

Quidhampton Village Newsletter

January 2014

What's On in January

Mon 6 Back to school Sarum Academy

Tues 7 Back to school Bemerton St John's Primary

Wed 8 Parent governor election papers sent out Bemerton St John's Primary

Thurs 9 **Monthly Village Quiz: (not the first Thursday this month)** 20.00 Village Hall

Tues 14 **WI meeting 17.30 Village Hall (not 8th as in WI programme)**

Wed 15 Bemerton Film Society: O Brother, Where Art Thou? St John's School

Tues 21 Stay and Play: free for parents and under fives Village Hall 10.00 – 11.00

Tues 28 Parish Council meeting 19.30 Village Hall

Stay and Play : free group to continue in Quidhampton

Jane Batten, family support worker at Wilton Children's centre, told the editor:

We are pleased to announce that the new group for parents and young children will be continued at least until March.

Last year as well as having fun playing with a range of activities provided by Children Centre staff, parents and children enjoyed making autumn leaf pictures, a handprint turkey for thanksgiving and painted tree decorations to take home.

The next sessions will involve a craft activity, a range of toys and favourite songs and nursery rhymes, all chosen to help with your child's development.

From small beginnings we have seen numbers rise each month. Please join us on the **third Tuesday January – March. Quidhampton Village Hall 10.00 – 11.00** *Fun and educational! It would be good to see this group supported so it will continue in Quidhampton. Further information from Jane 01722 743364*

Bemerton Film Society: O Brother, Where Art Thou? Wednesday 15 January

St John's Primary School, start 19.30,
doors open 19.00

This film, 'a picaresque, chaotic and surreal comedy' is set in the deep south of the US in the 1930's, and resonates with popular music of the time. George Clooney leads three escaped convicts on a trail of improbable adventures. You don't have to understand what picaresque and surreal mean – it will simply make you laugh and laugh. *(It's one of my favourite DVDs. I watch it when I'm feeling low: editor)*

Cllr Phil Matthews, Mayor of Wilton,
invites you to a public meeting
about the Wilton Roundabout and the
shared space scheme

**WEDNESDAY 15 JANUARY 2014
19.30 BAPTIST CHURCH, MARKET
SQUARE, WILTON**

If you are interested in finding out what can be done to improve the Wilton Roundabout and the town come along to find out more.

The Shared Space scheme is an innovative way of slowing and controlling traffic. To see what this sort of traffic management can do in action check Youtube—'Poynton regenerated'.

Christmas Events

Bus Pass Christmas Party

The Bus Pass Christmas Party, now in its third year, has become an important part of the run up to Christmas for many older villagers. Once again the village hall was decorated to perfection by Elizabeth Heeley, this time with a music theme, and once again a scrumptious meal was served, including of course Maureen's famously fabulous meringues. Sophie Eden provided music for a singalong of old favourites and there was a special treat: a performance of the Quidhampton mummers play. Many villagers hadn't seen a mummers play before, and were fascinated as well as entertained. 'A very spectacular finale,' said one happy guest. Over forty villagers attended and there was much appreciation of the generosity of the organisers – a generosity of spirit that leads people to give their time and energy to put on such an event. "It brings everyone together and gives us a good time."

Thanks too to the Village Entertainments Fund for contributing toward the cost.

A donation was made from the raffle to Cancer Research UK.

Audrey Catford (pictured) won the Christmas card competition and wrote and read a poem especially for the 'Proud Bus Pass tea', part of which is printed below:



Another year gone – I can't think where
It seems only yesterday it was this time last year!
We had a long cold spring, enjoyed the warmest of summers,
Said farewell to some villagers and welcomed the incomers
While a splendid summer fete brought us all together
With competitions and sideshows and again lovely weather.
We withstood autumn storms with no signs of a power cut
But the sad news this year is that The White Horse has now shut
So no longer, alas, can we meet at the pub
Though we're fortunate we still have this hall as our hub
For village events and general 'biz'
Such as W.I. and the monthly quiz
And occasions like this that help us to bond
In this friendliest of villages of which we're so fond.
And oh – goodness me ! – just how lucky we are
When we read of so many countries afar
All faced with warfare, conflict and pillage
That we live in the peace of an English village.

Audrey, you make us feel happy and grateful for what we have in our lives. This is the third year of your poems too – long may they continue.

Monthly Quiz

In December the theme was Christmas and a jolly time was had by all, even Howard who must be the hardest working quizmaster in the country. He arrived back from a business trip to the US that morning but ably provided questions, drinks and snacks. £44 was raised for Wilton Riding for the Disabled, (charity nominated by the winning team: the Misfits) and a raffle raised £50 for Wilton Link. Dave Barnes, Wilton Link treasurer, was there to express thanks for everyone's generosity.

Editor: was ours the only household to puzzle over the chocolate challenge ditloid on Boxing Day? You have to guess a phrase from a clue e.g. 3 S C from A=3 Shepherds Came from Afar

Important note: January Quiz night is on the **second** Thursday of the month: 9 January. 20.00 for 20.15 start

WI Christmas Dinner

The WI Christmas dinner, usually in the pub, took place in the village hall which was made most welcoming with lanterns outside and a beautifully laid table, decorations and a wood burning stove inside. (*village hall committee: don't be alarmed – the wood burning stove was a remarkably realistic electric replica*). Clare Herring's catering team produced a wonderful meal: the chocolate roulade and apricot tart were so delicious that most people had both. She was supported by her family: husband Chris greeted everyone and was in charge of drinks, daughter Rosa was a waitress and when there was a delay because of a problem with hot water, son Sam was fetched to perform conjuring tricks at the table.

There were secret Santa presents, a table decoration competition won by Sallie Gray, and a table game which assumed members knew right from left even after several glasses of wine. Everyone agreed it was an evening of friendship, laughter and good food, and special thanks were given to the committee and to Clare. Several people remarked that it was more relaxed being on 'home ground' and preferable to simply going to another pub or restaurant.



Susan and Camilla

Tables and chairs were set out with plenty of room to stand at the back, just as people did in The White Horse, and the informal atmosphere encouraged hearty singing and even a dispute about which tune to use for 'While Shepherds Watched'. Yorkshireman Graham Heeley led a group who said it should be sung to the tune of "On Ilkla Moor Baht 'at". It was put to the vote and defeated but after the more traditional tune Sophie obligingly gave us one verse of the Yorkshire version

(*Try it at home: the words do fit*).

Stella and
Lucy Bennett

Carol service

The carol service in the village hall was organised to replace the carol service usually held in the pub. It was a late afternoon event with readings, mulled wine, apple juice and mince pies.

Over sixty people of all ages turned up for some glorious singing to Sophie's music, and readings by villagers, all led by Rev Susan Drewitt whose humour and thoughtful words brought the event together.



Carol service (contd).

A collection raised £140, to be split equally between the church and Quidhampton Playground Fund, but the real triumph of the occasion was bringing villagers together before Christmas. Comments were made about “next year” and many people felt when the pub is open again there should be a family carol service.

Thanks to the readers: Dave Roberts (chair of the parish council), Fiona Ross, Jennifer Tyler and Eve Warton (members of the WI), Camilla Burgess, Dave Barnes, Marcus Churchill, Graham Heeley, and Jemima and Belinda Richardson.

Thanks to helpers: Ron Smith, a wizard on the day with his mulled wine, Elizabeth Heeley for decorations (again) and Olivia and Marcus Churchill for being there to help when needed, so important at an event like this.

Thanks to the Parish Council for sponsorship

Thanks to everyone who gave mince pies: surplus went to the Trussell Trust
And thanks to three wise women whose determination and organisation made sure the event happened: Clare Churchill, Bea Tilbrook and Joy Wagstaff.

Christmas Day Lunchtime

Howard Rowley fulfilled his ambition to have the village hall open at lunchtime on Christmas Day so villagers, their families and friends could drop in for a drink as they used to at The White Horse. More than forty people took advantage of this and they and others (who couldn't get there but were glad to know it happened) know the village is lucky to have someone like Howard who is prepared to put in the effort to get things done.

WI January open meeting:

14 January Village Hall 19.30

“Woodcarving Tactile Wildlife” Richard Tutton, woodcarver, will give a talk and demonstration. As well as wildlife carving Richard produces ornate walking sticks, love spoons and house name plates. He and his assistant are recommended speakers so it will be worth turning out on a dark January night to listen and watch them.

Advance notice of special speaker 11

February: Call the Midwife

Terri Scott Jupp of Lower Bemerton will talk about her role as technical adviser to the popular TV drama ‘Call the Midwife.’ She helped edit the original books, written in response to an article she wrote about the lack of midwives in literature. If you want to know more about how the series is filmed put the date in your diary now.

All WI meetings are open to everyone unless described as members only. A minimum donation of £1 is expected which includes tea and biscuits after the talk.

At the November WI meeting friends of Lesley Buckley, an ex WI member, raised £30 from a raffle for Cancer Research UK. Lesley's friend, Suzie Carr, recently shaved her head and raised over £4000 for the charity, a sign of the affection and respect people have for Lesley who has a rare form of brain cancer. Many households in the village will have sent positive and loving thoughts to Ian, Lesley and their daughter over the Christmas holiday. Ian and Lesley want to thank everyone for the support they have been given.

100 Club winners for November

1st. 89. A Sewell
2nd. 73. C Herring
3rd. 126. Mrs Kershaw

An important message from Dave Roberts, chair of the Parish Council

Now that 2013 has drawn to an end it felt like an appropriate time to reflect on a few of the issues Quidhampton Parish Council have considered in recent months. These issues are the ones that have made an impact with me personally - I am sure each Parish Councillor will have their own views.

One of the assets we have in the village is the park and the Council is in the process of trying to raise funds to improve the play equipment. However, the park does create regular tensions as people want to use it for different things – young children want to play on the swings, older kids want to hang out and others want to play football. It is a small space which requires users to exercise tolerance to make it work – if I could I would have written on a new sign “Please exercise tolerance when using this park.”

But the two big issues the Council discusses on a regular basis are parking and dog fouling. We have taken a few initiatives in the past to tackle the disgrace that is dog fouling – and it is worth remembering that owners that do not clear up after their dogs can be prosecuted. But the only way fouling will be eradicated is by individuals acting responsibly.

Parking is a tougher nut to crack – we are a small village with a narrow road and limited space – therefore parking will always be an issue. The Council has few powers in this area and if we were to take steps we would need to act to benefit the whole village not just a few people. I am personally very reluctant to ask for extra double yellow lines, or traffic wardens to visit the village – I am not sure parking tickets would be that welcome.

I believe that the best way for the community to manage both dog fouling and parking is to show neighbourliness. Think about others, consider how actions might impact on other people, seek to minimise harm and maximise well being.

I hope 2014 will be a great year for the community and that the Parish Council continues to be a forum for discussion, thoughtful consideration and, above all else, tolerance.

Fawly Towers: several villagers went to see Camilla Burgess's sell-out production of Fawly Towers at the Studio Theatre and many felt it could have been praised even more highly. The entire cast, including virtual non-speaking parts, gave tremendous performances, full of character and sensitivity, and the complex plots that we know so well unfolded flawlessly. Always working together to bring out the humour the company were confident and professional and the audience relaxed and entertained. Most of that is down to the director.
Congratulations, Camilla – what are you doing next?

Catching up:

There hasn't been space until now for the rest of the letter from Cilla Pickett mentioned in October. Cilla and husband Rick moved to France after many years in Quidhampton and came back in the summer to prepare their house, Melrose, for sale. Her letter describes a time of warm sun, lovely to read about in the dull days of January.

We have really settled in France but not to the quiet retirement we envisaged.

Rick is busy gigging with a band and doing solo work, sometimes four times a week. He plays in a variety of venues from bars to private parties in Chateaux. Audiences are French and English and he always gets a good reception and a good meal.

I have joined a number of societies and groups, some French, some English and I'm even on an all-French committee organising musical events. I don't understand much at the meetings but we get a very good meal with wine in the local Auberge!

In August we held an event in our garden to raise money for the local Emmaus charity.

200 people came with picnic lunches and were entertained by a variety of

musicians. I did a BBQ in the evening. We were blessed with very good weather and raised €1400.

My next project is a Halloween party and then a big Christmas fair. I will return next week to my team of ladies making crackers (the French don't have them) decorations, cakes, mincemeat etc. Hopefully my chillies will be ripe for my chilli jam that went down very well last year.

We have acquired a lovely collie Megan who joins all our group walks. She can't understand why she can't go in the pubs and restaurants here and has to walk on a lead!!!

We've done house sitting for a couple who keep goats and finally got the hang of the milking after a few spillages.

This summer we went to a " Moules Frites " night –the best thing ever. The whole main road was closed through a village the size of Quidhampton and covered with marquees; about 600 people were fed with ease and we were entertained by a French Brass band and singer.

As you can see we are happy but truly miss all of you in Quidhampton
So its not goodbye just à bientot.

HJ Autos Unit 3 Loyal Trade Business Park Churchfields

H J Autos was opened in January 2013 by local resident Simon Smith who has been in the motor trade for 18 years. He offers a **10% discount** to Quidhampton residents.

H J Autos offer servicing, welding, mechanical repairs, brakes, exhausts and MOTs arranged,

Ring 412042 or mobile 07825228998

School News

Emma Curteis is now Chair of FOBS – Friends of Bemerton School – and Ruth Parkes is vice chair. Emma writes:

The Friends of Bemerton School held another successful Christmas Bazaar in December, raising over £1200. Thank you to all those who were able to help and to the parents and children who came along to support it, the first event FOBS have held since Moira Packer resigned as Chairperson in November due to work commitments. Moira spent seven years with FOBS, including five as Chairperson, and we are extremely grateful for the huge amount of time she gave helping to raise funds for the school. We must also say a big thank you to her husband Tim and daughters Sophie and Katie who have spent many hours on the school field helping to set up gazebos etc for school fetes! Moira will continue to give support to the school as a committee member. We would also like to thank another FOBS committee member, Sally Ainsley, who has moved with her family from Quidhampton to Bristol. Her help and enthusiasm, always helped by husband Owen, will be greatly missed.

Wiltshire council website: did you know that there is a section with a short history of most Wiltshire communities? Quidhampton was added recently, written by a volunteer from the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre in Chippenham. The newsletter editor spotted several dubious facts and one or two errors which she discussed with the very helpful Mike Marshman, local studies historian. Most arose from mistaken use of information about Fugglestone St Peter, the name of the parish containing Fugglestone, Quidhampton and Bemerton. In the nineteenth century the two villages grew into much bigger communities and eventually formed a separate parish while Fugglestone was absorbed by Wilton and is no longer a distinct community. The amended version doesn't mention the school (in The Old Schoolhouse in the 1840's then superseded by the school at Bemerton) or the Mummings Play and the editor will talk about these on her next visit. Look at history.wiltshire.gov.uk/community and contact the editor or Mike Marshman if you have any comments.



Ted Thornton and Eve Wharton at the Bus Pass Party. Both celebrated their 90th birthdays in December.

Thanks to Grahame Heeley for all of the photos in this newsletter.



News has just been received of the death of Marjorie Riegen. She died peacefully, on 30 December, at her daughter's house in Oxfordshire, all her family with her. At 97 she was the oldest inhabitant of Quidhampton. There will be more about Marjorie in the next newsletter.

New resident Kimberley Lawrence of Temperance Cottages was upset to find her car had been 'keyed' along one side while parked opposite the Dairy Cottage on the night of 8 December. She says she has had a warm welcome from residents and support from Police Community Support Officer Jenny Moss but the incident has sadly made her feel a little wary about Quidhampton.

Fourteen year old school pupil needs to raise money to fund cost of Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Available for odd jobs in the village: reasonable rates, reference available. Contact Olivia Churchill c/o Clare Churchill – for details see contacts list.

Found: in a garden near the recreation ground: quality Liverpool football (sewn). Call 742482 to claim it

Free: two full length cushions for lounge chairs vgc – good for when the summer comes. Ring 742456

Editor's note: I would like to wish everyone a very happy new year and thank all the newsletter deliverers: Viv Bass, Jim Goddard, Elizabeth and Graham Heeley, the Herring family, Ron Strange and Ted Thornton. Thanks also to the occasional deliverers who fill in for holidays. I'd also like to thank **Carl Romano** who provides the most reliable and earliest newspaper delivery I have ever known. Yes, even in the recent rough weather. Contact: cromano@live.co.uk 01722 414700

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Problems with HGVs: contact PC Jung
or leave a note in the black box.
WI: Valerie Fry 742082
Village Hall bookings:
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Waste and recycling dates
Tuesday 7 January recycling;
Monday 13: household and garden waste; **Monday 20:** recycling;
Monday 27: household and garden waste

This month's newsletter is sponsored by Quidhampton Parish Council

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