

Councillors Reject Solar Farm Plan

Eight members of the Warwick District Council Planning Committee rejected the proposal to build a solar farm as big as the village: only one voted in favour.

The public gallery was so full that people were turned away and had to watch the meeting on YouTube from their cars.

The well-constructed presentations from Kate Pittel and the No Solar campaign alongside District Councillor Rebecca Davidson, excellent submissions from the Parish Council, and support from Matt Western MP, as well as the support from villagers, contributed to the case against the development. 'This is a fantastic example of people who care deeply about their village coming together to fight hard for their footpaths, amenity and open spaces,' says Kate.

Planning Committee members had also made a site visit and were astounded by the sheer scale and size of the plans. No Solar wants to thank everyone who wrote to councillors urging them to see the site for themselves. We now have to wait to see if the applicant appeals. They have six months to do this. There is also the possibility that the company may put in an application for a smaller development. If that happens campaigners will have to decide on the best course of action when the time comes, says Kate. If there is an appeal all the groups involved, including FoRGE and the Parish Council, have decided to carry on campaigning and will press for a face-to-face meeting with the Planning Inspector as opposed to an appeal conducted with written submissions only. There is no guarantee that the application will be refused at appeal, and it might go to the Secretary of State, but there is nothing to be lost by continuing the fight.

Judy Steele



Photo: BBC

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 For further information, please contact
 Sue Gill 0750 220 7380
 Radford Semele Women's Institute </div> |

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Create a grassy boost for nature

Early summer in nature is an amazing time of year, with colour and activity at every turn. As this is the time of year that many creatures build their nests and rear their young it's great to know that there are things that we can do to help them. From mid-summer onwards, an easy way to provide support is to keep areas of your garden just for nature, which can mean something as simple as not cutting the grass as short or as frequently. Leaving the grass to grow allows it to seed and provide food for birds, and plants such as daisies provide nectar for hoverflies and bees. Bees will also visit buttercups to collect nectar and pollen. Over time cutting the grass once a year and removing the cuttings will reduce the fertility of the soil and enable other flower species to establish. An excellent example of long grass in action is the wildlife area on the playing field; whilst low on wildflowers again this year, it's absolutely teeming with gorgeous wild grasses, so it's great to know that the field is providing a huge helping hand to the many wonderful creatures that inhabit the village.

Long grass also improves conditions for invertebrates, which in turn provide food for birds and mammals such as hedgehogs. Leaving some areas uncut throughout the year allows invertebrates to shelter and breed. Species of moth and butterfly, as well as craneflies and sawflies, find this invaluable. These provide a source of protein-rich food for mammals and birds and are particularly important for the survival of young chicks.

Spiders can spin webs from the tall grass to catch flies and there can be hundreds on webs that show up in the early



Josie Sanderson

morning dew. Butterflies also benefit from long grass - which provides an area to lay eggs. Long uncut grass provides great habitat for moth caterpillars which are blue tits' favourite food, with a family capable of eating more than 10,000 caterpillars before they finally leave the nest.

Amphibians also benefit from long grass - although they breed in ponds, amphibians spend much of their time on land. Areas of long grass provide a refuge for creatures such as frogs and newts and provide them with invertebrates on which they feed, whilst the moisture also prevents desiccation of small amphibians during the driest parts of the year.

I hope you've been inspired to create your own grassy boost for nature.

Josie Sanderson

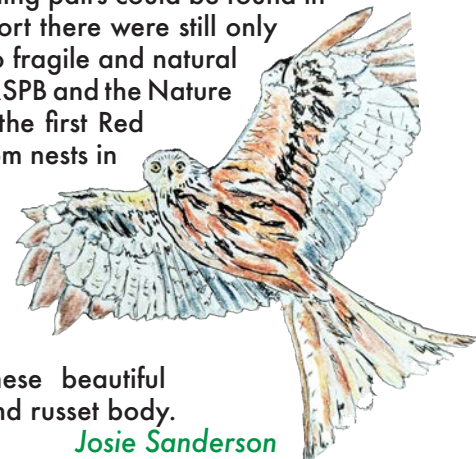
The Red Kite – a celebration

You may have noticed that the village has a new regular visitor in the form of a Red Kite – a truly stunning bird of prey that until recently was almost eradicated from the UK. This amazing bird can now be seen flying over the village, searching out food – possibly to take back to a nest.

Red Kites were brought to the brink of extinction as they were regarded as vermin and were persecuted through a combination of poisoning and egg stealing. By the early 1900s only about five breeding pairs could be found in Wales, hidden away in the remote hills. By the early 1980s after a conservation effort there were still only around 50 breeding pairs, confined to west Wales. With the remaining population so fragile and natural population growth looking unlikely, it was clear more action was needed. In 1989, the RSPB and the Nature Conservancy Council (now Natural England and Scottish Natural Heritage) began the first Red Kite re-introduction programme. Between 1989 and 1994, young birds were taken from nests in Sweden, Spain and Wales, reared and then released on the Black Isle, near Inverness in Scotland and in the Chiltern Hills, between London and Oxford in England. Breeding was recorded at both sites in 1992, and just two years later Red Kites that hatched in the wild raised their own chicks for the first time: Red Kites were back!

The reintroduction programme has been a huge success - it's thought there are now around 4,400 breeding pairs, with the population soaring by 2,232% between 1995 and 2022. In the future, Radford Semele may have many more of these beautiful birds flying over the village. Try looking out for the long angular wings, forked tail and russet body.

Josie Sanderson



Warwickshire Folklore

We continue our occasional series on folklore with some local wisdom collected by Gary Stocker.

Whitsun (8th June for 2025)

In olden times they used to brew beer known as, "Whitsun ale" and then have a beer festival in the church yard. The money raised then went to the poor. It was also traditional to eat something called "frumenty".

11th June

It is the Feast Day of St Barnabas the Apostle today. Two bits of folklore:

"Barnaby bright, Barnaby bright, the longest day and the shortest night". When we used old style dates, this was the longest day. "On the Feast of St Barnabas, put your scythe to the grass." This was the traditional time to start hay making.

22nd June Feast Day of St Mary Magdalene:

"On St Mary's Day the nuts are full."

I presume that means that they are ripe!

23rd June Midsummer/St John's Eve.

People from the locality of Long Compton used to stand round the King Stone, which is on the hill outside Long Compton, on this day. Someone would make a cut in a nearby elder tree and it would bleed. At this point the King Stone would bow his head. Beware of doubting this though: an old story tells of a sceptical nobleman who thrust his sword into the elder tree to demonstrate to the locals that it was all nonsense. However blood poured from the sword thrust, the tree screamed and he went bonkers for the rest of his life. So be warned! It is thought that this may have been associated with some kind of ancient blood letting rite to ensure the fertility of the land.

Girls could see their future husbands at midnight on this day by scattering fern and saying:

"Fern seed I sow, fern seed I hoe,

In hopes my true love will come after me and mow."

In around July a lot of Warwickshire villages used to have a club day

20th July Feast Day of St Margaret of Antioch:

"St Margaret puts the sickle to the corn."

1st August

Happy Lammas! Traditionally the time when herds and flocks were put onto the harvested hay meadows. Lammas was from "loaf-mass". When the first newly harvested wheat was baked into bread and taken to church for loaf-mass. (Source: Country Wisdom Folklore Diary 2019, ISBN: 2048-0474).

Weather lore: Today is the Feast of St Peter ad Vincula. "After Lammas, corn ripens much by night as by day, because of the heavy night dews."

Source: "Discovering Saints in Britain" by John Vince

13th August Old Lammas Day

Coventry did not expand much outside the old city walls up until about the mid nineteenth century. A lot of people say that it was because of the old city walls. Not so, they were demolished by Charles II after the Restoration, because Coventry had sided with Parliament in the Civil War (that is the era where the term, "sent to Coventry" comes from).

It was actually because the freemen of Coventry had legally protected grazing rights on the common land surrounding Coventry. One of which was the Michaelmas common land. In between Lammas and Candlemas the freemen, and others with grazing rights, could keep cattle on this land. On the 13th August (Old Lammas Day) a riding was held on the common land and it was the custom of those with grazing rights to ride over the land, on horseback, to assert their rights. Anything causing an obstruction to access was taken down. For the railway to arrive in Coventry, more space was needed. So an act of

Parliament ended the grazing rights and Coventry spread out from the old city walls and the common land was enclosed and developed. Some road signs are some of the few things commemorating the common land.

Source: "Folklore of Warwickshire" by Roy Palmer

15th August

Today is the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary: "If the sun do shine on the 15th August that is a good token, and especially for wind." (Taken from "The Husbandman's Practice").

Source: "Discovering Saints in Britain" by John Vince

24th August

Today is the Feast Day of St Bartholomew. In England St. Bartholomew's day was a harvest feast for shepherds and farmers, celebrating their flocks. Athletic contests before feasting with grilled juicy mutton.

Weather folklore: "If St Bartholomew's Day be fair and clear, Then a prosperous autumn comes that year."

Sources: <https://www.catholicculture.org/.../calendar/day.cfm...>

"Weather Forecasting the Country Way" by Robin Page

28th August

The Feast Day of St Augustine: "On St Augustine's Day darn any clothes - in preparation for winter."

Source: "Discovering Saints in Britain" by John Vince

Weather

8th June

Today is the Feast Day of St Medard. "On St Medard's Day it rains six weeks before or six weeks after."

Also, "St Medard's drops drop for forty days."

15th June

It is St Vitus Day today:

"If St Vitus day be rainy weather,

It will rain for thirty days together."

24th June St John's Day

"Midsummer rain,

Spoils hay and grain."

"Cut your thistles before St John,

You will have two instead of one."

25th June Feast Day of St James the Greater.

"If it be so that the sun shine St James his day, it is a token of cold weather: but if it rain thereon it is a token of warm and moist weather."

July

"If the first of July be rainy weather,

'Twill rain more or less for four weeks together."

"A swarm of bees in May is worth a load of hay,

A swarm of bees in June is worth a silver spoon,

A swarm of bees in July is not worth a fly."

"In July shear your rye."

15th July St. Swithin

Some sayings about this day are:

"If St Swithin weeps the proverb says,

The weather will be foul for forty days."

"Oh St Swithin if thou'll be fair,

For forty days shall rain nae mair,

But if St Swithin's thou be wet,

For forty days it raineth yet."

It is also said that if it does rain this day, then St Swithin is christening the apples.



Gary Stocker.

Swifts, Swallows and House Martins

Do you know which is which?

How to identify Swifts

The swift is dark brown all over, often appearing black against the sky, with a small, pale patch on its throat. They're larger than swallows and martins, with long curving wings that make them look a bit like a boomerang when in the air. Swifts are very sociable and can often be spotted in groups wheeling over roofs and calling to each other with high-pitched screams. Unlike swallows and martins, swifts are almost never seen perching. They spend most of their lives flying – even sleeping, eating and drinking on the wing – only ever landing to nest.

How to identify swallows

The swallow is a glossy, dark blue-black above and creamy-white below, with a dark red forehead and throat, bordered by a blue-black band across the top of the breast. The red can be difficult to make out from a distance, when the whole head may just appear dark. It has a very long, deeply forked tail. As their full name of barn swallow suggests, they're often seen around farmland and small villages, where they nest in outbuildings. Swallows often perch up on wires in small numbers, or in larger groups, chattering as they prepare to migrate. When they aren't breeding, they can roost in huge numbers in reedbeds. They have a chattering call that often gives them away before you see them.

How to identify House Martins

The house martin is glossy black above with a white rump, completely white below, and a short, forked tail. As its name suggests, the house martin can be spotted around our towns and villages, where they build mud cup nests beneath the eaves of



Swifts

Quick ID
Looks black against sky,
Long, curved wings (think boomerang).
Screaming call



House Martins

Quick ID
White rump and all-white underparts, no dark band on chest



Swallows

Quick ID
Long forked tail, pale underside and dark-looking throat and face.

Images ©SEG RSPB

houses. They can often be seen visiting puddles to collect the mud they use to build their impressive nests. Key features to look for are the white rump and the all-white underparts, with no dark band across the breast. They often nest in groups and chatter amongst themselves.

In Our Village:

We would love to hear from you if you have seen any of these birds, or know of any nest sites.

All three summer visitors have been seen, but in smaller numbers than in earlier years. It is a joy to watch them as they soar through the sky trying to harvest insects by the thousand. We hope to encourage more to come to our area to rear young—watch for ways to help in the next newsletter.

Barbara Wyatt

Canal Ramp Nears Completion

Work is progressing apace at the A452 canal bridge. Villagers will soon be able to enjoy safe access to the towpath on foot, cycle and mobility vehicles. The Canal and River Trust's contractors expect to complete the work in early July.



Photos: Eric Foster-Smith

Radford Semele Baptist Church, Lewis Road, invites you to join them:

Sunday Worship Services 10.30 am.

Sunday Cool – Children's Group: craft games, Bible stories. 2nd Sunday of each month. 10.15 – 11.30am.

Radford Rascals Stay and Play 0-4 years Tuesdays 9.30-11.00am (Term time).

**Community Café – Fridays 10-12
Cake, Cuppas and Conversation, free crafts in school holidays.**

Go Wild!? Holiday Club, ages 4-11, July 29th, August 5th & 12th, 10-12. Must book.

Contact 07739402554 for more information and bookings.



THE WHITE LION

Welcome to The White Lion, a beautiful, thatched country Gastropub nestled in the village of Radford Semele. We pride ourselves on serving high-quality, fresh, and sustainably sourced ingredients. Whether you're looking for a light bite, leisurely lunch, a drink with friends or a delicious dinner with the family; a new autumn menu and a warm welcome await. We're also serious about Sunday roasts, serving quality British beef from Aubrey Allen, Jimmy Butler's free-range pork, or our delicious vegetarian wellington with all the glorious trimmings. Visit our website to find out more, view our menu or book a table. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Live Music in the Garden

Friday 27th June 5-7pm

Friday 25th July 5-7pm

Pub Club

Monday-Wednesday, choose any 2 pub classic dishes for £25
Choose from Battered Haddock & Chips, Braised Beef & Ale Pie,
Sri Lankan Sweet Potato Curry or Aubrey's Steak Burger

Community Dog Walks

Free to Join!

Meet at the pub for 9am for a 9:15 start. All welcome

Back to the pub for a breakfast bap & coffee

Next event: Saturday 19th July

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RADFORD SEMELE COMMUNITY HALL NEWS JULY

Lots going on in your Community Hall

Summer Camp In The Community Hall!

The Move-It School of Dance is offering a 2-week Summer School

1st WEEK: Monday 21 July
Tuesday 22 July
Wednesday 23 July
Thursday 24 July

2nd WEEK: Monday 7 August
Tuesday 8 August
Wednesday 9 August
Thursday 10 August

For all children aged 4+ - come and join the fun with dancing, crafts, games and lots more!
Space is limited – so book your space now.

From £22 a day • early and late club available • sibling discount

To book, email: moveit-sod@hotmail.com

Train Time is back in Radford Semele!

Calling all little train lovers!

Train Time UK returns to Radford Semele on **Sunday 7 September** for another fun-filled stay & play session, designed especially for toddlers and pre-school children.

Children can enjoy a magical, railway-themed play experience that sparks the imagination and brings big smiles.

It's the perfect weekend activity for families with young children. Whether you are a regular on the tracks – or it's your first time aboard – we'd love to see you there! Sessions fill quickly, so early booking is recommended.

Sunday 7 September

**Location: Radford Semele
Community Hall**

Tickets:

www.traintimeuk.co.uk

Come and see why families across the UK are going loco for train time!



Parking for Parents with a Child at Radford Semele Primary School!

As School Lane gets rather gridlocked before school starts and after school ends – just a reminder that there are two other parking options. You are welcome to park your car, as your child goes to or leaves school, in the Community Hall Car Park or at the White Lion Car Park.

TAI CHI



Tai Chi started on Thursday mornings in the Community Hall some months ago and this is becoming more and more popular. If you have ever thought of taking up Tai Chi why not come along and give it a go ?

Its gentle movements ease stiff joints, improve flexibility, improve your balance and wellbeing. In short – it can heal your body and soul – plus you will make new friends.

Your first class is free – so you can decide if it is for you.

Come along to the Community Hall for 10.00am for one hour on a Thursday morning.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

A date for your diary – not to be missed! Saturday 18 October 10.00am to 1.00pm Breast Cancer Day to raise funds for ‘Breast Cancer Now’ and The Helen Clarke Suite at Warwick Hospital.

Loads of tea and cakes and a very interesting raffle!

We would be grateful for donations of raffle prizes – and cakes on the day.



AS ALWAYS – Remember that the Community Hall is for YOU! Planning a special event or party – the Hall is available for hire and booking is via the Radford Semele Community Hall website. If you need any further information – call Janet (Chair of the Hall) on 07973 637967 or Debbie (Booking Officer) 07771 748578

St Nicholas' Church, Radford Semele

Come and join Breakfast church!

Over the last 3 years, we have been running a monthly breakfast church on the first Sunday, especially for young families - with tasty croissants, waffles, bagels etc a fruit platter and nice coffee !

We start serving at 9 and at 9.30 we have a short family focused service, a bit like assembly, that's always lots of fun!

We are over by 10.00 so people can either chat some more or shoot off for their other Sunday activities. There is always a warm welcome!

Details of other services and activities at St Nics, including communions and Quality Time, are on the church website and noticeboard, or can be emailed to you each month - just let me know if you'd like that.

We also offer all our Sunday services online on YouTube , including a midweek reflection - if you want to receive those links, just email me, or subscribe to the YouTube channel martingreen2449, and click the icon!

www.stnicholasrestored.co.uk/worship/

St Nicholas Church Office, Church Lane,
Radford Semele, Leamington Spa, CV31 1TA
Rev Martin Green 01926 613466

REGULAR EVENTS IN THE HALL

Monday	Rainbows Line Dancing (for experienced dancers)
Tuesday	WI – 3 rd week of month
Wednesday	Art Group Brownies
Thursday	Tai Chi Move-it School of Dance
Friday	Yoga Zumba

Private Hire Rates: £25 per hour
£21 ph. for groups not in the village.
£18 ph. for groups in the village.

Bookings and info:
www.bit.ly/rs-hall



Radford Semele Sports & Social Club News



Issue 53

68 Lewis Road, Radford Semele CV31 1UQ Tel: 01926 330314
Facebook: Radford Semele Social Club Twitter: @radfordsssc

July 2025

Open: Tues-Thurs 4pm-10pm Fri-Sat 2pm-11pm Sunday 12-8pm

REGULAR EVENTS

BINGO the 1st Friday of the month.
All welcome.



GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ 3rd Friday of the month
Cash prize - proceeds to charity.

WHIST DRIVE: Wednesdays at 6.30pm
We're inviting anyone who would like to play whist and we welcome beginners. We get together on in the small room in the Club. We are a very friendly group and look forward to seeing new members.
Contact: Lorraine Wade – Tel: 01926 314153

best-one



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Resham Kaur Ghag



As a young girl in Radford Semele I don't have much memory of the Radford VG shop before the Ghag family arrived in the village and took it on.

This month we have heard the sad news that the matriarch of the family that have run the shop since July 1985, Resham Kaur Ghag who many of us fondly remember as "Mrs Ghag" has passed away.

From the moment they moved in Mr and Mrs Ghag always made me feel so welcome in the shop with cries of "hello Naomi". Mrs Ghag was always smiling working hard with the also smiley Mr Ghag to run and restock the shop.

Gurinder also came with his mum and dad in 1985 straight out of school and has been here ever since. In 1986 his sister Narinder came with her boys in September followed closely by Gurjit. Then in 1996/7 Mr and Mrs Ghag started staying in India more, sometimes up to 5 months at a time. That's when Gurinder and Gurjit started doing more.

Mr and Mrs Ghag "sort of retired" in 1996/1997 but they were always involved in the shop until the pandemic. This stopped them being in the shop so much as they both suffered from asthma and the family didn't want them to catch covid. Mrs Ghag's asthma became a serious lung condition 15 years ago.

Please remember Resham Kaur "Mrs" Ghag 1st July 1936 - 3rd June 2025, she will always be remembered by customers of the shop as a quietly spoken, friendly and hardworking lady. **Resham Kaur Ghag 1st July 1936 - 3rd June 2025.**

Naomi Northey



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Hi,
I'm Annabelle and I have been a local pet sitter since 2019 after finishing my degree. I am based in Leamington Spa and cover all surrounding villages.





RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL NEWS JULY

Upcoming Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council will hold ordinary Parish Council meetings on

- Monday 28th July @ 7:30 pm
- No meeting in August
- Monday 29th September @ 7:30 pm
- Monday 27th October 2025 @ 7:30 pm

All meetings are held in Radford Semele Community Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting, but may only speak at the meeting if invited to do so by the Chair of the Parish Council. If you wish to speak at the meeting it is advised to contact the clerk or chair of the Parish Council prior to the meeting via email to clerk@radfordsemele-pc.gov.uk or chair@radfordsemele-pc.gov.uk.

There remain two vacant seats on the Parish Council should you be interested in shaping the future of Radford Semele.

Playing Field

Work will be taking place over the next few weeks to improve the facilities on the Playing Field.

Following requests from parents of children using the children's enclosed play area, soft close gates are to be installed to help manage access to the area and to limit uncontrolled dog access. The gates are designed to avoid fingers becoming trapped and hurt when the gates close – the original gates were removed because this was an issue.

A new all-weather surface is to be installed under the gym equipment to make the gym equipment more accessible after adverse weather conditions. Users of the equipment had commented that the area around the equipment became quite muddy following rain fall and it wasn't the best surface to encourage users to access the equipment. It is hoped the new surface will improve the usability of the gym equipment.

Funding of this work has been possible following the receipt of a Section 106 settlement from the developers A C Lloyd of the Cricketer's housing development at the top of Spring Lane.



Charity's Founder urges men to take prostate test

The founder of a prostate cancer awareness charity is urging other men to get tested - after he was diagnosed with the disease. Graham Fulford founded Warwick-based charity GRAHAM FULFORD CHARITABLE TRUST in 2004 after losing a friend to prostate cancer, following a late diagnosis.

Since then, his charity has facilitated more than 350,000 prostate (PSA) tests and helped discover more than 3,500 cancers.

78 year-old Graham, who received an MBE last year for his work, was recently diagnosed with prostate cancer following regular testing. This, he said has made his resolve to help others even stronger.

GRAHAM SAYS - 'I consider myself to be one of the lucky ones. Many men don't receive a diagnosis until it's too late, because of the lack of a national screening programme. While my own PSA has never been particularly high, I've always kept a regular eye on it. Following advice from my Urologist, I underwent a scan and biopsy which resulted in my diagnosis.

I've been an advocate for PSA testing for 20 years and I am taking this as an opportunity to see things from the side of prostate cancer patients. It has also increased my resolve even further to encourage men over the age of 40 to check their risk of developing prostate cancer through a PSA test.'

One of Graham's treatment options is pioneering high-intensity focused ultrasound therapy, which uses soundwaves to destroy cancer cells. It is usually carried out in one day and sees an 80% reduction in side effects, like incontinence and impotence related to surgery or radiotherapy.

GRAHAM ADDED - 'I am a great supporter of this relatively new form of treatment. While it is not suitable for all men - where it is, it has many benefits. These include reduction in harmful side effects and a quicker recovery time'.

BUT - current NHS funding means that most prostate cancer patients are unable to receive the treatment. Out of some 12,000 men who could benefit, only 1,000 are currently receiving Focal Therapy and this is mainly in the south of the country.

Graham is currently raising funds to make Focal Therapy more widely available by providing equipment which can then be rented by hospitals. Along with grants and a substantial personal investment, Graham is asking others to support the initiative through repayable loans, to get the service off the ground. A loan has also been provided by the Graham Fulford Charitable Trust.

SAYS GRAHAM - 'Following my own diagnosis I'm raising funds to help hospitals offer a range of treatments, including Focal Therapies, making groundbreaking treatment available to as many men as possible, who don't have access to private medical care.

'As a charity we have formed GFCT Focal Therapy Ltd, as a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Graham Fulford Charitable Trust.

'Currently we are working to raise enough funds to acquire equipment which can then be rented to cash-strapped NHS hospitals and used by patients. It's an exciting new business model, which will enable hospitals to provide this amazing new treatment option. We believe that focal therapy should be available to all! In Radford Semele we wish to help local men benefit from PSA testing and have arranged an initial testing session.' See below right for details.



Local service, Whitnash based!

Convert from:
8mm/Hi8
Mini DV
VHS/VHS-C/
Betamax

VIDEO TO DVD/DIGITAL FILE
www.vhs2dvd.info

To:
DVD
MP4/MOV files
etc....

rmalin@aol.com
Tel: 07733 368245

PSA TESTING IN THE COMMUNITY HALL SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 10.00am -12.00pm

As the Graham Fulford Trust is a charity,
the PSA test charge is £25.00

Book here:-
www.bit.ly/PSA_Test
or via QR Code



Radford Semele Community Speedwatch

Frequently Asked Questions

By now most village residents will have seen Radford Semele Community Speedwatch (CSW) volunteers sporting high-viz jackets and operating a tripod-mounted LASER speed measuring device at various locations and at different times in order to deter motorists from speeding in and through our village. Here is an attempt to provide answers to some of the questions we are frequently asked:

Q Why do you put out signs to let drivers know you are speed checking?

A We use rules set for us by Warwickshire Police and we have to warn drivers with signs in designated places.

Q Why are you standing in this location?

A We have set points where we must stand in order to have good visibility

Q Why can't you speedcheck near where I live?

A We can only speedcheck at the points the police have given us permission to use.

Q At what speed are motorists considered to be "speeding".

A In the 30mph area we record vehicles that are travelling at 35 mph or over.

Q Can you check the 20mph limits within the village?

A We have just been given permission to do this and carried out our first one recently. The Parish Council supports a national initiative to have a 20mph limit on inner village roads.

Q What happens if you catch someone speeding?

A Our sharp-eyed teams note the speed, the vehicle registration, the make and colour of the vehicle and the direction of travel on a data recording. The details are then passed to Warwickshire Police.



Canalside Summer Festival
Sat. 12 July 2025
CAMPING • BAR • CAKES

2pm Vegetable Fancy Dress - Family Parade
2pm Horse-shoe throw
2pm Sun Printing
2.30pm Miniature Farm & Funny Veg
Character competition. PRIZES FOR ALL.
3pm Tug o' War
4pm Open Mic
5pm Three Idle Women featured on C4's 'Narrow Escapes'
6pm Chacma Hot Food
7pm-10pm Knitter's Jig Ceilidh
10pm Fireside Jam
11pm Moth Traps Set
Sun. 8am Moth Breakfast & Moth Release

Household membership £18/£36
Tickets £7 members, £15 non-members U16s Free
tinyurl.com/canalside-summerfestival
Radford Semele CV31 1TZ
what3words.com/surnames.solder.hammocks

Q Are offenders you record prosecuted?

A Unfortunately not. We report offenders and they will receive a warning letter from the Police. Repeat offenders will receive a "knock on the door" wherever they live in the country.

Q Why isn't there a crossing point for Crown Hill Gardens from Southam Road?

A The Parish Council has pushed for this for years, but so far without success. Please write to your local County Councillor and MP and copy your email to the Parish Council.

Q Why doesn't the 30mph limit include the Crown Hill Gardens entrance?

A There is a petition about this started by District Councillor Rebecca Davidson www.bit.ly/30-mph

Q Why aren't you checking the 40mph limits?

A We are not allowed to do this at the moment

Q I would like to get out in the fresh air more often, make new friends and contribute to the safety and wellbeing of our community - how do I go about this?

A If you can spare a couple of hours a month during the day (or weekend) we are actively seeking new volunteers so we can organise more frequent sessions. If you are interested, please contact us on speedwatch@radfordsemele-pc.gov.uk or by contacting any member of the Parish Council for further details.

Councillor Roger W Munn
Radford Semele Parish Council

RADFORD SEMELE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE – Inspiring women - then and now

The WI is a unique organisation shaped by its members. In 1915, we set out to give women a voice and to be a force for good in the community. Since then, our members and our ambitions alike have grown tremendously. Today, we are the largest women's organisation in the UK and we pride ourselves on being a trusted place for **all** women of all generations, to share experiences and learn from each other. A WI membership offers the opportunity to meet women in your local area both in-person and virtually, to make friends and make a difference in your community. We campaign nationally on a wide range of issues and provide life-long learning and self-development opportunities for women.

We meet at the Community Hall at 7pm on the third Tuesday of the month and have a range of interesting and fun speakers and activities. Do come along and try us out – we're a friendly bunch! Call Sue on 0750 220 7380 for more info...

DATES FOR THE DIARY

July:

Saturday 5th, am or pm – create an **enamelled pendant or picture** (Warwick) - £25, members only

Wednesday 9th, 6pm – **Croquet** evening (Kenilworth) - £15, members and guests

Tuesday 18th, 7pm – **Summer Party** with the **Warwickshire Gin Company** – members free, £5 non-members

Saturday 19th, 10am – **Archery** (Shuttington) - £15, members only

August:

Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd – the WI will have a stand at **Art in the Park** (Leamington Spa)

Tuesday 5th - **day out** to **Liverpool**, £25 members and guests

Saturday 16th – Come and say hello at the WI stand at the **Pride Festival** (Leamington Spa)

Tuesday 19th, 3pm – **high tea** (Southam), £9, members and guests

September:

Saturday 6th – **Produce Show** (Radford Semele) – all welcome!

Monday 8th – trip to **Boughton House and Gardens** - £42, members and guests

Monday 15th, 7.30pm – talk on **Saturn, its rings and moons** (Leamington Spa) - £10, members and guests

Tuesday 16th, 7pm – **Flower arranging demonstration** from NAFAS accredited Bev Short – members free, £5 non-members

Thursday 18th – visit to the **World of Wedgwood** and the **Emma Bridgewater** shop - £38, members only

Monday 29th, 2pm – **Professor Turi King**, BBC TV's DNA expert (Norton Lindsey) £25, members and guests

HOLD THE DATE!

Saturday 29th November, 7pm – MURDER MYSTERY – 1920's theme

Saturday 6th December, 10am – CHRISTMAS FAIR

CAMPAIGNS

July:

Plastic Free July – hide that cling film and do your best to avoid (or at least recycle) other single use plastics.

The Big Listen – organised each year by The Samaritans on the 24th July (24/7, get it?), a reminder to think of others, listen and be supportive.

September:

Blood Cancer Awareness month – if you haven't already, sign up with the Anthony Nolan or DKMS registers – and encourage your friends and family to do so too. A little of your blood could save the life someone suffering from leukaemia or other blood cancers.

Contact Sue on 0750 220 7380 for further details or how to book.

Radford Semele's Produce Show Schedule

SATURDAY 6 SEPTEMBER IN THE COMMUNITY HALL

VEGETABLES

- V1 – 3 potatoes of the same type
- V2 – 3 carrots, tops trimmed to 4"/10cm
- V3 – 3 onions of the same type, dressed
- V4 – 5 tomatoes, small or cherry
- V5 – 5 tomatoes, medium or large
- V6 – 3 courgettes
- V7 – 3 peppers of the same type, either sweet or chilli
- V8 – 1 cucumber
- V9 – 1 lettuce
- V10 – 6 beans, dwarf or French
- V11 – 6 beans, runner
- V12 – longest runner bean
- V13 – display of vegetables, at least 5 varieties
- V14 – 1 wonky vegetable – the most amusingly shaped



BAKING, JAMS AND PRESERVES

- B1 – Victoria Sponge (up to 8"/20cm)
- B2 – savoury pastry – judged on flavour and presentation
- B3 – 3 chocolate brownies
- B4 – 3 sweet homemade biscuits
- B5 – 3 savoury biscuits
- B6 – 3 plain or fruit scones
- B7 – 3 cheese scones
- B8 – 1 pot of soft fruit jam (e.g. strawberry, raspberry)
- B9 – 1 pot of stone fruit jam (e.g. plum, cherry)
- B10 – 1 pot of marmalade
- B11 – 1 pot of chutney
- B12 – 1 pot of pickle



FRUIT

- F1 – 3 dessert apples
- F2 – 3 cooking apples
- F3 – 3 pears
- F4 – 6 plums
- F5 – display of fruit on a plate, minimum 3 varieties



FLOWERS

- FL1 – 3 roses in a vase, mixed varieties
- FL2 – 3 dahlias in a vase, one variety
- FL3 – vase of mixed flowers, minimum 5 varieties



PHOTOGRAPHY AND CRAFT – theme: *Village Life*

- P1 – a digital photograph (email or bring on a memory stick)
- P2 – a sewn item
- P3 – a drawn, sketched or painted item
- P4 – flower arrangement, max 45x45x45cm



CHILDREN 5 YEARS AND UNDER

- C1 – animal or monster made from a selection of vegetables and/or fruit
- C2 – a painting or drawing as above

CHILDREN 6 TO 12 YEARS

- C1 – animal or monster made from a selection of vegetables and/or fruit
- C2 – a digital photograph as above

Details:

- Entries on the day please (no advance entry needed)
- 50p per entry, children's entries are free
- Exhibitors may enter as many classes as they like, but only one entry per class please
- Exhibitors must provide their own plates/vases and are responsible for collection at the end of the show
- Exhibitors place items for entry 9.30am to 11.30am
- Hall reopens at 1.30pm after judging, refreshments available from the club
- Raffle takes place at 3pm and the show closes

For further information, please contact Sue Gill 0750 220 7380 Radford Semele Women's Institute



The season in its stride at Canalside

Following on from our piece in the Spring newsletter, whilst the Spring is full of promise, it's actually the leanest time at the farm with the last stored crops being distributed and the shares of the harvest dominated by 'Spring Glut' leafy greens and spring onions.

As we move into early Summer, the season really gets going and we start to feel the bounty of the land. At the time of writing, the buttery first new potatoes from the polytunnel landed in the share this week (mid June) – only a small portion for each member, but little golden gems pulled from the soil to be savoured! We're also feasting on crunchy, sweet Sugar Snap Peas and tender courgettes. Our scheme produces veg year-round for our subscribing members, with fruit when in season. A carefully crafted cropping plan ensures produce from the farm in every week of the year.

If you're interested in trying out our scheme, now is a great time to get a **trial share of the harvest**: <https://tinyurl.com/1-month-trial-share> with the delicious new season crops coming into production. The growing team are working hard to get all the crops in the ground which will see us through to next May, including many which will be ready later in the summer. Our tomatoes – always delicious and juicy, nothing like supermarket offerings – are growing well in the polytunnels and French and runner beans are getting going in the fields and will soon be heading up their bean poles. Pick-your-own soft fruits feature in the produce share in high summer, so members can enjoy both the tranquillity of the fruit orchard and the freshest berries and currants to savour there and then, or at home!

As a trial member you can come to any of the events we have planned, which include a **Summer Festival on Saturday 12th July from 2pm until late**. We also have



Members' events : (l) Moth morning (r) Summer Party. Come along on July 12

weekly work mornings and monthly foraging walks in the members' event calendar.

At our Spring Celebration in early May children from Radford Semele Primary School came down to the farm with their families and delighted everyone with some May Pole dancing.

By the time this newsletter lands on your doormat, the farm's Education Project will have welcomed around 60 Reception class children from two local primary schools. Their teachers realised many had limited understanding of where their food comes from and no experience of food growing, and so an immersive visit to Canalside gave the children a rich educational experience. We can host visits until the end of October, booked with at least 4 weeks' notice, so if you think your child's class teacher might be interested in visiting the farm (whether that's Radford Semele Primary or another local school), please let them know about the opportunity. More information can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/canalside-education>

Canalside Community Food

a community supported agriculture scheme for Warwick area

Like fresh air? Love fresh food?

- weekly box of fresh, organic seasonal food
- collect from the farm or Leamington.
- volunteer to help to grow it
- attend work days and social events

canalsidecommunityfood.org.uk

Call or text: 07758 340491

Canalside public events 2025

Summer Festival, Sat 12th July-Sun 13th July

Tickets on sale now. Activities in the afternoon, bar, live music from Three Idle Women, ceilidh in the evening with Knitter's Jig, camping. Buy tickets and more info at <https://tinyurl.com/canalside-summer-festival>

Stall at Ecofest, Pump Room Gardens, Sat 30th August

Autumn Celebration, Sat 11th October Apple pressing etc.

Winter Festival, Sat 6th December