

NOVEMBER 2016

SEMINGTON

PARISH



MAGAZINE

Minister for Semington:

Revd John Rees

22 Warren Road

Staverton

BA14 8UZ

Tel. 01225 764365

The best part of TV is that you can switch people off

Semington Diary



NOVEMBER 2016 **(in the Village Hall unless stated)**

2nd	Wed	Armstrong's Angels Skittles	8pm
3rd	Thu	Semington Ladies A Skittles	8pm
7th	Mon	WI Skittles	7.30pm
10th	Thu	Semington WI meeting	7pm
16th	Wed	Armstrong's Angels Skittles	8pm
20th	Sun	Quiz Night	7.30pm
21st	Mon	Armstrong's Angels Skittles	8pm
23rd	Wed	Parish Council Meeting	7.45pm
28th	Mon	WI Skittles	7.30pm

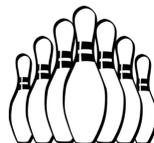
(7th December Book Club - Somerset Arms)

Ladies Skittles

8pm on Tuesdays - 1st, 15th, 22nd, 29th November

Men's Skittles

8pm on Fridays - 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th November



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

Least said, soonest offended



Housegroup - join us to drink tea/coffee, chat & have a laugh. We're looking at the book of James at the moment. For more information, dates and venues, phone Bev/Jack 870784.

Christians in Semington - Wednesday 2nd November, 7.45pm to 9pm, 9 Somerset Way. Join us to pray for our community.

Christmas Table Top Sale - Semington Village Hall. Saturday 26th November, 10:30am – 2:30pm. More detail on page 9.

VACANCY



ST. GEORGE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are looking for a temporary Midday Supervisory Assistant to work with pupils 5 days a week – if you think you may be interested please contact St George's on 01380 870243 for further details. Closing Date: Wednesday 2nd November 2016 (short notice!).

MAGAZINE DEADLINES & ADVERTISING

Next month we have the combined December/January issue. The deadline for contributions is Thursday 24th November.

Email Leon, the Editor, at semparmag1@outlook.com.

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

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Paxcroft Mead Community Centre,
Thursdays 10am, Hilperton, BA14 7GW

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This month I have fallen off the wagon....

You may recall that I had made a promise to myself that each month since finishing permanent work that I would either learn a new skill or experience something new. You may also recall at the end of last month I said I had landed a six week temporary assignment so was going to leave hubby to run the house. I'm not going to lie, or even fib, this month I have not done anything new, if anything I have gone back to my old ways!

The temporary role was up in a large hotel in North Oxfordshire. So number one I was back to staying away a couple of nights a week, having bedroom banquets for one. The role was also pretty specialist with lots of business analysis being done as well as forecasting. So number two I was back to long hours and long commutes.

So when the Ed's reminder for contributions to the mag came in yesterday it made me realize how easy it is to immerse yourself in work to the detriment of a healthy work life balance. Now don't get me wrong hubby is a rather splendid housekeeper – so everything is spick and span in the house, washing done, lovely meals waiting for me when I get home – and maybe I'm missing a trick here and should hire him out! But over the past year I have developed a passion for being a home bird, taking time to keep house.

I've had to suspend singing in the choir for a couple of months, my skittle skills are not improving due to my unavailability to play (although our Captain, may say that after 5 years of playing, this is probably the best I will ever play!) and all of the projects I had lined up are more like piled up!

So next month I'm hoping to make my first ever proper pair of lined curtains, a roman blind (I know, I know – how do you make a roman blind – poke him in the eye), jumpers for my gorgeous granddaughters, blankets for Christmas presents and finish a baby blanket for the beautiful new addition to our family our grandson George, or as Izzy our youngest granddaughter calls him Baby Dorge, which inevitably he is now known as.

So have I enjoyed working like I used to? That's a big and brave question to answer. I have loved using the old grey matter again as well as being heavily involved in the cut and thrust of a big, busy hotel. But and it's a big but, this is stuff I know how to do and I want to be stimulated by learning new stuff - remaining true to my aim of something new each month....

Let the lined curtains be the first on the list!

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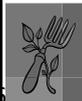
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Better to wear out than to dry out

QUIZ NIGHT



October's quiz was attended by 7 teams, so many thanks to everyone for attending. Thanks also go to the quizmasters, Tony, Stuart and Lin.

The Marathon was a set of photos of Doctors - they could be characters, actual doctors or people with doctorates, such as David Owen and Alastair Campbell. The No Idea team won the Marathon Round.

Going into the last round of the main quiz 3 teams tied for the lead. This was on Food and Drink, with questions such as What is the French 'marron' in English? (Chestnut.) By the end of the round and the quiz, the clear winners, with 43 points, were the Walking Wounded team (Angela, Bill, Vic and Helen), from No Idea in second and Terry's Turnips in third place, so very well done to them, in quite a low-scoring quiz.

The next quiz will be on **20 November** and the Christmas Quiz will be on **18 December**. We look forward to seeing you there! It is 7.30 for a 7.45pm start.

Julia Wade

A BIG THANK YOU FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone in the village who took the trouble to write to Wiltshire Council (WC) to comment on the applications from Richborough and Framptons, to build over 147 houses in Semington. One of these applications has now been turned down by WC planning officers. What you may not be aware of is how closely the arguments put forward by the village match those used by the planners. That is, we wanted Semington to retain the character of a village, and the Council agreed. We all know that this may not be the end of the story, but it is clear that we would not have got this far if it hadn't been for the amazing level of response from you all. There were almost 170 objections to the Richborough application, and there have been about 100 (so far) to the Framptons one. **The Parish Council has been really heartened by this.**

Robert Oglesby Chair of Semington Parish Council

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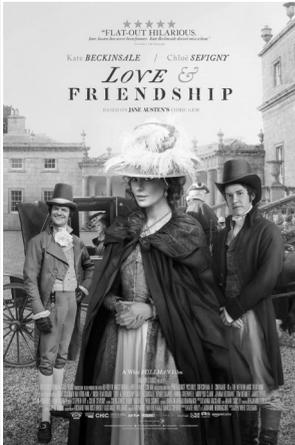
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STEEPLE ASHTON FILMS

**Saturday 19 November – 7.30pm
(Refreshments 7pm) Steeple Ashton Village Hall**

Love & Friendship, directed by *Whit Stillman*, is a tremendously witty adaptation of a little known novella by Jane Austen. This film boasts 5* reviews and is surely Kate Beckinsale's finest performance. She plays the scheming Lady Susan Vernon, a beautiful single mother in 1790s England. Recently widowed, Lady Susan, has no money and no

husband, but these are only minor inconveniences as she pursues wealth and status for herself and her daughter.

Depending on your point of view, Lady Susan is either a villainess, wrecking marriages and treating her relatives with contempt, or she is the heroine. She has little choice other than to rely on her own beauty and cunning to achieve a place in society and suitable husbands of good standing and wealth for herself and her daughter, but will it go to plan?

Tickets £6 available from Steeple Ashton Village Shop



SEMINGTON VILLAGE HALL CHRISTMAS TABLE TOP SALE

Saturday 26th November
10:30am – 2:30pm

Refreshments Available including Bacon Rolls / Tea & Coffee
Free Entry

Tables cost £10 (No rummage sale please)

9

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NATURE NOTES

John Clare was not strong on punctuation, and is likely frowned upon in these puritanical days where the ability to put your apostrophes in the right place is so important, and knowing how to analyse sentence structure seems more crucial than the meaning it has. However, Clare's ability to capture nature's essence is hard to beat.

Anticipating the coming Autumn

I love the fitfull gusts that shakes
The casement all the day
And from the mossy elm tree takes
The faded leaf away
Twirling it by the window-pane
With thousand others down the lane



I love to see the shaking twig
Dance till the shut of eve
The sparrow on the cottage rig
Whose chirp would make believe
That spring was just now flirting by
In summers lap with flowers to lie

I love to see the cottage smoke
Curl upwards through the naked trees
The pigeons nestled round the coat
On dull November days like these
The cock upon the dung-hill crowing
The mill sails on the heath agoing

The feather from the ravens breast
Falls on the stubble lea
The acorns near the old crows nest
Fall pattering down the tree
The grunting pigs that wait for all
Scramble and hurry where they fall

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BOOKCLUB



Bookclub met on Wed 19 October to discuss *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood. They found this book, set in a dystopian futuristic North America, both disturbing and violent. It was written just after 1984 and before the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and gives a warning of how the world might function if violence increased and the balance of power changed. Scarily, echoes of her thoughts and ideas can be seen in the modern world today. The book provoked much thought and a lively debate although it was not one that the group 'enjoyed'. The next meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday 7th December at 7.15pm in the Somerset Arms. We will be having our Christmas meal and sharing with each other our thoughts on any book we think worth reading. No homework.

Angela Grodzicka 870 756

WILTSHIRE AIR AMBULANCE **NEW HOME UPDATE**



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I would like to thank everyone who took part in our second phase of public consultation in June on the proposed design of our New Home to bring together our aircrew, helicopter and charity team, on land at Outmarsh Farm, Semington.

The response we had was overwhelmingly supportive and I'm really pleased to announce that we have submitted our detailed plans to Wiltshire Council (the reference number is 16/09699/FUL).

The Outmarsh Farm site is ideally situated in the centre of Wiltshire as it would allow the helicopter to reach all parts of the county within 11 minutes, as currently happens from its base in Devizes.

Edited Minutes - Semington Parish Council (PC) meeting of 12 October 2016

Present: Cllrs. Robert Oglesby (Chairman), P Bowyer, S Rimmer, R Robinson, W Scott, B Smyth, C Wade and the Clerk, Roger Coleman. Wiltshire Council (WC) Cllr. J Seed. Six members of the public initially.

Apologies for non-attendance: from Cllrs. K Lockwood and P Smith.

Adjournment: The Chairman introduced representatives from Wiltshire Air Ambulance who gave a situation report regarding the planning application to locate the Air Ambulance at Semington.

WC Report: Cllr. Seed gave a brief report: (a) None of the four licences available for 'fracking' in Wiltshire have been taken up. (b) The Planning Inspector has refused permission for the Shurnold development (Planning application 14/11919/OUT) and this decision may well influence the decisions regarding the proposed large scale residential developments in Semington. (c) Planning application 16/05783/OUT (the Richborough development) has been refused by WC. The PC thanked Cllr. Seed and all parishioners for the support all had given to the PC in respect of Planning application 16/05783/OUT.

Planning:

PENDING 6/01678/OUT Land at St Georges Road Erection of up to 24 dwellings with associated access and parking and land for allotments (Reserved matters: Access)

REFUSED 16/05783/OUT 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).

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

PENDING 16/06956/OUT Land North of St George's Road Outline Application – All Matters Reserved (Residential development of up to 72 units)

Cllr. Scott summarised the application for Great Lees Field to be registered as a Village Green. Public notices had been displayed inviting the public to notify WC of any objections to this proposal and that the PC had been invited to make any representations. After discussion, the PC agreed to fully support the application and that it had no objections to Great Lees Field being registered as a Village Green. Cllr. Scott abstained from the vote. Cllr. Scott added that a further application for Rights of Way to be established and for a second field to be designated as a Village Green was refused by WC.

Finance: (full details available on request from the Editor)

The total balance in hand at 12th October 2016 was £23,349.04. The Clerk reported that he had received the completed Annual Return for FY2015/16 from the External Auditor confirming that all matters were satisfactory and added that there were no matters that had to be brought to the attention of the PC. The PC thanked the Clerk for his conscientiousness.

Allotments: The PC agreed that the proposed Allotment Management Committee should comprise no more than four or five persons and that one of those persons is to be a Semington PC councillor, namely Cllr. Wade. The

Council decided that approval of planning application 16/01678/OUT and the consequent signing of the s106 Agreement would signal the need to commence the planning of the allotment gardens, their management and the respective tenancies. Cllr. Wade stated that, meanwhile, he would establish the names of likely tenants.

Highways/Environment: Cllr. Smyth stated that occupants of The Turnpike had cut back the overgrown vegetation in order to improve the visibility for motorists and pedestrians. The PC noted that it had received a petition from a number of signatories in respect of car parking in High Street and councillors commented that at certain times of the week the number of cars parking in High Street does cause problems. The Council agreed that highway issues, including parking, are a matter for WC and the Clerk was asked to refer the matter, including the petition, to WC Highways Department. Cllr. Wade reported that there had been a three car road traffic incident recently near to the crematorium in which one car was a 'write-off' and another was badly damaged. The Chairman reminded councillors that a record should be kept of all such accidents in order to demonstrate that additional safety measures were required for the A361 road. Cllr. Robinson agreed to keep such a record. Cllr. Rimmer reported that he was still seeking a Christmas tree but, so far, without success. The PC agreed that a maximum of £250 be spent in acquiring such a tree and transporting it to Semington. The PC agreed to thank Martin Costello for cutting back part of the hedge that runs alongside the footpath by the Village Hall. Councillors commented that it appeared that only a short stretch of the A361 was resurfaced recently and that the limited work undertaken hardly justified closing the entire road between the roundabouts. The Chairman stated that the red telephone box in Semington was, according to British Telecom (BT), surplus to requirements and that the PC may wish to consider purchasing it and using it as a community facility. The Clerk was asked to contact BT and to make enquiries.

Wilts & Berks Canal: The Clerk confirmed that he had made representations to the Melksham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group regarding representation on the Steering Group by Semington PC was awaiting a further reply from the Chairman. Cllr. Scott reiterated his view that such representation was essential and the Clerk was asked to pursue this matter.

Tennis Court: Councillors reported that the hedge/brambles at the Tennis Court were very overgrown and required cutting back. Cllr. Robinson offered to inspect the hedge/brambles and to propose a solution.

Any Other Business: Cllr. Rimmer reported that the PC lawnmower had developed a fault and needed a repair. He agreed to make enquiries locally for someone with the necessary knowledge and skills. Cllr. Smyth advised councillors of the inspection regime for the defibrillator to ensure that it remains in a serviceable condition. Cllr. Scott reported that a number of parishioners had approached him to offer thanks to the PC for the leadership it had shown regarding recent planning applications.

Date of Next Meeting: 23 November 2016, commencing at 8pm – Ordinary PC Meeting.

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

THURSDAYS
6.45pm—7.45pm
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WILTSHIRE COUNCIL NEWS FROM JONATHON SEED

Autumn is demonstrably upon us and as we move towards the winter we all need to prepare for inclement weather. I am always quite active in my work as Wiltshire Council Cabinet lead for flooding at this time of the year. We never know when heavy rain will come but we do know that rain it will. As ever my message is that Wiltshire Council is very active and will do whatever it can to prevent flooding. However when the rains eventually come they generally are pretty evenly spread across the County and the Council cannot get out to help all communities affected by flooding at the same time. Therefore the more self-help and preparations that communities can undertake the better. We have 82 parishes with flood plans and 170 trained flood wardens in the County. It is clear that communities can make preparations but so can individuals. This could be as simple as clearing leaves from blocking a drain or gully on your morning walk. Who knows that may be the critical drain or gully that stops a small area, and houses, from flooding.

There has been the spectre of the concept of fracking in Wiltshire taking place in the area. After the Government had offered licences to a shale gas extractor on four distinct areas in Wiltshire including our area, I was delighted to hear this week that the company had decided not to take up the licences. This is really good news for our area since this company is focussing its activities in Somerset and Dorset now. However, it is one the issues that we must continue to monitor.

All of our villages are living communities and that means that they will continually evolve. However we can all engage in the process for development of our communities. This may be the production and adoption of a neighbourhood plan or it may simply be taking careful account of each application as it comes forward and making a recommendation to the Local Planning Authority (Wiltshire Council). In Semington your Parish Councillors and others undertake a great deal of local work in the planning arena assessing every local application and I work closely with the Parish Council on every one of these applications. Recently a predatory application for over seventy houses in the village was refused by Wiltshire Council and this was heavily influenced by some very concentrated and lucid opposition from villagers. Finally I am always available to discuss applications with individuals be they applicants or objectors.

jonathon.seed@wiltshire.gov.uk



SEMINGTON WI OCTOBER MEETING

We had a fascinating talk from Ian Sipson and Rachel Bird from Sipsons Jewellers in Trowbridge. They brought along some pieces that they had made and we were shown some of the processes that are used in making jewellery. We were also made aware of what can be done with jewellery that we have grown tired of, or perhaps inherited that maybe isn't something that we would have chosen for ourselves, but for sentimental reasons can't dispose of it. We were pleasantly surprised to learn that they have a workshop on the premises that has a viewing window so that you can watch Rachel as she creates her masterpieces. There are different ways of achieving what you want, using computer aided design etc. for which the owner has as much or as little input as they wish. I especially liked the idea of reusing jewellery that you already have. It was a fascinating evening enjoyed by all and I think a some of us will be searching our jewellery boxes and designing remakes.

We will be trying our hands on Thursday 10th November 7.30pm at Christmas Wreath making under the guidance of Jeannie Bailey. All are welcome but if you want to make a wreath then email Semington WI so that we have enough oasis for everyone. You will also need to bring greenery and any Christmas decorations that you wish to put on your wreath.

Deb Hurn

Editor's Thoughts

There is just enough space for me to say a few words. It's been a bit hard for me this month. For reasons I cannot explain, I lost the attachments to about 4 emails from contributors and, at the last minute, had to ask them to be retransmitted again. It's times like this when you appreciate the work of all our contributors. I just put it all together.

The most scary thing at the moment, even for me, is this growing spate of spams, not just in emails, but in house to house calls and phone calls. As Paul Bowyer says, it important you keep alert to these and to help those who are more vulnerable than you .

18

Once again, Christmas is just around the corner, but I'm not ready for it yet!

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Beware of a scam phone call from a man saying he is from BT Openreach or Microsoft and that there was something wrong with your computer which he could correct over the phone. The 'potential victim' recognised that this was a scam and told the caller so, whereby the caller became very aggressive and abusive before the recipient could put the phone down. Obviously the caller's number was withheld so there is very little the phone company or the police can do but please be aware of this scam and warn others to be vigilant. This is an old scam but presumably people are falling for it, otherwise they would stop.

The NSPCC have issued useful advice to parents about how to keep children safe while using the popular new app 'Pokemon Go'.

Pokémon Go: a parent's guide : "Tips and advice for keeping children safe whilst on Pokémon Go". " Pokémon (Pocket Monsters) are little creatures that can be captured by Pokémon Trainers using a small spherical device called a Poké Ball. There are different types of Pokémon, with different moves, abilities and stats. The aim of the game is to capture as many Pokémon and to win as many 'gyms' as you can to become the Pokémon Master." For more information and advice call the NSPCC free on 0808 800 5000.

Be on the alert for a man by the name of S. Palmer, who is cold calling, rather forcefully, offering his services as a 'tree surgeon'. Not only does he leave his 'card' but rings the doorbell until he gets an answer and is not very happy when his offer is not taken up. If he should appear in your neighbourhood, please ring 101 and let the police know.

Happy Halloween – you can get window stickers saying 'No trick or treaters here please' from the police (Tel No. 101)

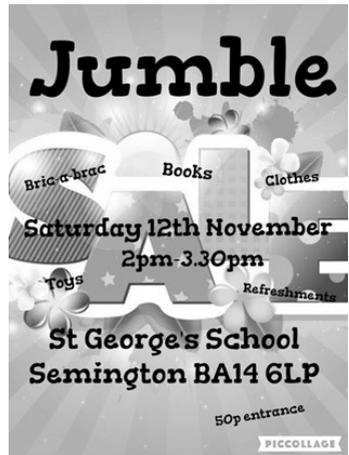
NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF ST. GEORGE'S

The **Jumble Sale** is on **Saturday 12th November** from 2pm - 3.30pm.

All donations of clothes, bric-a-brac, books and toys are warmly welcomed. Donations can be dropped off at the school from 3.30pm on Friday 11th November or 10am on Saturday 12th November.

Please contact Victoria on 01380 870 796 if you require any jumble to be collected.

Friends of St George's



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

This spectacular annual family event takes place on Saturday 26th November in St Augustine's Catholic College, Wingfield Road, Trowbridge from 11am. Contact Francis Geraghty on **01380 871 083**.

email: f.geraghty303@btinternet.com

Paws For Thought



Jesus said - "I told you these things so that you can have peace in me. In this world you will have trouble, but be brave! I have defeated the world."

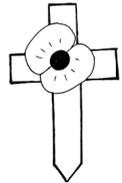
**It's in the Bible:
John 16 verse 33**

Am Emblem - The Poppy



The poppy stands in the windy vale
Standing firm even in a gale.
Its blood red petals, its jet black stamen
An emblem of life lost of those in battle fallen.

The poppy is the emblem to remember those
For those that have fallen across the globe
From World War 1 to the latest conflict.
Every poppy a human life lost depicts.



These lives should not be wasted
Nor should one look for retribution
But let the power of discussion
Turn the heads of those looking for destruction.

In services of remembrance around the world
We remember those injured, maimed or dead.
They saved their country from tyranny.
May God watch over them for eternity.

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19th June 2014



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APPLICATION FOR GREAT LEES FIELD TO BE A VILLAGE GREEN

As you will recall, Great Lees Field on Pound Lane was ploughed on April 27th for the first time in living memory. This great village asset had been used by many people over the years for exercise, sport, relaxation and recreation, and its sudden loss caused great regret and anger in the village. Because of this, and following consultation with villagers, including a questionnaire survey, we applied to Wiltshire Council on June 24th for the field to be designated a village green under the Commons Act, 2006. We called ourselves *The Friends of Great Lees Field*. If Great Lees Field is designated as a village green, this would mean that the field would remain open for use by villagers forever and protected from future development. We think that this would be wonderful for the village, and hope you do too.

We are pleased to say that Wiltshire Council has confirmed that the application was “in order” and that it has published a formal notice in the Wiltshire Times on October 7th. There is now a period for any objections to be made which ends on November 21st. After this, Wiltshire Council will consider all comments and come to a decision.

You can read the case that we made to Wiltshire Council on the Semington Village website [www.xxxx]. This presents an analysis of the 66 questionnaire returns from all parts of the village and argues that there has been *as of right* use of Great Lees Field by Semington villagers from at least the 1950s up to its ploughing. The document sets out in detail the use of Great Lees Field by villagers with a focus on the pattern of personal activities that have been carried out and their frequency, the length of time people had used the field and their reasons for going onto the land, people's knowledge of community activities on the field, how access was gained, and whether permission had ever been denied or access otherwise prevented.

At the moment we are talking with existing village groups with a view to deciding how to establish the *Friends* on a more formal footing if the application is successful. If you have any ideas about this, or wish to contact us about anything else, please email us at: friendsofgreatleesfield@gmail.com

Jon Jonik (Chair), Steve Hall (Lead Applicant), Diane Swaine, Peter Smith, Bill Scott

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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 FATIMA & SANTIAGO

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

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

This spectacular annual family event takes place on Saturday 26th November in St Augustine's Catholic College, Wingfield Road, Trowbridge from 11am. Contact Francis Geraghty .

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.

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

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**

Thought from the Rectory:

November is a month which is associated with remembrance. Many of us will join together at 10am on Sunday 13th November at St George's Church to remember, with thanksgiving, all those who have served for the freedom of our country in the First and Second World Wars and subsequent conflicts and to pay particular tribute to those who gave their lives for us. On November 18th it will be 100 years since the end of the Battle of the Somme. As I write this I am aware that many of our service personnel have recently faced danger in Afghanistan and Iraq and some still face danger in Syria.

Changes in politics and technology mean that the nature of warfare today is very different from that of the major wars of the 20th century. Some things, however, remain the same, for example the sense of comradeship developed between those facing hardship and danger together. Perhaps the most important of these shared values is **hope**.

Those who served in the 1914-18 and 1939-45 wars, and those doing so today, have generally served in the hope that, somehow their hardship and sacrifice will help to create a better world, a world in which there will be freedom and greater justice for all. The words of the Kohima Epitaph (part of the remembrance service) capture the spirit of this hope: 'When you go home tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow we gave our today'.

Most of us, and many of the organisations we belong to, look at the past in the hope of learning lessons which will help create a better future.

The Christian message is also about hope. Jesus, through his death and resurrection offers us forgiveness from wrongdoing and the promise of new awareness of God's love to all who will accept it. He then calls us all to be passionate about caring for justice and for the disadvantaged.

What do you hope for – in your own life – in the life of our village – and in the wider world? Let's share our thoughts – for as we do so we will strengthen up our community life.

Best wishes, John

FUNERAL : MALCOLM JOHN BENNETT ('MAC')

A Service to Celebrate the Life of Mac Bennett was held at St George's Church on Monday 26th September 2016.

We pray that Jude and Rob, their family and friends will know God's love and peace at this sad time.

FUNERAL : KENNETH ALFRED BRAY ('KEN')

The funeral of Ken Bray was held at St George's Church on Friday 21st October 2016.

We pray that Robert, Elaine and Martin, their families and friends will know God's love and peace at this sad time.

FUNERAL : MABEL HELEN GRIFFIN

The funeral of Helen Griffin took place at St George's Church on Friday 7th October 2016.

We pray that Deborah, Stuart, their families and friends will know God's love and peace at this sad time.

MAC BENNETT

Mac was born in Hilperton in 1932 and spent his childhood in Trowbridge. His long association with Semington and the village church began when he was invited to a Sunday tea party by a school friend who was a chorister at St George's Church. The one condition insisted on by the mother of Mac's friend was that they should go to church after the party. The rest, as they say, is history. Mac's involvement with Semington and St George's Church was to last for over 60 years.

Mac began by singing in the choir, later offering to take over as church organist on a temporary basis. Mac's "temporary" appointment ended only when he retired last year. His first and final services as organist were Harvest Festivals.

Mac met his wife, Betty, through St George's Church and the village hall. Following their marriage, they lived in their bungalow in Church Street. Mac was a long-standing member of the Social Club Committee and the Village Hall Council and, for many years, was a familiar face manning the entrance gate of the annual Semington Fete.

Mac loved to travel and well into retirement he and Betty enjoyed many wonderful holidays, including railway journeys, cruises and visiting the Italian Lakes. His taxi service was used by many village residents and he would willingly provide transport to and from airports at any time of the day or night.

**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

NOVEMBER 2016 SERVICES

St. George's Semington

6th	9.15am	Parish Communion
13th	9.15am	Remembrance Day Service
20th	6pm	Evening Worship
27th	9.15am	Together in Worship

St. Michael's Hilperton

6th	8am	Holy Communion
6th	11am	Together in Worship (Shoobox Collection)
13th	10.50am	Remembrance Parade
20th	10am	Together in Worship & Baptisms
27th	9.15am	Parish Communion
27th	11am	Methodist Service
30th	3pm	In Loving Memory Service

St. Mary Magdalen Hilperton Marsh

6th	11am	Parish Communion
13th	3pm	Remembrance Service (at Staverton School)
27th	11am	Parish Communion

St. Mary's Whaddon

13th	8am	BCP Communion
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