

Quidhampton Village Newsletter

December 2020

Christmas 2020 in Quidhampton

A message from the village Covid support group

We are now in Covid-19 risk category Tier 2 and the rules are stricter. We can go to the White Horse for a meal but only with members of our household and we cannot socialise with other customers or invite people into our homes. It is tough but there are more cases locally and the need to be careful is stronger than ever.

Christmas 2020 will be very different.

Whether you decide to stay here, or have no choice about it (perhaps your family has to isolate) there will be more people in the village this year who are on their own, as they have already been on their own for many months.

And all the traditional events when people can get together have been cancelled.

So, it is time to be a good neighbour as never before and look out for those around you. A friendly word, an unexpected gift, a slice of cake can make a big difference.

There are reasons to be cheerful. Some village events have been proposed and there may be more. Keep a lookout for the emails and on the noticeboard.

What's on

Decorations: how about cheering up the village by decorating the front of your home? Howard Rowley is organising prizes for the best daytime and night-time displays but taking part is the thing, not winning. Bring out all your bright lights and bling! Children can join in with the chance to vote for their favourite displays and do a drawing. Prize for every entry. Contact Abi on abi.kingston@talk21.com for details.

The White Horse will be open again from **3 December** - see Zoe's article inside for full details.

Sunday 6 December Christmas Tea for Charity Jane Morgan at Rose Cottage will again be offering take away teas in aid of the Stars Appeal. Each box of goodies contains seasonal treats like home-made mince pies, gingerbread and rocky road. Pre-order by texting Jane on 07880 550321. The suggested donation is £5. Cash can be collected on delivery. Teas can be collected or delivered during daylight hours on 6th.

Pre-orders only this time, as the weather may not be great for standing outside for impromptu customers!

Wednesday 9 December is Ted Thornton's 97th birthday! His daughter Sarah said "It's going to be the toughest birthday of his life because he won't be able to celebrate with his family. He reads the newsletter religiously and would love a mention." There you are then, Ted, as Quidhampton's oldest man and born in the village, no one can deserve a more special mention than you. HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Friday 11 December: wear a Christmas Jumper day at Bemerton St John School. (Other people can wear them too!) Pupils must also hand in any Christmas cards they

want to give schoolfriends. The cards will be quarantined in a box and handed out on 18 December, the last day of term.

Christmas Eve Jingle: ring a bell at 18.00 on Christmas Eve to spread the Christmas spirit. This international campaign is getting lots of support: two minutes of bells ringing on Christmas Eve. Let's make it as successful as clap for carers was in the middle of the village.

Come out into Lower Road and greet your neighbours (at a safe distance), bring bells for people to ring or shake and even bring a drink to toast this Christmas.

Christmas Dinner: will you be alone or just with your partner? Read on for a generous offer from Lily Newman and her family of Greenways (opposite the pub)

We would like to offer the elderly and vulnerable in the village a Christmas dinner. We will cook a traditional turkey Christmas meal, followed by Christmas pudding and cream. We can easily do vegetarian meals and do ask about any other dietary requirements as we can probably accommodate you but this is not guaranteed. The meal will be delivered to your door at lunchtime on Christmas Day. We are doing this from our family kitchen to support those in the village who otherwise might not have a celebratory meal due to COVID-19 restrictions. We will need confirmed numbers by Monday 21st December. Please call Lily or Rachael on 742857 or email lily.newman1@gmail.com.

If you're thinking how lovely that would be then get in touch straightaway. Lily's family really want to do this. It is their first Christmas without Margaret, Lily's mum, who died in October, and her spirit will be with them too.

A Village Walk on Boxing Day

Fancy a stroll round the village before lunch? Why not go out between 11.30 and 12.30? Wear a facemask for safety, get to see all the garden displays, and greet everyone you meet.

Lower Bemerton C of E Church services

08.00 Sunday morning prayer services continue in St Andrews. If you are not a regular attender let Gillian Newton know if you want to attend: 07811 505041

Sunday 6 December 16.00. advent service at St Andrews

Christmas Day 08.00 communion at St Andrews

Check the coronavirus page on the parish website for full details and zoom information for other Sunday services.

Kevin Martin, the new rector, has written to introduce himself but the full letter will have to wait until next time. He says he is very happy to be called upon if people want him to visit them for a chat or would like prayer ministry for health conditions. He came here from south west Wiltshire where he was a curate in a group of rural churches. Contact details on back page.



Hungry at Christmas? Some families will be and you can now donate to them without going outside the village. Tat and Nick Tomalin of 21 Coronation Square are doing another collection for Trussell Trust foodbanks. Items should be left outside their house before Friday 11 December. Tinned food (not baked beans), biscuits, fruit juice, toiletries and hygiene products are all welcome.

Shoebboxes: do you usually fill a shoebox for the Trussell Trust Christmas appeal? (now run by a separate charity foundation). The appeal has been extended until 18 December this year. *A useful tip from the Herring family: don't use sticky tape when covering the boxes with Christmas paper; use a glue stick. It saves lots of time.*

Very local shopping Don't want to risk going to the shops? Clare Herring is selling **Festive Chocolate Roulades**. 35 cm long filled with whipped cream and decorated with a small berry sprig. Each one feeds 8 – 10. Presented on a long green tray, they freeze like a dream. Clare says, "I used to do them for weddings and always took them frozen". £10 each. Ring 01722 741469 or email theherringfleet@gmail.com

Some news from Lower Bemerton

Film Society: the December film is cancelled because of the local Covid situation.

Bemerton Brunch: the popular monthly Sunday brunch will take place on 13 December – on zoom. The link is <https://tinyurl.com/Bembrunch> - just click on this anytime from 11:00 on the day. If you have any questions about this contact Margaret Willmot on 01722 321683 or email margaret.willmot@gmail.com

Nick Tomalin's birding column: Five Gold Rings?

In November two villagers spotted a dead swan in the river at the west edge of Boyeswood. One managed to haul it onto the bank and found it had a metal ring attached to its leg.

Metal rings have been attached to birds' legs for over 100 years, each with a unique code that allows the bird to be identified. Information from the scheme tells us where birds go, how far they travel, and how long they live. The oldest known bird is a female albatross, estimated to be five years old when tagged in 1956. She was confirmed still breeding in 2019, making her nearly 70!

It was both sad and beautiful to see this magnificent swan up close, its feathers still gleaming white. The ring number was reported, and we learned it was ringed as a chick in August 2011 at Upton Lovell, around 19km west. I have no idea if that is a long or short way for a swan to move in 9 years.

What to look out for in December? Actually, what to listen out for: robins! You'll see many robins on Christmas cards. Their association with Christmas has been linked to the red breast matching the uniform of postmen, as well as the fact that they are seen in our gardens over the festive period. This is because they are one of the few species to keep a territory all year round, so they will stay to fight, sing and display through the winter. Keep an ear out for their melodic songs to brighten a crisp winter's day.

What can you do this month? Pop a tennis ball in your pond. The movement helps prevent the water from freezing when temperatures drop, which protects fish or amphibians. If it does freeze over, you can push the ball through, creating a breathing hole for any residents. A plastic bottle weighted at one end would do a similar job!

Editor: it was not clear why the swan had died; there were no wounds or signs of illness. By the next day foxes had dragged the body further into the wood and begun to eat it. White feathers are all that remain now.

From the Horse's mouth. Landlady Zoe Hoare writes:



Covid -19 restrictions Wiltshire is now in the Tier 2 risk category which means you cannot socialise with people outside your household or support bubble. It also means we cannot take bookings from more than one household, nor serve alcohol unless you are eating a 'substantial meal'. *This should be either a main course, or light snack (such as a starter) with a side dish, per person.*

Support bubble: government guidance
Important note from Quidhampton Covid-19 group

A support bubble can be made between a single person household and one other household of any size. It therefore cannot be with two grandparents but it can include any children under 18 who live with the single adult. You are then all are treated as a single household. You cannot change who is in your bubble once it is made. Please keep to this guidance at all times, including in the White Horse, for the safety of all customers and staff.

Support bubbles were created to help adults who live alone and should not be confused with childcare bubbles or Christmas bubbles.

While this news is a blow, it's not entirely unexpected. We plan to re-open from **Thursday 3 December** with the same precautions in place as before: a one-way system through the pub, hand sanitiser at the door, masks worn when not eating or drinking and of course, using the Test & Trace barcode with your smartphone where possible.

Sloe Gin Competition: we hoped to hold the competition in a distanced style between Christmas and New Year but, with Tier 2 restrictions, it is now postponed until January. Details in the next newsletter.

2021 Burns Night Supper: there may not be dancing, but there will be bagpipes, whisky and haggis! Distanced Burn's Suppers will be held on Friday 22 **and** Saturday 23 January. There will be a traditional supper of haggis, neeps and tatties along with a wee dram, and Liv McLennan will be piping on both nights. As always, book soon to guarantee a table as distancing means fewer tables and limited availability. Price £16 per head.

Christmas Menu: this has been adapted, due to the seasonal restrictions. Previously available by pre-order only, as a set 2 or 3 course meal, we have now incorporated the dishes into the main menu and specials board, along with regular pub favourites.

Christmas Hours: Christmas and New Year opening hours are below. As ever, booking is required, call 01722 744448. **Please let us know if your table is no longer needed**, so someone else can enjoy it.

W/C 21st & 28th December	Opening Times	Food Service Times
Monday 21 st & Tuesday 22 nd	CLOSED	
Wednesday 23 rd	12.00 – 14.30 / 18.00 – 22.00	12.00 – 14.00 / 18.00 – 20.45
Thursday 24 th	12.00 – 16.00	12.00 – 15.00
Friday 25th December to Monday 28th December – Closed		
Tuesday 29 th	12.00 – 14.30 / 18.00 – 22.00	12.00 – 14.00 / 18.00 – 20.45
Wednesday 30 th	12.00 – 14.30 / 18.00 – 22.00	12.00 – 14.00 / 18.00 – 20.45
Thursday	12.00 – 16.00	12.00 – 15.00
Friday 1st January to Tuesday 5th January – Closed		

Normal hours resume in week beginning Monday 4th January when Les and Karen Stanbrook take over the pub. The transfer is happening a little faster than we anticipated. After viewing the pub in October, Karen and Les fell in love with it, as well as with the village and the community we've told them so much about. They can't wait to get started and want to stress that things will stay much as they are, including keeping the team, who will be helping them settle in.

They send the following message:

"Hello everyone, we are Les and Karen. We're excited to be moving to Quidhampton and we're looking forward to village life. We're moving from Marlborough and had several pubs before, most recently in Kingsclere and Old Basing. We have always enjoyed putting together delicious menus, and catering for the local community. We already love The White Horse and are keen to carry on running it just as it is. We look forward to meeting you in 2021, if not before. Merry Christmas to you all."

There will be more farewell words but it must be recorded here how much the village owes to Nick and Zoe. They were heroes of an astonishing kind during the first lockdown, running a village shop with free delivery and Reeves bread deliveries, at little or no profit to themselves. Their weekend fish and chip deliveries were a special treat. All this saved many of us from having to travel outside the village with all the infection risks those journeys would have created.

Then when it could open again The White Horse became a place where you felt really safe to eat, and the food seemed even more delicious. Now, as Nick and Zoe get ready to leave, our sympathies are with them during the illness of Nick's father. Everyone must wish them well as they prepare for the future they deserve where they can spend more time being with their families. It is difficult to think what more any couple could have done for Quidhampton.
Editor

Reasons to be cheerful from Viv Thomas: I use the book swap frequently and would like to thank everyone for the varied selection. It's made me read even more than normal and I've taken some books that I wouldn't normally have chosen which have turned out to be great reads.

Whoever donated the hollyhock seeds, thank you I managed to grow some for the first time ever. I have chatted to new families from Wilton who are also grateful for the seeds, trees and books. They noticed our book swap on their daily walks and thought it was a great idea.

Wonderful that people from Wilton are joining in. And it shows the original organisers were right not to be defeated when the first books disappeared - box and all.

The Quidhampton photographic competition results

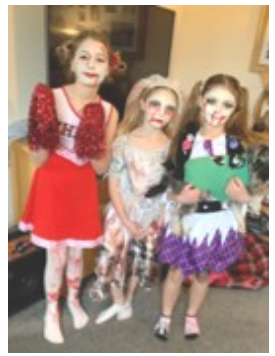
See the flyer from The White Horse giving full results, and how to order 2021 calendars.

The 2nd Quidhampton virtual Art Exhibition was launched on 20 November with new work done over the summer and in the second lockdown, with some older and treasured works never before exhibited in public. Thirteen village artists aged 15 to 97 are pleased to exhibit their work for the enjoyment of villagers, the public everywhere, and for the benefit of Salisbury Hospice Charity whose fundraising has been hit by the pandemic. See it, enjoy it, buy it and donate to the hospice at www.quidhamptonwiltshire.com

In November...



Hallowe'en There were some cleverly decorated houses and some wonderful pumpkins. In keeping with Covid regulations, all the fun was going on indoors but here are some photos of the great costumes of Phoebe, Tai and Lola, daughters of Sam Stokes, and a mysterious ghost in the playground.



Remembrance Day Villagers remembered our men who died as a result of the first world war in several ways. Wreaths were displayed again on the houses where the servicemen lived (Thanks to Tanya and Simon Angel for organising that) and several people put poppies on their houses or gardens. At 11.00 people stood at various points in Lower Road and Martin Hudson lowered the standard at the bottom of Footshill. Nearly 40 people were at the ceremony at the lychgate war memorial where the names were read aloud.

Bea Tilbrook put a poppy beside the name of William Stokes to keep a long tradition going. William's mother used to put a poppy there and when she died, his sister Dorothy took over. Dorothy herself died this year aged 104 and her daughter, Ann Langhurst, was unable to do it because her husband was very ill and died on 11 November. Ann grew up in Quidhampton and is remembered by older villagers.



Recent news

There are now several Covid cases in Lower Bemerton. Everyone will wish them well and a good recovery.

Several Quidhampton villagers have had close relatives who have been very ill or who have died recently, though none as far as is known, had Covid. Sympathy is extended to them all. Pete Burgess's mother Pat was known to many in Quidhampton. She was a co-founder of the Wilton Riding for the Disabled Association and took an active part in it for many years.

The Quidhampton Nature Project Mandy Whelan writes:

With recent lockdown restrictions, it has been a quiet time for the Nature Project. Those of you who visit the play area will have noticed marking out of re-wilding areas where we want to restore natural flora and create interesting areas for children to explore and learn about our native wild plants and grasses.

We have been working with the Woodland Trust to secure trees and hedgerow for planting around the play area to provide much needed additional habitats for some of our wildlife. Our website is up and running and we would encourage you to visit it www.quidhamptonnatureproject.com You can join the group and keep up to date with our progress.

Next month we will be launching a competition to design a willow structure for the play area, so if all the village children could get their thinking caps on that would be great! Wishing you a safe and Happy Christmas from the Quidhampton Nature Project Team.

Quidhampton's Plan for Civil Emergencies 2021 Edition

Blessed as we are with first-class local Emergency Services, it is unlikely that we will ever have to rely entirely on self-help during an emergency. However, as a community, we may well be first on the scene to provide help for those in need, and later be expected to support our Emergency Services. This help and support require village volunteers.

Because the different types of emergency are so numerous and would involve endless plans to deal with them (e.g. road or rail accidents, flooding, storm-damage and breakdown of utilities) our Emergency Plan mostly comprises the contact details of the local volunteers with skills and/or appropriate available equipment, as well as the contact details of the normal Emergency Services: Fire, Police and Ambulance, County Emergency-Planning offices, Medical Centres, Pharmacies, Clergy, Utilities, Highways, Veterinary surgeries.

This communication is therefore an earnest request for villagers to volunteer:

- a. the useful skills they have which could help in an emergency, e.g. first-aid, policing, roof repairs, plumbing, electricity, and hazardous tree removal.
- b. to mention any suitable equipment they might have, e.g. ladders, jacks, lights, cables, vans, trailers, as well as emergency accommodation.

John Cater, a resident of Quidhampton, who is bringing the Emergency Plan up-to-date, would be grateful to hear from any villagers who might consider volunteering. Please contact him on either joka.cater@gmail.com or 01 722 744 079.

Villagers whose details already appear in the latest edition of the plan (dated September 2017) do not need to volunteer again, unless their circumstances have changed, and they wish their details to be amended, or removed altogether.

Community email catch up

*Information from November's community emails that is still relevant and not mentioned elsewhere. **If you want to join the community email send your email address to the editor (details back page) to get updates in these ever-changing times.***

- **7 November:** a car parked near The Alders had a window smashed. If anyone else had a vehicle damaged that night please report it to the police. (*editor: as far as I know there were no other incidents*)
- **Are you a handyperson** who can make blue hearts like this one to go by the footpath in the insect friendly planting? Several people replied to this request but it is good to have more, and the Quidhampton Nature Project needs blue heart signs too. Contact the editor if you can help.
- **Scams:** these seem to be increasing. Never give your bank details over the phone, or use a phone number given to you by someone you don't know, and make sure there is a dialling tone before you ring. A friend of the editor was taken in when an "urgent" text arrived while she was busy with something else and so she did not give it her usual critical attention. **If you think you have been scammed ring the police on Action Fraud 0300 123 2040** It can happen to anyone.
- **Surviving lockdown:** several websites with good advice for staying mentally well were circulated. Contact the editor if you would like more details.
- **There is no Scout Christmas card post this year.**



Goodbye from Vicky and Charlie Frank

We bought Almeric in Spring 2013, our first married home. We were made very welcome by our neighbours and know we are leaving the village but taking the friendships with us. Almeric is a special place, steeped in history. It was a haven for us as a couple and became home to our children too. So many memories but these stand out: gatherings at the White Horse, village hall Christmas Carols, parties next door. It's new beginnings for us but Pentridge isn't far away so we hope, when rules allow, we will have visits from our village friends. We wish Emma, Mike and their family all the happiness in the world and hope they enjoy their time in Quidhampton as much as we have.

Quidhampton Parish Council reminds villagers that nothing should be swept from their property into the road. Not grass clippings nor leaves. Neither should they be dumped in Boyeswood.

Traffic problems: the east end of Lower Road is an even more difficult place for pedestrians at the moment. Gas pipes are being replaced and building work is going on at one of the houses. Patience and tolerance help a lot – and wearing some high visibility clothing if it is getting dark.

Waste and Recycling December/Jan

Recycling and garden waste

Friday 4 and 18, & Mon Jan 4

Household waste

Monday 7 and 21 & Tues Jan 5

This month's newsletter is paid for by
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co-researcher

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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:

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quidhamptonpc@btinternet.com

1 Tower Farm Cottages, SP2 9AA

Website:

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Wiltshire Council 0300 456 0100

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pauline.church@wiltshire.gov.uk

07436 810350

Bemerton Church Parish

Rev'd Kevin Martin, Rector

01722 679655 / 07821 943838

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