

Quidhampton Village Newsletter

June 2011

Helen and Steve invite all villagers to

Meadowfest

2 July Fisherman's Reach

Join us in a celebration of Summer!

Free event. We provide live music and the meadow. You bring something to sit on and a picnic. Barbecue available to use.

Music from 5 pm, Bands from 7.30 pm
Ends: 11.30 pm

Womens Institute 16 members attended the AGM and heard President Valerie Fry report on a good year. Four new members joined when meetings changed from Friday to Tuesday. Committee members were thanked for their work and promptly re-elected. Secretary Joyce Harvey will represent Quidhampton at the national AGM. Members then enjoyed 'show and tell' which produced an astonishing variety of objects and information including: the top of a Roman herald's wand Maureen Walter found in her garden, a beautiful pair of green and rose wedding slippers made by Fiona Ross's great great great grandmother in 1746, and a gold medal won by Joyce Harvey for being the best student nurse of her year.

Next meeting: 14 June: garden party

Wilton Historical Society Special Meeting

Monday 13 June 7.30 Community Centre
The Joe Lyons Story: food for thought
Neville Lyons tells the story of the famous Teashops and Corner Houses.

The Christian Aid collection raised £247.82, nearly 10% up on last year. Jennifer Tyler thanks all those who contributed cheerfully to this.

Village Hall AGM Tuesday 28 June at 7 pm. Jennifer Tyler, chair of the trustee board, writes: "The Hall is a charitable trust and needs trustees to run it. We could do with two more volunteers as we have had two resignations".

Quidhampton Book Group: after three books on which opinion was sharply divided it was good to talk about 'The Betrayal' by Helen Dunmore which everyone loved.

30 June: "Incendiary" by Chris Cleave, chosen by Katy Pearson who says it was recommended by a friend as incredibly moving and inciting plenty of debate. It is written from the perspective of a woman who loses her son and husband in a terrorist attack in the UK.

School fete 2 July afternoon

Village Fete 3 September: contact Clare Churchill if you can help. Profits go to Village Diamond Jubilee Celebration fund.

Bonfire Night: There will be a village fireworks party this year. The organising group is headed by Ron Smith. Contact him if you can help or have ideas. tel: 743006. And put the date in your diary (you know which date!).

Coming or going?

There are several 'for sale' boards in the village. If you have had new neighbours let me know so we can welcome them to Quidhampton in the newsletter. If you are leaving the village but would like to keep in touch remember you can receive the newsletter by email.

Parish Council : annual parish meeting

The annual parish meeting was attended by eight villagers, parish councillors, Wiltshire Area Councillor Richard Beattie, and Sam Spacey, police community support officer. Chairman Ian Lovett gave his report, commenting on many positive aspects of village life and the council's work.

Ian praised the close liaison the village has with the police and the work they do in reporting HGVs. Sam stressed that a sighting cannot be followed up without the vehicle registration number. Ian also thanked Pete Dawson for managing the grass on the footpaths and recreation ground. It would be good to have another volunteer to help.

The parish council had sponsored the newsletter and appointed a flood warden. High visibility paint was bought to be used as a deterrent to owners who allow dog excrement to remain on village paths but happily it has not had to be used.

Councillor Katy Pearson is updating the parish council website where the full report will soon be available. It will also be displayed on the village notice board.

Parish council: annual meeting

Elections The first meeting of the year followed the public meeting and Ian Lovett was once again elected chairman, with thanks. Viv Bass and Ken Taylor were co-opted which brings the council to full strength. Dave Roberts, who spoke so eloquently on our behalf at the bus meeting last year, was elected vice-chairman and playground and planning committees were appointed. Dave also undertook to attend Wiltshire Council South West Area Board Meetings.

2012 Diamond Jubilee Celebrations It was agreed the parish council will mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee next year with a village event. A working group will be set up. *If you have any ideas about the kind of celebration you would like to see pass your ideas on to a member of the parish council.*

Summer reminders: the council asks residents to make sure hedges and trees are trimmed to keep paths clear. If everyone removed weeds from the edges of their properties the village street would look tidier. Thanks to people who do this already.

It is with great pleasure that the following announcement is included:

"After two buyers and three failed purchases Joanne, Chris, Elliot & Caitlin Penny have thrown in the towel and have decided to stay at The Old Bakery for the foreseeable future. The whole process has put us off for a while! We have decided to make the commitment to finish the house as we have always wanted (Jo gets a new kitchen - result!) and after 12 years we finally get a proper bathroom!

We just wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the lovely villagers who took the trouble to stop us and tell us how much we would be missed when they thought we were leaving. Good friends and neighbours count for an awful lot and contributed considerably to our decision to stay. So looks like we will be seeing a lot of you this Summer at various events (get your dancing shoes on Jean for the MeadowFest!) and watch this space ..there may even be a Craft Fair at Christmas again...

Also we want to embarrass our son Elliot by congratulating him on passing his 11+ and his Grade 3 Rockschoool Guitar exam. We are very proud of his achievements. It has the added benefit of him catching the bus/cycling and we can stop playing taxi drivers!"

Great news!

Beyond Quidhampton: the development of Erskine Barracks

At the annual parish meeting Councillor Beattie spoke about the proposed development of Erksine Barracks, the old UKLF site off The Avenue, Wilton, and suggested the parish council considers putting forward a view.

Wilton Town Council objected strongly to the outline proposal for 450 houses and flats with some land for employment and asked Councillor Beattie to call in the application for determination by the Southern Planning Committee of Wiltshire Council on the grounds of public interest. This means a decision will be made by the Southern Planning Committee and so there is still time to send in comments and objections.



Quidhampton Parish Council was not on the list of bodies to be consulted but the site is very close to Quidhampton and, as Councillor Beattie suggested, villagers' views are relevant. The Parish Council decided that it was not possible to make a joint response in view of the uncertain timescale and left it to individuals to comment on the plans.

Wilton Town Council's objections are printed here, and give an idea of the issues. The planning application, number is S/2011/0517 and details are available on Wiltshire Council's website and at the Planning Office.

Comments should be sent to Mr A. Bidwell, Planning Office, Wiltshire Council Development Services, PO Box 2281, Salisbury SP2 2HX or via the website.

Quoting from Wilton Council's letter

- Overdevelopment – 450 houses is too many on a site of this size.
- Lack of other amenities eg shops and a community centre. 70% of respondents to a survey carried out by Wilton Vision wanted to see shops located on the site.
- Concerns about the impact of so many buildings on the existing, barely adequate sewage system in Wilton.
- Concerns regarding the future of the existing car park on the site – is this to be utilized, or considered as a brown field site or returned to agricultural use, decontamination costs notwithstanding?
- Concerns regarding the severe increase in the volume of traffic this proposal will generate, and lack of integration with the Park & Ride site.
- Concerns regarding the lack of plans for public transport – those proposed barely meet current guidelines, but there is no plan for the future. The possibility of re-opening Wilton station is ignored, as is the provision of footpaths, cycle routes, and a pedestrian crossing over the A36, a major trunk road.
- Concerns about the lack of infrastructure, particularly the provision of a primary school. The one proposed at the Fugglestone Red II development is some distance away, which will add to the increased number of traffic movements, and there is no direct safe walking route provided. The existing Wilton primary school is full.

Police report PC Pete Jung is pleased to report that the spate of thefts from garden sheds has stopped. More people have now got better locks (the cheap ones are not much of a deterrent) or a shed alarm which will set potential thieves running. It's not usually professionals who snoop round garden sheds.

Keep the HGV reports coming but remember the police cannot follow this up if you do not have the registration number. As always be aware of bogus telephone callers who ask you for your bank details. There has been a report of a caller targeting elderly Care Connect customers and asking for fake insurance payments. **Never** give bank details over the phone

Helen Kirby: a woman of many talents

The editor speaks to Helen Kirby whose love of live music led to Quidhampton's own festival, open to all villagers this year.

There seems to be an amazing story behind everyone I meet in Quidhampton but Helen's has to be one of the most interesting. She moved to Fisherman's Reach 6 years ago with her partner, Steve Wales. They liked the area, liked village life and loved the meadow behind the houses which Helen plays an active part in maintaining.



Early life

Helen grew up in Weymouth and her first job was as a display assistant/window dresser in Debenhams. Dance, however, was always more important to her and when she was 21 she became a professional dancer and joined a dance company. "Musical theatre describes it best," she told me, "jazz and contemporary more than any other style."

Travelling

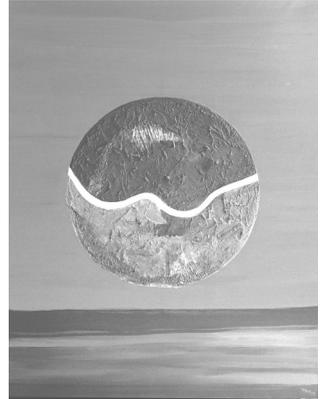
For 13 years Helen danced across South America and Europe. She spent a year in The Bahamas and stayed in exciting cities and exotic places. Helen, however, has always loved the outdoors and on her days off she found herself taking the bus to seek peace and quiet in a country walk or snorkelling, while her fellow performers lay by the hotel pool. Eventually she decided she wanted "a proper job", a job that allowed her to develop more stability and nurture friendships, rather than constantly uprooting herself and working every evening. She described it as a job that would allow her to be "an everyday person again."

The proper job, art and back to dance

Helen worked in London in publishing as a graphic designer for 10 years, and for seven years specialised in landscape architecture. Eventually she went to Winchester School of Art to do an MA in fine art. She continued to teach and attended dance classes and when she used choreography for one of her degree projects realised she wanted to return to dance again. Now she is studying for a degree in dance and choreography at Winchester University and would then love to work as a choreographer and have her own small dance company.

Meanwhile she teaches art at Bournemouth International Language School one day a week, runs Body Shop parties, makes hand painted T shirts and creates abstract paintings based on 'visual music'.

This is the theory that when we listen to music we can see colour and shapes. Some of Helen's paintings are a visual



"Earth"

representation of her songs.

Music and Meadowfest

Music is something else that's always been in her life. When Helen was 18 she hired a saxophone for three months to teach herself how to play. She wasn't put off even when it took her a week to get a note out of it! When she started travelling as a dancer she took her saxophone along and joined in with local bands, improvising and learning all the time. Almost as an afterthought she said "Oh yes, I was in a Latin rock band in Puerto Rico for 2 years."

5 years ago in Bournemouth she met

Pachango and has played with them ever since. The name means god of rhythm and dance. There are 3 Columbian members of



the band and their style is Columbian, reggae and ska, with lots of percussion and brass.

Pachango will be at Meadowfest as well as several other bands playing their own music, covers, folk, rock, even some Buddy Holly. The first time she saw the meadow Helen thought it would be the perfect place for a music festival, and with the help of Steve she made that dream come true. This year the whole village is invited - see page 1. Talking to Helen was fascinating. She has so many talents, the courage and determination to change her life and make the most of them, and the enthusiasm to share them. She saw beyond a glamorous life travelling the world and says it's lovely now to wake in the mornings and think: "I don't have to go anywhere."

Go to www.helenkirby.co.uk to see Helen's art or ring her for a viewing: 742062

Bemerton St John's School News - by Estelle Smith, Headteacher

School has again set off at the gallop with a visit on our first day back from the Royal Artillery Parachute team who landed on the Cricket Field in full view of all of the pupils! It was spectacular. This, coupled with royal wedding celebrations, as well as day to day learning, has made the term very busy. We are pleased to report that two experienced teachers for years 5 and 6 have been appointed and will be joining us in September. Mrs Jessica Martindale, currently at Harnham Junior School and Miss Claire Orledge from Collingbourne Ducis will be visiting in order to familiarise themselves with their classes as often as they are able in Term 6.

After the late May holiday pupils will return to school on **Tuesday June 7**. Monday 6 is a staff training day. School fete **2 July**.

Geophysical Survey of St John's churchyard

We felt privileged to be invited to the Geophysical Survey and Victoria and James, Year 6 pupils, have written an account of it for the Quidhampton newsletter:

We were all very excited to be involved with the Geophysical survey at St John's Church on Thursday May 5th. They were searching for graves that might be in the way of waterpipes for the new Community Centre in the church. Children from each class, except Wrens (reception pupils) went to see members of the Wessex Archeological Team in action! They used a radar box to send beams of sound into the ground to see if the earth has been disturbed to a depth of two metres. We were allowed to use the equipment to cover a small section of the Churchyard, by the main door, and found some disturbance by the gravestones. This means that pipes will have to run close to the path. We pushed the buggy which contained the radar twice each. This information will be vital for the planners who would not wish to disturb graves. All of the children enjoyed the activity and found it very interesting. It was good to see our photo in the Journal too!



Simon Forman: Quidhampton's most notorious character?

The local history item this month takes us back to the age of Shakespeare.

Thanks to **Melinda Hilliard** for this review of a book about an infamous Elizabethan born in Quidhampton

Dr Simon Forman - A Most Notorious Physician, Judith Cook, published by Vintage 2002.

Simon Forman was born in Quidhampton in December 1552. He managed to overcome his humble beginnings and lack of a formal education to become the most popular and successful astrological doctor in London. We know about him because he wrote an autobiography, kept a diary most of his life, and made careful notes about his patients and his medical methods. He is also well known because he wrote descriptions of seeing the first performances of some of Shakespeare's plays.

Simon Forman went to a free school in Wilton and a grammar school in The Close but his father died and there was no money for his education beyond the age of eleven. He was therefore largely self-taught and throughout his life was pursued by officials who accused him of practising without a licence and of mixing medicine with magic.

The first time this happened was in Salisbury, and he was committed to prison for 60 weeks. Once he moved to London, he was regularly denounced by the College of Physicians and imprisoned several times. After his death, which he foretold a week before

it happened, he was implicated in a murder and described as "the Devil Forman."

Judith Cook, however, believes he was a better and more conscientious doctor than he has been given credit for. She shows that he learnt his medical skills thoroughly, beginning during his apprenticeship to Matthew Commin, a Salisbury merchant trading in

cloth and herbal medicines, followed by a period at Oxford, then learning from very respectable writers on medicine and eventually being licensed in 1603. He was one of the few doctors who stayed in London to look after the sick during outbreaks of the plague, and he often charged lower fees to poorer patients. On the other hand, he was far from being a saint, as he enjoyed spending his money on clothes and entertainment, he was rather a snob and his diary included a

detailed record of his very active sex life. This is not a light read, but Judith Cook is very knowledgeable about the period, and uses Forman's story to connect to events in the Tudor world. She seems to like Forman, which is important, as I feel he could easily appear irritatingly self-satisfied. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys historical novels and who would like to learn more about life in Elizabethan England.

Judith Cook liked Simon Forman so much that she wrote a series of Elizabethan murder mysteries based on his casebooks. She died in 2004.



Bemerton Local History Society

Thursday 16 June 'Some More Bemerton Trivia' by Chris Usher, a local man with an amazing knowledge of Bemerton, including Bemerton Heath. His speciality is the fifties.

Hedley Davis Court, Cherry Orchard Lane at 7 pm - all welcome

Who is this George Herbert then?

Have you ever wondered why so much fuss is made about a seventeenth century vicar who was in Bemerton for only three years? There is a chance to find out on **Thursday 23rd June at 7.00 p.m. in St. Andrew's Church** followed by wine in a local garden (*a lovely tradition of the George Herbert Society*)

Advance booking required: 326261

St John's news

Geophysical survey: see school report p5. Quidhampton resident, Paul Cripps, was not part of this as reported in the last edition. He will take part in the laser survey which it is hoped will be completed this month.

Peter Webster of the Bemerton Community group sent us this report:

The Car Boot Sale on Sunday 15 May was the first major local fundraising event of the year.

Blessed with fine weather, it was very successful and raised



Photo Mikol Curteis

£650. Considering it was Bemerton Community's first such event, it was well attended by both sellers and buyers and it is hoped to run another one later in the year.

Bemerton Film Society

Finding Nemo was well received at the Junior Film Society and time in the playground afterwards was the perfect way to burn off energy. It would have been good to have seen more people there so watch out for the next meeting.

Son of Rambow (note the 'w') is the next film for adults on **Wednesday 29 June**.

One of the best British comedies of recent years, it's about two young boys who, after watching Sylvester Stallone in action, decide they can make a home movie to add to the *Rambo* saga. There is lots of action and eighties music. PG 13.

Rev Susan Drewett, curate in the parish of Bemerton, has now entered the next stage of her ministry. On **26 June** she will be licensed as associate priest by the venerable Alan Jeans, archdeacon of Sarum, at St Michael's at 10.30. Even non-church goers will be pleased she is staying in the parish; her good humoured and approachable way of handling the carol service in the White Horse, for example, would be hard to replace.

Everyone is invited to attend on 26 June and a pre-licensing celebration on **25 June** at St Michael's community centre at 7.30. RSVP by 19 June for both occasions. 01980 652456

Things dads say

It's Father's Day this month so here are some annoying things dads say.

When you pass someone washing a car
dads say: "You can do mine next if you want to!"

When they bring out your birthday cake
dads say: "Well, this is my piece, what's everyone else having?"

Son: "Dad, I'm hungry." Dad: "Hello Hungry, I'm Alan."

And the most annoying thing of all? No matter how much you vow you'll never say these things as soon as you become a dad (or a mum or a grandparent) you'll find that you do!

Paul and Monica Ryan

Several villagers have mentioned the sad deaths of Paul and Monica Ryan who moved to Sovereign Close in 2008 to retire. They settled happily into village life and could often be seen walking their dog in the village. Monica decided retirement wasn't for her just yet and began work again in a solicitor's office in Salisbury. They had been together since their schooldays and had no children so it was shattering for Monica when Paul died suddenly of cancer last year. And in April this year, seven months after his death, she too died of a brain tumour.

Inevitably the words of the prayer book come to mind: in the midst of life we are in death. While remembering Paul and Monica we must also remember to count our blessings and appreciate the good things in our lives while we have them.

One year on: message from the editor

I have been writing the newsletter for a year now and want to thank everyone for their encouraging comments and, in many cases, allowing me to write about them. I enjoy writing and believe the life of the local community is important to us all.

Sponsorship *Eight couples or individuals from the village sponsored the newsletter and several organisations: Parish Council, WI, Entertainments Committee, Salisbury Heart Support Group.*

The Parish Council agreed to sponsor two editions in 2011/12. This and the generosity of villagers means there is now a waiting list of sponsors so the newsletter is secure for the next twelve months. Thank you everyone.

And a special thank you to all the deliverers: Viv and Brian Bass, Jim Gale, Jim Goddard, Graham and Elizabeth Heeley, Christopher Herring, Ron Strange and Ted Thornton. You wouldn't get your newsletters without them!

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Problems with HGVs: contact

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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 June:

Saturday 4, Friday 10 (recycling), Fri-

day 17 and Friday 24 (recycling)

100 Club winners May:

1st S Morris 23

2nd M Wright 171

3rd T Bolger 190

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This month's newsletter is sponsored by
the Parish Council