

Quidhampton Village Newsletter

May 2014

What's On in May

Thurs 1 : meeting about the future of St John's 19.00 at the church

Thurs 1 : Year 12 parents evening Sarum Academy

Sat 3 – Sun 4 : Cycle Wiltshire, a major cycling weekend on our doorstep in Wilton

Mon 5 : Bank Holiday

Key Stage 3 tests all week: Sarum Academy

Thurs 8 : monthly village quiz Village Hall 20.00 for 20.15

***** note change of quiz date for this month*****

Mon 12 and every Monday: zumba in the village hall: 16.30 – 17.15

Mon 12 – Fri 16 : SATS week Year Six Bemerton St John

Mon 12 : public exams begin Sarum Academy

Weds 14 : Bemerton Film Society: War Horse doors open 19.00 St John's School

Thurs 15 : Bemerton Local History Society AGM and quiz Hedley Davis Court 19.00

Sat 17 and Sun 18 Green Doors weekend

Tues 20 : Class photos and Year Six leavers photos Bemerton St John

Thurs 22 : non-academy kit charity day Sarum Academy

Fri 23 : Bemerton St John school reports issued

Fri 23 : End of Term 5. Back to school Monday 2 June

Tues 27 Quidhampton Parish Council and Annual Parish meeting 19.00 Village Hall

Advance notice:

Lower Bemerton Open Gardens : Sunday 15 June

Wilton Carnival : 5 July

Monthly Village Quiz

More than thirty villagers got Easter off to a friendly (if noisy!) start on Maundy Thursday at the monthly quiz run by Howard Rowley. £48 was raised for a prostate cancer charity, chosen by the winning team. It is the charity Howard's group of cyclists has supported with a long distance cycle challenge every two years. The last two trips raised over £3000, and £9000 for the hospice in the years before that.

N. B. The May quiz will be on Thursday 8 May and then quizzes will be back to the first Thursday of the month.

Parish Council: annual meetings

Clare Churchill, parish clerk, writes:

The Annual Parish Meeting will be at 19.00 on Tuesday 27th May in the Village Hall. This is the meeting of the electorate and a chance for village groups to make a report and inform the village of their past year and future plans. It will be followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council which will not start before 19.30.

The Annual Parish Meeting is your chance to talk to councillors and have your say about village matters

100 Club winners for March The draw takes place at the village quiz at the beginning of the next month. April's winners will be drawn at the May quiz

1st prize : No 23 S Morris who wins £40

2nd prize : No 49 Mary Crowther who wins £30

3rd prize : No 108 Clare Stewart who wins £15

Saving St John's Church

Go along to the church on Thursday 1st May at 19.00 to see the plans, ask questions and show your support. And enjoy some cakes and cider to celebrate May Day.

The story so far

Five years ago, after the heating system broke down, the last regular service was held in St John's. The Bemerton Community group was formed to try to keep the church open for weddings, christenings and funerals and to convert it for community use as well.

Although it got off to a good start plans began to falter as they could not find organisations committed to hiring it regularly and the Diocese began to talk about closing the church in 2015.

What's happening now

St John's Primary school would like to use the building during school hours so there is a real chance of saving St John's Church for the community. It may be the last chance and it needs immediate support.

Please return the form on the back of the leaflet delivered last week if you want the church to remain open. Encourage other people to do it too. The bigger the number of supporters the more impressive a grant application will be. You do not have to fill in the section about making a donation.

Take your form to the meeting or deliver it to Bea Tilbrook, Meadow Barn, Fisherman's Reach (house opposite and to the right as you go in) or Lucy Bennett, 4 Sovereign Close (easternmost house facing the fields and Wilton Road).

Raising the money

Further grants etc depend on matched funding and for a good quality conversion with modern facilities the community needs to raise £100,000 over two years. You are asked to state on the form whether you would be prepared to make a donation, spread over two years. This will give the organisers an idea of the viability of the project. If it did not go ahead all money donated would be returned. There will, of course, be fundraising activities as well.



Village talk: Cuba

Joyce Harvey reports:

The Cuba talk was fascinating. We learned about the history and the way of life of the people. All the houses are state owned as well as the food that is produced from the land and sea but there is a little private ownership developing now. They have very good hospitals and the universities are the best in the

Caribbean. Cuba was the first country to help in the Haiti disaster recently. Several visitors joined the meeting including members from Harnham Evening WI.

'Cuba' was the last of the talks booked by Quidhampton WI. There will be a final party in the summer for members only to mark the 19 years of WI in the village.

Volunteer bakers needed

Would you secretly like to be a Great British Bake Off contestant? Then you may be interested in the charity Free Cakes For Kids

Becky Poole of Temperance Cottages says : I baked my first cake for them last month. Free Cakes for Kids is a national charity that makes birthday cakes for children from families that for various reasons (financial, illness etc) are unable to provide one themselves. Families can refer themselves but most come through referrals from Children Centres, Food Banks, schools, CAB etc.

Volunteers are needed to make and deliver cakes, to publicise the charity and to fundraise or donate to cover the costs of ingredients, cake boards and boxes.

So if you are interested in joining the team or can donate contact Ally on 07720 707022 or via the website freecakesforkidssalisbury.org.uk

Becky Poole (left) who baked this fabulous cake for a little girl who loves unicorns. Less elaborate creations are also welcome!



Joyce Knight was spotted once again planting her spare bulbs in the verge of Lower Road where it passes the wood on the way to Lower Bemerton. The verge is full of colour for several months of the year now with snowdrops, daffodils, tulips, hyacinths and bluebells. Thank you Joyce, it's such a pleasure to look at, you've made a real difference that many people appreciate.

The White Horse: latest news

Alex Howell, area manager, reports that the internal refurbishment has been completed including improvements to the accommodation upstairs. Business plans from two prospective tenants are being evaluated before a decision can be made.

So still no definite news, but some progress is being made.

Closure of mini-recycling site

The mini recycling site behind the White Horse will be closed from 5 May along with the 125 other mini-recycling sites in Wiltshire. Wiltshire Council says this is because of the success of kerbside recycling collections.

Reminder: Every household can have two black recycling boxes for paper, glass, cans, aerosols, foil and textiles. If you have more recycling than will fit into the black box put it into carrier bags and put them beside the box on collection day. The carrier bags must each contain only one type of recycling or they will not be collected.

Contact Wiltshire Council on 0300 456 0102 to order an extra box, or a blue lidded plastics and cardboard bin if you have not got one.

Households are also entitled to a free garden waste collection.

River Rescue : a story from Quidhampton's history

Recent flooding showed how much Quidhampton owes to the water meadows alongside our rivers, the Wylve and the Nadder. They have always been important for village life, and within living memory provided watercress beds, fishing and recreational activities. (any other information or stories always welcome)

In its earliest days (late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries) the parish council would negotiate each year with the Pembroke estate for use of part of the river for swimming. (often followed by complaints about the behaviour of the more lively boys) Swimming in the river remained a village tradition and was perhaps at its most popular in the years after the Second World War when a dramatic rescue took place.

The editor has talked to Graham Stokes of Coronation Square and his younger brother Basil (now called John) and has put together this account.

On Sunday 15 July 1951 Basil Stokes, aged nine, and Richard Sims, aged five, were playing by the river at a spot reached by going down Lock's Lane and through the meadow beyond it. There the water was about two metres deep and the bank steep and muddy. It was known as big 'uns end with a diving board for grown ups and strong swimmers. About thirty metres upstream the water was shallow and clear and that was the little 'uns end. Richard, however, was on the diving board. It was covered in chicken wire and slippery with fish scales: dace and gudgeon were caught there. No-one else was about when Richard slipped and fell in. Basil was unable to swim

and immediately raced through the meadows and up the lane for help. The only house in the lane was The Grange, occupied by Bert Lock, slightly deaf and absorbed in his workshop.

Richard hared across the road to his house, 7 Albion Cottages, standing where Albion bungalows are now.

"Being a Sunday afternoon, the village was deserted," said Basil. "In those days, men went to bed on a Sunday afternoon – my father included (after a bellyful of beer)"

Basil's nineteen year old sister, Doris, was washing up after their Sunday lunch. As soon as she heard his cry "Richard Sims has fallen in the river!" she pulled off her pinny and ran after him, followed by another sister, Margaret, aged fourteen.

There was no sign of Richard when they got there. Doris plunged straight into the filthy water, fully dressed, and felt for him near the bottom. She told a Salisbury Times reporter afterwards: "I can't swim very much and I can't swim under water but I somehow managed to find him much further down at the bottom of the river. He was only wearing shorts and I could not grasp hold of them so I caught hold of his hair and dragged him to the bank."

Margaret and Basil got the lifeless body of the five year old out of the river and Margaret, trained at Wilton Senior School to perform the now defunct Holger Nielsen method of artificial respiration, got to work once she'd checked for pulse and breathing. After what seemed like an eternity, Richard responded, coughing up copious amounts of river water from his lungs and stomach.



Margaret ran for her bicycle and cycled to a phone box to call Dr Greenstreet who arrived within minutes.

Other villagers came too, Doris was helped out of the river and Richard was carried to The Grange. He made a full recovery and was back at Bemerton School on the Tuesday.

Richard lived with his parents, Major and Mrs Sims, and younger sister Jennifer ('Fifi') at Sunny Lea, now Footshill House. Major Sims worked for the MOD and soon after the rescue was posted elsewhere.

Doris and Margaret were later awarded the Resuscitation Certificate of the Royal Humane Society at a presentation in the village hall. The photo of this occasion shows from left to right: Councillor Moody, (mayor of Wilton and chemist), The Chief Constable of Wiltshire, Doris Stokes, Sgt Clarke (Wilton police),

Margaret Stokes, and Mr Herbert Rogers (of the Rogers family who ran the whiting factory).

Also in the photo is young Basil Stokes whose parents felt he should have had an award too. After all his decision to go for help immediately - and the speed of his running – meant that help got there in time. If he had stayed and tried to get Richard out himself this may have been the story of two deaths, not a successful rescue.

Graham Stokes adds that the river was like a beach to the village and a very popular place. On summer Sunday afternoons there could be forty to fifty people there, children and adults, and many villagers learned to swim in the river. People didn't have cars then to take them to swimming pools or elsewhere for recreation so would spend the time in their own community.

**Bemerton Film Society : War Horse
Wednesday 14 May St John's school,
Lower Road**

Start 19.30, doors open 19.00.

Refreshments available.

Entrance £5

Some people will have seen an amazing stage production of War Horse with unforgettable and award winning puppet horses. Do try to forget them! The film uses real horses and the spectacular scenery of rural Europe, including England. Put this together with Michael

Morpurgo's story and you are guaranteed an exciting and emotional drama as the horse, Joey, and the young man, Albert, are forcibly parted during the First World War. The story is really Joey's and the way he changes the lives of the people he meets: British cavalry, German soldiers, a French farmer.

"As good as movies can get" was one review – but it is long. Take a cushion with you!

12 certificate. 140 minutes.

The George Herbert Festival

A four day festival is taking place from 10 - 13 July to celebrate the work of our parish's famous 17th century priest and poet. Local people sometimes don't realise quite how well known and respected George Herbert is: 'second only to Shakespeare' one commentator said.

The programme is now available online and from St Andrews church and Salisbury Playhouse where bookings can be made. Contributors include Dr Rowan

Williams (previously Archbishop of Canterbury) and Sir Andrew Motion (previously Poet Laureate). There are lectures, discussion groups, walks (one through Quidhampton) sessions on stained glass and handwriting, the chance to read poetry in Herbert's churches and even a session for people who don't know much about him. It is a phrase we often hear but there really does seem to be something for everyone in this programme.

Traffic on the Netherhampton Road

Lesa Drewett of Quidhampton Mill has expressed concern that traffic passing the Mill has not slowed down since the speed limit was changed to 40mph and she has asked for a metro count to test this. The latest notice under the Road Traffic Regulation act issued by Wiltshire Council, however, seems to mean that there will be a new limit of 50mph from just past Quidhampton Mill and round the sharp bend the road takes towards Netherhampton. This may make a difference to traffic entering and leaving the 40 mph zone.

Lesa also reports that they are delighted with their electric car - you won't have heard it but you may have seen it around

the village. She says:

The Renault Zoe is fantastic and our Discovery rarely gets used these days. All the school runs and shopping trips to Salisbury are done in the Zoe and it's surprising how many miles you do each day when you become more aware of it. We just charge it up most nights from our charger at home which was supplied and fitted for free. I think the Government grants (approx £5000) and free charging points only run until March 2015 so we may soon start to see more electric cars on the roads but at the moment we definitely feel in the minority. It is surprisingly nippy and drives as well as any petrol car (even up hills which most people are surprised at!).

**Coming to a home near you:
South Wiltshire Green Doors
17 and 18 May**

Showcasing 16 properties throughout south Wiltshire, this year's green open homes event offers anyone interested in green

technologies the ideal opportunity to pick up tips and information from the home owners who have actually been through the process of retrofitting and self-build.

It is also a great way to meet like-minded people. One of last year's volunteers says : " I was lucky enough to be asked to volunteer at a wonderful house near to where I live ... I would encourage anyone who has an interest in 'Green' issues to become involved. You will learn a lot and have a great time."

If you would like to join our team of volunteers, please contact Wilton Community Land Trust : email southwiltshiregreendoors@gmail.com or call 01722 744112.



First World War research project

Last month we asked whether anyone knew of the descendants of Herbert Case who fought in the First World War and whose brother Arthur died in 1917. We now have the correct details of Herbert's grandson and great grand daughters, all of whom stayed in Salisbury, and would be grateful for any information that would put us in touch with them.

Stephen Case, Herbert's grandson, died in 1998 aged 45. He had two daughters:

Sarah Jane Case born 1981 and **Emma**

Louise Case born 1983. They would both be in their thirties now. Stephen was divorced from his wife **Diane** and she married **Philip Hopkins** in 1997.

If you can help us trace these people please contact the editor – details on back page. It has been suggested that Herbert Case's son or grandson had the nickname Justin.

(say it – Justin Case.....)

Vicar falls from heaven!

Rev Simon Woodley will be doing a sponsored sky dive on 4 June to raise funds for the parish. Cheques payable to Bemerton PCC gratefully accepted at St Michael's Rectory, St Michael's Road, Salisbury SP2 9LE or you can text a donation to justgiving: text HHQR02 £amount to 70070. A justgiving page costs £15 a month but texts are free.

Simon says that prayers for a safe landing would also be appreciated! The photo shows him at a sponsored swim last year.



Wilton Historical Society:

The Mary Rose a talk by Bill Moore, one of the divers who worked on the famous Tudor ship even before it was raised from the seabed.

Wilton Community Centre, evening Monday 19 May

Links with Lower Bemerton

The Bemerton History Society produces a monthly newsletter called 'What's On' and they recently celebrated their 100th edition. They have a large email list and since February they have been sending out the Quidhampton Village Newsletter as well. If anyone in Quidhampton would like to receive Bemerton's What's On by email please let the Quidhampton newsletter editor know.

Village newspaper delivery

Our excellent newspaper delivery can now include magazines. Contact Carl Romano on 01722 414700 or cromano@live.co.uk

Another sponsored cycle ride

Readers may remember the article about Zoe Peters in the newsletter last year: she planned to Ride Vietnam, 300 miles of cycling round Vietnam in aid of Help for Heroes. She met all her fund raising targets and successfully completed the ride in April, in fact is travelling back as this is being written. Her mum, Jackie Peters, says Zoe had an 'awesome time'. There are reports on facebook and there will be a report in the next newsletter.

Thank you

Thanks are due to three members of the Parish Council who made a great start in clearing the wild patch on the recreation ground on a wet Sunday morning. So, thank you to Charles Frank, Howard Rowley and Ken Taylor, and they noticed that the hedge has been well pruned and looks much tidier.

Contributors & Contacts

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Wiltshire Good Neighbours:
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Wiltshire Council 0300 456 0100

Area Councillor, Peter Edge

01722 742667 peter@pedge.net

Rector of Bemerton

Rev Simon Woodley 333750

Parish Office 328031

Problems with HGVs: contact PC Jung
or leave a note in the black box.

WI: Valerie Fry 742082

Village Hall bookings:

Sabine Dawson 742843

Waste and recycling dates

Monday 5 May household and garden waste; Monday 12 recycling; Monday 17 household and garden waste; Monday 24 recycling; Monday 31 household and garden waste

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This month's newsletter has been paid for by two residents of Nadder Lane and two of Wylye Close.