

3-12-82

Concern over housing scheme

RECENT PROPOSALS for a new housing scheme at Bampton have concerned some district councillors.

At a full meeting of West Oxfordshire District Council last week, members asked for assurances that the new housing development would not significantly reduce the gardens of council houses which back on to the proposed site.

Initial reports have suggested that some tenants may lose up to half of their back gardens if the housing scheme goes ahead, and there has been angry reaction from residents to the proposals. The District Council has asked 21 tenants in New Road, Fox Close, and Bushey Row to give up land to make way for a small housing estate covering about an acre, with around 12 houses.

Councillor Mr. Michael Chadwick pointed out at the meeting that some of the tenants concerned were in the process of

buying their council homes.

Chairman of the Housing Committee, Mr. Derek Millard, explained: "If a sale is completed we can only purchase the land if the owner wishes to sell it to us. In view of the objections locally, we will be looking again at the proposals at the next housing committee meeting."

The plans are still in their early stages and will not be considered until the views of the tenants have been sought. Mr. Millard told councillors that it may be decided not to go ahead with the housing scheme.

"We will first be asking for an up to date map at the next housing committee meeting, and for details of any sales going on in the area," he said.

1.10.82

Bampton

Darby and Joan Club.

— The fortnightly meetings of the Darby and Joan Club have now been resumed after a break for holidays, but the venue has been changed from the Old Grammar School to the W.I. hall and the day of meeting altered from Friday to Thursday afternoon. New members will be welcomed to this lively and self-supporting club in these larger premises. Last Friday the club held a coffee morning with stalls in the W.I. hall and £158 was realised for their funds.

Legion Ladies.

— Members of the Women's Section of the Bampton branch of the Royal British Legion met in the Town Hall for the September meeting. It was agreed that the section should continue to hold monthly meetings in the Town Hall on the fourth Wednesday of each week. It was decided to send donations to the following charities: Rest Homes £20, Widows' Allowance £20, General Headquarters £10, Welfare £10 and Flatlets £20. After refreshments, competition prizes were won by Mrs. E. Quick, Mrs. Pidduck, Mrs. Owens and Mrs. O'Brien.

Plea for more council housing

BAMPTON needs more council housing. The parish council has underlined the message in comments on the latest housing plans for the village.

West Oxfordshire District Council is suggesting that Bampton has a new development of about 80 new homes on land between New Road and Lew Road.

But the development, one of many put forward for 16 towns and villages in West Oxfordshire, is likely to be for private homes.

Mr John Hughes-Owens, acting parish council chairman, said: "We are not against private development but the real need in this village is for council housing.

"We badly need it for the young people who now have to leave the village to find somewhere to live."

15.3.82

ROAD 1.10.52

CLOSED

The Buckland to Bampton road in West Oxfordshire will be closed to traffic for up to three months starting Monday, October 4.

The closure is necessary while the superstructure of a bridge at Buckland Marsh is rebuilt in reinforced concrete. The steel girders of the bridge have been severely corroded and an emergency three-ton weight limit was recently imposed.

The alternative route for traffic is via the B.4449 at Bampton, Aston, the A415, Brightampton, Standlake, the A420 Kingston Bagpuize and the Faringdon road.

Pedal-cyclists will be able to use a temporary footpath which Oxfordshire County Council has provided at the side of the bridge.

W.I. NOTES

Tribute to former member at Bampton

In memory of two W.I. members who had recently died — Mrs. M. Thain and Mrs. Shepherd — a minute's silence was observed before the commencement of the November meeting of Bampton W.I.

President Mrs. B. Michael thanked all members who had contributed to the successful coffee morning and exhibition which had raised £127 for Institute funds. Mrs. Marion Casson gave a full account of the half-yearly council meeting she attended in Faringdon as delegate and at which the guest speaker had been Lord Tweedsmuir. A report was also given on the Group meeting held in Alvescot, by Mrs. Olga Gush who told several of the amusing anecdotes told by the guest speaker Miss Mollie Harris.

Members were sorry to learn that their caretaker, Mr. Ben Tanne, had been forced to resign owing to ill health and tribute was paid to Mr. Tanner for the many years help he had given them.

There was good news for 'bus users when Mrs. A. Taylor said that for a trial period from November 21 until March, there was to be a restoration of the 'bus service from Witney to Bampton at 11.10 a.m. and 5.35 p.m. Much will depend, after the trial period, on how much these 'buses are used if the services are to be continued.

The guest speaker was V.C.O. Mrs. Lee, who spoke about the resolutions discussed at the Albert Hall annual meeting and how they were elected from the many sent in.

After a break for coffee, members settled to enjoy a reading by six members of an amusing one-act play by Roy Plumley which caused as much fun for the readers as for the listeners.

The monthly competi-

tion was for a Hal-
lowe'en Lantern and was
won by Miss M. Cash-
more.

Young talent takes over



Stephen Cooper, left, and Shaun McCulley admire some of the exhibits.

CHILDREN have taken over Bampton Arts Centre.

A colourful exhibition of the work by pupils of primary schools at Alvescot, Aston, Bampton, Brize Norton, Clanfield and Langford, is on show until April 1.

Some of the children attended a special preview yesterday with their teachers and parents. The exhibition includes individual and group entries.

Standard, Times, Echo

SECOND SECTION

Dec 3rd 1982



THE LADIES' TOUCH for Father Christmas last Saturday as he was made ready to greet the younger visitors to the Bampton Playgroup Christmas Bazaar held in the W.I. Hall. With Alan Churchill (Father Christmas) are left to right, Sue Dixon, Sheila Tanner, vice chairman, Lynne Evans, treasurer and Lorraine Churchill.



Miss Lynn Laraine Beckley, of Southside, Church Street, Bampton, was married to Mr Stephen James Finlay, of Meadow Farm Cottage, near Bampton, at the High Street Methodist Church, Witney on July 17.

The bride is the daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Beckley, of Bampton, and

the bridegroom's parents are Mr and Mrs B. Finlay, of Kidlington.

Mr Peter Beckley was best man and Sue McEllicott and Lucy Wills attended the bride.

A reception for 80 guests was held at the bride's home.

Picture: A. Walker.

29.7.82



SHOPPING for gifts from the Christmas tree at the Bampton Playgroup Christmas Bazaar last Saturday are left, Mrs. Virginia Johnson with four-year-old daughter Erica, and right Mrs. Jean Bassett with three-year-old daughter Laura. Both children are pupils at the playgroup and both mums were helpers at the bazaar.



MARY ROUSE, of University Farm Guesthouse, Lew, Bampton, receiving her plaque from Sir Henry Marking, chairman of the British Tourist Authority.

BTA award to guest house

A West Oxfordshire guest house has achieved a prized British Tourist Authority commendation.

University Farm Guest House at Lew near Bampton has been listed in the BTA's annual guide which contains country hotels, guest houses and restaurants offering outstanding value and high standards of food and service.

Last week, Mrs. Mary Rouse, proprietor of the University Farm Guest House, received a commended plaque from the Chairman of the BTA, Sir Henry Marking, at a ceremony held at the Park Lane Hotel in London.

At the reception, which launched the new edition of the BTA's guide, plaques were presented to 19 establishments included in the guide for the first time.

In congratulating the new entries, Sir Henry Marking said: "We set a very high standard. Over the past decade the scheme has become more and more demanding and inclusion in the guide should not be taken for granted—establishments are re-assessed every year."



SOME FATHERLY advice on tree planting for five-year-old Matthew Norris who along with his father, John, were two of the helpers who planted trees at Bampton Primary School on Saturday as part of National Tree Week.

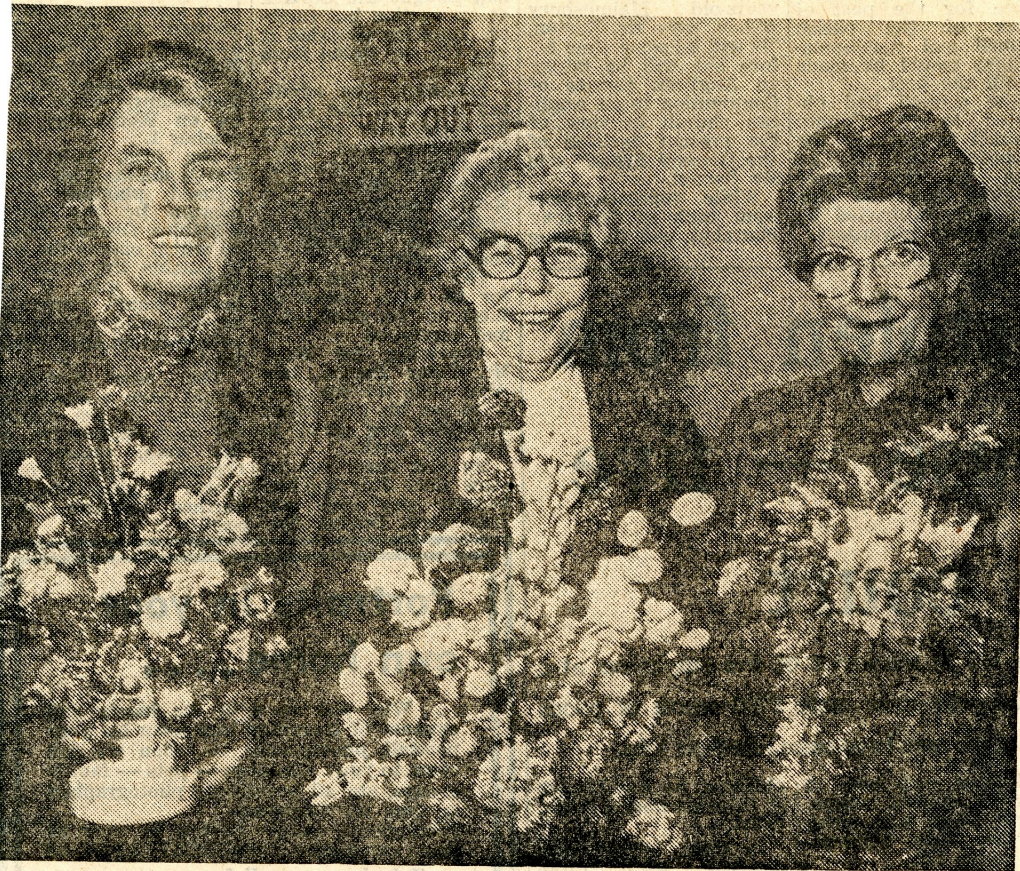


BRAVING the thick fog, hard frost and water-logged ground, this army of pupils, parents and friends of Bampton Primary School turned out on Saturday to plant 57 trees chosen by the pupils as part of National Tree Week. Planting the first tree is Beverley Earl, assisted by the Headmaster, Malcolm Mason.



A PATRIOTIC red, white and blue stall was one of the attractions at the Bampton Playgroup Christmas Bazaar. Looking after the stall was Mrs. Sue Dixon. Half of the proceeds from this stall will be given by the playgroup to the Falklands Fund.

BAMPTON'S AUTUMN SALE



WITH some of the flower arrangements on sale at Bampton's autumn sale are (left to right), Mrs. Francis Henly, Mrs. Hilda Pickard who made the flower arrangements, and Mrs. Rona Hughes.



THOUGHTS for Christmas came early on Saturday at Bampton's autumn sale, with the lucky draw first prize, a Christmas cake (left to right) Mrs. Iris Humphries, Nicola Warwick (5) and her mother Judith.

NOV 12 1982

19-8-82

Morris men danced off their feet in America



Squire Arnold Woodley with souvenirs of the visit to America.

Traditional morris men from Bampton have been wowing their American 'cousins' with their vigorous old English dancing.

For a fortnight they danced their way through New England, gaining friends, admirers and converts.

Back home Squire, or team leader, Arnold Woodley confessed: "It's been the most hectic 14 days we've ever had. We're danced off our feet."

Among the gifts and souvenirs they brought back with them was a full size Stars and Stripes flag.

The Traditional Bampton Morris Dancers are one of two teams from the West Oxfordshire village, renowned for its morris tradition. Their trip to America was the first time they have been abroad as a team and their hosts were a New England group, the Westerly Morris Men from Rhode Island.

As ambassadors of one of England's oldest surviving customs they raised the money for the trip through all kinds of activities, including setting up their own barn dance band. Several breweries also helped.

And with them they took 4,000 copies of a booklet about themselves and the history of Morris dancing.

"They sold like hot cakes. Everywhere we went people were interested in us. They treated us marvellously," said Arnold.

Now there is to be an exchange visit. Next year the Westerly Men will be

visiting Bampton and, as Arnold points out, "their style of dancing is a little different to ours."

For the Bampton men it seems to have been an action-packed fortnight, quite apart from the dancing.

One of their first stops was in New York, before going on to New England, and their hostess, an American actress, was mugged while they were there.

"Three men came up to her in the street and just grabbed her handbag. She screamed and fortunately some police officers arrived to arrest one of them," recalled Arnold.

Other impressions included the lavish home fittings of some of their hosts. In one, says Arnold, there were gold-plated taps in the bathroom!

"We were treated like kings. Everywhere we went there was food and beer and great hospitality.

"And it's true what they say about everything being bigger over there. Even the American Robin is twice as big as our bird!"

One problem which simply had to be overcome for hard-working Morris dancers was how to quench the thirst properly. Traditional English dancers are not renowned for tee-totalism but apparently in some American states it is an offence to drink alcohol in the open air.

The solution was to wrap beer cans in makeshift cardboard or cloth holders, concealing their identity.

"I missed my pint



The Bampton dancers pose for a photograph for their American hosts in Wilcox Park, Westerly, Rhode Island. The two wives in the picture are Mrs Wyn Woodley and Mrs Iris Hewer.



The Bampton Traditional Morris team in action outside the Old George Inn, Leafield. This was their last public performance before going to America.

though," said Arnold. "English beer's best."

The full Bampton team, some of whom took their wives, was: Arnold Woodley (squire), Son Townsend (fool), Paul Smith, Brian and Simon O'Rourke, Anthony Collett, Len Sykes, Lawrence and

Andrew Adams, Bill Fowler and Brendan Cassidy.

One of the team was late arriving back at Bampton. Andrew Collett met up with a girl from Minnesota, also a morris dancer, and they obviously had plenty to talk about!