



QUIDHAMPTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

December 2011

What's On

Sunday 27 November Bereavement Service
St Andrews 14.30

Tuesday 29 November Parents Forum
Bemerton St John school 14.30

Thursday 1 December World Aids Day
prayers, music and reflection St Michaels
19.30 *Everyone is welcome or send names or
situations to be prayed for*

Friday 2 School dress down day: cakes
Bemerton St John school

Christmas bazaar 15.30 - 17.00

Saturday 10 Bus Pass Christmas Party
village hall 15.30

Friday 16 Last day of term

What's on at The White Horse

Tuesday 20 Christmas Draw and Mummer's
Play

Wednesday 21 Carol singing at The White
Horse 19.30

New Year's Eve: ticket-only event from
20.00 'til late. Live music and buffet
Sloe gin competition and a quiz night : late
December or early January. Keep an eye on
the noticeboard and pub window for dates.

Christmas opening times:

Christmas Eve: pub open as normal, kitchen
closed in the evening

Christmas Day: open 12.00 - 14.00

Boxing Day: open 12.00 - 16.00

Normal hours resume on 27 December
except for New Year's Eve (ticket-only
evening) and New Year's Day 12.00 - 15.00

Other events:

Saturday 10 Carols by Candlelight Salisbury
Community Choir Wilton Parish Church 19.30

Sunday 18 Christmas at St John's 17.30 -
details on page 6.

Christmas Church services

Sunday 4 Traditional Advent Carol Service
St Andrews 16.00

Wednesday 21 Carol singing at The White
Horse 19.30

Christmas Eve: Nativity Service
St Michael's 16.00

Midnight Service with the Methodists in
Roman Road. 23.30

Christmas Day: BCP said Communion service
St Andrews 09.00

Christmas Family Communion St Michael's
10.30

New Year's Day: Communion St Andrews
09.00

Informal Service St Michael's 10.30

Evensong for Epiphany St Andrews 16.00

All Quidhampton's proud bus pass owners are cordially invited to

a Bus Pass Christmas Tea Party

on Saturday 10 December

15.30 in the Village Hall.

Prizes for best Ladies and Gents Christmas Buttonholes.

Contact *Maureen Goff* on 743587 or *Viv Bass* on 742483 if you would like to come by

Monday 5 December - numbers needed for catering purposes.

*No entry charge but there will be a raffle we hope everyone will partake of. Raffle prizes gratefully
accepted.*

Anyone wishing to do a little light entertainment will be particularly welcome.

Come along for a fun afternoon and get the Christmas Spirit started in the village

The White Horse changes hands

Most villagers know that this year John and Janice have been trying to hand over the pub and head off for a well-deserved retirement. They recently received an offer that enabled them to do just that. It meant a sudden departure from the village last Monday but they will be keeping in touch with the friends they have made here and hope to attend village events. They have promised to give an interview to the newsletter for January. It is hard to imagine anyone who has done more for the village over the years. They may have slipped away quietly but everyone will want them to know how much Quidhampton owes them and how much it will miss them.

Message from John and Janice: we will miss everyone in Quidhampton too and thank you all for your friendship through the years.

Another winner for Quidhampton: best fireworks event ever

Clare Churchill, parish clerk, described the fireworks event as "a perfect example of the community working together."

More than 220 villagers, family and friends gathered for "one of the best family evenings in the area", beginning with children's entertainers, Ticklish Allsorts, while adults were tempted by hot dogs, soup and toffee apples. Entrants for the Best Guy competition had been displayed in Lower Road, though rain forced several indoors after the judging. The winner, bearing a resemblance to a certain Saturday night TV programme



Winner

and wearing his mum's 21st birthday ballgown, was double entry "Strictly Vampire" by Henry Emmett.

Children enjoyed sparklers, adults enjoyed chatting and the last hot dog was sold. "Quality sausages from

Pritchards," explained Joy Wagstaff, "the owner now lives in Hampton Court and gave us a special rate. And local rolls from Reeves: all pukka quality, just like our village"

Then the guys were piled on the bonfire and the display began, the best ever seen in Quidhampton: "amazing, just how fireworks should be, stunning." This exceptional spectacle was thanks to residents Denese and Howard Rowley, firework professionals of Royal Party Fireworks, who not only obtained a generous amount of fireworks for our money but worked tremendously hard to run it themselves, at their busiest time of the year.

Even two people who said they had doubts about spending any money on fireworks were won over: "the best I have ever seen." "Absolutely brilliant"

Others said: "Wonderful community feel and everyone so caring of each other." "The marshalls did a brilliant job - everyone felt safe". The number of people who helped set it all up and clear it all away on Sunday also showed the village still has plenty of community feeling and support for events.

Special thanks go to chief organiser Ron Smith who brought it all together and made it work, to John and Janice Blane who allowed the use of their garden and electricity, and to Jackie Peters and Mark Game who moved their animals and allowed the village to use their fields. Denese and Howard want to thank Alan Dutfield and Hugh Baker who worked with them throughout the display and Ron wants to thank Julie



Scott-Ison who made, donated and sold all the toffee apples.
We must not forget that had the parish council not been behind this village event it wouldn't have been so splendid. The council allocated £500 to buy fireworks and because they oversaw the organisation VAT can be reclaimed. That and Howard and Denese's contacts meant there was a mega display at a bargain price, also helped because the parish council's existing insurance covered the event and money from the 100 Club (Entertainments Fund) paid for the children's entertainers. A real example of working together! *Quotes from*

John Cater, Stevie Paul, Jo Penny, Sandie Smith, Ken Taylor.

Animals and fireworks

Sadly not every inhabitant of the village enjoyed the display - it's not a fun time for animals. One villager told the newsletter she always stays in with her cat, another always gives her dog a veterinary approved tranquiliser. Unhappily Jackie Peters' horses were also disturbed this year. If you are thinking of letting off fireworks at Christmas or New Year please remember the animal owners in the village, think about where you have the fireworks and warn your neighbours.



Polly Gale happy in her ear defenders

Letter to the editor

Hi Bea, We all enjoyed the fire works on Saturday - such a lovely family evening. My son Jim Gale (Haviland Cottages) & wife Charlie invited me and Charlie's family & we were so surprised by how much effort had gone into the event which was really well organised.

The entertainment for the children went down so well & made a very good start for what was to follow! (& the eats were scrummy) The fireworks were brilliant (we kept thinking that must be the last one - but no! on they went again!!)

How good to have a real village event for mainly locals - it made it seem quite special.

Quidhampton is so lucky to still have residents who are willing to make this sort of effort for all to enjoy! Many thanks to all
 Ann Gale (Now in Canadian Ave)

WI November meeting Chris Bird of Sparsholt College gave a informative and very entertaining talk about choosing plants, with the emphasis on new varieties of plants we might have rejected before e.g. a smaller lilac that can even be grown in a pot. Eve Warton enjoyed attending the Wiltshire Federation Annual meeting and reported that three new WIs had begun in Wiltshire this year.

December meeting: Christmas meal, existing members only

Quidhampton book group 'House Rules" by Jodie Picoult, about an autistic boy accused of murder, was a popular choice and stimulated much discussion in October, (thank you, Sandie). The group has been so successful in attracting new members it has declared itself full. It meets monthly but meetings will not now be reported as they are no longer open to other villagers.

QUIDHAMPTON MUMMERS



Do you think Mummers Plays aren't for you? Read about their history and the remarkable survival of the Quidhampton Play - you may change your mind.

History

For centuries before the First World War every village had its mummers play which was performed on Boxing Day in the biggest local houses and the village street. The performers were ordinary village men and expected food, drink or money in return. The plays were not written down - most people wouldn't have been able to read or write. Parts were memorised and handed from father to son.

There are common elements in all the plays. There is always a fight between good and evil characters, and the one who is killed is brought back to life by a doctor with magic medicine. This theme of resurrection is either Christian or linked to the winter solstice.

Characters are introduced one by one, their first words being: "In come I". The hero is Saint or King George and the villain a Turkish Knight, a reference to the Crusades. Other characters can include a valiant soldier called Slasher, Beelzubub the devil, and, at the end, someone called Little Johnny Jack "with my wife and family on my back", a reminder of the responsibilities of the working man to encourage the spectators to give generously.

If you were transported back 200 years you would hardly recognise the performance as a

play; it was more of a ritual. The men would be dressed in smocks with tatters (strips of paper or material fastened over the smock) and often they would hide their faces, believing that the luck they brought would be broken if they were recognised. They stood in a semi-circle, stepping forward in turn to say their lines with no attempt at acting. The only liveliness was during the fight and this was probably added in later years to attract more money. There is a story that Lord Pembroke used to tell them



Villager Steve Wagstaff as King George

not to bother doing the performance, he would just send them money.

End of the plays and revival - a different story

The plays stopped when the First World War began and weren't performed afterwards. Perhaps they seemed irrelevant, something from a more innocent time. Perhaps it was too painful to look for new actors to replace men who'd played the parts for years but were now buried in a foreign country.

Later on people wanted a record of the plays and Edith Oliver, the local literary figure, wrote down our play at the dictation of the last of the mummers. "Each man had only

learnt his own part," she wrote, "and none of them had a scrap of paper with which to refresh his memory after all these years. The Mummers were most careful to recite the words *as they had heard them*, without any attempt to alter them if they were incomprehensible. Mr Cousins of Quidhampton [who as a boy, used to go about with the Mummers, helping them to carry their properties] was able in most cases to piece the parts together, and so to recall the shape of this very ancient play."

In 1975 Steve Dunford discovered the script of the Quidhampton play in a book about the history of the WI. A group of friends decided to revive it and it has been performed every year since. One member of the original team remains, Peter Pike, and they are led by Roger Street, who joined

them in 1976 and plays the part of Father Christmas who calls the characters in. The main purpose now is entertainment so action and humour are very important. Some revivals put in references to local people or topical events.

The team of about ten men raises an average of £600 each Christmas for local charities. They start at the play's home, Quidhampton, then do two pubs a night for 5 - 7 nights ending at The White Hart in Salisbury. Roger told me that they try to make it more natural than 'stagey', and make sure they have fun as well as respecting tradition. One tradition continues: two of the players have sons who are now taking part.

The Mummers Play will visit the White Horse on Tuesday 20th December.

Welcome to the new faces at the White Horse: our new landlord and landlady are Peter and Sara Strawson with daughter, Bethan. They came from Norwich where Peter spent 20 years working for the car company, Lotus, and Sara was a teacher. They both wanted change and with family connections in this part of the world chose Quidhampton because "it seemed like a friendly village with a lot going on". They ran a pub before they went to Norwich and are looking forward to doing it again and being a part of village life. Peter and Sarah said activities will carry on in the pub as planned for the near future.

Still a problem We are lucky to live in a relatively safe community where people generally respect each other. That makes it all the more puzzling that some people think they can leave their dog's faeces on the paths, creating potential unpleasantness and danger to children. Some residents are very angry about this. It is such a shame when it happens in a small community like ours.

Winter jokes

Q: When is a boat like a pile of snow?

A: When it's adrift.

Q: How do sheep keep warm in winter?

A: Central bleating.

Jubilee Photographic competition

needs you to start snapping now!

There will be a competition to find the best photos of Quidhampton and preserve them as a record of village life in 2011 and 2012.

There will be different categories such as The Seasons, Village Events and Village People. So start photographing those misty mornings, the first frost and Christmas celebrations.

There will be prizes.

If you are interested in helping with the competition or have ideas we could use or contacts for prizes or judges please get in touch with the newsletter editor.

Christmas Craft Fair : Organisers, Joanne Penny and Sue Williams, are pleased to advise the fair raised £200.50 for local charity Lucy's Days Out. A very successful day for the stallholders and the charity, it was well attended by people from the surrounding villages. A substantial amount of passing trade was attracted by the excellent road signage and the hall itself, beautifully decorated with seasonal foliage. Lots of customers enjoyed tea and cake, an additional facility this year.

Joe and Sue (pictured) wish to thank all those who made the effort to attend, the behind the scenes helpers and the traders who provided a wonderful selection of goods and produce.



Editor's note: I came home with delicious fudge and pickles, sponge bags for the grandchildren and beautiful Christmas cards, all made in Quidhampton. What talented people we have in the village!

A chance for sponsorship: Jo and Sue want a printed banner to display at the entrance to the village the week before the event each year, to publicise it to passing motorists. If you are a business owner who might be willing to sponsor it, or to contribute toward it, and have your business logo on the banner we would love to hear from you. Please contact Jo on 01722 556559 if you can help. Thank you.

A sign from John No, not a sign of his departure from The White Horse. In a typically practical and community minded act John had a temporary Quidhampton fingerpost sign made to replace the one that fell down. There were bureaucratic hurdles to jump before he was allowed to put it up (he thanks the parish clerk for being a great help with those) but it is now in place and once again motorists can see where to turn off Netherhampton Road into our village.

Message from the editor: email communication

I have a list of villagers email addresses and use it for reminders about events or late news.

Messages are sent out bcc which means addresses remain private. If you would like to join the list send me an email. My details are on the back page.

Oldest Incomer: The Heeleys asked the question in the November newsletter and John Wilcox answered it: he, Margaret and their three children moved here in 1966, so they are older incomers than Graham and Elizabeth. Is there anyone who has been here longer than that?

Christmas at St John's 17.30 Sunday 18 December:

Community carol singing, musical entertainment, mulled wine and mince pies.

Children's craft activity, hot chocolate and home produce stall.

Remember to wrap up warmly (still no heating).

All proceeds go towards the campaign to secure a future for St John's (including a lovely new heating system).

If you can help by donating cakes, mince pies, chutneys etc take them to the church between 10.00 and 12.00 on the day or phone Moira on 338681.

School news: Lots has been going on. Book week gave rise to many interesting activities such as a readathon, bedtime stories, extreme reading (*that's what you get when you belong to the book group and haven't read the book the day before the meeting: editor*) dressing up day and the visit of an author. Representatives from each class were proud to attend the ceremony at St John's on Armistice Day. Year 6 ran a cake sale to subsidise the cost of their trip to London. Pupils were asked to write a school prayer to be used when the candle is lit in acts of worship. Years 5 and 6 have been working with the Playhouse and will be involved in a performance there in the summer.

Bemerton Film Society : A Christmas Carol on **Thursday** 15 December 19.30 St John's School. What better way to start Christmas? It's Charles Dickens 200th birthday next year - get in ahead of the hype and celebrations!

Don't recycle - re-use Jo Penny would be grateful for any empty standard size jam jars and lids you may have. Just leave them on the doorstep of The Old Bakery instead of recycling them. Many thanks.

Armistice Day: A niece of William Stokes of Quidhampton and the son and nephew of two Bucknall brothers of Bemerton were among more than 40 people who gathered at St John's to hear rector Simon Woodley read the names on the Lych Gate. Research has uncovered the full names of more than half of the men from the First World War. After the short ceremony people enjoyed refreshments and displays in the church and Paul Cripps of Quidhampton showed a video of the recent laser survey.

News and seasonal message from P C

Jung

Dear All,

As we head to the festive period and enjoy ourselves with friends and family, now is a good time to think of those less fortunate. As the weather turns colder do bear in mind neighbours who may be on their own or vulnerable in other ways and consider a knock on the door to check they are OK.

Crime stats: October and November have been relatively quiet with 3 reported incidents:

1. On the afternoon of 10 October a car was broken into and CDs stolen.
2. Sadly there was a house burglary in Foothill when the owners were away for the weekend 5 - 7 November. The perpetrators made a mess of the house and stole cash and Wii equipment.
3. 2 bicycles were stolen from the back garden of a property in the Alders. Fortunately they were located by the owner hidden in Pennings Rd.

HGV reports seem to have got a bit quieter or has Duncan been away again?! Just 2 reports in October and 3 so far in November. Please keep them coming! Finally I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and prosperous 2012.

Remember our criminals are particularly observant over Christmas especially as we go out more often and leave the house - so make sure you are well secure and don't leave temptations like presents out on view.

Who knows what 2012 will bring with the Olympics, economy, Europe - too much for us to worry about right now! Enjoy the holidays I say!

All the best - PC Pete

Parish Council meeting

The Jubilee and Olympics: five members of the public attended for this part of the meeting and several suggestions had been received by the parish clerk. It was agreed there should be a day of events in the village but it was decided to defer definite planning until the next meeting. Agreement was not reached about whether Olympic celebrations should be part of this or on a separate day. If other village events (meadowfest, fete, fireworks) are repeated in 2012 it will be a full year for the village.

Housing survey: Wiltshire Council's invitation to do the survey was accepted

Large tree in recreation ground: local residents requested that it be reduced in size to allow more light into their gardens. Wilton Estate, who own the ground, want the council to consult an arborist

The white plastic posts outside Albion House were put there by Wiltshire Council. A complaint has been received about them and the parish council will find out Wiltshire's policy about using plastic or wood

The parish precept for 2012/2013 was set at £400 less than for 2011/2012, due mainly to a reduction in cost of the insurance policy and savings on grass cutting which is now done by volunteers. The precept is the money needed to run the council and is added to your council tax so you will be paying a little less for that part of it next year.

Dumping of garden waste: this has continued and the council will consider informing Environmental Health if the waste is not removed

Next meeting

24 January 19.30 Village Hall

Contributors & Contacts

Police non emergency number: 101
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/

Quidhampton-Parish-Council/

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

The Rector of Bemerton

Rev Simon Woodley 333750

Parish Office 328031

Problems with HGVs: contact

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 in December:

Friday 2nd, 9th (recycling), 16th,

23rd (recycling), Saturday 31st.

100 Club winners: October

1st 11 C Hempson

2nd 22 B Bass

3rd 81 R Strange

Newsletter editor: Bea Tilbrook 742456

bjtis@hotmail.co.uk Meadow Barn Fisherman's
Reach SP2 9BG.

The December newsletter is sponsored by
Martin and Lesa Drewitt of Quidhampton Mill.
Check out their outstanding reviews online.