

# Quidhampton Village Newsletter

May 2018

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## What's On in May

**Thursday 3: monthly charity quiz at The White Horse**

**Monday 7:** bank holiday, schools closed

**Wednesday 9:** Bemerton Film Society Sunshine on Leith See page 7

**Thursday 10: Chris Payne Live music in the bar of The White Horse from 20.30**

**Saturday 12:** Big Bemerton Jumble Trail 10.00 – 15.00 more details in local press

**Sunday 13:** Bemerton Brunch St John's Place 10.00 – 12.00

**Wednesday 16 :** Bemerton History Society: The Big Houses of Bemerton and the Families who lived there. A talk by Angie Watts . 19.30 Hedley Davis Court

**Thursday 17: special tea at Greenways See page 8**

**Friday 18: Rock and Roll bingo at The White Horse from 20.30**

**Tuesday 22: Annual Parish Meeting 19.00 and Annual Parish Council Meeting 19.30 both in the Village Hall. See page 3**

**Wednesday 23:** the second in a series of talks at St John's Place: 24 Hours at Omaha. Bob Kershaw, local military historian, talks about experiences of this part of the D day landings. Doors open 19.00 for refreshments, talk begins 19.30

**Friday 25:** Non uniform day Sarum Academy.

**Monday 28 – Friday 1 June:** Bank holiday and school termly break all week

**Monday 4 June :** return to school

**2Quidy Club** meets for tea, coffee, home made cakes and chat on Tuesdays in the Village Hall 13.00 – 14.15. No meeting Tuesday 29 May

**Friday activity mornings** every Friday at St John's Place 10.00 – 12.00

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**It's open! The first restaurant in Quidhampton.**

**The Loft restaurant upstairs at The White Horse is now open for lunch and dinner Wednesdays to Saturdays and lunch on Sundays.**

The full menu is available in the bar as well as bar food such as scampi and chips in a basket. Sandwiches and jacket potatoes are available at lunch time. There are now some lovely arm chairs and a sofa in the bar so you can linger in comfort.



**You are warmly invited to The White Horse  
on Sunday 13 May 15.30 – 17.30  
for cake and a drink  
to help Bea Tilbrook celebrate her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday**  
*I would love to see all local friends there but no presents,  
just your presence. ☺*



**Important Note: The next newsletter**

Because of the editor's commitments the next newsletter will cover **June and July**. It will contain only the What's On list of events, and the proposals for the 100 + Club. All information about events must be with the editor by **Monday 21 May**. There will be a 'normal' newsletter for August.

*Villagers have been delighted to see the CSW volunteers out recording the speed of traffic. They deserve our very special thanks, not only for giving up their time but also for doing what can be a difficult job – see the co-ordinator's report below. People have already commented that they are making a real difference and that some speeds are noticeably lower. But the effort will have to be kept up – can you train as a volunteer and join them? Contact the parish clerk (details on back page) to find out more.*



### **Community Speed Watch (CSW) co-ordinator's report**

Just before Christmas, nine parishioners attended CSW Volunteer training. After a long delay we finally took delivery of the device and were able to start operating, as many of you will have seen. Three more trained recently and are still going through security checks but hope to join us very soon.

We have managed to do 14 shifts in the two weeks and recorded over 400 cars breaking the speed limit. A few of those stopped, not realising it is a 20mph limit, and it was nice to see them driving more slowly and giving us a wave the next time we were out.

Sadly we have noticed drivers speeding up as they go past us - not advisable as we are getting pretty good at turning round and catching them as they drive off.

Some drivers question the legality of the scheme and some take no notice.

We have also had requests to come and do it in their villages.

We have noticed that as we pack up cars whizz past but generally vehicles are slowing down. One slowed down a little too quickly as they spotted the HiViz tops and almost had another car in their boot.

The police have driven by as well and hope to come out with us on the occasional shift. That may shock some drivers as they could get an instant fine (it happened nearby very recently).

Thank you for the kind words and offers of refreshments. It is great to hear cars are slowing down and making it safer to walk along the road.

We do ask that the footway (marked with the white line) is kept free of vehicles and objects as this can cause visual problems. It is an offence to block the footway and thus cause unnecessary danger for pedestrians who have to walk in the carriageway.

Race days are looming and we shall be out and about as long as there are enough volunteers and it is dry. If any of you would like to volunteer, the more the merrier.

#### **Some statistics**

- 26% of drivers do 30 mph or more: a speed of 50% above the limit
- Just under 1% (0.8%) were doing 40 mph: double the speed limit.

*The information gathered by the CSW volunteers is submitted to Wiltshire Police who send letters to the registered keepers of the speeding vehicles. If they are caught speeding again they get a second letter and a police officer makes a home visit if there is a third occasion. A speed of 50% or more above the limit results directly in a visit from a police officer.*

## **Two meetings on Tuesday 22 May**

**1. The Annual Parish Meeting (APM) at 19.00.** This is not a parish council meeting but is organised by the parish council and is an opportunity for the parish to come and hear what has been happening in the past year and what is planned. If you would like to make a report contact Clare Churchill.

**2. The Annual Parish Council Meeting (APCM)** This follows the APM. Its starting time depends on the length of the APM but will be no earlier than 19.15.

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### **100+ Club: a letter from the new organiser, Gervase Clifton-Moore**

Dear Newsletter readers

The new 100 Club will be called The 100 + Club and there will be an insert in next newsletter with proposals on how I believe it should be run.

My initial impressions are that people would like a new 100 + Club to be formed with a larger take up of entries so there will be bigger prizes.

It is a Non-Profit Lottery so after the monthly prizes have been paid the remaining proceeds are divided between the village hall and the VE Fund, both run for the benefit of Quidhampton.

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**Sharon Mullett** abseiled down the Spinnaker Tower in Southampton in March in aid of Homes for Veterans. She writes:

*Thanks so much for putting my charity abseil down the Spinnaker Tower in the newsletter. It was amazing and I had a*

### **POPPIES PROJECT: painters wanted! Preferably young!**

The cutting stage is over for the moment. Sandie gave a brilliant demonstration of wiring and painting on Tuesday but some older people are not confident about doing the painting.

Are there some young people who would join a group in the summer and spend a

The APCM is the meeting often mistakenly referred to as an AGM (parish councils cannot have AGMs). The agenda for the meeting will be on the village notice board and on the website.

### **Parish Council Vacancies**

There are two vacancies on the Parish Council, contact the Clerk or a Councillor if you are interested for more information. Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of May, July, September, November, January and March.

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The new 100 + Club will only be re-launched if a sufficient number of entries are purchased. I am proposing a minimum of 200. All villagers can buy 5 entries each, and more in the names of close family members e.g. grandchildren. I look forward to receiving your further comments and support.

Yours faithfully

Gervase Clifton-Moore 8 Sovereign Close  
SP2 9ES [gervasec@radcliffe-ifa.co.uk](mailto:gervasec@radcliffe-ifa.co.uk)

The last 100 Club ceased at the end of December 2017. All queries about membership of it should be directed to Chris Edge

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*fantastic time. I'd like to say a huge thank you in the newsletter to everyone who has donated to this amazing cause and for all the encouragement and support I have received from so many friends, family and villagers. With their help I have managed to raise £568.50!*

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morning spraying poppies? It's community service - looks good on a CV! If you think you can do it let the editor have your name and we will be in touch later.

*We do not need any more plastic bottles at the moment. Thank you to everyone who has collected. There are still some at Meadow Barn that people can take.*



**William Frank Leach 1888 - 1918**  
**Regimental Sergeant Major 1/4th Battalion,**  
**Hampshire Regiment**



RSM William Leach died of typhus in a Turkish prisoner of war camp on 2 May 1918. He is buried in the North Gate War Cemetery, Baghdad, headquarters of the Turkish army during the war. He will be remembered at morning service in St Andrew's on 6 May.

**Family background**

**Grandfather: William Leach 1822 - 1884**

The Leach family had been tradesmen for several generations. They had servants and nurses; their children were privately educated and they married into similar families. Sons inherited the family business or began a new one. William's grandfather, also called William, moved from Hertfordshire to Salisbury in the 1840's to open a grocers shop at 41 Castle Street. (now Bassett's estate agents). His business grew - see the entry in an 1875 directory:

**Leach William, grocer & tea dealer, & agent for Henry Brett & Co.'s "Eau de Vie" pure brandy, 41 Castle street, & tallow chandler, Culver street**

William Leach not only sold candles but made them in

his tallow works on Old Sarum Road. He was an active Salisbury citizen and was mayor in 1881. In 1884 he died suddenly of peritonitis and his only son, William junior, the father of our soldier, discovered the business was £2000 in debt.

**Father: William Leach: 1855 - 1919**

William jnr was 29 and newly married; his world must have changed overnight. He tried to keep the business going and was still at 41 Castle Street in 1891. In 1894, however, he had to make a private arrangement with his creditors and lost everything: the grocery and tallow businesses, the shop and residential premises in Castle Street and the tallow works. He opened a grocer's shop in Winchester Street with £230 from friends, running it in the name of his wife, Alice Mary Sawkins. That business went bankrupt three years later due to competition and lack of capital. Alice Mary told the bankruptcy registrar their furniture also belonged to friends and she owned nothing except her clothes.

William Leach worked in London as a baker's assistant but could not earn enough there to provide for his family, so he became a commercial traveller, eventually working for Young's, wholesale grocers in Andover. When advised to move there he said it was better for him to stay in Salisbury because friends paid his rent and helped in other ways.

**The Leach family in Bemerton**

William and Alice Leach, their five daughters and son William Frank moved to 1 Montgomery Terrace (now 1 Lower Road) in 1899. William was immediately elected sidesman (deputy churchwarden) at St John's. They are often mentioned in the parish magazine, especially Mrs Leach who helped with church flowers, school performances and district visiting in Quidhampton. The children were confirmed and the girls joined the Girls Friendly Society. Maud, the oldest, worked as an assistant at Bemerton School, and won a place at Salisbury Teacher Training College.

The Leach family particularly enjoyed performing, taking part in several parish entertainments. In January 1903 they put on a successful evening's entertainment in the schoolroom raising £5 for church charities.

In 1901 they moved to 2 Stanhope Villas, Wilton Road and later to Cromwell Villas. Then, at the end of 1906, came another major shock: William was arrested and charged with embezzling 10 shillings from his employer. Two fellow commercial travellers paid bail of £50 each for him to be released.

Bail was so high because the full charges, revealed in January, were embezzling 10 shillings a fortnight for three years. William pleaded guilty.

The trial was reported in detail in the local papers. William's solicitor, Mr Longman of Andover, made an impassioned closing speech from which many of the facts of this account have been taken.

He described the misfortunes the prisoner faced through no fault of his own, and the hard struggle he had had to provide for his family. Mr Young paid him £2 a week and 2/6 a day expenses, "a mere fleabite" compared with the cost of accommodation, travelling and "the usual expenses which travellers had to meet in the shape of 'treats' to enable them to get orders."

Mr Longman attached some blame to the book-keeping system which allowed William Leach to get away with it for so long. It had been closely examined and found to be 'extraordinary'.

The prisoner knew it was wrong to take the money and bitterly regretted it but it was not for gambling, betting or riotous living, but to keep his family. Mr Longman had letters from prominent Salisbury gentlemen who described his client as honourable, and he believed there would be an effort by the prisoner's friends to pay the money he had taken. Mr Young had said that he did not wish to press the case against the prisoner, who was in tears more than once during this speech.

Mr Longman appealed for mercy, to save the family from the stigma of gaol, but the senior judge said because it had gone on for three years he had to give a prison sentence: four months without hard labour.

It is not known how this affected the family's life but it can perhaps be imagined. William

was no longer listed as a sidesman in the parish magazine and his family's name was not mentioned there for several years. By the end of 1908 they were back at 1 Montgomery Terrace. Maud worked at Bemerton School throughout this time but had six weeks absence after the trial.

In 1911 William was a grocer's clerk and his daughters were all employed except the youngest who was at school. Later Mrs Leach again arranged church flowers and there are sympathetic references to William Frank's army service.

### **Life of William Frank Leach, RSM 1/4th Hampshire Regiment 1888 - 1918**

William Frank Leach, Willie to his family and Billy in the army, had several changes in his childhood as his father tried different ways to earn a living.

He left his private school when the grocery business was sold but went to Bishop's school in 1900, the year it opened. Like the rest of the family he enjoyed life in Bemerton. Willie performed in village entertainments, was confirmed in 1903 and became a Sunday school teacher. He left in 1906 to go to Winchester Teacher Training College.

In 1907 Willie joined the Hampshire territorials. The regular payments for his part time soldiering would have been useful and the two week summer camps and year round training sessions would have helped him settle in. When he qualified he found a teaching job in Winchester living with Bessie, a former servant of the Leach family, and George Wheeler, a grocer's traveller.

This life was shaken by the declaration of war and the territorial force was mobilized at once. Willie's battalion went to India to relieve the 2nd battalion to fight in Europe. In February 1915 a letter about his experiences reached his family.

Meanwhile the battalion had left for Mesopotamia, landing at Basra on 18 March 1915. On 11 July Willie wrote his will in the form of a letter to his mother to whom he left everything. He said that they were now



General Townshend and the badge/medal given to all who survived the siege

'really in the fighting'.

They were part of General Townshend's unsuccessful attempt to reach Bagdad and in December 1915 were besieged at Kut. This siege, the unsuccessful

attempts to break it and the surrender of British and Indian forces after five months are now regarded as one of the greatest defeats of the British army. What followed for the 'other ranks' worn down by months of siege is regarded as among the worst experiences of the war.

Turkish soldiers were treated with extreme brutality and treated their prisoners in the same way. General Townshend was transported in comfort to Constantinople and officers were transported to open camps where conditions were tolerable but some 2,600 British and 9,300 Indians were rounded up and marched away on what became known as death marches.

Two-thirds of the British and about a seventh of the Indians never saw their homes again.

The historian and war poet Geoffrey Elton, a junior officer, saw them leaving, officerless, "none of them fit to march five miles ... full of dysentery, beri-beri, scurvy, malaria and enteritis; they had no doctors, no medical stores and no transport; the hot weather, just beginning, would have meant much sickness and many deaths, even among troops who were fit, and well supplied." Another contemporary describes them as being herded and flogged like animals across the desert, the dying and weak left where they fell.

In his recent book "Kut 1916 – the forgotten British disaster" Patrick Crowley writes: The senior non-commissioned officers did their best to hold their troops together. These were men like Regimental Sergeant Billy Leach of the Hampshire Regiment. As

his troops moved north he ensured that what food was available was fairly rationed and his notebook recording this is in the Regimental Museum. After all the marching and loss of lives he became the senior prisoner at a place called Nusaybin, helping to work on the railways, overseen by Germans. He kept records of all the men and dealt with their administration; he was a vital and popular figure who kept morale as high as he could. Unfortunately, he died in captivity, of typhus.

William Leach began the war as a colour sergeant (a rank above sergeant) and later received a 'meritorious award' which made him Regimental Sergeant Major, the highest rank a non-commissioned officer could reach.

One often wonders how much the families knew at the time. In this case we have some idea because in April 1918 the parish magazine published an extract from a letter written by Captain Floyd, also at Kut. He said he had tried to get Billy Leach to go with the officers as a servant but "he wouldn't leave the men. He is the best man I have ever struck. Some new orderlies who joined us told me that the work he did with the men on the trek from Kut was wonderful. All those poor men who had to trek as prisoners owe Leach a heavy debt of gratitude. Granted he was not under fire but the conditions were if anything worse. A most gallant fellow".

It was published one month before Billy Leach died.

*There is more to be discovered about the life of Billy Leach. The regimental museum has his papers and perhaps information that will enable us to find a family member. His five sisters married and had children but none have yet been traced. His heroic courage and strength— not military but moral and compassionate - deserve to be celebrated and remembered.*

William's father died in 1919 and his mother stayed at 1 Lower Road until her late seventies when she moved to live with one of her daughters. Both are buried in St John's.

 **Christopher Galbraith Buckle 1888 - 1918 Lieutenant Colonel 2nd Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment. Distinguished Service Order, Military Cross**

Christopher Buckle, called Garry but named after his father who was a major general, was a most distinguished soldier who visited Bemerton only once.

His mother, Lily, was a forceful woman and passionately attached to her only son.

Bemerton House was one of many temporary homes she had during the war but as she was here when she heard he was killed she wanted him to be commemorated here as well as on the memorial in their home village of Walcott in Cumbria.

Garry was killed leading his troops in the battle of the Aisne in France and is buried in La Ville- Aux-Bois British cemetery near Reims. He was married with a son.

The story of Lily and her son is told in "The Most Upsetting Woman", the autobiography of Garry's son, ballet critic Richard Buckle.

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The printing of the accounts of the soldiers has been paid for by Charles Frank who works in a building two doors away from Leach's grocers shop.

**PLANT PLANT PLANT for the  
Quidhampton  
Summer Garden Show  
July 14th**

**Flower categories**

- Marigolds
- Sweet Peas
- Roses. Specimen / 4 blooms/Cluster.
- Single garden flower  
(other than a rose ).
- Hanging basket .
- Flower arrangement  
in unusual container !!



**Vegetable Categories**

- Beans, French and runner
- Carrots, Long and stump rooted
- Onions
- Squash/pumpkin
- Lettuce
- Most wonky veg.
- Courgettes



**Age 16 and under**

- Miniature garden
- Pizza or quiche

**Preserves**

- Chutney
- Jam
- Marmalade

**Age 10 and under**

- Vegetable monster
- Chocolate cake



**More in the June newsletter, meanwhile call Clare Herring for details tel 741469**

**Closure of the Netherhampton Road:  
16 – 17 May**

News just in : the Netherhampton Road will close from the A36 junction (Park Corner traffic lights) to Harnham. The closure will be for 36 continuous hours from Wednesday 16 May. Exact times are not known yet but there will be good signage. Watch out for those signs and also notifications by email.

**Sunshine on Leith  
Wednesday 9 May St John's Place  
Bemerton Film Society  
Entrance £6 Doors open 19.15**

This sounds like a film to go and see. "A jubilant heartfelt musical about the power of home, hearth, family and love. Three couples experience joys and heartache all while singing to the euphoric music of The Proclaimers. Reminiscent of Mamma Mia but with much better songs the finale sees crowds of dancing Edinburghers performing their greatest hit: I'm gonna be (500 miles)"

## Welcome to Diana

Diana Bethwaite, mother of Alison Thake, has moved into Sovereign Close from a village near Corsham. Recently widowed, she moved here to be nearer Alison and other family members and for the convenience of a village with a bus service and (she has been told) a good community life. She is sure to try 2Quidy Club where she may tell you about her fascinating hobby of stained glass making. At the moment, though, she is more interested in fitting everything into her new house and finding a walking group that does shorter walks of about 3 miles. Any ideas? *Welcome, Diana, we hope you will enjoy life in Quidhampton.*

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## Do you feel isolated and would like to get out more?

*Hello! My name is Lily and I would like to invite you to join me, my mother Margaret, and my friend Inga for a mug of tea or coffee and a slice of home made cake.*

*Quidhampton looks a fairly small village when driving through but we know there are many homes tucked away out of sight.*

*My mother was recently unwell and felt rather cut off from the village. So we would like to invite anyone who may feel isolated for any reason to join us on*

***Thursday 17 May at 14.00.***

*We hope to do this once a month.*

*There is no charge as our aim is to bring people together and make new friends.*

*With best wishes, Lily I live at Greenways the wooden house opposite the pub garden. Just knock on the door.*

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This month's newsletter has been paid for by the editor in thankfulness for 70 years of healthy 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 May

Recycling Mon 7 & 21

Garden waste Fri 11 & 25

Household waste Mon 14 & 28

**Newsletter editor:** Bea Tilbrook 742456

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