

SEPTEMBER 2016

SEMINGTON

PARISH



MAGAZINE

Minister for Semington:

Revd John Rees

22 Warren Road

Staverton

BA14 8UZ

Tel. 01225 764365

Never mind the p's and q's, settle for the ooh's and ah's

Semington Diary



SEPTEMBER 2016 (in the Village Hall unless stated)

3rd Sat	Books, Bacon and Soup	12 - 2pm
8th Thu	Semington WI	7.30pm
8th Thu	Lunch Jacket with dessert	12.30 - 2.30pm
11th Sun	Quiz Night	7.30pm
14th Wed	Parish Council Meeting	8pm
15th Thu	Book Club (Somerset Arms)	7.30pm
17th Sat	Harvest Supper (see opposite)	7.30pm
24th Sat	Curry Night	7.30pm
28th Wed	Armstrong's Angels Skittles	8pm
29th Mon	GB Railway (Keevil)	see page 17

Ladies Skittles

Starting 8pm every Tuesday (6th, 13th, 20th, 27th September)

Men's Skittles

Starting 8pm most Fridays (16th, 23rd, 30th September)

EVERY WEEK IN THE VILLAGE HALL (unless otherwise stated)

Bingo	Monday	7.30pm
Post Office	Monday & Thursday	9.30am - 12.30
Stompers	Tuesday	2.30 - 3.30pm
Bridge Club	Tuesday & Friday	9am - 1pm
Coffee Morning	Thursday	10 - 12noon
Semingtones Choir	Friday	6 - 7.30pm
Baby/Toddler Group	Tuesday	10 - 11.30am
Zumba Fitness	Wednesday	6.30pm
Zumba Beginners	Wednesday	7.15pm
	(Zumba at St. George's School)	
Musical Theatre	Wednesday	4.45 - 6.15pm
Men's Choir	Wednesday	6.30 - 7.30pm
Alzheimer's Support	2nd Thursday of each month	10 - 12noon

You can't shake hands with a scowl



VILLAGE EVENTS & NEWS

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

Housegroup - join us to drink tea/coffee, chat & have a laugh, and look at things in the Bible. You're very welcome. We meet at 7.45pm on 14th September. Contact Bev/Jack 870784 for further dates and venues.

HARVEST SUPPER

**Saturday 17th September,
7.30pm in the Village Hall**



Cold meat salad with a vegetarian option, scrumptious puds, and all for £5 adults, £2.50 under 18's. Like last year, Michael Gamble from Hilperton will be showing a photos set to music. This year the theme is "The Queen's 90th". If you were there last year you will remember what a good evening's entertainment it was. Tickets available from Coffee Morning or Bev Woodward, 870784. The following evening there will be further harvest celebrations at 6pm in the Church.

MAGAZINE DEADLINES & ADVERTISING

Next month's deadline is Friday 23rd September 2016 for the September issue.

Email Leon, the Editor, at sepmag1@outlook.com.

For all advertising enquiries, please contact Jeremy on 870708 or jez_tyler@hotmail.com.

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*St George's School, Semington
Wednesdays 6:30pm Zumba fitness
Semington, BA14 6LP*

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*Melksham School of Ballet Tap & Modern
Mondays 9:45am, Church Lane, SN12 7EE*

*Paxcroft Mead Community Centre,
Hilperton, BA14 7GW
Wednesdays 11am & Thursdays 10am*

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patperry@yahoo.com www.boozuca.com

THIS MONTH I'VE BEEN A BIT OF A BLOGGER....

You may recall before the summer break, one of my gorgeous daughters in law suggested that we should set up a website or more precisely a blog. I've always enjoyed putting pen to paper – and I could write a whole parish magazine about my life in hotels, it's amazing what guests get up to and yet believe that the staff neither see nor hear.....

I've read about blogging and I do subscribe to some blogs but the idea of setting up our own was daunting. Well I need not have been daunted because in this IT age there's an App for that! Well I am fibbing just a little bit because Rachel had already set up her own website for her handmade stationery business (shameless plug for the House of Airey I know). Leon had also given me some tips and guidance from work he had done setting up a couple of websites. I'm not going to lie Rachel is the creative genius and it seemed her fingers whizzed over the keyboard and hey presto a website/blog was born.

I'm going to get a bit deep now – but this is the difference between Generation X (me) and the Millennial generation (Rachel). Generation X had the internet served up to us and we simply marveled at the brave new world that landed in our homes, Rachel meanwhile was never mystified - she is of the generation who knew how to mystify.

So now Rachel and I are bloggers, we have our very own 'Life of Lemons' blog www.lifeoflemonsuk.wix.com/lifeoflemons if you care to have a look!



We thought long and hard about our theme and both of us have had an 'interesting' 18 months and as the rather twee saying goes 'when life throws you lemons make lemonade' although a G & T fits the bill better for me! So we took our inspiration from that little homily.

True to my goal this year I have learnt yet more new skills, I now blog, can attach photos, embed URLs, simultaneously post via social media (do hope you're keeping up). I'm taking a wee break from learning as we're off on holiday soon, mind you there's plenty to learn whilst we're away, avoiding altitude sickness, learning the rules of baseball – oh and drinking very strong beer!

Catch up soon!

Gilly Airey

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QUIZ NIGHT



July's quiz was set by Colin, Esme, Philip and myself, but only Colin could attend on the night, so was assisted

by daughter, Helen. Just as well, or he would still have been marking the Marathon at midnight! The Marathon was the familiar, traditional picture round featuring celebrities. It was extremely tight, with one team on 38 points and two on $38\frac{1}{2}$. By virtue of being the 4th team to hand in the completed Marathon, team Terry's Turnips beat team Not a chance, who were the 6th team to hand theirs in!

The highest scoring round was Find the connection, where the initial letters of the first 14 answers, formed a phrase, which was the answer to the 15th question (WimbledonChamp). Three teams got maximum marks, so well done to them. Sample questions were: C - LXXX + XXX = ? What was the surname of the American singer with the nickname The Big 'O'? and Which group sang about Kayleigh in 1985, thereby providing inspiration for quite a lot of parents to name their child Kayleigh? (Answers below.)

At half time the scores ranged from $26\frac{1}{2}$ to 38, but there was all to play for. Colin's round on Geometry started off with a couple of proper geometry questions but, fortunately, quickly degenerated into asking such questions as Who sang about the Bermuda Triangle? Answer below.

Half time leaders, Close Friends, let their $2\frac{1}{2}$ point lead slip away in the second half, culminating in getting 6 points in the final round, whilst overall winners, 'Friends from afar' (Angela's team) scored 14, thereby winning the quiz by $1\frac{1}{2}$ points!

It's lovely to see more people coming to the quiz, but more would still be very welcome. Come and have a go! If you come on your own, we can always put you in a team.

ANSWERS: C - LXXX + XXX = L (in Roman Numerals), Orbison and Marillion. Barry Manilow.

NEXT QUIZ: SUNDAY 11 SEPTEMBER, 7.30pm.

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STEEPLE ASHTON FILMS

I have been running Steeple Ashton Films for almost two years now and have had the opportunity to create an atmosphere conducive to an all inclusive audience, but particularly for those who are on their own. I am one of those!!

We offer the opportunity to see a wide range of recent films in a friendly environment at the Village Hall. We have a bar and open our doors half an hour early at 7pm to enable people to socialise.

I would like to extend our invitation to Semington residents to join us. We can offer assistance to wheelchair users and anyone who needs a little help on the night. Tickets are £6, available from Steeple Ashton Village Shop. They can be reserved in advance and collected on the night if more convenient.



I am able to be contacted by phone 01380 871 345 or e-mail: alisonwilson9@hotmail.com. I would be very pleased to hear from you. Or you are welcome to get in touch if you would like to be added to our emailing list.

I hope you will enjoy the two films we have planned for our Autumn Season - Florence Foster Jenkins with Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant on 22 October and Love and Friendship based on Jane Austen's Lady Susan with Kate Beckinsale on 19 November.

Alison Wilson

EXTRAS THIS MONTH IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Saturday 3 September 12.- 2pm. Books for sale , also Bacon Rolls and Soup

Thursday 8 September 12.30 – 2.30pm. Lunchtime Jacket with Dessert

Tickets £ 5.00 to be purchased by 5 September.

Saturday 24 September Curry Night (choice of curry) or Cottage Pie with

Dessert. Tickets £ 9.00 to be purchased by 22 September.

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NATURE NOTES—THE ELM

It has been a bad summer for the elm. Driving across southern England, wherever there is elm, there are the tell-tale signs of attack by the elm bark beetle with shriveled brown leaves and bent-over branches standing out against the green hedge background. Semington was not completely free from this recent attack;



from being green and healthy-looking in May and June, during July and August at least some of the elm in the village gradually fell victim to the fungus the beetle carries.

To try to stop the fungus spreading, the tree blocks the vessels within the wood that carry water and nutrient through up trunk, and this causes tissues to die. So, just when the elm was fighting back, it's had another knock, and the cycle of attack – recovery – attack – recovery ... continues. Curiously, however, this is not so much a story of decline, as one of survival. We have not seen the last of the elm.

Elm wood is strong, durable and resistant to water. Traditionally it was used to make furniture, floorboards, boats, wheel hubs, water pipes, troughs, coffins and lavatory seats. Odd then, perhaps, that it has a reputation for not generating much heat as this old rhyme reminds us:

Apple wood will scent your room,
with incense-like perfume;
Oak and maple, if dry and old,
keep away the winter's cold;
Ash wood wet or ash wood dry,
a king will warm his slippers by; but
Elm burns like the graveyard mould,
even the very flames are cold!

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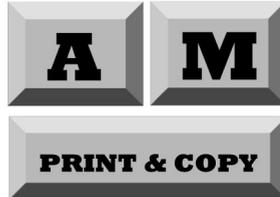


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SEMINGTON WI JULY & AUGUST MEETINGS

July saw us taking afternoon tea at Lowden Garden Centre. I'm pleased to say that we had a lovely afternoon. The sandwiches were good, the scones were lovely and the chocolate cake made it difficult to resist a second slice. The sun shone beautifully and we didn't have to do anything but sit back and enjoy it.

The **August** meeting was all about Quilting. Something which I have to say I have never thought much about. However, I will now. They were absolutely stunning; no one could help but admire their beauty and the skilled work that had gone into them. They were works of art. Sandy Gough our speaker was excellent and held us all enthralled as she took us through the journey of producing a quilt. There were oohs and ahs when she displayed some of them and plenty of laughter when she showed how you didn't have to follow the book to get wonderful results. Sandy is also part of a group that makes quilts for sick children when they go into hospital and they can take them when they go on to hospice care becoming their comfort blankets, and something for the parents to treasure. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening with friends from other WI's and new faces.

Next meeting: Thursday September 8th at 7.30pm in the village hall. Our speaker will be telling us about 'The Wildlife in Your Garden'.

Semington WI members £1.00 Guests £2.00.

Deb Hurn

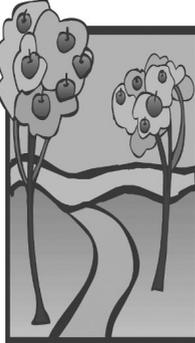
BOOKCLUB

The Book club met on 28th July to discuss 'The Tea Planter's Wife' by Dinah Jeffries. Most of us enjoyed this vividly painted picture of life in the 1920's on a tea plantation in Ceylon at a time when the country was rapidly moving towards political unrest. The question we were all intrigued by was "Could a woman have both a coloured baby and a white baby (twins) at the same time?" The answer, thanks to Google, is "Yes". The three members who did not enjoy the story thought it a bit depressing until they got to the second half of the book when it became a real page turner. The next meeting will be on Thursday 15th September at 7:30 in the Somerset Arms when we will discuss 'Post Mortem' by Patricia Cornwell, her debut novel.



Joy Karas standing in for **Angela Grodzicka 870 756**

Saying little, thinking less and doing nothing saves energy but it's no fun



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ROAD SAFETY ON THE A361

We, the residents of Littlemarsh, made another visit to the Parish Council Meeting on 20th July, expressing our serious concern at the very high speed of cars travelling this main road. On our previous visit, most members of the Parish Council accepted our concern, but higher authority did not take any action.

The speed from both directions, together with the traffic volume, makes access onto the roundabout or for crossing the road more and more risky. Yes - cars manage to do 60 mph or more around that roundabout!

There are bus stops on both sides of the main A361 – a 60 mph road. From the Littlemarsh side the greenery is now so high and thick that one is unable to see anything coming around the corner, so it is even more risky. Littlemarsh's elderly residents and those with young children attending St George's school are at greater risk as drivers get no notification that there may be pedestrians about.

Last week, a resident of Littlemarsh of over 60 years, was attempting to cross the road to return to his mobility scooter. From the Trowbridge side of the roundabout he crossed to the bollards, only to trip and fall backwards onto the road as the paving does not have any indentation. Good luck provided two kindly drivers from both directions who stopped to help him (one a resident of Semington – thank you). What if there had been a huge lorry approaching fast ...?

Cars come around the roundabout at high speed and then decide to overtake on the lane provided for access to Semington Turnpike – both the residential and trading estates - mind boggling!

Semington has a 30 mph limit which starts just off the roundabout. Seend has a limit of 30 mph through the village so those using the bus stops there do at least have a slightly safer route to either side of the road. Seend restrictions were brought in firstly at 40 mph, but are now down to 30mph, after a fatality in the village some years ago.

Perhaps we need to start some sort of speed management or road crossing management on the main A361? Please, please, we need firm positive and caring action to prevent something of a similar nature occurring around this dangerous roundabout.

Residents of Littlemarsh

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TUESDAYS
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 Fitzmaurice Primary School
 Frome Road, Bradford-on-Avon, BA15 1LE

WEDNESDAY
 7.00pm—8.00pm
 Longfield Community Hall
 Weavers Drive, Trowbridge, BA14 7DZ

THURSDAYS
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SATURDAYS
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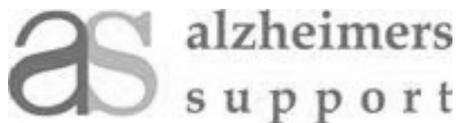
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If you are one of those unsung heroes of our communities, please step forward and let us know. Anyone who helps out informally, or who runs a group or business that might be helpful for people living with dementia, is invited to be included. The roadmap aims to recognise all the very local support that is outside the officially provided services.

The roadmap is being created by a team from local charities Alzheimer's Support, Alzheimer's Society, AgeUK Wiltshire, Healthwatch Wiltshire and Wiltshire Council.

It's free to be included. To get on the map please email roadmap@alzheimerswiltshire.org.uk or call 01225 776481.

Kind regards, Stephany Bardzil, Development and Comms Manager, Alzheimer's Support. Tel. 01225 776481



GREAT BULKINGTON RAILWAY
29th August, Bank Holiday Monday.

The sit-on-and-ride Great Bulkington Railway will be offering rides on 29th August, Bank Holiday Monday, from 1pm to 4.30pm. Rides cost £1 (twice around) . We have around a thousand feet of 5 inch gauge track, a forty foot long tunnel and a signalling system. We are located next to Bulkington Village Hall. We expect that the good ladies from Christ Church in our village will be serving teas and cakes in the gardens. We had two private children's birthday parties in July and a grown ups family party in August. All In aid of Wiltshire Air Ambulance. Due to farm traffic, please park on one side of Mill Lane only. **01380 828 101 Nev Boulton Station Master GBR.**

Edited Minutes - Annual Parish Council (PC) Meeting – 20th July 2016

Present: Cllrs Robert Oglesby (Chairman), P Bowyer, K Lockwood, S Rimmer, R Robinson, P Smith, C Wade and the Clerk, Roger Coleman. 71 members of the public were present initially.

Apologies: Cllrs. Scott, Smyth, Seed, and PCSO Helen Wilson(Community Policing).

Community Policing: a written report reproduced below in italics:

17/06/2016 – Turnpike Close, Semington - Vehicle stopped ref an expired MOT and breath test carried out. Driver arrested after blowing 69 at the roadside.

Update on the No Entry Watch – to date I have sent out 120 letters advisory letters and 599 vehicles have turned on seeing the volunteers. There will be a PNC Course for 2 of the volunteers hopefully in November, this will enable them to take on all of the admin with regards to No Entry.

Adjournment: The Chairman adjourned the meeting for members of the public to raise any matters of interest. The Chairman explained the current situation with respect to planning application 16/05783/OUT and he read out the letter from the applicant, Richborough Estates, dated 15 July 2016. Members of the public present raised numerous points regarding the planning application. The Chairman stated that the Parish Council had also received notice of a planning application, a few days ago, from Framptons to build houses on land north of St George's Road. He added that representatives from Framptons had requested to attend a Parish Council meeting to discuss, in public, this application – a request that the Council was keen to grant. It was likely that representatives from Framptons would attend a future PC meeting. The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

Planning:

16/01678/OUT **PENDING** Land at St Georges Road Erection of up to 24 dwellings with associated access and parking and land for allotments (Reserved matters: Access).

16/04513/FUL **APPROVED** Fairfields, Devizes Road Single Storey Side Extension

16/05783/OUT **NEW** Land to the North of Pound Lane The erection of 75 dwellings including 30% affordable homes, with ancillary public open space and play areas and access from Pound Lane (Outline Application relating to access).

The Chairman commented that the representations made by members of the public had been noted and that a further PC meeting will be held on 27 July to decide the comments to be sent to Wiltshire Council. He stated that it was clear, following a show of hands during the Adjournment, that there was almost unanimous opposition to this application and that the members of the public present objected to the planning application. The PC urged those present to make their opposition to, or support for, this planning application known to Wiltshire Council. Cllr. Scott was requested to formulate draft comments for discussion at the PC meeting on 27 July.

The Council noted the letter of thanks from Mrs Bailey for the donation for the flowers purchased in respect of the Queen's Birthday celebrations. **P.T.O.**

Finance: details available on request.

Highways/Environment:

The Council noted the representations made during the Public Adjournment in respect of improving the road safety for parishioners crossing the A361, especially those crossing from Littlemarsh. Cllr. Robinson stated that he and Cllr. Smyth would undertake a full survey of the area and that they would propose road safety improvements that would be presented to WC for implementation.

The Clerk confirmed that the two Information Boards had been delivered and would be installed in the village along with an added display showing the date of installation, in roman numerals.

The Clerk commented that permanent fixings for the Christmas Tree support ropes would be installed soon.

Melksham Community Area Board/Transport Group Meetings: Cllr. Robinson stated that he would be attending the CATG Meeting on 21 July and that he would be making initial representations regarding road safety at Littlemarsh/A361 at that meeting.

Tennis Court: Cllr. Robinson reported that he had made an initial repair to the net.

Date of Next Meetings: 27th July, 14 September, 12 October.

END: The meeting concluded at 9.30pm.

Edited DRAFT Minutes Semington PC Extraordinary Mtg - 27 July 2016

Present: Cllrs Robert Oglesby (Chairman), P Bowyer, R Robinson, W Scott, P Smith, C Wade and the Clerk, Roger Coleman. There were eight members of the public present initially.

Apologies: for non-attendance Cllrs. Lockwood, Rimmer and Smyth.

Adjournment: The Chairman adjourned the meeting for members of the public to raise any matters of interest after which he reconvened the meeting.

Semington Allotments: Robert House gave a presentation on how Hilperton PC had developed an allotment garden in Hilperton; its purpose was to inform Semington PC of the process adopted to enable Semington to do the same, or similar, when establishing allotment plots on the Hannick Homes development.

Planning:

(a)16/05783/OUT **NEW** Land to the North of Pound Lane

The erection of 75 dwellings including 30% affordable homes, with ancillary public open space and play areas and access from Pound Lane (Outline Application relating to access).

The PC noted at its last meeting that the public raised a number of points of objection to this planning application. Cllr. Scott gave a summary of the proposed comments objecting to this proposed development to which the PC agreed and which will be sent to Wiltshire Council.

(Editor: email me to request a copy - 8 pages)

Cllr. Wade stated that he had taken photographs of the daily congestion evident in Pound Lane including the very time when the applicant (Richborough Estates) undertook their own traffic survey.

P.T.O.

The photographs contradicted the statements made by Richborough Estates and confirmed that there were very significant highway problems in relation to this planning application. These photographs will be sent to Wiltshire Council with a narrative as further evidence of very significant highway problems.

(b) The Clerk advised that representatives from Framptons will be attending the PC meeting of 14 September to present details of their proposed housing development in Semington.

(c) Further planning applications had been received and the PC agreed to send comments to Wiltshire Council as shown in italics:

16/06564/OUT NEW Land North of 554 Canal Bridge Outline application relating to access – Erection of two detached dwellings and new access.

The Council objects to this proposed development for the following reason: 'It is inappropriate development in the countryside'.

16/06639/FUL NEW Independent Living Centre, St Georges Road Change of use of part of the premises (first floor, east end), from offices (Class B1) to Chiropractic Clinic (Class D1) with internal partition work.

The Council supports this proposed development.

16/07164/LBC NEW Independent Living Centre, St Georges Road Internal alterations to facilitate change of use of part of the premises (first floor, east end), from offices (Class B1) to Chiropractic Clinic (Class D1).

The Council supports this proposed development.

Any Other Business:

(a) Cllr. Scott said the PC should seek greater engagement with those responsible for developing the Melksham Neighbourhood Plan, namely Melksham Town Council and Melksham Without PC because its contents may directly affect the Civil Parish of Semington.

(b) Cllr. Wade asked that 'an allotment sub-Committee' be added to the Agenda for the next meeting.

(c) On behalf of the PC Cllr. Wade thanked West Wiltshire Crematorium for purchasing the land adjacent to the crematorium/Football Pitch, so protecting green space at the village boundary, which will benefit the parishioners of Semington.

(d) Cllr. Robinson said he had attended the CATG meeting (21 July) and that the subject of improved safety measures for Littlemarsh/A361 was not on the Agenda. It was evident from the meeting that there were no available funds for safety measures such as a lower speed limit or a pedestrian crossing. Funding would have to be provided by the PC and such funding, according to the Clerk, could be in excess of £20,000. Cllr. Robinson said he would raise the subject again at the next CATG meeting.

(e) Cllr. Robinson said that the grass verges between the crematorium and the roundabout and the hedges at the roundabout were obscuring sight lines and needed cutting back. Cllrs. Robinson and Smyth intended to undertake this task.

(f) The PC agreed to the installation of a sign showing the location of the Independent Living Centre.

END: The meeting concluded at 9.30pm.

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL NEWS FROM JONATHON SEED

I always enjoy the summer months as a Councillor as the pace lets up a little and there is time to plan, take stock and visit places I do not normally visit. In addition I catch up on political work which keeps me pretty busy across the County. County Hall is open for business twelve months of the year however in August we tend not to have formal Committee meetings which allows for both holidays and project work.

This summer I have attended many village events and Parish Council meetings and I am in the process of writing a more detailed leaflet for each of the seven villages that I represent to update residents on my work as your Wiltshire Councillor. I was able to get around several of the 23 leisure centres and 31 libraries for which I have Cabinet responsibility. I have also been able to undertake several housing visits, and amongst these I have spent a great deal of time on the homeless in Wiltshire. Homelessness and rough sleeping forms part of the Housing portfolio and although Wiltshire does not have the large numbers of rough sleepers as in our cities we do have too many unfortunate individuals who for whatever reason are sleeping rough on our streets. The rough sleeping tends to be concentrated in our towns and the City of Salisbury. Over the summer I have taken time to talk to many rough sleepers and to try to understand their problems as well as gaining an insight from the partner organisations who help these people. Every case is different and all are complex but with coordination, understanding and targeted action I am confident that we can give help to this vulnerable section of our community.

I attended the excellent Semington Village Fete, where I bought some quite delicious cakes and had a chance to catch up with many locals including the new vicar from my own village of Braham. I have also been spending some time helping with the village reaction to the two predatory planning applications which have recently been submitted for large numbers of housing in the village. My view is quite clear on this, I will campaign against any application that does not at least undertake meaningful consultation with the community. The two current applications have a strong smell of speculative greed and have made no attempt to integrate with residents. They contrast totally with the smaller and much more considered Yannick homes application; lack of meaningful community consultation will be reflected in the manner of their consideration by the Planning Committee.

Finally I am pleased that Semington is able to attract its fair share of community grant funding from the Melksham Area Board. The next meeting is being held in Seend Community Centre at 7pm on Wednesday 7th September so if you would like to see how an Area Board works do come along.

Jonathon Seed



mot@kingautoservices.co.uk

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



I hope you are having a good summer!

In mid July, a woman received a call from a man claiming to be a police officer. He told the woman that somebody was in custody and had her bank details. He then asked questions about her bank accounts including how much money she had, and said that the police had been in touch with her bank. He then called later that day and asked if the woman had spoken to her bank. She said no, and then ended the call. It is not reported what happened next but you can guess he was up to no good! The police said: "We would like to remind residents that police officers would never call you out of the blue and we would never ask about your bank account details. Please do not give out any personal details over the phone and if you receive a call of this nature, please hang up immediately and dial 101."

Want to buy a drone? Online shopping websites are being used by fraudsters to advertise non-existent drones of various specifications for competitive prices. Drones are personal flying devices that often carry cameras and can be navigated remotely by hand-held controllers. Fraudsters are capitalising on their recent popularity and advertise non-existent drones at low prices to tempt buyers. After victims agree to purchase the drone, the fraudsters request payment to be paid by bank transfer saying that it will quicken the delivery process. After transferring the money the buyer does not receive the drone and the fraudster blocks the victim to prevent further conversation. Avoid paying by bank transfer and instead use an online payment option such as PayPal, which helps to protect you. Check feedback online by searching the associated phone numbers or email addresses of the seller. Feedback will give you useful information about recent transactions other buyers may have made.

If an advertised item is below market value consider whether this is likely to be a scam. Be wary when buyers wish to purchase items at the full asking price without viewing them, especially if they go on to ask you to pay courier charges. Avoid paying an advanced fee if you are a buyer or seller; should you choose to use a courier, arrange your own.

If you, or anyone you know, have been affected by this fraud or any other scam, report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040 or visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk.

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CATHOLIC NEWS

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST TROWBRIDGE & ST BERNADETTE'S WESTBURY (including VILLAGES).

**Parish Priest Canon Liam O'Driscoll, Telephone 01225 752 152
www.stjohnthebaptisttrowbridge.co.uk**

St John's Sunday Masses:

Saturday (Vigil) 6pm; Sunday 10.30am & 6pm

Weekday Masses:

Mon: 9am; Tues: 6pm; Wed: 8.30am; Fri 6pm

Sat: 10am; 6pm (Vigil)

Rosary: Weekdays before Mass. SVP Fri 6.45pm

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

St Bernadette's Sunday Mass - 9am

Weekday Mass -Thursday 11 am

Confessions/Reconciliation before Mass and any time on request

PILGRIMAGE TO CLIFTON CATHEDRAL

This will take place on Wednesday 7th September and provides an opportunity to visit the Diocesan Mother Church. Details 01225 752152.

PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA & SANTIAGO

This will take place from 5th-11th June 2017 at a cost of £699pp. Contact 01225 754841 for details.

ANNUAL SPONSORED WALK See page 14.

THE NEW 300 CLUB 2016

Subscriptions: £50 annually - £13 quarterly - £4.33 monthly. New members are most welcome to join at any time. Prizes are: £200-£70-£50-£10 monthly. For information and application form contact:

Francis Geraghty 01380 871083

email: f.geraghty303@btinternet.com

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.

Francis Geraghty 01380 871 083



**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**

Thought from Canalside Rectory—September 2016

I expect that many of you, like me, have enjoyed watching the Olympic Games. The dedication and achievement of the competitors (and not only those who won medals) is inspirational – and I sense that Great Britain's extraordinary success has, at least for now, changed our national mood.

September is often a time of transition and change. Many of our young people will be starting at new schools, or moving on to jobs or university. Our community life will get busy again after the quieter days of August, as many village organisations begin a new autumn programme. Times of change are usually both exciting and slightly daunting. This has certainly been true for me. But my experience has been that they are also times of learning and growth.

One of the best known passages in the Bible describes how Zacchaeus' meeting with Jesus changed his life. Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector – a hated figure – for he was collecting on behalf of the occupying Roman authorities and probably over-charging for his own benefit. He climbed a tree to see Jesus passing. Much to the disgust of the crowd who saw this taxman as a sinner to be shunned, Jesus called him out of the tree and said he was coming to stay in his house. This marked a new start for Zacchaeus – who declared he would give half his possessions to the poor and pay back four times the amount he owed to anyone who had been cheated. Jesus welcomed him and said he had come to save the lost. Zacchaeus' life was changed for ever.

My encounter with Jesus was less dramatic but equally life changing. For me there was no dramatic moment of conversion, but over the last 30+ years I have been aware of God's loving presence, both in the joys and difficult times in my life. It is a discovery I believe is of great value and worth sharing. If you would like to explore what this might mean for you do join us at our services – details can be found elsewhere in this magazine.

Best wishes, *John Rees*

revjohnrees@btinternet.com, tel. 01225 764365

Don't think, "How do they do that?" Think, "I could do that."

Thank you

A BIG THANK YOU

I would like to thank all my friends in Semington, for all the beautiful flowers and cards you all so kindly gave me on my move to Melksham. But above all, thanks for all your support in the last 18 months, without it I think I would have given up (or gone doolally!)

I'm settling in OK and finding my way around. You need a map, especially in the flat. I mistook a cupboard for a bathroom door!!!

Once again, thank you all. You are welcome any time for a cuppa.

Love from Edna

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTER

Wedding: Kimberley Gemma Brown and Richard Francis Watkins

The marriage of Kimberley and Richard took place at St George's Church on Saturday 9th July 2016. We pray that God will bless this marriage and wish Kimberley and Richard great happiness.

Wedding: Chloe Rebecca Wildsmith and William John Mortimore

The marriage of Chloe and William took place at St Michael & All Angels, Hilperton on Saturday 23rd July 2016. We pray that God will bless this marriage and wish Chloe and William great happiness.

Paws For Thought



"Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."

**It's in the Bible:
Luke 12 verses 6 & 7**

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

SEPTEMBER 2016 SERVICES

St. George's Semington

4th Sept	9.15am	Parish Communion
11th Sept	9.15am	Methodist Service
18th Sept	6pm	Harvest Festival
25th Sept	9.15am	Together in Worship

St. Michael's Hilperton

4th Sept	8am	Holy Communion
4th Sept	11am	Together in Worship & Baptism
11th Sept	9.15am	Parish Communion
11th Sept	11am	Methodist Service
18th Sept	10am	Together in Worship
25th Sept	9.15am	Patronal Festival
25th Sept	11am	Methodist Service

St. Mary Magdalen Hilperton Marsh

4th Sept	11am	Parish Communion
25th Sept	11am	Parish Communion

St. Mary's Whaddon

11th Sept	6pm	Harvest Evensong with Bishop Edward & John Rees
18th Sept	8am	Holy Communion