

Quidhampton Village Newsletter

May 2020

What's On in Quidhampton

Again all events and meetings are cancelled, including the annual parish meeting but **the parish council intends to meet on 26 May 2020** as scheduled. This will be a virtual meeting. Members of the public may access the meeting but need to contact the clerk beforehand. All agenda items should be sent to the clerk before 09.00 on 14 May 2020.

Commemoration of the end of the second world war in 1945

Arrangements for the first part of the commemorations – Victory in Europe Day– are affected by the current restrictions. Most national events have been cancelled or postponed: “It is right and proper that people should be kept safe and healthy.” One national event remains:

At 15.00 (3 p.m.) on Friday 8 May

You are encouraged to take part from the safety of your own home in

The Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2

Stand up, raise a glass and use this toast:

“To those who gave so much, we thank you”

The second world war continued in the east until 15 August. Let us hope we can have some local events by then.

A message from the chair of the parish council

We are many weeks into the UK government guidance and village residents are doing a terrific job in following advice. It's great to see the rainbows in windows, the thunderous applause we hear every Thursday evening and more people than usual walking around the village exchanging pleasantries. The village's team of volunteers are raring to assist the vulnerable, the sick and those in isolation. Help is just a phone call or email away and I encourage you to use this service if you need it. This particularly applies to our older residents who are at greater risk, please don't venture out, volunteers can and will help you.

The parish council had a virtual meeting, one of the earliest parishes to embrace this new way of meeting. Not as enjoyable as all being in the village hall but it still allowed some decisions to go ahead such as selecting a complete package for the village defibrillator.

Stay safe. Regards Howard Rowley

A ten year anniversary. Thank you to everyone who sent kind comments about the ten years of the newsletter but sadly I have had no time to prepare any special articles and a supplement of photos as was hoped. Current events have had to come first. Perhaps something can be produced later in this anniversary year.

Other VE day events

As the newsletter went to press the government announced revised plans Official commemorations will begin at 11.00 with a national moment of remembrance and two minutes silence. There will be special TV programmes including a message from the queen.

The Royal British Legion has launched a “Tommy in the window” campaign with specially designed figures of soldiers, and plans a singalong.

A pack with ideas for homemade VE day bunting, recipes and games and activities for children has also been produced. Go to the DCMS UK website and click on the different links.

A virtual meeting of Quidhampton Parish Council (QPC) took place on 7 April with all councillors present : Viv Bass, Paul Cripps, Dani Fox-Rennie, Zoe Hoare, Howard Rowley, Sandie Smith, Ken Taylor, Fiona West and Mandy Whelan.

In attendance: parish clerk, Wiltshire Councillor Pauline Church, and one member of the public (newsletter editor)

This is not a complete or official account of the meeting. Minutes are on the Parish Council noticeboard.

Emails were received from residents about traffic on the A3094 and proposed traffic calming measures in Lower Road. These will be discussed at a future meeting. Pauline Church, Wiltshire councillor, described how Wiltshire Council employees had been working seven days a week dealing with the current crisis, especially in setting up the Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub. The planning process is continuing in order to keep the system working so when restrictions are lifted work can start on approved permissions straightaway.

Traffic issues on Lower Road

The council authorised a contribution of £1000 to the feasibility study of the practicalities of the whole scheme as agreed with the Community Area Transport group.

Defibrillator

Three options were considered and it was decided not to go with the Community Heartbeat Trust. They had adopted the phone box directly and the clerk will investigate whether it can be transferred to the parish council. It was decided to purchase the highest quality equipment at a cost of £2022. Mandy Whelan, who worked on this with Viv Bass and Fiona West and is fully qualified, will run the training and familiarisation sessions for free.

Emergency Plan Update

John Cater, the civil emergency volunteer, had called a meeting of the flu group, now renamed the coronavirus group. Future meetings will be virtual meetings. A flyer was distributed to all households with details of how to contact the group for support. There is much informal support among villagers. The chair described this as possibly the most important thing QPC will ever do.

A steering group has been set up and includes parish councillors Howard Rowley, Zoe Hoare and Ken Taylor, as well as Quidhampton resident Ian Day who was involved in the Ebola virus outbreak management and is a consultant at Porton Down. It was resolved to make the Coronavirus Steering Group a committee of QPC, which means the meetings are open to the public and dates and agendas should be announced at least three days in advance. Terms of reference will be drafted and

approved by QPC.

Note: the steering group has been meeting weekly while terms of reference are drawn up

Finance: a budget of £1000 was allocated to the coronavirus group to cover the cost of essential items. Any item exceeding £200 must be referred to QPC for approval.

Recreation Ground: closed, following government advice.

Speed indicator device (SID) A working group of two councillors (Dani Fox-Rennie and Sandie Smith) and the clerk was established to consider options for buying a more suitable SID for Quidhampton. The existing shared device has been returned from the manufacturer but needs to be tested on site.

Climate change and environmental stability: Ken Taylor proposed this item and now proposed it be left to a future meeting. He and Paul Cripps will prepare terms of reference.

Paul Cripps emphasised it should be about both the big picture and the small things people can do.

Details of next meeting: see front page

Additional items from parish clerk Clare Churchill:

Green bins: payment renewals begin on 15 June, after 2 months with no payments. The cost is £50 for the year (ending 30 June 2021). If you already pay you will be contacted.

If you want to start having a green bin for garden waste sign up on the Wiltshire Council website and you will pay £50 to cover collections until 30 June 2021.

Potholes: please continue to report these, easiest to do it on the Wilts Council app

Scams: sadly these continue from criminals trying to take advantage of the current situation. Never give personal details to a website or caller you do not know, however persuasive they are.

Editor: Clare sent a very appreciative thank you to me for ten years of newsletters but she deserves my thanks, especially in these current times, for seeing that important information is not missed out.

More on scams: some calls claim to be from the Government support department or response team or similar and ask if you need to register for help. Do not give any details. If they are from a government department they would know these details already, and anyway would not ring out of the blue.

Just announced: postal letter deliveries will stop on Saturdays, starting this Saturday. Parcels will still be delivered. Collections will carry on as usual.

Hot weather and wounds: if you are wearing short sleeves for a sunny walk you should wash your arms as well as your hands when you get home. If you cut or graze yourself while outside you should treat the wound with disinfectant and cover it when you go out again.

101 non-emergency police calls are now free.

Warning: take care when crossing the A36 Wilton Road. Speeds have increased now there is less traffic.

Don't forget Quidhampton contacts for help

- Need help with shopping or prescriptions?

Call John Cater 01722 744079 or Jane Morgan 07880 550321

- Worried? Lonely? Want to chat to someone?

Jane Taylor, 01722 744534 would like to hear from you. As the days go by you may just want to talk to someone else. Our friendly volunteers are pleased to do this.

Or call or text Rachella Michaels, a qualified counsellor, offering appointments to all villagers. 07 778 102 086 This is a free service.

- Financial or other worries? Call the Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub 0300 003 4576.

They will direct you to a service that can help and can provide food and money if you are in urgent need.

- Concerned about domestic violence? Call the national domestic abuse helpline on 0808 2000 247. Calls have increased during the coronavirus crisis and they have introduced a live chat service between 10.00 and 14.00 weekdays on their website.

Pharmacies and medical practices The opening times of all Salisbury and Wilton pharmacies are now displayed in four places around the village: the corner of Edgam Place, the bus shelter, the telephone box and the village hall. It will be sent on the community email but is too big to put with the newsletter. Contact the editor if you would like a printed copy.

Harcourt Medical Centre has moved to Bemerton Heath Surgery, Pembroke Road. Their telephone number is the same. The Harcourt premises are being used as an acute covid-19 centre but Rowlands pharmacy remains open – access from the left side of the building.

Salisbury Medical Practice is operating from Wilton Road only. All other branches are closed.

Please avoid bonfires whilst restrictions are in place

Wiltshire Council and the National Allotments Association advise avoiding bonfires while the coronavirus controls are in place. Many people at home are vulnerable and your neighbours might have respiratory issues or even be fighting coronavirus itself. You can stockpile green waste, create a compost area or simply let the job wait until household recycling centres re-open. Never burn garden waste that is still green or recently cut, and never burn any other household waste.

Community email catch up

The community email gets to about 60% of village homes. This is a summary of emails from April that are still relevant.

- Two Wilton food outlets now make frozen meals and deliver free to Quidhampton: **Norma's Pantry (single portions) 742576** and **Coffee Darling (two portion sizes, menu changes weekly) 744002**. **Wiltshire Farm Foods** (single portions) can now take orders from new customers: 0800 077 3100 or order online
- **Is it safe to swap jigsaws and books?** To be totally safe wipe the covers of any book or jigsaw you receive and put it in a clean plastic bag for three days
- **Clapping - or making a noise - for carers** is every Thursday at 20.00. Drums and a saxophone have been heard near Fisherman's Reach! Remember to keep social distancing.

- **Can you make a rainbow?** Nick and Zoe would like more for the White Horse windows. Free crochet pattern available – contact editor
- Supermarket shopping: **Sainsbury's** have slots reserved for vulnerable people including the elderly. You must be an existing customer. Ring: 0800 052 5500 to register
- Linda Robson is part of the **Salisbury Makers Hub** making scrubs, scrubs bags, masks and other items for local NHS and other carers. If you'd like to help or have material they can use email her on robsonstory@virginmedia.com. Contact editor if you do not have email.
- **Shopping:** do you sometimes need personal items? Boots do internet or phone orders and home delivery Phone: 0345 070 8090 and pick option 1.
- **Are you self employed and trying to understand what help the government offers you?** A reliable and easy to understand source of information is moneysavingexpert.com, Martin Lewis's award winning website.
- **The Covid App 19** was developed by Kings College, London to contribute to research and discovered the loss of taste that can happen before other coronavirus symptoms show. Join at <https://covid.joinzoe.com> and complete a simple report every day. It takes less than a minute.
- You can watch a **National Theatre production** for free every Thursday on YouTube from 19.00 and for seven days afterwards

Brighten up the village!

- Quidhampton residents can enter.
- Scarecrows should be named and displayed where they can be seen (even looking out of a window)
- make sure they do not obstruct any pathway
- to enter take a photo and send it to parks@salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk with the heading Scarecrow Challenge
- include details of how to find it, names and ages of the makers, and (for ages up to 16) which school you go to
- closing date 10 May
- winners announced by 15 May
- observe social distancing at all times
- always ask if using other people's clothing!
- prizes for three best under 10's, under 16's and adults.





Rainbows and more

More people are walking regularly up and down Lower Road than ever and exchanging friendly greetings really helps some of us get through the day. Also important are the windows and doors in our village. It began with a child's drawing of a rainbow in support of the NHS at 1 Coronation Square. Now rainbows are everywhere, hand drawn, coloured, painted, printed, crocheted...they bring hope and pleasure as well as reminding us of the medical and care staff working so hard for all our sakes, sometimes in very difficult circumstances.

And there are the pots of lilies that appeared outside Withy House on Easter Day, the toy animals in several windows, and other attractions.

Thanks to all of you for making our village such a pleasant place to be.





Appreciations and birthdays.

Birthdays in May

4 May Steve Wagstaff: The star wars day (May the fourth be with you...) Sending love to my lockdown partner We will have our traditional celebration at Pebble Beach when this is all over. Joy

7 May James Herring , his 21st birthday

13 May Bea Tilbrook still surprised to be one of the over-seventies.

15 May: Margaret Stokes will be 80. A big birthday but all family celebrations sadly cancelled

18 May William Lewin will be 22

20 May: Wendy Lawrence happy birthday to my great research partner. Thanks for being part of the biggest venture I have ever undertaken and enabling it to be such a success. Bea.

Appreciations: many people are helping to make our lives a bit better and they are appreciated:

Joyce Harvey wants to give thanks for the incredible support of all kinds she has had from the village for such a long time, starting before the lockdown.

Clare Herring and many others want to say thank you to whoever constructed the wonderful bridge over the river in Boyeswood. It is made of pallets and care must still be taken when walking across it but what an improvement on the unstable and slippery logs that were there. A real community act.

Thanks should also go to the Wilton estate for allowing free access to the wood.

Never can it have been appreciated so much by so many people whose daily walks there bring them pleasure and renewal.

Eve Warton and other residents of Sovereign Close want to thank Jeremy Sainsbury who used his daily exercise time to improve the footpath behind their houses. He has always swept the tarmac weekly and looks after the flowerbeds.

It is much appreciated, especially by the older residents.

Allannah and Chris Daniel want to give a big thank you to Faith Jackson who makes sure their papers arrive nice and early every morning. "It means a lot that part of our normal routines is still in place. We are most grateful and appreciative." And so say all of us who like to begin our day in the traditional way - with a printed paper.

The biggest appreciation of all must go to The White Horse.

Not only the treat of freshly cooked hot meals on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays but also good quality fruit and vegetables and other groceries and necessities delivered to our door. And now window sales on Fridays and Saturdays.

But at the last coronavirus steering group meeting Ian Dale pointed out the best thing they are doing for the community: in providing so much of what we need Zoe and Nick are keeping us (or the people who would otherwise do our shopping) safely at home and not out in the wider world picking up or spreading infection.



Gardening advice and sayings from Duncan Witt

'Salt of the Earth'

In the past salt was highly valued for seasoning, preserving and many other things. Roman soldiers had an allowance of salt called *Salarium* as part of their pay which gave rise to our word salary. The excellence of salt also gave rise to the saying 'salt of the earth' meaning the best of humanity, a jolly good person. The most valued workers are said to be 'worth their salt'.



Quidtips in the May Garden *(written before the recent rain)*

Wow! Apart from two days and an inch of rain, a whole month of sunshine has certainly kickstarted the garden into growth.

The first thing to say is what not to do. Advice from the RSPB is not to cut hedges or tidy bushes where birds may be nesting. It is the peak of the nesting season, so please leave well alone. I learned this the other day when I disturbed our resident robin who, snubbing the luxury accommodation we provide for her, had built her nest on a pile of old pots covered with empty compost bags. Luckily she is used to us being around and returned quite happily. She now peers disdainfully over the side of the nest as we work carefully around her.

The blackbirds are busy raising their young, scratching around in the dry ground for worms and grubs, so don't forget to help them out by keeping some areas moist and forked over. They also love sunflower seed, suet pellets, raisins and mealworms.

Ever heard of the 'Chelsea Chop'?

This is carried out in late May when the flower show is on. It is for herbaceous perennials like Nepeta, Phlox etc. which become straggly and flop all over the place. Take off the top third of the plants with shears or secateurs. This makes new growth which is stronger and shorter, so the plants will be bushier with more flowers. The slight drawback is that flowering is put back two to three weeks, but in my opinion, it is a sacrifice well worth making.

Where to get plants and garden sundries during the lockdown.

Locally: In Excess Garden Centre and store and Wilton House Garden centre (now Blue Diamond) do phone or email orders and delivery.

Porton Pet and Aquatics do a click and collect service or delivery and Mole Country Stores (SCATS) are open for normal shopping

If you do **online shopping** the world is your oyster, but I find Hayloft plants good fun for a huge selection of young plants for growing on. www.hayloft.co.uk
Keep Calm and Carry on Gardening!

Offers: Some small tomato seedlings available on request.

Also some small runner beans seedlings. Both surplus to requirements.
First come first served. Text Rachella 07778102086

Well, this is a good news story, if ever there was one - and we could all use a little good news at the moment!

Liz Van Vogt of The Alders writes:



Boris the lamb was born on Easter weekend in the field behind the pub. I spotted Boris, while out walking our Cavalier, Daphne. Boris was calling out for his mother but, unfortunately, she had rejected him.

I picked him up and he was very weak with an empty tummy. So, I called Mark the farmer who told me that he had spent a long time

trying to find Boris's mother but had been unsuccessful. I offered to take Boris home and bottle-feed him - strangely enough, the farmer was happy for me to do that.

Last year, I spent two weeks lambing on a friend's farm, and I was devastated that I was unable to do the same this year, due to the COVID 19 lockdown. Little did I know that I would have my hands full with Boris.

Daphne has been taking very good care of Boris, as if he was her own baby - although now he stands much taller than her, which she isn't altogether happy with! They sleep together during the day, play non-stop and have become the best of friends.

My husband, Mark, has made a pen for Boris in the back garden (well, it's less grass to cut, isn't it?). Not only does Daphne get a little "time out" from her new "ward" (and her bed and house back to herself a little), but, more importantly, Boris also starts to grow more accustomed to the outdoors.

Locally (and nationally and internationally, thanks to Facebook), everyone has become very attached to Boris, and the thought of him going off to market when he is six months was horrendous. So, I called Mark the farmer again to ask if Boris could be banded (castrated) and stay in the field with the rest of the flock; thankfully, he has agreed. We are all over the moon.

Boris will stay with us for a little longer, as he is still too little to fight off the attentions of a fox. In time, we can all watch him grow up and enjoy a happy life frolicking in the village field.

Who doesn't love a happy ending!

Regards Liz and Mark
Van Vogt



The Call of Nature

Nick Tomalin

As a keen naturalist, both personally and professionally, there are two sides to the lockdown for me. I cannot work because my usual bird surveys are not 'essential travel', and I'm not able to escape into the countryside as I would like to. For someone with a love of the great outdoors the restrictions are difficult to take. But I have now, however, begun to appreciate the wildlife within walking distance of my home and in my garden, in a way I haven't done for years.

On my daily walks around the block with my toddler daughter, Grace, we look for snail shells and point at red kites drifting overhead. She 'buzzes' when a bee passes – one of the many sounds I have been teaching her. We see more swallows. Frogspawn appeared in our pond and we watch the tadpoles developing. A male sparrowhawk sat on the fence outside the kitchen window for 20 minutes one morning while I had breakfast only a few metres away.

Blackcaps and chiffchaffs have been

calling everywhere and seem more numerous this year; perhaps in previous years the noise of the traffic was too loud to hear them. Perhaps I didn't stop to listen.

Sometimes it's easy to be dragged down by things we can't control, and not notice the many forgotten pleasures close to home. Nature carries on and is hugely uplifting.



What to look out for? If you can still take daily exercise, the path along the edge of the woods at the eastern end of the village can test your knowledge of bird song. Many have found mates and set up territories by now but you can still hear them going about their business: wren, great tit ('tea-cher, tea-cher, tea-cher'), blue tit, long-tailed tit, blackbird, song thrush, robin, chiffchaff ('chiff-chaff, chiff-chaff'), blackcap, chaffinch, nuthatch and great-spotted woodpecker have all been calling there lately.

What can you do this month? You might be tidying your garden but avoid trimming thick vegetation where there may be nesting birds. The breeding season is in full swing, so leave likely nesting areas well alone, including bird boxes.

Nick Tomalin is a conservationist who moved to the village three years ago.

His near neighbour Emma Lovell reports hearing 'so many owls' when they camped in their garden overnight.

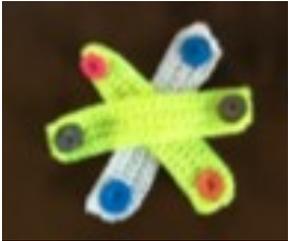
Do you know what an ear saver is?

These pictures show you: it is a strip of knitting, crochet or fabric that protects the ears from chafing from the elastic of face masks.



Mavis Singleton has made so many she has run out of buttons and asks if anyone can let her have some. They don't have to be in matching pairs, but must not be the very small kind.

If you have some leave them outside your door, ring Mavis on 07743 262 237 and she will collect them.



Ten years ago..... the newsletter was a simple A4 sheet. It reported a meeting attended by 70 people in the White Horse loft about a new bus timetable. We won more buses at the beginning and end of the working day but fewer in the middle of the day.

Waste and recycling dates May 2020

Recycling & Garden waste Fri 8 & 22
Household waste Mon 11 & 25

The newsletter is paid for this month by the village Covid-19 steering group

Contributors & Contacts

Police non emergency no.: 101

PCSO Matthew Smith

CPTSouthWiltshire@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

St John's Primary School: 322848

The White Horse : 01722 744448

Quidhampton Mill : 741171

Self catering apartments

Footshill House, Lower Road: 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

Bemerton Church Parish

Parish Office 328031

Village Hall bookings:

Sabine Dawson: 07742 273984

sabinedance@btinternet.com

Quidditch Club: occasional activities

by and for parents and children of all

ages. Contact Abi by email for details :

abi.kingston@talk21.com

St John's Place : contact Manager:

Paula Johnson 07784 37220

sjp.salisbury@gmail.com

Community Emergency Volunteer

John Cater 744079

Floodwarden:

Ken Taylor 742456

Community Speedwatch

HGVs: please send the registration

number and name of the company of

any HGVs you see in the village to

Sandie Smith, speedwatch team

leader. A photo would be great

cswquid@gmail.com

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