

Quidhampton Village Newsletter

May 2011

She did it! If anyone deserves admiration this month it is George Cornick who completed the London Marathon. "It was hard," she said, "very, very hard." Her training was in the quiet and cool of the New Forest but it was very different on the day: hot weather, the noise of people and bands, crowds of runners, even the buildings were disconcerting and she felt as if there was no air to breathe.

Once used to it, however, she felt supported by the crowds and couldn't have done the last two miles without their encouragement. "My legs had completely gone," she said, "and I just wanted to stop." Their cheering enabled her to finish in 4 hours and 43 minutes.

As she ran she resolved to come back another year as a spectator to experience the fantastic atmosphere without the stress of running. "I was glad I was running but I

knew it would definitely be a once in a lifetime event." Three days later she was still resting, her knees swollen and her legs painful - and already wondering whether she could do it in a better time another year!

George and her brother, Andrew, raised £4000 for muscular dystrophy research and a non-uniform day at her school will bring that to at least £4700. She thanks everyone who sponsored her, particularly her partner, Paul, whose team won the White Horse Quiz night and contributed over £100.



Wednesday 25 May, helpers needed

Willing hands are needed to help erect the village marquee. It stands in the pub grounds in the summer to be used for village functions, including the fete in September, and for hire by outside organisations.

Please help if you can; the more people there are the less time it takes. Turn up at 6 p.m. A sense of satisfaction and a free drink guaranteed.

Would you like to see a village fireworks night organised in November? If so come to the White Horse at 8 p.m. on **Sunday 15 May**, or send a message to say you can help.

Parish Council : Annual Parish Meeting:

Tuesday 24 May 7pm Village Hall

A chance to talk to councillors about what they've done this year and plans for next. The annual parish council meeting follows, beginning no earlier than 7.30. There is still a vacancy for a councillor.

Are you under 16? Would you like to be a reporter?

If you like writing then why not go to the Bemerton Junior film society and write an account of it for QVN? We would love to publish an account of the first meeting written by someone under 16. Contact the editor if you need guidelines or ideas, or just write it yourself and send it in.

There may be other articles you could write too. The newsletter welcomes news and views from all ages.

Dad's day a success The first Quidhampton event run by Wilton Children's Centre was a great success. The Village Hall was filled with the happy hubbub of voices and activities as dads from Quidhampton and Wilton brought their children along for the morning. Easter themed activities included card-making, decorating gift boxes and making Easter egg nests from rice cereal and chocolate. Snacks and drinks were provided as well as activities for younger children or those who wanted a break from all the making. Wooden bikes and the pop out tunnel were very popular.



Owen Young with Patrick and Edward.

One Quidhampton dad said how good it was to get people in the village together with Wilton dads and that it was great to see so many activities.

Joy Wagstaff, Melanie McDaniel and Kate Miller did a superb job organising everything and being friendly and supportive throughout. They said the morning was "the best ever!"

Mums please note: Easter eggs were provided to fill the gift boxes and nests but they might not have made it all the way home.

Watch out for a similar event near Christmas

Progress on St John's: grant application successful, first work begins

A grant of £12,600 has been awarded from the Wiltshire Village Halls Association. This money goes towards the following:

- clearance of overgrown NW corner of the churchyard
- removal of defunct 150 year old heating system and oil tank
- geophysical survey to locate unmarked graves
- installation of water and gas mains and a sewage line.

The heating system was removed in mid-April by local heating firm, Savant. It was a mammoth task, well documented by Roger Eagle who took the photos. The system was installed in



the basement under the tower when the church was built in the 1850s. Its removal involved demolition of a large bricked warm air collection chamber. The enormous furnace system alongside was then dismantled and the heavy pipework and furnace components cut into pieces and carried up to ground level. The original designers obviously never imagined that one day it would have to be removed!

Geophysical survey of the churchyard : Wessex Archaeology will conduct this Time Team style survey on **Thursday 5 May**. Quidhampton

resident, Paul Cripps, will be part of the team. The aim is to locate graves so the pipelines can be laid without disturbing them. Many graves are unmarked (see story of Clara Price on page 6) so this survey is essential.

Bemerton St John's School news by Estelle Smith, headteacher.

It seems unbelievable that we are already galloping to the end of the school year which, given the pattern of holidays, will disappear in no time. The beginning of term saw celebrations to mark the Royal Wedding. We looked for a prince and princess for the day and adopted a democratic process for the election - first names drawn out of the hat! The meal was fish and chips followed by ice cream; a little different to the menu at the wedding breakfast I am sure but much enjoyed by the children.

We have a variety of events planned for the summer term to include a production by our Year 5 pupils, a Theatre Experience with the Salisbury Playhouse for years 4, 5 and 6 pupils as well as our school Fete on 2 July. We always love to see members of the community in and around school so do join us at any events if you are able.

Other news from their excellent website:

- Alun Richards, the new headteacher, will be in school from 2.30 on May 25 to meet parents.
- 87 kilos of dried and tinned food were collected for the Trussell Trust on a recent "dress down Friday", enough to feed nine families for three days.
- during a maths challenge at Woodlands school praise was heard for the sportsmanship and manners of the pupils, important qualities that are not always recognised as much as they should be. Two pupils came top in their year group.
- the school said goodbye to Mrs Gardener who is joining her husband in Sudan. She has been at the school for five years and will be much missed.
- four pupils enrolled this term from Dorset and the far side of Salisbury, a sign of the growing reputation of the school.
- children return to school on June 7 after the break at the end of May

The Salisbury Journal recently reported a ruling resulting from a disciplinary hearing of the General Teaching Council. It barred the previous headteacher from being a head or deputy for two years because of failure to complete important administrative tasks.

WI Women's Institute members listened to a talk in April about Wishford railway station which opened in 1856 when the line to Salisbury was built, and closed in the early 50s by which time only 7 people were using it. Next meeting: **10 May**, AGM and 'show and tell.'

Book group: **26 May** The Betrayal by Helen Dunmore, chosen by Kate Cater: "I knew from the very first sentence that it would be atmospheric and that something really terrifying was happening."

How's your community spirit? Can't commit to being a parish councillor but could spare one hour this month? How about joining the friendly church cleaning working party on **Saturday 28 May** between 10 and 11 a.m? Just turn up!

Five stars for Quidhampton Mill

Congratulations to Lesa and Martin Drewett who have been awarded five stars by the AA for their bed and breakfast business at Quidhampton Mill. They are delighted, especially because it makes theirs the only five star rooms in the Salisbury area. The delicious breakfasts got a special award as well.

Royal Wedding "Off the Street" Tea Party



children were presented with commemorative mugs, and 150 people relaxed, chatted and enjoyed the occasion.

The challenging royal quiz was won by Audrey Catford and the prize for best red, white and blue outfit went to the newsletter editor with her "PRESS" ticket stuck into a union flag hat and her slightly ambiguous royal blue "Commoner" T shirt. ("It means either I'm a royalist and I know my place or I'm a republican", she explained) Nothing but praise could be heard for the royal wedding: "it was perfect", "like a dream," "makes you proud to be British." And the same could be said of the tea party! Thank you, Clare and

Clare Herring and Melinda Hilliard organised the perfect after the royal wedding event: a very English tea party in the lovely garden of Withy House. The invitation to "bring a plate to share" resulted in tables groaning with cakes and sandwiches, many in shades of red, white and blue. Tea was served in china cups and saucers,

Christopher, for so generously opening your garden to the village and thank you, Melinda and Clare, for all your hard work. They also want to thank the many people who offered help before and after the event, and Eve Warton whose ideas prompted them to do it. Denese Wright donated two boxes of fireworks that were let off in the garden of Blenheim House at 9 p.m, a dramatic and fitting finale to the day. Except that is for those with real stamina who attended the Casino Royal at The White Horse, a lovely occasion with black tie and pretty dresses, that raised £210 for Pembroke Ward. It does make you glad you live in Quidhampton.



photos by Charlie Gale, Graham Heeley and Ken Taylor

Will road works in Salisbury affect Quidhampton?

Notices in Salisbury suggesting there will be a five month closure of Cranebridge Road from Monday 9 May caused some alarm in the village. It is the road large HGVs use to get to Churchfields. With low rail bridges blocking the other routes, would delivery vehicles go through Quidhampton for five months despite the 7.5T limit?

The editor contacted Wiltshire Council and spoke to Julian Haines, principle bridge engineer.

What work is being done?

Harcourt Bridge needs to be replaced by something stronger. This is not Crane Bridge but the smaller single span concrete structure crossing Summerlock Stream, beside Elizabeth Court.

How will it affect traffic?

The bridge will be rebuilt one half at a time. There will be two way temporary traffic lights so one lane will be kept open.

Why then is there a notice of closure?

There will be four or five Sunday road closures so we can bring heavy items in by crane and towards the

end of the scheme there will be one weekend closure from Saturday lunchtime to Sunday evening so we can complete the concreting operations. The timings of these closures will be advertised on site and in the local press at least two weeks before hand.

Where will the traffic be diverted when the road is closed?

Traffic will be diverted through the centre of Salisbury: eastbound traffic along Fisherton Street, Winchester Street and Brown Street and westbound along Catherine Street, New Canal and Fisherton Street.

With only one lane open there will obviously be lengthy holdups, especially at busy times. Drivers may decide to avoid this by travelling through our village.

If you experience more than the usual number of errant heavy vehicles in Quidhampton let us know and we will see what we can do.

Let PC Jung know about HGVs in the usual way and he will pass on the figures if the numbers rise significantly.

Local history: commemorating the past

On Easter Saturday nine villagers from Quidhampton and Lower Bemerton gathered at the grave of Clara Price (1852-1916) in St John's churchyard. They planted snowdrops and primroses to honour and remember the life of this patient, loving, Christian woman whose daughter Clarrie described her as "an uncalendared saint".

Clara was the wife of Charles Price, the wayward photographer, who in 1890, brought his family to cheap accommodation in Quidhampton after business failures in Kent and Dorset. His addictions to gambling and alcohol, and his long absences, meant his wife had to use all her ingenuity to make ends meet while bringing up their nine children.

Before marrying Charles (it was love at first sight we are told) Clara was a milliner at her aunt's shop in Regent Street, London, a world away from the rundown cottage in Nadder Lane. Her aunt would send her offcuts of fine fabrics and trimmings which she used to make pincushions, patchwork, collars etc.

Although poor she was able to help the even poorer cottage folk in many ways. They came to her in trouble, and in cases of illness would ask if she could spare them a sheet. Villagers would also come to her for remedies from her herb garden. One old woman used to take her clock along to Clara for winding; she was afraid she'd break it if



Bea Tilbrook, Ann Barwell of Nadder Lane, Christopher Herring of Withy House, Sandie Smith, Clare Eagle of Bemerton and Clare and Rosa Herring of Withy House. Also present: Ken Taylor and Roger Eagle.

she did it herself.

Clarrie Price described her mother as enduring "much mental suffering through dad's lack of care and inability to assist his family but she bore it all so bravely and made great sacrifices for her children and tried so hard to keep the cloud out of our lives. She wanted us to be brought up, in the best possible refined way. She was a true Christian and looked to a strength higher than her own."

All except the oldest two children went to Bemerton St John's school. In the sixteen months between February 1902 and June 1903 she lost three daughters, one died of croup and two drowned. As the doctor tried to comfort her she said, "I live for those I have left."

In 1905 her husband went to Canada, persuaded there by Sydney, their second

Car boot sale Sunday 15 May

12 - 2pm Recreation Ground

Stalls £5 Gates open for sellers 11 a.m.

Pre-book: 01722 338681

Buyers: admission free, donation invited

Raising money for St Johns

Open Gardens Sunday 29 May

2 - 5pm in Lower Bemerton

Tickets £5, children under 12 free

Teas and plants for sale

son, who'd emigrated in 1902 and wanted his mother and sisters to live out their remaining years in peace. Clara's daughter Clarrie, who lived to be 105, describes happy times in the village in the following years, particularly when they lodged in The Poplars (now Withy House) with Mr Witt the coal merchant while the cottage in Nadder Lane was reconstructed.

Clara Price was still living in Quidhampton in 1911 and died at 11 Palmer Road Salisbury in 1916. One of her daughters was buried in the same grave in 1945 and four of her other five daughters rest in unmarked graves elsewhere in the churchyard.

The inscription on her gravestone, "waiting in a holy stillness, wrapped in sleep," was taken from a popular funeral hymn of the day and describes the rest and peace the family felt were Clara's due and that she so seldom had in life.

Also placed on her grave was a posy of flowers picked from the spot in Nadder Lane where Clara planted hollyhocks.

Information taken from recordings of conversations with Clarrie Price, email correspondence with Barb Bentham, granddaughter of Sydney Price, census returns and school records. If you would like to know more contact the editor.

Were you married at St John's? There are plans for a celebration with all the couples who have been married in the church over the years. The oldest surviving couple discovered so far married in 1947 and lives in Dinton.

Don't forget to let the editor have the story of your memories of St John's. Thanks to those who have done so already.

Advance notice: celebrate summer at the **Meadowfest** music festival, Fisherman's Reach, **Saturday 2 July**, free and open to all villagers, more details next edition.

**CALLING ALL CHILDREN!
BEMERTON JUNIOR FILM SOCIETY
FIRST MEETING
Saturday 7 May 2011
Finding Nemo**

Family fun at its best.
An amazing, fun loving film for all, with better graphics than Toy Story!
2 pm Bemerton St John School
Adults: £5, children: £3,
families of 4 or more: £12

Bemerton Film Society

Wednesday 25 May St John's school 7.30
BICYCLE THIEVES

Italy, 1948 - 89 minutes - U certificate - Subtitled

"A treasure of world cinema as powerful, raw and moving now as it was when it was made". The story of one man's struggle to feed his family in post war Italy, his desperation to get and keep a job. There's no silver lining but James Woods says the film is constantly involving, marvellously acted and even has little touches of humour. One villager said she had to steel herself to watch Life is Beautiful but was very glad indeed that she did. It will be the same with this film.

Wilton Historical Society

Wylve and Beyond: a talk by Rex Sawyer
7.30 pm **Monday 10 May**
Wilton Community Centre

Bemerton Local History Society

Nick Griffiths, local historian, will talk on **Roman Roads in South Wiltshire** including the one that passes through Bemerton.
12 May 7.00 pm Hedley Davis Court

100 Club winners April:

1st M Wright 171

2nd H Rowley 75

3rd D Adlam 100

Police report from PC Pete Jung

Dear All,

Following the previous incidents of shed thefts we have stepped up our patrols in the area at the times these offences occurred. This has been done by Officers from Salisbury as well as us at Wilton. In the last month we have had a burglary at a premises on 14/4/11 where some cash was stolen. It was possible that the offenders were disturbed as they missed out on quite a bit more cash that was on display.

Fortunately the shed thefts appear to have ceased (for now!). 9 HGV reports in March but only 3 HGV reports in April at time of writing and a very apologetic letter from one of the operators!

Keep 'em peeled!

Paper boy: welcome to Dan Pinhorn of Quidhampton who has taken over the paper round from Aidan.

Congratulations to Dave and Janet Barnes on their Pearl (30th) wedding anniversary.

Stop press: the work to the drains outside Quidhampton Mill is due to begin on **Monday 9 May**. Well done, Wilts Council and flood warden Ken!

Footshill closure: Footshill will be closed for 4 weeks from 9 May while the gas main is being replaced.

Contributors & Contacts

Police non emergency

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322848

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Parish Council clerk:

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www.southwilts.com/site/

Quidhampton-Parish-Council/

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Wiltshire Council 0300 456 0100

Area Councillor Richard Beattie

tel: 01747 870285

richard.beattie@wiltshire.gov.uk

The Rector of Bemerton

Rev Simon Woodley 333750

Parish Office 328031

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:

Sabine Dawson 742843

Refuse collections in May:

Saturday 7, Friday 13 (recycling),

Friday 20, Friday 27 (recycling)

The next collection will be Saturday 4 June.

Newsletter editor: Bea Tilbrook 742456

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Contributions always welcome

This month's newsletter is jointly sponsored by two anonymous residents of the village and by two you may be able to identify: "The Wrinklies, T&P, with thanks for the article about us last year".