

Quidhampton Village Newsletter

May 2015

What's On in May 2015 *Quidhampton events in bold*

Monday 4: Bank Holiday: schools closed

Thursday 7: Monthly Charity Quiz: 20.00. £25 voucher prize

Saturday 9: VE Day 70th anniversary tea party for over 70s The White Horse
14.30 – 16.00

Saturday 9: VE Day 70th anniversary Dinner Dance – see page 3

Sunday 10: Celebration service for Clarrie Price and blessing of headstone 12.30 at St John's and then village hall – see page 2

Sunday 10 May: the Cycle Wiltshire Grand Prix, an Elite Cycle Road Race on circuits of a route from Wilton, 10.00-16.00

Monday 11 – Friday 15 SATS exam week Year 6

Wednesday 13: Bemerton Film Society : Tell No One 19.30, details on page 8

Saturday 16 May: Back to Netball Free event at Sarum Academy 14.30 – 16.00. Encouragement to get fit – you know it makes sense. No special kit needed, just comfortable clothes and trainers.

Saturday 16 May: Quiz Evening with Sausage and Mash and cake St Michael's Community centre. Teams can be made up on the night. Entry £5 per person. 18.00 start.

Thursday 21: Bemerton Local History Society Hedley Davis Court 19.00

Friday 22: end of term 5 all local schools. Return to school 1 June

Tuesday 26: The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council 19.30 Village Hall, preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 19.00. This is a chance to talk to councillors and to have your say about village matters. It usually lasts no longer than half an hour

Saturday 30: RDA summer fete Wilton 12.00 – 16.00, entry £2.50, children free. Pony rides, craft tent, dog displays, archery, African drums and more.

Future dates: 4 July is the fete at St John's Primary School, Bemerton. There will be a USA theme including a bucking bronco, and a Junior Bemerton Bake-off.

It is with great sadness that we report the news of the death of Peg Thornton of Coronation Square who passed away on 12 April, aged 89. Peg was much loved in the village and countless thoughts and prayers have been winging their way to her family, especially Ted, her husband of 64 years, and Sarah and Amber, her daughter and grand daughter, who live here too. The crematorium was packed for her funeral: standing room only and not much of that. What a tribute.

There will be an appreciation of Peg and the story of her life in a future newsletter.

March 100 Club winners

1st	61	Ken Taylor
2nd	140	G Evans
3rd	40	Peter Edge

April 100 Club winners

1st	59	Joy Wagstaff
2nd	22	Brian Bass
3rd	75	Howard Rowley

100 Club numbers are drawn on the last Friday in the month in The White Horse at lunchtime. If you want to join the 100 Club contact Viv Bass 742483

Monthly charity quiz in The White Horse

Howard Rowley, quizmaster writes:

Different charities continue to benefit as the winning team choose who will receive the evening's profits. In March it was Radio Odstock.

The quiz is now slightly shorter so there can be an earlier finish.

The prizes, generously donated by the pub, are a bottle of wine for the team with the most points and a £25 meal voucher for the team with the highest average score per person. That means the total score is divided by the number of team members to give an average score. It allows almost any sized team to win, but a team of 2 or 3 has the best chance.

Walk for Wards the sponsored walk in aid of the Breast Cancer Unit.

Jane Taylor, who moved to 4 Alexandra Cottages last year, is taking part in this and would love some more sponsorship. Perhaps you know someone who has had breast cancer and can support her. *She writes:*

I plan to take part in the 10K sponsored walk as I have had breast cancer twice and am currently receiving follow-up care from Salisbury District Hospital. The walk takes place on 21 June and if anyone would like to sponsor me please phone me on 744534. Many thanks.

Praise for the Parish Council

A villager wrote to the newsletter in praise of the lovely bluebell patch in the playground where the rough area was cleared by parish councillors. There are cheery yellow tulips there too. Thank you, parish councillors.

Clarrie Price memorial event: Sunday 10 May

Everything is in place to commemorate the long life of Clarrie Price, who died aged 105 in 1996, and to remember her three sisters who died in the early 1900s.

Two of them tragically drowned in the Nadder one June day while collecting wood for the fire after a windy night. All lie in unmarked graves at St John's.

12.30 short service at St John's and blessing of the headstone followed by buffet and display in the Village Hall.

Everyone with an interest in community and local history is welcome but please let Bea Tilbrook know you are coming. (details on the back page)

Clarrie lived in Quidhampton for the first 25 years of her life and did not travel outside England but relatives and friends from three continents have contributed to the commemoration.

Relief Comes to Quidhampton! John Cater, Village Hall Committee, writes:

Villagers will be relieved to know that we now have two loos in the Village Hall which do not make their users shudder! Indeed, the refurbished loos are positively welcoming. The thanks for paying for this notable convenience must go to grants from Wiltshire Council and the Parish Council, but most particularly to Alan Dutfield, builder of this Parish, who carried out the work at cost (i.e. double mate's-rates). Well done, Alan; you are only thanked now but you will be rewarded in the hereafter; and possibly in the pub!

Editor's comment: In the interest of decorum this welcome news is not illustrated with a photograph but they are worth seeing!



TICKETS NOW ON SALE FOR THE

VE DAY DINNER & DANCE

AT THE WHITE HORSE

SATURDAY 9TH MAY

7:00PM

**LIVE MUSIC FROM THE FABULOUS
“GERSHWIN GANG”**

HOG ROAST SUPPER

**OPTIONAL 40'S THEME FANCY DRESS
PRIZE FOR BEST MALE / BEST FEMALE**

TICKETS £20.00



Experiences in Kabul

Hugh Baker of Blenheim House has kindly written a two part article for the newsletter about his experiences in Kabul. For the last fourteen years Kabul has been mentioned regularly on the news but how many of us understand what life is like there? Hugh gives us a first hand account of what it's like for ISAF – the NATO International Security Assistance Force.

Last year I spent 12 months in Kabul, capital city of Afghanistan, with ISAF. I was commanding a team of 360 personnel from 15 nations. We were there to train, advise and assist the Afghan National Army (ANA) to build their institutional training capability so they can train their own army on a sustainable basis.

For most of my tour I was based in central Kabul in a US operating base just outside the Green Zone which houses the government and diplomatic missions. I spent a lot of time moving around the city in land vehicles and by helicopter so I became quite familiar with it. Kabul is an ancient city over 3000 years old, dramatically set on a plateau surrounded by snow-capped mountains. As the city has expanded over the years buildings have climbed the slopes of the lower hills in a cascade of houses and alleys.

Most of the buildings in Kabul are single-storey and flat-roofed, but there are some higher rise buildings in the city centre, including a complex of flats built during the Soviet era in true Soviet-style and known as District 9. There is an encouraging amount of new building going on in the city.

The smaller hills are often topped with security posts, including old forts from the British occupation in the 19th century, and elegant palaces and residences with carefully laid-out ornamental gardens, often only visible when you fly over them. As you might expect from a society and economy based for so long on farming in a challenging environment, the Afghan people have the capacity to grow almost anything if they have access to water. In spite of the dust that covers everything for most of the year, there are always brightly-coloured displays of fruit and vegetables on wooden barrows by the roadside or in the markets. Less appealing is the meat hung outside the butchers' shops, exposed to the extra flavouring of vehicle exhaust, road spray and the weather. Having said that, I frequently had the privilege of eating meals with my ANA colleagues, and Afghan food is very tasty. The sight of herds of goats clearing rotting rubbish that had accumulated on the pavements, however, did slightly dampen my enthusiasm for goat meat.

Hardware shopkeepers create elaborate displays of their wares outside their shops every day: coils of rope and cord hang from shop fronts, and cooking pots and metal bowls of every conceivable size are stacked in pyramids. Even humble bricks are stacked in eye-catching piles, like "Jenga" blocks. Much of the city's heating and



With 3 officers from my Training and Advisory Group, including a French Special Forces officer (left) and mountains surrounding Kabul in the background.

cooking is done with gas or fossil fuel, so there are yards selling stacks of firewood ready to be weighed for sale using enormous cantilevered scales.

My favourite shops are the bakeries, which display flatbreads with elaborate patterns hanging by their corners in the shop windows. Customers don't go into the shop, but make purchases through a small open window at the front, behind which the cross-legged baker sits and hands out the goods.



My base in central Kabul, Spring 2014.

In spite of security requirements and the occasional terrorist attack, there is a rhythm of life to Kabul, and everyday business carries on as much as possible. The chaotic traffic ("one million cars and one set of traffic lights") is an eclectic mixture of cars, buses, lorries, armoured security vehicles, handcarts, bicycles, donkeys and carts, and even the occasional horseback rider. They converge on chokepoints, particularly roundabouts where traffic comes at you from every conceivable direction. But somehow it works: eventually, through a combination of patience, traffic police, and weary acceptance, everyone gets where they need to go, even in the rush hour.

As a member of the International Security Assistance Force a real lift and the most positive sight for me was seeing children going to school: the girls, on foot and smart in black raincoats, black trousers and sparkling white hijab headdresses, look like a flock of birds as small groups grow into a concentration at the school entrance; the boys,

less tidy but no less clean in their long blue trousers and light blue shirts, larking around, occasionally waving at security vehicles. Large scale cricket or football games spring up wherever there is space once school has ended, at least for those without chores or homework. Sometimes in the humdrum rhythm of a city going about its daily business, there are incongruities: vendors carrying a bunch of brightly coloured balloons or selling paddling pools by the sides of the road, and Las Vegas-style wedding-halls with vivid light displays for the Afghan weddings



Balloons were banned under the Taliban

that involve hundreds of guests from tribal and village groups, as well as family and work colleagues.

In my next article I will talk about the progress of the Afghan National Security Forces that has enabled the Afghan people to enjoy some of these more relaxed opportunities, and what home means when you are deployed on operations so far away.

LGVs in the village

Our hard working P C Pete Jung, who writes letters to the owners of all the LGVs we report seeing in the village**, has long believed that one of the reasons we get these large vehicles driving down our narrow road is inadequate signage.

Drivers who come out of side roads into Churchfields ready to drive away from Salisbury often do not see the signs that instruct them to turn right, not left.

Well, no longer! Pete submitted a request to the Salisbury Area Board for £1500 to provide better signage. It was agreed and passed on to the Community Area Transport Group who approved it. Pete recommended that police and Highways personnel visit the site together.

The signage he asked for is:

Existing signage possibly illuminated to attract attention of LGV drivers.

Consideration of painted signage on the

road. Areas to consider would be along Brunel Rd, Stephenson Rd and Farm Lane to give as much notice as possible that all LGV's must turn right onto Churchfields Rd.

Perhaps also painted indication on the mini roundabout at the junction of Brunel Rd and Churchfields Rd.

What a sensible approach. Thank you, Pete. Like all the best ideas you think: "Why did no-one think of that before?"

**What do you mean you don't bother?! Drivers need to have the offence pointed out and the statistics are vital. In his request Pete was able to refer to the hundreds of letters he has written over the last eight years. And a second offence can mean court action. So next time you see an LGV don't just moan: make a note of the number and let Pete know (details on back page).

St John's Place: the latest from Simon Woodley, rector of Bemerton and chair of Bemerton Community Ltd

When I told the bishop we needed £100,000 he said, "Is that all?!" Meaning, I think - we've come this far and is that all that is between us and our dream? It's not so big.

Especially when you realise how much support is out there. Since our publicity in the Journal, Valley News, Spire FM, and BBC Radio Wilts (going out Sunday 3 May 07:15 and 08:15) lots of people have come forward to offer help, including personal donations from all over, including Hereford, and 2 anonymous donations for £10,000.

Peartree Serviced Apartments in Mill Road have made a charitable donation to us.

Our twelve collection boxes are out in shops and places in Salisbury and Wilton

Someone suggested we contact wedding couples (which we're hoping to do this week)

The Romano's are offering to donate the first month's delivery charges for anyone who starts having their newspapers and magazines delivered (excellent service – ring them on 414700: editor)

And the After School Club is making its applications to Ofsted and others in readiness for opening in the Autumn. Because we didn't have enough money to start building work in April, our timetable has slipped a little, but we do need to make a final decision by the end of May.

If you pledged money to be donated when building work began could you consider pledging a little more?

Contact Simon if you can help in any way or make a new pledge: 333750 or revwoodley@me.com



Richard Augustine Crockett 1891 – 1915
Rifleman 2nd Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps

Richard Crockett died of wounds at the base hospital at Boulogne, on 22 May 1915, age 24 and was buried in the Commonwealth section of Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, the first of our servicemen on active service to have a named grave.

Richard was the younger brother of Stephen Crockett, killed in October 1914; their family history was described in the October newsletter.

Richard was born in Quidhampton, the youngest of a family of seven children. His father, Thomas was a shoemaker and housepainter. He attended Bemerton school and was a member of the Church Lads Brigade, in 1904 becoming band corporal. That year they had a summer camp in Quidhampton with a Brigade from St Michael's, Portsmouth.

In 1911 Richard was a labourer at the whiting factory, still living at home in Temperance Cottages with his parents and Stephen. He enlisted almost as soon as the war began, on 4 September 1914, the weekend when more men signed up than any other. He chose the King's Royal Rifle Corps and went to Winchester for training.



This information is from his service records which survived though damaged by fire. (see photo) They tell us he was 5 feet 9.5 inches tall, weighed 130 pounds, had a fresh complexion, blue eyes and light brown hair. His chest was nearly 36 inches fully expanded. His sight was perfect but his teeth 'defective.' He had been vaccinated as a child and his physical condition was 'good.'

He was posted to France on 23 February 1915, four months after the death of his brother in Flanders.

Richard Crockett's casualty form shows he was wounded on 9 May and admitted to hospital at Boulogne on the eleventh, where he died eleven days later. His battalion took part in the Battle of Aubers Ridge

on 9 May, part of a vigorous offensive to break through German lines as it was believed the Germans had taken troops away to fight in the east. At Aubers, however, the German defences had been strengthened, the attack was unsuccessful and 246 men of Richard's battalion were killed or died of wounds. Aubers is about ten kilometres away from where his brother had been killed seven months earlier.

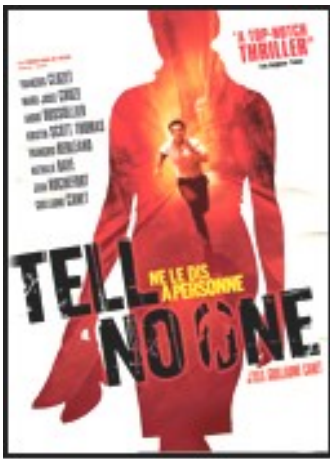
Bessie, Richard's mother, chose the words for his grave: "In memory of our beloved son at rest in the lord, his duty nobly done". No doubt she wished she could have chosen words for Stephen too but his body was never found.

The rest of Richard's service record deals with his effects and delivery and receipt of his medals, two scrolls and a plaque. The first form, a detailed account of his relatives, was filled in and witnessed by the Rector, M Alderson, and dated April 1919. He also signed it for Thomas who was unable to write but receipts signed in 1921 show a faltering signature, suggesting Thomas learned to sign his name.

There were many people with the name of Crockett in the area, and Richard and Stephen had five surviving siblings, but we have been unable to trace any family with photographs or personal information of either brother.

Richard will be remembered at the morning service in St Andrews on 24 May.





**Bemerton
Film
Society**

**Wednesday
13 May**

**St John's
school**

**Tell No One : 2006 – subtitles
15 certificate
Doors open 19.00 Film begins 19.30
Entrance £5**

Tell No One is a terrific thriller. A wife goes missing in mysterious circumstances after a row with her husband. Eight years later two bodies are discovered and evidence which incriminates the husband, who flees, pursued by the police. Meanwhile he has been receives emails that seemingly could have come only from his wife. Immaculately plotted, brilliantly acted, this is what a thriller should be.

Two changes to recycling provisions in June

- Watch out for revised opening hours at the recycling centre from 8 June. Details in the next newsletter.

- No garden waste collection advertised on the Wiltshire Council website from 15 June. Leaflets were received by mail asking for £40 p.a. payment

Contributors & Contacts

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PC Pete Jung and Wilton Police Station: 01722 438981
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St John's Primary School: 322848
The White Horse : 744448
Quidhampton Mill : 741171
Footshill B&B: 743587
Wiltshire Good Neighbours:
Val O'Keefe 07557 922034
Wilton and District Link Scheme :01722 741241
Parish Council clerk:

Clare Churchill 743027
quidhamptonpc@btinternet.com
1 Tower Farm Cottages, Skew Rd.
Website:

parishcouncil.quidhampton.org.uk/
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.

Village Hall bookings: Sabine Dawson 742843 (not Sundays)

Community Emergency Volunteer: John Cater 744079

Floodwarden:

Ken Taylor 742456

Waste and recycling dates

4 May: Household & garden waste

11 May: Recycling

18 May: Household & garden waste

25 May: Recycling

1 June: Household & final free garden waste collection

8 June: Recycling

15 June: Household waste

This newsletter has been paid for by the Parish Council

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