

Quidhampton Village Newsletter

October 2010

The parish **Harvest Festival** will be on **October 3rd** when tins and produce will be collected at all the services: 8.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. at St Andrews, 10.30 a.m. at St Michael's. Tinned goods will go to the Trussell Trust and fresh produce will be auctioned at The White Horse at **8pm on October 6th**.

Don't forget quiz night at The White Horse **Thursday October 7th**.

School news:

- Harvest Festival, **October 8th**, St John's Church.
- Open Day, **October 22nd**. During the afternoon the mural, a whole school project depicting life at Bemerton St John, will be unveiled and blessed. Everyone is welcome.

WI: the next meeting is on **October 15th** when Sue Waldron will be taking a craft evening based on the idea of Memory Books. Meetings at 7.30 in the village hall.

The St John's Community Centre Project has now been registered as a charity, known as **Bemerton Community**. This means more grants can be applied for and Gift Aid can be reclaimed on private donations. More details next month.

Autumn Fair: There will be an autumn fair and attic sale in St John's on **Sunday 17 October** from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. to raise funds for the Bemerton Community. This is a chance to sort out those things you don't really want, give them to a good cause, go along and buy some more! Call Moira Packer on 338681 if you'd like to help. There's also going to be a cake stall, children's craft activities, refreshments and a chocolate tombola
(*Editor: chocolate tombola? that sounds almost as good as the cupcake bonanza! I'll definitely be there*)

Advance notice: there will be a short **Act of Remembrance** at the war memorial -the lych gate of St John's - on **November 11th**. The two minute silence at 11 a.m. will be observed and refreshments may be available afterwards. More details in November's newsletter.

The Parish Council meeting was cancelled. The new date will be advertised on the village notice board.

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Contributions and ideas welcome.

Please note: next month's newsletter will be printed on 27th October so any items for inclusion should be with the editor by 24th October at the latest.

This month's newsletter is sponsored by Ron and Sylvia, new grandparents again.

Bus service news

The bus services subsidised by Wiltshire Council are being put out to tender as the current contract ends in Spring 2011. All parish councils have been asked for comments and suggestions as part of the tendering process.

It is NOT a cost cutting exercise. The services are NOT currently under threat of withdrawal. (the capital letters are theirs). However they are looking "to eliminate any specific journeys that are not regularly used" and consider whether "there are any ways these services can be provided in a more economical and cost effective manner". It's difficult to see how that can mean anything but cost cutting, understandable in the current economic climate.

So what can we do? Use it or lose it, obviously - numbers count more than ever. We can also make our voices heard by responding to this request so Quidhampton is noticed as a village that needs and values

The Refuse Compactor will be at Rogers Close on **October 23rd** from 7.30 to 10.30am. This is the chance for you to get rid of bulky items you would otherwise have to take to the tip. The compactor will take household waste only, not waste from a business.

Accepted are "the type of items that you would take with you if you moved house"

Apologies are due to Ian Lovett and Pete Dawson who were not credited with the work they do regularly mowing the village footpaths throughout the summer. Additional strimming is done by Mike Kalvis. Thanks to all three of you from all the regular footpath users.

the bus service. **Inside this newsletter you will find a piece of paper you can use to send your comments to the Council.**

Our subsidised buses are the 13, the R3 in the early mornings, evenings and weekends, and the other buses that come through the village to boost the service at peak times. They say there is no money available to fund major changes or extra services, which is what we really want, but it may be possible for minor improvements "where there is evidence that these are needed and will be regularly used".

Can you think of any "minor improvements"? For instance, is there a service that is regularly overcrowded?

You may also feel you'd like to mention extra services you'd like such as buses to fill the gap between 08.06 and 09.13 or an earlier service to Wilton. It will all help to keep Quidhampton in their minds.

Don't forget to add your name and address and send it before 15 October.

such as furniture, carpets and bicycles. Also accepted: items from DIY such as dismantled kitchen units, fence panels, bathroom suites, radiators and garden waste except soil and rubble.

Not accepted are car parts, hazardous waste or white or electrical goods. Garden waste should preferably go to the recycling centre but it will be accepted.

The 100 club winners for August were:

1st 190 T Bolger

2nd 89 A Sewell

3rd 23 S Morris

Local people: Diamond Couple

The editor talks to Ted and Peg Thornton about 60 years of marriage and changes in the world. (Some explanations for younger readers are at the end)

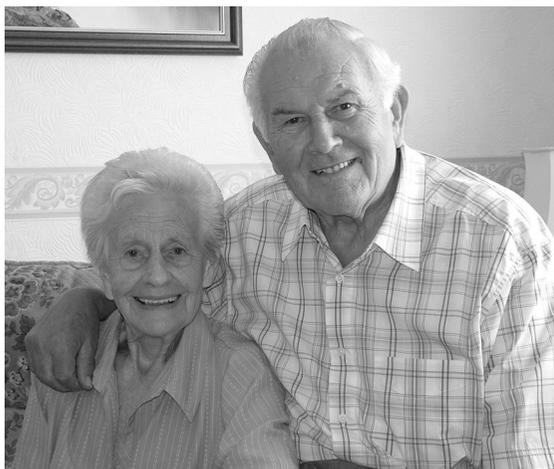
Ted and Peg said they were getting used to visitors when they showed me into their flower-filled sitting room. I settled down to listen to their story, thinking that so many flowers, cards and presents showed just how much people think of them.

Blind date

Ted and Peg met on a blind date, set up by Ted's brother, when Ted was on demob leave⁽¹⁾ in 1946. They met half way between their homes, then went to a pub. People use the internet to find dates now but I'm sure they feel the same trepidation. Ted even remembers what he was wearing: his naval trousers and his father's sports coat. They married on September 9th 1950 and had two nights honeymoon in London at a relative's house while that relative spent two nights with Peg's parents. It was what you did in those days. Their honeymoon was extra special because they spent a day at the Festival of Britain⁽²⁾.

In 1953 they moved into newly built 11 Coronation Square. The first ten houses went to families living in Nissen huts⁽³⁾ behind the White Horse.

Number 11 has been their home for fifty seven years, years in which they raised four



children, played a big part in village life and worked hard at responsible jobs - a diamond couple indeed!

Early life

Ted, now 86, has lived in Quidhampton all his life. That's unusual nowadays though he mentioned four or five others who have been here as long. Born at 6 Alexander Cottages he went to Bemerton St John School, then Highbury Avenue School which was extended to take senior pupils. He did various jobs until he was old enough to be called up⁽⁴⁾. Ted had four years in the navy and survived the sinking of his ship. He was at the battle of Anzio, an allied landing in Italy with a large number of casualties. He survived that too but was later stabbed in the back in an incident in Naples in which one of his companions was killed.

Peg, now 84, was brought up in Wilcot, also a small village, near Pewsey. We agreed that housing is undoubtedly better now and shared memories of outside toilets, and one cold water tap. Peg described how they had a water tank in their roof but her father had to pump water into it.

After passing the 11 plus Peg went to Marlborough Grammar School then worked in an office until she was 18 when wartime regu-

lations sent her to a munitions factory at Trowbridge making fuses for shells. She hated it and after 2 years applied for another Government controlled job as a 'clippie'⁽⁵⁾.

Married life

Peg worked for Wilts and Dorset for ten years in all. After the war Ted worked for forty years on the railways. He started as a fireman⁽⁶⁾ and Peg had to scrub his overalls clean. Later he became an engine driver and later still drove diesels, though he preferred the steam engines: people were always more interested in them.

Changes in the village

Ted and Peg remember buying milk from a farm opposite their house, they remember a shop, post office and coalyard in the village, and they remember their children playing hopscotch in the street. But what both say is the biggest change is the loss of the sense of community: "you knew everyone you saw in the village." Peg described village entertainments when "we all got up on stage and made fools of ourselves." Some of that spirit came back for the VE Day celebrations but generally people live different kinds of lives now.

They are not sentimental about the good old days however: although some people find life hard now, you don't see the desperate poverty you saw then, said Peg.

Sixty years together

Their four children, five grandchildren and one great grandchild all live locally which is a great joy to them. They asked me to say how wonderful the family had been in arranging celebrations. On the day itself they went back to the place where they met and the church where they married, and on the following Sunday there was Sunday lunch for eighteen at The White Horse. John and Janice should also be thanked, not just for

making that Sunday lunch so special but also for running the pub so well. "It's the real heart of the village". (and so say all of us!) I don't think Ted and Peg ever lost their sense of community. Several people have told me how generous they are in helping others. Ted is one of the newsletter deliverers and still cuts the grass for a neighbour.

When asked the secret of staying together for sixty years they agreed you have to expect downs as well as ups and learn to get through them.

'We've learnt how to do it now,' Peg smiled, and delivered the next lines with the perfect timing that must have made those village entertainments so good: 'it's all about give and take. He gives and I take.'



Explanatory notes for younger readers

- 1. Demob leave:** A period of paid leave after leaving the services
- 2. Festival of Britain:** Like the millennium dome exhibition but much better by all accounts.
- 3. Nissen huts:** Wartime temporary housing made of a half cylinder of corrugated steel.
- 4 Called up:** Conscripted into the services during the war.
- 5. Clippie:** Bus conductor. People used to pay once they were sitting inside the bus. The bus conductor would come round, take the money and give them a ticket.
- 6 Fireman:** Assistant to the driver. In charge of stoking the boiler of a steam engine with coal.