

FEBRUARY 2019

SEMINGTON
PARISH



MAGAZINE

Minister for Semington:

Rev. John Rees

22 Warren Road

Staverton

BA14 8UZ

Tel. 01225 764365

Semington Diary

Village Hall

february

WEDS	13 th	Parish Council Meeting	8.00pm
THURS	14 th	Semington WI Meeting	7.30pm
SUN	17 th	Village Quiz	7.45pm

SKITTLES

TUESDAYS		Ladies' Skittles	
WEDS	6 th	Armstrongs Angels	
	20 th	Armstrongs Angels	
THURS	28 th	Steeple Ashton Skittles	
FRIDAYS		Mens' Skittles	

Every Week in The Village Hall & St George's School

Bingo	Monday	7.30pm
Post Office	Monday & Thursday	9.30am-12.30pm
Baby/Toddler Group	Tuesday	10.00am-11.30am
	St George's School Hall	
Bridge Club	Tuesday & Friday	9.00am-1.00pm
Zumba Fitness	Wednesday	6.30pm
	St George's School Hall	
Coffee Morning	Thursday	10.00am-12noon
Alzheimer's Support	2 nd Thursday of the month	10.00am-12noon
Semingtones	Fridays	6.00pm-7.30pm

Save The Date!

JULY

Just a quick word about this year's village fete.

We know its early but the Committee are starting to get plans in motion!

This year's fete will be held on Saturday 1st July, so there's a date for your diary. If any villagers have any suggestions for musicians or entertainers to perform, please get in touch! Either stop one of us in the village, pop in to see John at the pub, or email me at 3milburns@gmail.com We checked and so far we don't have any clashes with football tournaments or royal weddings!

Thank you!

Sheralyn, Bev, Elaine, Toby, Ian and John

Christians in Semington

Bev Woodward

Christians in Semington - Wednesday 6th February, 7.45pm – 9.00pm, 9 Somerset Way. Join us to pray for our community.

No **Messy Church** this month, but there is a tea time service in Church, 4.00pm on 24th February. This will be a shorter service with craft and refreshments afterwards.

Alpha started in Hilperton at the end of January - evenings discovering what life is all about. For more details please contact Rev. John Rees.

Housegroup - Tuesdays 12th and 26th February 7.45pm. Join us to drink tea/coffee, chat and have a laugh and find out more about the Christian faith. The evenings are suitable for anyone. For more information, including venues, phone Bev/Jack 870784, Pam/David 870030 or Victoria 871936.

Weather Report

Jack Woodward



Another exciting year of weather in Semington? Rainfall was a bit less than average, 27.9 inches (708mm), with March being the wettest with 4.3 inches. There was a very dry 6 week period from the beginning of June to mid July with almost no recordable rain. This coincided with some extremely hot weather, with 7 out of 10 days at the beginning of July reaching over 30°C (remember how hot it was on fete day?).

Overall temperatures for the year were a bit up on the average. We had a particularly cold spell at the end of February - early March, the 'beast from the east', which included significant snowfall and drifting, with parents keeping watch for cars and buses as children enjoyed sledging down the humpback bridge.

Editor's Note

Gillian Airey

Well here we are battling through the grey months of winter. Deadline for the March edition of our little mag is Friday 22nd February. New contributors are always welcome. Email me at **semparmag@icloud.com** As noted in our last edition of 2018 the new e-mail address for ads is **semparmagads@icloud.com** feel free to get in contact as we have new openings now coming through.

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United Methodist Church Hall, BoA

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Paxcroft Mead Community Centre,

Hilperton, BA14 7GW

Thursdays 10am

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www.patriciaperry.zumba.com

No more than 2 flies are allowed by law in any public toilet in China – QI Fact

This month I've had touch of 'Toilet Trouble'

Gilly Airey

Seriously guys – where do you think I'm going with this one? All the way back to Christmas seeing as you asked.... Firstly let me get nostalgic on you and recount how important board games and card games were at Christmas when I was but a wee nipper. Every family had a go-to game they played at Christmas, for some it was Monopoly. I hate that game with a passion, and yes I know I became a hotel manager, but oh the interminable boredom of Monopoly, in and out of jail, never having enough money to buy Mayfair, settling on Old Kent Road... Our family go-to game was the card game Newmarket, the thrill of betting a penny (1p new money – how rude of you to think I am a pre-decimal girl!) on the Jack of Spades or the Queen of Hearts. All ages around the table would play for hours, let's face it that was what Dad's penny jar was for.

So this year with our Christmas happening on New Year's Eve – don't ask but I know you want to - it stems back from our days with real jobs and Christmas being whenever we got the time off. We decided to buy games both of the board and non-board variety. We needed to bridge the gap from 2 years old, Gorgeous George, all the men in my family are apparently gorgeous, to gorgeous hubby who is significantly older than GG. The answer came to me in a blinding flash of light – well actually the end of an aisle in Sainsburys - 'Toilet Trouble'. It's really a very simple game, spin the toilet roll and flush the toilet the same number of times as indicated on the toilet roll and hope you don't get squirted. Before you all start ringing social services this was not a set of instructions to be carried out in our loo, this was a board game..... clean water, scale model of a toilet and a teeny-weeny toilet roll. There is nothing more Tena Lady inducing than watching young children scream with laughter at adults being squirted by a toilet, or indeed when your 2 year old grandson cannot fathom out how or where the water has squirted from and the sheer indignation he was simply doing what his Nanny G had told him to do. Naughty Nanny G!

For the adults J and R played a blinder with their 'Silly Sausage' game. It's the modern day equivalent of the Simple Simon game. It involves a stretching, poking, twisting and dipping a large plastic sausage... I appreciate that probably doesn't do it justice – Google it - you'll see what I mean.

The best bit of all? It was just us playing silly games, no TVs, no phones, no iPads, just our family playing games and as James our eldest says – making memories.

Somerset Arms

February Upcoming events



KIDS EAT FREE FEBRUARY

KEEP THE WHOLE FAMILY HAPPY THIS FEB BY TREATING THEM TO A GREAT MEAL OUT.
GET A FREE CHILDS MEAL WITH EVERY MAIN MEAL PURCHASED!!

LIVE MUSIC FROM THE BLUNDERS.....

GET YOUR DANCING SHOES ON AND COME JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF LIVE MUSIC WITH THE BLUNDERS!

09
FEBRUARY

14
JANUARY

VALENTINES DAY....

TREAT THE OTHER HALF TO A DELICIOUS MEAL FROM OUR SPECIAL VALENTINES MENU!

QUIZ NIGHT!

GET YOUR THINKING CAPS ON AND COME JOIN US FOR QUIZ NIGHT. HOSTED BY SIMON TYLER. START 7.30PM

19
FEBRUARY

ALL
FEBRUARY

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At The School Gates

Pip Hunt – Head of School, St George’s Semington

January saw the grand opening of our new playground equipment. We gathered outside to talk about how we are going to enjoy it and play on it safely as well as ways to think about looking after it so that it lasts a long time!



Volunteers Needed!

Please can I put out a plea to the village to ask if there are any willing volunteers who would be free to come and do some reading with the children? Being able to read is such a key part of being a successful learner and we are always looking for people to come in and hear children read. We realise how precious people's time is but it can be just one or two hours a week and would be a huge support to the children at St George's. Contact the school for more details.

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Semington – Quiz Central

Julia Wade and John Adams

How lucky are we in our little village? Two quizzes to keep the brain cells nicely oiled. Both the village hall and the village pub host quiz nights. You will be familiar with Julia's ace reporting from the village hall and this month we are including a round up from the Somerset Arms. Both quizzes were well supported over Christmas.

The Village Hall Christmas Quiz was set by Pete Vooght, a.k.a. Scrooge, ably assisted by his little elf, Lesley, so many thanks to them. It was a bit of an experiment as it was held on a Saturday night, quite close to Christmas and we had 13 teams attend, which was wonderful! We hope to hold more quizzes on a Saturday night to see if that increases the numbers attending, so please keep your eyes peeled for our Saturday dates. The Christmas results were very close. The winners by 2 points were Team 'Four Mince Pies' (Vic, Helen, Bill and Angela).

In January we reverted to Sunday night. Colin and I (with our tech support, Helen) set what proved to be a bit of a stinker of a music round for some teams, with scores, out of 13, varying from 1½ to 12. The theme was meant to help... the initial letters of the song titles spelled out Happy New Year, which was the link required for the 13th question. At half time the leaders, Terry's Turnips team, were just 2½ points in the lead but extended their lead to 8½ points by the end. Well done to Neil, Jacqui and Margaret.

Meanwhile at The Somerset Arms; The "It's not the Christmas quiz" dressed as a pantomime dame quizmaster Simon Tyler kicked off the quiz with a final countdown round based on Europe to test the record breaking 16 teams. This was followed by rounds on 2018 board games and Eponymous Endeavour (Detective Pairings). The eventual winners were the Far Far Aways (Mel, Sophie, Sheila, Adam). Tension mounted as they drew envelopes to see if they would win cash, crisps or wine. To a flurry of boos and hisses they took the cash away with them!

The 2nd quiz was entitled January Sales and we had another good turnout with 11 teams entering. Being the January Sales a round of sailing questions really tested the teams, and anagrams of chains in the outlet village also had heads scratching.

At the end it was all very close with points and half points separating the top teams - the January Blues Brothers took the spoils after an amazing comeback having only scored 2 out of 10 in round 1. They chose the wine envelope which following a donation to the air ambulance pot was upgraded to Prosecco. This of course means the next quiz is a cash rollover.

The next village quizzes are close together but why not get your teams to both and go for the double?

Natures Notes

Frost hasn't yet seized the land and our solitary fieldfare visitor has yet to be seen, although it is early days. John Clare, is one of the few English poets to write about these handsome birds.

Emmonsails in Heath Winter

I love to see the old heath's withered brake
Mingle its crimped leaves with furze and ling,
While the old heron from the lonely lake
Starts slow and flaps his melancholy wing,
And oddling crow in idle motions swing
On the half rotten ash tree's topmost twig,
Beside whose trunk the gipsy makes his bed.
Up flies the bouncing woodcock from the brig
Where a black quagmire quakes beneath the tread,
The fieldfares chatter in the whistling thorn
And for the awe round fields and closen rove,
And coy bumbarrels twenty in a drove
Flit down the hedgerows in the frozen plain
And hang on little twigs and start again



Great Bulkington Railway

Nev Boulton – Station Master



The Great Bulkington Railway will be open to the public on Easter Monday 22nd April from 1.00pm to 4.30pm when we will be pleased to offer rides to children and adults of all ages. Light refreshments will be served by the ladies from Christ Church Bulkington. Google 'The Great Bulkington Railway' for a video ride around the track.

We take no expenses what-so-ever and all profits from the railway will be sent to the Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

The railway and village hall may be hired for private birthday parties with BYO Party Food for £140.

Contact Station Master Nev Boulton; nev.boulton@outlook.com

Have you visited the mobile library recently?

For adults there are a large range of information books and novels, ranging from the latest thriller to best-selling autobiographies, cookery and gardening. There is also a wide selection of large print and talking books.

If you are a parent with young children you will find a great range of picture books and story CDs for them to enjoy; there are information books and plenty of exciting reading for older children as well.

There is access to the whole county stock through the Wiltshire Libraries online catalogue. Books, audio books and DVDs can be requested on the mobile or online and collected by customers from the mobile library. All children's stock can be requested free of charge with a small fee for adult requests. You can also use your membership card at any Wiltshire library and return books to the mobile library.

It is free to join and there are no fines for overdue books on the mobile library. It's easy to join, just bring along proof of your name and address and the friendly Mobile Manager will sign you up straight away – they are always happy to help. The mobile has full accessibility and is fitted with a customer lift.

We visit Semington every two weeks on a Wednesday with alternate stops at The Village Hall and Little Marsh.

Semington, Village Hall, High Street 10.30am – 10.50am

February 13th March 13th April 10th May 8th June 5th July 3rd July 31st August 28th
September 25th

Semington, Little Marsh 10.30am – 10.50am

February 27th March 27th April 24th May 22nd June 19th July 17th August 14th
September 11th

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Steeple Ashton Films

Alison Wilson



CHRISTOPHER ROBIN (PG)

SATURDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2019 – 7.30PM

(DOORS OPEN AT 7.00 PM FOR REFRESHMENTS)

AT THE VILLAGE HALL, STEEPLE ASHTON

This is a story that will be loved by everyone, the young and the young at heart. Christopher Robin's (Ewan McGregor) 'animal friends' from the Hundred Acre Wood, consisting of Winnie the Pooh (Jim Cummings), Tigger (Jim Cummings), Piglet (Nick Mohammed), Eeyore (Brad Garrett), Kanga (Sophie Okonedo), Roo (Sara Sheen), Owl (Toby Jones), and Rabbit (Peter Capaldi) threw him a going away party when he goes to boarding school. Christopher tells Pooh that he won't ever forget him. However, due to constant teasing and the teacher's strictness, he soon loses all his sense of imagination and grows up.

In the present day, Christopher is working for the demanding Giles Winslow Jr (Mark Gatiss). He is married to Evelyn (Hayley Atwell) and has a daughter, Madeline (Bronte Carmichael). They planned to spend a rare weekend in the countryside, but, after telling Evelyn that he had to spend the weekend working, she and Madeline leave without him.

This is an enchanting story of Christopher Robin dealing with the demands of life in mid-20th Century England. He loves his family, but takes his work very seriously at the expense of family life. He has forgotten his childhood and animal friends and the promise he made to Pooh. With a fantastic supporting cast, this is a heartwarming film not to be missed.

In the words of audience reviewers: "That story isn't new, but it is brought to wonderful new life by terrific acting by Ewan McGregor, Hayley Atwell, and Bronte Carmichael. The CGI animation of Pooh, Piglet, Eeyore, Tigger, and the rest of the gang is a delight. They are lovingly brought to life by the talents of Jim Cummings, Brad Garrett, Nick Mohammed, and others. The scenes where they cut to the original drawings are just wonderful. Highly recommend this film for children and adults....and anyone who loves Winnie-the-Pooh."

Tickets £6.00 from Steeple Ashton Village Shop. Reservations can be made, please ring Alison Wilson on 01380 871345

Date for your diary: Saturday 23rd March 2019; The Children Act starring Emma Thompson

Parish Council Minutes

Abridged minutes from meeting held on 9th January 2019

Present: Councillors B Smyth (Chairman), M Kasasian, R Oglesby, R Robinson, S Rimmer, P Smith, C Wade and the Clerk, Roger Coleman. Wiltshire Council Cllr. J Seed attended (Part-time). There was one member of the public present initially.

Apologies: Apologies for non-attendance were received from Parish Councillor W Scott and PCSO Maggie Ledbury.

Community Policing: PCSO Ledbury of the Community Policing Team had sent the Clerk the December monthly report that he had subsequently sent to all councillors. The Clerk read out the part of the report that dealt with local issues for Semington: ED13 – Seend, Bulkington, Poulshot, Keevil, Semington, Great Hinton and Steeple Ashton; December showed 15 reported crimes for the beat area, against the average of 11.5 offences for this same month over the last two years. This is showing as a crime exception, as the number of offences is slightly higher than we would expect to see, however it is a minimal increase. The largest four crime groups that accounted for 93% of ED13 crime are as follows: Violence against the Person showed 10 reported crimes, compared to an average of 4.2 offences. Offensive Weapon Offences showed 2 reported crimes, compared to an average of 1.5 offences. Drug Offences showed 1 reported crime, compared to an average of 1 offence. Public Order Offences showed 1 reported crimes, compared to an average of 1.3 offences. Cllr. Scott observed that some of the Neighbourhood Watch signs in the village were very faded and needed replacing. It was agreed to ask Cllr. Bowyer to check all the existing signs and to establish the procedure for obtaining replacements.

Wiltshire Council Report: Cllr. Seed stated that he will continue to pursue the acquisition of an enforcement camera for the Bus Gate with Wiltshire Council. The Chairman added that at the Wiltshire Air Ambulance Opening ceremony he had received verbal support for this project from the Chairman of Melksham Without Parish Council although the nature of the ceremony prevented a wider discussion with other key stakeholders. Cllr. Seed reminded Semington parish councillors that this subject needed to be raised at the CATG meeting. In response to a question from Cllr. Oglesby, Cllr. Seed commented that the increase to be imposed in the Council Tax by Wiltshire Council is likely to be around 3% for FY2019/20.

Planning: There were no planning applications received after 1 January 2019.

Finance: The Clerk reported that the current financial position at 9 January 2019 was as follows: **£24,374.81**

The Parish Council **resolved** to adopt the Budget for FY2019/20 (details available in full minutes)

Highways/Environment: Cllr. Robinson stated that there had, yet again, been substantial fly-tipping at Littlemarsh and at the layby on the A361 towards Trowbridge. He added that he had contacted Wiltshire Council on each occasion and it had been cleared quickly by Wiltshire Council. Councillors commented that a long-term solution needed to be sought to prevent this fly-tipping and Cllr. Robinson added that there was clear evidence of a rat infestation at the latter site. The subject of the bus gate enforcement camera and the associated actions were addressed under Agenda item 6. Cllr. Smyth remarked that it had not been possible to raise this subject with Wiltshire Police or the Air Ambulance personnel at the opening ceremony because of a lack of opportunity occasioned by the nature of the Ceremony. The Council noted the correspondence from a parishioner expressing concerns regarding the proposal to purchase a memorial bench and to locate it next to the bus stop opposite to the crematorium. These concerns were noted by the Council and following a fairly lengthy discussion, the Council decided that it was keen to continue with this project subject to the bench being an oak bench and it was noted that another parishioner had generously offered to purchase such a bench and to assist in its installation. The Council **resolved** to thank the parishioner and Cllrs. Robinson and Rimmer stated that they would visit the parishioner to thank him and to agree the details of the project.

The Council **resolved** that it would be appropriate for a plaque containing details of the Commemorative Oaks to be erected in the Village Hall and it was agreed that such a proposal would be put to the Village Hall Management Committee for approval.

Melksham Community Area Board/Community Area Transport Group Meetings: It was noted that the next CATG meeting is to be held on 7th February 2019 at Melksham Fire Station. Cllr. Robinson stated that he would be attending this meeting and that he would raise the subject of the Bus Gate enforcement camera and would seek support for its acquisition including a financial contribution from Wiltshire Council. Cllr. Smith added that it was important to ensure that the CATG knew of the support from Cllr. Seed for the project and that it would also be appropriate to invite the Wiltshire Air Ambulance to make a financial contribution. The Chairman agreed to contact Wiltshire Air Ambulance regarding a contribution.

Tennis Court and Wessex Close Play Areas. The Chairman stated that he was awaiting receipt of information concerning possible future maintenance/repair costs. The Clerk re-stated that he has contacted Wiltshire Council regarding the unserviceable play equipment – the ‘Tornado’ – at Wessex Close. Wiltshire Council had confirmed that the Parish Council could pay for its repair and that the Parish Council should contact its contractor – Idverde – for its estimate for undertaking the repair. The Clerk stated that he was awaiting a reply from Idverde.

Date of Next Meeting: 13th February 2019.

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

THURSDAYS
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Your Wiltshire Councillor News

Jonathon Seed 07770 774463

A new year in local government brings new challenges and either optimism or depression depending on whether the glass is half full or empty! By the time you read this we hope that the major political decisions of a generation will be finalised over BREXIT (or not!). Whatever the outcome there will be a knock-on effect on local government whether it is in greater costs of commodities, less European labour available or simply the ongoing saga of less available funding from central government. Naturally those who manage our finances in County Hall will get on and balance a multimillion pound budget and do more with less. So whether it is BREXIT indecision or lack of funding for local government the New Year may well not bring many changes at all!

The long Christmas break is now well behind us. However, spare a thought for all those local government employees who remained on duty over Christmas to make sure that we all were looked after and able to get around our county. The care services were on duty ready to help the vulnerable and there were all sorts of highways officers on call to deal with roads issues such as flooding or fallen trees. There is an efficient out of hours' service available on the usual telephone number for Wiltshire Council and all calls are directed to a central call service where they are filtered - and if a service is required it is tasked. This is a vast improvement on the services of yesteryear where we relied on reaching duty staff on telephones with no filter. The new system works and residents are even able to get fallen trees cleared overnight from minor roads if the situation warrants urgent action.

Finally let us not forget the Town and Parish Councils who are all setting their precept (or local parish council taxes). These smaller councils are able to increase their charges and many are making relatively small overall increases in order to take on very important local services such as toilets and grass cutting. These small things are often the ones that matter to locals and the more local these services are run it's generally the better they are run.

In Semington we are working together to try and resolve the issue of unauthorised traffic passing through the village over the bridge from Melksham. Please warn other residents that if they use the bridge route illegally their next journey may result in a fine and possibly points on their driving licence!

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Need a helping hand? **Ask Me** - introducing a new and exciting local business providing assistance with your home and garden maintenance. My name is Emma, having following a varied career whilst also spending many years helping others with practical tasks both indoors and outside, I recently identified an opportunity to create a business replicating this and primarily working in my local area.

I understand first hand how people of all ages can feel frustrated not being able to do things around the house and garden that they may have easily done before, perhaps due to family commitments, busy schedules, injuries, illness or becoming less mobile. I can undertake complete jobs or provide assistance to enable you to do tasks. I have learnt many gardening hints and practical tips from people I've already worked for which have helped increase my skills and knowledge.

Jobs I've undertaken, include but are not limited to, garden maintenance, fence, shed and garage door painting, metal work restoration and garage sorting. I've also recently trained in residential painting and wallpapering course.

I provide a friendly and reliable service with a competitive hourly rate and offer a discount for over 65s. I try to be eco-friendly wherever possible while running my business and due to working locally I travel mostly on my bicycle. I also offer a discount if I can use your tools. I am always at Semington village hall on a Thursday morning from 11.15am to 12.00pm so why not pop down for a cuppa and a chat, I am also happy to come and visit you at home too.

I feel very lucky to live and now work in this great community. Thank you to those of you who have already supported me in my new venture and I look forward to helping more of you in 2019.

*Editor's note – Do you have a local business you'd like to champion?
Feel free to drop me a line and we'll do everything we can to give
local people a local voice
email me at semparmag@icloud.com*

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Semington WI Meeting

Deb Hurn



November seems a long time ago now, however, it wouldn't be right not to mention the WW1 evening held in the Village Hall. It was an enjoyable evening with songs from the War sang by everyone there led by Lorraine & Pete. Marilyn, Gerald and their helpers provided the food and the WI were responsible for decorating the hall and the wonderful floral table centres put together by Jeanne. A good night was had by all and respects were paid to those who both fought and stayed behind.

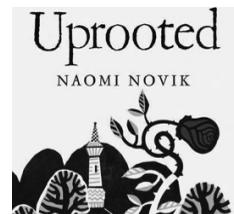
December saw us once again playing skittles and answering the quiz provided by Steve Connor. Thanks go to him and once again to Marilyn & Gerald for doing the food and all the others who gave a hand on the night, in particular our sticker uppers.

January saw us at the Somerset Arms for our birthday party. It was lovely to see so many members there and there was certainly a lot of chatting going on.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 14th February 7.30pm in the Village Hall. We will be having a craft evening with the Wiltshire Scrap store.

Book Club

Angela Grodzicka - 870756



The bookclub met on 10th January to discuss Uprooted by Naomi Novik. Several members had thought that a fantasy novel would not be for them and had approached it with trepidation. All but one however really enjoyed the book and thought it was a good story, well written. The fight scenes were thought to be a bit long winded in places and one member found it a bit difficult to relate to the characters. Overall a success!

The next meeting has been set for Friday 1st March at 8.00pm in the pub to discuss The Dry by Jane Harper.

All welcome.



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Down The Local

John Adams – Somerset Arms Landlord

It was a busy Christmas down at the pub with plenty of villagers enjoying our Christmas menu sampling some turkey ahead of the big day.

It was lovely to see so many people come for a drink on Christmas morning, all part of village life. We had a couple of bands on in the run up. 41 Fords had everybody's feet a tapping and Triple JD (back by popular demand) put on a great show as always. Look out for both bands returning in the coming months.

By the time this goes to press we will have enjoyed a bit of Scottish culture on Burns night and the ever popular gourmet night hosted by Jon Furby. Tune in next month to hear all about it if you didn't make it.

Have a look at our ad for details of what's on in February but be sure to head in for a Bargain Brekkie or treat the family with 'Kids Eat Free February'. Don't forget to do something special for the love of your life on the 14th - we have a great menu planned and its not far home so you can both enjoy a drink!

Big news this month is the start of **'SPInS' Semington Parcel Intake Service**. As you know I am very passionate about the pub and its place within the community and with an every little helps mentality I thought we could offer to take in parcels to alleviate the hassle of waiting in for a delivery, having it left in the cold or having it annoy the neighbours. Simply put your name and the Pub Address (BA14 6JR) and we will take in your parcel and store it safely for you to collect at your leisure.

We are open all day so please feel free to stop for a coffee or a pint and have a chinwag with your fellow villagers!

Crafternoon

Barbara Johns 07432 724177



We're delighted with the response we've had to our piece in December. We had our inaugural meeting on January 11th. We're calling it our 'Crafternoon' and we'd love to welcome more people to it.

The next meeting is Friday 8th February at 2.00pm. Please do call me (Barbara) for more details. We look forward to seeing you then!

Volunteers Needed for Trowbridge Link

Sue Holt 07969 347042

Trowbridge Link has been providing transport for the elderly and infirm of the town and surrounding villages to attend medical and other appointments, as well as doing shopping for the housebound, for the past 20 years and we are always in need of more volunteers to help in this vital work.

We urgently need more drivers and also people with office skills to act as co-ordinators. The role of a co-ordinator requires a good telephone manner as a number of our clients are hard of hearing or nervous or sometimes just get a little confused. Working on a simple data base, client requests are recorded and matched with volunteer drivers. Details of the journey and the driver are recorded on the database and the client is called back to tell them the name of the driver who will be coming to collect them. A co-ordinator works from their own home so can often fit these clerical duties around other household tasks, although there may be times when the phone line is very busy so a degree of flexibility in any other commitments is essential. They need to be available between 9.30am and 4.30pm on one weekday and the Link mobile telephone and laptop computer are provided to them for that day.

For anyone thinking of volunteering as a driver, there is no minimum or maximum commitment. Some drivers are happy to help out on a "now and again" basis, whilst others prefer to offer their time on a certain day of the week. All that we ask is that they have their own vehicle, a kind and thoughtful approach to those vulnerable and elderly souls who rely on our services, and a willingness to help others less fortunate than themselves. Application for DBS clearance is undertaken by Link at no charge to the volunteer, and each driver is paid a good mileage allowance.

Various studies have shown that volunteering can be beneficial to a person's health, general happiness and feelings of satisfaction with their life. So, not only does a volunteer know that they are making a major difference to the lives of those members of our community who need help, but also that they are improving their own health in the process!

Trowbridge Link can be contacted on 07969 347042 between the hours of 9.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday. There is an answering machine at other times.

More details of the work that we do can be found on our website:

www.trowbridgelink.org.uk

Catholic News

St. John The Baptist Trowbridge & St Bernadette's Westbury (inc villages)

St John the Baptist Trowbridge :

Sunday Masses: Sat: (Vigil) 6pm; Sun: 10.30am & 6.00pm

Holy Day of Obligation: See Newsletter

Weekday Masses: Mon: 9.00am; Tue: 6.00pm; Wed: 12.00 noon Fri: 6.00pm; Sat: 9.00am

Rosary: Weekdays before Mass.

Confessions: Sat: 9.30-10.15am; 5.15-5.30pm and on request.

St Bernadette's Westbury

Sunday Mass – 9.00am

Holy Day of Obligation Vigil Mass 6.00pm

Weekday Mass: Thursday 10.00am

Confessions: Thursday 9.15am – 9.30am and on request

NEW YEAR CONCERT

St John's Parish Centre, Wingfield Road, Trowbridge on Friday 1st March featuring the acclaimed Wiltshire Council Singers. Admission £5.00 on the door (to include a complimentary glass of wine). To book contact Francis Geraghty 01380 871083 email f.geraghty303@btinternet.com

RUH Bath: Anyone who has a friend or relative in hospital, please contact Mandy Baker (a member of the hospital Chaplaincy team) text/phone 07775 895 814 or email : mandybaker@live.co.uk.

THE NEW 300 CLUB 2018 SUPER CHRISTMAS DRAW 9th December Subscriptions: £50 annually - £13 quarterly - £4.33 monthly. New members are most welcome to join at any time. **Prizes are £200 - £70 - £50 - £10** 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 Fr. Tom Finnegan (01225 752152) know as he would be pleased to arrange a visit and bring Holy Communion, if desired.

Mass Times At Nearby Catholic Churches

Immaculate Conception, Devizes (01380 723572) Mass on Saturday 6.00pm and Sunday 10.30am and 5.00pm

St Anthony Melksham (01225 702128) Mass on Saturday 5.30pm and Sunday 9.30am

Bradford on Avon (01225 862739) Mass on Saturday 6.00pm, Sunday 10.30am

Thoughts From The Rectory

Anne Rees

This week I have had the privilege of leading Collective Worship in our Church Schools. The theme was “The Rainbow of Hope”. The same theme was used by the Bishop of Manchester on Radio 4’s Thought for the Day this week. Over the last 30 years, the rainbow has been used as a symbol of hope and inclusion, inspired by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. “Rainbow Nation” is a term invented by him to describe post-apartheid South Africa, after the country’s first fully democratic election in 1994. He said “Look at your hands – different colours representing different people. You are the rainbow people of God. The rainbow in the Bible is the sign of peace and hope.” Most of us are familiar with the Bible story of Noah, who, instructed by God, built an ark so that his family and two of every creature would be saved from the flood which destroyed the world – the world God had created but was being spoilt by people. As the flood receded, and Noah, his family and the whole diversity of the animal creation emerged from the ark, the rainbow was God’s promise to them. A promise of a new beginning. This was the sign of hope for Noah as it became for the citizens of South Africa - God’s reassurance that they would not suffer a repetition of the disasters of the past. Every time a rainbow appeared in the sky, it was to be a reminder of that hope.

Hope goes far deeper than optimism. It inspires action in difficult circumstances when we need to strike out into the unknown, even when the outcome is unpredictable. We all need hope to keep going in difficult times. In all aspects of our lives; personal, in the community, in our nation, particularly at this time as our leaders seek to find a way forward in the Brexit negotiations, and in our world, we need to look at rainbows more often. As Desmond Tutu said, “We want peace, prosperity and justice and we can have it when all the people of God, the rainbow people of God, work together.”

With best wishes for a hopeful 2019 - Anne Rees



Jesus answered him, saying, 'It is written, that man shall not live by bread only, but by every word of God

It's in the bible: Luke Ch 4. V 4.

February 2019 Services

You are welcome to join any of our services.

St George's Semington

Sunday 3 rd	9.30am	Holy Communion
Thursday 7 th	9.45am	Morning Prayer
Thursday 14 th	9.45am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 17 th	9.30am	Holy Communion
Thursday 21 st	9.45am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 24 th	4.00pm	Semington Praise

St Michael and All Angels, Hilperton

Sunday 3 rd	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Together in Worship
Wednesday 6 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer
	10.00am	Communion & Coffee
Sunday 10 th	11.00am	Benefice Communion with Bishop of Salisbury
Wednesday 13 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer
	10.00am	Communion & Coffee
Sunday 17 th	10.00am	Celtic Worship
Wednesday 20 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer
	10.00am	Communion & Coffee
Sunday 24 th	10.00am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 27 th	10.00am	Communion & Coffee

St Mary Magdalen, Hilperton Marsh

Sunday 3 rd	11.00am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 5 th	8.30am	Morning Prayer
Tuesday 12 th	8.30am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 17 th	11.00am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 19 th	8.30am	Morning Prayer

St Mary the Virgin, Whaddon

Sunday 10 th	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion
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Contact Details for The Canalside Parishes

Administrator – Michael Gamble, please contact Michael for initial enquiries about baptisms, weddings and general matters on **07795 400262**

E-mail - canalsidebenefice@gmail.com

PCC Secretary/Treasurer - Jack Woodward **01380 870784**

Church Warden – Mr David Wildsmith

Lay Pastoral Assistants are co-ordinated by Marilyn Stubbs. Please contact Marilyn on **01225 753118** or John if you would like a visit.

Rev John Rees, Rector, Canalside Benefice **01225 764365**

Email: canalsidebeneficerector@gmail.com www.canalsidebenefice.org.uk

THE SEMINGTON SLOG



SATURDAY 18th MAY

The Semington Slog is a fundraising 10K circular route combining road & off road surfaces.

10K RUN START TIME: 10AM - Early Bird Entry Fee £10

The 2k route is for anyone in Yr 5 or above and a great reason to get outside for some family fun.

2K RUN START TIME: 10.15AM - Entry Fee £5

The fun run is just over 1k and for everyone to get involved in

1K RUN START TIME: 10.15am

Medals for all competitors
and trophies
for winners!

**10K, 2K &
1K FUN RUN**



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