED**

Erection of temporary mobile home

15/08789/FUL Lansdowne, Littleton. Alterations to an approved gypsy and traveller site from 5 approved pitches to 7 together with associated ancillary development (amendment to 13/06123/FUL). The PC agreed to send these comments to WC:

*The PC has no objections to this proposed development subject to the imposition of the following conditions: (1) There are to be NO fires on the site, (2) There is to be NO commercial activity on the site (3) There is to be NO commercial waste on the site. N.B. The scale of the proposed layout is misleading. The mobile homes shown on the proposed layout are approx. 3/4 the length of the ones on the approved layout.*

Boundaries: the PC noted the Community Governance Review and that there were no proposed changes to the boundaries of Semington Civil Parish.

Melksham Link: As parishioners had written to those responsible for the Melksham Link, Cllr. Scott stated that the PC needed to remain alert and vigilant to these developments and their likely effect on Semington. The Chairman agreed and added that he was deliberately keeping PC involvement arm's length for the time being until firm plans were developed for fear of the PC being accused of prejudice by commenting on embryonic plans for various development options.

Air Ambulance: Cllrs commented on the proposal to provide a base for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance on the outskirts of Semington and its relationship to the Melksham Link development. They agreed it was very important to retain the existing No Through Road restriction at the northern end of the village. The Clerk was asked to write to WC, Wiltshire Air Ambulance and Melksham Without Parish Council expressing the following sentiments: *'Semington PC and the parishioners of Semington greatly value the existing No Through Road traffic restriction at the northern end of the village and consider that it is very important to protect and to retain this facility. The PC requests that you take into account the Wiltshire Air Ambulance proposal for a base immediately to the north of Semington and that any entrances to it or to the proposed Marina (and any related developments) and their impact on the No Through Road restriction. Semington PC asks you to ensure that the No Through Road restriction commences just to the north of the*

*Newtown Farm entrance and, as discussed with representatives from the Wiltshire Air Ambulance, this traffic restriction is to be enforced with a set of bollards that rise and fall thereby allowing the passage of authorized traffic only.'*

**Finance:** written report available on request.

The PC agreed to make a donation of £500 to St Georges PCC.

The PC agreed that three A3 sized Semington Memorial Books be purchased at a cost of £55 (approximately) each; one for Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre, one for the Crematorium and one for the major donor to the Memorial Fund.

**Defibrillator:** Training will take place in the Village Hall on 12 October 2015.

### **Highways/Environment:**

Requests for Work: Cllr. Smyth reported that, due to WC funding limitations, requests for work must now to be reported via an 'app' or by telephone or use of the WC website. He agreed to co-ordinate requests, but considered that Semington would be worse off as a result of the new procedures.

Information Board (IB): Discussions on the IB were deferred to the next mtg.

Tree Planting: The 'tree planting plan' opposite to the crematorium was discussed. A site visit had taken place. It was agreed that trees/shrubs should be chosen for their ability to create colour. The Clerk commented that it is likely that an s96 Licence from WC would be required before planting could commence and Cllrs agreed to contact Cllr. Rimmer to discuss.

Bus Services: The Chairman stated that he had attended a meeting to review the existing bus services and how they would be affected in view of the subsidy reduction by WC. He stated that no decisions had yet been made by WC and the Bus Companies involved but some rural bus services were likely to be withdrawn or significantly reduced.

Allotments: Cllr. Oglesby had received requests for allotment spaces and he passed these details to Cllr. Smyth.

Pound Lane White Lines: There had been no progress. Such requests must go via the CATG and the PC must be prepared to part-fund their installation.

**Any Other Business:** Cllr. Smyth reported the following:

The Defibrillator Box is a PC asset; it needs to be covered by our Insurance.

Cllr. Rimmer has secured a village Christmas Tree but arrangements need to be made for its removal and transportation.

A local firm has shown an interest in sponsoring the roundabout. Cllr. Smyth was advised that the applicant has the responsibility for applying for an s96 Licence from WC.

Grass cutting of Jubilee Wood is now being undertaken by Cllrs. Rimmer and Smyth. Cllrs thanked Les Hiscock who had been undertaking this to date.

Hedge cutting – Village Hall path. Discussion deferred until the next meeting.

St Georges PCC has given notice that it no longer wishes to rent the field – the owner is Salisbury Diocese. Cllrs thought it might be ideal as an allotment plot.

This matter was deferred until the next meeting.

Notice has been given that the Semington Bypass (A350) is to be closed for carriageway repairs to be undertaken.

Cllrs requested that 'Review of the Website' be included as an Agenda item at the next meeting.

**Dates of Next Ordinary PC Meetings:** 14th Oct, 11th Nov, 16th Dec at 8pm.

R Oglesby, Chairman, Semington Parish Council



Wiltshire  
**Air Ambulance**  
funded by you, flying for you

## ***An open letter to the residents of Semington***

As I'm sure you are aware, Wiltshire Air Ambulance has identified its preferred location to build its new home.

The 12.6 acre site we have found is on land at Outmarsh Farm, Semington, (immediately south of Hampton Park West Industrial Estate).

What attracted us to this site is that it is centrally located in Wiltshire which would enable our helicopter to reach anywhere in the county within 11 minutes.

Our paramedics also use a Rapid Response Vehicle and as Melksham doesn't have an ambulance station, they could respond to incidents requiring critical care such as heart attacks and strokes within minutes.

At our public consultation event at Trowbridge Rugby Club on 12<sup>th</sup> August, 125 people attended and we were genuinely surprised by the warm welcome that most people gave to our outline plans.

We also attended a coffee morning at Semington Village Hall on 3rd September to talk to residents who were unable to attend our public consultation event.

The public consultation period ended on August 28 and we received 65 feedback forms and 14 emails, and this feedback will be used to shape our plans.

We know that for some people living close to our preferred site they have concerns about noise created by the helicopter and we will do all we can to address those and any other concerns.

The next stage for us is to decide whether to proceed with the purchase of the land. If we do, we anticipate submitting an outline planning application to Wiltshire Council in late autumn 2015.

We will keep you updated.

***David Philpott, Chief Executive.***

## **CATHOLIC NEWS**

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST TROWBRIDGE**

**& ST BERNADETTE'S WESTBURY**

**PARISH PRIEST CANON LIAM O'DRISCOLL**

**TELEPHONE 01225 752152    [www.stjohnthebaptist.co.uk](http://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.

### **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

This spectacular annual family event takes place on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November in St Augustine's Catholic College, Wingfield Road, Trowbridge from 11am. Contact Francis Geraghty 01380 871083 email

[f.geraghty303@btinternet.com](mailto:f.geraghty303@btinternet.com). for details.

### **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 house-bound 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](mailto: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.

Sadly, this is the last Minister's Letter that I will write here in this benefice. As many of you already know I will be leaving on 30th August after the 10.00am Benefice service at St Mary the Virgin, Whaddon.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your warm welcome and friendship over this last ten years. There have been many moments of joy and laughter and many of sadness and there have been many changes. I have been changed by my time here and I am the richer for it. There have been many successes and some failures but there ought to be no regrets. We all celebrate our successes and, hopefully, learn from our mistakes and we grow. Regret stunts this growth and keeps us bound by the past. What God wants for us is to learn and grow into our future with him. Thank you all for the love and support you have given to Lorna and me. We will miss you and this place a great deal.

Good byes are really hard. When I got the job I am going to I was elated but then the realisation dawned that we would have to say good bye to many, many friends. I believe it is important to both live in and through the elation and excitement of new horizons and challenges but it is also important to acknowledge the grief of parting; of diverging paths. It is equally crucial, though, to realise that in most instances endings are also new opportunities and beginnings.

It is essential that we realise that transitional spaces, between endings and beginnings, are not simply vacuums in which we stand vacant and inactive. Whether we can see it or not God is there. He is the God who understands parting and loss; the God who walks with us in the wondering, waiting and exploration and the God who fills the vacuum with his love. God's people are a key element in the revelation of his love. In the first of John's letters to the Early Church – in the New Testament – he makes it abundantly clear that one of the most profound ways to experience God's love is through each other. It has always been my experience that the space left when we leave loved ones or by the departure of a loved is, in time, filled in a different and unique way by the friendship and love of others – if we will allow it.

As I leave it would be tempting to think that everything is on hold. Not so! Life will continue as will the growth of our churches. We have excellent Churchwardens to lead during the vacancy (or interregnum, as it is known) and there are three excellent retired ministers as well as Licenced Lay Ministers and 13 Lay Pastoral Assistants (I wonder if I will be missed at all 😊.) Weddings will continue as will baptisms and arrangements have been made for funerals and caring for the families of the bereaved. We will always remember our time in Hilperton, Hilperton Marsh, Semington, Whaddon and Staverton fondly and we pray that God will richly bless you all in the coming years.

The peace of the Lord be always with you. Stephen

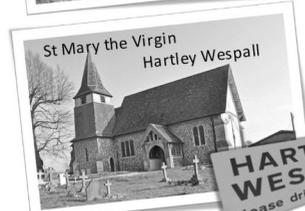
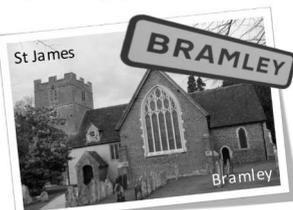
# A Canalside Farewell to Stephen and Lorna & Oscar the cat

It is now just over ten years since we welcomed Stephen and Lorna Ball to the Benefice. They moved from Oxford to Paxcroft Mead in the summer of 2005. On Saturday 2nd July Stephen was ordained Deacon at a service in Salisbury Cathedral and the following day he and Lorna were officially welcomed to the Benefice with a lunch at Hilperton Village Hall. As Curate Stephen worked alongside Bobby Magill for just a few weeks before his own departure as Rector here. A year later we returned to the Cathedral for Stephen's ordination to the Priesthood and in September 2006 Maureen Allchin joined the Team as our transitional Priest in Charge. Stephen and Lorna decided that they wanted to stay with us and at a special service of licensing on 15th May 2008 he was installed as our Priest in Charge. So ten years on it is time to bid them farewell as they have decided to move on to pastures new in Hampshire. We thank Stephen and Lorna for all that they have done here and send them on their way with our very best wishes for the challenges ahead in their new Benefice.



and Good Luck to Oscar too

When Stephen and Lorna leave the Rectory in Warren Road in September they will be moving to their new home - the Rectory at Sherfield on Lodden in north east Hampshire about 50 miles east of here on the A33 south of Reading and north of Basingstoke. The full name of their new Benefice is the **United Benefice of Sherfield on Lodden, Stratfield Saye and Hartley Wespall with Stratfield Turgis, and Bramley** in the Deanery of Odiham and the Diocese of Winchester. The population of the Benefice is just over 7,800 (2011 census). There are 5 churches: St Leonard's, St James, two dedicated to St Mary the Virgin and by coincidence St Stephen's. St Mary the Virgin is on the Stratfield Saye Estate - the ancestral home of the Dukes of Wellington. Stephen will lead a Ministry Team consisting of a House for Duty Minister, 1 SSM (Self Supporting Minister), 2 Local Lay Ministers (Readers) and 4 lay worship leaders. The area is described as follows in the Benefice Profile published by the Diocese: Sherfield on Lodden is a friendly village with a great community spirit. Most recently 850 houses have been built to the south of the village. The village has a thriving village hall, a popular shop and butchers, a post office with a tearoom and café, 3 public houses, a large restaurant, garage, Mole Country store and Sherfield Garden Centre. Sherfield Village fete in early June is one of the largest and most successful in Hampshire, attracting up to 4,000 visitors each year. The village of Bramley was mentioned in the Domesday Book, and for centuries was a small farming community but has grown significantly over the years. It has a public house with an Indian restaurant attached, convenience store, garage, bakery, village hall and sports ground. Bramley Church of England Primary School currently has 395 pupils.



**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

**October 2015 Sunday Services**

**St. George's Semington**

4th	Oct	9.15am	Parish Communion
11th	Oct	9.15am	Morning Worship
18th	Oct	6pm	Evening Worship
25th	Oct	9.15am	Together in Worship

**St. Michael's Hilperton**

4th	Oct	8am	Holy Communion / 11am Harvest Festival
11th	Oct	9.15am	Parish Communion / 11am Methodist Service
18th	Oct	10am	Together in Worship
25th	Oct	9.15am	Parish Communion / 11am Methodist Service

**St. Mary Magdalen Hilperton Marsh**

4th	Oct	11pm	Parish Communion
25th	Oct	11am	Parish Communion

**St. Mary's Whaddon**

11th	Oct	6.30pm	BCP Communion
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