

# Quidhampton Village Newsletter

April 2016

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**What's On in April 2016** *Quidhampton events in bold*

**Thursday 7: Monthly pub quiz The White Horse 20.15**

**Friday 8** Monthly coffee morning South Wilts Sports Club from 10.00

**Saturday 9: Grand National Day: watch at The White Horse**

**Sunday 10** Music4Fun: bring and buy music sale South Wilts Sports Club 10.00-13.00

**Monday 11** Term begins Bemerton St John's School and Sarum Academy

**Tuesday 12** Introduction to sign language and the deaf community:

St Michael's Community Centre FREE everyone welcome 18.30

**Wednesday 20: First monthly bike night at The White Horse**

**Thursday 21:** Bemerton Local History Society AGM. Hedley Davis Court 19.30

**Saturday 23** Annual Parochial Church Council meeting over a shared meal

at St Michael's Community Centre 18.00 Sign up in St Andrews

**Saturday 23 St George's Day and FA Cup Semi Final : Pimm's, cream teas, pasties, pies and beer deals at The White Horse**

**Tuesday 26** Bemerton Film Society Belle St John's school 19.30 entrance £5

**Thursday 28** Music4Fun open mic session South Wilts Sports Club 19.30

**Sunday 1 May Parish Litter Pick White Horse 10.00**

**Bank Holiday Monday 2 May**

**Advance notices:**

**Friday 27 May** HAPPY CIRCUS returns to Bemerton. Pre-circus fun from 17.00. Show begins 18.00. Bemerton Recreation Ground. In aid of St John's Place. Booking now open. Family tickets £30. Individual £8. Under 3's free (on adult's lap) call 07513 344378

**Friday 3 – Sunday 5 June: The White Horse Annual Beer Festival more details next time**

**Saturday 11 June: celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday at The White Horse with an afternoon of family fun**

**Very advance notice: the Bus Pass Christmas Party** will be on the 10<sup>th</sup> December.

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**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May: Parish Litter Pick**  
**10.00 led by Chris Edge**

**Can you spend two hours helping to make the village look clean and decent?**

**Start and finish at the pub where refreshments will be available.**

**Equipment provided**

**Names to the parish clerk (details on last page) if you can take part.**

**Best Kept Village Competition 2016**

This year Quidhampton will be entered in the Best Kept Village competition. The Parish Council hopes it will bring people together to make the most of our village environment. It's not just about immaculate flowerbeds but also how we maintain and even improve all areas, including footpaths. After all, we already have one of the best kept pubs in Wiltshire.

**No newsletter in June**

**The next newsletter will cover May and June. Please let the editor have anything you want included for both months before 26 April.**



Penny Lawrence

## Spring Coffee Morning and Baking Competition: 19 March

The new electric heaters (effective and much smaller than the gas ones), the entries for the baking competition and Elizabeth Heeley's table decorations were all much admired. Decorate A Fairy Cake went down well with the children and everyone had a cuppa and a chat. £80 was raised for the village hall.

It would have been good to have seen more people dropping in but perhaps more will come another time.

Joyce Harvey won the Master Baker Cup (*is there a gender neutral word for that?*) with her delicious lemon drizzle dropped cake. *Joyce revealed later that it inexplicably dropped in the oven but no-one knew and it looked and tasted superb.*

Thanks are due to the organisers (Clare Churchill, Joy Wagstaff, Viv Bass, Maureen Goff) and to the Village Hall committee whose efforts to make the hall safe and welcoming were led by John Cater.

Other winners: 8 years and under: 1st Lauren Drewett; 2nd Daisy Young; 3rd Stella Bennett

9-15 years: 1st Rosa Herring; 2nd Penny Lawrence; 3rd Archie Young

Adult: 1st Joyce Harvey; 2nd Olivia Churchill; 3rd Elizabeth Heeley

Next year there will be a bread making category as suggested by Chris Anderson and enthusiastically added to the list.

### News from The White Horse

#### White Horse Loyalty Card: have you got one yet?

Every time you eat at The White Horse present your card and you will earn loyalty points to exchange for drinks and meals. You'll also be among the first to hear about news, events and special offers. The cards are free: ask any member of staff for one.

#### Farewell to Kim

Nick and Zoe want to say a specially enormous thank you to Zoe Stokes who has been with them from the start in August 2014. She will be very much missed, but she is now living in The Alders so she'll be around in the village. Zoe wants to be able to spend more time with her daughter and would love to find a job in a school. Good luck and thanks from the customers as well, Zoe; we'll miss you too.

**New staff** Two new kitchen and waiting assistants have been appointed: Carrie whose grandparents are Mick and Doreen

Emms of Coronation Square, and Olivia from Harnham.

**Limoncello competition:** there were six entrants for this new competition which was won by Duncan Witt. A joker was also entered in the form of a shop bought bottle and that came second. Third was Nick himself. The lemon balance game has raised £60 for the hospice which makes a total of £960 so far. The hospice is the White Horse's charity of the year. Lemon balance game? You've got to go to the pub to see it.

#### Monthly Bike Night

**Are you crazy about Kawasaki?  
Do you swoon over Suzuki?  
Or love Lambretta?**

If you have a passion for motor bikes this is for you. Come along on the third Wednesday of every month to the White Horse with your pride and joy, your project or your passion and enjoy a drink and a chat with other like minded people. Food also available

## **Gordon Mitchell 1922 – 2016**

*Gordon Mitchell of Albion Bungalows died peacefully in hospital on 29 February. His son, Colin, has written this piece about him for the newsletter.*

Sadly, the March village newsletter announcing that my Dad was now the oldest person in the village dropped through his door the day after he died. He would have been really chuffed with that honour and it was a shame it was so short lived.

Born in 1922 in Elm Cottage, the eldest of the three Quidhampton Mitchell Brothers, he lived his whole life in either Quidhampton or Netherhampton and, apart from during the war, he never went far.

He attended Bemerton and Highbury Avenue schools and among his possessions we found a medal inscribed "Gordon Mitchell - Bemerton School Top Boy 1933".

During the war, he served first in the Home Guard and then in the Royal Navy and travelled all over the world. His ship, HMS Nelson, was anchored off the Normandy beaches in 1944, providing support for the ground forces.

He was a tinsmith by trade and joined Woodrows as an apprentice in 1937 working there until he was made redundant in 1975. He then set up on his own and because of his skills, attention to detail and craftsmanship was always in demand and continued working well into his 80s. He has left his mark all over South Wiltshire and examples of his intricate metalwork can be found on the gates of Wilton House, in Salisbury Cathedral and in many local pubs.

His funeral service at St Gregory's church was attended by nearly 100 people, including many members of my late Mum's family who travelled from Ireland and York.

The usual response from people when mentioning my Dad was "Such a lovely man". He was kind, generous and considerate and was always ready to do someone a favour. He will be sorely missed by all his family, friends and neighbours.

Many thanks from my sister Val, myself and all his grandchildren and great grandchildren to all those in the village who sent their condolences.



Photos of 'Top Boy' medal kindly supplied by Gordon's daughter Val Hiscock

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## **Terry Jennings 1950-2016**

Terry moved to The Alders Quidhampton from Netherhampton when he was a baby, spending all of his life connected to the village.

He spent many happy days dog walking, shooting in the meadows, or drinking in the White Horse. So it was a fitting tribute that his final farewell was held in the pub along with so many of his friends from the village.

Terry's family would like to thank everyone for all the lovely cards, letters, and messages of support, also the donations to the Dogs Trust in Terry's memory, a charity close to his heart.

*Thanks to Mark and Mandy for this tribute*

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## **Biography of Arthur Cannings**

The biography of a member of the Church Parish of Bemerton who was killed in the First World War is included this month, 100 years after he died. (See pages 4 and 5)

Bea Tilbrook and Wendy Lawrence are researching the lives of all the men commemorated on the Lych Gate memorial at St John's and all the biographies will be published in the newsletter. Prayers are said for them in St Andrews on the Sunday nearest the anniversary of their death.



## Arthur Cannings 1896 – 1916 Private 5th Battalion Wiltshire regiment

Private Arthur Cannings died of wounds on 21 April 1916 in modern day Iraq as the 5th Battalion tried to relieve the siege of Kut. He was 19 and is buried in Amara Cemetery on the banks of the Tigris.

### Family History

Arthur Cannings was born in Donhead St Andrew, the third of eight children. His mother's family were agricultural labourers and woodmen from East Tisbury. His father's grandparents were agricultural labourers from Great Wishford but the next generation, including his grandfather, George Cannings, found other occupations though they all began as farm workers.

An 1859 newspaper report says that George, aged 16, and two friends were fined five shillings each (about £30 today) for stealing apples from a neighbour in Great Wishford. George married in 1866 and between then and 1901 lived in at least six different places in the west Wilton area working variously as a groom, gardener, railway platelayer, self-employed hairdresser and farm worker. By 1901 he had returned to farm labouring and lived in Fugglestone, the area of Wilton near St Peter's church. In 1911 he and his wife were in almshouses at Great Wishford. They both died in 1923.

It was not unusual for people to move house frequently but it is the first time our research has revealed such a variety of occupations. It is interesting to wonder why. One of George's brothers worked on the railways and one was a gardener; perhaps they helped George change jobs but he did not stick at one job as they did.

Charles Cannings, George's son and Arthur's father, was a woolpicker in the Wilton felts at thirteen but he was a carter when his marriage to Fanny Furnell took place in West Wiltshire and they lived at first in a small village near Bradford on Avon. After several moves they settled at Wimborne St Giles for over ten years, but the last of their eight children was born in 1912 in Fugglestone, in the house where his parents had lived.

There was one more move to Scots Lane Salisbury (off Castle Street.) where Charles died in 1919, aged 51. Fanny died in 1935 aged 65.

### War service at Gallipoli

The 5th battalion of the Wiltshire Regiment was one of the "Kitchener" battalions formed from the rush of volunteers in the first months of the war. The newly trained troops sailed for Turkey on 1 July 1915 straight into the Gallipoli campaign, probably the most extreme baptism of fire that could be imagined.

Arthur's medal card says his active service began later, on 16 October 1915 which was after the most disastrous part of the campaign. Perhaps he'd volunteered later; perhaps he was kept back for other reasons; perhaps he transferred from another battalion. There were many transfers and reinforcements at this time to replace the casualties.

The men then arriving were shocked: conditions were as bad as any on the western front if not worse. The reserve trenches were so close to the fighting that there was no respite from sniper fire, the dead could not be buried, disease was rife, water was in short supply and swarms of flies were everywhere.

Early winter weather brought floods, and a tremendous blizzard at the end of November meant there were deaths from exposure, including some sick and wounded waiting to be evacuated.

The decision was taken to evacuate all troops, the last leaving on 9 January. The year had begun badly when on 2 January a regular (i.e. not volunteer), experienced and well-respected sergeant was executed for refusing to obey an order.

### War service in Mesopotamia

Fresh troops, some from the 1st and 2nd battalions who had served in France, arrived to bring the battalion up to full strength, and on 27 January they landed in Egypt where for three weeks everyone enjoyed the feeling



of safety, good food, proper training, hot baths etc. When orders came to go to Mesopotamia many hearts must have sunk. This meant they would again have to endure extreme daytime heat, freezing nights, flies and diseases: dysentery, cholera, malaria.

The battalion was part of the attempt to relieve the siege of Kut and arrived in Basra on 4 March. There were serious problems with transport, supplies, equipment and flooding so progress was slow. A case of smallpox meant some men were kept in isolation.

The battalion distinguished itself, however, in heroic efforts to prevent the river Tigris from flooding, work normally done by the Field Companies. Their first attack on the Turks was on 5 April. Despite heavy losses some troops advanced further than expected but without the

support to maintain the positions. A ferocious counter attack on 18 April made further advance unlikely, and surrender negotiations began on 26 April.

### Death and Commemoration

Arthur Cannings died of wounds on 21 April; it is not known exactly when he was injured. Many wounded men could not be rescued straightaway and faced a very difficult journey to any kind of hospital.

Amara cemetery, where Arthur Cannings is buried, was created when Amara became a hospital centre in 1915. In 1933 all headstones had to be removed from the graves because salts in the soil meant they were deteriorating. A screen wall was erected with the names inscribed on it.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission can no longer maintain cemeteries in Iraq but plans a major programme of restoration when the political climate improves. A two volume Roll of Honour listing all casualties commemorated there is on display at the Commission's Head Office in Maidenhead.

Arthur Cannings is also commemorated on Salisbury War Memorial. His inclusion on St John's memorial is because of his brief residence in Fugglestone which was then part of Wilton for civic purposes, but still part of Bemerton church parish. His name was mis-spelled as Canning in the rector's notebook and that was repeated on the memorial.

*No connection has been found with Alfred and Delsie Cannings who ran a shop in Quidhampton in the 1910s and 20s, nor with Edward Cannings who was a gardener and lived in 1 Rectory Cottages, Bemerton. Several of Alfred's siblings continued to live locally and contact has been made with some descendants as well as a descendant in the US.*

Research and writing by Wendy Lawrence and Bea Tilbrook  
 Details of war service from A History of the 5th (Service)  
 Battalion Wiltshire Regiment 1914 – 1919 by Paula Perry



Edwin Cannings, younger brother of Arthur, and his daughter Avril.

**Congratulations** to Victoria and Charles Frank of Almeric on the birth of Primrose Penelope Lavinia Frank who arrived on 5 March weighing 7lb 13oz (3.54 kilos). Charles and Victoria would like to say how delighted they are by their daughter's arrival and thank the villagers for all their wonderful gifts and cards. "We have been really touched by everyone's kindness and generosity." It's lovely to be able to welcome a new baby to the village but Primrose may turn out to be a bit of a handful – see photo of her breaking the rules already! ("No under 18's at the bar")



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### **South Wiltshire Older People's Forum: new members needed**

This group is run by Age UK with two purposes:

1. to share experiences, opinions and ideas about issues affecting people in later life.
2. to act as a consultation group for services such as the NHS who come to our meetings to listen, gather information and give presentations.

At the last meeting the Adult Community Health Service used a questionnaire to gather information and there were discussions about services for people with dementia.

All older people are welcome to join, from sixty year olds beginning an active retirement to care home residents. Discussion is in small groups, and is not intimidating. There are four meetings a year lasting for two hours. You would be expected to read the notes sent round before each meeting.

If you are interested in joining this valuable group contact Pippa Webster at Age UK 01722 335425.

*Joyce Harvey was part of the Forum for many years and would be happy to talk to anyone about it.*

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Another effect of funding cuts is the **end of the Good Neighbour Service**. Valerie O'Keefe, co-ordinator, writes:

Please be aware that the Community First Good Neighbour Service will cease operation from 1 April 2016. There are plans for Health and Wellbeing Forums which will be announced later.

All referrals and enquiries should go to 0300 456 0111 Textphone: 01225 712501 email: [customeradvisors@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:customeradvisors@wiltshire.gov.uk) Postal Address: County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 8JN For problems or crises in the evenings or at weekends contact the Emergency Duty Team. 0845 60 70 888

### **Are you interested in a First Aid qualification?**

The Parish Council wants to organise a first aid course to be run by St John Ambulance. It would be free for parishioners but QPC needs to know if there will be enough interest before booking it.

If you would like to attend give your name to Clare Churchill, parish clerk **by 30 April**. The course will be either a whole day or half a day. Please state your preference, if any.

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### **Church News**

#### **Simon Woodley, rector, writes:**

Bemerton Parish is being asked to help train another curate from this June. One of the many exciting things about Neil is that he is profoundly deaf, and will be part-time in the hearing church and part-time with the deaf community. To begin to get us ready we are having an evening of Introduction to Sign Language and the Deaf Community. 19:30 St. Michael's Community Centre, on Tuesday April 12th. It's free and all are welcome.

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#### **St John's Place: caretaker wanted**

Bemerton Community Ltd is recruiting for the post of caretaker for St John's Place. The person appointed will be responsible for the security of the building, ensuring it is kept tidy and equipment available as required by the users. The job involves flexi hours (estimated at 12 hours a week) for £6000 p.a. The centre will be opening in late April.

Send your details to Nigel Haynes: on line to [n.haynes02@gmail.com](mailto:n.haynes02@gmail.com), or by post to The Hermitage Lower Road Salisbury SP2 9NP.

For further info ring Nigel Haynes 01722322 Applications close 15 April 2016.

**Other news:** there have been more delays: the oak floor cannot be laid until it has "rested" in the building with the heating on. That has now been arranged and SJP will be open at the end of April, with a big launch event on 18 or 25 June.

#### **Playworker needed locally**

Poppins Out of School Club, running from St John's Place, is recruiting a playworker after school 15.00-17.45 Monday - Friday during term-time and during the holidays (days and times to be agreed).

Contact Kathryn Willis at 01722 238952/07475 682424

or [poppinsoutofschoolclub@gmail.com](mailto:poppinsoutofschoolclub@gmail.com) for more information.

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### **Bemerton Film Society :**

#### **St John's School Tuesday 26 April**

**Doors open 19.00 Film begins 19.30 Entrance £5**

#### **Belle 12A certificate - 2013**

This is a powerful and moving romantic melodrama that also explores issues of class, race and gender. Belle is a mixed race heiress, raised by her aristocratic great uncle in London in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, but she is also a social outcast because of her colour. The starry cast includes Penelope Wilton, Miranda Richardson, Emily Watson, Tom Wilkinson and Gugu Mbatha-Raw as Belle. .



### **100 Club February winners**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Liz and Mark Van Vogt no 3  
2<sup>nd</sup> A. Meredith no 1  
3<sup>rd</sup> Joy Wagstaff no 59.

### **Other Parish Council Matters from meeting on 22 March**

**20 mph limit** The funding is in place for this but it has to go through various legal procedures before it can be put in place.

**Oak tree** A parishioner's offer of two oak tree saplings to replace the sycamore in the recreation ground was accepted. Planting sites will be agreed when the sycamore has been felled. The wood from the sycamore will be stacked for villagers to collect and use. The recreation ground will be closed for the duration of the work.

**Next meeting: 7.30pm Tues 24th May.**

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**Who is now the oldest person in the village?** That would appear to be Audrey Catford of Wyllye Close who was 93 in February. An accomplished artist and member of several local groups, including the Quidhampton book group, Audrey plays a very active part in village life and is an inspiration to all of us who sometimes wonder what our later years will be like.

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**Paying for the newsletter: editor's note**  
*Donations of any amount are always welcome but if you have spoken to me about sponsoring the newsletter and heard nothing more please don't feel your generosity has been ignored. You are on the list and I will be in touch when your name comes to the top. People and organisations are very generous and there are enough sponsors on the list to cover the next twelve months.*

**This month's newsletter** is paid for by combined donations from the Parish Council, a resident of Bemerton Farm, a resident of Lower Road and Pam and Eric Mitchell (brother of Gordon) who had to leave the village for accommodation with more care.

### **Contributors & Contacts**

**Police non emergency no.:** 101  
PC Pete Jung and Wilton Police Station: 01722 438981

Peter.Jung@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk  
**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, April**

Household waste Mon 4 & 18

Recycling Mon 11 & 25

Paid for garden waste Thurs 14 & 28

**May**

Household waste Mon 2, 16 & 30

Recycling Mon 9 & 23

Paid for garden waste Thurs 12 & 26

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