

# Quidhampton Village Newsletter

October 2020

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## What's on in October

### **Wednesday 14: Bemerton Film Society St John's Place 19.00 for 19.30.**

The film is **Collette**, based on the early life of the novelist who has to fight for recognition after her novels are published under her husband's name. Starring Keira Knightley, released in 2018.

*Numbers attending are restricted. Book in advance by email: bemfilmbooking@gmail.com and ask about the covid restrictions which include wearing a mask throughout the screening. Contact newsletter editor if you do not have email.*

### **Sunday 18: Quidhampton photo competition ends**

### **Thursday 22: school half term begins. Back to school Monday 2 November**

**Thursday 22: Salisbury- England's Venice, a talk about the history of Salisbury by Dr Alastair Lack. 19.30 using zoom.** Dr Lack worked at Salisbury District hospital as a consultant anaesthetist and in retirement has been writing and lecturing on various historical topics.

*This is the first zoom meeting of Bemerton Talks. It describes the move from Old Sarum, Salisbury's canals and the cholera epidemic. Register in advance at <http://bem2210.eventbrite.co.uk> For further details contact Margaret Willmot 07790 287062*

**Advance notice from Maureen Goff:** the 'not the bus pass Christmas party' cannot take place this year. We are all sad but – fingers crossed! - we will have 'a bit of a do' in summer 2021. Stay safe, Maureen and team.

**Another casualty of the pandemic:** The organisers have reluctantly concluded that the Quidhampton Fireworks evening cannot take place this year.

### **Message from the Covid support steering group: you are not alone**

Are you feeling more confused and alone than you did during lockdown? You are not the only person to feel like that. Remember the covid volunteers are still there to help. Ring Jane Taylor 744534 if you want someone to talk to, or John Cater 744079 or Jane Morgan 07880 550321 if you need shopping or prescriptions collected. There is no shortage of people wanting to help.

**Do you use email but are not on the village community email list? Have you thought about joining?** It reaches 60% of homes and has been very useful in these changing times. Contact newsletter editor – details on back page

### **Climate change and floods**

The recent extremely heavy rainfalls, surely a sign of the climate emergency, are causing flash flooding. If you have these problems do not forget to contact the village flood warden – details on back page.

## **Reasons to be cheerful (yes there are some!)**

**Autumn** is a beautiful season – see Duncan’s gardening column. Yes, it ends with darker days but there is a lot of beauty to gladden our hearts. We still have the woods to walk in and the bridge over the river is holding firm.

**SID** One villager, who wants to remain anonymous, said she is cheerful because SID is going to happen. That’s the speed indicator device the parish council have bought. Sandie Smith, Quidhampton speedwatch team leader says: “it will be delivered in October. There are laws regarding location - and installation - beside the carriageway. Discussion is currently underway with Wiltshire Council and Street Lighting for suitable sites in Lower Road and on the A3094.”

**Community Speedwatch team:** it’s their hard work that made it possible for us to have a SID. Sandie says: “CSW training will re-commence soon. We have 3 applicants who have expressed an interest in joining the team.” That’s more good news! And special thanks to the existing volunteers who were out doing their shifts as soon as they could after lockdown. It really is one of the best teams in the county.

**Another villager (also anon)** says: I won’t be short of homemade preserves! 45 jars of spicy chutney (so far), 10 of damson jam, 8 of blackcurrant jam and litres of gooseberry, damson and sloe gin are developing in my coat cupboard!!! What an abundant harvest in such a strange year.

*She goes on to say she has also made pints of green tomato and bacon soup – a new recipe discovered by a village friend and so good she suggests we print it.*

**See page 7**

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**Put the flags out** is an old expression for letting the world know you have good news. Well, Christopher and Clare Herring did just that and raised the union flag outside Withy House when they heard that their daughter Rosa had got into Swansea university after a couple of weeks of not knowing. She will be studying osteopathy from September next year and is trying to get a job for this year.

Are there any other proud parents out there with exam result to boast about or a son or daughter who has got a job?

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**Book seed and plant swap box** After a difficult start (remember how the box and books mysteriously vanished in the first week?) this has been a great success. Plants are taken very quickly and there is a good turnover of books. Several people have said how welcome it has been as libraries are still offering only a limited service and some have tried new authors they might not have tried before. Any news of success - or failure - with the plants or seeds?

**Boris**, the abandoned lamb, is alive and well and living with the flock he will spend his life with.

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## **Plant and Produce Sale and Exchange at St John’s Place 13 September**

Several villagers went along to this outdoor event on a sunny Sunday afternoon and enjoyed meeting neighbours from Bemerton and the big choice of plants and produce. Nearly £400 was raised in cash and £84 on the card reader (after fees were deducted). There was a donation of £200 by cheque and a donation from Irene who makes the popular jams and chutneys and who sold out. A successful event in many different ways.

## Cream teas at Rose Cottage

*Jane Morgan, who is raising money for the Stars Appeal by joining their 100km trek across Jordan to Petra, sold cream teas from her home one Sunday afternoon and would like to thank everyone who supported her:*

Thank you so much to everyone in the village who supported our 'takeaway cream tea' fundraiser on Sunday 27th September. We had over a dozen pre-orders and lots of villagers turned upon the day to take a cream tea home. It was lovely to meet new

neighbours and chat to people who have lived in the village for years! People were very generous with their donations - we raised just over £300 for the Stars Appeal! Some people asked for the link to donate online, so here it is with many, many thanks <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/JaneLM>

One satisfied customer said, "We thoroughly enjoyed the cream tea...beautifully presented and deliciously fattening."



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**The White Horse** should definitely be on the 'reasons to be cheerful' list but sadly landlords Nick and Zoe are not so happy. They and their staff work tirelessly to make it safe but not all customers take the same care. Zoe posted a heartfelt plea on Facebook for everyone to remember the restrictions.

These are the main points she made

### **Staying safe in the pub**

- book a table. This is more important now the weather has changed. If we are fully booked we cannot squeeze anybody in
- no more than six people from two households per table
- use the hand sanitiser and wait to be shown to your table
- it is strictly table service only, no standing at the bar
- don't wander over to other tables to chat to people. It spreads the risk and makes it more difficult for the staff to keep themselves safe. We cannot behave as we did before.
- obey the one way system - even when going to the loo! And keep moving, it's not a place to stop and chat
- do not try to argue or debate the rules. Our options are very limited and unkind comments are not welcome
- do show appreciation to the staff who are working very hard in ways they never imagined but **do not try to hug them!**

***It is great to be able to go to the pub again but things are most definitely not the same and, hard as it seems, we have to change our natural behaviour.***

Go to the White Horse Facebook page for 9 September to see it better expressed in Zoe's own words, followed by dozens of supportive comments.

## Community email catch up

Information from August's community emails that is still relevant, not mentioned elsewhere and does not depend on an internet connection. **If you want to join the community email send your email address to the editor (details back page)**

- **the photo competition closing date is now Sunday 18 October.** Full details are on the website quidphoto.co.uk. There has been a lot of interest and over 100 entries but the organisers want to promote it more widely with the chance to include photos of the changing season

**A paper copy of the newsletter** is once again being delivered to all homes. If you prefer to have yours by email only (i.e. you don't want a paper copy) let the editor know.

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## Parish Council News

Quidhampton Parish Council held a virtual meeting on 22 September 2020.

*This is not a complete or official account of the meeting. Minutes will be posted on the QPC noticeboard and online.*

All members of the council attended. There is still a vacancy for a co-opted member.

**Pauline Church**, Wiltshire Councillor, attended the meeting reported the up-to-date Wiltshire figures related to Covid-19. There had been 1559 cases, five outbreaks in workplaces and ten in educational settings. There was no intention to employ Covid -19 marshals in Wiltshire. The attendance rate in schools was over 80%.

**Recreation ground:** Councillors Fiona West and Sandie Smith agreed to carry out the weekly visual check and Fiona would arrange a one off thorough clean and regular cleaning thereafter. Both benches need some maintenance and quotations for the work will be sought. A quotation was accepted for the grass cutting of the playground with thanks to Mandy Whelan for obtaining quotes from companies willing to do the work.

**Cycle route from Park Wall junction to Lower Road** This route is now being worked on by Wiltshire Highways. A bonus for the village will be the resurfacing of Coronation Square car park.

A new version of the MyWiltshire app has been launched called MyWilts. Villagers are urged to report dirty or obscured signs, potholes, overgrown verges etc.

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### Village Hall Cleaner wanted

Only three hours a month at the moment

Will increase to a minimum of 6 hours per month after Covid-19 restrictions are lifted

Ring village hall treasurer for more details

07545 281301

**Free Grandparents' cot:** an old fashioned wooden child's cot complete with clean mattress needs a new home. It has been passed from one set of grandparents to another and is ideal when young grandchildren come to stay. If you can make use of it ring 742456.

**Free Christmas tree stand:** good quality stand/support for a Christmas tree with integral container for water.  
Ring 742456

## School news

**Bemerton St John Primary headteacher Alun Richards** says how lovely it is to see children filling the school again, especially the youngest at school for the first time. Their classroom has been full of smiling faces.

**5 – 9 October is National Walk to School week**, with the aim of getting all schoolchildren walking. Each class will have a target to reach.

**Week beginning 12 October:** teachers will be telephoning parents about their child's progress. Face to face meetings are not permitted at this time.

**Sarum Academy** has a sixth form virtual open evening on Thursday 8 October from 18.00 – 18.30 for pupils in years 10 and 11. Join with this link: <https://bit.ly/3iUQ5cf>  
A virtual tour of the school is available on their website.

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## Church news and services *from Gillian Newton*

The Rev Kevin Martin is busy preparing to move home and be installed as the rector of Bemerton well before Christmas. Covid restrictions mean that the usual welcome celebrations cannot be held as they would in normal times.

**Holy Communion services** are held at 08.00 in St Andrews every Sunday. The congregation is limited to 12 so let Gillian Newton (433366) know if you want to go but do not attend regularly.

**10.30 service** from St Michael's is on zoom ID 763 459 685 on 4th and 18th October and in the church itself on 11th and 25th.

The usual harvest service and auction at The White Horse cannot be held but the Trussell Trust would be glad of donations of non-perishable food.

**The Café and the Community Fridge in St Michael's Community Centre:** both are open from 11.00 – 14.00 from Mondays to Thursdays providing covid safe space, company, meals and free fresh food supplies to allcomers. More volunteers are welcome during this difficult time Contact Helen Pessell on 07760 240914.

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## Feeding the birds by Nick Tomalin

People often ask if it is best to feed birds just in winter or all year round, and there is conflicting advice on this.

Winter is a hard time for birds to find food, so putting out food and water can be a lifeline for them in cold weather. But they need a lot of energy in the breeding season so if you stop feeding them in spring it may be damaging if they have come to rely on it.

Imagine a bird has claimed a territory with the best garden feeders, and attracted a mate, then finds the main source of food has disappeared just as they prepare to breed.

Some people say that young birds can choke on peanuts, which might be true, but if you provide peanuts in a peanut feeder then birds cannot take a whole peanut out anyway. Most young garden birds are fed on insects rather than nuts or seeds, so it is unlikely to be a significant problem.

I believe the best thing you can do, if you want to support your local birds and see them in your garden, is to provide food all year round.

**What to look out for in September?** October is often the first month when winter migrants arrive in the UK. Look out for winter thrushes – fieldfare and redwing – in

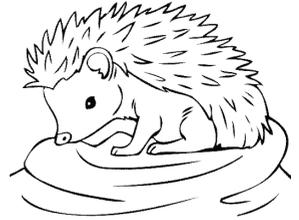
flocks overhead, or in the fields and gardens, especially where fallen apples have been left to rot. Listen for the redwing calling 'tseep' as they migrate overnight.

### What can you do this month?

**Clean out your bird feeders, tables and baths.** After a busy summer these can be messy, and this mess can contain lice or disease. Be thorough: I use boiling water and a scrubbing brush to get right into the corners! You can use detergents, but make sure they are very dilute. Bleach is OK but vinegar would work as well.

**Clean out bird boxes while they are not in use.** Some birds roost in them in winter so get this done before the cold weather returns.

**Hedgehog Survey:** we've had a few replies to this, with a good spread of records throughout the village, and regular visitors in some places that are likely to be resident. If you haven't yet sent in your hedgehog sighting, (and it might be just seeing hedgehog poo in your garden) email Nick Tomalin at [nicetouch14@hotmail.com](mailto:nicetouch14@hotmail.com). Or contact the editor.



### Quidtips in the October Garden by Duncan Witt

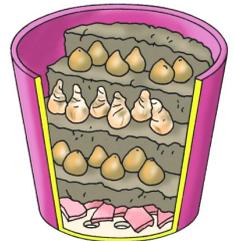
The nights are drawing in and a cold north wind is blowing as I write this but John Keats called autumn the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness and it is important to remember that until the frosts set in there are plenty of flowers in the borders and jobs to do in the garden.

One such job, planting spring bulbs, gives a lot of enjoyment and beauty later on. Indeed their flowers are seen as the heralds of spring, when the days begin to lengthen into the new year.

Garden centres are bursting with a myriad of different types of bulbs: daffodils, tulips, alliums, snowdrops, and more. It's not difficult to plant them and now is the perfect time. Just follow the instructions on the packet.

If you are planting into pots drainage is the key to success as bulbs will rot off in a soggy soil. Always add gravel or crocks at the bottom of a container with drainage holes and use good multi-purpose compost. It is a good idea to lift it off the surface with pot feet or stones to let water drain away freely.

If you want to go a step further try 'Layered Planting'. The image below shows you how. Start at the bottom of a deep pot with crocks then compost, and then the biggest bulbs, usually daffs or narcissi. Add more compost then tulips and so on, finishing off with crocus or snowdrops. You could even add a few pansies to the top to give colour straightaway. Half an hour's work for 3 months of colour - give it a go!



**Remember! Keep calm, stay safe ... Carry on planting.**

*Editor's note: it has been very cheering to see sunflowers peeping over fences and hedges all over the village. Thanks to all the growers!*

## From a villager.....

### **Green tomato and bacon soup** serves 6

- 8 rashers of bacon cut into bite sized pieces
- 1 small red onion chopped
- 3 cloves of garlic crushed
- 2 lbs or 950 grams of green tomatoes roughly chopped
- 1 ¼ pints or 0.75 litre vegetable stock
- ½ teaspoon celery salt
- 1 bay leaf
- Freshly ground pepper

Fry bacon until it begins to turn brown, about 5 minutes. Stir in onions and garlic and cook until onion is tender, about 10 minutes. Add tomatoes and all other ingredients. Bring to the boil and simmer until tomatoes are soft, about 40 minutes.

Now you can blend it all or take the bacon out and blend the rest, replacing the bacon pieces.

Variations: add split peas or any pulses.

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**Belated congratulations** to Margaret Munt of Lower Bemerton who is pictured standing in her doorway receiving socially distanced 90<sup>th</sup> birthday good wishes on 8 August. Margaret enjoys our Sovereign Set lunches and always takes an interest in Quidhampton events.

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### **FOR SALE £80 Antique pine wardrobe**

Height to the top of the decorative piece is 75.75 inch/191 cm.  
Width 48 inch/60cm.  
Depth 23.5 inch/60 cm.  
It will be advertised on Gumtree for £100.

Call Clare Herring on  
01722 741469



### **Waste and recycling dates October 2020**

Recycling & Garden waste Fri 9 & 23

Household waste Mon 12 & 26

## The last word?

*I mentioned to one of our oldest residents that I wanted reasons to be cheerful to put in the newsletter and immediately got this emailed reply. It certainly made me think I should not complain so much.*

**Reasons to be cheerful** .. I am still alive, mobile and in good health. I do not live in India in poverty with COVID rampant. I can afford to buy myself new shoes when old ones look tatty, not just worn out. I can turn on the central heating and not have to shiver. I can complain about my Government and not end up in prison. I can visit the loo at night and not have to go out into a garden privy or use a chamber pot ! I have my friends on line, on a mobile or in the village to talk to when I am feeling down. I can report pot holes and street lights not working, and cars speeding in built up areas and eventually these get sorted without having to bribe officials before they do anything as in some parts of Africa and the Far East and even Europe. I do not have to live in a police state and I have a free press  
And last but not least I have a warm bed at night and do not have to sleep in the street.  
Oh I've just thought of another blessing: I have a washing machine and an electric iron and do not have to use a washing board or a flat iron like we did not all that long ago!  
How's that for a quick response? Lots of love Eve xxx  
*And lots of love to you too, Eve. You are indeed blessed and we are too, to have you in our community.*

This month's newsletter is paid for by three villagers who want to remain anonymous

## Contributors & Contacts

**Police non emergency no.:** 101  
PCSO Matthew Smith  
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**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.  
Sandieandmartin@aol.com

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