

Police report

We had 2 reports on 31/1/11 of theft from garden sheds. At this stage it would appear to be local youths rather than a more 'professional' outfit. The 2 were seen to run from one back garden to the next and into nearby woodland so suggests they have a local knowledge. The only item stolen was a claw hammer so it looks like they are opportunists at work.

Reports of HGV's through the village for January and Feb so far is 7 (mostly from one eagle eyed resident - you know who you are!!). Please keep the reports coming!

Message from the Parish council: dumping of waste

It has been brought to the attention of the Parish Council that last autumn garden waste was dumped on the footpath behind the White Horse. As the new gardening season begins we ask the person responsible for this not to do it again. It is a public path used frequently by villagers and any dumping of rubbish is classed as fly tipping, an offence under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 with a maximum fine of £50,000 and/or up to six months imprisonment.

It is also an offence to dump household waste in public litter bins.

Did you know if you ask someone to remove waste for you (e.g. a gardener or builder) they must have a waste carriers registration? You should ask to see it because you are responsible for what happens to your rubbish and if they dump it you may be prosecuted.

If you see any fly tipping please contact Wiltshire Council on 0300 456 0100 or 01722 434319.

Next meeting: Tuesday March 22 Village Hall 7.30 p.m.

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Milk thefts have also been happening quite often with 4 reports over the last month or so. Is anyone else having problems? If so please report it. This can now be done very easily online via the Wiltshire Police website (go to the section 'report a crime online' at the bottom of the home page) at your convenience. This is ideal for all thefts and damage type offences. Alternatively via 0845 408 7000 as usual.

Regards, PC Pete Jung

Contributors & Contacts

Police non emergency

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Parish Council clerk:

Clare Churchill 743027

<http://www.southwilts.com/site/>

Quidhampton-Parish-Council/

quidhamptonpc@btinternet.com

1 Tower Farm Cottages, Skew Rd.

Wiltshire Council 0300 456 0100

Area Councillor Richard Beattie

tel: 01747 870285

richard.beattie@wiltshire.gov.uk

The Rector of Bemerton

Rev Simon Woodley 333750

Parish Office 328031

Problems with HGVs: contact

Peter.Jung@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

copy to c.cochrane@imperial.ac.uk

or leave a note in the black box.

WI: Valerie Fry 742082

Village Hall bookings:

Sabine Dawson 742843

Recycling dates:

Fridays 4 and 18 March, 1 April

Quidhampton Village Newsletter

March 2011

TWO HEADTEACHERS AT BEMERTON ST JOHN!

Every day in the life of a Primary School is action packed but the week beginning February 14 was exceptional. The governors had no sooner appointed a new headteacher than one of the senior teachers was appointed to the headship of another local school.

Estelle Smith begins her well-deserved retirement at the end of the school year. The response to the advertisement for her job was described as amazing, and not typical for headship vacancies which have become very hard to fill. Many applicants were already headteachers. This is real recognition of the work Mrs Smith and her team have done in moving the school forward. Appointing a new headteacher is a huge task but with their usual professionalism and diligence the governing body shortlisted five candidates and finally chose Mr Alun Richards, currently headteacher of Urchfont Primary School. Mrs Smith says: "Staff and pupils are very excited at this news and we are all convinced that Mr Richards will build on our recent successes and take the school to the highest levels."

The following day Alison Small, who teaches

the older pupils, was appointed head of Alderbury and West Grimstead Primary School. Mrs Smith said, 'Naturally it is incredibly sad for us as Alison has been a wonderful colleague, key stage leader and classroom teacher. However, for her this is an exciting challenge and opportunity. Alderbury and West Grimstead are truly lucky to have such a professional and dedicated head. It is a great accolade to Bemerton St John that Alison was selected to take their school forward.'

The new headteachers do not begin their jobs until September but there will be one new face after Easter: Mrs Gardener, who teaches Robins (year one,) is joining her husband in Sudan. More than thirty teachers applied for her job and interviews take place after the break. Mrs Smith promises the handover will be smooth to ensure that there is no disruption to the education of pupils.

It is excellent news to hear that our local school is now so well regarded. There will be a profile of Mrs Smith in the newsletter before she leaves.

WI members step up

The speaker for the February meeting was unable to attend but three members filled the gap splendidly with impromptu talks. Molly Lawson of Bemerton Farm spoke about belonging to the Red Cross in many different countries, Win Perrett of Wilton described her life working for different local organisations including Wilton Carpets and Sue Waldron of Stapleford gave an account

of her life as a WREN (note for younger readers: until 1993 women were not integrated into the Royal Navy but in a separate section, the Women's Royal Naval Service) Members enjoyed the humour and interest of these talks and also learnt more about the WI organisation.

Next meeting: 8 March 7.30 Village Hall. Linda Baker will talk about her experience of bringing up children as a deaf mother.

This month's newsletter is sponsored by
The Entertainments Committee

Quidhampton Book Group

A well attended meeting had a lively discussion about The Cellist of Sarajevo. Opinion was definitely divided. Next meeting: **Thursday 31 March**. 7.00 White Horse to discuss Mornings in Jenin by Susan Abulhawa, recommended by Jean Kalvis's mother: "a gripping tale of Jews living alongside Palestinians" The departure of Cilla Pickett next month means there will be a vacancy in the book group and on the Parish Council. More details in April.

Refuse Compactor

Rogers Close 7.30 - 10.30

Saturday March 19th

For details see poster on parish notice-board

Quidhampton Runner in London Marathon

George Cornick of Temperance Cottages and her older brother applied to run the London Marathon on 17 April but were disappointed to get only reserve places. When they got an email at the beginning of February, however, to say they could take part George had mixed feelings because she had done no training but her brother persuaded her to 'go for it'. After all they were doing it for their cousin who has muscular dystrophy. Now, George says, she is "training my socks off!" and has managed a run of 17 miles. She goes to the gym for fitness sessions before work and does long runs at weekends. It is her first marathon.

George's official sponsorship form is in The White Horse and she would love you to sign it and pledge some money for muscular dystrophy research.

Village Fete

There are plans to hold a village summer fete this year. If you would like to help please contact the parish clerk, Clare Churchill tel 743027, A small group is needed to set a date and get the ball rolling. Let's make it a good one and show that not all the great village events happened in the past!

Supermarket vouchers

Do you ever go to the supermarket and wonder what to do with the vouchers they sometimes offer for school equipment etc? Do you want to take them and divert some of the supermarket's profits to a good cause but you don't know any school-age children? Your problem is solved! Take them to the White Horse where they will be saved and given to Bemerton St John Primary School.

Dog Warden

Two residents asked that we publish details of what to do if you find a stray dog. The distressing experience of finding a young dead Alsatian was made worse for them by not knowing the correct people to contact. Stray dogs are the responsibility of the dog warden employed by Wiltshire Council. During office hours you should contact them via the local council: 01722 434319 or 01722 434320. Out of hours call: 0845 056 8035

Hundred Club February winners:

1st	B Tilbrook	62
2nd	L Hudson	117
3rd	C Brown	67

Local people: Barbara Strange at eighty

Katy Pearson talks to Barbara Strange on the occasion of an important birthday

3 The Coolins is distinctive, its garden crowded with windmills, and now solar panels on its roof. I was lucky enough to get an inside look and meet the people behind the panels, when I talked to Barbara Strange who celebrated her 80th birthday on 19 February. Barbara told me that she and Ron, her husband of 49 years, moved to The Coolins when they retired in 1994 (see right) but they had connections with the village long before that.

Barbara was born in Walton-on-Thames and went from school to college to train in book-keeping and secretarial skills. Before she settled down she became a cinema usherette, simply because she fancied it. Her father disapproved and was pleased when she gave it up after a fortnight. "I was bored to death watching the same film over and over," she said.

She eventually worked for an insurance broker and married Ron when she was 21. Sally, their only child, was born four years later.

When Barbara's parents, John and Margaret Davies, retired at the end of the sixties Barbara and her youngest brother, now in Codford, bought 3 The Coolins for them to live in. John died in 1975 and Margaret in 1994, when it seemed the natural thing for Barbara and Ron to move in.

Once here Barbara found herself taking part in the fabled village entertainments and became a founder member and secretary of the Gardening Club. It is in that role that most villagers will know her. Barbara's work was one of the reasons for the club's success. Monthly meetings and twice yearly shows flourished and Barbara herself appeared on South Today talking about the

Summer Flower Show. She was also interviewed on Spire FM's version of Down Your Way when it came to Quidhampton. And she revealed that she was the winner of the competition

to name Sovereign Close, another item for my local history file.

Sadly in 2009 the Gardening Club closed and Barbara's previously robust health began to fail. She doesn't get out and about much now. On her

birthday, however, her daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren took her out to one of her favourite places: Shaftesbury in Dorset. Lunch on the way, a gentle walk admiring the view followed by cream teas made it a day to remember. Of course they stopped at a garden centre first!

If you have a significant family event and would like congratulations or a commemoration in the newsletter, please contact the editor

WANTED: cleaners wanted at Quidhampton Mill. Hours regular or variable. Ring 741171 for details.

Another watery joke:
Why do mother kangaroos hate rainy days? Because then the children have to play inside.



Local History continued :

The path, of course, is Edgam Place. It's tempting to imagine that the artist was Helen Allingham, a well-known water colour painter who specialised in rural scenes. She painted one traditional thatched cottage in Quidhampton which has been identified as being where 8 Edgam Place now stands.

Name changes give researchers a lot of trouble. It would be useful for future generations if an accurate map were to be made of Quidhampton with the names and positions of houses as they are now. Any volunteers?

Sadly no-one has been able to help in finding the resources collected by Stan Cousins. This is a great loss to anyone interested in village history.

Flooding causes accident

First update by the parish's Flood Warden, Ken Taylor

Regular flooding on the A3094 Netherhampton Road beside Quidhampton Mill has caused concern, especially since a motorcyclist came off his bike there in December. Luckily no traffic was coming in the opposite

flood spreads nearly half way over the busy main road, it will be considered for the priority list in the next financial year. I learned that the priorities are 1) fast roads 2) residential properties 3) minor roads. Water is no longer gathering by Coronation Square since drains were cleared in January but the situation needs to be monitored.

Other flood problems

I have been asked to list any other water-related problems in the village, then local council engineers based in Wilton will advise what residents can do. I have been told about run-off down Foothill, and dampness or water occurring in some properties when the water table is high. Please let me know if there are any other flood related issues.

Gel bags

'Sandbags' (flat gelbags) are available via Parish Councils at £2.50 each for householders at risk to keep. They pack flat, and are designed to swell up on contact with water. Once used, they are disposable. Based on their past experience, does anyone need any? Let me know and I will approach the Parish Council.

A more detailed report has been presented the Parish Council



direction and he was not hurt. Some work was done to unblock the drains but although the water drains away more quickly, flooding still occurs - see photo taken on 13 February.

Following a number of calls by villagers a senior drainage engineer from Wiltshire Council visited Quidhampton on February 17th, with colleagues from the local Wilton office. They concluded that a new drain into the river is needed, and because the

Other school news

Estelle Smith reports:

Improvement to the school grounds: We are trying to improve the outside learning environment and to raise money towards this we are collecting clothes for recycling. There are bags available in school which we can deliver if necessary. All contributions welcome!

If you have any good quality toys or games then Mrs Ford would be keen to hear from you.

Important dates : **11 March:** disco for pupils; **18 March** Red Nose Day; **21 March** teacher training day :school closed for pupils

George Herbert Event The first celebration assembly of the new term on **Friday 4 March** will celebrate the life of George Herbert, Rector of Bemerton in 1630. Two members of the George Herbert Group will join us and the service will be taken by the Reverend Simon Woodley. Certificates won't be awarded at this service but parents are welcome.

Finally, we are delighted to announce that Joy Wagstaff recently joined the governing body and was able to help with the selection process of the new headteacher. Her experience will enhance the work of the school immeasurably.

Editor: Most Quidhampton residents know that Joy was a local headteacher for many years before she retired and took on the children's centre in Wilton. It is good to see someone else from Quidhampton on the governing body and we know she will do a splendid job.

Some watery jokes to go with the recent rain:

If six children and two dogs were under an umbrella, how come none of them got wet? Because it wasn't raining

Do you know the technical term for a sunny warm day that follows two cold rainy days? Monday.

Church news

Lent begins this month

Shrove Tuesday 8 March

If you're not going anywhere else for your pancakes, come up to St.Michael's at 7:30pm and we'll cook you one (or two!)

Ash Wednesday 9 March

Communion service, with ashing. Bring last year's palm cross to burn. 8:00pm at St.Andrews

Friends of St.Andrews AGM Wednesday 16 March

Open to all interested in keeping this little gem of a church going. 7:30pm followed by tea and medlar jelly on scones

There is a new website full of information, history, news and even the rector's blog www.bemertonparish.org.uk

Bemerton Film Society

Next meeting :

Wednesday **6 April** 7.30
Bemerton St John School. Film: Happy Go Lucky, a comedy about looking for love.



Wilton Historical Society meets six times a year at Wilton Community Centre on a Monday evening. The next meeting is on **March 21** when Dr Alistair Lack will talk on "Salisbury: its place in early history". Meetings begin at 7.30 with a charge to non-members of £1.50. They describe themselves as "a very friendly society" and refreshments are available after the meeting so people can socialise. Further details from secretary Chris Rousell, 01722 742856

New business opens in Quidhampton

The editor talks to Lesa and Martin Drewett about the opening of their new business at Quidhampton Mill

If you've been along Netherhampton Road recently you may have noticed the sign: Quidhampton Mill Bed and Breakfast opening soon. I talked to the owners just before the first guests arrived.

Lesa and Martin met in Dubai but moved back to the UK in 2006 so their three children (now aged from 2 to 8 years) could grow up in a more traditional environment. Martin has family locally and they were pleased to be able to buy Quidhampton Mill which has become a lovely family home as well as the site of their new business venture.

The rooms

As I drove into the Mill I was captivated by the peaceful view of sheep, meadows and river even before I noticed the elegance of the conversion. The three guest bedrooms are in a separate two storey building facing the view, and are decorated tastefully in muted colours with carefully chosen furniture. "We want to give our guests something special,"

Lesa said, "something that they may not have at home." Some pieces, such as a chest of drawers and a washstand, came from auctions and have been painstakingly restored. "We believe in recycling and reusing things", they told me, "and it gives individuality and quality to the rooms".



Of course every room has mod cons too: a roomy and light en-suite bathroom with toilettries, the facilities to make a variety of hot drinks (with fresh milk - always a winner) and flat screen TV. The overall impression is of spaciousness, calm and comfort. I wanted to move into the loft room immediately and write a novel.

The food

The breakfast room in the main house appears to offer all you could want including home cooked croissants, pain au chocolate, and a daily special such as pancakes with different fillings as well as the traditional English breakfast. Where possible the food is local and organic.

The ambiance

Pictures and photographs of the Salisbury area give a local feel, especially a striking selec-

tion of photographs taken by Martin of doors in Cathedral Close. "Most of all", they told me, "we want to offer good personal service that makes our guests feel welcome and at home." Guests can come and go as they please and individual arrangements can be made for baby sitting and driving guests to and from a restaurant for their evening meal. Evening meals will also be available at The Mill by request.



The special offer

Villagers are not only welcome to look round there is also a discount during the 'low' season for bookings made through villagers for visiting friends and family. So if you are running out of bedspace for a special event consider Quidhampton Mill. It offers quality accommodation and a warm welcome. It is great to see a new business opening in the village and I'd like to wish them every success.

Ring 01722 741171 for bookings or to look round

Local History: requests and an idea

I am delighted that two of the four queries in the last newsletter have been answered:

- Clare Eagle of Bemerton helped track down Swiss Cottage: it is the house now known as Cherbury in Church Lane, Bemerton.
- Ann Barwell of Nadder Lane said that Stan Cousins told her Nadder Lane was sometimes known as Hollyhock Terrace. I like to think it was because of the planting done by the Price family when they lived there from 1890 to at least 1911. Clarrie Price described the lane to her niece:

Our little cottage was in a lane. It must have been very old as it had shuttered windows and built-in dressers. Our lane was in a cul-de-sac, an orchard beyond.

Some very old stabling with thatched roof opposite the cottage afforded space below for flowers. Mother planted fifty hollyhocks, all various colours, yellow, deep red, pink and white, cream, single and double and they were a glorious sight. Neighbours were amazed that they survived in such a small amount of soil.

One day, to my great joy, I saw a lady, an artist who had come to paint them. She sat in a lane opposite ours where there was a "swing gate" (I think they called them) and a foot-path through a field leading on to the road which led to Wilton. The path is still there though houses have been built in the lovely old field where we used to sit and make daisy-chains.

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