

Quidhampton Village Newsletter

September 2010

Parish Council news

It was good to see more members of the public at the July meeting. Next meeting, **Tuesday 28th September** at 7.30pm in the village hall. Items for discussion with the clerk by **Friday 18th September**.

HGVs It seems that HGVs remain a problem despite notices displayed at two junctions on Churchfields directing traffic to the east. PC Pete Jung has written to 92 operators and prosecuted 2 for repeat offences, as well as leafleting all businesses in Churchfields. The repeat offence must occur within 12 months of the date of the first letter to warrant prosecution.

Please have a pen and paper with you at all times to jot down the number of any HGV you see, then pass it on to the local police. We need reports of specific instances before we can ask for further action. If anyone has any ideas to make a difference contact the Parish Council, or Wiltshire Council.

Bus service Use it or lose it. With cuts in public services we are unlikely to get a more frequent service. Overcrowding on early morning buses was mentioned. Let the parish council know if this is a real problem for Quidhampton, not just for people who get on in Salisbury. The official attitude to people in Salisbury is that they can always get the next bus, but if there is regular overcrowding here there may be a chance of a bigger bus.

Basketball hoop A funding application has been made for a basketball hoop in the children's playground with additional fencing to keep balls in the playing field. Good to hear of something for the older children and teenagers. **If you have more ideas please contact the parish council.**

Footpath mowing Councillors remarked that the footpaths were better kept than they have ever been. Thanks to Mike Kalvis of Tara.

Joyriding? Not so much joy for the children

There have been at least three recent reports of children's bikes being taken and ridden around the village before being abandoned. One was reunited with the owner but a black child's bike found in Fisherman's Reach on Saturday 21 August is now in the lost property store at Wilton Road Police Station and a pink scooter found the same day is with Cilla Pickett at Melrose Cottage.

Contributors & Contacts

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Problems with HGVs: contact

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Contributions and ideas welcome.

This month's newsletter is sponsored by the **Salisbury Heart Support Group**.

Cupcake Bonanza: Elizabeth Heeley and her granddaughter Hannah (helped by all the family) organised a Cupcake Bonanza on 21 August and raised over £500 for Leukaemia and Lymphoma research. The garden of Albion House became a



fete with tombola, a family quiz, raffle, stalls, games and a music session with singing, instruments and bubbles. Everything was lovingly organised for children. And of course there were teas with dozens of delicious cupcakes.

28 people entered the **Boules Tournament** in July and raised £140 for the Salisbury Heart Support group.

Exercise classes Monday September 6th Camilla Burgess is resuming her classes at 10.00am in the village hall.

Parking in Wilton There will be a public meeting at Wilton Community Centre on **Wednesday 8th September** at 7.30 pm about the proposal by Wiltshire Council to introduce car park charges in Wilton.

Women's Institute Friday September 17th 7.30 Village Hall. The subject is the British Legion.

The White Horse Sixties Night:

Organised to take advantage of the village marquee this was another sell out event. Numbers were limited to 100 because of fire regulations. Apologies to people who couldn't get tickets - a real bargain at £5 including a burger or hot dog. Dancing was to the band Outrage who continued with 60's songs right up to closing time. Brian and Viv Bass ran a raffle and Ron Smith served 120 burgers and 40 hotdogs. The evening raised £335 for Combat Stress, a military charity specialising in the care of veterans' mental health. It provides support and treatment for the increasing number of psychologically injured Armed Forces personnel, some from as far back as the Second World War. Thanks to Ron for organising this event and to John whose generosity and hard work helped make it such a success.

There is obviously enthusiasm for village events. Who's going to organise the next one?!

100 club winners for July:

1st No. 97 S Dawson

2nd No. 133 K Pearson

3rd No. 202 K Emmett

Quidhampton Book Group now has nine members and met in August to discuss the book and film of *To Kill a Mocking Bird*. The next book for **Monday September 27th** is *The White Queen* by Philippa Gregory. Meetings are at The White Horse at 6.30. Contact the editor if you would like to come along.

Advance notice: **Harvest Festival and Auction** of produce. **6th October**, at The White Horse.

Local people

Royal occasion crowns work of ex-Sapper

In June Quidhampton resident Carlton Brown was surprised to find himself in the company of the Princess Royal in the State Ballroom at Buckingham Palace, shaking hands with stars such as Judi Dench, Rick Wakeman, Anton du Beke and Erin Baug. The occasion was a reception and concert to mark the 90th anniversary of the Not Forgotten Association. They got in touch with Carlton in 2009, but the story began in 1964 when Carlton was a corporal in the Royal Engineers 59 Squadron, one of the units to take part in Operation Crown, an engineering project in Thailand.

Three years of heat and dust

After the war Britain had an obligation to support the allies in the Far East and when the Americans got involved in Vietnam they asked us to build an airfield at Loeng Nok Tha, in north east Thailand. The airstrip was to be 1500 metres/5000 feet long.

Carlton said that when they first arrived the land was barren scrubland with six inches of sandy soil and the temperature was over 50 degrees most of the year. (122 Fahrenheit). There was no water to be found, despite digging several holes, until an Australian lance corporal, trained in water divining by Aborigines, managed to find some. Even then living conditions were best described as primitive.

The airfield took three years to build. The original tarmac strip was ruined because of inadequate drainage and fierce monsoon rains. It was taken up and relaid as a high

grade concrete strip, still there, forty years on, now unused.

Reunions and coincidences

At a squadron reunion in 2007 Carlton (known as Buck in his army days) and three mates decided it would be more interesting to have an Operation Crown reunion. They created a website, more than sixty men got in touch and a reunion was planned for 2009 in Salisbury, to be attended by people from Cyprus, Scotland and all parts of England. Word got round about this and another, more recent, Quidhampton resident also got

in touch: Colonel S. D. Rowland-Jones, who just happens to be the director of the Not Forgotten association, which provides leisure and recreation for disabled and elderly ex-servicemen and women. It generously provided £1100 towards travelling expenses. The reunion was a great success. Despite not having met for over forty years everyone talked and laughed as if they

had seen each other the day before. One very special character was there: a life size cardboard photo figure of their Sgt Major 'Yakker' Yates. He is in the photo on this page with Carlton and the Colonel - and has also been seen behind the bar at The White Horse.

There's another reunion this September and in November, supported by the Not Forgotten Association, 19 veterans are travelling to Thailand to visit the airstrip. On Remembrance Day they will be at Ubon for a ceremony in memory of two local women who risked their lives smuggling food to prisoners of war.



But that is not the end of the story.....

Buckingham Palace

Carlton and three others were honoured to be invited to the 90th anniversary reception of the Not Forgotten Association, in the presence of the Princess Royal, their patron. He was most impressed by the relaxed atmosphere and the way everyone was quickly put at their ease. The entertainment was brilliant, the best bits being Rick Wakeman, who had amazing skill in a wide variety of musical styles, and David Copperfield, who

School news

Estelle Smith, headteacher of Bemerton St John Primary School, wrote in July:

It's been a tremendous year with us being judged a fast improving school. Numbers on roll are rising, testament to the faith parents have in us. We hosted the Year 6 Prom for our neighbouring schools of Dinton, Great Wishford, Wilton and Barford, Pembroke Park and Woodlands. Our school looked magnificent thanks to a small band of enthusiastic parents who transformed the hall into a venue of opulence!

The school fete raised a fantastic £2000. It was a perfect day and wonderful to see so many local people. We will all be pleased to start our summer holidays but will look forward to moving forward still further when we return in September.

Editor: The outside of the school looked magnificent too. I went by on the day of the Prom and saw black and white streamers and a very elegant black and white awning over the main entrance to greet the guests. How lovely to have such a special event for the eleven year olds to mark their passage from one school to another.

forsook his magic tricks for comedy. The concert finished with Land of Hope and Glory and We'll Meet Again then all the stars came into the audience to shake hands. (Carlton said it was a very grand setting but some parts could have done with a lick of paint! Nice to know even the Queen has decorating problems.)

Editor: what a story! So gossip doesn't always deserve a bad press. If people hadn't talked about what Carlton Brown was doing the Not Forgotten Association wouldn't have heard of him.

Church news

Rev Susan Drewett writes:

The **Cream Teas** took place in St John's on Saturday 31st July. A cake stall was replenished by generous donations throughout the afternoon. Cream Teas were served by a team of happy volunteers who poured tea, buttered, jammed, creamed and washed up all afternoon. It was good to see so many people working or just chatting together, and we raised £250. Thank you all for making it such a success.

Have you noticed any changes at The White Horse? There's a smart new sign: the head of a handsome white horse with Salisbury Cathedral in the background. The old one was destroyed in a collision with the recycling lorry.

The Salisbury Heart Support Group, affiliated to the British Heart Foundation, aims to bring "hope and a healthier lifestyle" to people with heart disease. The Salisbury group sees belonging to an active community as part of a healthy lifestyle and has therefore sponsored our newsletter. The groups are open to anyone with any heart condition and their families. Carlton Brown has more details.

