

Quidhampton Village Newsletter

February 2016

What's on in February Quidhampton events in bold

*****Tuesday 2 – Friday 5 February: The White Horse pub is closed*****

Wednesday 3: staff professional day Sarum Academy school closed to students

Wednesday 10: non uniform charity day Sarum Academy

Wednesday 10: Ash Wednesday Communion Service St Andrew's 19.30

Thursday 11: **monthly quiz at The White Horse 20.00 start**

Monday 15 – Friday 19: February break Sarum Academy and Bemerton St John.

Gas pipe work planned for Lower Road by St John's Place.

Monday 22: School Term four begins

Gas pipe work planned to begin at the bottom of Footshill.

Tuesday 23: Bemerton Film Society: Terri Coates and her further work in TV

Tuesday 23: Lent group begins—see page 7

Wednesday 24: Sovereign Set lunch at The White Horse Book with Joyce Harvey on 742309 by 10 February

Sunday 28: George Herbert Day evensong St Andrews 16.00

It is with great regret that we report the death of **Richard Gill** of Coronation Square who passed away at home on 15 January, aged 67.

His funeral is at Salisbury Crematorium on Friday 5 February at 11.30 and afterwards at Salisbury and South Wilts Sports Club. Family flowers only, please.

Donations to Wilton Community Nurses or Salisbury Dogs Trust
c/o Chris White, Funeral Directors, Wilton.

Richard leaves a gap in the community that will be very hard to fill.

Our thoughts are with Bridget and their family.

The Parish Council urges all villagers to respond to Wiltshire Council's public transport consultation – see page 3

Upgrading the gas supply pipes in Lower Road: when to expect disruption to traffic

All homes in Quidhampton will soon receive a leaflet from SGN (Southern Gas Networks) about the work involved in replacing old metal gas mains with new plastic pipe. It is in three stages:

1. work near St John's Place - half term 15 – 19 February
2. from the junction of Footshill and Lower Road back to St John's
- approximately three weeks from 22 February.
3. Footshill to Netherhampton Road - approximately ten weeks from mid March

At all stages there will be temporary two way traffic lights with manual control at peak times if required. It may be necessary to suspend parking round the work temporarily when pipes from individual properties are connected to the gas main.

The leaflet has contact details for enquiries.

Quidhampton Parish Council (QPC)

Meeting: 12 January 2016

All councillors and six members of the public attended. Items discussed included:

Village Hall

John Cater presented a report on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee. He reminded the meeting that the hall had run at a loss for the last few years, the loss being £700 in the last year.

New health and safety checks have revealed several problems. Some were short term and have been fixed (e.g. new illuminated fire-exit signs, fire extinguishers and smoke alarms) but others are more serious. The internal diameter of the gas pipes is too narrow so the appliances are working at too low a pressure and are not safe. Replacing the piping and servicing the appliances would cost about £1000.

An electrical check due in March is likely to mean more expense, perhaps new cabling.

Further expense: New water heaters are needed in the kitchen and cloakrooms. Ideally the old gas heaters should be replaced, perhaps with electric heaters, as running costs are very high. Updated insurance cover will be an extra £150 a year and annual safety testing costs are £200.

Long term future The hall is rented from the diocese for £5 a year and the current lease runs out in March 2019. If it is renewed other repairs will have to be considered, notably the roof which will need major work.

The survey of village opinion had not been done because the issues described above were absorbing all the time available.

Discussion of Village Hall report

Although the management of the Village Hall is not a Parish Council matter the Council agreed they should support it and had done so in September by granting £350 a year for two years towards annual losses, if any. It was now clear that further action was necessary, and it was agreed to give £600 towards the immediate safety related costs.

A proposal to pay for the cost of the future health and safety checks was left for another meeting.

Grants can still be obtained from the Area Board, generally with matched funding.

Other items

Sycamore Tree in the recreation ground

QPC had hoped to keep this tree with some remedial work but sadly that has proved impossible. It is now unsafe and has to be removed. The Council will appoint someone to cut it down and would like the wood from it to be stacked in the recreation ground for villagers to remove for their own use. Planting another tree to replace it will be on the agenda of the next meeting.

Editor's comment: it is always sad when a previously magnificent tree has to be felled but the split in the trunk is now obvious to any passer-by. It would be even more dangerous later in the year with the weight of the summer canopy.

Proposed changes to Bemerton St

John's School Admissions The Parish Council agreed to support the proposed changes which would create a smaller designated area within the church parish of Lower Bemerton and Quidhampton. Families in this smaller area would have some priority when the school is oversubscribed. Details are on the school website. A written response would be sent by the closing date of 29 January.

Cycle Race from Salisbury It was agreed to make a request for the race to pass through Quidhampton in a future year.

Precept The Council decided to request a precept of £8755 which should mean a band D charge of about £58.23, some £15 more than the current year. The increase is largely to fund QPC's contribution of £1750 to the cost of the 20mph scheme.

Items left for agenda of next meeting:

Quidhampton bake-off event, traffic on Footshill, First Aid training.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 22

March. Agenda items should be sent to the clerk by Thursday 10 March.

Village Hall further news: at a village hall committee meeting after the Parish Council meeting the decision was taken to have electrical appliances in the hall and a grant application for £1600 was submitted to South West Wiltshire Area Board. The Board meets on 3 February and there is every hope of a positive outcome. The £1000 profit from the fireworks event has been transferred to the village hall from the Village Entertainments Fund to help provide the matched funding.

IMPORTANT : Bus service consultation

Wiltshire Council can no longer maintain the current level of subsidy to bus services, in fact, they can only manage half of it. The public is being consulted about the best (or least harmful) way to reduce the subsidised bus routes so better decisions can be made.

The following Quidhampton buses are subsidised:

All buses before 09.00

Buses after 19.00 on a weekday

Saturday buses after 13.00

Sunday buses after 17.00

and the weekdays R8 at 17.10 from Salisbury returning at 17.46 (Quidhampton)



Consultation is by questionnaire. Paper copies are available at libraries and council offices (Bourne Hill) and at The White Horse as well as online : search for 'wiltshire bus review.' You may even be handed one on the bus.

The questions ask about different kinds of subsidised services and how you value them. There is also space at the end to put in anything else you want to say.

The survey will be used to help plan bus services in the future, not just deal with the immediate budget reductions.

The newsletter has been told by Phil Grocock, Wiltshire Council Bus Network Manager, that responses from Quidhampton are particularly important because, as well as the R8 and R3, we have an unusually diverse bus service with extra services at peak times from other routes (e.g. PR3, 26 from Tisbury and 27 Shaftesbury).

Any further comments section: it might be thought that Quidhampton residents can catch buses on the A36 Wilton Road. This section could be used to give your opinion of that.

The consultation runs until 4 April. The newsletter understands that once the responses have been analysed Wiltshire Council will determine which subsidies to withdraw, then bus companies will decide how to reschedule the services.

Village People

Quidhampton Chair for Bemerton St John School's Governing Body



Many villagers will know Jonathan Young as one of the main organisers of the annual firework event but now he has achieved another important position for the village: in September he was elected chair of Bemerton St John's governors.

(This could be a first – please contact the editor if you know whether a Quidhampton resident has held this position before).

Jonathan, a surveyor and valuer who works in property and land management, lives in Hampton Court with his wife Marie (a former newsletter editor) and their two children: Archie, now at Bishop Wordsworth's school, and Daisy who is still at St John's.

Jonathan told the newsletter that he first became a governor in July 2009 when the school was going through some troubled times, difficult to imagine today. The governing body had resigned en masse, the school was in special measures and

pupil numbers were falling as parents took their children to other schools. The Local Authority stepped in to 'steady the ship' and one of their inspectors, Estelle Smith, agreed to take on the headship until she retired.

Jonathan believes strongly in the value of local schools and said, "There is no point in shouting from the sidelines; you should roll your sleeves up and get stuck in." The governors certainly had to 'get stuck in' but the position of the school today shows how hard and successfully everyone worked.

Of course, Jonathan stresses, most of this is down to the headteacher. He thinks his greatest achievement as a governor was helping to appoint Alun Richards as headteacher in 2011. He has watched Alun create the happy and successful school it is today and believes this is because he has empowered the staff. He particularly admires the way progress is now charted continuously which makes everyone feel responsible to the team. When asked about priorities, Jonathan said "A perpetual focus on ensuring lessons are challenging and stimulating for all pupils, including the most able, with additional support for others. And while there are many supportive parents there are some who are hard to reach, perhaps because of work commitments or anxiety about the school environment. We know 80% of a child's learning occurs outside school, so St John's staff have enrolled on a Bath University parental engagement programme to help improve relationships with those parents."

Could you be a governor? There are vacancies on the governing body now and Jonathan says you don't need an educational background nor do you have to have a child at the school to be a successful governor. He urges anyone interested to contact the clerk to the governing body at the school.

Rachael Newman of Greenway Barn recently graduated as a midwife from Bournemouth University. Not only that, she succeeded in getting a job locally and is working at Salisbury District Hospital. Congratulations, Rachael! The community needs more people like you.

Her mum, Lily, says : We had a wonderful congratulations supper at The White Horse so many thanks to Nick and Zoe.

A big thank you from **Olivia Churchill** for all the kind contributions towards her target of £700, the cost of making two wigs for children who lose hair through medical treatment. Her hair will be cut soon and the final sum raised will be in the next newsletter.



Correction to last issue Henry Emmett, Quidhampton's young hockey star, lives at Bell House, not Wylde House.

Traffic through the village Do you still note down numbers of LGVs passing illegally though the village and give them to PC Pete Jung? It really is worth it. Here is part of a letter he got from one such offender, Knights Of Old, from Northants:

Dear PC Jung

Thank you for your communication, regarding our vehicle violating the 7.5t weight limit in Quidhampton on the 26th November. Please accept our apologies for this violation. We were aware it had taken place, as we have geo fences on our tracking system that send an email to me and one of the directors, as soon as a vehicle has entered a geo fence.

When I got the email, I contacted the driver to inform him he was breaking the law. This was the first time the driver had been to this delivery point on Churchfields. He said he had to turn left coming out of Churchfields, due to a situation stopping him from turning right, away from Quidhampton, and he wasn't aware he had driven straight into the weight limit until he was in it. As you have stated in your route guide, he couldn't find anywhere to stop and turn round.

I have emailed a copy of your route guide to our customer, where our vehicles load, and they will be putting a copy of it with every delivery they have going to Churchfields. We will also put copies of the route guide on the drivers' notice board.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if any further issues arise.

Where are we all? How many times have you been stopped by people trying to make deliveries in the village? You can in future refer them to the parish notice board by the postbox where there will be a list of all the properties in Quidhampton, in order. No names of people, just the numbers or house names.

What a great idea! Many thanks to John Cater who compiled this list in his role as Parish Emergency Coordinator.

From the Horse's Mouth

Our New Year's Eve party was a sell out with lots of new faces joining us as well as those who came last year. One resident said it was the best New Year's Eve he'd ever had in all his 67 years!

Later in January we celebrated Burns night, always good fun, and another sell out event. Haggis, neeps and tatties were washed down with a wee dram, there were kilts a-plenty and some dancing too. Thank you to everyone who supported the evening. It's been quite a month for staff birthdays with Olivia, Mikala and Steve celebrating theirs. And we extend a warm welcome to Charlie, our newest member of staff. Hopefully you will get to meet her when you are next in.

As mentioned previously the pub will be **closed from the 2nd to 5 February** for a little bit of maintenance work. We will **re-open at 12 noon Saturday, 6 February** just in time for the 6 Nations rugby kickoff!

We are offering a Valentines menu on the evening of Saturday, 13 February, booking required.

Quiz Night moves to Thursday 9 February, and is back to the normal first Thursday from March.

Don't forget: **Mothering Sunday** is 6 March and we are offering a two or three course Sunday lunch menu with two sittings. This was very popular last year, so please book early if you would like to join us on this day.

Always check our website for more details e.g. which 6 Nations matches will be shown and news of other events such as St Patrick's Day, Easter and more.

Zoe Hoare



Where else would you get this

service? *A regular weekday lunch customer was ill last week and on the first day she was unwell barmaid Kim took her lunch to her home.*

An amused Michael Morrison looks on as Zoe and Brian Overton try on tam o'shanter with ginger hair before Burns Night.

Advance notice: The Circus is coming to Bemerton again

The Big Top is going up on Bemerton Recreation Ground on 27 May for a performance similar to the one that was so well received a couple of years ago. Both young and old enjoyed it so put the date in your diary for an evening of real family entertainment.

Bemerton Film Society Ujan Ganger Naiya (Sailing Against the Tide)

Tuesday 23 February St John's School 19.00 for 19.30 start

Terri Coates of Bemerton returns by popular demand to talk about how she used her 'Call the Midwife' skills to help BBC Media Action make a popular TV drama in Bangladesh to convey important health messages.

There will be snacks available provided by Hox Brasserie.



St John's Place The completion date now looks like being 25 March, and opening events are being planned. The newly appointed manager, Shelley Wood, can be contacted on 07814899151. Email: shelley.wood@live.co.uk She has created a new facebook page: www.facebook.com/sjpcommunity Have a look at it and become a facebook supporter.

Simon Woodley sends out interesting updates too. Go to www.stjohnsplace.uk click on "join in" and sign up. The latest has some great photos of the work going on and a link to an amazing speeded up video of the installation of the underfloor heating.

About 30 people were at a meeting on 28 January to meet Shelley and



discuss ideas for activities for older people. One of the grants for St John's Place has been awarded specifically for that. Pippa Webster of Salisbury AgeUK spoke about ideas that worked elsewhere. The plan is for two sessions a week on Mondays and Wednesdays. Watch out for publicity in the newsletter and elsewhere.

Church News

The Lent group will meet at 19.30 on Tuesdays at St Andrews from 23 February until Easter. The theme is St Mark's gospel.

George Herbert Day: A Celebration Evensong will be held at St Andrews Church with the Rt Rev Christopher Herbert, retired bishop of St Albans. The 16.00 service will be followed by refreshments including the traditional medlar jelly. (George Herbert is believed to have planted a medlar tree when he was rector of Bemerton, a tree that was said to have survived into the 20th century)

School closure in adverse weather conditions

If Bemerton St John school has to close because it is no longer safe to open Spire FM website will show the latest information. Go to the schools section of their website . Texting parents is not possible because it would take too long.

Schools must have a minimum number of staff to open safely, and they may be affected by other issues such as failure of heating or water systems.

The headteacher says the school will always open when they can and in bad weather do encourage children to bring wellies.

Other school news: the Christmas bazaar raised £1900. A wonderful sum, thank you to everyone involved.

There will be a school disco on Friday 5 February.

One way to support the Village Hall is to join the **100 Club**. It costs £1 a month and every month you have the chance of winning £40. Second prize is £30 and third prize is £15. If you already belong why not join on behalf of another family member e.g. grandchildren? After running it for many years Viv Bass has handed over to Chris Edge of 4 The Alders. He can be contacted by email or phone: 01722 503172
cedge482@gmail.com Thanks from the village, Viv, for all you did. That regular income has been very important for the hall.

100 Club Winners: December 2015

1st Will and Sarah Spinney £40
2nd Brian Bass £30
3rd J Dutfield £15

South Wilts Sports Club will be running monthly coffee mornings from 10.00 – 11.30 at the Pavilion on the first Friday of each month starting on Friday 5 February. There's a wide selection of coffee and cakes, no club membership required. They already run monthly quiz nights on a Sunday starting at 20.00 and other activities are being developed including Music for Fun evenings.

Quidhampton's fireworks event, helped by excellent weather this year, attracted more people than ever and made a profit of just over £1000. It was decided this should go to the village hall.

This edition is paid for by an anonymous resident who describes herself as "a grateful and enthusiastic reader of the newsletter"

Contributors & Contacts

Police non emergency no.: 101

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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 :

email sabinedance@btinternet.com

or phone 742843

Community Emergency Volunteer:

John Cater 744079

Floodwarden:

Ken Taylor 742456

Waste and recycling dates

February

Recycling Mon 1, 15 & 29

Household waste Mon 8 & 22

Paid for garden waste Thurs 4 & 18

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