

Quidhampton Village Newsletter

March 2021

What's on in March

Monday 8 all primary school pupils return and secondary pupils begin a phased return

Wednesday 17: James Wyatt : genius or Charlatan? Bemerton talks online 19.30

Christopher Rogers, architectural historian and lecturer for the Arts Society (previously NADFAS) will talk about James Wyatt, a celebrated architect of the late 18th century. He was associated with controversial restoration work at Salisbury cathedral but is most remembered in Wiltshire for the extravagance of Fonthill Abbey, the tower of which collapsed in 1825. *The registration link is sent with the emailed version of this newsletter*

Tuesday 23: Parish Council virtual meeting 19.30

Zoom ID 384 268 0725

Members of the public are welcome to attend and may speak if they wish; please advise the council of this beforehand via email: parishclerk@quidhampton.org.uk. The agenda will be on the parish website and noticeboard. Before the official meeting begins there is a short period of time for statements or questions on any matter relating to the village.

Friday 2 April: Good Friday. Easter weekend begins

The ten year census: 21 March 2021

All villagers will soon receive information about the census.

You are obliged to complete it by law, and online if possible.

Census information is used by the government in making decisions about planning and funding local services such as education, healthcare and transport.

A free census contact centre opens on 1 March.

Details are in your information pack.

Changes to lockdown: Wiltshire Council has a clear summary of the changes from 8 March and possible changes after that. Contact the editor if you cannot access this on the internet. Their main message however is:

Although the number of cases in Wiltshire is below the national average and rates have fallen again there is still a long way to go. **The sacrifices we're making are having a very positive impact but we all need to keep playing our part to stop the spread of the virus so please remember – stay at home, protect the NHS, save lives.**

Easter: another generous offer



The plan for coming out of lockdown ('the road-map') shows that at Easter we will still be confined to our homes as single households, although two households (or six people from more than two households) may be able to meet outside.

Lily Newman and family are therefore again offering to cook a lunch for elderly couples or people on their own on Easter Sunday, 4 April. Traditional roast beef lunch, or veggie option, with trifle for pudding. Call Lily or Rachael on 742857 or email Lily: lilynewman1@gmail.com to book your

meal. It's bound to be popular after their excellent Christmas lunches.

The White Horse

Karen and Les thank everyone who has supported them with the takeaway service during lockdown. They are really excited at the prospect of being able to open and get to know people properly. They plan to begin on 12 April in the garden with meals. More details will be announced via the pub email, on Facebook and in the April newsletter. Booking will be advisable!

Karen and Les are now serving the following takeaway menu:

All dishes £10 except puddings on Sunday

Thursday, Friday and Saturdays: 16.30 - 20.00

Cod or Haddock & Chips

Scampi & Chips

"Bloody Lovely Sausages" (3) & Chips

Homemade Lasagne & Chips

Homemade Vegetable Lasagne & Chips

Veggie Sausages (3) & Chips

Steak & Stilton Pie with Mash & Peas

Homemade Curry with Rice & Naan Bread (*changes weekly; ring to find out what kind of curry it is*)

Lemon & Garlic Chicken Fillet & Chips

Andrews Beef Burger & Chips

Sundays 12.00 - 14.00

Traditional Sunday Roast: choice of 2 Meats OR Steak & Kidney Pudding

All served with roast vegetables, gravy etc

Sticky toffee pudding or Blotchy Pecker with Custard £5

Pre-orders by phone please: 744448. Pay on collection with card or cash

Silver Salisbury has been unable to put on events, or even to deliver afternoon tea as they did last year. Instead they made up packs of interesting and informative reading material including a puzzle book for senior residents and carers. Several villagers had a pack, delivered by the Covid group or through Wiltshire Link (thank you, Jan Barnes). Anne Barwell, among others, said she and Mike really appreciated it. "It seemed to have something for everyone: some really interesting bits to read and look at including a booklet of Salisbury stories during lockdown. I would really like to thank Silver Salisbury for putting this together."

If you would be interested in receiving any future packs (or even this one – there are a couple left over) contact the editor.

Many local walks have been too muddy to enjoy. Steve Rowland Jones sensibly asked via the village email if anyone knew about the muddiness of the Broken Bridges walk in Lower Bemerton before he tried it. Encouraged by the replies he went in normal walking boots on Friday. "There's a few patches where it is muddy but it's very easy to navigate round them and at no stage was I picking up clods of mud."

Have you been missing the pilates session in the village hall? Then why not try this?

Free help for over 60s to stay active during the pandemic

Salisbury City Council and Wiltshire and Swindon Sport have a free activity pack for the over 60s in the Salisbury area. 'We know that many over 60s have struggled to keep active in the last year and these packs encourage to them to be more active in a safe way.'

They include 2 types of resistance bands with a 6 week guide, a 30 day seated exercise challenge, a DVD with a whole range of different activities and walking challenges and maps to help people get out and about safely.

If you would like a pack, contact Sean by email:

ssaunders@salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk If you don't have email contact the editor.

Viv Thomas sent for one and was impressed with the quality. She also said she didn't think the seated exercises would really help but found they did.

Local news

Dr Holly Angel is in Greece!

Holly spent a week with a friend in isolation in Athens and leaves for Moria Camp on the island of Lesbos on Sunday 28 February. She wants to thank everyone in Quidhampton who donated on her fundraising page to the charity Kitrinos which provides healthcare for refugees in Greece. Holly has started a blog so everyone can read about her three month humanitarian trip. Good luck, Holly, lots of us here are thinking about you.

The links for the blog and fundraising page are sent with the emailed version of the newsletter.

Welcome to Jesse Stanley Lovell-Green who was born at home in Coronation Square on Thursday 28 January, weighing 7lb 15 oz. Jesse and mum Emma are doing really well and Rex is being a great big brother - see photo. Dad Jamie couldn't be happier.

Congratulations also to our oldest resident. Audrey Catford of Wyllye Close celebrated her 98th birthday in February. She has always been firm about not wanting any fuss for her birthday but says if she is still with us that there may be a lot of fuss for her 100th. We do hope so, Audrey!

Three other villagers will also be 98 this year: Stella Garry, Ted Thornton and Eve Warton. Stella and Ted are

next-door neighbours and Audrey lives opposite them. Is there something special about the air in west Quidhampton?!

The seed, plant and book swap in the bus shelter has been very successful with books during the winter and perhaps last year's plants and seeds are now growing in village gardens. One villager wants to thank the person who left a box of bulbs last year. "They are all popping up in my small garden, showing us signs of spring. A lovely reminder of a kind act."



Keep watching Mastermind! Sallie Philips of Sovereign Close is in the semi finals of BBC's Mastermind after all. She was one of the highest scoring losers in the first round and thinks she was called to the semi final because one of the winners had to withdraw after catching Covid-19.

News from Groveley Dene



Hannah, Louise and Rupert are looking forward to welcoming a new member of the family on Sunday 7 March. Her name is Mabel and she is a rescue dog from Romania. The family could not find a suitable rescue dog that was safe to bring into their home with 6 year old Rupert until they came across an Amesbury based charity that works with dog shelters in Hungary and Romania. In both countries there are huge numbers of stray unsterilized dogs. To control this the governments set up state shelters but conditions there are not good and the dogs are not kept for long before being euthanised. Dog charities regularly visit their local shelters and rescue as many dogs as they can. They have their own shelters and foster homes where dogs wait for adoption. Mabel, who will soon live in Quidhampton, is four months old and was born in the rescue centre so has not

suffered the hardships of life on the streets or in a government shelter. She will have been travelling for four days so the family will make sure she has a gentle welcome to her new home.

Warning: if you are thinking of adopting a dog from outside the UK you should go through a reputable charity to ensure the good health of the dog you choose. Hannah and Louise used Hungary Hearts Dog Rescue.

Sad news: Bonzo, who lived in Alexandra Cottages for many years, died on 24 February. There will be a tribute to him in the next newsletter. Please get in touch if you want to contribute to that and also about Richard Philpott whose tribute has been held over until April.

Quidhampton virtual art exhibition

Stage two of this online exhibition resulted in £250 being donated to the Salisbury Hospice. A letter of appreciation and thanks from the hospice charity explains that the cancellation of most fund raising events has greatly affected their income. The exhibition can still be seen online so why not have another look and maybe make a donation to the hospice. www.quidhamptonwiltshire.com

Good news: Clare Herring says there will be a village flower and produce show in July. Get planting!

Community email catch up

Information from February's emails that is still relevant and not mentioned elsewhere. If you want to join the community email send your address to the editor (details on back page)

The vacancy for parish clerk has been advertised. It is a part-time job for someone passionate to help the community. It could be an extra job for an experienced parish clerk, or for someone experienced in administration looking to change direction and willing to learn the local authority and legal aspects. The person appointed must have good communication and IT skills. The role is for 5 hours a week, paid between £10.50 - £13 an hour, dependent on experience and qualifications. Training is available. If you missed the earlier advertisement and want to apply go to the Quidhampton parish council website and scroll down for details. Applications are still being accepted.

Wessex Community Action has launched an appreciation campaign to encourage people to do something for neighbours and friends working for the NHS, or in key roles in social care, shops, transport, schools, refuse collection, the postal service etc.

Ideas include flowers, a card, homemade cake.. or even a pebble.



Helplines for domestic violence concerns: 101 or 999 in an emergency; **Splitz support service** weekdays 01225 775276; evenings and weekends 01793 610610. National domestic abuse helpline: 0808 2000 247 for free and confidential advice 24 hours a day; men's helpline 0808 801 0327.

Safeguarding and children: if you are worried about a child you know then call 0300 4560 108

Surviving winter grant: this year's grant to help pensioners with heating bills is available through Age UK. Ring 0808 196 2424 to apply. You should be of state pension age or over (now 66 for both men and women) with an income below £16190 excluding disability benefits.

New hospital service for carers: carers can now ring or email the new carer support hospital liaison service for information and advice when a family member or friend is a patient. There is also training and support to help with discharge. This service has been set up to ease the pressure on hospital staff so do use it. Hotline: 0800 368 7579 email: CSW.admin@nhs.net

Carers of people living with dementia: Alzheimer's Support is running a 6 week online course on Monday mornings, from 8 March. It aims to increase your understanding of life with all kinds of dementia, not just Alzheimer's, and covers practical aspects as well e.g. legal and financial, options for care, safer moving and helping. If you are interested ring 01380 739055. Even if you do not have an internet connection you may be able to take part

A booklet called "**Looking after yourself when you care for someone with dementia**" has been highly recommended by local people. It is available online from dementia uk or contact the editor for help in getting a copy.

Big Garden Bird Watch Results! Nick Tomalin's first analysis of our results

Although the RSPB is yet to announce the national results of their January Big Garden Birdwatch, I can reveal a summary of the findings from Quidhampton. Villagers reported 365 individual birds and 25 species, in 12 different gardens. That's one bird for every day of the year, and one garden per month! The top ten are listed below, with the numbers reported:

1	Goldfinch	47
2	House Sparrow	37
3	Blackbird	33
4	Long-tailed Tit	31
5=	Jackdaw	27
5=	Blue Tit	27
5=	Great Tit	27
8	Chaffinch	18
9	Starling	17
10	Greenfinch	16

I will make a more detailed analysis with comparisons between the village and the national picture once the RSPB release their results; I will send it to everyone who sent their records to me. Thanks to all of you who did!

What to look out for in March: returning migrants **Wheatear** (right) are among the earliest birds to return, but are more likely to be found in open country than the village, though I did spot one from my house last autumn.



Sand martins tend to arrive before swallows, and may pass over the village on their way to nesting sites in sandy vertical banks. Later in the month the first **swallows**, the welcome heralds of spring, might be seen. Sand martins are brown, swallows are blue and white.

Listen for that first calling **chiffchaff**. Some winter here (one was spotted during my Big Garden Bird Watch!) but more arrive from Africa in March and will be heard singing their own name 'chiff-chaff-chiff-chaff' on sunny mornings.

What can you do this month? Get that last bit of pruning done before the birds start breeding. You should avoid cutting back any vegetation once birds are nesting, so now is the time to trim, especially after the last frosts. And if you are planting to benefit garden wildlife, March is a good time for that too.

An interview with writer Dave Robson of Fisherman's Reach

Dave, who moved here with his wife Rachella in 2018, wrote a piece about surviving lockdown for the April newsletter last year. As a life coach and author of a book called "The Five Pillars of Happiness" he had some wise words to say, especially about the positive and energising effects of trying something new. "I'm writing a children's story," he declared, "and it's proving to be loads of fun." Now that story is a published book, "The Amorous Adventures of Big Ben". Quite an achievement! How did he do it?

Why did you decide to write a book for children?

I think a lot about children in the pandemic, and in other events e.g. the Beirut explosion last year. I think how much



suffering there is and felt I wanted to contribute some happiness to the world – a story with some humour and joy in it and a happy ending.

Where did the idea come from?

I lived in London until we moved here so it was a big change for us. I became much more conscious of my surroundings, especially of Ben, the Shire horse. He is a big presence. I worried about him being outside in all weathers and worried that he was lonely once his companion the bull was taken somewhere else. I learned how quickly things change in the countryside: hay bales one season, flooding the next. The different birds that visited the flooded meadow fascinated me and I found myself wondering if one of them could be a companion for Ben. I realised it was a ridiculous idea but that is when I first thought I could write a story about it.

How did you begin?

I did some research about birds, and other animals, to see what their characters might be if they could speak. I would wake up at night with ideas which I'd write down. I haven't read children's books since I was a child but characters such as the Just William children and Biggles are still very vivid to me. I really wanted to write about a community of animals with their own characters such as Harry Heron and Hetty Hen.

Did you have a writing routine?

I tried to write every weekday. Once I'd written the first part the rest of the story seemed to come of its own accord. It was as though I were a straw drawing the story up from somewhere. This is my first novel so I had never written dialogue before and I found it wonderful in the way it helps a writer build characters.

Did you work with an editor either as you wrote or once you had finished?

The owner of the company who published my second book* said she was interested in this one and arranged proof reading etc. The only comment she made was that I used too many words that children would not understand. I told her that was deliberate! When I was a child I loved learning new words and would look them up. I used a dictionary; today's children will use Google. I've tried to make it a book that adults will enjoy reading to children so there are some philosophical and historical references too.

The critics: David Parker reviewed my book in Valley News and said I used too many clichés. But I love clichés and always remind people that a cliché is only a cliché because of the countless times it has been proved to be true.

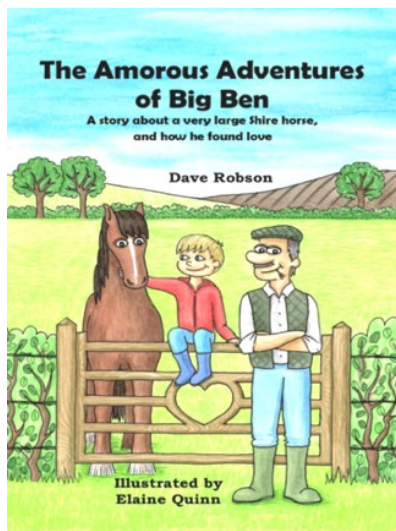
What will you write now?

I have ideas for three different books. Writing 'Ben' has given me confidence and I will definitely do a follow up. Indeed the ending hints at another exciting adventure.....

Editor: David Parker also said a cartoon film version would "bring out the warmth and sheer fun of the story" and I think he is right.

If you want to read about Ben's amorous adventures you can get a copy from Dave. Cost £6.60 if you collect it, add £1.53 for postage.

Phone 505495 or email info@dave-robson.com Also available from TSL Books.



* How to be a Popular Crew, a book about sailing.

Village contact details for support during the pandemic

Ring Jane Taylor 744534 if you want someone to talk to.

Ring John Cater 744079 or Jane Morgan 07880 550321 if you need shopping or prescriptions collected. There are plenty of volunteers wanting to help.

For free counselling call Rachella Michaels 07778 102086

For help in getting to your vaccination appointment ring John Cater or Jane Morgan



Waste and Recycling March 2021

Household waste

Monday 1, 15 & 29, April 12

Recycling and garden waste

Friday 12 & 26, April 9

The newsletter is paid for this month

by several small donations the editor has had from people to show their thanks for various kindnesses they received during the pandemic.

If you would like to contribute to the cost of producing the newsletter please contact the editor.

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743587

Wilton and District Link Scheme : 01722 741241

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Village Hall bookings:

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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