

# Quidhampton Village Newsletter

February 2014

## What's On in February

**Wed 5** Staff development day Sarum Academy, school closed for students

**Thurs 6** :Parent Forum Bemerton St John school 14.30 on the agenda: the school website

**Thurs 6** **Monthly charity quiz Village Hall 20.00**

**Fri 7** : sponsored skip Bemerton St John School : in aid of new playground equipment

**Tues 11** : **Call The Midwife: talk in Village Hall 19.30 – see below**

**Wed 12** : Sarum Academy: non academy kit charity day

**Wed 12** Bemerton Film Society St John's school 19.00 for 19.30

**Thurs 13** :end of term Three, Sarum Academy

**Fri 14** : End of Term Three, Bemerton St John School

**Mon 17 – Fri 21** No school

**Tues 18** : **Stay and Play free for parents and young children** Village Hall 10.00 – 11.00

**Sun 23** St Andrew's Church: 16.00 George Herbert Day service followed by scones and medlar jelly

**Mon 24** : back to school for Term Four Sarum Academy and Bemerton St John

### Monthly Charity Quiz:

another successful quiz took place on 9 January and £50 was donated to Lucy's Days Out.

The quiz now reverts to the first Thursday in every month.

Come along to meet friends and neighbours on

**Thursday 6 February**, Village Hall, 20.00 for 20.15 start

Non-villagers very welcome

Entry: £1 per person, proceeds go to a charity chosen by the winning team

### Bemerton Film Society

**Wednesday 12 February St John's School 19.30 start**

This film from 2007 tells the story of Edith Piaf. Marion Cotillard's performance was described as "one of the greatest performances on film, ever", "impossible to forget". Do you need another reason to go?

### DO YOU ENJOY 'CALL THE MIDWIFE?'

Would you like to learn more about how it is made and hear stories from behind the scenes?

**QUIDHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL  
TUESDAY 11 FEBRUARY**

**Terri Coates will describe her involvement with the original books and her role as technical adviser for every episode.**

*This talk about a popular national TV series is a rare event in Quidhampton and deserves support. Invite your family and friends!*

**Entrance free. Refreshments, a raffle and a collection. Talk begins: 19.30**

## **Women's Institute: January meeting** **Woodcarving: tactile wildlife**

Members and one visitor listened to a very interesting talk by Richard Tutton and friend who brought along beautiful examples of carving in different woods and different styles. Wood can be treated to look like bronze, or even stone as in an amazing Gothic window everyone admired. There were slides and a demonstration of the use of specialist equipment. The relaxed and informal speakers happily answered questions as they went along. Several members bought a specially designed holder for spectacles, just the thing to sit beside the computer or bed.



**Future of Quidhampton WI:** membership is lower than it has ever been. Marjorie Riegen, founder president, died last month and Sara Strawson has moved to Bath which leaves thirteen members. Jennifer Tyler, treasurer since 1994, reported that membership fees would not be enough to cover the cost of the hall and speakers in 2014. She and Joyce Harvey, secretary since 1994, have also expressed their wish to retire but no one else is prepared to take over. On the advice of Christine Walker, regional WI adviser, a special meeting will be held at the end of January to decide the future.

**Call The Midwife:** this event will go ahead as a village event with a collection which the speaker has asked be given to charity.

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## **Are you a carer? Help and support for people who care**

The last census says there are nearly 48 thousand people in Wiltshire providing care and support to a family member or friend who would otherwise not be able to manage on their own. It is estimated that 3 in 5 people will become a carer at some point in their lives. Most of these people do not think of themselves as being a carer but just a relative, neighbour or friend doing what they would be doing anyway. Many also confuse the word 'carer' with those providing *paid* care work in a residential home or for an agency.

**Carer Support Wiltshire** is a charity with support workers ready to provide information and support to all carers living in Wiltshire. This can be at the end of a telephone or face to face. We also offer access to counselling and specific advice

relating to your role. There are many reasons why someone may not be able to cope unaided including physical or mental disability, old age, long-term illness, special educational need, eating disorder or a problem with drugs or alcohol.

Our services are free and confidential for anyone aged 18 and over. We can also offer you the chance to have a break through social cafés, days out, activities, craft groups and complementary therapies.

We will shortly be running a monthly carers café in Salisbury where you can chat with other carers over a hot drink or two. To find out more about us, or to register for some support, please visit our website [www.carersinwiltshire.co.uk](http://www.carersinwiltshire.co.uk), email [info@carersinwiltshire.co.uk](mailto:info@carersinwiltshire.co.uk) or call freephone 0800 181 4118 (01380 871690 from a mobile).

## **Saving St John's Church :**

*There has been little news of this recently but things have changed. In January's parish magazine Rev. Simon Woodley wrote:*

What a good way to start the new year - with great hope for St. John's church. Although open for weddings, christenings, school assemblies, and some village events there have been no regular services since October 2009.

Bemerton Community

group worked hard to secure its future, but objections to the plans were raised by English Heritage, we had no secure income projected, and the PCC (Parochial Church Council) set a deadline of December 2014 for something to be done. It looked as though the building would close forever.

Sometimes, when things are at their worst, that's when they turn around. Bemerton St. John Primary School is bursting at the seams! Unable to expand on their site, they are interested in becoming the anchor tenant in a refurbished St. John's.

Plans already drawn up divide the chancel (the altar end) from the nave with a full height glass screen allowing services and christenings in the chancel, with doors opening up into the main space for big occasions like weddings or Christmas. The nave will be cleared of pews, have a new floor, and be available outside school hours for hire by community groups. In the side aisles there will be smaller meeting rooms, storage and a local history room. There will be toilets, a kitchen, disabled access, and new heating and lighting systems.

This kind of project is happening in church buildings all the time as a way of preserving local heritage, building communities and keeping churches open for everyone. We will now apply for planning permission, and seek donations and financial commitment from the local community. It will be a big year, but how amazing if God answers our prayers and gives St. John's new life.

To find out more contact Simon Woodley, interim chair, Bemerton Community Group (details on back page).



### **End of January Update from**

**Simon:** The project has gained momentum. The school have set a deadline of Sept 2015 to move in by. The planning application has gone in. We have support from local councillors, the MP, the Local Education Authority and the Diocese. There will be a series of public meetings in early March with detailed plans and costings. In the meantime a grant from 3 years ago to bring gas and water to the church will finally be spent this month - so if you see large moles in the churchyard, that's what's happening.

***The monthly Parish magazines are delivered by Joyce Harvey and cost £3 a year. Contact Joyce if you would like one: 742309***

*A thanksgiving service for the life of Marjorie Riegen, Quidhampton's oldest resident, was held in St John's church after her cremated ashes had been interred in her husband's grave. A full church heard her eldest daughter, Stella, talk about her mother's life. A shortened version is printed here so everyone can appreciate what an inspiring person she was.*



My mum, Marjorie, was born on 9 November 1916, the only surviving child of Arthur and Nellie Peters of West Ealing, London. Her first memory was when she was two and a stranger asked her to put her shoes on. Uncertain, she ran to her mother who told her he was her father, returned from the Great War. As an adult Marjorie said she couldn't imagine the feelings of a father, not being recognised by his own daughter. They made up for their lost years, however, and had a very special relationship. Another event that year was to have even more impact on her life and society: women over thirty got the vote. They did not have

equal voting rights until Marjorie was twelve.

Marjorie attended a local private school, then Pitman's secretarial college, and began work as a shorthand typist. She was a keen tennis player, following tennis avidly for the rest of her life, and enjoyed ice skating.

When the Second World War began life changed dramatically. Her fiancé, Jack Riegen, was sent to Malta for two and a half years. Marjorie knew he was there but little else except Malta was the most bombed place on earth.

Living in London was difficult and dangerous too. Her office next to St Paul's cathedral meant a hazardous journey across the city each day, never knowing whether it would be standing when she arrived or her home at the end of the day. She also worked as a Red Cross nurse in a London hospital, hiding under the beds when the sirens went. At weekends she went to bomb sites with Nancy, Jack's sister, and served tea to the rescuers.

Nights were often spent sleeping on a platform under the stairs as protection from the bombing. Later she shared the platform with her wedding dress and wedding cake to keep them safe - just in case.

On 26 February 1944 Marjorie married Jack with Nancy as their bridesmaid. By coincidence Nancy was christened in St Andrew's church, Bemerton.

After a brief honeymoon Jack left to help in the liberation of Holland. While there he was befriended by 15



The photo Jack had in Malta

year old Geert, who corresponded with Marjorie to improve his English. A lasting friendship developed between the three of them and some of Geert's family are here today.

At the end of the war they moved from London to the Cotswolds and Jack's first teaching job in Evesham, never imagining that they would have a grandson who today is Evesham's Town Clerk.

When Jack got another teaching job they bought their first house, six miles from Oxford shortly before I was born. The house came with an acre of cornfield to be turned into a garden. It was so different to the life she had led before that mum felt as though she was on a permanent holiday.

Three years later Adrian was born and Clare three years after that. By then the garden had more than 200 fruit trees, huge strawberry and asparagus beds and a vineyard. During the season, as soon as we'd left for school, Mum would pick the crops to sell. She became a wonderful cook making exotic dishes such as Hungarian goulash and boeuf bourguignon. As children we were completely unaware how unusual that was.

So we grew up in a very happy environment with lots of space to play, but it wasn't idyllic for me. I hated school. Mum knew this and helped me out when she could. Some of our awful cross country runs went past our gate so some of us regularly ran in, Mum made us coffee, then drove us back.

Yes, Mum had learned to drive - in a Morris Minor - and taught Dad. The first car she owned was a 13 seater dormobile. In it she tackled steep hills in Yorkshire for our first camping holiday. Foreign holidays followed and then a dormobile. Such large vehicles were great fun but sadly didn't go very fast.

Mum had a lifetime interest in the WI and helped found a WI in Oxfordshire and later in Quidhampton. Able to drive a minibus, she helped run a mobile social club for people in isolated Oxfordshire villages, parking on village greens and serving tea, coffee and home made cake.

We all grew up and married in the village church, holding our wedding receptions in a marquee on our lawn where we had spent so much of our time practising tennis strokes with Mum.

Then we all moved away, Adrian as far as New Zealand as he married Janice from Auckland. Mum and Dad felt it was time for them to move on too and, after 37 years in Oxfordshire, they came to Wiltshire. Dad, having stayed with his grandparents in Salisbury, loved the area and two of their closest friends, had moved to Porton. They searched hard before deciding on Pennard in Quidhampton.

Luck played her ace card with that decision. Not only did they love their home and the village but found they had moved in next to the best neighbours in the world: Claude and Joyce Knight, who became real friends. Towards the end of her life Mum was desperate to stay in her own home and the fact she could do so was very much thanks to Joyce's love and care. Mum knew this and loved Joyce in return as we all do. She is a very special lady.

So began the last third of Mum's life. Now retired, they were able to travel further afield, especially to New Zealand, Mum's last trip there being when she was 87. Six grandchildren were born and Mum delighted in their achievements.

After Dad died in 1999 Mum found the strength to carry on and develop a new life for herself, which she enjoyed thanks in great part to her lovely friends here. As she got older her life evolved to take advantage of whatever was on offer. One of her great delights was that she finally had time to watch all the tennis on television. When we rang she would say, 'Well you know where I am, I've booked the best seat in the house and I'll be here for two weeks'.

When she was ninety we gave her a "Red Letter Day" expecting her to choose something like tea at the Savoy. She chose a day out at Silverstone race course - the oldest person they had ever had - and was very disappointed when weather conditions meant they couldn't go faster than 130 mph.

Even after 95 life was full of delights. Andy Murray won Wimbledon of course! Three grandchildren settled down with partners. She enjoyed the Olympics and the fact that three of us were involved in various ways.

And of course she was thrilled when she became great grandmother to Ruben.

In November Mum celebrated her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday with a party at Clare's. There was much chatter about the grandchildren and their travels. Attention then turned to Mum and it occurred to us that none of the things the children were doing had the dangers, adventure, fear and uncertainty that she'd experienced. This kind, gracious, elegant old lady was the bravest and most adventurous person in the room.

*Stella Carter 20 January 2014*



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*Four months ago Stella asked her mother what was the most important change she had seen in her lifetime. Marjorie's reply surprised her but could inspire us all.*

Marjorie said it was people's attitudes towards others that had changed. "Don't ever let anyone tell you they were the good old days, they weren't. In so many ways life is so much better now". Her list included:

- Women have equal voting rights
- Women can get to the top in politics and business
- Black and Asian people are accepted as equal in society
- The class system has nearly disappeared
- Single mothers are accepted and the word "illegitimate" has disappeared
- Physically and mentally disabled people take their place as full members of society and lead fulfilling lives
- Women are accepted in to the Church of England as vicars
- Gay people can enjoy lives openly with their partners

Stella says: We know that there are still pockets of discrimination but mum has inspired us and guided us to do all we can to break down these remaining barriers so that life is fairer and happier for everyone. This will be her legacy.

Stella has sent more copies of the Order of Service to Joyce Harvey so if you didn't manage to get one contact Joyce.

## **First World War commemoration:** Bea Tilbrook reports

The work on this project, requested by the Parish Council to commemorate the men who died and served in the First World War, is continuing. I am fortunate to have been joined by Wendy Lawrence, an experienced researcher whose first husband's family lived in Quidhampton.

**Men who were killed:** facts from census returns, military records etc are being gathered and a written account produced for all the men with Quidhampton connections on the war memorial, that is ten of the forty one names. An account of the lives of Richard and Stephen Crockett who lived in 4 Temperance Cottages is already available.

**Men who survived:** finding out about the men who survived the war and continued to live in Quidhampton or moved elsewhere is only just beginning and we would love to hear from anyone who remembers any of the service veterans. **Herbert Case** and **George East** are two names that have been discovered in addition to two of the **Stokes** family (Edward and Charles) and **Joe Luffman**. I will also be talking to Ted Thornton about his father.

Photographs make history come alive and we are lucky to have this photo of William Stokes who was killed in 1917, aged 19.

**If you have any old photos or information connected to the war or would like to suggest names of men or women to be included in this project please contact Bea Tilbrook, details on last page**



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*Did you make a New Year Resolution to get fit? Villager Helen Kirby offers dance classes to build stamina and flexibility while having a good time.*

## **ZUMBA DANCE CLASS**

### **All levels**

Starting on Monday 3 February  
Quidhampton Village Hall  
Mondays 16.30 – 17.15

Details: Helen on 07592028479  
or [artlabdesign@btinternet.com](mailto:artlabdesign@btinternet.com)

## **New! CONTEMPORARY DANCE CLASS Basic Level**

Starting Wednesday 5 February  
Wilton Community Centre  
18.30 – 19.30  
Room 2

Details: Helen 07592028479  
or [artlabdesign@btinternet.com](mailto:artlabdesign@btinternet.com)

**Parish Council Matters:** the Council decided to submit a request for a 20 mph speed limit for Lower Road.

Any residents with strong feelings about this should contact the clerk, details opposite.

Other matters from the February meeting will be reported in the next newsletter.

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**Do you shop online?** Then you can help raise money for our local primary school! First register with [easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fobstj](http://easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fobstj), then go via their site to all the major stores. When you have completed your purchase a donation will be made to Friends of Bemerton School. It really is that easy.

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**This will be old news** to the people most concerned: there is a new bus stop in Salisbury for buses to Quidhampton and Wilton: bus stop 'S', the one nearest Marks and Spencer.

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### **The White Horse**

Villagers may have noticed activity inside the pub. Enterprise Inns, the PubCo that owns The White Horse, told the newsletter that they are "undertaking some work required to re-let", and hope to have it open by early March 'given a good wind.' Builders have been spotted in the kitchen and at least one prospective tenant has also been sighted.

Peter and Sara Strawson are now living in Bath with Bethan's boyfriend, Ollie. Bethan, their youngest daughter, is on a three month internship in Copenhagen.

### **100 Club winners for December**

1st.	62	Bea Tilbrook
2nd.	126	Mrs Kershaw
3rd.	57	J Morgan

### **Contributors & Contacts**

**Police non emergency no.:** 101  
PC Pete Jung ext. 747442  
Peter.Jung@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk  
PCSO Jenny Moss  
jenny.moss@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk  
**St John's Primary School:** 322848  
**Quidhampton Mill B&B:** 741171  
**Footshill B&B:** 743587  
**Wiltshire Good Neighbours:**  
Val O'Keefe 07557 922034  
**Wilton and District Link Scheme :**741241

**Parish Council clerk:**  
Clare Churchill 743027  
quidhamptonpc@btinternet.com  
1 Tower Farm Cottages, Skew Rd.

#### **Website:**

parishcouncil.quidhampton.org.uk/  
**Wiltshire Council** 0300 456 0100  
Area Councillor, Peter Edge  
01722 742667 peter@pedge.net

#### **Rector of Bemerton**

Rev Simon Woodley 333750  
Parish Office 328031

**Problems with HGVs:** contact PC Jung

or leave a note in the black box.

**WI:** Valerie Fry 742082

**Village Hall bookings:**

Sabine Dawson 742843

#### **Waste and recycling dates**

**Monday 3 February** recycling; **Monday 10** household and garden waste;

**Monday 17** recycling; **Monday 24** household and garden waste

This month's newsletter is paid for by money from the table top sale held in 2012

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