

Quidhampton Village Newsletter

April 2021

The White Horse opens outside on Monday 12 April

Karen, Les and the White Horse team are delighted to be able to welcome everyone back to the pub and look forward to seeing you very soon. "It is outside only for now but the marquee is up and we're hoping the weather will be kind."

To celebrate Karen and Les will be open at lunchtime and in the evening every day for the week beginning 12 April (except Sunday which is lunchtime only).



There is a spring menu with pub favourites and new dishes.
including sandwiches and jacket potatoes at lunchtimes
Ring 01722 744448 to make a booking

Normal opening hours

Monday and Tuesday closed.

Wednesday and Thursday 12.00 – 15.00 and 18.00 – 10.00

Friday 12.00 – 15.00 and 18.00 – 23.00

Saturday 12.00 – 23.00. Sunday 12.00 – 19.00

Food service

Wednesday – Saturday 12.00 – 14.00 and 18.00 – 20.30.

Coronavirus restrictions still apply – please read the following

Outside seating only though you are able to go inside to use the toilets.,

When moving around, please wear a mask and follow the one way system.

Hand sanitiser is on each table and at entry and exit points.

Track and trace is available and all staff will wear masks.

There is a maximum of 6 people per table, and tables cannot be moved or put together.

Please sit only on tables that are marked as clean, but if possible wait to be seated.

It is full table service, and payment will be taken when you order or you can leave your card behind the bar safely.

What's on in April in Bemerton

Outdoor yoga classes: Louise Pitman hopes to run her yoga classes in person again on Fridays from 2 April. This is weather dependent and they will go back to zoom if rained off. *Please note there will not be a class on 9 April*
Classes are from 09.30 – 10.30 in the cricket club grounds next to St John's Place and back inside St John's Place from 21 May if all goes to plan.

Wednesday 21 April: Bemerton Talks online 19.30

Salisbury Museum for Future Generations: a talk by the museum director Adrian Green about their exciting new plans. *The registration link is sent with the emailed version of this newsletter. Call Margaret Willmot if you have problems accessing it: 07790 287062*

Church services

Some services are now back in the church and need to be booked, others are on zoom. Look for the details here

<https://bemertonparish.org.uk/services-in-bemerton-parish/>

Bemerton St John school and Sarum Academy: Easter break from 13.30

Thursday 1 April – Friday 16 April. Both schools are delighted to welcome all pupils back and their websites are worth a visit. St John's has photos of the building work that has been going on.

Welcome to another new villager

Congratulations to Nick and Tat Tomalin on the birth of George Oliver Tomalin.

Congratulations also to Grace on becoming a big sister. Nick says she is wonderful at it.

George was born on 7 March and everyone is doing very well, though not sleeping as much as they used to!



Helen Kirby of Fisherman's Reach is looking forward to the shops opening more than most. She now has a studio at Fisherton Mill that will be open to the public on **12 April**. Helen is known as an artist in several media, as a teacher, as a musician and as a dancer. All these influences can be seen in her work.

Come and visit my Art Lab Design **studio on the first floor at Fisherton Mill, Salisbury.**

www.artlabdesign.org

Contact: artlabdesign@btinternet.com



FOR SALE

Contemporary Fine Art Paintings
Hand Painted Tee shirts and clothing
Vintage style hand crafted fashion

Commissions are always welcome

I will also be running some new art and design workshops as soon as restrictions are lifted

Workshops:

Paint your own Tee shirt
Textile Landscapes
Visual Music painting
Observational drawing



Community email catch up

Information from emails sent in March 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)

Church services: St Andrews is open for church services again but there are only 6 pews available for each service. Two people from the same household or bubble can share a pew. Places must be booked in advance. Contact Hilary Bird 07484 758011 services: Sundays 08.00 and Fridays 10.00

The White Horse will still be doing takeaways this weekend from Thursday – Sunday. Ring for menu and to book a collection slot.

Maurice Robins 1934 – 2021

Thanks to Bonzo's children whose eulogy forms the basis of this account of his life.

Maurice Robins, known to all as Bonzo, grew up in Hanging Langford in the Wyllye Valley. He was one of eight children and times were tough but like so many others they got on with the simple things in life and made the most of what they had.

He was known as Bonzo from the age of seven when at school one lunch-time he tried to eat a sausage in one go. The teacher told him to cut it up, adding "You're not a dog," and the other children barked at him.

Some nicknames just stick.

Bonzo joined the army before he was called up for National Service and was in the Middle East during the Suez crisis. Later in life he joined the British Legion and was proud to be their standard bearer on several occasions.

He married Maureen Winter in 1960 and they had four children: Linda, Mandy, Tracy and Simon. Bonzo worked hard throughout his life to care for and support his family, first at Chalks in South Newton as a haulage driver and then for a road maintenance company. Tarmacking roads took him away from home but he always came back at weekends. His marriage ended in 1976.

Later Bonzo formed a strong and faithful companionship with Rose Bell that was to last for over 24 years. He settled into village life here in Rose's home at 2 Alexandra Cottages. He continued his darts playing which he had always loved, and even played at County level, once against Eric Bristow. His happy-go-lucky character made him popular everywhere. Sadly Rose began suffering from dementia and after several years of loving care Bonzo had to admit she needed the specialist care of a residential home. He visited her every day as well as looking after their dog, continuing to grow a garden full of vegetables and keeping the home going. Several villagers have said how they enjoyed talking to him about gardening and afterwards would find gifts of vegetables on their doorstep.

In October 2017 Bonzo's life changed forever when he suffered a stroke at the harvest festival in The White Horse and a few days later Rose died. Bonzo defied the doctors to go to her funeral and to the wake at the British Legion afterwards.

Now Bonzo had to move to a care home himself and was lucky enough to find there the comfort of two old friends from the Wyllye Valley. With them, regular visits from family and friends and a couple of sessions back at The White Horse Bonzo made the most of the restrictions of his new life. He even came to the art exhibition in the village hall.

It was fitting that Bonzo was driven through Quidhampton on his last journey, and good to see so many people there to say goodbye to him.

His children asked that these words be read at his funeral:

“Thank you, dad, for your values that you instilled in us: to work hard, to show kindness, to respect others, be proud of our achievements and most of all to laugh and love one another.” His daughter Lyn sent this message for the newsletter:

It was so lovely to see so many people paying their respects to Dad. It brought tears to us all, so thank you.

This additional piece from Eve Warton shows how people can have the most surprising connections

Bonzo and I had happy chats over my fence when he passed by with his dog and saw me watering the garden or emptying rubbish, both jobs put on hold while we put the world to rights. He often gave me delicious vegetables that he grew, leaving them on my front door mat. He was a kind and thoughtful man and never complained, though life for him must have been difficult looking after his wife. He had noticed that once a month my car was missing for several days, and asked where I was. I explained that a friend of mine had recently lost her husband and was lonely, so I spent time with her in a tiny village called Nunney.

His look of astonishment puzzled me as few people have even heard of it. He explained that years ago he had worked at the stone quarry there and helped the racing driver Robert Walker rebuild part of his stone fence at Nunney Court. I was amazed as it was his widow Betty that I stayed with. How's that for something to spend time chatting about? Small world, shared friends. I missed our chats when he had to leave Quidhampton.



Thanks to Tim Lovell, captain of the darts team, for this photo. He is next to Bonzo, behind are (from left to right) Mick Emm, Eric Lawrence and Danny Nash.

The photo shows the darts team in The Cedars in 2016, the year the White Horse was closed. Bonzo was a loyal supporter and would always sit in his favourite chair by the dartboard so he could see every game and record the scores. He was well known for his dart book and never left home without it.

Richard Philpott 1940 – 2021

Richard Philpott who died of natural causes at home in January was a quiet man, not known to many villagers. Through his mother Dorothy he was a member of the Cousins family and the last to live in Quidhampton.

Richard, an only child, was born here and lived in 2 Alexandra Cottages with his parents. Later they moved to 20 Coronation Square. He went to Highbury Avenue School, in the same class as his cousin Margaret Philpott, now Margaret Stokes, also of Coronation Square.

A younger schoolfriend says Richard was a quiet boy with a passion for railways. The two of them would travel all over the southern and south west region using Richard's free travel (a perk for railway workers and their families at that time) and sharing the cost of the friend's ticket.

He remembers going to Reading to see the Cornish Riviera Express pass through Sonning Cutting, and spending hours sitting together on the five bar gate at the top of Netherhampton Road watching and listing the trains going by. They were all steam trains then.



Cornish Riviera Express in Sonning Cutting

Richard went to work for the railways as soon as he left school. He first joined his father in the office at Salisbury and then became a ticket collector. When he was seventeen he bought a professional Leica camera, a huge cost at the time. Trains remained his life-long hobby as well as his working life and he travelled all over the world to see them. In 1982 Richard married Kay Loveridge and they had one child, Samantha. When the marriage ended in divorce Richard remained living in Coronation Square. Sympathy is extended to Sam and to Kay with whom he remained on good terms.

Richard's passing really does mark the end of an era. The Cousins family (first spelt Cousens, Couzens, Couzins etc) lived in Quidhampton for nearly 400 years, the first record being a marriage in 1665. In 1911 there were five households of Cousins in the village. Richard's grandfather, George, a blacksmith, was the brother of Sydney who was killed at the battle of the Somme, and his mother was a cousin of Stan who wrote *The Quidhampton Story*.

The Quidhampton Story is available online

Birds and other wildlife: a regular contribution from ornithologist Nick Tomalin

On the Trail of Winterwatch: using remote cameras

If you watched BBC's Winterwatch you'll know they use remote cameras to capture live action or close-ups. The footage is fascinating. The good news is that you can buy many of these cameras and they can be relatively affordable. Last year I bought a trail camera online for under £50. Although it required batteries and an SD card to record the images, I feel it was good value for money. I didn't want award-winning images, just to identify the wildlife visiting my garden, and other areas. I now know I have hedgehogs in the garden, and I have film of an otter by the river in the village. If you want to solve your own wildlife mysteries, then here's some advice.

Look for models that don't have any external lights or glow. This can put some animals off and influence behaviour. You want something that works in the dark, to capture nocturnal activity. It should be waterproof, and sturdy enough to survive inquisitive animals sniffing and scratching it. Most models take photos and video, and you can change the settings to adjust the length of video, the time of day it is active, and how long it waits between photos or videos. I download the images easily by attaching a cable to my laptop, and the video format is compatible with my computer.

If you want to take things further, you can buy nest boxes with inbuilt cameras, some of which stream images live to your computer or TV.

Who needs Springwatch when you can see that live from your own garden?!

What to look out for in April Butterflies and bumblebees! Both are more active as temperatures increase. Bees tend to need low wind speeds and temperatures above 12 degrees. The first butterflies are on the wing, with the yellow brimstone very active, and also peacock, red admiral and comma.

What you can do in April Check out the camera competition online. There are many live cameras for wildlife, from bird feeders across the USA (Cornell Lab Bird Cams) to African watering holes (explore.org live cams).

For something more local there is the camera at Salisbury Cathedral on the peregrine falcon nest. If you don't have a computer, you can visit the cathedral to see the birds, or keep an eye overhead as they often fly to and from the quarry across the A36.



This webcam photo shows parents and the first egg this year

There is also a cathedral Youtube channel showing highlights from this year (four eggs from a pair of un-ringed falcons) as well as 2020.

The 2021 census: trouble filling yours in? Ring Salisbury library on 01722 324145 for help with any problem you may have.

Census officers will soon be visiting homes that have not returned their census forms. There is a legal obligation to take part in the census.

The Village Flower and Produce show will be bigger and better than ever this year! As well as the dog show there will be a craft section. More details next time; just note the date for now: **Saturday 3 July.**

FREE an electric recliner chair neutral colour, good condition. Contact Teresa Foster 01722 238872

Do you keep guinea pigs? Can you take one more? They suffer when living alone and after a recent death the Kinnell family has one unhappy guinea pig left. Email Hannah on hannahlotty@hotmail.com or contact the editor.

Book and plant swap: almost too many books had accumulated in the bus shelter (three full bags and two boxes) when sadly they all disappeared, taken for a second time. The disused telephone box will be used for the books in future after a thorough clean organised by Emma Lovell and Joy Wagstaff. Meanwhile plants and seeds can go in the bus stop where a small box of books has already appeared. You can't keep a good idea down!

Mastermind: still no date for Sallie Philips next appearance on the BBC's quiz, though it will be in April. As soon as she knows it will be announced on the community email. There's sad news for us from Sallie too: she and Bob will be leaving the village soon because she has got a great new job in Wales. Congratulations, Sallie! They are lucky to have you. Bob has been a very effective treasurer of the village hall. An email request asking if anyone could take on this role produced three volunteers. Also good news!

And yet another heart-warming little event in our village
Reported by Sandie Smith

"On my walk to check the playground on Saturday a young lady in jogging kit came up to me at Sovereign Close. She had run through the village earlier for a Trussell Trust fund raiser and sadly lost her air pods (cost £200) along the route.

(We'd actually seen her run past our kitchen dressed as a unicorn. Hurrah for fundraisers!) She was doing a good deed and a villager did the same by finding the pods and putting them on a small post by Sovereign Close!!! Her partner spotted them! She couldn't believe her luck and sends huge thanks to the finder."

Quidhampton Nature Project (QNP) Mandy Whelan reported to the parish council.

Playground: hedgerow plants have been planted along the northern fence. As well as providing habitat for birds and insects hedgerows play a part in reducing pollution. The growth of the hedge will be monitored. Two areas for natural growth have also been marked out.

Future plans: a bug hotel in the natural growth by the gate; a willow structure for shade; fruit trees also for shade (but dependent on the report into trees on the south and east boundaries); information boards

Aim: in a village without communal open spaces the group wants to create an area where children can explore and engage with nature.

Comments and ideas on the plans are welcomed.

It is also planned to put up nesting boxes for swifts in the village.

Photo competition and calendar Zoe Hoare reports that a total of £506 was raised and divided equally between QNP and Macmillan cancer support. Thank you Zoe.

Rosa Herring raised more than £200 for the Alabare sleep out which raises awareness of homeless people in our area. This year, because of Covid, people were asked to sleep on their own property, in garden sheds, tents etc. They must also have experienced the loneliness of homeless people by not being in the community sleep outs of other years. Well done Rosa.

From Holly Angel working in the camps on Lesbos: time is limited so I'm trying to write some stuff when I get the chance! We're doing a few projects - Becky's Bathhouse is health promotion but we're working inside the camp running a scabies treatment clinic and a primary health clinic for vulnerable women and children who are being housed temporarily in a school down the road. I think shortly we will also be covering the night shift in the emergency tent in the camp as well! Will get some more on the blog soon.

Simon Forman 1552 – 1611 : regular readers may remember physician Simon Forman, Quidhampton's most famous inhabitant (so far). The casebooks he kept of consultations with patients from all social classes are used by modern historians and now he features in a novel.

After his death he was a suspect in the poisoning of Sir Thomas Overbury - it was said he provided the poison - and "A Net for Small Fishes" by Lucy Jago is an imaginative account of this murder and the aftermath. It has had excellent reviews, and is recommended for people who are missing Hilary Mantel's Thomas Cromwell.

Regular readers may also have worked out that the editor is very interested in Simon Forman. She even wonders whether the footpath behind the buildings on the north side of the village could be known as Simon Forman Way. He must have walked along there from time to time!



Other matters from Quidhampton Parish Council (QPC) Meeting 23 March 2021

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

Present: councillors Pauline Donne, Tim Duncalfe, Howard Rowley (chair), Sandie Smith, Ken Taylor (minute taker for this meeting) and Fiona West. **In**

attendance: Wiltshire councillor Pauline Church and four members of the public.

Recruitment of a parish clerk : there had been many expressions of interest but fewer applications. It was proposed that an experienced clerk should act as locum and mentor to a suitable but inexperienced applicant who would then take over as clerk. The plan was costed and agreed. Full details will be announced when contracts have been signed.

Playground fencing, repair and replacement A grant for 50% of the cost has been received from South West Wiltshire Area Board. A contract for work on the west and northern fences was agreed. The others await the report about the state of the trees.

The annual report from the Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents was discussed and tasks allocated. A working party will be arranged for weeding and cleaning.

Lower Road traffic calming Ken Taylor reported that consultation with the Community Area Transport group has led to some recommended changes to the plans submitted by QPC. All items are subject to public consultation and

there will be a public meeting. The proposals will be put on the QPC website.

- the proposed speed bump at the eastern end of the village was advised as impossible because of the unrestricted speed limit on Skew Road.

- the proposed chicane at Lock's Lane was not recommended but a kerbed pavement from Lock's Lane to opposite the White Horse was suggested instead

- the two speed tables (outside the White Horse and at Nadder Lane) were agreed subject to consultation on the details of the design

- the colouring of the footway and moving the bollards to the edge where they will not obstruct driveways were both agreed.

Ken Taylor reported that Lower Road will be re-surfaced in 2022/2023 and the traffic calming proposals would be integrated in that project.

Community Speedwatch (CSW) The Speed Indicator Device continues to record useful data and it is hoped that it can be used in another position soon. CSW resumes in April and Sandie Smith reported a brilliant response from volunteers. There will be at least one session every day for a fortnight.

Elections on 6 May: Pauline Donne explained the procedures for councillors and the public who wished to stand and offered help.

Date of next meeting: 18 May. This will be the annual parish council meeting.

Pauline Church's report to the parish council included the latest 7 day Covid infection figures which were 25.4 per 100000. The rate was very low for over sixties (8.6) showing the effect of the vaccines, and highest for 15 – 19 year olds (55.5) who have not been vaccinated and are having regular testing in school. That high rate shows that the virus is still very active.

At the end of the meeting Pauline congratulated QPC for the way all the councillors had pulled together and worked hard to get everything done without a clerk. She said she didn't know another council that would have done so well.

Final note: Quidhampton's new parish clerk has been appointed. She is Anisa Doubell of Hindon. A more experienced clerk, Mel Camilleri, is supporting the council through the end of year financial accounts and in the coming few months, while acting a mentor to help Anisa into her role.

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

National lockdown : changes from 29 March

- you can meet people outdoors, including private gardens, in a group of six **or** a group of two households. The households can include their existing support bubbles.

- you should continue to socially distance yourself from people in other households

- you can take part in formally organised outdoor sports and outdoor sports facilities will re-open

- you should continue to work from home when you can and make as few journeys as you can, avoiding the busiest times.

- you are allowed to travel for exercise but are asked to stay local if you can

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 (email see CSW, left). A photo would be great.

Waste and Recycling April 2021

Recycling and garden waste

Friday 9 & 23, May 7

Household waste

Monday 12 & 26, May 10

The newsletter is paid for this month by villagers who wish to remain anonymous

Newsletter edited by Bea Tilbrook 742456
bjtis@hotmail.co.uk Meadow Barn
Fisherman's Reach SP2 9BG.

Local Contacts

The White Horse

01722 744448

Police non emergency no.: 101

PCSO Matthew Smith CPTSouthWiltshire@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

St John's Primary School: 322848

Quidhampton Mill : 741171

Self catering apartments

Footshill House, Lower Road: B&B
743587

Wilton and District Link

Scheme :01722 741241

Parish Council :

parishclerk@quidhampton.org.uk

Website:

www.parishcouncil.quidhampton.org.uk

Wiltshire Council 0300 456 0100

Area Councillor, Pauline Church.

pauline.church@wiltshire.gov.uk 07436
810350

Bemerton Church Parish

Rev'd Kevin Martin, Rector

rector.bemerton@protonmail.com

01722 679655 / 07821 943838

Parish Office 328031

Village Hall bookings:

Sabine Dawson: 07742 273984

sabinedance@btinternet.com

Quidhampton Nature Project

Mandy Wheelan

amandawhelan@me.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 (CSW)

Sandieandmartin@aol.com