

# Quidhampton Village Newsletter

September 2011

## Extra bus for Quidhampton

Most villagers know that since July there has been a bus to Salisbury at 8.35am, filling the gap between 8.06 and 9.13. This is in response to "requests from local residents" so well done everyone who made their feelings known to Wiltshire Council. Thanks are also due to Phil Grocock, Wiltshire Council Bus Network Manager, who assured us at the meeting last year he would try to find a bus to fill that gap.

A good news story like this is rare these days - we should all feel pleased. There is good news too about bus service 13 that goes to Salisbury via Lower Bemerton:

Wilts and Dorset have decided they can run the majority of buses on this route without subsidy from Wiltshire Council.

'Use it or lose it' has worked!



*N.B. the 08.35 bus is run by a different company and return tickets or 11 journey tickets bought on it are not valid on Wilts and Dorset buses. Tickets bought on Wilts and Dorset buses, however, can be used on the new bus. (If you use buses you will understand this. If you don't use them you should try it: avoid parking charges, meet other villagers and experience the friendliest way to get to Salisbury or Wilton)*

## Survey reveals amount of traffic through Quidhampton

Did you spot two small black tubes across the road near Lock's Lane? That was 'Metrocount,' collecting data about the traffic through the village. It was arranged by Clare Churchill, parish clerk, to collect information for possible further traffic calming measures. PC Jung has already reported preliminary results with regard to HGVs (see box).

Although a few HGV journeys will be legitimate, e.g. recycling lorries, the figures prove what villagers have been saying: many more come through than the small numbers that get reported.

What use can be made of the information? Previous discussion at the parish council concluded that realistically the only thing that may be achieved at the moment is better signs. Further analysis will reveal the data relevant to traffic calming.

The survey was carried out over the period 20th to 28th July, and a total of 20378 vehicles of all types were recorded. Of these, a total of 56 vehicles were of a minimum wheelbase to be classed as 7.5 tonnes or more (it is not possible to analyse the actual plated weight of the vehicle, just the wheelbase). This represents 0.27% of the total. 27 of these HGVs were travelling west and 29 east. It is not possible to determine whether or not the HGVs were in any way exempt from the weight limit.

*PC Steve Colwill, Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit*

**Refuse Compactor: Saturday 24 September 07.30 - 10.30 Rogers Close. For details see poster on parish noticeboard**



## *A chance to see professional cycle racing*

### National Cycling Weekend in Salisbury with road closures 28 August

The Twinings Pro-Am Tour is a new cycling event taking place in Salisbury on 27 and 28 August. On Saturday there are family activities at Five Rivers Leisure Centre, and 60 and 100 mile rides for keen amateurs. On Sunday there's a professional race, part of British Cycling's

Premier Calendar. Some roads around Wilton and the Chalke Valley will be closed between 10.00 and 17.00. The race on Sunday should be a great spectacle, and one seldom seen so close to Quidhampton. Money raised will go to Save The Children, Help for Heroes and Naomi House.

### The White Horse

A Quiz and Music Night held in aid of Salisbury Hospice on 12 August raised £500.

#### **Future Events**

- Quiz night **1st Thursday every month.**
- Fete **3rd September** (see flyer)
- Harvest Festival **early October.** Watch for dates in the newsletter and in the pub.

**W.I.** In July members learnt about the **Salisbury Child Contact Centre**, where parents not otherwise able to see their children can spend two hours with them, twice a month, in a comfortable and safe environment. Success comes when the centre is not needed anymore because the parents have developed a better relationship and can arrange contact themselves. Child Contact Centres get no government money even though court orders can make going there a compulsory condition of seeing the child. They rely on the National Association of Child Contact Centres, and local donations.

The Salisbury centre has twelve trained volunteers (one from Quidhampton) and a part time paid coordinator. If you would be interested in helping contact Liz Sirman on 07754 565837.

Next meeting: **Tuesday 13 September**  
19.30 Village Hall

### Fireworks and Bonfire Night update:

On **5 November** there will be:

- fireworks and a bonfire in the fields behind the White Horse.
- barbeque and competitions in the village marquee (e.g. best carved pumpkin, best guy).

Family ticket £5 before 31 October, £7 on the night. Adults £2/£3, children £1/£2. Order form in October newsletter.

The parish council is buying the fireworks and the event takes place under their insurance. The committee, headed by Ron Smith, is working hard to ensure it will be a safe as well as entertaining evening.

All profits go towards running Jubilee/ Olympic events in the village in 2012.

*Don't forget to go to the village hall on **27 September** to have your say about the events you would like to see.*

### **2012: Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics**

How should Quidhampton mark these events?

Come to the village hall  
Tuesday 27 September 19.00.  
for a discussion before the parish council meeting which starts at 19.30

### **Wilton Library opening hours**

From 5 Sept these will be:

Monday, Wednesday	Closed
Tuesday	10 - 7
Thursday, Friday	10 - 5
Saturday	10 - 1

This includes volunteer staffing,

### **Wilton Historical Society Monday 19 September**

Peter Daniels: More pictures from the  
Salisbury Journal  
19.30 Wilton Community Centre

### **Weddings Celebration Tea at St John's Sunday 18 September 3 - 5 pm**

Open to anyone who married at St Johns.  
No charge but advance booking essential:  
01722 326261.  
Remember your special day! Bring photos  
and memorabilia, meet old friends and  
make new ones.

### **Bemerton Film Society Breathless**

**Tuesday 20 September**

19.30 Bemerton St John School Hall  
Doors open 19.00 Refreshments available  
The story of a petty criminal on the run  
after shooting a policeman.  
*'A revolutionary and brilliant film, arguably  
among the most influential of all time'.  
In French with English subtitles.*

### **Bemerton Community**

Local actor James Clarkson presents his one  
man show:

#### **John Donne Monarch of Wit**

John Donne, Dean of St Paul's Cathedral in the  
17<sup>th</sup> century, is well known for his erotic love  
poetry and religious writings. Alec Roth's set-  
ting of Donne's poem Autumnal will be sung by  
Sally Bradshaw.

St John's Church

19.00 **Sunday 25 September**

Tickets on the door: £7.50

### **Bemerton St John School fete**

The fete went well - lovely weather - with country dancing in the arena to start the entertain-  
ment. People climbed up the climbing wall, challenging themselves to get to the top. Year 6 had a  
good time running their own stalls and Jonathan Young had fun running the welly wanging which  
became quite competitive. Lots of face painting transformed children into butterflies and  
Spiderman.

The duck race was the usual fun end to the day, children and dads in the river getting soaked,  
trying to keep the ducks in one direction. Their laughter was infectious and people cheered.  
Finally number 155 came in first and the lucky winner got £25.  
Over £2000 was raised - a profitable as well as an enjoyable day.

**And in the evening.... Meadowfest** *Marie Young writes:* It was a beautiful sunny eve-  
ning as I walked down into the meadow. It was full of music, people were laughing and talking,  
children were running about, the atmosphere was lovely. It was so nice to see people that you  
don't see much of and be able to chat because there was no rush to go anywhere. At least three  
young villagers, Daisy, Caitlin and Rosa, had great fun walking around the path cut through the  
hay, counting the lanterns hanging on the trees. It was an adventure.

*Others said:* it was good to see old and young villagers together. I loved joining in the drumming.  
We sang along to all the songs from the ukulele player. As it got dark the path by the river was  
magical. Managing a meadow is hard work but we really appreciated being invited to such a lovely  
relaxed event.

*The final word:* "That's the trouble with Quidhampton people - put them together and they just  
talk to each other!"

*Contributed by Marie Young*

## Village Hall AGM

The Village Hall AGM took place in June and Peter Dawson, hall treasurer, reported that now there are fewer village clubs and organisations hiring the hall on a regular basis the finances again showed more expenditure than income. Belly dancing classes are so popular that numbers are generally too big for the village hall and the only remaining regular bookings are the WI and the parish council. Overall lettings dropped by about £300.

The hall is run most economically and has some financial reserves. There has already been extra expenditure this year on the electrical system to comply with the latest regulations but it was felt that no emergency action need be taken yet. It would be good to see the hall used more, and not just for financial reasons. It provides a clean, safe, welcoming place for meetings, courses, special events etc. The rates of £6 an hour in summer and £8 in winter (with a minimum hire fee of £10) surely cannot be beaten in this area. Spread the word! The hall is a link with the past of the village and deserves to be preserved for future generations. Jim Gale, who recently hired the hall to celebrate the naming day of his daughter, declared it was essential to keep it going, you couldn't imagine the village without it.

**It wasn't like this in 1903: can you believe it?** *The editor has been reading re-discovered parish magazines from 1903 and would like to share this account of an*

*event in the Mission Room (village hall) that year. Tea and entertainment were organised on 30 January to welcome the Rev C Swainson who had special responsibility for Quidhampton. However: "The Villagers turned out in much larger numbers than anyone had anticipated and those who know the Mission Room will scarcely believe that it could hold 170 people but such is the number that were present!"*

For once an exclamation mark is justified! Not only were there 170 people but the first item on the programme was 'rifle exercises by members of the Church Lads Brigade', led by Percy Stratton, pictured. How **did** they find the room?! There followed fifteen other items: songs, recitations, dialogues, music. The piano was loaned by Mrs Stratton of Poplar Villa (now Withy House) and tea served by thirteen volunteers. What a jolly occasion it must have been.



Percy Stratton

How about putting on a similar evening, perhaps in 2012? There is certainly talent in the village, and perhaps an appetite for a genuine home grown show, not the manufactured performances of The X Factor and Strictly Come Dancing. *(not that I would ever miss one minute of Strictly: editor)*

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**Book Group:** July saw a shorter discussion than usual about Water For Elephants which few members liked. August's book is Salmon Fishing in the Yemen by Paul Torday chosen by Audrey Catford: "it was light hearted but with depth."

For September Irene Vaudin from Wilton chose No Name by Wilkie Collins: "he deserves to be better known than simply the author of The Woman In White. He wrote many other great stories and I am a huge fan. No Name was first rejected as immoral as it deals with illegitimacy but is now regarded as one of his finest."

Meetings: **last Thursday in the month, 19.00** at The White Horse.

## In the news

*Did you spot the photograph of Audrey Catford in the Journal celebrating 25 years of Sarum Decorative and Fine Arts Society? The editor talked to her to find out more.*

The are 340 branches of the Decorative and Fine Arts Society throughout Europe aiming to advance arts education and appreciation, and to preserve our artistic heritage.

Audrey told me that when she moved here she joined the Wylde Valley branch to meet people. She enjoyed it so much she became a founder member of the Sarum group, formed when the waiting list for members became too long. She is now honoured as their founder president.

The Society's activities are in three parts. A programme of lectures, visits and study days is arranged on topics ranging from Leonardo's portraits to London's sewers. Young people are encouraged to take part in the arts via sponsorship e.g. providing a sculptor to work with students at St Edmunds in 2009. Finally, trained heritage volunteers work at a professional level on local projects. Members of Sarum DFAS are working at the Rifles Museum in The Close cleaning and recording their entire medals collection, and at the Museum of Army Flying they are making 450

conservation standard uniform covers. A group from New Sarum DFAS are cataloguing the library at Wilton House.



Another part of heritage work is church recording. A record of the contents of a church is made, all items being researched and described in detail. The resulting illustrated book is given to the County Records Office and three national organisations as well as the church. These books are also invaluable for identification if items are stolen. Sarum DFAS most recently recorded the church in Little Langford.

If you are interested in joining contact Ann Thompson 780683 or go to their website.

*These projects take years to complete, but how rewarding it must be. Isn't it amazing what goes on in the community?*

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**Birth Announcement:** welcome to **Amelia Catherine Rose Cripps** born on 5 June. Parents Paul Cripps and Dr Becky Poole have lived in Temperance Cottages for three years. Paul is an archaeologist specialising in archaeological computing and couldn't resist excavating the cottage during renovations. He found evidence of a large fire at some time and would love to know more about it. Does anyone know about a fire in Temperance Cottages?

Becky is a geneticist researching childhood disorders at Southampton Hospital. She helps organise Salisbury Café Scientifique. Both would like to do more for the village when work and baby Amelia permit. Paul is trying to map the growth and development of Quidhampton. He aims to make a digital map with dates and other information, invaluable for local historians. It's wonderful to have another baby in the village - congratulations to the whole family.

## More tributes for retired head-teacher, Estelle Smith

*Joy Wagstaff writes on behalf of the governors:* Estelle's work was celebrated at a Governors meal when she was presented with a unique handbag and her husband, Des, was given crystal tumblers and a bottle to thank him for his support of the school and pupils. At her leaving assembly Estelle was presented with flowers and a vase engraved with the school name. The Governors wish them a long and happy future life together.

*Joanne Penny talked to Quidhampton parents:*

*Sharon Mullett:* The number of pupils joining and returning to Bemerton St John speaks volumes about the dedication and commitment of Mrs Smith (and Mr Smith). They will be sadly missed but are leaving the school in a fantastic position for the future. We all hope they enjoy their well earned retirement!

*Marie Young:* Estelle came into the school when she was needed most. She put all her energy, enthusiasm and love of her work into it. The children of Bemerton St John have been very lucky to have had her.

*Carol Bethel:* Mrs Smith has done wonders for the school and I don't think anyone else could have achieved what she has in her time there.

*Editor's note:* Estelle reported she felt thoroughly spoilt during her last weeks at Bemerton St John and the final service was very emotional. She has asked to be on the email list for the Quidhampton newsletter so she will still be in touch with us.

### Year 6 production of Alice In Wonderland

*Joanne Penny reports:* Year 6 pupils of Bemerton St John put on a fantastic portrayal of Louis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland in the last week of term, ably assisted by several Year 5 stage hands and a gorgeous performance from 7 year old Ella Bennett as the 'shrunken' Alice. I and many others were awed by the professional performance of the cast and had to remind ourselves that they were no more than 11 years old. They worked hard to ensure the end result was polished, witty and entertaining. There were too many excellent

individual performances to comment on but of course I have to mention those from our village. Megan Bethel played the main part of Alice and delighted us with her lovely voice. Kirsty Stage was excellent as the 'overgrown' Alice and brought the house down as she 'outgrew' the house.

The costumes were provided by some dedicated parents and friends, two of whom from Quidhampton made the beautiful Alice dresses. They wish to remain anonymous but we know



who you are and thank you for your hard work on behalf of the school.

*Estelle said there was desperation among the production staff a week before the performances but in true theatrical tradition everyone rose to the occasion on the night. Alice was played by three pupils of different sizes to show the way she changed during her magical adventures.*

**In with the new...** Urchfont Primary C of E School has also been saying goodbye to their headteacher, Alun Richards, as he leaves to take up his post at Bemerton St John. We welcome him to the Quidhampton/Bemerton community and hope he will have time to talk to the newsletter in his busy first weeks.

**Pupils return to school: Monday 5 September**

#### **A back to school joke:**

Why did the jellybaby go to school?  
Because he really wanted to be a smartie.

## Now it's Legal! I'm staying:



Simon

Susan

Archdeacon

*Susan Drewett, associate priest, writes:* It was so wonderful to have the celebration the night before the Sunday service when I was licensed as Associate Priest to Bemerton parish. It was fantastic that sixty people came and enjoyed a three course meal and my friends provided entertainment: Bernard, a magician who performed tricks at every table and Rosemary, accompanied by Helen, who sang Pie Jesu. It was lovely just to see peoples' faces. Ask Jennifer Tyler - she was there. I thought Simon was going to make a presentation about Mission Week, but it was to me!! He presented me with a beautiful standard rosebush called 'Peachy'.

The service the following day was wonderful. In front of the Archdeacon, standing in for the bishop, I had to make promises to serve the parish and the congregation had to make promises to support me in my new role.

What an amazing weekend - one to remember always. Thank you to everyone for past and future support.

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## Bemerton Community Review: *Peter Webster, Chairman of the Bemerton Community, writes:*

The project to turn St. John's church into a community centre has been going for over two years, a good time to reflect and see where we've got to.

Public meetings and a questionnaire made it clear that local residents wanted to see the church building preserved and used, and had plenty of ideas about the activities they'd like to see there. The steering group was therefore put on a formal footing as a limited company, and fundraising began. What we wanted to do was create modern meeting facilities with a kitchen and toilets, while keeping the chancel as a consecrated space so it could still be used for weddings etc. Because St. John's is Grade II\* listed, we had to find out what changes might be allowed before drawing up plans.

By the end of 2010 we were registered as a charity and funds stood at about £13,000, thanks to local authority grants, generous donations and well-supported fund raising events. We could afford to carry out a feasibility study, to examine whether the project had a realistic chance of success.

The first six months of 2011 have seen useful progress. We removed the old, broken heating plant and conducted a ground survey in preparation for water and gas supplies. Wiltshire Village Halls Association gave a grant for this. Architects will now draw up outline plans and costings, based on our assessment of what needs to be done, and there will be a laser survey of the building to provide a basis for this. In the meantime fundraising activities continue. (see page 3) By the end of this year we hope to have completed the planning process and started applying for the large grants needed for the capital cost of the conversion, which will be in the region of £400,000. It may take some time to reach this figure, but our aim is to open the community centre no later than 2013.

The organisation is called *Bemerton Community* because the church is Bemerton St. John but the project embraces the wider area including Quidhampton and we know villagers support our events. Everything is run by volunteers, and we would warmly welcome any Quidhampton residents willing to join us in our efforts to keep our local church building alive. If you are interested, give me a ring on 01722 331236.

## Parish Council Matters

**Neighbourliness** It's the neighbourliness of others that makes our lives go smoothly and in that spirit villagers are reminded that wheelie bins, boxes and black bags should not be put out more than 24 hours before collection day. Please also remember that parking on double yellow lines causes congestion - that is why they are there.

**Parish website** The website (see opposite) contains copies of the newsletter, minutes of meetings and other information. Two volunteers are helping to update it.

### **Footpath along Netherhampton Road**

The land is in the area covered by Wilton Town Council who support the idea but cannot contribute financially. Costs are likely to be very high. Formation of a working party to investigate further is on the agenda of the next meeting. Netherhampton Parish Council and Sustrans, the cycling organisation, have apparently expressed interest in this in the past.

**New goalposts** have been installed on the playing field

### **Diamond Jubilee/Olympic celebrations**

**2012** Councillor Katy Pearson will head a working group. In order to give villagers a chance to say what kind of event/s they would like everyone is invited to a public half hour at the beginning of the next parish council meeting.

### **Police report**

PC Jung was on holiday when the newsletter was written and we wish him a well-earned break.

He had previously reported the following:

- a record 10 HGV sightings in June, thanks to a parish councillor working from home.

- In July a garage was broken into but nothing was taken.

- 2 solar powered lights were taken from a front garden.

## **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)

or leave a note in the black box.

WI: Valerie Fry 742082

Village Hall bookings:

Sabine Dawson 742843

Refuse collections: Friday 26 August,

Saturday 3 September (recycling),

then Fridays in September: 9, 16

(recycling), 23, 30 (recycling)

### **100 Club winners: July**

1st 27 Viv Bass

2nd 95 Graham Heeley

3rd 45 B Scanlon

**Newsletter editor:** Bea Tilbrook 742456

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The September newsletter is sponsored by a resident of the village