

Quidhampton Village Newsletter

June 2017

What's on in June

Thursday 1: Monthly charity quiz at The White Horse food from 18.30, quiz 20.15

Friday 2 – Sunday 4 BEER FESTIVAL at THE WHITE HORSE all weekend

Monday 5: Bemerton St John school staff training day. School closed to pupils

Thursday 8: The Farms of Bemerton, a talk by Ray Hands and John Abbott
Bemerton History Society Hedley Davis Court 19.30

Friday 9: Friends of Bemerton School Annual Quiz Night - see advert

Sunday 11: Bemerton Open Gardens 14.00 – 17.00 - see advert

Wednesday 14: Sovereign Set Lunch at The White Horse

contact Joyce Harvey for details 742309 Confirm by 5 June

Wednesday 14: Amal: Bemerton Film Society. St John's Place. Doors open 19.15

The film is about a poor hardworking rickshaw driver who inherits a fortune! Please note increase in entrance to £6 to help pay for blinds necessary in the light evenings.

Saturday 17: Bemerton School Fete – see advert

Tuesday 20: sports day Bemerton School

Saturday 24 : Lunch for the East Africa appeal Quidhampton Village Hall 12.00 – 13.30

Friday 30: Parents Forum Bemerton School hall. 09.00

Every Saturday at The White Horse: Steak Night

Two steaks and a bottle of wine for £25.00. Rump or gammon. Booking advised.

Served 18.30 – 20.30 usual menu also available

Every Tuesday at the Village Hall but NOT Tuesday 30 May (half term)

2Quidy Social Club 13.00 – 14.30 £2. 20 mph stickers will be available and reports from the annual parish meeting - see inside

The White Horse 2017 beer festival

Friday 2 – Sunday 4 June

12 guest ales, plus ciders too

The Wonky Donkey Gin Bar,
BBQ & hog roast

Live music throughout the weekend :

The Lost Keys Band
Friday night from about 8.30pm

Mustang Sally
Late Saturday afternoon until late

The 524 Band
Sunday afternoon

Lunch for the East Africa Appeal

Saturday 24th June, 12.00 till 13.30 Quidhampton Village Hall

*A simple soup and bread lunch to
raise money to help people
in East Africa still suffering
as a result of famine.*

As well as home made soup
there will be cakes and maybe other
items for sale.

Many thanks to people who have
offered to help. Further offers/ideas
or donations very welcome.

Contact Jane Taylor
jane4taylor@btinternet.com

Every Friday at St John's Place
10.00 – 12.00

Social coffee morning with activities, not just for over 50's! £5 includes tea and biscuits Gentle zumba and yoga plus 10.45 – 11.15 a different specialist information session most weeks

Friday 16 June: the Police Bobbyvan will talk about online security, scams and fraud emails, and computer specialist Mike will be there **all morning** to answer questions about computers, tablets and laptops.

Sabine Dawson is pleased to announce she is now official organiser of these sessions, having helped as a volunteer for some time. She is happy to hear ideas for different activities. (contact details on back page)

Quiz Night at Bemerton St John's School
Friday 9th June

19.30 for 20.00 start
£5 per person
includes cheese and biscuits

Maximum of 6 in a team
Teams must pay in advance
for catering purposes

Book and pay by Friday 2nd June.

Enquiries and to register a team contact
Jo Weston:

email: joweston100@hotmail.co.uk
or 07900568765



BEMERTON ST JOHN PRIMARY SCHOOL

'ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR'

SUMMER FETE

BEMERTON RECREATION GROUND

SATURDAY 17TH JUNE

1PM – 4PM



**COCONUT SHY, HOOPLA, HOOK A DUCK, BEER AND
PIMMS, BBQ, CANDY FLOSS, CAKES, RAFFLE,
BOUNCY CASTLE, DUCK RACE & MORE
FUN AND GAMES FOR ALL THE FAMILY!**



The Big News

"Amazing news....
and don't they
deserve it!"

"Absolutely
fabulous".

"So glad for them...
but will really miss
them."

Zoe and Nick are
still reeling after
winning a million
pounds on the
euromillions lottery.

Has it ever been
known in Quidhampton before? That
amount is life changing and they certainly
deserve it.

Zoe says that although she is looking
forward to not working 100 hours a week
they have loved running the White Horse
and making it the popular venue it is
today. After three years they can feel
very proud of their achievement and now
are lucky enough to be able to start a new
phase of their lives. A nice house near
their families, time to relax and see
friends, perhaps some voluntary
work.....and Nick will still be a farrier. Not
even a million pounds can make him give
that up!

The genuine pleasure most people feel is
tinged with some anxiety for the future in
Quidhampton: "it's thrilling and awful at
the same time" said Allannah Daniel of
Skylarks. "Their contribution to village life
has been enormous. Let's hope someone
comes to replace them and the pub isn't
closed again."

That thought must be in many minds but
the re-furbished building and the good
reputation Nick and Zoe have built up will
attract potential landlords. It is very
different to last time.

Nick and Zoe will be here until November.
Plenty of time to show them our
appreciation.



Zoe writes:

*Nick & I would like to say how very moved
we have been by people's support, kind
words and the many lovely cards we have
had from so many of you and further afield
too. Thank you everyone who has taken
the time to congratulate us, it really does
mean a lot to us both. We are still a bit
taken aback by it all, but despite the win
our time is as limited as it was before - it
really is business as usual.*

*Deciding to give notice on The White
Horse was an incredibly difficult decision,
and we are determined to keep everything
running smoothly for the new publicans.
There must be a lot of concern over the
pub's future, but we will do everything we
possibly can to ensure that whoever takes
it on will do so full of the information we
lacked in those early days and with the
knowledge that we have acquired over
time.*

*We will miss the pub, this lovely village
and the fabulous woods, the very many
friends we have made over the last three
years and most of all that amazing
community spirit that is so strong here.
If wherever we move to has half the
'Quidhampton spirit' we will be very lucky.*



William Charles Hugh Curtis 1887 - 1917

Corporal William Curtis of the First Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment, was killed in action in Belgium on 11 June 1917, aged thirty. He is buried in Wulverghem-Lindenhoek Road Military cemetery near Ypres. Prayers will be said for him in St Andrews church on Sunday 11 June.

Family history

The Curtis family came to Quidhampton from East Dorset in the 1850's, when William's grandfather, carpenter Charles Curtis, moved here, perhaps to join the Tabor carpentry business.

The youngest two of Charles's seven children, Frederick Charles and Nathaniel, were born in Quidhampton but the family was living in Bemerton by 1871. Frederick Charles (William's father) became a bricklayer and married carpet factory worker, Mary Anne Carpenter, in 1880. They had fourteen children, one of whom died in infancy. After a short period in Fisherton, they lived in Bemerton for the rest of their lives.

William's life

Their fifth child, William, known as Bill, was born at 4 Bath Terrace, Wilton Road in 1887. Bill's parents moved house many times, from Gorringe Road to Church Lane, to Wilton Road, Lower Road and St Andrew's Road. The children went to Bemerton School where Emily, the oldest, was chosen for the Park School when she was nine.

The Pembroke family founded the Park School in 1838 with the aim of 'clothing and educating 35 poor girls'. Lady Pembroke or her daughter visited Bemerton School every year to choose girls for the school. Later there were times when not enough girls wanted to go, perhaps because the school seemed to prepare its pupils specifically for domestic service. By then many young women preferred to work in factories or shops. The school closed in the early 1920's. Emily was a housemaid at a boarding school in Surrey and at Little Durnford House. At least seven of Bill's

ten surviving sisters became maids when they left school.

Bill probably never forgot the funeral of his uncle Nathaniel Curtis, a railway porter killed in an accident at work in 1899 when Bill was twelve. He had worked at the station for twenty years and his funeral was held on Sunday afternoon so everyone could attend. The local paper had a detailed description, including the crowds who gathered at their home in Gorringe Road and processed to St John's behind the cortege. The mayor and stationmasters of Salisbury and Wilton were there with a section of the county police in attendance.

The Curtis family took an active part in parish life. Bill was a member of the Church Lads Brigade, first as a corporal then sgt bugler. He played in their football team and when he was sixteen took part in a popular 'tea and entertainments' event in the Mission Room (Quidhampton Village Hall) performing "The Ghost", a dialogue with Ernest Waters.

Work

Bill first worked as an assistant gardener, then for Great Western Railway and then as a bricklayer for Tabor whose business had expanded to include building work.

During this time Bill may have been waiting for a different job, perhaps inspired by his uncle's funeral for, in 1907, as soon as he was twenty, he applied to join the Metropolitan Police.

For this a man had to be between twenty and thirty-five, at least five feet nine inches tall, physically fit, literate and of good character. Indiscipline and drunkenness were not tolerated and there were many dismissals and resignations. Bill was successful and



Bill Curtis, volunteered from the Metropolitan Police in 1915

was assigned to Chelsea where he stayed for eight years, suggesting he was happy and the work suited him. He left to join the army in June 1915.

Volunteering may have been a less straightforward decision for Bill than for many others: he was already doing a vital job, and the Metropolitan Police Force was responsible for several military establishments. Yet he clearly felt he ought to fight for his country and came back to his birthplace to enlist in the Wiltshire regiment.

Life in the army

The fit and disciplined policeman would have been a very welcome recruit. He probably began active service in January 1916 joining the First Battalion when they were out of the front line training in Belgium. Walter Smart, whose parents lived in Church Lane, was there too.

In March they moved south for mining operations at the front. Casualties increased and in May came their longest period in the trenches without relief: 21 days. Other troops were moving toward the Somme and 1st Wilts followed for an attack at Theipval on 4 July. Severe losses continued until mid-September when they withdrew to be in reserve. Walter Smart died on 2 September. In October they were sent to Ploegsteert, near the Belgian border, and settled into a routine of six days in the trenches, six days in support, six days in the trenches again and then six days in billets often interrupted by maintenance work in the trenches.

Sometimes there were two weeks of training. Reinforcements arrived regularly, mainly inexperienced conscripted men.

Writing after the war Lt White described those trenches as peaceful compared to the Somme, but deep, always muddy, rat infested and pervaded with the smell of rotting corpses. Officers would hitch a ride to a nearby town when they were in billets. In early June preparations began for a big attack on Messines Ridge, five miles south east of Ypres. At 03.10 on 7 June mines were exploded and an intensive artillery bombardment began. 1st Wilts moved off at 03.40, before it was light. They gained ground and on 8 June dug a new trench -



Eight of Bill's ten surviving sisters in the 1920's
Bill Curtis was one of 14 children

their artillery barrage having destroyed the old one. On 9 June they took over a different section and were relieved in the evening of 11 June. 148 prisoners were captured and 7 machine guns taken, but 38 men had been killed and over 100 wounded. Bill Curtis, by then a corporal, was killed on 11 June and buried in a small cemetery that was later abandoned. In 1919 the bodies were taken to Wulverghem-Lindehoek Road cemetery. Unlike others, the cross on Bill's grave was intact so he was identified and has a named grave.

A memorial service was held in Westminster Abbey in May 1919 for the men of the Metropolitan Police Force who died in the war. Members of the royal family were there as well as prominent members of the legal profession.

Subsequent family history

Bill's father died in 1920 and his mother in 1940. Four of Bill's siblings stayed in Wiltshire and contact has been made with Janice, the widow of David Enticott and their daughter Wendy. David was the son of Bill's sister Lillian and William Enticott, an engine driver, also of Bemerton. David was brought up at 61 Lower Road, sang in the church choir and attended the local history society before he died in 2007. He was buried near his uncle Nathaniel's grave, the latest of seventeen Curtis family burials at St John's spanning 135 years.

The publication of this account has been paid for by Charles Frank who lives opposite the site of Tabor's Yard where Bill worked.

Annual Parish meeting 17 May 2017

Chris Edge, the retiring chair, welcomed 10 members of the public to the meeting.

Community reports were presented from organisations and events connected to the village, too many to be reported here.

The reports will be displayed on the noticeboard and also in the village hall where they can be read at 2 Quidy Club.

The reports were from: Community Police, Bemerton Church Parish, Quidhampton Village Hall, Quidhampton Parish Council, the newsletter, the First World War project, 2Quidy Club, Flood Warden, Bemerton St John Primary School, Fireworks event, Quidhampton website, Village Entertainment Fund.

Other business: Ron Smith raised the issue of the 20 mph limit and how often it is broken. It would be interesting to know the experience of other areas with a new 20 mph limit. The parish clerk reported that Speed Indicator Devices will be discussed by the Area Board.

Pauline Church, the newly elected Wiltshire Councillor for Wilton and the Wylve Valley, introduced herself. She is vice chair of the South West Wiltshire Area Board, and has, since the meeting, been appointed Portfolio Holder for Children's Safeguarding.

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

The newly elected councillors took their places: Viv Bass, Paul Cripps, Howard Rowley, Ken Taylor. Apologies were accepted from Zoe Hoare and Sallie Davies. Howard Rowley was elected chair, Paul Cripps vice chair and Charles Frank joined the council on being co-opted.

There are two more vacancies which can be filled by co-option. Contact the parish clerk if you would like to be a part of the council and have your say in what goes on in the village.

Howard Rowley was appointed highways and parish steward link, Ken Taylor Area Board attendee and floodwarden, Paul Cripps website coordinator, Viv Bass dementia champion.

Among the items discussed:

20 mph limit adhesive stickers: these will soon be available from the White Horse or 2Quidy Club. They are intended for wheelie bins put out on Lower Road.

Quidhampton Recreation Ground: designs for a pirate ship or a spider frame were circulated. A grant application will be made to the Area Board and money has been earmarked in reserves and rolled over for this. There may be other grants available – to be investigated. Only one football net has been put up to deter teams of young men who used the pitch in the past.

Village Hall: a draft proposal to register the village hall as an asset of community value was endorsed and will be submitted. (the pub was registered a few years ago).

Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 25 July 2017. For minutes see village noticeboard or parish website

What are the next community events at the village hall?

- 2Quidy club every Tuesday
- Lunch for East Africa 24 June
- Village Art exhibition
23 September

(call for more artists—see flier : childrens' competition; entries by Sept 15th)

- Pumpkin Day in October

Sadly no more exercise/zumba classes at the moment because there wasn't enough support for the last one.

Samara's Aid appeal

Hannah Brown was again delighted at the response for items for baby packs, dignity bags for women and knitted items. Four Quidhampton knitters together filled two boxes with baby and children's clothes and baby blankets.

Special thanks to knitters Rosemary Brown, Elizabeth Heeley, Bea Tilbrook and Jennifer Tyler. Elizabeth and Jennifer also made dignity bags. Hannah, a busy mother who has given very generously of her time, was delighted to be approached by members of St Paul's church who stored the donations and sorted them.

Christian Aid Week: the total collected was £292.18. Collector-in-chief Jennifer Tyler would like to thank everyone who contributed this year. Thanks also to Jane Taylor for her help.



and skin to cause serious burns so you are strongly advised not to touch it. It is also invasive. The landowner has been informed.

BEMERTON COMMUNITY

Registered Charity No. 1136873

The beautiful gardens and riverside views of Lower Bemerton are again open to the public. Mix of different styles of gardens, breathtaking river views, and the chance to chat to the people who lovingly tend them.

Teas, Plants and Home Made Jams for sale

LOWER BEMERTON OPEN GARDENS

Sunday June 11th 2017
2 to 5 pm



PLUS THIS YEAR

See the beautiful new interior of

St John's Place

and the Green Team's work in the churchyard



Tickets £5 give access to all the gardens (under 12s free)
Available on the day from any of the gardens

Lower Road

(between Cherry Orchard Lane and the Recreation Ground)

St Andrews Road

More details from 01722 326261

All proceeds in aid of St John's Place

Giant Hogweed has been spotted again by the river in Boyes Wood at the east of the village.

The sap of the plant reacts with sunlight

and skin to cause serious burns so you are strongly advised not to touch it. It is also invasive. The landowner has been informed.

The Jumble Sale raised £304 for village hall funds. Thanks to everyone who gave items and to those who came along.



Two young villagers, Daisy and Amelia, delighted at meeting Strictly dancers Aljaz and Janette

Do you require a cleaner, or someone to get rid of your weeds and do small jobs in your garden?

My name is Inga and I live in the village. I am friendly and DBS checked.

Please email me:

ingalauriston@hotmail.com or leave a message on 07564226397

Corrections and clarifications:

At least one national newspaper has a column with that title so why not the newsletter? These recent items need attention:

Milestone marriages: (May) it was Alison Witt who still fits into her wedding dress and did so, not Alison Watts (though Watts was her maiden name) Ken Taylor took the photos of the event except the photo of Clare and Chris Herring in their honeymoon car which was taken by Wendy Lawrence.

Jim Goddard: (May) the inimitable Jim not only walked down the village street in his dressing gown and shower cap for a Titanic evening but also wore a lifebelt. What a sight that must have been! The three photos of Jim showed him on his National Service, outside his house in 2012 taken by Wendy Lawrence, and dancing at a Hawaiian event with Viv Thomas, photographer unknown.

Newsletter deliverers: (April) the new deliverers are Jan and Dave Barnes, not Ann and Dave.

Samara's Aid (February): our oldest inhabitant, Audrey Catford, knitted a blanket for this appeal as reported but she also knitted several other items.

This month's newsletter is paid for by the Friends of Bemerton School as a thank you for the publicity given to their events.

Contributors & Contacts

Police non emergency no.: 101

Wilton Police Station: 01722 438981

Nicola.Clark@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

St John's Primary School: 322848

The White Horse : 744448

Quidhampton Mill : 741171

Self catering apartments

Footshill B&B: 743587

Wilton and District Link

Scheme : 01722 741241

Parish Council clerk:

Clare Churchill 743027

quidhamptonpc@btinternet.com

1 Tower Farm Cottages, SP2 9AA

Website:

parishcouncil.quidhampton.org.uk/

Wiltshire Council 0300 456 0100

Area Councillor, Pauline Church.

pauline.church@wiltshire.gov.uk

07436 810350

Rector of Bemerton

Rev Simon Woodley 333750

Parish Office 328031

Village Hall bookings:

Sabine Dawson :

sabinedance@btinternet.com or

phone 07742 273984 (not Sundays)

St John's Place Lower Rd

Bemerton: contact Manager: Shelley

Wood Tel: 07814899151

shelley.wood@live.co.uk

Community Emergency Volunteer

John Cater 744079

Floodwarden:

Ken Taylor 742456

Waste and recycling dates

June

Recycling Mon 5 and 19

Paid for garden waste Fri 9 and 23

Household waste Mon 12 and 26

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