

# Quidhampton Village Newsletter

July/August 2011

## SCHOOL SUMMER FETE Saturday 2

**July 2-4 pm Bemerton Recreation**

**Ground** The headteacher writes: We're delighted to have new activities for the more adventurous among us at this year's summer fete: a **velcro wall** (something to get stuck into?) and an exciting **7 metre climbing wall**. We're very grateful to Salisbury City Council who gave us a Parks' Community Grant so we can offer the opportunity to have a go on the climbing wall for free! On top of the new attractions we have all the old favourites: children's games, a Bouncy Castle, BBQ, Beer Tent, a raffle with great prizes from local businesses, afternoon teas and the hotly - contested duck race. We're continuing to raise funds to improve the outside play areas so come along and enjoy yourself.

And after the fete, Helen and Steve's

## ***Meadowfest***

Quidhampton residents invited

**2 July Fisherman's Reach**

Live music in the meadow. 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

**Women's Institute:** After a rain-free summer party in Jennifer Tyler's garden normal meetings resume on **July 12** with a talk about the Salisbury Child Contact centre. Village Hall 19.30

## Notifiable plant in the leat: action needed

***Jean Kalvis explains:***

*The leat is a drainage channel which runs off the Nadder, then rejoins it further downstream. It looks like a slow flowing stream and runs through approximately 12 gardens in the east of the village and the wood behind them.*

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (WWT) is surveying all the waterways in Wiltshire for



Neighbour Dave Roberts with Azolla

invasive plant species. They have found *Azolla* in the Quidhampton leat, a fern that looks like duckweed or moss, is invasive and blocks waterways. It is a notifiable plant and the WWT would like our permission to try to get rid of it using biological control.

This means introducing a weevil which feeds only on *Azolla*.

For this to be successful, everyone who has the leat running through their garden would need to allow WWT to look at their section and give permission for them to introduce the weevils where needed and later to check that the weed had gone.

**There is no charge for this but if we do not act WWT can enforce action and then we would have to pay.**

Please would all those concerned give me a contact name, address and telephone number by the end of July, so that we can give WWT all the information in one go.

Jean Kalvis, Tara, 502819

For further information look at

[www.azollacontrol.com](http://www.azollacontrol.com)



Don't forget **Quiz Night at The White Horse**: first Thursday of every month.

**WI National AGM, Liverpool** Joyce Harvey attended for the first time travelling to the new Echo Arena in the dock area, She reported: 2100 new members joined the WI in this its 96<sup>th</sup> year and hundreds of members are now under thirty years old. The organisation's impeccable records form a valuable social history of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The most interesting business is always the resolutions debate and this year was no exception. The first resolution condemning the closure of libraries was passed, but the second, calling on the government to refuse planning permission for factory farming, was more contentious. An organic farmer and the president of the NFU spoke so well on either side of the debate that after a most lively discussion the resolution was not voted for. Many delegates wanted to change their vote but had no power to do so. Nationally known speakers included Sir Steve Redgrave and delegates had the chance to visit the local area. Joyce thoroughly enjoyed the experience and said it was a privilege to be Quidhampton's delegate.

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### **Quidhampton Village Fete raffle:**

*Editors note: I am organising the raffle and need to get the prizes together before 20 August. If you can donate a prize please get in touch with me. It could be something simple (e.g. a bottle of wine, box of chocolates), a promise of something (e.g. a bunch of garden flowers to be picked on the day) or a promise to do something. Promise prizes so far include a two hour garden consultation with a garden design expert and custom made cards by Sandie.*

*If you could give half an hour on the day to sell tickets contact me or Viv Bass 742483*

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**Private domestic cleaner** seeks more hours in Quidhampton. Contact editor for details.

### **Netherhampton Road footpath**

**An extraordinary meeting of the parish council** was held on 14 June. 'Extraordinary' here means an extra meeting called to discuss a specific item, on this occasion the chance to apply for a footpath grant. Several councillors, led by Duncan Witt, felt this could be the chance to create a footpath beside the Netherhampton Road from Quidhampton to Netherhampton. Joining up with the path from Harnham and leading back to the village via Broken Bridges and Lower Bemerton, it would provide a valuable circular route for walkers, runners, and cyclists.

As with so many simple ideas the practicalities proved more complicated and the costs could be prohibitive. There was much enthusiasm for the idea, however, and it was agreed to look into it and the possibility of other funding as the deadline for July could not be met.

There will be updates at future meetings, *Editor's note: in the short time I have lived in the village I have heard many comments about the lack of footpaths. If you have opinions or ideas that might help with a grant application please get in touch with me or a parish councillor. The more support there is from potential users the greater the chance of success.*

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**Quidhampton Parish Council** Next meeting : **Tuesday 26 July 7.30pm** in the village hall. If you wish the parish council to discuss anything in particular please contact the Clerk by Thursday 14 July. Contact details are on the back page.

The council consists of the following: Viv Bass, John Blane, Jean Kalvis, Ian Lovett (Chairman), Katy Pearson, Dave Roberts (Vice Chairman), Ken Taylor, Jennifer Tyler and Duncan Witt.

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Gardeners have been pleased with the rain this month and it has also been a good test for the drainage work recently completed outside Quidhampton Mill. Lesa and Martin Drewett are pleased to report no water has gathered in the road or under their gate.

## Wilton and District Link scheme: a locally run, good neighbour service.

*The parish council recently made a donation to the Link scheme. The editor talked to Dave Barnes, Quidhampton volunteer and treasurer, to find out more about it.*

There are over forty Link Good Neighbour Schemes in rural Wiltshire, each run by local people with the aim of improving the quality of life of their community.

### **What does a Link scheme offer?**

Help for older people and people with disabilities or illness so they can have access to services and social activities and remain independent for longer.

### **What kind of help can be given?**

- transport to e.g. medical and other appointments, visits to friends or family, day centres or clubs, collecting prescriptions, shopping
- company to sit and talk to
- reading aloud
- practical help such as filling in official forms, changing library books

98% of tasks requested in the Wilton and District group are transport, usually to medical appointments, shopping and the library. The drivers, other helpers and co-ordinators are all local volunteers. The scheme is based on the beliefs that the best help comes from the local community and that we all like to be and to have good neighbours.

### **Funding**

The expenses of all volunteers are paid.

Some funding, administered by Community First, comes from Wiltshire Council and several parish councils make direct donations. Users are asked to donate if they can and the donations are very important in keeping the scheme going. Some users or their families can be generous and donate regularly. Others are not able to donate and no comments are ever made nor any pressure put on them. Donations from elsewhere are also welcomed e.g. from a coffee morning. You can be sure every penny of your donation will go to help local people.

### **Volunteers**

Volunteers are needed as much as funds. After a Criminal Records Bureau check volunteers are given an information pack and go out with another driver to gain experience. As well as the usual benefits of volunteering the Link scheme offers flexibility. Co-ordinators fit tasks around the times volunteers are available. Many drivers have regular clients they enjoy seeing each week but the time you give can be changed to suit your needs.

In 2010 Wilton and District Link fulfilled nearly 1100 tasks. Imagine all those journeys and visits not being made. The community would be a much poorer place without them.

**To request help** or to volunteer phone 01722 741241 and leave a message. You will usually be rung back the same day.

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## Church news

A belated thank you to all those who cleaned St John's - it looks fit for a king and queen **and** all the summer weddings.

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We are hoping for a report of Susan DREWETT's licensing as associate priest next time.

Erskine Barracks development a charity has been formed to develop plans for a not-for-profit 'eco park' on this land. It will consist of housing and businesses - more details in the next issue. Three Quidhampton residents are on the committee: Mike Kalvis, Alix Smith and Ken Taylor.

**Bemerton St John Primary School:**  
**headteacher retires**

*The editor talks to Estelle Smith about being headteacher at Bemerton St John, her career in education and plans for the future.* I'd heard only good things about Estelle Smith and when I met her I could see why everyone thinks so much of her and why Quidhampton and Bemerton were very lucky she came along to lead the school at a difficult time.

Estelle was part of the Wiltshire education team that worked with Bemerton St John's when the relationship between the headteacher and governors broke down a few years ago. Although she'd planned to continue working for the education authority until she retired, the attraction of Bemerton St John's was just too great. "Yes, it was a difficult time," she said, "but I could see the parents were supportive and the pupils were great and I decided it was a school worth fighting for." Estelle also felt it would be nice to give something back to Wiltshire as that was where she had begun her teaching career, much of which has been spent in village schools including being headteacher of a federated school in Dorset. All this experience and enthusiasm mean that Bemerton St John's has been transformed into a successful and popular school removing itself from Ofsted's special measures six months earlier than expected. Pupil numbers have risen from 170 to 194 and over 200 will be on roll in September, fifty per cent of whom come from outside the catchment area. Estelle



said she had to begin by re-building trust and making sure she kept parents and governors well informed about what she and the staff were doing. She believes clear expectations, communications and consistency are the cornerstones of a good school and is most proud to have re-kindled a love of learning through an improved and enriched curriculum.

Thanks to the involvement of parents and villagers the school is now an integral part of the community and Estelle feels she is leaving it as she would wish it to be. She describes it as "a village school in Salisbury." Her plans for retirement begin with a year out. "There were no gap years when I was starting out so now I'm going to have some time for me and my husband without whom I could not have achieved what I have." She told me he gave her not only emotional support but very practical support too by doing odd jobs in the school, and even working with small groups of pupils to give them extra help.

When asked what she will miss like most teachers she said, "The children." That may sound corny but teachers spend the majority of their working lives with children and it is



Pupils enjoying the unique grounds of their school

difficult to leave that behind. Children are endlessly interesting, usually full of energy and optimism, banter and bad jokes, and keen to make friends. They are the future -

that's why most of us go into teaching - and if you're lucky enough to work in a good school like Bemerton St John's there will be an irreplaceable gap in your life when you leave. On the other hand, you can take a holiday at whatever time of year you like and you'll never have to do wet playtime duty again. Estelle is looking forward to that very much.

She plans to spend a lot of time at their house in Spain, to visit her son who lives in the United States, to travel independently and to learn to play the clarinet. After that, who knows? Whatever Estelle decides to do it will be something interesting but the part she has played in the history of our village school will not be forgotten.

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**St John's community news.** Peter Webster writes:

Lower Bemerton Open Gardens on Sunday 29 May followed up the success of last year's event. Ten residents were kind enough to open their gardens to the public, including four with riverside access. Once again the event proved very popular. With sales of plants and garden tools adding to the income from garden admission and refreshments, a total of well over £1,300 was raised toward the St. John's conversion project.

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### **St John's Weddings tea party**

Plans have been finalized for a giant tea party on **18 September** with all the many people who have married in the church over the years. Please let Anne Trevett know on 01722 326261 if you would like an invitation. The oldest surviving happy couple found so far was married in 1939 - is this a record? If because of death or divorce you are now only one half of the couple who married there you will be just as welcome.

### **Bemerton Film Society**

**26 July The Italian Job:** Come and marvel at the original and best. Michael Caine and that car chase through Italian streets, rivers, sewers and rooftops, and one of the best lines ever: "You were only supposed to blow the b.... doors off!" Sheer enjoyment.

**24 August: Remains of the Day.** A technical hitch prevented this being shown earlier in the year. A sensitive story brilliantly acted, it gives a better picture of life in a grand house than Downton Abbey.

19.30 Bemerton St John's School Hall

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### **George Herbert Events**

**Saturday 16 July:** A Day in Herbert's Temple

A day of poetry reading by members of the George Herbert Society. Drop into St Andrew's Church any-time between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Light refreshments available throughout the day. Call 329874 if you



would like to read a poem yourself.

**Tuesday 9 August 7 p.m., repeated**

**Wednesday 10 August 10.30 a.m.**

George Herbert: A Writer in his Time. Professor Helen Wilcox of Bangor University looks at the work of George Herbert and his contemporaries in English literature. Followed by refreshments in a local garden. Advance booking required: tel 322315

## NEWSFLASH!! Wandering Rabbit Returns Home Safe & (Nearly) Sound!

The adventures of Alfie Bunny came to an end on Saturday 11 June when the miscreant was discovered a scant yard from his own back gate. He had been missing since the previous Thursday after a daring escape involving a tunnel.



Wanted posters were designed and distributed immediately by his owner Caitlin Penny and her brother Elliot. However, despite half the village community keeping a look out (heartfelt thanks to all), the escapee remained at large for three days.

Alfie finally returned sporting a cut ear and a sprained back leg following a suspected confrontation with a member of the 'rabbit underworld' but his injuries soon healed and he is more or less back to his exuberant self.

When quizzed on his whereabouts during his time 'outside', Mr Bunny declined to comment.

### **WARNING To All Owners of Small Livestock**

There seems to be a fox currently on the hunt for small animals. He or she has recently taken chickens from a garden in the village taking advantage of the

very first time that they had not been shut in overnight. What an opportunist! So lock them in if you want to keep them safe.

*Contributed by Jo Penny*

**Book group** Four members enjoyed listening to Helen Dunmore talk about "The Betrayal" at the Salisbury Festival, and were intrigued to learn that the first thing she thought of when planning the book was the last sentence. **The book for 29 July** is "Water For Elephants" by Sarah Gruen, chosen by Avril Gauvin from Salisbury, who says: In this

novel Jacob Janowski, now in his nineties, describes the indignities of old age and his previous life, love and adventures as an unofficial circus vet. You will fall in love with the old and the young Jacob and not want his story to end.

**25 August** : "Salmon Fishing in the Yemen" by Paul Torday chosen by Audrey Catford

### Are you good at organising and finding things in an emergency?

The parish needs a **Community Emergency Volunteer**. You would work with the flood warden to produce a folder of information useful in an emergency e.g. contacts for emergency services, who has the key to the village hall, people in the parish with useful knowledge (e.g. medical personnel, engineers), 4x4s or tractors etc. Most emergencies nowadays are the result of flooding but

there could be a major traffic accident or train or plane crash. We are so close to Salisbury it is unlikely we would be cut off for long but it would be comforting to know that all the information was safely to hand just in case.

If you would be interested in doing this, perhaps with a partner, please contact the parish clerk and accept the thanks of the community.

## School news from Estelle Smith, headteacher

Pupils had a wonderful day at Beaulieu with a tour of the Motor Museum and permission to sit in the cars and press the horns! Year 2, in Victorian smocks and collars, had a tour of Palace House with Miss Clark the governess who gave them a "strict" insight into life in school at that time. Other highlights were the trip on the monorail, the open top bus and a ride on Wheels! A day to remember.

**Key Stage 2** visited the Roman Palace at Fishbourne with its original mosaics and enjoyed workshops where they learned to dress and live as Romans and Celts. The Roman theme continued for classes involved in the Playhouse Project. Years 5 and 6 showed the story of Romulus and Remus in very different ways and Year 4 were Celts and Romans in a battle scene. Everyone

worked very hard, learnt a lot more about the Theatre and used their learning about the Romans.

This will be the last time I write for the Quidhampton newsletter and it is with some sadness that I say goodbye to a great many friends in school and the village. Everyone has shown great kindness to me and I thank all of you for supporting us on our journey during the past two years.

Do join us for any of the end of term celebrations:

Sports day from 11.00 **14 July**

Performances of Alice **18 and 19 July**

13.30 Thank you Tea Party for our helpers.

**19 July** 13.30

Music concert **20 July** 18.00.

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## New headteacher meets parents:

Alun Richards, new headteacher of Bemerton St John's school, met parents there recently. *Marie Young reports:* Alan Richards is very passionate about his new role and has a good outlook on what he wants to achieve. He seemed very approachable and very hands on. He said he will be involved in some after-school clubs and in other direct ways as well as doing paperwork.

It was a shame only about 15 of us turned up for the meeting, though that could be be

cause people can't leave work, and Alun said he will be doing meetings for parents at various times to accommodate everyone. He was happy to announce that the school is out of deficit and in a better position. He said the governors are very supportive and the school can only go from strength to strength.

He was smiley, open to all questions and looking forward to his future with Bemerton St John. We all look forward to Alun Richards taking over the headship of our school.

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## Police news:

Dear All, the HGV issues continue but we are still chipping away! If you can take a digital photo and send it to me, as Paul Cripps did recently, it helps my reports have more impact. Those of you on my email bulletins will know we have had some good responses from some of the operators. If you would like to go on my contacts list for latest info of crime in your area, bulletins etc please email me at [peter.jung@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:peter.jung@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk) I can assure

you that you will only get info for your area that is relevant - no nonsense! It's also a good way of getting in touch with me.

I frequently get informed of scams that occur online. Unfortunately due to the international nature of these scams there is little I can do. However, if you can, forward it to [www.actionfraud.org.uk](http://www.actionfraud.org.uk).

The homepage is self explanatory.

*Many thanks, PC Pete Jung.*

## Recycling: garden waste

From early next year all residents will be entitled to a fortnightly garden waste collection but if you want to make use of it **you must apply by the end of September**. There is an application form on page 12 of the Summer copy of "Your Wiltshire Magazine" that should have been delivered to your home in June. You can also apply online at [wiltshire.gov.uk](http://wiltshire.gov.uk).



It is a free service but will be given only to households that apply. Some will not want a bin because they compost garden waste or have no garden.

There will be a roadshow about the new collection service in Salisbury Market Place on Tuesday **12 July** between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

If you have a bin for garden waste via the paid-for service you don't have to re-apply.

**Birth announcement:** we're delighted to welcome to the village Anna Malaika Lanchbery, born on 22 May 2011. Congratulations to her parents, Julie and John, who moved into Edgam Place four years ago. Having finally got the house the way they want it they say they would now like to take play a bigger part in village life, baby Anna permitting of course.

### **100 Club winners June:**

- 1st J Johnson 6
- 2nd L Hudson 117
- 3rd A Jackson 34

This newsletter is sponsored by a resident of Lower Road in memory of her mother whose birthday was in August, and who is still missed every day.

## **Contributors & Contacts**

### Police non emergency

number: 0845 4087000

PC Pete Jung ext. 747442

St John's C of E Primary School:  
322848

White Horse Inn: 742157

Parish Council clerk:

Clare Churchill 743027

[www.southwilts.com/site/](http://www.southwilts.com/site/)

Quidhampton-Parish-Council/

[quidhamptonpc@btinternet.com](mailto:quidhamptonpc@btinternet.com)

1 Tower Farm Cottages, Skew Rd.

Wiltshire Council 0300 456 0100

Area Councillor Richard Beattie

tel: 01747 870285

[richard.beattie@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:Peter.Jung@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)

copy to [c.cochrane@imperial.ac.uk](mailto: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 July: Fridays 1, 8 (recycling), 15, 22 (recycling) and 29.

August: Fridays 5 (recycling), 12, 19 (recycling) and 26. Next collection

Saturday 3 September

### **Editor's note: Newsletter timings:**

*This edition covers July and August but because of holiday arrangements the **September newsletter will be with deliverers on Saturday 20 August**. This means arrangements for the fete can be publicised so please let me have anything you want put in the newsletter by **Monday 15 August**.*

**Newsletter editor:** Bea Tilbrook 742456

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