

# Quidhampton Village Newsletter

April 2013

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## What's On in April

**Mon 1 Easter Monday Bank Holiday**

**Thurs 4 Children's Workshop:** clay tile making 10.30 White Horse Loft

**Thurs 4 White Horse pub quiz** (adults) 20.00

**Fri 5 Family Quiz,** The White Horse 18.30

**Sat 6 White Horse Music Night:** Grizzly and the Grasshoppers

**Mon 8 and every Monday : zumba** in The White Horse Loft 18.30 – 19.30 £4 Fun and energetic exercise

**Mon 8** Term 5 begins at Bemerton St John and Sarum Academy

**Tues 9 Women's Institute** Village Hall 19.30: Sue Bowser: Iona: the Dove and the Wild Goose. All welcome

**Wed 10 and every Wednesday Basic dance class** The White Horse Loft 18.00 – 19.00 £4 simple contemporary movements with gentle stretching and relaxation "a good class to unwind after a hard day's work"

**Sun 14** Children's Easter service in St Andrew's church 16.00

**Wed 17 Bemerton Film Society** St John's Primary School: Sarah's Key 19.30

**Sat 27 White Horse Music Night:** Jim Blair

## What's On in May

**Thur 2** White Horse **pub quiz** (adults)

**Fri 3** Teacher training day: Bemerton St John school. No children in school

**Mon 6: May Day Bank Holiday**

**The White Horse :** until further notice The White Horse Inn will be closed on Sunday evenings and Monday lunchtimes . Food is available at all times except Tuesday evenings.

**Bus pass lunches:** now on Wednesdays and Fridays: £5.50 one course, £ 7.50 two courses.

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## **Dance classes in the Loft:**

The popular and energetic **zumba** class continues on Mondays but for something that does not require quite so much stamina try Helen Kirby's **Basic Contemporary Dance Class** on Wednesdays. The Loft 18.00 – 19.00 Helen says: This class is suitable for participants with no dance experience. It combines basic contemporary dance movement with gentle stretching and relaxation. A good class to unwind after a hard day's work.

Helen is also beginning a **Creative Dance Class at Wilton Community Centre** 19.30 – 20.30 Wednesdays starting 10th April. This is suitable for students and adults of all levels who enjoy dance and drama. The class is

driven by a number of theatrical elements which are integrated, including contemporary dance, visual arts, rhythmic training, movement improvisation and physical theatre.

### **Special offer for Quidhampton residents:**

Helen would like some extra people at the first session in Wilton and is offering that class **FREE** to villagers. Just turn up.

Enquiries: 07592028479

**The newsletter for May** will be later than usual as the editor will be on holiday. All items should be sent to her email address or posted c/o Ken Taylor, Meadow Barn. Please ring Ken if you want to discuss anything: 742456

### Something else to do about potholes:

as well as using the Clarence number from the last newsletter you can report potholes and other problems such as fly tipping, street lighting and even dog fouling at [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com) It is a website set up by a registered charity called UK Citizens Online Democracy, and has been copied in other countries. You report the problem to the website and they inform the council. Remember: the more reports there are about an issue the more likely it is to be dealt with.

**Charity midnight walk:** Sara Strawson and Kris Romain are taking part in the midnight walk on 11 May in aid of cancer charities and would welcome sponsorship. There will be forms in The White Horse.

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**Rose Cottage Eggs** are available again.

Make contact via email [rosecottageeggs@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rosecottageeggs@hotmail.co.uk) and Josie or Connie will deliver locally produced fresh and delicious eggs to your door.

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**Red Nose Day** children's party: thanks to those who attended and those who bought cakes etc afterwards. Nearly £30 was sent to Comic Relief.

**Children's Easter workshops:** some lovely bunting has been made for the village and biscuits etc cooked for home consumption. It was good to see families from Bemerton too.

**Family quizzes:** watch out for more dates. Everyone who comes enjoys the quizzes but it would be good to have one or two more teams. Bemerton folk are very welcome.

**Late news: Friday 5 April 18.30 The White Horse: the children's film has been cancelled and the postponed Easter Family Quiz will be run instead.**

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**The Quidhampton Book Group** held a lunch time party for one of their members, Audrey Catford, who was 90 last month, and another member, Sandie Smith, made her one of her very special cards. Audrey received 80 other cards and it was reported that there wasn't a 90<sup>th</sup> card left any-



where in Salisbury.

***N.B.** Sandie no longer makes cards to order but a good selection of the m are for sale in the Edinburgh Woollen Shop in Wilton Shopping Village*

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### A collection of quizsetters?

You may have noticed familiar faces in a photograph in the Salisbury Journal in February. A group of Quidhampton villagers was pictured taking part in a quiz evening in aid of the Salisbury Hospice. The quiz was set by a nother Quidhampton villager, Richard Hilliard of Fisherman's Reach, and raised £4,500. On the very same evening four other Quidhampton villagers were racking their brains at a quiz in aid of Wessex Medical Research – and that quiz was set by Graham Heeley of Albion House..

When we include Howard Rowley who sets the White Horse pub quiz every month that makes three expert quiz setters in one small village, surely an unusual statistic. It's been suggested that we could run an event based loosely on The Eggheads called "The Quizsetters versus the Village". All it needs is someone to organise it.

## Wilton Community Land Trust success with developers in bid for Erskine Barracks site



### Wilton Community Land Trust

Wilton CLT was delighted to hear that the bid they helped submit for the former Erskine Barracks site was the one chosen. The CLT is working with Redrow, leading residential and mixed-use property developers, and OurEnterprise (Community Interest Company).

The land was transferred on 27 March. Ken Taylor, Quidhampton resident and chair of the interim board of the land trust, said: It's been a momentous team effort, and we are particularly grateful to John Glen MP who has given outstanding support throughout the process. This win gives the community the opportunity to influence development from the inside working collaboratively with developers. And all eyes are on us as no community land trust in the country has been involved in something like this on such a large scale: 13.5 hectares which will provide much needed housing and employment.

Interested members of the public are urged to sign up to the trust's mailing list to be kept informed directly (email to [info@wiltoncommunitylandtrust.org.uk](mailto:info@wiltoncommunitylandtrust.org.uk), or call Ken Taylor 742456 who will arrange it). As the next step, the Trust is inviting the public to a meeting at 11-1 on April 27<sup>th</sup> at the Michael Herbert Hall, Wilton. The meeting will precede at 10am by the Trust's AGM, for trust members to appoint their board going forward.

Workshops will be held from July in which the public will be invited to participate and help determine what happens on the site.

Wilton CLT's website is at [www.wiltoncommunitylandtrust.org.uk](http://www.wiltoncommunitylandtrust.org.uk)

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## Quidhampton Women's Institute

The March meeting went very well though it was poorly attended, being another of those icy, windy evenings when all you want to do is stay in by the fire. **Joyce Harvey writes:** The speaker, Jane White, was very easy, explaining how hats are made and fitted. There are no hatpins these days but foolproof combs for fasciators. Many of the hats are made from banana cloth dyed in fabulous colours and stretched into shape. We were shown samples of this and different types of felt. Supplies are bought in Luton where there is a row of terrace cottages which are like Aladdin's caves inside -- quite mind blowing. The feathers were most exotic and can be trimmed into different shapes. There was advice for our own hats - it was very obvious which era they had come from! Trying on some of the speaker's hats made us look a lot smarter.

**April meeting:** one of the WI's favourite speakers will talk about the scenery and history of Iona and the story of her pilgrimage there. Everyone welcome. Non-members contribution: £1

Six members had a nostalgic day out at a WI event in Warminster recently where they immersed themselves in the fifties -- décor, fashions and domestic drudgery. Several were reminded that they used to wear their cardigans back to front and everyone remembered sugared petticoats and bullet bras. If you ever see an event organised by The History Wardrobe do try to get to it. They were excellent.

*The History Wardrobe is creating an oral history of clothes. You will find a questionnaire at [www.historywardrobe.com](http://www.historywardrobe.com) where you can tell them about your fashion inspirations, your favourite shops, your best outfit and the most embarrassing one.*

## Local people: the editor talks to Chris Anderson of Fisherman's Reach

Everyone has a story to tell but Chris's is more unusual than most.

Fisherman's Reach was developed by Chris Anderson's company and he told me that he and his wife, Jane, liked it so much that they bought one of the houses themselves, settling in Quidhampton 'for the rest of our days'. But life held at least one more big adventure for Chris and last year he found himself in Belgium watching an official Plane Hunters group excavate the remains of the RAF Lancaster in which, in April 1944, his father, Douglas Beesley, navigator and bomber, was shot down and died.

That was the second time that the young Bomber Command Flight Sergeant had been shot down. The first time was on 27 January 1944, two days before Chris was born. His Lancaster ditched through lack of fuel having been hit by flak near Hanover while returning from a raid on Berlin. Chris believes the navigation equipment was not working properly after being

damaged by an earlier hit and the plane was well off course, coming down in the middle of the English Channel north west of Guernsey. Two of the crew of seven died but the others were rescued and thus Chris's father became a member of the Goldfish Club, open to all airmen whose lives had been saved by their inflatable jackets or dinghies. Gold stood for the value of life and the fish signified water.

The club was formed by an executive of PB Cow and Company, a major manufacturer of air-sea rescue equipment and remembered by the post war generation more for cowgum glue.

There was an embroidered Goldfish Club badge (see picture) but the airmen were not allowed to wear it where it could be seen so many sewed it under the flap of their left hand uniform pocket. The existence of the club was one of many signs of the

spirit and 'gung ho' attitude of Bomber Command and was part of the dedication and courage that saw them through.

After a spell in hospital with a back injury Douglas Beesley rejoined his crew. He had leave for Chris's christening and it doesn't seem too fanciful to imagine that as the young airman travelled back to join 61 Squadron at RAF Coningsbury he must have reflected that whatever happened to him he would leave something of himself behind in his son. It was said that a Bomber Command crew member had a worse chance of survival than an infantry officer in the First World War.



Gold fish club badge



Chris Anderson at his christening in 1944. Father Douglas Beesley on leave from Bomber Command

Douglas flew ten missions, more than the average, and died on the night of 10/11 April 1944 while returning from a bombing raid on Aachen in western Germany. Nine planes were lost and his was shot down at Kievermont, a village in northeastern Belgium near a small town called Geel. His wife was told only that he was missing in enemy territory; not until much later did she know for certain that he was dead. They had been married for just a year – Chris describes himself as a ‘honeymoon baby’ – and Douglas was twenty two.



Father's wargrave at Schoonselhof Cemetery, Antwerp

After the war the bodies of the crew of Lancaster JA 695 were moved from their first hasty burial place to the British section of Schoonselhof Cemetery, Antwerp. Although Chris has his father's identification tag (dogtag) the identification of three of the bodies was not properly established and although he has his own headstone, it is not certain in which of three graves Douglas Beesley is actually buried. Chris has visited the graves and wants to pay tribute to the British and Commonwealth War Graves Commission which maintains all war graves so immaculately and respectfully.

Chris's mother re-married after the war and Chris took his stepfather's name, Anderson. In those days children were often kept in ignorance of the past but Chris's mother and stepfather talked freely about his father and Douglas

Beesley's parents played an important part in the life of their grandson. In fact young Chris used to brag about it to his schoolfriends: "You've only got four grandparents – I've got six."

Chris says his stepfather was a true father to him but once he died Chris began to think more about his biological father. He knew that Douglas Beesley had been a civil engineer's draughtsman before he volunteered for the RAF, and he was quite an accomplished artist. Chris is proud to see this talent in his eldest grand daughter who got an art scholarship to Godolphin school.

In December 2010 Chris began to put together the information he'd got about his father so there would be a record of it for the family and he wondered whether he could find out more, especially about his last flying mission. Using the internet he discovered that there was a local newspaper published in Geel but when he contacted them he discovered that the paper had been closed down from March 1940 to November 1944. The local archivist could not help either but Chris was told about a group called the Plane Hunters and it was this group that led to his historic visit to Belgium in November 2012.

**The story will continue in the May newsletter**

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### Laptops for over 65s

If you are aged 65 or over and interested in having a laptop computer Age UK Salisbury District may be able to help you. Refurbished laptops that were once used by Wiltshire Council are available for £60, the cost of the refurbishment. Call Age UK on 01722 335425 to see if you are eligible. This is a pilot scheme and not running elsewhere in Wiltshire. Free computer support may also be available.

## Commemoration of the beginning of the First World War

The Parish Council was asked to consider whether it wanted to commemorate the beginning of the First World War next year as part of the bigger national commemoration that is being planned. Every councillor present at the March meeting felt that the most appropriate thing would be to tell the stories of villagers who were killed and villagers who fought in the war. Some work has been done on this while trying to find out the full names of the men commemorated on the village war memorial. Of the forty one names eleven have so far been proved to have a Quidhampton connection: Arthur Case, Richard and Stephen Crockett (brothers), Sidney Cousins, James Foster, Charlie Gasper, William Hayter, Robert Huggins, Charles Payne, William Stokes and

Albert Vincent.

The majority of the service records of the soldiers of the First World War were destroyed in a bombing raid during the Second World War so a lot of information is missing and there are at least fifteen names which remain anonymous – nothing has yet been found out about them.

If anyone is interested in helping with this research or has any memories or stories about Quidhampton men who fought in the war or helped in medical services or in any other way, please get in touch with Bea Tilbrook in the first instance.

*The lychgate of St John's church is the war memorial for Lower Bemerton and Quidhampton. The names are picked out in gold. The Bemerton Local History Society paid for the names to be re-gilded a few years ago.*

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### Church News. Simon Woodley writes:

From April evensong in St. Andrews changes to 18.00

**Sunday 14 April : Easter children's service** in St. Andrews - all welcome 16.00

**The Annual Church meeting** : 21 April, during St Michael's 10.30 Sunday service.

Reports and Accounts are available beforehand from the website or contact the clergy.

**Confirmation Classes** are happening in April, and if anyone is interested in getting confirmed or baptised, please contact the Rector. Details on the back page.

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### Bemerton Local History Society

The 2013 meetings have begun. On **Tuesday 23 April** Ruth Lamdin will talk about Growing Up in Bemerton

All meetings 19.00 Hedley Davis Court. No charge. Everyone welcome. Tea and biscuits provided

*NB the September meeting will be about research into village meeting rooms. If anyone has anything to contribute about the history of the Quidhampton meeting room please come along or let the editor know*



**Too small?** How quickly do your children outgrow their clothes and other stuff?

Charlotte Gale of Haviland Cottages, who now has two young children, has started a website called [www.weveoutgrownit.co.uk](http://www.weveoutgrownit.co.uk) where members can buy, sell and swap nearly new maternity, baby and kids items. It's a chance to turn unwanted stuff into cash – a really good idea.



## Quidhampton lends weight to Bemerton

On yet another freezing winter day in March a small group of people gathered round the altar of St Andrew's Church, Lower Bemerton. They were not there for prayer but to reveal a forgotten mosaic created by the local Arts and Crafts artist, Eleanor Warre.



Revealed mosaic by Eleanor Warre

Strength and skill were needed to move the heavy oak altar table and Quidhampton powerlifters Bill West and Martin Smith were recruited to do the job.

The black and white marble mosaic underneath was revealed to be a repeating pattern of vines and grapes.

Eleanor Warre was one of the four daughters of the Rev Francis Warre, rector of Bemerton 1890 – 1917. Her work, the subject of a Bemerton Local History Society talk, can also be seen in St John's church and St George's church, Harnham. Robert Salkeld of Harnham who was there when the altar was moved made another discovery: the base of a wooden cross behind the altar has an inset relief of Jesus and his mother, also by Warre.

*Both Bill and Martin said it was the first time they had been inside St Andrew's which is the small church at the junction of Lower Road and Church Lane. It is usually open during daylight hours and is an interesting place to visit, full of history.*

*More correctly known as a chapel it is one of three churches in the parish of Bemerton, the others being St Michael's, Bemerton Heath and St John's opposite the school. St Andrews dates from at least the early 1400's and is most well known for its association with George Herbert, the great religious poet, who was rector from 1630 – 1633 and who is believed to be buried under the floor of the chancel. The parish of Bemerton includes Quidhampton, of course.*



Altar movers Bill West and Martin Smith

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## Bemerton Film Society Wednesday 17

**April doors open 19.00**

### St John's school Lower Road

Sarah's Key, made in 2010, tells the story of a journalist, played by Kristen Scott Thomas, who is investigating the round up of Jews in Paris in 1942. She becomes fascinated by the

story of a ten year old girl who tries to save her brother by locking him in a cupboard. The film becomes an emotional detective story as the journalist tries to find out what happened to her and modern scenes alternate with scenes set in occupied France. You are advised to take a box of tissues.

## Police report from Jenny Moss PCSO:

There is good news and bad news. The bad news is the crime free time in Quidhampton has ended. On 13 Feb a house burglary took place between 08.30 and 14.00. Many items were stolen including electrical items and jewellery. Two males have been arrested in connection with this and enquiries are ongoing.

On 19 Feb petrol disc cutters worth approx £400.00 were stolen from a van. Sometime between 3 and 4 March an outbuilding was broken into where beer and a strimmer worth £300 - £400 were taken. The strimmer has now been recovered. On the night of 8 March a shed was broken into but nothing stolen.

Two HGVs reported driving through the village. Both companies have been informed and will hopefully take our words of advice on board.

Now for a little bit of good news. We have found the keys to the post box so please feel free to use it again to keep us informed.

## Assisted collection for your waste and recycling :

this is a service offered by the council to residents who find it difficult to put their waste and recycling out for collection. If it is difficult for you to do this because of age, illness or disability and if no one else in your household or a willing neighbour can move the bins or bags for you, you may qualify for the service. You can apply online or ring the Salisbury office on 434319.

### 100 Club winners: March

1st	C Herring	73
2nd	J and K Cater	166
3rd	J Weston	164

This month's newsletter is sponsored by the Parish Council

## Contributors & Contacts

Police non emergency number: 101

PC Pete Jung ext. 747442

PCSO Jenny Moss

[jenny.moss@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:jenny.moss@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)

St John's C of E Primary School:

322848

White Horse Inn: 742157

Quidhampton Mill B&B: 741171

Foots Hill B&B: 743587

Wiltshire Good Neighbours:

Claire Routh 07557 110413

Wilton and District Link Scheme: 741241

Parish Council clerk:

Clare Churchill 743027

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1 Tower Farm Cottages, Skew Rd.

Website: <http://>

[parishcouncil.quidhampton.org.uk/](http://parishcouncil.quidhampton.org.uk/)

Wiltshire Council 0300 456 0100

Area Councillor Richard Beattie

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[richard.beattie@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:Peter.Jung@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)

or leave a note in the black box.

WI: Valerie Fry 742082

Village Hall bookings:

Sabine Dawson 742843

Waste and recycling dates

**Monday 8 April :** household and garden waste; **Monday 15 April :** recycling black box and blue lidded bin; **Monday 22** household and garden waste; **Monday 29** recycling. **Monday May 6:** household and garden waste

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