

# Quidhampton Village Newsletter

November 2017

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## What's On in November

**We welcome Rachel and Martin to The White Horse Inn**

**Thursday 2 monthly charity quiz at The White Horse**

**Friday 3** Fireworks Night at Salisbury and South Wilts Sports Club: ring 327108 or go to their website for details

**Sunday 5 Bereavement Service** Open to all who have lost a loved one 14.00 St John's

**Monday 6 – Wednesday 8** parents evenings Bemerton School

**Wednesday 8** Fargo: Bemerton Film Society St John's Place 19.15

**Thursday 9** The Old Manor Hospital: Bemerton History Society see page 2

**Saturday 11 Remembrance Service** 10.45 including the reading of the names at St John's lych gate. All are most welcome, refreshments afterwards in the church.

**Sunday 12 Christmas Fair** at St John's Place 13.00 – 16.00

**Thursday 16** Trussell Trust shoebox collection at Bemerton School

**Sunday 19 Brunch** at St John's Place 10.00 – 12.00

**Tuesday 28 Parish Council meeting 19.30 Village Hall**

**Wednesday 29 Defibrillator training** 18.30 St John's Place followed by **Annual General Meeting** of St John's Place 19.30

**Every Tuesday: 2 Quidy Club 13.00 – 14.30 Village Hall**

Tea, coffee, cakes and chat.

**Every Friday:** social coffee morning at St John's Place with activities and guest speakers. Meet new friends, try a new activity and stay mobile! 10.00-12.15

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### **Some December dates**

**Sunday 3** Advent Carol service 16.00 St Andrews

**Friday 8** Christmas craft event **Village Hall** 18.30 – 20.30 see page 2

**Saturday 23** Carols, mulled wine, mince pies **Village Hall 16.00**

**Please note: Sunday 24 December Carol Service St Andrews 18.00** *Due to the popularity of this service tickets will be issued to keep the numbers to a safe limit. Contact Simon Woodley via email or phone with your name, address and number of tickets you would like.*

### **No Quidhampton Firework Display**

Unfortunately the organisers of the Quidhampton Firework display are unable to offer a show this year. We will return with a brilliant event next year! This decision was announced in the village email 3 weeks ago. If you would like to receive the emails with regular updates and reminders send an email to the editor – details on the back page.



**Would you like to be more creative this Christmas?  
Do you want to add handmade touches to your decorations and gifts?**

**Then come along to the Christmas Crafts evening on  
Friday 8 December 18.30 – 20.30 Village Hall**

There will be drinks and nibbles and a selection of crafts for you to make including: table decorations, cake decorating, gift tags, tree ornaments, and knitted decorations.

*All items are easy to make; instruction available at all times.*  
Entrance (includes drink and nibbles) £2, crafts individually priced.  
Some crafters will have items for sale.



**Not-the-bus-pass Christmas Party  
Saturday 2 December 15.00 – 17.00**

Come **all ye adults** of Quidhampton  
(no age limit this year - you do not have to have reached bus pass age)

Begin the Christmas festivities in the village hall  
with tea, entertainment and good company

*A free event with raffle sponsored by the Village Entertainment Fund  
for the benefit of all adults in the village  
(No need to bring raffle prizes this year)*

The organisers must know if you are coming by 24 November  
Names to Joy 743080 or Maureen 743587

Over many years this has been a very enjoyable event. Do come and join us.

**Annual Meeting of  
Bemerton Community  
(St John's Place)**

**19.30 Wednesday 29 November**

An update on what has been achieved and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. The annual review will be available beforehand and at the meeting. There will be details of the Friends scheme.

**Also: defibrillator training available from 18.30**

**And see the new south aisle screen:**  
a glass screen creating a smaller room in the south aisle, to be installed 13 – 16 November.

**Bemerton History Society  
The Old Manor Hospital**

**19.30 Thursday 9 November**

Mary Abbott will talk about her extensive work talking to staff over the years and will share their vivid memories that go back for decades.

No charge, donations for refreshments.  
Everyone welcome.

Hedley Davis Court Cherry Orchard Lane

## From the Horse's Mouth

We moved to the village almost 3 ½ years ago (so relative newcomers still) with no knowledge of what an extraordinary place it was. We were welcomed with open arms and Quidhampton felt like home very quickly.

We are now in our final few days and while we look forward to the luxury of a little more time, we are both starting to feel a little bereft, already. Someone at the bar asked me the other day 'has pub life been everything you expected it to be?' and the honest answer is no; it's been so much more.

We had no comprehension of how much the pub was an integral part of the village community and how that would incorporate us. We have made so many true and genuine friends, both from Quidhampton and the surrounding area by their regular and repeated custom.

We have experienced so many occasions with you all, those that have been happy and some tinged with sadness; from our Opening Night and the first Village Fete (that nearly wasn't), to the wedding receptions, christening celebrations and parties, to the social events and of course those times we gathered to remember and drink to those people no longer with us. If you were one of the people who entrusted us with an occasion, a party, wake, a meal with your family, social events for a group or club, or even just a drink after work to wind down and relax - thank you. We hope we did you proud.

Being a publican goes further than standing behind the bar. We've helped people fix broken down vans, changed light bulbs, delivered meals to those who can't get out, raised money for charity and even helped to rescue missing people. To us, it's all in the course of a day's work but the lovely comments, beautiful cards and moving notes we've received over the last few weeks made us realise the difference it has made to people. We are immensely grateful for all the kindness and generosity.

To those that have over the years reciprocated hospitality and friendship with invitations to dinner or drinks, time for a chat and most recently help with moving to a new house - thank you really doesn't seem enough, but thank you. Thank you very much indeed.

We promise not to be strangers; we'll be back to enjoy the pub from the other side of the bar. We've already booked a table for December as The White Horse Christmas Carols night is one of the best around, so to enjoy it as customers will be great.

Thank you everyone for supporting the pub, for believing in us and for making The White Horse something that we leave Quidhampton feeling exceptionally proud of.

So from us it's not goodbye, it's see you all soon. Take good care of yourselves, and each other.

Love, Nick & Zoe xx



photo by Wendy Lawrence



## **Charles James Gasper 1891 – 1917** **Lance Corporal 1/4th Territorial Battalion Wiltshire Regiment**

In 1917 Charlie Gasper, aged 26, joined his Territorial Battalion near Gaza. He was killed soon after he got there, officially on 7 November but the actual date is not known.

He is buried in the Gaza War Cemetery and will be remembered in St Andrew's Church on Sunday 5 November.

### **Charlie's grandfather: John Gasper 1836 - 1901**

John Gasper came from a family of farm labourers in Baverstock and went to the school built by their remarkable rector, William Hony. He worked as a game-keeper, first at Barford St Martin, then on the Pembroke estate at Wilton.

In 1858 John married Juliet Merchant, a labourer's daughter from Frome, and moved to Quidhampton. They lived at the Netherhampton/Wilton Road junction, sometimes described as in Fugglestone, sometimes Quidhampton, and now known as Park Corner. Some of their children were baptised at St Peter's, Fugglestone and others at the new church of St John's, Bemerton.

The distance from Quidhampton probably suited John: the position of gamekeeper was not an easy one. In 1871 he was summoned for assault for allegedly kicking Thomas Jeffery out of The White Horse. The case was dismissed after the landlord said Jeffery was abusive and he had asked Gasper to put him 'out of the house'. Jeffery showed longstanding animosity towards Gasper and it is likely to have been because of his job. Local press reports showed the gamekeeper was involved in cases such as taking fish and wild duck, setting wires for fish or hare, trespassing, and on one occasion cutting a sack of rye grass.

There were also unexpected encounters. Once he discovered the body of a man who had shot himself, and 1864 he was



Ernest Gasper at his father's grave in Gaza during the Second World War

the prosecution witness in "a case of gross indecency between two men". John and his son Henry were members of the South Wiltshire Constitutional Association, formed by the Conservative Party when most adult males got the right to vote. John was also elected to the first Parish Council in 1894.

John and Juliet had seven children, one of whom died in infancy and their lives show the advantages of being employed by an influential family. Frank, the second son, was a valet at 11 Downing Street and later worked for the civil service, George was a clerk of works in Camberwell and Sidney became head gamekeeper for the Duke of Devonshire at Chatsworth. He left after an accident and died in Bath but he and his wife are buried at St John's.

Elizabeth, the oldest daughter, was a lady's maid at Finborough Hall in Suffolk before marrying Alfred Young, the Quidhampton blacksmith. Her sister, Louisa, married Reginald Fry who ran a baker's shop in Quidhampton. John died in 1901 after retiring and moving to Rose Cottage. He too is buried in St John's.

### **Charlie's father: Henry Bainton Merchant Gasper 1857 - 1949**

Henry Bainton Merchant Gasper was born

a year before Juliet married John so he was probably John's step-son though treated as his son. (A Henry Bainton lived in Frome at the time of his conception.) Henry was firstly a footman in a house in Berkeley Square but in 1886 when he married Emma Ross, the daughter of a London coachman, he was a night-watchman for the estate, living on Wilton Road again. He kept that job for the rest of his working life.

Henry and Emma had five children who presumably went to Bemerton School though the two girls may have gone to Wilton Park School. In 1899 Lily, the oldest, won an essay writing competition run by the Band of Hope, the children's temperance movement that met weekly in the Mission Room (now the village hall). She was eleven.

In 1906 Henry Gasper was appointed to the committee that ran the Quidhampton Men's Club, a new venture. In 1910 Sidney, the youngest died of TB. He was nineteen and had been a cleaner on the railways.

Lily worked as a servant in the London household of Lady Paget, mother-in-law of the Earl of Pembroke. There she met Joseph Rounce, footman, and married him in 1917. He had enlisted in the army but was discharged because of poor physical development. They eventually ran a poultry farm in Hampshire and Emma's parents moved there when they retired.

Rose, the younger sister, married and moved to Devon. Henry, the oldest son, became a gardener and in 1914 married Daisy Morris, a housemaid. Her father, a bricklayer, had married a Salisbury woman after being in the army and Daisy and Henry moved into the Friary with them. Later they lived in the Gasper house on Wilton Road, then in Plymouth.

### **Charles James Gasper: 1891 - 1917**

Charles was the middle child, baptised Charlie James Gasper in St Peter's. In 1911 he lived with his parents and worked as a carpenter.

Charlie Gasper's military history is not well documented but the records that exist have led to the following conclusions.

Charlie Gasper joined the Territorial Force before the war. Many men were attracted by the payments for regular training sessions and the enjoyment of the two week summer camp.

When war was declared he volunteered to serve overseas. Two battalions were formed from the volunteers but, for an unknown reason, Charlie was kept in the reserves. William Stone (October newsletter) was also put in the reserves and called up in 1917. Perhaps they were not quite as fit as others or perhaps they had a reserved occupation.

In April 1915 Charlie married Harriet Morris, sister of Daisy, describing himself as a private of the 4th Battalion, Wiltshire Territorials. In August 1916 their son Ernest James was baptised at St Martin's church and they too were living with Harriet's family. Charlie was described as a carpenter.

In 1917 the army was desperately short of men and he was called up from



Charles Gasper 1891-1917

Twickenham. Why he was there is also not known.

### War service

In 1914 the territorial brigades had relieved the regular army of guard duties in India. They remained there until 15 September 1917 when they travelled to the Palestinian Front for the third battle of Gaza.

Charlie was one of fifty who joined the 1/4th battalion of the Wiltshire Regiment on 1 November 1917, the day before the planned attack. The journey to Egypt and across the Sinia desert by train must have been an amazing one for them.

The battalion was in trenches immediately in front of the Turks, rather unnerved by painted boards announcing Walking Wounded, Stretcher Cases etc.

The expected confirmation of attack did not come on 2 November, nor the next night, nor the next. The battalion remained in the trenches until 6 November when the signal came at last and, fortified by the rum ration, they filed out quietly into No Man's Land ready for 23.30, the appointed time. "At the very second every gun around burst forth and lit up the wire and trenches in front of us. At once the whole line rose to its feet and advanced. ... What a sight! ... the whole universe seemed to be on fire – and a deafening sound shook every inch of ground beneath us."\*

They found the Turkish trenches empty though heavy guns fired from further

ahead. Eventually the signal came to stop advancing and they consolidated their position in 'a very wide fine trench', realising only then how many of their pals were missing. The attack was a success. Several years later some of Charlie's comrades visited the family home and told his son Ernest that although his death was recorded on 7 November Charlie was killed several days before that when his body could not be retrieved. There had been shelling every day while they waited in the trenches. Two deaths were recorded on 1 November, but the war diary is incomplete after that and there are only notes which report on 7 November total casualties: 8 killed, 73 wounded.

Harriet Gasper married widower William Collins in 1919 in Brentford. The widowed Juliet Gasper, Charlie's grandmother, moved there until her death in 1924. She was buried at St John's. In 1939 Harriet and William lived in Lower Road Bemerton, near the junction with Cherry Orchard Lane. Charlie's son, Ernest, was with friends in Twickenham.

Contact has been made with Charlie's grandson, Barry Gasper, and we thank him for the photographs and for sponsoring the publication of this account. He and his wife will be attending the service on 5 November.

\*From Sgt Mundy's journal of the battalion 1914 – 1918 published 2011



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### Can you help with the reading of the names from the lych gate on 11 November this year?

The full names of those who died in the First World War are read out. Can you help complete the names from the Second World War? The first names of these men are still not known:

H C Blake	T Hearn	H Hillier
B Hopkins	H Johnson	G V Miles
R W Rochester	L H Russell	

## **Goodbye to Nick and Zoe** *from the editor*

Those are not words I wanted to see in the newsletter but no-one can begrudge Zoe and Nick their good fortune or fail to wish them well. They did so much for Quidhampton.

I could list the things they have done – quizzes, fireworks, parties, Christmas carols etc – but other publicans did those too. It is the way they did them that made Nick and Zoe special, the way you knew everything would be properly organised, professionally and with flair, cheerfully and in a caring way.

They learnt our names amazingly quickly, and treated everyone with respect. "I like them," said my eldest grandson, "because they talk to me the same way they talk to you." And the younger one had his own button on the till: Leopold's Special, the legacy of a time he wanted only pasta, beans and cheese.

In Zoe's farewell letter she says being a publican goes further than standing behind the bar. No, Zoe, that's only because of the special people you are. Not many people who get a phone call from a neighbour asking if you had a power cut (you didn't) would go round to fix her electrical problem. How many publicans who closed at lunchtime one day a week would then deliver a meal to the home of a customer who ate in the pub every day? And what about the time you heard someone's mother had died, looked up their address to send a sympathy card and realised it was their birthday? Did you just say oh how sad and post your card? No,



portrait by Ken Taylor

you went round with a sympathy card, a birthday card and a bottle of wine. There is no room for all the stories I've been told. One couple even told me the warm welcome they got in the pub was the final factor in deciding to move here.

Perhaps the most significant memory is from two months after Zoe and Nick arrived. Plans for the village fete were falling apart. One by one helpers dropped out until the only two left decided to cancel it. No sooner had the email been sent than Nick knocked on the door: "We'll help, we can do it in the pub grounds." And they did.

What a feeling of relief! No longer were those of us who care about the community working on our own; there were two people to help us who were capable and got things done.

So we thank you and will miss you for that, Nick and Zoe, as well as all the individual acts of kindness. Oh, and for running the best pub around.



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### **Poppy Day in Quidhampton Can you help with the 100<sup>th</sup> commemoration of the Armistice on 11 November 2018?**

Quidhampton Parish Council wants to see poppies throughout the village next year and a poppy wreath on houses connected with the servicemen who died. The poppies will be made from plastic bottles with curved bottoms (not the straight kind). They are shaped and painted and look very good.

**Save your plastic bottles and give them to Bea 742456 or Sandie**

*Details of poppy making workshops will be announced later.*

## **A death in the village**

Jim, who lived in Temperance Cottages with his brother, Dave, died at home on 30 October. He was a familiar figure walking their collie dog through the village. Our thoughts are with Dave at this sad time.

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## **Closure of household recycling Centres**

Salisbury recycling centre will be closed between 9 – 18 November for a refurbishment by the new contractor. Other recycling centres are open – you are advised to check opening times before you go. The Salisbury site will continue to close on Thursdays and Fridays.

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## **The Salisbury half-marathon**

Two villagers have written lovely descriptive accounts of their run but there is no space to fit them in. There will be a piece about it in a future edition.

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## **Do you have a space you can rent?**

My partner David and I are looking for an outbuilding in the village to rent. We need to store many books. It has to be clean and dry, and actually in the village. Contact Inga 744230

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**Have you signed** the mount for the portrait of Nick and Zoe? It is at Meadow Barn for a couple of weeks until the painting dries if you want to sign it.

This month's newsletter is paid for by a 21 year resident of the village - someone who moved here 21 years ago. Thank you very much.

## **Contributors & Contacts**

**Police non emergency no.:** 101  
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 November**

Recycling 6 & 20th  
Garden waste (chargeable) 10 & 24th  
Household waste 13 & 27th

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