

# Quidhampton Village Newsletter

February 2013

## What's on in February

### Sat 2 The 6 Nations rugby tournament begins.

*Matches will be shown throughout February on the TV at one end of the bar*

**Mon 4 and every Monday** zumba class 18.30 – 19.30 followed by tap at the Loft, the White Horse

**4 – 8** Science week, Bemerton St John school including:

**Wed 6** Parents phonics meeting 18.00 – 18.45. *See how phonics is taught and try some activities yourself.*

**Thurs 7** pub quiz White Horse

**Fri 8** End of term 3 Bemerton St John

**Sun 10** A villager's celebration at The White Horse – see below.

**Tues 12** WI "Monarchs, Monks and Boudoirs" 19.30 Village Hall

*Members please bring a raffle prize*

**Wed 13** meeting at The White Horse to consider the petanque/boules terrain and how it can be improved. 19.30 for 20.00

**Mon 18** Term 4 begins

**Mon 18** **The White Horse closed all day for spring cleaning and work in the kitchen.**

**Dance classes continue in The Loft.**

**Wed 20** Bemerton Film Society: The Well-Diggers Daughter St John's School 19.30

**Sat 23** Music night at The White Horse with Pete Christie

**Sun 24** George Herbert service St Andrew's church 16.00 All welcome. Refreshments.

### WI February meeting: Monarchs, Monks and Boudoirs, the history of drinking chocolate. Rosemary

Pemberton is an acknowledged expert on this subject and is credited on the website of the Victoria and Albert museum for identifying a cup and saucer used for drinking chocolate. She says: 'Find out how chocolate drinking has been associated with ritual and royalty since the time of the ancient Mayan peoples. Later the Chocolate and Coffee Houses of the great cities brought the drink to the middle classes, while Fry's and Cadbury produced cocoa for everyone. Through all this time beautiful objects were crafted for the consumption of this delicious beverage'. This is a change to the original programme.

**Free to a good home:** yellow fibreglass canoe with paddle. First come gets it! Please call Ron Smith on 743006

### Sunday evening 10 February

A villager celebrates 35 years of drinking in  
The White Horse  
with The Kings of Lounge  
an instrumental acoustic quartet playing a  
variety of music

All villagers are invited to come along,  
enjoy the music and join in this special  
village celebration

### Bemerton Film Society:

This month's film, The Well-Digger's Daughter, was made in 2011 but is described as "a handsome, old fashioned film" set in Provence at the time of the second world war. It is reminiscent of Jean de Florette in its country setting and beautiful and moving plot. A widower with six daughters tries to find a suitable husband for the most beautiful.

## **Speed limit on the A3094**

The new proposals for a 40 mph speed limit from Quidhampton Mill to the traffic lights/ junction with the A36 have now been published and comments can be made until the 18 February. Also proposed is a 40 mph limit for the Netherhampton corner/ junction with the C320. Between the two 40 mph sections the speed limit would revert to 60 mph, not 50 mph as previously proposed for the whole length.

The Parish Council voted to support the proposals.

Send comments to Ref LJB/TRO/NHAM Sustainable Transport Group, Highways & Transport, County Hall, Blythsea Road, Trowbridge BA14 8JN. Plans and details are available at Wilton Library until 18 February.

**Sloe Gin competition:** after a jolly evening's tasting with new and old competitors and a tasty cheese course Ian Lovett was declared the winner. Second was Bill West and third Mike Brookbanks.

**Dance classes:** the zumba class has attracted all ages and is an hour of fairly vigorous exercise that gives mind and body a great workout. It's popular and fun (*I only just keep up but no one minds if you don't do it all: editor.*) The tap dancing class needs more people. It is suitable for beginners, just go along. From 4 February both classes will be on Mondays

**Women's Institute:** the January meeting was enjoyed by members and visitors. As well as being a most entertaining speaker, Jane Arnold's subject - her work as a life model - fascinated everyone. One of the WI members who has also been a life model confirmed that pain was a big part of the job – any position gets uncomfortable when you mustn't move and positions with a twist, which artists like, get uncomfortable very quickly. She also agrees it feels more intimate and intrusive to have your portrait painted than your body.

## **The Quidhampton Mummers**

performed at four pubs this year, fewer than usual, but raised £574 for the Trussell Trust. That is a great sum, nearly as much as they got last year from more performances. Perhaps it reflects the realisation that charities like the Trussell Trust are needed more than ever.

## **Advance notice: Local Elections in**

**Wiltshire** On Thursday 2 May there will be local elections for all Wiltshire and Parish Councillors. This includes towns and cities as well as villages. More details on Quidhampton's Parish Elections next month

## **Church news from the Rector, Simon Woodley**

Have you heard about "**Open the Book**"? It's where members of the congregation go into Bemerton St John school once a week and act out a story of the Bible. It's a national scheme, but we've only just started it here. It will take 3 years to go through the whole Bible, so if you're free during the day and fancy an acting challenge, Susan Dredwett would love to hear from you! 01980 652751

**A new Youth Club** starts this month at St. Michael's Community Centre, fortnightly on Friday evenings, for 11 – 16 year olds. Please get in touch with Mike Partridge if you want to know more.

([mike\\_part@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mike_part@yahoo.co.uk))

There will be a **service to celebrate the life of George Herbert**, on Sunday 24 February at 16.00 in St. Andrews. Our very own Canon Judy Rees will be speaking, and there will be refreshments. All most welcome.

We held a **Childrens' Service in St. Andrews** on 6 January. Lots of families from Quidhampton and the Lower Village turned out and took part in prayers, readings and craft. We're planning to do the next one around Easter time - watch this space!

**Police report:** Quidhampton continues to be a (reported) crime free area.

## **Emergency Plan for Quidhampton**

**John Cater, who received the thanks of the Parish Council for producing Quidhampton's Community Plan, explains what it is:**

Every community in the country is required to have a plan to deal with major emergencies. Because we are blessed with excellent and local professional Emergency Services, it is unlikely that we would have to deal with an emergency on our own. Nonetheless it is always possible that the professional Services could be swamped with other requests for help, so we have to plan to deal with events on our own. In addition we could simply help the professionals.

The unlikely but possible emergencies we might face are, for example: major flooding, a rail accident on the nearby line, an epidemic, a major road accident, storm damage and even a helicopter crash. (There was one only a mile away, just a year ago)

Because the emergency possibilities are so numerous, Quidhampton's plan mainly comprises the contact details of Emergency Services throughout the county and district, and the names and contact details of Quidhampton residents who have volunteered their skills, equipment and accommodation to be

called upon in dealing with the emergency.

Examples of skills are: first-aiders, builders, repairers, tree-surgeons and, just as important, vehicles, equipment and accommodation which might be needed. Happily, we are blessed with several of the right sort of people in our village.

Copies of the Emergency Plan are held by all members of the Parish Council, by the neighbourhood police officer and by all those people who have volunteered their services to help in the event of an emergency. We now have a sound and comprehensive plan for dealing with major emergencies; but let us hope we are not called upon to implement it anytime soon!

Finally, if you have not yet volunteered, but think you have a skill, equipment and/or accommodation that would be useful in a major emergency, then please don't be modest; volunteer by contacting John Cater on 01722 744 079 and add your name and contact details to the plan. Details are kept confidential and are not available to the wider public.

*John deserves the thanks of the whole village for doing this. He has worked on it for over a year and produced a very clear and comprehensive document.*

## **The White Horse Inn: an Asset of Community Value**

At their recent meeting the Parish Council discussed a paper prepared by Councillor Ken Taylor and voted to nominate The White Horse Inn for listing as an asset of community value by Wiltshire Council.

The opportunity to list assets was introduced by the Localism Act of 2011. If a building or piece of land is listed it means that:

- the community has publicly demonstrated their interest in it.
- if the owner applies for planning permission for change of use (e.g. to close a pub and turn it into residential accommodation) Wiltshire Council will take the listing into account in making a decision.
- if the listed community asset comes up for

sale communities that want to do so have 6 months to put together a viable bid to buy it. At the end of the 6 months the owner can sell to whoever he or she wants. The 6 month delay does not apply if the listed asset is sold without change of use so Enterprise Inns, owners of The White Horse, could sell it as a pub without a delay.

To be listed it must be shown that The White Horse, as well as being a private business, plays a part in "the social well-being or social interests (such as the recreational, sporting or cultural interests) of the local community". As the only remaining pub in the village this is self-evident, and Wiltshire Council is known to be sympathetic in such cases.

Peter and Sara Strawson support the listing.

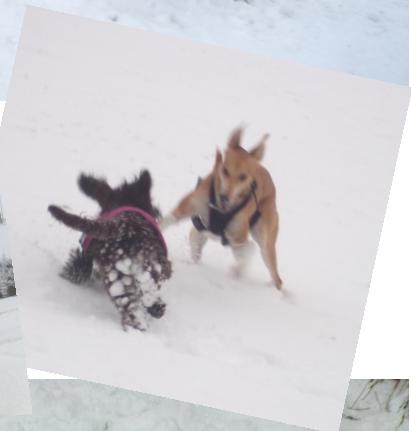


**The January snowfall** gave village children - and adults - the chance to enjoy snowball fights and sledging and to build all sorts of imaginative creations. It was just the right kind of snow. For three days the playground was a scene of fun and games, "so lovely to see so many village families working together". The most visible result was an igloo big enough for six children inside. Elsewhere in gardens and on the street young people were having such a good time that at least some of the older residents stopped moaning about icy roads and pavements and saw the joyous side of snow. After all,



within walking distance we can get most things we need either from Wilton or the shops on Wilton Road. And we've not heard of an elderly or frail person who wasn't offered help by neighbours – if there was one please let the editor know.

*Compiled with help from Jo Penny, Clare Churchill, Marie Young, Sue Darling-Holmes and Louisa Pool*



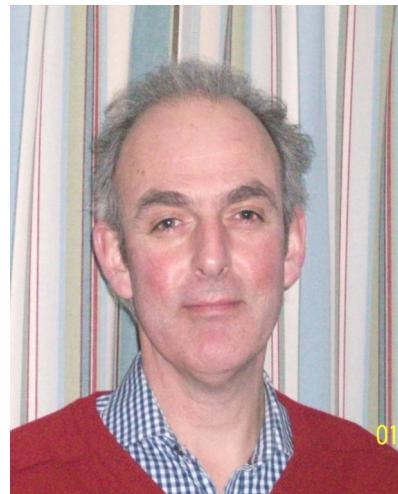
## **Retiring Parish Council Chairman**

*Last year Ian Lovett left the Parish Council after seven years, six of them as chairman. The editor talked to him about this time.*

Ian is someone who believes in playing his part in community life. He moved here with his family in 1995 and was soon involved in the school, eventually as chair of the PTA (now Friends of Bemerton School). In 2005 he had to resign because he no longer had a child at the school and was immediately approached about joining the Parish Council with a view to filling the vacancy of chair. As with other village organisations there was no shortage of members but there was a shortage of members willing to take the lead roles. Ian has a demanding job as an IT manager in Southampton, but he quoted the old saying, "If you want something done ask a busy person."

As chair he presided over a period of change during which the council became 'sharper and smarter'. The Parish Clerk makes sure councillors go on the right training courses, and there are more courses each year. The legal responsibilities of councillors are clearer, and more contact is made with other bodies e.g. the local police and the Area Board which came into existence after the creation of Wiltshire Council. Ian said one of his greatest achievements was the purchase of the village marquee from an accumulation of R2 money, the money developers pay to the Parish Council when they build in the village. He is also proud of abolishing the 'Vicar of Dibley' idea from people's minds. That was a parochial church council; a Parish Council is very different. It is the first tier of local government, the people's first chance to have a say in how things are done.

In Ian's time there were also improvements to the playground and the purchase of a lawnmower and strimmer so the council can maintain the playground and footpaths independent of contractors. He was also responsible for so many different villagers being councillors, believing a change of personnel is important and welcoming people



who hadn't done it before – he went knocking on the doors of people he thought would be good and estimates that there were 25 – 30 different councillors in his time.

As chair he was never off-duty and his phone could ring at all hours with complaints about things that were usually the responsibility of Wiltshire Council: gritting roads, traffic, noise etc.

Last year he felt it was time for new blood to take over. He says things have changed for the better through the efforts of all the councillors and people like Pete Dawson who quietly does a lot for the village. Ian likes living in a village because of the sense of community, the events that bring people together, and the way people look out for each other. When asked what he thought were the main issues facing Quidhampton now he said traffic (great that there will be a lower speed limit on the A3094 but it has to be monitored and traffic through the village is still an issue) and, most importantly, keeping the pub going.

Without people like Ian the community would be much poorer. This year there will be elections for all parish councillors, and it would be a tribute to him if Quidhampton had a real contest between people keen to do their bit.

Thank you, Ian, for all your hard work and care for the village.

## **Other Parish Council matters from the January meeting**

**Marquee standing orders:** the group met informally and identified issues to do with storage and ensuring the marquee is put up under the supervision of an approved person. A formal meeting will follow and report to the Parish Council in March.

**The mini-recycling site** continues for the time being. Wiltshire Council will arrange an on site meeting about access.

**Recreation ground:** the new safety surface has been installed and an order put in for fence repair.

**Traffic in the village:** residents are concerned about the speed of traffic outside Mistral and Still Waters where the plastic bollards are frequently knocked down. It was agreed by those present to be the worst part of the village for pedestrians. Wiltshire Council has suggested a raised path/pavement. As with all projects the local community is asked to make a contribution.

**Housing Needs Survey:** The outcome of

last year's survey is a document that will be considered when looking at planning applications.

**Planning application:** the Parish Council supported the application from Quidhampton Mill to replace the wooden boundary fence with an acoustic wall.

**Precept:** the precept (the part of the council tax that goes to the Parish Council) was raised for the year 2013/14. Villagers may remember that last year the reserves were used to keep the precept down but that is not an option for this year.

**Thanks:** as well offering wholehearted thanks to John Cater for his tremendous work with the Parish Emergency Plan councillors also recorded their formal thanks to Denese Rowley for her contribution to village life by again supplying the fireworks for the village display.

**Next meeting: Tuesday 26 March** Items for the agenda must be with the Parish Clerk by Monday 18 March

**The annual parish meeting** will be on Tuesday 28 May at 19.00

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**Free pea sticks:** Mary Crowther has pruned some twisted willow and now has spare twiggy branches, ideal for pea sticks or flower arranging. Phone: 742327 First come, first served.

## **Changing ecology**

The editor writes: I have come across an account of a long ago wild flower gathering competition. The October 1904 parish magazine describes the achievements of three young teenagers, two of them from Quidhampton, who were the top collectors from June to August. Many common names are given as well as the 'correct' name. If you are interested in the changing distribution of wild flowers contact me and I can send you a copy. The names are certainly evocative e.g. gypsy's baccy (mugwort), bachelor's buttons (marsh cinque foil ), sticky buttons (burdock).

## **First World War commemoration**

Carlton Brown of Roger's Close, and secretary of the Salisbury Royal British Legion, is part of a group organising Salisbury's centenary commemoration of the beginning of the First World War which will take place in 2014. The group wants to work with community organisations and schools, especially those that were open at the time of the declaration of war, and look at what life was like in Salisbury in 1914. If you'd like to be involved call Carlton on 744152.

### **100 Club Winners**

**January**

- |                 |     |            |
|-----------------|-----|------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | 122 | Mrs Denton |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 74  | J Penny    |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 172 | S Wright   |

**Have you moved recently?** Make sure you leave your new address. The deliverer of the Scout post was unable to deliver several Christmas cards because newcomers to the village did not know the address of the people who lived in their homes before and has asked that this be mentioned in the newsletter.

**Editor's thanks** I would like to thank the people who deliver the newsletters. They generally go out within a few hours of receiving them from me, and in all weathers. So thank you Ted Thornton, Jim Gale, Jim Goddard, Ron Strange, Viv Bass, Graham and Elizabeth Heeley and the Herring family.

I also want to acknowledge the tremendous contribution to the newsletter made by Ken Taylor. Every month I produce a lot of words and he transforms them into the professional looking document you are reading now, complete with photographs (in colour in the email version). Without him it would be a very different publication.

**Stand-by deliverer:** is there anybody who could help deliver the newsletter from time to time when a regular deliverer is ill or on holiday? In 2012 such help would have been needed three times. Contact details are at the bottom of the page.

**An unexpected bonus:** as reported, the table top sale raised nearly £200 towards newsletter costs, including items sold afterwards and donations. On the advice of Jim Gale a small silver jug priced at £1 was taken to a specialist in Catherine Street. Jim said a better price would be obtained selling it by weight as the price of silver is high at the moment. The dealer gave £45 for it and the donor, who wants to remain anonymous, generously said it could all go to the newsletter.

Thank you Jim and the donor. And if you have any silver items in the back of a cupboard they may be worth more than you think.

## 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  
Quidhampton Mill B&B: 741171  
Foothill B&B: 743587  
Wiltshire Good Neighbours:  
Claire Routh 07557 110413  
Wilton and District Link Scheme:  
741241  
Parish Council clerk:  
Clare Churchill 743027  
quidhamptonpc@btinternet.com  
1 Tower Farm Cottages, Skew Rd.  
Website: <http://parishcouncil.quidhampton.org.uk/>  
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  
Waste and recycling dates  
**Monday 4 February:** recycling black box and blue lidded bin; **Monday 11 February:** household and garden waste; **18:** recycling; **25:** household and garden waste.

This month's newsletter is sponsored by Liz and Hugh Baker of Blenheim, Lower Road.

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