

Quidhampton Village Newsletter

July & August 2019

What's on in Quidhampton July

Wednesday 3: First pilates class village hall 11.00

Thursday 4: Monthly Quiz Night: book early if you want a table

Monday 8 and Tuesday 9: The White Horse is closed all day for some building works and internal refurbishment

Friday 12: Italian Night A chance to sample some of new chef Karl's speciality cooking.
Bookings only

Saturday 13: Quidditch Club toy swap in Village Hall Time to be announced

A toy swap means toys are shared with other families in the village and that helps the environment as well as being fun. (Sharing toys mean fewer new ones are needed so fewer resources are used and less pollution is created) More details from Abi, contact details on back page.

Saturday 13 and Sunday 14: Wimbledon Finals will be on the big screen in the Loft at The White Horse, strawberries and cream available

Wednesday 17 Bike Night Ride out 19.00, meal deal for bikers on return

Friday 19: Rock & Roll bingo The White Horse from 21.00

Tuesday 23: Quidhampton Parish Council Village Hall 19.30

Thursday 25: school term ends.

Thursday 25: Private Garden party at The White Horse

Friday 26: Live Music in The White Horse George Agombar plays from 21.00

Saturday 27: Quidhampton Garden Show with saxophonist Graeme Budd at 14.00 – see page 2

Wednesday 31: Call My Quaff a wine tasting event at The White Horse. More details on the website and advertised in the pub soon.

What's on in Quidhampton August all events at The White Horse

Thursday 1: Monthly quiz

Saturday 10: Seafood Night, booking essential

Friday 16 Rock & Roll bingo

Wednesday 16: Bike Night

Wednesday 28: Sovereign Set lunch menus from Joyce Harvey 742309

Friday 30: Live music

Thursday 29 The White Horse golf day at the Crane Valley golf course, near Verwood. 27 holes of golf, breakfast, lunch and a prize giving dinner back at the Horse. Entry details behind the bar or see Howard Rowley.

Ongoing:

2Quidy Club Tuesdays 13.00 – 14.00 Village Hall, last one of the term 16 July. Begins again on 10 September.

Saturday steak nights continue at The White Horse except Saturday 10 August two 10 oz rump steaks and all the trimmings with a bottle of wine £28. Booking essential, other menu available.

Super exercise bouncifit classes in the village hall every Saturday morning 9.15-10.00 except 17 & 25 August. £5, single parents free

QUIDHAMPTON SUMMER GARDEN SHOW

followed by **DOG SHOW** classes announced later

Saturday 27 July Village Marquee

Extra classes: soft fruit and single rose

Hanging basket class: photo accepted

For all other classes see village notice board

Entry Forms available from The White Horse or Withy House opposite the pub from 15 July. Entry fee 25p per entry. Dog show entries £1

All entry forms to be handed in to the pub or Withy House
by 18.00 Friday 26 July with entry fees

All trophies from last year to be returned by 26 July
Good luck everyone!

Bemerton events

Bemerton Live, the social coffee mornings with exercise for the over 55's, continue at St John's Place 10.30 every Friday except: 16 – 30 August.

Wednesday 10 July: Bemerton Film Society: Passport to Pimlico, a classic Ealing comedy. St John's Place Entrance £6, programme begins 19.30

Tuesday 16 July: Bemerton History Society The big houses of Bemerton continued. Angie Watts, assisted by John Abbott, will talk about more of the big houses in the village and the families who lived in them. Hedley Davis Court, Cherry Orchard Lane 19.30

Wednesday 14 August: Bemerton Film Society: Secrets and Lies award winning film by Mike Leigh. A successful black woman discovers her birth mother is a white woman with a dysfunctional family. "Unforced, confident and completely involving, with exceptional acting" it is not bleak as some of his films can be. Recommended.

How do you get on with Shakespeare?

Ever wished you could understand and like him better?

If so then go along to

SHAKESPEARE IN THE GARDEN

Sunday 14 July 14.00 The Court House Lower Woodford

A half hour show of Shakespearean wit, songs, sonnets and music in a beautiful garden with tea and cakes. Children and dogs welcome

This short show is recommended by Camilla Burgess.

It was very successful last year Entrance £5, children free

A Studio Theatre Event

Community Speed Watch

Our wonderful volunteers have been out again and although rain affected a few sessions they have produced some more interesting statistics.

Going out really early one day, at 6 a.m. for an hour, 64% of drivers were recorded above the 20 mph limit, that's two drivers in every three! And a quarter of the speeders (6 drivers) were over 30 mph.

They also targeted a Sunday lunchtime on race day and recorded 55% over 20 mph with a third of them over 30 mph. That means that in that hour - the middle of the day at a weekend when families are very likely to be about – 14 people thought it right to drive through the village at over 30 mph.

There is unfortunately a culture of speed in our society which it will take time to change. Quidhampton is very lucky indeed to have such a dedicated group of speed watch volunteers and we owe them a lot. Some villages have been unable to get enough volunteers to form a group.

So sincere thanks to Clare Churchill who got it all going, and Sandie Smith, the new team leader, assisted by Joy Wagstaff.

Speed Indicator Device (SID)

SID is one of those signs that tells you how fast you are travelling and is another way of persuading motorists to reduce their speed. The parish council shares a SID with five other villages - you may have seen it in Wilton or South Newton – and it finally arrived at the end of June.

Howard Rowley, chair of the parish council writes:

The intention is to split our usage time of SID between Lower Road and where SID is currently positioned on Netherhampton Road. You may also have noticed that SID is not actually working. After many hours of attempting software changes and diagnostic fault finding with flow charts SID has had to go back to the manufacturer who informs us SID has lost his ability to spot cars.

At the time of going to press the Parish Council is awaiting news from the manufacturer about a fix or replacement and is hoping that we get SID operating very soon.

The Parish Council and the Quidhampton Community Speed Watch team will be working together on future usage of SID.

A ton of tins

You may have heard of the ton of tins Trussell Trust wants to collect before the school holidays. These will be used to make food parcels for vulnerable families who rely on free school meals to feed their children or who have to use some of their low income to pay childcare bills in the holidays.

Demand is increasing all the time.

If you want to donate you can take tins or other non-perishable food items such as pasta, snack bars, chocolate etc. to the Trussell Trust warehouse on Ashfield Trading estate, or to St John's School, Bemerton, Wilton Parish Church, Spire FM, Abicare in Brunel Road or Waitrose, or leave them with the newsletter editor. Other items that are useful include shampoo and shower gel, toothpaste and toothbrushes.



The story of another serviceman from the parish who died in the First World War.

John Drake's story did not appear in 2016 because he had not been traced by then. Once Wiltshire parish records were online we identified him in Fugglestone where he moved before he enlisted. More details than usual of his war service are included because the first day of the Somme is of particular interest to so many people.



John Drake 1881 – 1916 **Private, 1st battalion Dorsetshire regiment**

John Drake, aged 34, was killed on 1 July, 1916, the first day of the battle of the Somme. He is also remembered in St Peter's church, Fugglestone and on Wilton war memorial.

Paternal family history

John's father Daniel was the first of his family in seven generations to leave the small Dorset village where they lived. He moved to Fordington, now part of Dorchester, in the 1850's when many people were moving away from remote rural life. The progress was not always what might be expected: Daniel's father was a shoemaker who signed documents fluently but Daniel worked as a labourer all his life and never learned to write his name.

Fordington was known to be a disreputable place to live. Thomas Hardy described it as "the hiding place of those in distress, debt and trouble of every kind." In 1861 Daniel Drake, 24, lodged in what is now High East Street. In 1863 he married a local woman, Elizabeth Wills, and they set up house together taking in lodgers themselves.

Daniel and Elizabeth had three children and a baby who died in 1871, one month before his mother died of consumption. Daniel's widowed mother lived with him for a while. Eventually his two daughters went to London to be servants and in 1881 Daniel and his son Thomas were

lodging in Lytchett Matravers, working as farm labourers.

John Drake's parents

In April of that year the widowed Daniel Drake, 45, married Annie Gale, 24, washerwoman and mother of a 7 year old son. They settled in Lytchett Minster where Annie was born and had nine children, six of whom survived childhood.

Life of John Drake

John was the oldest child and left home to join the 1st battalion Dorset Regiment in 1899, as soon as he was eighteen, having previously worked as a brickmaker. He served in India for two years but was invalided home in December 1903 as medically unfit. No details are given. Home was then in Upton, near Poole, where his 67 year old father still worked as a labourer.

Marriage and family life

In 1905 John married Julia Harris of Upton farm, probably a housemaid. John was a groom and gardener at Upton House, his address on the marriage certificate. The new owners were making great changes after a period of instability. By 1907 when their second daughter was baptised they were at Gussage St Michael, near Cranborne. John's job description was the same but the distance from Upton means he must have been working for another employer.

They were still there in 1911 but in 1915 a third child, Nora, was born in Fugglestone. They had moved to Fairfield Cottages, near the workhouse on what is now the Kingsway trading estate.

Julia registered Nora's birth on 30 November 1915. John's occupation was still groom and gardener but when Nora was baptised three weeks later his occupation was 'soldier.' John Drake had volunteered to fight for his country, and was accepted despite being declared medically unfit twelve years before. He chose to serve in his old battalion.

1st battalion Dorset regiment in France 1916

The battalion was in the area of the Somme from January 1916 and the war diary describes a static situation. German and British troops largely remained in their own trenches. Working parties ventured out for repairs of barbed wire etc and were shot at, artillery and mortars were fired and then trenches repaired, (there was one intense bombardment at the beginning of May), both sides sent out observation patrols and some did not return. Sometimes aeroplanes and the occasional hot air balloon passed overhead. There were regular rest periods in barracks. At the beginning of June 200 extra men appeared in the weekly tally and John Drake almost certainly joined the battalion then. During the first week they were in billets enjoying battalion sports; during the second they undertook divisional training and then headed to the front line where they were responsible for digging a new advance trench. The war diary ominously notes: "This has to be finished at all costs". The cost was 6 other ranks killed and 28 wounded, 3 of whom died of their wounds.

On 22 June they were in Blackhorse Shelters where there was a 'very large amount of work to be done' and orders were received for the coming advance.

New trenches were dug with difficulty in the chalk, ammunition was carried to the correct places and they marched to a rest camp across country to avoid main roads. The entire brigade was inspected by the divisional commander and grenades, signalling equipment etc were distributed. Everyone knew a big attack was planned and after one postponement they returned to Blackhorse Shelters arriving at 00.50 on 1 July.

1 July 1916

The first day of the battle of the Somme is regarded as the worst day in the history of the British army. 19,240 men were killed and nearly 40,000 wounded. For many it was their first battle.

The failure of seven days bombardment to destroy the German trenches meant soldiers going over the top were mown down by machine gun and rifle fire. It is now better known that not all areas of the front line saw such slaughter but the 1st battalion of the Dorset regiment did, and it is painful to read their war diary written by Lt and Adjutant H. C. Butcher.

They left Blackhorse Shelters at 07.10 to wait in Authuille Wood until the 11th Border regiment had advanced and they could get to the British front line 100 yards away. As their first platoon left the wood, however, they met "very heavy and extremely accurate machine-gun fire."

All other exits were blocked by barbed wire and other obstructions so they dashed across to the front line trench in sections through a hail of bullets.

"By the time half the battalion had left the wood the end of the track and the ground up to our front line trench was covered with our killed and wounded; yet the men continued to jump up and advance over their fallen comrades as the word to go was given."

"Four Lewis guns were lost by the men being wounded; other men following who

stopped to pick up the guns were also killed or wounded.”

When they reached their trench they found it congested with 100-150 men (no officers) of the Border regiment, machine gunners, carrying parties and increasing numbers of killed and wounded. Six officers and 60 men went forward immediately. The officers were all wounded and only 25 of the men made it to the German trench which was occupied by British and German troops. Barriers were built and bombs thrown until supplies ran out.

Back in the British frontline trench Lt n Butcher had assumed command and organised the remaining troops. A patrol was sent out and an attack planned but the commanding officers of the other troops sent orders for them to withdraw, leaving the Dorsets to hold the line.

Again the indefatigable Lt n Butcher organised the remaining 85 men into companies, posted sentries, and positioned their two Lewis guns, despite being unable to get in touch with any other unit or command. Sixty un-wounded men joined them having become detached in other parts of the trenches but they were under constant artillery fire that grew more intense and accurate through the afternoon. 30 of the men were killed or wounded and the trench very badly damaged. Shortly after 17.00 a message came saying the 1st Dorset Regiment would be relieved and by 02.00 on 2 July they were clear of the front line. The men

in the German trench were also ordered to withdraw.

It is not known when John Drake was killed on that day. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records 68 of the battalion killed and 16 dying of their wounds in the next two days. On 29 June the fighting strength of the 1st Dorsets was 39 officers and 1107 other ranks; on 6 July it was 23 and 612 respectively.

Burial and remembrance

Many soldiers were buried in small cemeteries where they fell; later a process of concentration meant bodies in those cemeteries were re-buried in larger ones. It is not known where John Drake was originally buried but in February 1927 his body and thirteen others were buried in Serre Road cemetery number 2, a cemetery created in 1917 when the battlefield was first cleared. More than half of the 7,127 graves are unidentified. John's body was identified by his boots, khaki, titles and equipment. The records show his wife was living at Fancy Row, Wilton, a row of cottages demolished the 1950s. Churchill Court was built where they stood.

John and Julia's daughters all married and had children. Contact has been made with one of his great grand daughters. Julia died in 1959 in Hampshire where some of the family were living.

Research and writing by Bea Tilbrook and Wendy Lawrence, June 2019

Church news

Three candidates for the post of Rector of Bemerton were interviewed on 20 June. A wider group was invited to meet the candidates the day before. Bea Tilbrook and Jennifer Tyler went to represent Quidhampton. Church Warden Hilary Bird says: *“Thanks to everyone who came to the lunch and met the candidates and thanks for the feedback. We were keen to appoint but after over 2 hours of deliberation and prayer we felt no one was the right person and that it was better to wait than get less than is planned for us.”* Hilary and Helen, the Parish reps on the interview panel, are absolutely certain that it was the right decision.

From the Horse's Mouth by Zoe Hoare

We managed to pack quite a lot into the last few months! From Sovereign Set lunches to the Beer Festival, we've been kept on our toes. July is full too, with Italian dining, private BBQ's, live music, a Wimbledon Garden Party and more besides. Details are in the village newsletter and on our website, as well as sent via our White Horse email list. You can sign up to this by visiting the website.

We have chosen Macmillan Cancer Support as our charity to raise funds for, with £1000 being raised so far from several activities. We are holding a "Call My Quaff" Wine Tasting Event in July and October will see the first of our White Horse Comedy Nights. In conjunction with Macmillan, we hope that these events will continue to raise funds for a fabulous and very much needed charity.

Remedial building works and some internal refurbishment will begin in early July. Your patience will be appreciated during this time. We hope to open as normal except on July 8th and 9th when we shall be closed, re-opening at noon on Wednesday 10th July. We will try to keep disruption to a minimum and will communicate any other affected times via social media, village email and our own email list.

The 100 Club will be starting again! We know villagers have missed it and Gervase Clifton-Moore worked out a new structure and way of running it. Now Gervase and I will be running it together - all profits to the village hall and entertainment fund as before. More details in the September newsletter. The draw will take place on the last Friday of each month during the evening, in the bar.

As some of you know, there have been some new team members at The White Horse. We welcomed Natalie as our new Manager as well as Karl, our new chef. Natalie comes from a legal background and has brilliant organisational skills. Karl brings with him a huge amount of knowledge and vast experience in catering, particularly in Italian cuisine and desserts. It's great to have both Nats and Karl working with us and they look forward to meeting you all in due course.

Thanks to all for the continued support of The White Horse, it's very much appreciated.

Thank you, Zoe. It's great that the 100 Club is starting up again. And many villagers would like to wish Steve well. He was last seen buying a smart new suit for his wedding in Kiev and says that he is going to live there permanently now. Good luck, Steve, you deserve that happiness.

Local part time job available

Bemerton Community Ltd is recruiting a part-time Manager of St John's Place, Lower Bemerton. The successful candidate will have experience of managing people, have good inter-personal skills and be responsible for the efficient running of the community centre, promoting its community use, renting to users to generate income, maintaining good records and ensuring that safeguarding and licensing policies are followed. Part time, three days (24 hours) per week with a salary of £14,000 pa and seventeen days annual holiday. Applicants can obtain the job description by applying with their CV to vaughan_watts@hotmail.com. Applications close 12 July 2019.

Shelley Wood, who has been manager since St John's Place opened, is leaving to start a business of her own. Her hard work, experience and skill have been really important in the success of the centre and she goes with many good wishes for success with her own venture.

WANTED: gardener to help in village garden one hour a week. Contact Abi, details see Quidditch contact right

WANTED: child minder/baby sitter for before and after school to pick up one child from Quidhampton and take them to Bemerton St John primary school, then pick up and deliver them home after school. Weekdays, term time only. Timings will vary according to after school clubs and breakfast club. Exact hours and payments to be discussed. Alternatively happy to take turns with other parents
Contact Hazel 07957755504

NEW Summer Pilates class with Chiara 11.00 – 12.00

Every Wednesday in July in the village hall

£8 per class or block of 4 classes £28

Contact Sabine to reserve your place – see village hall right

Places limited. Bring your own exercise mat if you have one

Editor's comment: pilates helped me regain energy, balance and mobility that I thought I had lost forever. It really makes you think about what your body is doing.

This is a trial run to see if there is enough interest in the village. There may be more classes.

Waste and recycling dates

July 2019

Recycling Mon 1, 15 & 29

Garden waste Fri 5 & 19

Household waste Mon 8 & 22

August 2019

Garden waste Fri 2, 16 & 30

Household waste Mon 5 & 19

Recycling Mon 12 & 26

This month's newsletter has been paid for by a Quidhampton family

Contributors & Contacts

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St John's Primary School: 322848

The White Horse : 744448

Quidhampton Mill : 741171

Self catering apartments

Footshill House, Lower Road: B&B
743587

Wilton and District Link Scheme : 01722 741241

Parish Council clerk:

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1 Tower Farm Cottages, SP2 9AA

Website:

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Wiltshire Council 0300 456 0100

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Bemerton Church Parish

Parish Office 328031

Village Hall bookings:

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Quidditch Club: occasional activities

organised by and for parents and

children of all ages. Contact Abi by

email for details of the what's app

group: abi.kingston@talk21.com

St John's Place Lower Rd

Bemerton: contact Manager: Shelley

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