



Armistice Day Service at St Johns

The weather forecast was for heavy rain so few people were expected at the beautiful Lych Gate Memorial at St Johns on Thursday 11th November. Come 10:45, however, the sun was shining, and autumn leaves were blowing about the feet of the 26 people present. The service was taken by Rev Susan Drewitt and coffee was served afterwards in St Johns Porch.

Report by Roger Eagle of Lower Bemerton

Casino Night at the White Horse

John hosted a casino night at the White Horse in November. A good time was had by all, with a hot buffet, drinks flowing and £200 raised for a prostate cancer charity. Thank you, John, for continuing to organise village events. People do appreciate it.

What's in a name...

The guest editor was doing some research and found some interesting facts about the village name. According to local historians and the ever reliable Wikipedia, Quidhampton originally translated as 'home town where good manure was available'. She prefers the later opinions, which say it means 'home town where resin was found', because of so many trees in the area.

Guest Editor's note

As a newly appointed parish councillor, and being quite new to the village, it has been a pleasure getting involved in the local news. You'll often see me regularly walking the well-trodden path from my front door in Lower Road to the White Horse, unmissable in a red duffle coat, so feel free to stop me and say hello. I pass on my congratulations to Bea on her recent marriage, and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

Newsletter sponsored this month by John and Janice Blane of The White Horse Inn

Honeymoon on Salisbury Plain



The newly married regular editor and flood warden recently went on a honeymoon cruise, only to find themselves on Salisbury Plain! Luckily for them, it was Salisbury Plain in

South Georgia, and one of the many stops on an epic month long adventure.

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welcome. Many thanks to Katy Pearson for

guest editing this December newsletter.

The White Horse at Christmas

Carol Service: Wednesday 15th December: arrive at 7.30pm for a 8.00pm start. No admission fee, just come along and enjoy the festive cheer.

Christmas Draw: Tuesday 21st December: followed by a performance of the Quidhampton Mummers Play. Tickets are currently on sale for this year's Christmas Draw for £1.00.

New Years Eve: ticket-only event, from 8pm until (very) late. There'll be live music and a buffet.

Two other events: - a sloe gin competition and a music quiz - will take place in either late December or early January. Keep an eye on the notice board and pub window for dates which will be displayed as soon as they are decided.

Christmas opening times:

Christmas Eve: pub open as normal, kitchen closed in the evening

Christmas Day: open 12 - 2.00

Boxing Day and 27th December: open 12.00 - 4.00

Normal hours resume on 28th December except for New Year's Eve (ticket only evening) and New Year's Day: 12.00 - 3.00

Christmas Concert

This is another fund raising community event at St Johns Church: a Christmas Concert on **Sunday 19th December** at 6.30 p.m. The Concert will have all the favourite carols and some well known Christmas music, with mince pies and mulled wine to help get you in the mood to sing along.

The event is being organised by the Bemerton Community to help raise funds and awareness of the project to convert St John's into a community centre. Families with children specially welcome. Mulled wine and mince pies will be on sale from 6 p.m.

There will be some heating but you are advised to wrap up warmly.

Christmas Church services

Rather than going to the big Cathedral candlelight services, come to St. Andrews instead! There will be Christmas Carols on **Tuesday 21st December**, at St Andrews Church starting at 4pm. All welcome.

On Christmas Eve there will be the following services;

- 10:00a.m. morning communion in St. Andrews
- 4pm nativity in St. Michaels
- Midnight service will at the Roman Rd Methodists, starting at 11:30pm

On Christmas Day there is an 8:00am service in St. Andrews and 10:30am Family Communion at St. Michaels.

On St. Stephens Day (otherwise known as Boxing Day) the only service will be an 8:00 a.m. Communion at St. Andrews.

100 Club Winners:

October

- 1st 56 Mr & Mrs D Ayton
- 2nd 110 Mrs Sandie Smith
- 3rd 84 Mrs E Heeley

November

- 1st 171 Mrs M Wright
- 2nd 188 Mrs S Roberts
- 3rd 77 Mr J Gale

School News

The school was pleased to welcome 40 new pupils in September who have all adjusted beautifully to life at Bemerton St John. Since then our numbers have risen to 178 despite the fact that two pupils left for Guatemala and another four have also moved from the area.

Our curriculum is exciting and varied and we now have weekly visits from specialists including a gym and French teacher, coaching for sports and energetic and enthusiastic teachers of flute, clarinet and guitar.

We do hope you will join us for our Christmas festivities. These include

- **Christmas Bazaar on Friday 3rd December at 3.00** Father Christmas will be paying a visit!

- the dress rehearsal of our key stage 1 production "Born in a Barn" on **Monday 13th December at 2.00.**

We will also be holding a Tea Party on **16th December at 2.00** when the children will provide some light entertainment to accompany tea and mince pies. Do join us if you are able.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas from staff and pupils.
Estelle Smith, headteacher

Film Club

Everyone is cordially invited to the first meeting of a film club run by the Bemerton Community group.

The Queen, starring Helen Mirren and directed by Stephen Frears, will be shown at 7.30 p.m. on **Tuesday, 7 December** at Bemerton St John's School. This is a trial screening to test the equipment and the environment so **entrance is free**. No need to book or get tickets, just turn up and be patient if there are technical hitches! There is a small car park opposite St Johns Church, and after 6 pm parking is permitted

Women's Institute: Christmas dinner

Friday 17th December, members only. This will be the last meeting on a Friday. From January meetings will be on the second Tuesday of each month.

Extend exercise class

After two years Camilla Burgess is sadly ending this class due to lack of support. Other classes are available in Wilton and Salisbury.

Bereavement Church Service

This special service acknowledges that sometimes at this busy time of year, leading up to and including Christmas, we put on a brave face for the sake of others. Now you can take time to remember those we have lost in this and previous years in a gentle service. There will be an opportunity to light a candle and the names of the deceased will be read aloud.

The service take place in St Andrews Church on **Sunday 12th December at 2.30pm**. If you would like to attend please advise Revd Susan Drewett 01980 652751 or revd.susandrewett@btinternet.com so that the preparations can take everyone into account.

at the roadside between St Andrews Church and St Johns School.

If successful the club will meet monthly and charge £5 for admission. When it is refurbished as a Community Centre the club will move to St John's church.

Volunteers are needed to join the small committee to organise the screenings and to choose the films. It is hoped to offer refreshments on December 7th (in return for a donation) and offers of help with this will be gratefully received. Please contact Robert Scott-Jupp on scottjupp@aol.com or phone 01722 421993.

Local history: Celebrations in Quidhampton

With Christmas celebrations in mind the editor read Stan Cousins book about Quidhampton and discovered the following:

Quidhampton was renowned for its village fetes and parties as early as the 1890's, as noted in the St John's Rectors notebook. Though many parishes around Salisbury organised shows and fetes, apparently our parish had a reputation for the being the most notable.

Stan Cousins writes that in the years before the Great War Quidhampton fetes attracted visitors in droves, many coming to see the large number of steam engines that had been hauled here. Another traditional event was the Lantern Tattoo. The village owned about 100 collapsible, coloured glass lanterns, held on three foot canes, with candles inside them. These candles would be lit and then around 100 children and others would take part in a night-time procession around the parish.

It is not clear what time of year this event was held, but the editor assumes it must have been a winter event. This must have made a festive heart-warming sight on a cold, Christmas night.

Records also show that some 900 assorted cakes were needed for the fete in 1892, but unbelievably 70lbs remained uneaten; the guest editor hopes that a much better effort to consume all cakes on show will be made at next year's fete! (*Ed: Not to worry, all uneaten cake was donated to the children of the village!*).



The village street in about 1905 on another festive occasion.

Ed: This photograph is part of the newly discovered collection mentioned in November's newsletter. More details next month.

If you have any accounts or photographs of local events, festivities or traditions in the village, please contact the regular editor, as she is always on the lookout for local history pieces for the newsletter.

Beanie Bonanza : Knitting for St John's Exhibition of your knitting!

An exhibition of Beanies (woolly hats), other hats, gloves and scarves will be held on **Saturday 11th December, 2pm-4pm** at Quidhampton Village Hall.

There will be a prize for the most imaginative creation and all entries will be offered for sale.

This is a new fundraising idea - all proceeds to the Bemerton Community St John's project. Help and details from Glenna 01722 332595 who also has some extra wools, needles and patterns.