

QUIDHAMPTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER BUS SERVICE SPECIAL

This is an extra edition of the newsletter to explain more about the changes to the bus service and how important it is to keep using it. There are some other village items at the end.

February Meeting at the White Horse

More than seventy people attended this meeting with two Wilts and Dorset representatives and Philip Grocock, the transport manager from Wiltshire Council. They began with a hard fact: changes by the government mean that bus companies today are run for profit, not to provide a community service and Wilts and Dorset decided that it would be most profitable to run the Wilton-Salisbury buses along Wilton Road without coming into Quidhampton.

Subsidised service

Wiltshire Council has provided more subsidy to give us an hourly service during the day and more at peak times. This means using a mixture of buses: the new **route 13** which also serves Lower Bemerton, the **Red 3** Wilton-Salisbury bus in the early morning, evenings and on Sundays, and other buses diverted from Wilton Road such as the **27** which comes from Shaftesbury. Wilts and Dorset will not consider putting the R3 through the village at other times.

This means that **all** the buses that come through the village are now subsidised and the subsidy will be reviewed every year. If the buses are not well used the service will be cut even more.

It really is a case of lose it or use it.

Has the new timetable affected you?

We know we are luckier than other villages in keeping so many buses but the service is less frequent than it was and there are significant gaps. At the peak morning commuting time there are no buses to Salisbury between 08.06 and 09.13 and there are no buses into Wilton until 10.20.

The parish council wants to know if these changes affect you. Several people spoke at the meeting about the problems of getting into work and others said they would miss early appointments in Wilton. Please contact the parish clerk, Clare Churchill, so she has actual examples. e.g. are people using their cars more or crossing Wilton Road to catch the bus or trying to work different hours?

Clare Churchill: email: quidhamptonpc@yahoo.co.uk telephone 01722 743027

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Wilts and Dorset said the average number of Quidhampton passengers was 0.6 per bus journey – surely we can increase that. We know it makes sense to reduce car use and relieve congestion in Salisbury and Wilton. See you on the bus!

You may be interested to know that dissatisfaction was forcibly expressed at the meeting with the misleading press releases which said all the R3 buses would come through Quidhampton. We were told that this mistake lay with Wiltshire Council who published the original instead of the amended version of the press release. The meeting still felt that we had been left out of the period of consultation but, dispiritingly, we were told the end result would have been the same.

Thanks to John and his community spirit for letting us use the Loft at the White Horse.

Some other news

Change of editor Marie Young has realised her life is now too full for her to be able to produce the village newsletter any longer. She has to balance her own activities with the demands of a young family and most people know how difficult this is. Everyone has appreciated the effort she has put in over the past few years. THANK YOU, Marie. We all like having the newsletter through our door, keeping us up-to-date and letting us catch up with what's been going on, but it is hard work to keep it going. You did a great service for the village.

New editor: My name is Bea Tilbrook and I moved to Fisherman's Reach in October 2008. I still feel a newcomer to the village although I lived just off Wilton Road for fifteen years before that.

I was asked to take over the newsletter because I'd expressed an interest in helping with it. I don't want to tread on anyone's toes and if there is anyone else who would like to do it please let me know. I'd be very glad of help and ideas from people who know the village better than I do. And I apologise in advance for any mistakes I might make.

I think the newsletter is important in helping to give the village a feeling of community and I will do my best to achieve that.

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Quidhampton Gardening Club

The last meeting of the club took place in the village hall in December. Nearly forty of us enjoyed a meal, a game, a raffle and a quiz. Everyone brought a Christmas decoration which was then hung on a tree, a symbol of how we can achieve good things when we work together. Thanks go to the committee of the gardening club who for fifteen years organised meetings, summer shows and outings that must have been enjoyed by hundreds of people. Quite an achievement. Special thanks, of course, should go to the secretary for most of that time, Barbara Strange.

The evening ended with carol singing, then Auld Lang Syne and a thank you to everyone for their friendship which is what made the club such a success for so long.

Another thank you

At least one grateful resident would like to say thank you to our two wonderful paperboys who managed to deliver the newspapers on time every day in the winter snow and ice. The Quidhampton round is one of the biggest and so is shared between the two boys. Next time you hear people running down the youngsters of today remember the grit and determination of those two young people. Thank you, boys, we really appreciate your efforts.

Village activities

The Christmas events at the pub were very successful (thank you, John and your team, again) as was the Burns Night dinner with dancing – enough space was found for two sets of the eightsome reel! However, several people have been heard to say that it would be nice if there were more going on in the village, that there aren't the activities there used to be. We are pleased therefore to report that the St George's Day celebrations on 24 April, organised by John, with help from Duncan Witt, have sold out.

Other events being considered are a hogroast in the summer, a 60's night and a pre-Christmas event in the loft of the White Horse, perhaps taking the form of a medieval evening/feast. The marquee will be up from the last week in July.

If you have any ideas for other village activities or would like to help with any of these please contact me or Duncan: email: duncan.witt@gmail.com phone: 01722 742564

Annual Parish Meeting.

This is not a parish council meeting but a meeting for the village to find out what the parish council has been up to during the year. Everyone is welcome. This year the APM will be on Tuesday 25th May at 7pm in the village hall, followed by the parish council meeting. Come and hear the latest about the bus service!

And finally, it's that time of year again....

Various reports have been received of overgrown hedges or trees adjoining footpaths around the village. Please make sure your hedges are trimmed so that people are still able to walk along the path.

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