

Quidhampton Village Newsletter

April 2011

Church News

Mothing Sunday 3 April

Please come to our Family Friendly Fun Church service at 10:30am at St. Michael's.

Come early to make cards and decorate biscuits!

Easter Services

Maunder Thursday 21 April

7:30pm - Passover Meal, St. Michael's Church.

Join us to share in the last meal that Jesus had before his death.

Good Friday 22 April

10:30am March of Witness

Starting at Roman Rd Methodists, moving to St. Gregory's RC, and finishing at St. Michael's.

A hymn, a drama and some prayers as we follow the cross.

If you want to leave your car at St. Michael's, we can give you a lift to the start.

11:30am - Hot Cross Buns and Family time

Families are invited to help decorate the Easter Garden in church, to hear the story of Jesus and sing some songs.

3:00pm - An hour at the Cross, at

St. Andrews. A quiet meditation.

(Note - no 10:00am service at St. Andrews)

Easter Sunday 24 April

8:00am - Communion at St. Andrews

10:30am - Family Communion at St. Michael's

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This month's newsletter is sponsored by Rick and Cilla as a thank you to everyone for all the wonderful times they have had in the village.

Contributors & Contacts

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The Rector of Bemerton

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Problems with HGVs: contact

Peter.Jung@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

copy to c.cochrane@imperial.ac.uk

or leave a note in the black box.

WI: Valerie Fry 742082

Village Hall bookings: Dawson 742843

Recycling dates:

Friday 15th and Saturday 30th April

Hundred Club March winners:

1st J Richards 193

2nd M Riegen 99

3rd J Dutfield 141

Correction

Mathematically minded readers will have worked out that Barbara and Ron Strange have been married for 59, not 49, years. That means there will be another important event to celebrate next year!

Mathematical joke: *What did the zero say to the eight?*

Nice belt

A marathon effort

George Cornick has completed her longest training run for the London marathon and is now 'tapering down' with shorter runs. She explained that this will make sure she is at peak fitness when they blow the starter's whistle in Greenwich Park on 17 April. If you haven't sponsored her already, please do so if you can. The official sponsor sheet is at The White Horse or drop your donation into 3 Temperance Cottages. Getting fit enough to run a marathon takes tremendous effort and determination. Sponsorship, no matter how small the amount, will give George vital encouragement.



Have you been to a wedding at St John's?

Or do you have vivid memories of other events in the church? As part of the campaign to find a new life for the church building the fund raising group is collecting memories of the importance of St John's in the life of the community. The accounts may be printed as a small booklet as well as used in fund raising. All memories, great and small, are welcome.



I'm sure Quidhampton villagers past and present can make significant contributions to this. I've heard many villagers describe the funeral of Andy Glaysher as a very special occasion. Joy Wagstaff will put together your memories of that day. Contact her on 743080.

Send other memories to Bea Tilbrook QVN editor, or direct to Anne Trevett: anneantrvtt@aol.com or 01722 326261. If you'd prefer to talk instead contact me for a chat and I can write it up for you. It doesn't have to be a long or dramatic story; the aim is simply to show how St John's has been part of the life of the village.

We have a date!

Village Fete: 3 September

Now the date is fixed start thinking about how you can contribute: if everyone does a little it will turn out to be a lot. Raffle prizes, plants, bric-a-brac, competitions, cakes, posters, tombola, etc etc. Contact Clare Churchill, 743027

Wilton Childrens Centre
is running

A special day for dads and children

at Quidhampton Village Hall

9th April 9.30-12.00

Craft activities, coffee, snacks - all free.

Local charity has starring role in soap

The Trussell Trust (not in Quidhampton but it must be our nearest charity) has been running a food bank in Salisbury since 2000 and now there are 70 nationwide based on their model. Make that 71 because Felpersham Food bank has appeared on Radio 4's The Archers where the Ambridge vicar chose it as the charity for his Lent appeal. Villagers are asked to serve frugal Sunday lunches and give the money saved to the food bank.

Mollie Hudson, Trussell Trust press officer, said it was a complete surprise to hear a food bank mentioned on The Archers but they are delighted it has become part of everyday language.

A Trussell Trust food box provides a minimum of three days emergency food for people in crisis whether caused by benefit delay, illness, family breakdown, debt or other factors. Care professionals (e.g. doctors, health visitors, social workers, the CAB and police) issue foodbank vouchers. The success of the Trussell Trust must be due in part to the way it is run: it relieves urgent local need in a practical way and donors know that their contributions are used for this and not lost in national administration or some other area.

Contact the Trussell Trust at St Michael's Community Centre, or on 411244. You can help by volunteering or donating money or non-perishable food.

Bed and Breakfast A reminder that there is, of course, another bed and breakfast establishment in the village: Maureen and Clive Goff have been offering warm hospitality at Footshill for several years. Phone: 743587

Womens' Institute: Eighteen members enjoyed a talk about life as a deaf person, especially the experience of bringing up children. Linda Baker, who suffers from moderate hearing loss, made us smile as well as think. Her talk was entitled "Have you got your ears in?" which is what her children say to her in the mornings, referring to her hearing aids.

Next meeting: the postponed talk about steam engines. **12th April 7.30** Village Hall. Bring and buy stall.

The cribbage group is also growing and meets alternate Tuesdays in Nadder Lane. Contact Jennifer Tyler for details: 744630

Quidhampton Book Group meets as we go to press so there is no report about reactions to Mornings in Jenin (N.B. A member whose son has been to Palestine says it is pronounced Janine, as in East-Enders). The next meeting is on **Thursday 28 April** to discuss The Suspicions of Mr Whicher by Kate Summerscale chosen by Audrey Catford. This is based on a real life Victorian country house murder and at least two members have already found it to be an enthralling read. Contact the editor or Katy Pearson (500117) if you would like to join.

Advance notice:

George Herbert in Bemerton Group Conducted Walk

A repeat of last year's much acclaimed walk across the Water Meadows from Salisbury Cathedral to St. Andrew's Church, with Canon Edward Probert, Jason Battle and members of the Group.

Monday 2 May 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon followed by refreshments in a local riverside garden

Advance booking required: 331236

Bemerton St John's Primary School report from Estelle Smith, headteacher

We were delighted to learn that all of our pupils gained places at their chosen secondary school with five passing the 11 plus examination. We know that all of our pupils have worked hard and will make the best of their opportunities.

Our numbers continue to rise and we now have 185 pupils on roll with an anticipated 30 pupils waiting to join the reception class in September! Bemerton St John seems to be a popular choice with parents which is good news all round. The pupils who have recently joined the school report that they like coming to school and find their learning exciting and challenging.

Further down the school the curriculum has very much inspired our younger pupils. As a part of a Year 1 project I had been warned that the Community Police would be visiting. It appeared that I might be under arrest as my footprint had been found in the soil outside the Year 1 classroom. This followed the Police investigation of money missing from the classroom. I discovered that I must be questioned by the Police, have my finger prints taken and was almost frog marched to the Police Van! Fortunately my alibi was watertight and it appeared the school's Finance Officer had locked the money away for safe keeping. Never a dull moment!

School dates:

Friday 8 April last day of term

Wednesday 27 April pupils back to school

Friday 29 April Royal wedding, school closed

Tuesday 3 May Children back in school

Parish Council News

Playground: this has been tidied and cleaned for spring. Mole treatment has been carried out and a working party of councillors will dig out the brambles from the small wild flower area. The new football posts are expected very soon, and more quotes are being sought for replacement fencing.

Flood warden's report: this was accepted with thanks and was mainly as reported in the March newsletter. If you want a copy please contact Ken Taylor 742456

Donation: £30 was donated to Wilton Link, the service that provides transport to villagers who cannot otherwise get to hospital, shops etc. There will be a feature about Wilton Link in a future newsletter.

British Legion Poppy Party: the council has an information pack about running a poppy party during the weekend of 10 - 12 June, to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the British Legion. If you would like to do this please contact the newsletter editor.

Next meeting: 24 May

How's your community spirit?

Have you ever thought about becoming a parish councillor? You get the chance to influence matters that affect the village and you will get that warm glow that comes from doing your bit for the community. The meetings are on the fourth Tuesday of every other month, and generally last no longer than one and a half hours. The next one is in May. Please contact the clerk for more information if you are interested - the village will be grateful.

Overheard at the WI: Tidy people are just too lazy to look for things.

Quidhampton's own guerrilla gardener*

A villager has suggested it's time for a big thank you to Joyce Knight who planted the bulbs along the footpath by the woods, on the side of the road to Lower Bemerton. They are in flower now and all the parents who walk to school and many others appreciate the beautiful show and the time she has spent on it.



Joyce says she cannot bear to throw away any bulbs left after she has thinned them out in her garden so she plants them there each year for everyone to enjoy. What a brilliant thing to do. Are there any other spaces that could be brightened up by villagers with spare bulbs?

** Guerrilla gardeners try to make our surroundings a better place by planting flowers on neglected land, usually in cities. The movement began in New York. Their motto is "Fight filth with flowers".*

Bus Stops on Wilton Road

Not everyone realises that the R3 Salisbury to Wilton bus, which runs every 20 minutes, stops at three places on Wilton Road where Quidhampton passengers can get off. The first stop is just after Skew Road, the second just before Footshill and the third is level with the White Horse, at the bottom of the dip in the road. Take the footpath between the fields then join the public footpath in front of Sovereign Close houses.

If you can walk that distance and do not have heavy bags to carry it is an excellent way of returning to the village - and it is very satisfying to bring the bus to a halt and make the point that people in Quidhampton use it too.

Police Report

No more milk thefts have been reported but we have had quite a few breaks into sheds - the row of sheds at the rear of Alexandra Cottages and The Alders were targeted. So far a bike has been stolen and other items such as tools have been ignored. This occurred over night Saturday into Sunday. Please keep 'em peeled and if possible ensure the sheds are secured as best as you can. Shed alarms can be purchased from Wickes for about £15 - so worth having a look at (no - I'm not on commission!) Regards, Pete Jung

HGV's: the problem continues

A member of the parish council worked from home recently and counted an average of four or five HGVs a day. One vehicle came through twice on the same day, and there have been alarming sightings of two fully loaded car transporters. It is up to all of us to provide the hard evidence of this happening so we can campaign for further restrictions. **Please make sure you always have paper and pencil with you to record the registration number, date, time, and location.** Do not rely on someone else to do it. By the time the councillor gets to the window the lorries are usually too far away for him to read their registrations. Send the details to PC Jung - see end of newsletter. He usually has only three or four reports a month. **Stop press:** a villager has tracked down an HGV satnav supplier and is in correspondence with them.

Gardening: the editor has been asked if she knows of a gardener who is available for one-off jobs such as helping to dig over an allotment. If you know of someone or if you are someone who can do this please get in touch and the information will be passed on.

Bemerton Film Society

This is proving a great success and there are two meetings in April. Each film is introduced by James Woods, and one member says, "There is a real buzz in the room at the end as we share our views". Refreshments are available beforehand and afterwards so there is time for social chat as well.

All meetings: 7.30pm Bemerton St John's School admission £5

Wednesday 6 April 2011: Happy Go Lucky

A laugh-out-loud 2008 comedy following an irrepressibly cheerful North London primary school teacher as she takes driving lessons, learns flamenco, and sorts out a student's aggressive behaviour with the help of a social worker. Because it is a Mike Leigh film there are layers beneath the humour but it is warm and life enhancing.

Wednesday 27 April 2011 Remains of the Day

A stunning adaptation of the novel by Kazuo Ishiguro giving a more vivid picture of life in a great English country house than either Downton Abbey or Upstairs Downstairs. It is set between the two World Wars with exquisite costumes and a star studded cast led by Antony Hopkins as the butler. Quidhampton reading group has chosen this book for their film/book comparison this year so you will see several of them there.

Plans for a Saturday children's film show are going ahead and the first one is on **7 May**. There will be ice cream.



**CALLING ALL CHILDREN!
COMING SOON**

**BEMERTON JUNIOR FILM SOCIETY
Saturday 7 May 2011**

Finding Nemo

Family fun at its best. An amazing, wonderful, colourful, vibrant, fun loving film for all, with even better graphics than Toy Story - water has never looked so good!

2 pm Bemerton St John School
Admission price to be announced

WELCOME to Aidan Walsh, 13, our new paper delivery boy. At last we have the paper at a regular early time again and can stop grumbling into our cereal each morning (*at least that's what I did: editor*). Thank you, Aidan, for taking on the round.

Buses: Quidhampton escapes major cuts

If you read the article in the Salisbury Journal about proposed cuts to the bus service you might have thought we had escaped completely, but they did not report that on Sundays the R3 will not run after 20.30 hours. That means the last bus to Salisbury will be at 19.44 and the last bus will leave Salisbury at 20.10. All other services are expected to continue. In the current economic climate this is good news. Thank you to everyone who has written to Wiltshire Council about the importance of our bus service - it may have helped when decisions were being taken. The change will take place from 5th June.

Bemerton Local History Group:

14th April Hedley Davis Court
7.00pm AGM followed by "What old maps of Bemerton tell us"

Au revoir, Rick and Cilla

The editor talks to Cilla Pickett about her life, Quidhampton and moving to France



Rick and Cilla Pickett play such a significant part in village life that I confess to feeling a little in awe of them. Cilla made me very welcome, however, by handing over the minutes book of the Village Entertainments Committee 'for the village archive'. It was a reference point for our discussion, the record of that special time when the Quidhampton community was most active.

Life before Quidhampton

Rick has lived in the Salisbury area all his life but Cilla was brought up in East Africa. Her family moved to England when her father became Bournemouth Borough Engineer and she went to Bournemouth College, also working at the bar in the Pavillion, as students do. One evening the music group playing there included Rick, an electronic engineer at Boscombe Down, and "that was that." A year later they were married. Rick and Cilla lived in various places around Salisbury while Rick worked in the family music shop business and they were blessed with three daughters.

Move to Quidhampton

The Pickett family moved here in September 1992 from Stratford sub Castle. Cilla's job then involved lots of travelling in an area

from Penzance to Worcester. She was responsible for setting up restaurants, overseeing everything from the purchase and conversion of buildings to the appointment of staff. Even with her renowned organisational skills there was not much time for family or village life so in 1995 she became the catering manager of the Cathedral School, a job she held until February when she left with much acclaim and many presents. Rick, meanwhile, also changed career, brushed up his electronic engineering skills, sharpened his plumbing knowledge and became the professional Mr Fixit everyone calls on. Of course he also continued with his music, such an integral part of who he is, playing at all village events, and becoming known as the Village Entertainer.

Village entertainments

In 1994 Rick and Cilla were 'roped into' the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of VE Day and everything followed from there. Leafing through the minutes Cilla exclaimed more than once that she couldn't believe how much they organised. For several years village activities included Easter and Bonfire Night celebrations, summer fete and garden show, and a major show or review as well as Burns Night, boules, nativity plays, parties for elderly people and children, Wilton Carnival float, even a trip to France. In addition committee members regularly did car boot sales or jumble sales to raise money for the big events. Phew!

Cilla spoke fondly and admiringly of Andy Glaysher, especially with regard to the shows, but it seemed to me that Cilla was as crucial to the success of many events. She is a person who gets things done, not someone who simply talks on a committee or turns up on the day.

Village life

Cilla contributed to other aspects of village life as well. She ran the 100 Club, was chair

of the Village Hall committee at the time of the refurbishment, served on the gardening club committee, wrote the newsletter and, for at least ten years, was on the parish council, latterly as vice-chair. She thinks the parish council is a very important part of village life, one she found to be both interesting and rewarding. And there were the unforgettable Eddy and Patsy evenings run with Maureen Goff. Rick and Cilla have always involved themselves in community life, she told me, but never quite as much as in Quidhampton, and certainly never was it such fun. The village has been their home longer than anywhere else and their three daughters married from Melrose Cottage which makes it even more special.

The next step

Moving to the Dordogne is the next big adventure of their lives. They have always loved France, the lifestyle, the food, and



the property they can buy there and feel that if they don't do it now they never will. Rick is already in touch with local musicians and Cilla expects to be doing bed and breakfast and/or renting part of the out-buildings as gites. They will be back and forth for several months as they supervise building work and get Melrose Cottage ready for sale or rent. There are also five grandchildren to visit, the eldest being head chorister at the Cathedral. And Cilla has promised to send postcards from

Chez Vignas for the newsletter so we can hear how they are getting on.

Quidhampton is "the friendliest, nicest place we've ever lived," she said. "We've had a wonderful time, made lovely friends and are sad to go." We're sad too. A thank you card at the back of the minutes book says it nicely: "the village will be a more dull and boring place without you."

Thank you for everything, Rick and Cilla, and bonne chance!

How do you like your newsletter? A message from the editor

You have probably noticed that the last three newsletters have had eight pages not four. There is just so much going on! I am happy to produce eight pages when needed but sponsorship will need to be re-thought.

The cost of a four page edition is £20, and for eight pages it is £40, including stapling and folding. It is produced professionally by Speedyprint and I don't want to cut corners and have it done any other way.

The response to sponsorship of the newsletter has been fantastic and there is a waiting list, the first vacancy being March 2012. But I think £20 is enough to ask people to pay so sponsors could 'double up' and the acknowledgement each month would refer to two people, or groups of people. I think we could find two sponsors a month. Some have already said they will do it every year e.g. the parish council who generously pay for two issues.

Let me know what you think. Perhaps you feel eight pages are too many - let me know that as well.