

# Quidhampton Village Newsletter

February 2018

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## **What's On in February**

**29 January – 5 February:** travelling book fair at St John's School. Books for sale in the school hall after school every day. All welcome

**Thursday 1: Monthly Charity Quiz night at The White Horse from 20.00**

**Monday 5 Cribbage club, White Horse**

**Monday 12:** schools half term begins

**Tuesday 13:** Shrove Tuesday Pancakes and Prayer. St Michael's Poppy Room.

18.00 – 19.00 for pancakes. Just turn up, cook and eat!

19.30 – 20.30 Parish Prayer Night

**Wednesday 14: Valentine's Day special menu, The White Horse  
booking advised**

Wednesday 14: The Merchant of Venice with Al Pacino Bemerton Film Society  
St John's Place doors open 19.15; programme starts 19.45; ends approx 22.00;  
entrance £6

**Wednesday 14:** Ash Wednesday Communion 19.30 St Andrews

**Friday 16: Rock 'n' Roll Bingo White Horse**

**Monday 19:** back to school for Sarum Academy students

**Tuesday 20:** back to school for St John's School pupils

**Tuesday 20: poppies cutting session Village Hall 12.00-13.00**

**Wednesday 28 : Sovereign Set lunch White Horse.**

**Confirm attendance and menu with Joyce Harvey 742309 by 18 February**

**Saturday 17:** Jumble Sale St Michael's Community Centre 13.00

**Wednesday 21:** first meeting of the Parish Lent Course. Weekly on Wednesdays.  
Poppy Room at St Michaels 19.30 – 21.30 Everyone welcome.

**Monday 26: Cribbage Club White Horse**

**Every Tuesday** except 13 February (half term): 2Quidy Club Village Hall 13.00 –  
14.30 Home made cakes, tea, coffee, friendly chat.

**Every Friday** Activity sessions for the over 55s at St John's Place

Try a new activity, meet new friends and stay mobile.

Two classes per session: zumba, pilates or yoga.

**Also on 9 February:** Be safe and well: advice from Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service.  
£3 for 1 class, £5 for 2 classes, refreshments included.

First morning free for new participants

Contact Sabine Dawson 07593 555083

**Looking ahead: Sunday March 4: Great British Spring Clean in Quidhampton**

See page 5.

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**The Sovereign Set** is a group of women who have lunch together in The White Horse every two months. It began when the village WI closed and members wanted to keep in touch. It has grown to a group of over twenty, mainly from the

village but a few from Wilton and Lower Bemerton, who simply enjoy each other's company and a nice lunch. There are no formal activities, except a secret Santa at December's lunch.

New members are always welcome.

Contact Joyce Harvey: 742309

## **The White Horse: an update**

Martin and Rachel Russell have settled in and are putting their own character on the White Horse. They ran a restaurant in the south of France for nearly twenty years before returning to the UK when their daughter came here to go to university. Rachel said the pub they took over in the New Forest was a large “destination” pub, not part of a community and not really what they wanted. They decided to find somewhere else and are very pleased they have moved to Quidhampton.

The most noticeable change at The White Horse (apart from the very tidy car park!) has been the menu. Martin is a very experienced chef and has introduced some delicious new dishes. Sandwiches and jacket potatoes are still available at lunchtime, as well as the new menu.

The most exciting news is that Martin and Rachel plan to open a restaurant in the Loft (the upstairs room at the back of the pub). That is no surprise when you consider the new menu. How about tournedos rossini, the classic steak dish: fillet steak fried in butter, served on a crouton, topped with a slice of pan fried

foie gras, finished with a red wine and shallot reduction and served with dauphinoise potatoes. That is the most extravagant dish on the menu, but it shows that Martin is aiming for the very top quality. A variety of lamb dishes, pies and salads are also available as well as fish, scampi, duck and other specials.

Has there ever been a restaurant in Quidhampton before, let alone one of the quality this promises to be? It is a real development for the village and could attract people from miles away.

Bar food will be served in the pub, so there will be a real choice when you decide to eat out.

*Editor's note: I must mention Martin's chips, the best I have ever tasted.*

There have been staff changes too and many people will be sorry to say goodbye to Steve who has been cooking at The White Horse since August 2014. He was a well-known character in the village, sometimes staying on for a drink at the end of his shift. And when he got to know you his smiling face would appear at the end of your meal to see if everything had been OK. We wish you well, Steve, in the next stage of your life.

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## **Coronation Square car park**

Please remember this car park is not for general village use. Some cars have been left there overnight for two to three days and residents say they will now report them to the police. It also seems to have become a place to abandon cars and they will be reported quickly too.

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**Dog fouling:** this is becoming a problem again, along the edge of the car park and elsewhere. Dog fouling can be reported to Wiltshire Council: Use the 'My Wiltshire app'. You can register or report anonymously.:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywiltshire-online-reporting>

Or you can email the dog warden : [lostdogs@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:lostdogs@wiltshire.gov.uk).

Or ring highways: 0300 4560105. Ask for street care and cleaning.

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**The flood risk in Quidhampton** is low, and is mainly about keeping the drains clear. Villagers should contact the Floodwarden who is pleased to advise and help with problems. He or the Parish Clerk can help those without internet access to report issues on MyWiltshire. See back page for contact details.

# QUIDHAMPTON'S POPPIES PROJECT

On 11 November, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the armistice, Quidhampton will be flooded with poppies: poppies in the verges, in hedges, in gardens, across houses, on lamp-posts – anywhere you can think of.

*That is the aim of the Poppies Project  
for which we need plastic bottles and volunteers*



On the left are poppy flower shapes cut from bottles and on the right are the flower shapes after painting. The tops and bottoms of most bottles can be used.

## How can I help?

### 1. SAVE YOUR PLASTIC BOTTLES

We need a lot (probably 2-3 thousand!) and can collect them from you.

### 2. CUT THE PLASTIC BOTTLES

Next cutting session Tuesday 20 February 12.00 – 13.00 in the village hall  
OR cut them at home: video instructions are available or a private lesson if you would like one.

### 3. PAINT THE POPPIES

We have chosen the spray paint from In Excess but advise that you do not do the painting until later in the year. Good ventilation is needed– best to do it outside in still sunny weather.

## Help Quidhampton honour our servicemen and commemorate the end of the fighting of the First World War

There will be a service of commemoration and memories on 11 November in the Village Hall this year

This project is being organised on behalf of the Parish Council. All enquiries to  
Bea Tilbrook: 01722 742456

*Wendy Lawrence and Bea Tilbrook continue to research the lives behind the names on St John's lych gate memorial. Eight men were killed in this last year of the war, three of them in October so there was no feeling in the village that the war was ending. This account is sponsored by Mike Moody of Bemerton.*

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## **Frederick Thomas Whitchurch 1893 – 1918** **Signalman HMS Cullist Royal Navy**

Signalman Frederick Whitchurch, aged 24, was killed in action on 11 February 1918 when HMS Cullist was sunk by a U-boat in the Irish Sea.

He is commemorated on the Portsmouth naval memorial and will be remembered at morning service in St Andrews on Sunday 11 February.

### **Family history: father Thomas Whitchurch**

Frederick Whitchurch's family was one of many families that moved to Bemerton in the early years of the twentieth century. They came from further afield than most - from Australia.

Thomas Whitchurch, Fredrick's father, was from a family of mariners and carpenters several of whom endured periods of extreme poverty. They were originally from Gloucestershire but Thomas was born in a notorious slum district of Cardiff, where there was, according to one report, scarcely a house with an unbroken window or a door that was not honeycombed at the bottom by rats.

After serving three jail sentences for theft he left for Australia in the late 1880's where he married Druscilla Ellenor, from Norfolk. They had two children: Frederick and Annie May and returned to the UK in 1905 when Frederick would have been twelve.

In 1908 the family moved to Gramshaw Road, Bemerton before settling in 2 Sydney Cottages.

It is not known why they came to Wiltshire. Perhaps for a fresh start in a different area through work with the army which had an increasing presence on Salisbury Plain. Thomas was a carpenter and in March

1911 he was boarding in Durrington with a fellow carpenter who worked for the Royal Engineers.

### **In the Navy**

After little more than a year in Bemerton Frederick became a deck boy in the navy and on his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday in March 1911 he signed on at Portsmouth for 12 years. He worked with signals, progressing from 'ordinary signaller' to 'signaller' in 1912, the year he also passed a necessary education certificate and got a first class report for conduct. In November, however, he was given sixty days detention for stealing which was always regarded as a particularly serious crime at sea.

Frederick's record shows the usual postings to training ships and shore establishments, and some time on a minesweeper. A signaller's duties included keeping watch so it was important to know the different lights displayed by ships, and to recognise ships, lighthouses, prominent navigational marks etc.

When war was declared he was on HMS Shark, a destroyer built in 1912 and on duty at Scarpa Flow. She sank at the battle of Jutland in 1916 but by then Frederick Whitchurch had been transferred to HMS Maidstone, a submarine depot supply ship. Depot supply ships provided submarine crews with facilities they would otherwise not have e.g. medical services, repairs, recreational facilities and sometimes showers, baths and proper sleeping arrangements not available on smaller submarines.

After a year and a half, in May 1917,

Frederick transferred to HMS Cullist which was a Q-ship: a merchant vessel equipped as a submarine decoy vessel. HMS Cullist was located in the Irish Sea where German u-boat submarines were attacking merchant ships. After several successful actions Cullist was torpedoed on 11 February 1918 and sank within minutes. 43 of 70 crewmembers died, one of them being Frederic Whitchurch. Frederick's death is also commemorated in the St Thomas' Church Book of Remembrance and at the Australian war memorial on a commemorative roll for those born in Australia who died in the war while serving with other forces.

#### After the war

Frederick's father also died in 1918 and was buried at St John's. His mother moved into Salisbury and was buried at St John's when she died in 1932. His sister,



No photo could be found of HMS Cullist, However the SS Norwegian pictured here was also built in 1912 at the same Dundee yard and looks very similar to a model of the Cullist at the Imperial War Museum.

who in 1911 was a dressmaker living with her parents, married Frederick John Levey, a tailor, in 1916. He was a widower living at 1 Richmond Terrace, Gramshaw Rd. with a three year old daughter, his wife having died in childbirth. Three of their seven children married and it is hoped to make contact with some of their descendants.

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### The Great British Spring Clean 2018: message from Parish Council chair Howard Rowley

Here's your opportunity to help improve Quidhampton without trying too hard. **Sunday 4 March** has been designated "**The Quidhampton Annual Litter Collection Day**" and you all have a chance to get involved.

To take part in this wondrous event all you need to do is present yourselves at the village hall at 10:30 where all the necessary equipment will be provided to help fulfil your enjoyment. All we ask is that you help for about half an hour and your efforts will be rewarded with a bacon sandwich and some welcome tea and coffee. You could be back in bed by 11:30 and know that your efforts will have improved the look of where we all live.



Some of the litter pickers in 2017

## The Parish Council: January Meeting

Apologies were received from Paul Cripps.

**Village Hall** The request from the village hall committee for a grant of £600 was agreed. (see report of village hall AGM on page 7 for details)

**Mowing the recreation ground grass** and footpath: Peter Dawson has done this for many years and stored the mower in a shed provided by the parish council on his land. Now Pete wants to pass this on to someone else. Many thanks are due to him for doing this important job for so long. The village is lucky to have people like him.

**Can you take over the mowing of the recreation ground and footpath?  
Have you got space to erect the parish council shed and store the mower?**

If you are interested get in touch with Parish Clerk: 743027

The Council will pay £50 a month for mowing and storage, and £10 a month when there is no mowing.

**Village Noticeboard:** Councillor Rich Mullett has renovated two second hand noticeboards obtained by the Parish Clerk and a quote of £360 has been obtained to remove the old village noticeboard and erect a renovated one in the same place. It was decided to offer the second renovated board to the Village Hall Committee to be fixed on the outside wall of the hall.

**Quidhampton recreation ground:** the Council noted the annual report. Rich Mullett will attend to the most urgent matters.

**A proposed grant application policy** was circulated to all councillors for discussion at the next meeting.

The above is not a full account of the meeting. Official draft minutes will be posted on the noticeboard a few days before the **next meeting on 27 March**.

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### New Gardening Café

Alzheimer's Support is launching a new Gardening Café at Wilton Garden Centre for people living with dementia and their carers. There will be tea, coffee and cake and a short talk with gardening tips, tricks and techniques. The Group will be held from 10.30 to 11.30 on the second Monday of every month.

Contact Kate Western for more details:  
katew@alzheimerswiltshire.org.uk or  
Our Community Services team  
on 01380 739055

### School parking

Parents are still parking on the zigzag lines at the entrance to St John's school which can prevent staff getting in and out of their car park. The knock on effects of this are considerable. (staff being unable to get out for meetings, starting their day late etc.)

Perhaps more worryingly the head-teacher reports that there have been several near misses in the public car park involving children and urges everyone who uses it to be extremely careful.

## **The Village Hall: Annual General Meeting 15 January 2018**

Present: The committee: Jennifer Tyler (chair), Viv Bass, Sabine Dawson (bookings secretary), John Cater (treasurer and caretaker); Ken Taylor, grants adviser; twelve villagers.

Apologies were received from nine villagers and Rev Simon Woodley.

### **Report for the year**

**Activities:** the village rose to the challenge of using the hall with several new events: a Weddings Exhibition, Quidhampton Art Show, jumble sale, Christmas Craft evening and fundraisers for Children in Need and the East African appeal. Perhaps even more importantly the 2Quidy Club began, meeting every week in term time.

**Finances:** The income from all lettings was £881 and donations were £641 (Wedding Exhibition: £186, jumble sale: £275, Art Show: £180)

The building survey was paid for by a grant from the Parish Council and donations from villagers. The Parish Council donated £220 for general use and the Area Board granted £570 for wi-fi to be installed. (not yet completed)

**Expenditure:** the only significant extra expenditure from hall funds was a hatch to allow the surveyor to look at the roof space (£250).

**The surveyor's report:** the hall is basically sound but needs about £2400 spent in the short term on creating a shingle drain to cure damp at the front of the hall, clearing gutters, removing vegetation that has grown onto the walls and roof and replacing a few slates. The Committee considered £600 of this cost could come from the hall reserves and a request would be made to the Parish Council for a grant of £600 and to the Area Board for £1,200.

Ken Taylor was investigating other sources of grants.

**Committee:** The current committee has no secretary and John Cater and Sabine Dawson intend to stand down when the current lease expires. Thus several vital posts will become vacant: treasurer, caretaker, bookings organiser. It was also felt there should be someone to market the hall. Those present were urged to consider whether they could fill any of these roles or knew someone who could. The committee does not organise events so the work is not too time-consuming.

Joy Wagstaff volunteered to be minute secretary and everyone applauded loudly.

### **Discussion**

- The meeting supported taking on the 5 year lease which would give time to decide about the 25 year lease.

### **Suggestions from discussion:**

- a list could be made of jobs that needed doing in the hall and perhaps volunteers from the village could do some of them.

- the Village Entertainments Fund (balance more than £2500) could be asked for a loan or donation if grant applications were not successful.

- a short time was spent in discussing other activities. Clare Churchill had offered to organise the Quidhampton Bake Off again but couldn't commit to a Saturday morning at the moment. Ideas for events that would have the same appeal as the Art Show and Weddings exhibition would be welcomed. Talks were also suggested, perhaps with local speakers, and an occasional service with Rev Simon Woodley.

Hannah Brown and Hannah Kimmel were thanked for the continued success of 2Quidy Club.

*This is not an official report. Minutes will be posted in the village hall*

## Miscellaneous

**The Flu group** met again in view of this winter's epidemic and all villagers should have received a yellow card through their door about who to contact for local help. Ring John Cater 744079 if you did not get the card or if you want to join the group.

**Bridie Clapham** has been hospitalised with flu but hopes to be home again soon.

**You never know what might turn up at 2Quidy Club:** here is Sid Roberts with the lego model he constructed as a treat for himself.



**Poppies project latest news:** The first 1000 poppies have been cut out. What an achievement!

**Cutting sessions** are now every fortnight. Because of half term the only one in February is on Tuesday 20 February, 12.00 Village Hall.

**Not the Not the Bus Pass Christmas Tea Party?** A new name has been suggested for this annual event that is now for all adults in Quidhampton: **the Grown-ups Christmas Tea Party.** Our oldest resident, Audrey Catford, suggested it and it seems just right. Audrey has her 95th birthday this month. Congratulations in advance, Audrey, and thank you for taking such an active interest in village life.

## 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 February**

Garden waste (chargeable) Fri 2 & 16,

Household waste Mon 5 & 19

Recycling Mon 12 & 26

**Newsletter editor:** Bea Tilbrook 742456

bjtis@hotmail.co.uk Meadow Barn

Fisherman's Reach SP2 9BG.

This month's newsletter is paid for by a number of villagers