

Quidhampton Village Newsletter

December 2017

What's on in December in the village

For details of church services see the parish Christmas card delivered with this letter.

Also delivered: St John's Place Annual Review 2016-7

Saturday 2 December: Not the bus pass Christmas party: sit-down tea, entertainment, raffle and good company Village Hall 15.00 – 17.00.

Monday 4: White Horse cribbage home match

Tuesday 5: 2Quidy Club Village Hall 13.00 – 14.30

Thursday 7: monthly charity quiz night at The White Horse with Howard.
Quiz from 18.00.

Friday 8: Christmas Crafts Make and Take event Village Hall 18.30 see page 3

Tuesday 12: last 2Quidy club of 2017. Come at 12.30 for lunch

Wednesday 13: Sovereign Set Christmas lunch contact Joyce Harvey 742309

Friday 15: Christmas Rock and Roll Bingo The White Horse

Tuesday 19: Christmas Carols with Rev Simon Woodley The White Horse 19.30

Thursday 21: The White Horse Christmas Raffle draw: 20.00

A traditional Christmas pub raffle – all the ticket money taken goes in prizes. Tickets £1 each available from the pub NOW!

Saturday 23: Village family concert with carols, hot drinks and mince pies

Christmas Day: The White Horse open for drinks 12.00 – 14.00

Sunday 31: New Year's Eve Party at The White Horse. Ticket only.

Monday 1 January: The White Horse closed

Village Christmas Concert with Carols in Quidhampton Village Hall Saturday 23 December

Doors open 16.00 for mince pies and mulled wine or apple juice

Concert begins 16.30 for about an hour.

Carols, readings etc by local adults and children

Sponsored by the Village Entertainments Fund so all villagers, and their families and friends can get together to celebrate the spirit of community at Christmas.

Don't miss it! Retiring collection for the village hall

2Quidy Club: 13.00 – 14.30 Village Hall Tuesdays.

Coffee, tea and chat for all villagers:

5 December: meet as usual

12 December: arrive at 12.30 for lunch, no need to bring anything.

Christmas break: 19 and 26 December and 2 January

The group was very pleased to welcome PCSO Nicola Clarke who dropped in a few weeks ago.

Do you care about the speed of traffic through the village?

It is not too late to volunteer for Community Speed Watch

First training date: 21 December.

Contact parish clerk (see back page) by 14 December.

White Horse update: the decorations are up, the Christmas raffle tickets are on sale, and people are saying wonderful things about the food. A very warm welcome awaits you, and Rachel and Martin want to thank everyone for the warm welcome they have been given.

The Christmas Menu is delicious, but it must be ordered in advance:

Starters: white onion and cheddar cheese soup, duck and orange pate, creamy garlic mushrooms, traditional prawn cocktail.

Main courses: crown of local turkey or rare roast beef (both with all the trimmings); homemade nut roast or lemon sole suffed with prawns with light cheese sauce (both with new potatoes and vegetables).

The finale: Christmas pudding with brandy butter; raspberries in kirsch with ice cream; blood orange sorbet; chocolate and pecan torte with cream.

1 course: £16; 2 courses £19; three courses £24. All prices include coffee.

Village Hall update

John Cater (caretaker and treasurer) and Jennifer Tyler (chair) reported to the parish council.

The professional survey of the village hall has taken place. This was undertaken to give more information for making decisions about the future. Half the cost was met by the parish council and the rest by donations from three villagers.

The good news: the village hall is basically sound. So there are no worries about needing a completely new roof.

Caveat: the surveyor did not have access to the two smaller roof spaces and some areas of the kitchen roof are obscured by vegetation.

Recommendations: if a five year lease is accepted work estimated at roughly £2000 would be needed to prevent deterioration:

- a shingle based drain to be installed along the external front of the hall to stop further internal damp, followed by painting of the internal wall
- vegetation to be cut back from the kitchen roof
- all gutters to be cleared and missing and broken roof slates to be repaired

Taking on the longer lease (from 2024) would mean considering other work:

Essential: a new roof for the kitchen, repairs to doors and windows and removing shrubbery (which may reveal more work.)

Desirable: external decoration, perhaps new windows... the list could go on.

Ken Taylor continues to investigate funding and is optimistic that a grant from South West Wiltshire Area Board with some matched funding, possibly from other local funds, will cover much of the work needed for the five year lease. Both the essential and desirable work for a longer lease could be spread over a number of years and more significant grants would be available.

Encouraging news: the surveyor, Steve Linnard, has surveyed other village halls of this type and found some very depressing and in too poor a condition to be worth preserving. When he went inside our hall he was immediately struck by how welcoming and 'nice' it felt – a good space for the village to have.

Find out more at the Village Hall AGM on 15 January 2018

Christmas Craft Make and Take



Friday 8th December
Quidhampton Village Hall
18:30 – 20:30

**Create handmade decorations and gifts
to give your Christmas an individual touch**

- table decorations
- cake decorating bring your own white, iced cake or some small ones available to purchase
- tree ornaments
- gift tags
- knitted decorations no knitting skills necessary

All easy to make with instruction available at all times.

£2 entrance, includes drinks and nibbles. Crafts individually priced.

Any questions? Contact Hannah on
hannahlotty@hotmail.com

**SPECIAL OFFER!! Free entry to
Make and Take Christmas Craft
evening in exchange for an hour's
help.**

One or two people are still needed to serve drinks, help with the most popular activities, be on the door etc. Even half an hour's help would help. Contact Hannah 1 Wyllye Close or Bea 742456



December Events elsewhere

Sunday 3: Advent Carols St Andrew's church 16.00

Monday 4: switching on the Christmas tree lights in Wilton 18.30. From midday there will be stalls, fairground rides, music, food and drink in the market square.

Wilton Market Square and Market Place will be closed to traffic from 09.00 – 20.00 on Monday 4 December.

Wednesday 13: Paddington at St John's Place. Bemerton Film Society see below

Saturday 16: Carol Concert with Salisbury Rock Choir St John's Place 18.00 mulled wine and mince pies. 18.30 concert starts. Free entry, retiring collection.

Friday morning activities for the over 55's continue at St John's Place

Friday 1: seated zumba gold with Kirsty and chair based yoga with Anthea;

Friday 8: gentle yoga with Alex; Friday 15: seated zumba with Kirstie

Doors open 10.00. 1 class £3, 2 classes £5 includes refreshments

First session free for new participants. Christmas break: 22 and 29 December.

Bemerton St John school dates

Friday 8: school Christmas Fair

Tuesday 19: school Christmas dinner

Wednesday 20: end of term

Thursday 4 January: new term begins

Sarum Academy dates

Friday 15: staff inset day: Academy closed for students

Monday 18: Academy carol service
St Thomas's church

Wednesday 20: Christmas jumper charity day; end of term

Thursday 4 January: new term begins

St John's Place:

Christmas Fair Success

The SJP Christmas Fair on 12 November raised almost £450.

Rosa Herring and her brother sold fudge and cards made from a painting Rosa displayed in the Quidhampton art show. She has sold several versions of her 'Dancers' painting since then. Great to think it helped a young artist in that way. Sandie Smith's cards, notelets and gift tags were much admired and will also be on sale at the Make and Take craft evening where you will be able to make some of the simpler gift tags yourself. See page 3.

PADDINGTON COMES TO ST JOHN'S PLACE!



Wednesday 13th December 2017

Doors open 19.15 Programme starts 19.45 and ends about 21.30

Entrance: £1 under 16's, £7.50 adults to include marmalade sandwiches and other refreshments

Your chance to catch up with the first Paddington film: a treat for everyone, not just children. "delightful... inventivewarm and charming.. a mixture of drama and slapstick, live action and animation...visually stunning."

Editor's comment: I have seen it three times, once without the grandchildren, and laughed out loud each time. Highly recommended.

Can anyone recommend a good cleaner? If you know someone who is good and can take a new client please pass their details to the editor.

Comings and goings

Welcome to William Lee Allison-Brown, to be known as Billy, born on 1 November to Hannah and Rob of Meadow Glen. He weighed a healthy 8 pounds (3.6 kilos) and has been enjoying cuddles with the 2Quidy gang.

Goodbye to the Pool family who left 2 The Grange, Locks Lane on 9 November. They have moved to Netton in the Woodford Valley and Plan to come to the Christmas Carols evening in the pub. They will be missed at village events, not least for Elton's contribution as one of the fireworks display team.

They wrote this message for the newsletter: *We have so enjoyed living in Quidhampton and being part of this lovely village community. We moved here in 2012, just ahead of the amazing street party and Jubilee celebrations - what a great introduction to Quidhampton that was! We will miss Quidhampton, particularly our lovely neighbours, but look forward to coming back and visiting friends, the pub and joining some of the lovely Quidhampton events.*

Best wishes Elton, Louisa, Imogen and Henry the Labrador!

Welcome to Patricia and Carlo Donne who have moved into 2 The Grange.



Hannah and Billy

Best wishes to Bridie Clapham for a speedy recovery from her recent fall in Marks and Spencer's. It is nice to know that two village friends were with her within minutes: it was nearly time for the R8 to Quidhampton and they were on their way to the bus stop.

Message from the Wilton Estate

Some villagers have been seen dumping garden rubbish in Boyes Wood. Chris Rolfe, agent for the Wilton Estate, asked for a reminder in the newsletter that dumping rubbish of any kind is classified as fly tipping and may be reported to the Council. It also spoils the enjoyment of villagers who use Boyes Wood for walks. The wood is not a public amenity; the village has permissive use of it from the Wilton Estate.

St John's Place: south aisle screen installed

The latest phase of the conversion of St John's for community use has been completed with the installation of the south aisle glass screen by Salisbury Glass. The conservation authorities required a clear glass screen so the interior of the church building can still be seen, while a separate smaller space for community use has been created. That smaller space can be entered directly from the porch by a side door or from inside the church.



Wendy Lawrence and Bea Tilbrook continue their research into the lives of the men killed as a result of the First World War - see p6&7.

1917 was the worst year of the war for the villages of Quidhampton and Bemerton: fifteen of their men died, six of them at the battle of Passchendaele. Two of the fifteen were brothers and eight of them were from Quidhampton. The effect on such a small community must have been devastating. Christmas 1917 would have been a very difficult time in many homes in our village.



William Edgar Elkins 1899 - 1917 Lance Corporal 2/6th Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment

William Elkins was killed at the battle of Cambrai in Northern France on 2 December 1917. He was 28. His body was not found or identified and he is commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial, one of more than 7000 men who died in that battle and who have no known grave.



Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France

Family history

William's ancestors were farm labourers in West Grimstead but his father, Joseph, became a railway worker and left the village.

Railway employment was a good way out of the harsh conditions and poor prospects of farm labouring. William's brother Percy worked his way up from engine cleaner to engine driver. Their father Joseph, however, was a platelayer working in a gang to inspect and maintain the track in all weathers. Platelayers were looked down on, and had the hardest and most poorly paid life of any part of the service.

William's mother Susan, from Stratford Toney, had a similar background to her husband; indeed in 1841 her mother was recorded as an agricultural labourer. This was unusual but not the only time it has been found in our research. Susan's mother had two children before she married and two afterwards. They kept in close touch and several of Susan and Joseph's six children spent periods living with their uncle and aunts.

Life of William Edgar Elkins

Joseph and Susan's first three children, including William, were born in Salisbury but baptised in West Grimstead. In 1891 they lived at 15 Waterloo Gardens, Salisbury but they moved at least five times between Romsey, Milford and East and West Dean before they settled at 3 Skew Bridge Road, Bemerton in 1907.

William went to two elementary schools and in December 1903, while they were living in West Dean, he was admitted to Bishop's

School, Salisbury, aged 14, the only one of his family recorded as being in education beyond the school leaving age.

In 1911 William was 21, living with his parents in Bemerton and working as a domestic groom and gardener, as was his brother Basil in the household of Colonel Tatham in Glenmore Road. In 1913 the family moved to 6 Orchard Road, off Cherry Orchard Lane.

On 16 September 1915 William married dressmaker Florence May Snook, of Empire Road, Bemerton, daughter of a signalman. 1915 was an eventful year for the whole family. In January Basil, who had volunteered in August 1914, was discharged from the Hussars because of muscular rheumatism. In March Leonora, their second youngest sister, died of meningitis in the Isolation Hospital at Stratford. In April Basil married Eliza Prewett, the daughter of a railway platelayer from Alderbury.

Also during that year the husband of their eldest sister joined the Royal Engineers and in November, less than two months after his marriage, William joined the Gloucestershire Regiment.

War service

William most probably enlisted in the 14th battalion of the regiment which was made up of new recruits and trained on Salisbury Plain until January 1916 when they went to France. They were at the battle of the Somme but not the fateful action on the first day. They lost 107 men on 17 July and in

August went further west to Arras.

On 14 May 1917 William Elkins spent the night on an ambulance train (also known as a hospital train) with trench fever. He had got on at Rouen, in Normandy. By then he was a lance corporal and some time after that he transferred to the 2/6th territorial battalion. There was by then little difference between territorials, regulars and new battalions.

After a comparatively quiet time on the western front the 2/6th battalion, down to about 500 men, was sent to Cambrai at the end of November. This was an important supply point for the Hindenburg Line, a vast system of defences constructed by the Germans in the winter of 1916-17. They believed it to be impregnable but on 20 November the British mounted a strong attack on the Line with tanks. They broke through but the Germans would counter-attack strongly across a front that included the position of the 2/6th battalion.

On 2 December the battalion war diary records that the enemy attacked one of their saps* at 6 a.m. The battalion was driven back but recaptured the ground. At 06.30 the enemy attacked again with a larger party and held the sap owing to the battalion's supply of bombs having run out. At 2 p.m. the enemy was bombing down trenches and attacking across the open. Battalion HQ was captured and the CO wounded and taken prisoner.

On 3 December the enemy occupied La Vacquerie village on their right flank and on 4 December the remaining part of the battalion withdrew. 20 men had been killed, 152 were wounded and 153 missing, one of whom was William Elkins.

Even the official language of the war diary evokes some of the horror of being in a trench that is bombed and then invaded but a first hand account written by Private William Dick describes a far grimmer reality. The waterlogged land and trenches they occupied had already been fiercely bombed and fought over and were littered with wreckage and bodies, creating some of the worst conditions of the war. The plight of



Tanks were deployed in large numbers to break the stalemate of trench warfare at the Battle of Cambrai, though not always successfully.

wounded men and stretcher bearers was particularly desperate**

His family believe that William Edgar Elkins, known to them as Eddie, received a 'Dear John' letter from his wife at this time and deliberately set out to get killed. It is easy to understand how such a blow received while in such desperate conditions could make a man lose all hope.

After the war

William's parents moved to Roman Road and were both buried in St John's in the 1930s. His wife re-married in November 1918 and moved to Tisbury, her new husband's home town.

William's death is also commemorated on the roll of honour in the chapel at Bishop Wordsworth's School. One of his great nephews will be at the service at St Andrews on 3 December where William will be remembered.

** Saps: narrow trenches dug at roughly 90 degrees out from the existing lines. A new trench would then be dug in front of them, a slow but relatively safe way of moving forward.*

*** William Dick's account can be seen at <http://www.firstworldwar.com/diaries/lavacquerie.htm>*

Children in Need :

fundraising by local children

Daisy Young of Hampton Court wanted to raise money for Children in Need and her parents agreed to hire the village hall for a couple of hours. Her mother, Marie, continues:

£120.78: amazing effort

Saturday proved to be a great success. Daisy was really wanting to raise money for children in need and used the village hall to support it with her friends. Her idea was to do a biscuit decorating corner, a colouring corner and a hat raffle. Thank you to all who came and supported her.

The children had a lovely time. Daisy and her team of friends really worked hard and did themselves proud. Their efforts certainly paid off, Daisy wanted to raise £15. They raised a staggering £120 after some late donations!!

Many thanks to all and best wishes, Marie and Daisy Young

Fundraisers on the day: Daisy

Young, Chloe Snook, Jessica Morabito and Ellie G.

Bemerton St John School did not raise funds for Children in Need this year. Each year the School Council chooses which charities to support. This year they are Stars Appeal (local) and children's cancer research (national). This sensible policy means parents do not get endless appeals for different charities. And it can mean that sometimes children do their own fund raising. Well done, Daisy, for taking the initiative.

Sympathy is extended to Steve, chef at The White Horse, whose brother died at the end of November, just after Steve's return from his well-deserved holiday.

This month's newsletter is paid for by the parish council

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Village Hall bookings:

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St John's Place Lower Rd

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Community Emergency Volunteer

John Cater 744079

Floodwarden:

Ken Taylor 742456

Waste and recycling dates December

Recycling Mon 4 & 18th, Wed 3 Jan

Garden waste (chargeable) Fri 8 & 22nd

Household waste Mon 11 & Wed 27th,

Tues 9th Jan

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