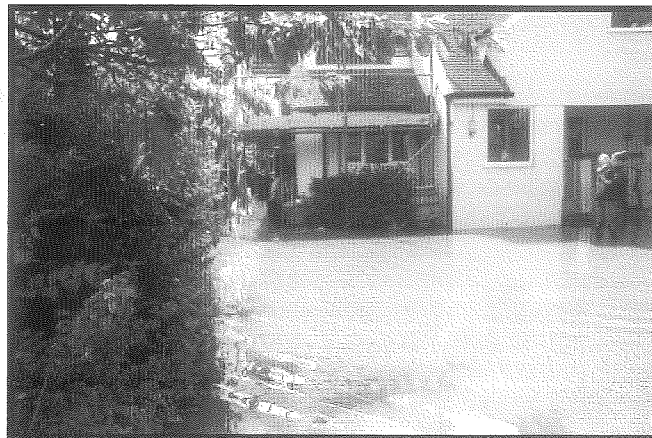


THE BAMPTON BEAM

November 2007

Volume 22, No. 3

The Flooding of 2007

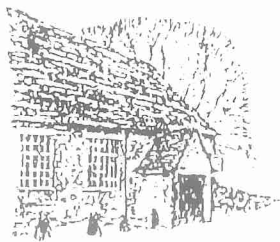


The Beam Team would like to extend its sympathy to all who were affected by the terrible flooding in July. We are sure that we speak for all Villagers in wishing all those who have suffered damage that the repairs and refurbishment works are carried out speedily - although we know that many will not be able to get back into their homes until 2008, and of course a great many personal effects will have gone forever.

Such flooding is of course not new to Bampton, but we have to ask the questions, "Why is flooding allowed to continue to occur?" "Why do we not have adequate flood defences?" We do not think that in this day and age that this is acceptable. Time for the politicians to take note, and take action!



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BAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

The Bampton 250 Club

The Bampton 250 Club is the local monthly lottery which supports the Bampton Village Hall and the Bampton Youth Centre.

If you would like a ticket please put your name on the list at the Post Office or contact **Susan Phillips Tel: 01993 850321.**

July	£25	155	Mr Snow	Bushey Row
	£15	033	Mrs J Gray	Broad Street
	£15	231	Mr G Cook	c/o Bowling Green Close
	£15	196	Mr & Mrs Faithful	Bridge Street
August	£25	226	Mr & Mrs Lewis	Chandler Close
	£15	063	Mrs R Wheeler	Bowling Green Close
	£15	205	Mrs B K Terry	The Lanes
	£15	079	Mr A Knight	Chandler Close
September	£100	141	Mrs F Cook	Pococks Close
	£25	224	Miss K Buckingham	c/o Bowling Green Close
	£15	196	Mr & Mrs Faithful	Bridge Street
	£15	015	Mrs M Dowding	Rosemary Lane
	£15	139	Mrs T Davis	Calais Dene

BAMPTON VILLAGE HALL - HIRE CHARGES

General Hire	£6.00 per hour - meetings, classes etc.
Morning sessions 9am - 1pm	£18.00 - meetings, sales, workshops, parties
Afternoon sessions 1pm - 6pm	£18.00 - meetings, sales, workshops, parties
Weddings*	£65.00 (with bar £80)
Dances*	£65.00 (with bar £80)
Parties*	£65.00 (with bar £80)
Commercial Hire	£11.00 per hour or by arrangement
Badminton (by arrangement)	£4.00 per hour
Hire of furniture	By arrangement
Musical events	£4.50 (Use of Piano by arrangement)

**MOVIES ON THE
MOVE**

**in
Bampton Village Hall**

The Theatre, Chipping Norton continues to bring up-to-date films to Bampton Village Hall on the 1st Wednesday of every other month. Please put the dates in your diary NOW and bring your friends – the quality of the films is excellent and it is on your doorstep!

**Wednesday, 7th November 7.30pm
Prairie Home Companion (PG)**

Robert Altman – his last film (2007)
Starring Meryl Streep, Woody Harrelson, Lindsay Lohan, Lily Tomlin.

A look at what goes on backstage during the last broadcast of America's most celebrated radio show, where singing cowboys Dusty and Lefty, a country music siren (Streep) and a host of others hold court.

**Wednesday, 9th January 7.30pm
The Painted Veil (12)**

John Curran (2007)
Starring Edward Norton, Naomi Watts, Diana Rigg, Toby Jones.

The third film version of Somerset Maugham's 1925 novel is ripe with stunning Chinese locales and a smart turn from Naomi Watts as Kitty Fane, the aging English socialite who must put herself in strange and turbulent surrounding s before she finds her true self. Romantic, escapist entertainment in the best sense.

A short Bampton film will be shown before the main film.

Tickets £4.00 on sale at The Cotton Club for 2 weeks in advance and at the door.

For more information, please contact Susan Phillips Tel: 01993 850321

STOP PRESS There is a possibility that the film 'Atonement' may be shown in January in place of 'The Painted Veil'

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Carterton

Christmas Day
Mass 9.00am - St. Mary's Church, Bampton

For other services, please see notice board in church porch or telephone 01993 842463

**BAMPTON PARISH
COUNCIL NEWS**

By Brenda Sapsford, Clerk to The Parish Council

Flood Prevention

Readers of the Beam will be well aware that we have been trying very hard to persuade the Environmental Agency (EA) to de-silt the Swinbrook river from Bridge Street all the way down to the Great Brook. It is now over 30 years since it was done extensively and with the flood water now reaching us from Carterton much sooner, probably as a result of the 1600 new houses, we feel very strongly that urgent action is required. The EA promised us that they would de-silt from Bridge Street to the sewerage works during August 2007 but then had to amend their works schedules as a result of the huge downpour on 20th July. They have now shortened the length of river to be de-silted this year to the short stretch from Bridge Street to Primrose Cottages near the ford.

We feel strongly that this is inadequate and will be fighting the case for a full de-silting operation in 2008. Meanwhile, we are pleased to note that WODC are prepared to get much more involved with the overall control of flood water in the District and to co-ordinate the various efforts made by EA, Thames Water, OCC Highways and the individual land owners. We have hosted the first of several planned workshops to thrash out just what the problems are, what can be done about them, who will pay for solutions, and most importantly, how quickly can we get the solutions started. We are working closely with Brize Norton Parish Council and with the Town Council in Carterton so that sensible co-ordinated solutions are devised. We will put all our correspondence on flooding issues on the Parish Council notice board in the Market Square to keep you fully informed on developments.

With nearly 120 homes flooded in Bampton in July, and many of these flooded to a lesser extent in January '07, this is the single biggest problem that we have faced since the last big flood of 1968.

Mercury Court Play Area

Following a previous article in the Beam when it was stated that a number of affordable homes might be built on the play area, a petition of some 300 names against the proposal was collected. Following that, some of the residents of Mercury Close and Mercury Court have applied to the County Council to have the site changed to Town Green status which would make it impossible for anything to be done on the land now or in the future other than leaving it as an open space. The Parish Council has placed its objection with OCC and the offer to the District Council for 4 maisonettes to be built there has been withdrawn. OCC's decision is now awaited.

**Mercury Court Playing Field
Refurbishment Plan**

*By Anna Pitt,
Bampton Parish Council*

Some time ago the Parish Council was required to provide suggested sites for the development of affordable housing in Bampton. During this process, part of the Mercury Court Playing field was put forward as one of the suggested sites. The funds that would have been raised through the sale of a portion of the land could have been used to build a new play area on the remaining portion of the land. Many people in the village voiced their concern about using the area for housing and in the light of this the Parish Council has decided that it would not be appropriate to consider the land for housing at this time.

However, the play area is in need of redevelopment. An entirely new play area is going to cost around £40,000 for which we will need to seek funding. The

Parish Council would like to seek the views of its Parishioners and to this aim we invite you to complete the enclosed questionnaire and return to any Parish Councillor or to place it in the box provided at Bampton Post Office. Please feel free to photocopy the form.

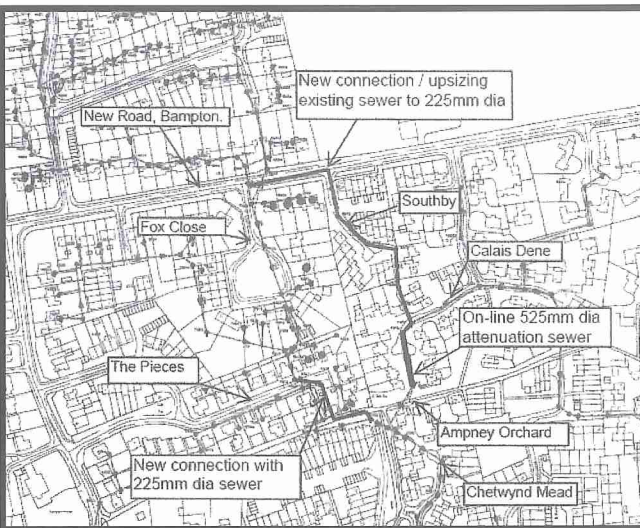
**Bampton Foul Water
Flood Alleviation Scheme**

As advised in the last edition of the 'Beam', Thames Water will be undertaking work to improve parts of the sewer network in the Village.

The proposed Scope of Work at the moment is as follows - although there may be some additions, which the Parish Council has asked Thames Water to look at:

- Upsize a section of sewer in New Road between Fox Close and Southby, plus work between Southby and Calais Dene
- Install online attenuation pipes in the cul-de-sac to hold excessive flows in storm conditions - this will then empty under gravity to the Sewerage Pumping Station when the storm flows subside.
- Work will also be undertaken in The Pieces to straighten out the current alignment of the sewer to allow for the flow in the system to pass more easily to the Pumping Station. This work will alleviate flooding to 9 properties which have historically flooded from foul water.

Subject to detail design and funding approval the work should start early in 2008 and take around a three month period to complete.



Refurbishment of Mercury Court Playing Field – Adult Questionnaire

What age group do you think the play equipment should be provided for?

Most equipment requires safety surfacing. Do you prefer Wood fibre like the surfaces in Pembroke Place Park or the modern equivalent of the carpet style surfaces currently in Mercury Court? Please Circle

Wood Fibre Carpet No Preference

Would you prefer to see equipment built mainly from wood or mainly from metal? Please circle.

Wood Metal No Preference

The Parish Council are proposing a fenced area of play equipment and a park area for running around / playing ball games? Please Comment

Should we provide a teenager's meeting point outside the fenced area? Please Circle:

Yes No

Comment:

Should we provide benches outside the fenced area?

In order to bring down costs, some villages in our area have chosen to provide part of the labour in the form of volunteers supervised by an experienced project manager from the company supplying the equipment. The project manager then ensures that all work is carried out to the appropriate standards. Would you be in favour of this approach? Please circle.

Yes Yes, but not personally No

Refurbishment of Mercury Court Playing Field – Children's Questionnaire

How old are you?

For what age group do you think the play equipment should be provided?

Do you prefer Wood Fibre like the surfaces in Pembroke Place Park or the carpet surfaces like the ones in Mercury Court? Please Circle

Wood Fibre Carpet Don't mind

What type of play equipment do you like? Please circle for each kind whether you like or don't like the equipment. It would help us if you tell us whether you liked the equipment when you were younger.

Swings:	Like	Liked when younger	Don't like
Slides:	Like	Liked when younger	Don't like
Climbing frames:	Like	Liked when younger	Don't like
Huts/forts/playhouses:	Like	Liked when younger	Don't like
Springing things:	Like	Liked when younger	Don't like
See saws:	Like	Liked when younger	Don't like
Adventure trails:	Like	Liked when younger	Don't like

The Parish Council are proposing a fenced area of play equipment and a park area for running around / playing ball games?

What do think of this plan?

Like Don't Like

Should we provide a teenager's meeting point outside the fenced area? Please Circle:

Yes No

Comment:

Should we provide benches outside the fenced area?

Bampton Community Shop

By Fenella Gray

If anyone is looking for financial support for a worthy cause for the Village, please write to me c/o The Cotton Club - address on back page.

In your application, please specify the organisation or cause you are seeking support for, how much money you are looking for, how the money will be spent.

Volunteers Needed

If you have a few hours to spare and like to meet people and have a gossip why not join the 'Shop Team'?

Our hours are 10am until 3pm except for Wednesdays and Saturdays, we only open mornings 10am until 12.30pm. Change over time on the other days is usually 12 - 12.30pm.

If you are interested please contact:

Linnet Sangwine Tel: 850216 or Fenella Gray Tel: 851653.

Please, please take note ..

Please do not leave anything outside when the shop is closed. Unfortunately, they either get taken, get soaking wet if it rains, or get scattered around Rosemary Lane.

Please contact me if you have items for the Shop and it is closed, and I will do my best to organise things for you.. Please also note that we cannot accept large bulky items such as furniture, bikes, prams, etc, as we have no storage space to handle such items. Also we cannot take in electrical goods since we, by law, cannot sell them.

Thank you so much for your continued support

Bampton Welfare Trust

Charity No. 202735

The Trustees may make gifts to the needy in Bampton, Aston, and Lew – as far as their funds allow – to relieve sudden distress or sickness, help with travelling expenses to hospitals, provide fuel and food for the sick.

The Trustees also assist the local primary schools, playgroups and clubs for the elderly in that area.

Trustees: The Reverend D Lloyd, Dr M Perry, Mrs R Colville, Mrs J Haslam, Mrs J Newman, Mr C Rouse, Mrs S Phillips, Mr G Wiltshire & Mr G Mills (Aston), Mrs A Grinsell (Lew).

Clerk to the Trustees: Mr D Pullman,

Mill Green Cottage, Bampton, Tel: 01993 850589.

Welfare Officer: Mrs J Newman,

Leofric House, 81 New Road, Bampton, Tel: 01993 850755

The next Trustees Meeting at which applications will be considered will take place at the end of January. If you would like to apply for a grant for the first time, please contact Susan Phillips Tel: 01993 850321 for an application form.

Bampton Community Archive at the Donkey Derby

By Jane Wallis

By kind permission of the *SPAJERS*, Bampton Community Archive were able to erect a stall at the recent Donkey Derby event where Archive members were able to show and explain something of what they are doing to record Bampton's history before it is lost.

As the Archive's primary aim is to record events, an appeal was made for any photographs taken of the recent terrible floods. These are needed to be added to the database of over 2000 images of Bampton. There were also photographs of previous floods from this database on display, as it was hoped that we would obtain important details about them such as 'when did it happen and who was shown'? We were not disappointed, within ten minutes of the event opening; members of the Shergold family were able to answer all our questions! Thank you!

If you have any photographs of the floods or of anything else, please do get in touch. They do not have to be outstanding photographs; all they need to do is just show something of the Village or its people. You can contact us either **Tel: 851886 or emailing tonypage@waitrose.com**. Likewise if you would like to join the Archive, at a cost of £5, we would love to hear from you. Membership would make a very interesting Christmas present for anyone who loves where they live or anyone who has moved away and wants to retain a

link.

Visitors to the stall were able to have a go at an adult or a children's photograph competition. It was wonderful to see so many people pouring over the photographs deep in concentration! In the Adults Quiz three people obtained maximum marks and so the tie-breaker questions were used to decide the order of prizes awarded. 1st Corrina Tanner; 2nd P D Broome; 3rd Neil Tanner.

As only nine children got all the questions correct in their quiz, it was decided to extend the prizes to that number. So young Bamptonians :Oscar, Isobel, Lydia, Esme, Poppy, Ben, Noema, Owen and Faye all earned themselves a prize. Well done everybody!

The current Community Archive Exhibition on display in the Vesey Room (inside the Library Building) is *The Bells of St. Mary's* by Janet Rouse. Janet's previous work for the Archive has been the camera work behind the wonderful short films about Bampton, which you may have seen at the beginning of the 'Movies on the Move' film nights in the Village Hall.

Free use of the Archive database is available in the Vesey Room during exhibition opening times, so do come and see this exhibition and also have a look to see what pictures we have of your street – family – favourite pub or whatever, and if you can't find any, then donate some!

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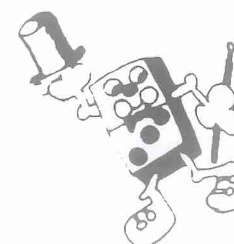
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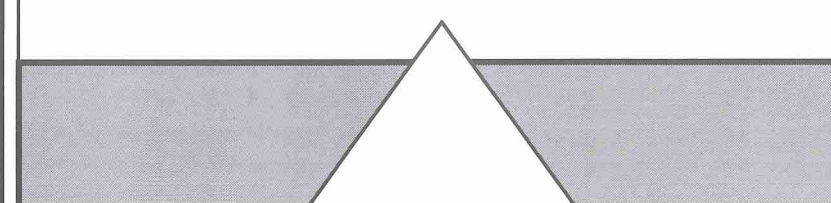
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District Council Report

By Mark Booty
West Oxfordshire District Council

Well it's been a very busy summer which I think will be remembered for the floods in July.

The District Council distributed 40,000 Sandbags over a 4-day period but such was the volume of water (6" fell in about 14 hours) that Sandbags were not enough. There were many houses flooded in Bampton, Clanfield and Black Bourton and despite the fact this was an exceptional rainfall, it highlighted the fact that we have to do something about our ditches, drains and other watercourses as a matter of some urgency (something I have been asking about for some time).

We distributed a flood relief grant of a fixed £250 to all those houses which were affected and applied for the grant, and in addition there was a hardship grant to those who were in greater need because of particular circumstances. It was essential that we got this money out to people as soon as possible and I hope we achieved that.

The Parish Councils have been meeting with District and the Environment agency to sort out who is going to do what in relation to drainage. During these meetings it became apparent that if we wait for the Environment agency we may wait a rather long time. The District decided to get things moving and allocated £75,000 to undertake a survey of all the watercourses in West Oxfordshire and identify who the owners are, and where the pinch points are; we also allocated a further £50,000 to start to get those ditches and drains which are the responsibility of WODC cleared. In addition we decided to make the teams clearing our ditches available at a very good rate to those landowners whose ditches meet ours. This work is now underway.

Some landowners have started to clear their ditches.

We have told the Environment Agency once again that when a Planning application comes forward they must object if it will lead to flooding issues elsewhere. The local planning authority at WODC knows very well that if we turn down an application

based on flooding without the support of the Environment Agency, any appeal from the applicant will be passed by the planning inspector.

I am sorry to keep moaning about the Environment Agency but a further issue is that in reality until the main watercourses are cleared, (brooks and streams) then the clearing of the ditches will only have a marginal effect. Within the Environment Agency the Conservation and Fisheries lobby object to mechanical clearance of the watercourses in case it effects some wildlife. It seems they would sooner ruin a couple of hundred families houses than endanger the water vole. Anybody who witnessed the devastation to the wildlife in July should realise that this Lobby actually contributed to a social disaster with people, and devastated all sorts of wildlife.

In future there will also be better communication from the District and probably sandbags stored in the villages. WODC is actually only responsible for a very limited amount of the ditches and drains but will take the lead on trying to reduce our risks of any repeats of the July disaster.

In Bampton there are some schemes likely to come forward for further

low-cost housing developments which we need for local people and key workers. We are particularly interested in exception sites. These are areas of land which we would not normally allow to be built on but are allowed if they are in reasonable positions, ALL the houses are low cost and ALL are for local people. These should not be confused with schemes which are partially low cost and partially normal market (these cannot be protected for local people.) These schemes are welcomed but need to be on land which is allocated for building, and generally that will mean within the Village.

The Floods A Personal View

By Fred Gray – Sub-Ed

No doubt there are many who blame Global Warming for the July floods; except that an 'expert' in the BBC disagreed, since he said that Oxfordshire suffered at least as bad flooding in 1792 – yes 1792! What he meant to say of course was, he couldn't blame *man-made* Global Warming – mind you if we didn't have the 1792 records he might well have tried! And of course we have had many floods in Oxfordshire over the years – see the photo below of the floods on Morris Dancing Day 1932! – so the fact that we have good historical data might have made it quite difficult for him to



claim otherwise in any case.

Climate Change might well be behind some or all of these weather-related disasters, but we are being told to believe that Climate Change – i.e. Global Warming – is *man-made*; and *no dissent is allowed*.

Well, I'm fed up with that.

The fact is that Climate Change has been with us for millions of years; probably billions of years.

Is it not a fact that in Roman England to around 500AD, we were growing vines and making wine in England – even in the north of the country? This suggests that the country was somewhat warmer then than it is today! In fact we had a climate then in the south of the country equivalent to today's French Riviera climate.

Is it not a fact that a few hundred years ago, Ice Fairs were held on the frozen Thames in London? This suggests that it was colder a few hundred years ago than now or in Roman times.

In a recent BBC documentary 'The Story of India' it was revealed that there was a sophisticated civilisation in the Indus Valley originating around 3000 years BC, but the cities – one of which was Harappa which probably had a population of around 200,000 souls – were abandoned around 1500BC. Why? Global Warming; the monsoons got less strong, the rivers dried up, and so the population moved elsewhere – many towards to east to form new civilisations along the Ganges.

So Climate Change is nothing new.

In the Channel 4 documentary 'The Great Global Warming Swindle', Al Gore is shown, in his own documentary, 'An Uncomfortable Truth', saying that there is (rightly) a correlation between the Earth's temperature, and the CO2 levels in the atmosphere. However, what the C4 documentary also points out, is what Al Gore does *not* say: that the *correlation* is, that CO2 levels in the atmosphere *follow* the temperature of the Earth; they do not *lead* the temperature of the Earth.

The C4 documentary points out that the temperature of the Earth is governed by the Sun, which has its own cycles. Sometimes it heats up the Earth, and during other periods of less activity, the Earth cools. It's the Sun that causes climate change, not CO2,

and not humans. CO2 only constitutes about 0.04% of the atmosphere! How can such a small percentage govern the climate on its own?

The problem is that certain scientists, spurred on by environmentalists, have caught the ears of certain politicians, and now it is politically incorrect to question the man-made Global Warming argument. And, it has got so bad that in England it is compulsory for schools to show Al Gore's video; why don't they make it compulsory to show the video with the other side of the argument – 'The Great Global Warming Swindle' – in order to give the youngsters a balanced view? No, *no dissent is allowed*; and that's very worrying. It's also indoctrination of our children, which I thought only happened in dictatorships and communist countries!

Billions of dollars are being poured into man-made Global Warming research. The scientists on the receiving end of the money are hardly likely to kill to goose that lays the golden egg, so will continue to (try to) 'prove' that Global Warming is man-made otherwise the funding will dry up – and they could be out of a job. The politicians can then use the 'results' from the scientists to tax us more. It's a vicious circle.

And why should we trust these scientists? These are the scientists who told us that, with the melting of the Artic Ice Cap, sea levels would rise and we would all need to buy new wellies! Did they forget Archimedes' Principle which states that a body displaces its own weight in water? We all learned about it at school – or is this now suppressed? The fact is that the Artic Ice Cap is floating on water – there is no land mass underneath – so it is already displacing its own weight in the ocean, and nothing is going to happen to the sea levels if it melts.

These are the scientists who told us two years ago that the Gulf Stream was slowing down – with, they said, potentially dire consequences for Europe's weather; but two months ago, we were told that the latest data didn't support this conclusion! The problem is that these scientists build computer models to try and simulate what will happen in the future. Their models are only as good as the people who build them, and the assumptions

made. They can produce vastly different results depending on the assumptions and input data used; but we are told that they are 'accurate'! If they are that accurate, why do the predictions for the complete melting of the Artic Ice Cap during the Northern Hemisphere's winter period range from 16 years from today, to over 100 years from today? Not sure I would trust any model which predicts such a wide range in its results.

Our meteorologists use very similar computer models, and they have great difficulty predicting the weather any more than 24 hours out! Do you trust the weather forecast for a week in advance? I don't. So, why should the man-made Global Warming models be any more accurate? They are trying to predict events 10, 20, 50 and 100 years from today! It's nonsense.

And he first law of computing is:

'Garbage in, Garbage out'!

Now, I'm not against cleaning up our environmental act. I do not think we have looked after our planet very well. But this man-made Global Warming issue is driving the *wrong behaviour*. If we poured those billions into dealing with the *effects* of our ever changing climate, then we might just get those flood defences that we need – and which are long overdue. Other countries might get earthquake, volcano and tsunami warning systems; and others might get development monies which would allow them to develop their own industries taking vast numbers of people out of poverty. And for some, allow them to stop the rape of the rain forests to make way for oil palms whose product is used to help reduce our cholesterol levels!

With these billions, we could electrify the railways and make them cleaner, more efficient and more reliable.

We could develop hydrogen technologies for our vehicles and move away from hydrocarbons.

We could provide more and better public transport overall thus helping to create a better environment.

But will anyone do anything?

Probably not; not unless some brave commentator or politician starts to really question the whole basis of the man-made Global Warming argument; and I'm not confident that that will happen any time soon!

Dear Mrs Gray,
Thank you for kindly sending a copy of the Bampton Beam material about the War Memorial. I think Alec Miller, the sculptor, must have made at least a dozen carvings of St George, but all the others I have seen have involved much more static poses, frequently with a lance impaling a thoroughly dead dragon. This is the only one I have seen, so far, where St George is in the process of killing the beast. Should you ever be in Nottingham the Danish Church carvings perhaps the biggest and best of his carvings on this theme, in coloured alabaster; also commissioned as a War Memorial. As I promised on the telephone I have included a summary note about Millers life. The Museum referred to in Chipping Campden (The Court Barn Museum), is definitely expected to be open by early July. The other thing the note doesn't say is how much work Miller did on the Oxford Colleges—figures, gargoyles, decorative work etc. When working in Oxford he used the yard of W.H. Axtell & Son. Sadly there are no records, not even in the colleges of exactly what work he did. Thank you again for your help.
Yours sincerely
Graham Peek, Tenbury Wells.
See elsewhere for the article on Alec Miller.

Dear Editor
As a local Business woman in Bampton, I was delighted to be asked to support the cost of the pretty planters in the Market Square. They are a terrific idea and really brighten up the place. Since I believe that courtesy costs nothing, and is one of the fundamental things we can teach the next generation, I would like to lead by example and say 'thank you, for the opportunity to help'!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Yours sincerely
Fiona Farmer — Bampton
Physiotherapy & Associates.

Dear Editor
Despite the efforts of the Parish Council to supply the village with numerous dog bins and the publicity given by the Beam on the subject, we still have a hard core of dog owners who choose to ignore their animals fouling the village paths.

LETTERS AND E-MAILS TO THE EDITOR

From a personal standpoint I am sick to death of picking up dog dirt from the verge and path outside my daughter's home in Manor View. Not only is it unfair on the other residents, it is most unpleasant for passers by including children. Picking up dog excrement is not the best job in the world but being a dog owner it comes with the territory. May be it is a case of the culprit dog owners finding the mess too unpleasant to handle, so if they would kindly provide their names and addresses I will willingly deliver the products to their own front door for disposal!
Yours sincerely
Peter Lloyd
Calais Dene

Editor Madam!
Don (Rouse) tells us that it is ten years since he gave up the plough for the pen. I recall he also told us a few years ago his family came to live in Bampton in 1943. If I'm around a bit longer Don, I'll tell you what it was like in the old village 15 years earlier, when we had 13 pubs, 4 butchers, 1 baker, and one hurdle maker. Wonderful days I can assure him. Anyhow Don, thanks for those great contributions to the Beam over those years. I have certainly enjoyed every one.
May there be more to come.
Thank you
John Morton
Chippenham

Dear Editor
I would like to thank the young who for the past six months have been cleaning up the Market Square in the evenings. Both the lengthsman provided by The Bampton Parish Council and Oxfordshire County Council have noticed how much better it has been. I hope the young will continue their good work and more people will use the rubbish bins around Bampton rather than dropping their litter on the ground.
Jonathan Phillips
Lavender Square
Bampton

Dear Editor

Due to the generosity of those mentioned below it was possible to plant the tubs in The Market Square with various varieties including geraniums, white begonias, and blue surfina petunias for the summer, to go with the existing conifers, rock roses and ivy. The summer is now over and pansies, cyclamen and primulas have now been planted, along with wallflowers and red tulips for the spring. Petty vandalism still occurs, particularly in the tub by the Kebab Van, but unlike Lechlade, where five large tubs have been recently overturned, the damage has only been slight. The local Police Community Support Officer has been informed and said she would keep her eye out for the vandals.
Those who have so generously donated are as follows:
The Parish Council
A J Simmonds
The Earl of Donoughmore
Emmies Newsagents
Fiona Farmer Physiotherapy
Budgens
Noel Brampton
Mark's Kitchen
Harrison's Solicitors
Mr & Mrs Barrett — Post Office
Andrew Bowman
Thatchers
Patrick Staring Butchers

Dear Editor

It's a Flat Life

Living in a flat can be ideal if you are single; it is a base to work from and the surrounding area and people are part of your environment. There can be nothing worse than living alone in a big house where there is little contact with other people who may have a family life and need very little outside of their own four walls. While you may be surrounded by and live in 'desirable property' life mainly consists of doing the garden - who for? - and going to the shops occasionally to be with people and buy a few groceries.
Once, for almost forty years, I lived in a detached house. It was very nice when I had a family but, one by one, they all left in various ways and I found myself alone. The view from my computer chair consisted of my car on the block drive, some trees

through which I could see the house over the dead end road; nothing moved. I looked at this nice view year in, year out. On a nice day there would be a frantic session in the garden trying to get rid of the everlasting weeds and the number of plants reduced on an annual basis as they died off; there seemed little point in buying more. I am no gardener and there was nobody to share it with so all it seemed very pointless.

One day something unusual happened and I realised that I did not want to live there anymore. Where did I want to live and how did I want to live? I did not want anything that had to be maintained; certainly no garden. A place that would be pleasant to live in with some activity and near some shops and maybe places to eat. I began to search the internet for a two bedroom flat not too far from where I was living now. Within an hour I had found what I was looking for - a two bedroom flat in the centre of Bampton. It was located in The Square. A short drive in the car and I was parked in Bampton, found the flat and spent some hours looking around the area, going in the shops and reading the notices outside the nearby village hall to see what was going on. I liked what I found. The thing that struck me the most was the lack of graffiti; it all seemed civilised. I now own that flat and the view from my computer chair is the constant dance of vehicles on the roundabout and people going by. There are nice people in the other flats and we are all on holiday together.

A few things were not too clear before I came. I knew there was a maintenance fee, there is with most flats, but I did not understand how it worked. The residents own the freehold, they all contributed to the purchase, and each flat is leasehold. Within a short while I became a Director of the Residents Company with the responsibility of looking after the building and the garden. So, after all, I still have a garden but I enjoy doing this one.

I have been here a year now and the detached house with the block drive is long forgotten; I would not want it back as life in a first floor flat in the centre of Bampton is ideal for my personality and lifestyle.

John Hardaker
Thornberry, Market Square

LETTERS AND E-MAILS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor



Sharron Foresheew Memorial Darts & Bingo

We would like to thank everyone who has supported us in raising money over the past 2 years, in memory of our mother Sharron Foresheew. We have recently presented cheques for £1000 to The Osler Unit at the Churchill Hospital and £300 to the Bampton Fire Service.

We hope you will continue supporting the Easter Bingo and the February darts competition which we plan to hold annually in aid of the Bampton Fire Service.

Once again, a very big Thank You to everyone who has supported us, either by donating prizes or by attending these events. We feel sure Sharron would be proud to know you have raised so much money in her memory.
Alistair and Duncan Foresheew

Dear Editor

I've found a jewel - a tiny village frozen in time. I've looked along its chalky lanes and seen the beetle browed thatch, low over cottage doors. Newly boiled sheets, squeezed through mangle, pegged on pole propped lines above the even rows of vegetables. Guiltily, I've peered through cottage windows and saw the chintzy chairs, the dark framed pictures, the tick, tock, clock on the mantelpiece.

A GWR van collects from the mill and swans glide, sun dappled, in the shady pond. Beside the paddock, mother and children feed the horses and their way winds up past fishpond and chapel, past cottage gates and

farmyard barns where nose-bagged cart horse munches lunch, eyeing the half built ricks.

Sheep graze, high on the hill fort, above the elm shaded farms that nestle into fields of grain sweeping down the Vale to the black skeleton ribs of a narrowboat, forever grounded in the reeds of the long abandoned canal. Did ever such peace exist?

Wait ... what scatters the sheep? .. what raises the rooks ?

Rattling, squealing, the gasping, thumping engine struggles up the grade striving for the tunnel mouth beyond the station 'neath the hill, whistles, and is gone ...

its long train, click click, click click, of wagons, click click, click click, taking goods, click click, click click, to the markets, click click, click click, in the city, click click, click click, far away, click click, click click ...

dark portal swallows guard's van, red lamp fades into the gloom ... a wisp of smoke ...

peace rolls back into the Vale.

This is Pendon.Parva

A representation in miniature of life in the Vale of White Horse during the 1920s and 1930s was the dream of Australian, Roye England, who came to the Vale in 1925 and fell in love with it and with the GWR.

In the remaining seventy years of his life, Roye was to capture in exquisite detail, the buildings, the colours, the materials and the lifestyle of an era rapidly being overtaken by change. He photographed and measured buildings in The Vale of White Horse and brought them together in the miniature village of Pendon Parva. Pendon features other scenes too; the historic Madder Valley Railway and the rolling wastes of Dartmoor, including a stunning replica of one of Brunei's timber viaducts.

Staffed by volunteers and featuring live commentaries, Pendon is at Long Wittenham, near to Abingdon and Didcot. It is open most Saturdays and Sundays from 2pm and there's a teasop in the museum. For more details about opening times and special events, visit their website at www.pendonmuseum.com
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Do You Want To Make A Difference?

Victim Support is an independent voluntary organisation for crime victims, witnesses, their families and friends. Together with Victim Support areas across the country we provide services and promote the rights of people affected by crime. Our service is delivered by trained volunteers who help us in a variety of ways. Some volunteers work for the community side of the service while others support victims and witnesses in the crown and magistrates' courts. Also we are looking for people who might want to help us with fund-raising or administration. If you are interested and would like to know more please contact Area Office, 45 the Slade, Headington, Oxford OX3 7HL. Tel: 01865 751511/12.

**VOLUNTEER
LINK-UP**

Maybe Volunteer Link Up Can Help.....!

Are you the organiser or leader of a group that's in need of help? Volunteer Link Up is the Volunteer Centre for West Oxfordshire, recruiting people with time to spare to help people and organisations in need of assistance. We can advertise, free of charge, any voluntary role on the National Volunteering Database, DO-IT, and we also keep details in the office of local opportunities available for volunteers.

As mentioned above, we also recruit people with time to spare to help local people - by driving them to appointments, visiting isolated members of the community in their homes or doing shopping for them, or by doing simple DIY jobs and gardening.

If you think Volunteer Link Up can help you, or if you want to help out in your local community, call us on 01993 776277. Our office is open, Monday to Friday, 9a.m - 1p.m and we're based at the Methodist Church Centre, 10 Wesley Walk (off High Street), Witney, OX28 6ZJ. We can also be contacted by email at westoxonvb@freeuk.com. You can also find out more by visiting our website, which is westoxonvb.org.uk.

For The Over 60s

Did you know that as a resident of Oxfordshire, when you reach 60, you are entitled to a Bus Pass? Your Sub-Ed is now the proud owner of one - and is using it!

The free fare Bus Pass can be used on weekdays, from 9.00am onwards, and there are no time restrictions at weekends or bank holidays.

The pass may be used on bus services operating in Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, Warwickshire, and Wiltshire providing the journey starts or finishes within the West Oxfordshire District Council area. The pass may also be used on journeys starting from Oxford city centre to any of the Oxford hospitals. All you have to do is pop in to the WODC Shop on Welch Way in Witney, with proof of your age, two passport size photographs, and proof of your address - a utility bill will do - and you can get yourself organised; they will issue you with your Bus Pass straight away.

And from 1st April 2008, we will be able to use the Bus Pass to go anywhere in England! The limitations are not yet fully known, but a day at the seaside free is certainly on the cards!

If you don't want a Bus Pass then you can have either National Transport Tokens - worth £31.00 - or a Senior Railcard.

Again the WODC Shop will organise them for you - I must say the staff there are very helpful.



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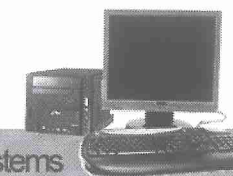
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'The Bampton We Have Lost' by Lloyd Hughes Owens

This popular book was recently reprinted in an updated format with the addition of many new photographs. Anyone interested in where they live will find it an invaluable source of information. It would make a most suitable gift whether the recipient has lived in Bampton all their life or has only recently come here. An ideal present too for members of the family who have moved away. Copies are available at £15 from **Emmies or The Robert Vesey Room at The Library; or contact Jonathan Phillips: Tel: 850321**

Bampton Junior Church (BJC)

The children from Bampton School and the village are welcomed to Bampton Junior Church on a Sunday morning.

We run from 10.45am – 11.25am in the Bush Centre. Children usually come to the church where they listen to the first part of the service and then we troop down to the Bush Centre where we have lots of fun reading bible stories, singing songs and doing art and crafts.

At 11.25am we march back up to church where we join the congregation for drinks.

BJC runs every Sunday except for the third Sunday in the month when it is family service.

Why not come along and see what we do?

Clanfield Historical Society

By David Slack

During the 2006 to 2007 year we started off in October with an entertaining talk from Don Rouse on life in Bampton. This was followed by interesting talks on the History of Hook Norton, the Battle of Agincourt, Shops & Shopping in Medieval England, a History of Television and the Battle of Blenheim. The season was rounded off with a river cruise from Lechlade and a meal at the Plough in Clanfield.

This year's programme is:

November 20th Tin Helmets & Gas Masks – the Home Front, Martin Way
February 19th The Great Household in Medieval England, Elizabeth Gemmell

NOTICE BOARD

March 18th Saints & Shrines in Medieval Oxfordshire, Tim Porter
April 15th Oxford Castle, Mark Davies

May 20th Details to be confirmed
June 17th AGM & Annual Dinner at the Plough

Due to flood damage at the Carter Institute the meeting on November 20th will take place in the Barn at the Windmill Conference Centre. We are hopeful that we will return to the Institute for the February 2008 meeting.

All meetings are at 7:30pm with a chance to enjoy a drink and a chat afterwards. Why not come along and sample one? New members are welcome - the society is convivial, interesting and social. Everyone is welcome, and if, at the end of the evening, you feel your time has been well spent, annual membership is £12.50 (and free for anyone under 21).

For further details call David Slack: **Tel: 810228 or Raena Farley: Tel: 810604.**

The Bush Club Needs You!

At the moment we are very short of general helpers. If you could give an hour or two once a month we would be more than grateful.

Drivers: Once a fortnight for ½ an hour in the morning at 9.45am, or ½ an hour in the afternoon at 1.45pm.

Cooks: Approximately once every 5

weeks from 9.45 to 1pm

General Helpers: From 9am – 1.45pm on alternate weeks. Times to suit individuals.

Anybody willing to help, please contact: **Fenella Gray Tel: 01993 851653 or Veronica Baker Tel: 01993 851040.**

Bampton Baby & Toddler Group

We meet in the Village Hall every Thursday between 10am - 11.45am. We provide toys, slide, singing and drinks and biscuits for children 0 to Pre-school. For more information contact **Angela Irvin, Tel: 01993 210096.**

Dial-a-Ride

The Dial-a-Ride service is a door to door minibus service for those who are unable to use or find it difficult to use public transport, such as elderly or disabled people. Drivers are trained to administer first aid and to assist wheelchair users and people with mobility problems.

The Dial-a-Ride service is available between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday. There is a charge for the Dial-a-Ride service and places need to be booked in advance. The Council's Bus Pass or Transport Tokens can be used on this service.

For more details about the service including information on cost, what areas are covered and what type of journey the service can be used for, see the Dial-a-Ride leaflet where you can find an application for registering to use the service.

Carterton Lions Club

Father Christmas with his sleigh and helpers will be visiting the following locations on the dates shown:

Friday Nov 30 th	Switching on of Carterton Lights
Monday Dec 3 rd	Shilton Park, Carterton
Wednesday Dec 5 th	Glenmore Estate, Carterton
Friday Dec 7 th	Shillbrook Ave. Carterton
Sunday Dec 9 th	Burford Garden Centre
Monday Dec 10 th	Brize Norton & Bampton
Wednesday Dec 12 th	Burford Rd. Carterton
Saturday Dec 15 th	Burford High St. (am)
Saturday Dec 15 th	Shilton Park Carterton (pm)
Sunday Dec 16 th	Brize Norton Filling Station
Monday Dec 17 th	Wycombe Way, Carterton
Thursday Dec 20 th	Minster Lovell
Saturday Dec 22 nd	Alvescot Rd. Carterton
Monday Dec 24 th	Co-op Store, Carterton

To book a place on Dial-a-Ride, or for more information, **Tel: 01865 876176.**

Bampton Drop-In

Held at the Methodist Chapel every Monday from 12pm, where all are welcome. Don't suffer those Monday blues. When you've done your washing up don't just put your feet up with a cup of tea. Instead, why not come and join us at this local facility for a very reasonably priced lunch, where you will be served by a dedicated band of country cooks. You can enjoy a warming bowl of home-made soup, something on toast or a cheesy baked potato, followed by home-made cake, cheese and biscuits, tea and coffee. So come along and enjoy this friendly informal gathering where you will very soon want to make it a regular date in your diary.

Cancer Research UK

Wednesday 21st November

Pre-Christmas Bingo

Friday 7th December

Quiz

All these events will be held in the Village Hall Bampton

Friday 21st December

Country & Western Dance

Carterton Social Club

For more information contact Mrs Doris Cleaver, Tel: 850682.

Old Birthday Cards

Over £3000 was given to charities from the cards we sold in 2006 so many thanks for all your support. The cards are now made by Lizann Murray Clarke. Lizann still needs your old cards after you have enjoyed them, so that she can continue to recycle them into re-saleable items.

Please continue to leave them at 3 Broad Street or The Vesey Room and also the Cotton Club where they are for sale.

Online Directory for Children, Young People and Families

www.oxfordshireservicesdirectory.org.uk is an online directory of services for children young people and families in Oxfordshire. The new, easy to use, directory provides up to date details of organisations and their services. Information can be found on parenting and family support, coun-

NOTICE BOARD

selling, schools, health centres, local advice and voluntary sector organisations, help lines and much more.

For more information or help using the directory contact Oxfordshire Children's Information Service **Tel: 08452 262636; enquiries@oxoncis.org.uk.**

Spread the word ...

Book banks, provided by the Salvation Army, are the latest addition at six of the recycling centres across West Oxfordshire. This means residents can recycle their books alongside textiles, shoes, plastics, cans, paper, cardboard and glass.

Books banks can be found at:

- Guildenford Road car park, Burford
- Co-op, Black Bourton Road, Carterton
- New Street car park, Chipping Norton
- Back Lane car park, Eynsham
- Sainsbury's, Witan Way, Witney

- Welch Way car park, Witney
- Good quality books are resold, whilst other books may be sent abroad to help education programmes. Paperback books unsuitable for resale will be recycled into newsprint.

WANT TO STAY ACTIVE? THEN COME ALONG & JOIN A NEW EXERCISE CLASS (for the over 50s)

This Class will run as a Standing Class from Friday 2nd November 1.30pm to 2.30pm at The Fellowship Centre Cote Road Aston

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If you would like more information on this class please contact Sue Hayman (tutor) Tel: 01993 822781 Mobile: 07745 501364

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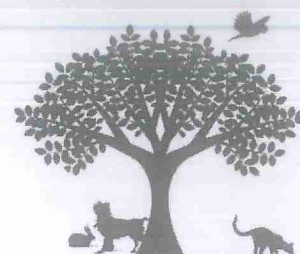
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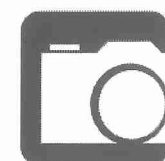
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So, if you are interested, please call him on: Tel: 01993 868688, or email him on: dennis.pizey@btinternet.com

Bampton Classical Opera

by Jeremy Gray

Previewing Bampton Classical Opera's 15th season and the UK premiere production of a wonderful eighteenth-century musical setting of *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Independent* newspaper warned on Thursday 19th July that "Getting there isn't easy, and when you do, you have to brave the elements – if it's raining, the show moves to the church." Prophecy indeed! Final rehearsals took place that week as planned on the open-air stage

quickly gathered, and Roger from the Cotton Club stepped to the rescue by rigging up an electric light running from his car battery parked outside the Church porch: thus was the conductor Matthew Halls - who suddenly found himself replacing the stranded orchestra and playing from a complex orchestral score on the church piano – adequately illuminated. Few will forget the extraordinary occasion, and the almost equally problematic per-

eventually concluded in September in St John's Smith Square, London – a performance rated as four-star by *The Independent*. In addition, Bampton Classical Opera toured a Haydn opera to four different venues, culminating with a wonderful private performance in the delightful theatre at Buscot Park to entertain the guests at the Diamond Wedding anniversary party of Sir Charles Mackerras who, at 81, is still rated as one of the world's very top conductors. A memorable season indeed!

Next summer will see performances of *Leonora*, a passionate and dramatic escape story set at the time of the French Revolution. But before then there's the always delightful Christmas concert to mark Bampton's patron saint Beornwald on Friday 21st December. Once again St Mary's church will be illuminated by candles (intentionally, this time) and the music will be all by Vivaldi. The big attraction will be one of the most popular classics, *The Four Seasons*, with superb Oxfordshire violinist Camilla Scarlett as soloist. Watch out for posters, and tickets on sale at the Cotton Club.

CHRISTMAS SALE

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Romeo and Juliet (Mark Chaundy and Joana Seara)
with costumes by Pauline Smith

in the beautiful Deanery Garden: the Stage Manager ran to Budgens to buy sunscreen for the cast, and Victorian costumes topped by sunhats made an unlikely spectacle. But then, as we all know, the rain started, and within a few hours on Friday Bampton was marooned and many residents were engaged in a desperate battle against the rising floods.

But the show must go on! Fortunately all the singers – professionals of course, who come from all over England – were staying in Bampton for the week, but half of the visiting orchestra found the roads impassable as did, on the Friday, most of the audience. To make matters worse, dramatic bangs an hour before the performance signalled a complete power-cut. Hundreds of candles were

formance the following evening. The funeral procession which opens Act 3, with black-clad monks carrying the body of Juliet in her shimmering silk wedding dress, proved unbearably intense in the Gothic gloom of St Mary's. But this was certainly *Romeo and Juliet* with a difference – in this non-Shakespearean version Juliet wakes in the tomb just in time to prevent Romeo committing suicide – and, at that very moment (no lighting engineer could have organised it better!) electric power was suddenly restored to the church – no wonder Romeo's next line was "oh God!". These Bampton performances were part of a national tour which had opened the previous week at the prestigious Buxton Festival in the glorious Buxton Opera House, and which

Alec Miller: 1879 – 1961

Alec Miller was born and grew up in Glasgow. He was the son of a cabinet-maker and one of a family of six. The family home was part of a tenement block. He left school at the age of 12 and was apprenticed in the woodcarving workshop of Mrs Mackay. She not only oversaw his training (which included courses in anatomy and modelling at the Glasgow School of Art), but also acted as a mentor to him, helping to widen his reading and acquainting him with the Arts and Crafts movement. In particular she introduced him to the writings of C.R. Ashbee who had established a Guild of Handicraft in Whitechapel in accordance with his ideas about the conditions of work and education for craftsmen. The idea of being part of a cooperative Guild appealed to Miller and so, in 1902, with Mrs Mackay's recommendation he visited the Guild and was offered the position in charge of the carving and modelling department after the Guild had moved to Chipping Campden in Gloucestershire, which it was in the process of completing. The Guild closed in 1908, but Miller continued to live and work in Chipping Campden until 1939 when he emigrated to America. In the early years most of his work was ecclesiastical, with major commissions in Calne Parish Church, Wiltshire; and Urswick Parish Church, Cumbria. He did rather less

modelling work, the best examples being in the Coronation Hall in Ulverston. After the First World War the church work tended to be linked with War Memorials, the two outstanding examples being a large painted St. Michael and much other work for the old Coventry Cathedral (sadly all destroyed in the Blitz); and Montreal Cathedral. In 1898 Miller saw in an exhibition in Glasgow Art Gallery two small heads carved in pearwood by the great German mediaeval sculptor Tilman Riemenschneider. They had a profound

effect on him and were a great inspiration when he began to make portrait sculptures himself. He eventually estimated he had carved well over two hundred portrait sculptures, both in the UK and later in America. These sculptures show not only great technical skill but also the ability to express character and personality. Miller exhibited at the Royal Academy throughout the 1920s, however he made only a very few sculptures which were neither ecclesiastical nor portrait, and so was never given the

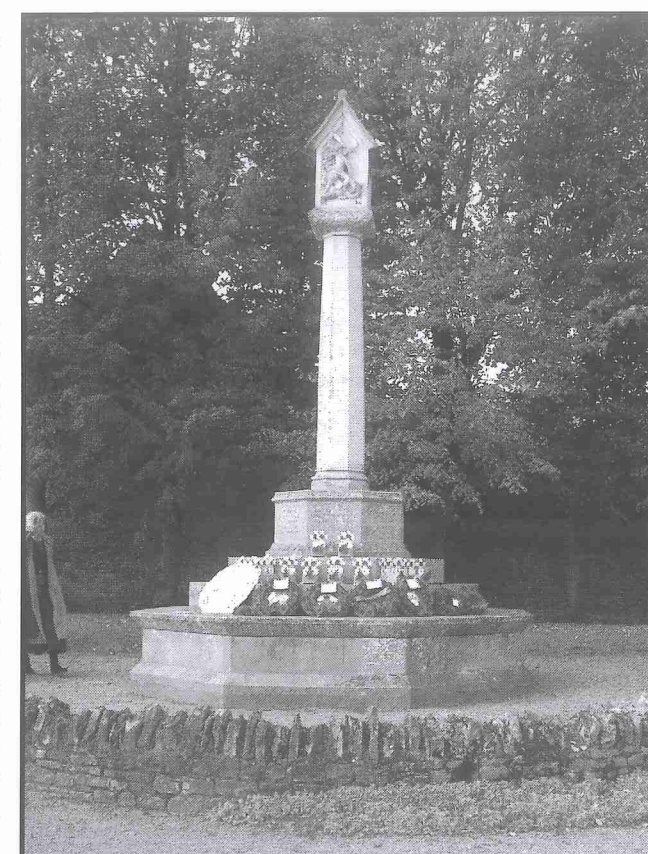
talks to the Guildsmen. From about the end of the First World War Miller became a popular lecturer both in Britain and in America where he had first travelled in order to fulfill carving commissions. He was nominated for the Slade Professorship at Oxford which indicates the regard in which he was held as carver, speaker and teacher – he had begun teaching at the Guild and developed this both to classes and to individuals – many people refer to his sympathetic and friendly teaching.

Miller married in 1909 and eventually had three children. The whole family emigrated to America in 1939. He continued to visit this country and eventually died here on a visit in 1961. He is buried in Kent in the graveyard of the church where he was married in 1909. Miller regarded himself as a craftsman sculptor rather than an artist sculptor; as being in the tradition of "the artist as a master craftsman". A brochure from the Washington D.C. Society of Fine Arts says: "No other artist since the sixteenth century has brought the technique of sculpture in wood to such perfection".

Miller's work is to be found in many parts of this country in many churches, some private houses and the portrait sculptures are very widespread. The museum in Cheltenham has some excellent examples of his work. From 2007 the Guild of Handicraft Trust will be open-

ing a museum in which some of his work will be seen within the context of all the other aspects of the Guild's work, e.g. furniture, silversmithing, wrought iron, printing and bookbinding, etc.

Free use of the Archive database is available in the Vesey Room during exhibition opening times, so do come and see this exhibition and also have a look to see what pictures we have of your street – family – favourite pub or whatever, and if you can't find any, then donate some!



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SPAJERS News

By Don Rouse

What a great Summer we have had with the SPAJERS. In the last 'Beam' I was talking about our concern of not having many committee members available to help out at the Donkey Derby and pleaded for volunteers. Well you obviously took notice of this 'Pleading Farmer' as we were inundated with volunteers. We had people to run the stalls, sell tickets, help set up the Marquee, the Stalls, as well as helping us to clear up at the end of the day. So a big 'thank you' to you all.

The Bampton Archive had a stall promoting their work, and at the same time they had a camera on the go, recording the proceedings for posterity. I have seen a DVD copy and it is fantastic; it certainly caught the mood of the day, with people enjoying themselves having not a care in the world, and the children having a whale of a time running back to their parents asking for more money! It's well worth the £5.00 asking price, and at the same time you will be making a contribution to the St Mary's Roof Fund.

One story that I must tell you about, though I know the person concerned would not be happy if I named him, was that when we came to lock up the Bush Centre we noticed that a window had been broken during the day. The pane of glass that was broken was

right by the handle which meant that it was impossible to secure the building. What can you do at a time like that? Bank Holiday Monday, seven o'clock in the evening? All we could think of was to turn to a Bampton Glazier and hope that he wouldn't charge 'bank holiday rates'. Needless to say he was marvellous, he came straight away, did the job and never charged us a penny! Thanks Bob - by the way when are you going to do another Parachute Jump?

In all we made a total of £3000 profit; thank you all so much for your efforts, whether it was in helping or just coming along. Through your efforts we shall be able to maintain our treats to all our senior citizens. Over 850 people attended - a record.

I cannot let the report on the Donkey Derby close without expressing our grateful thanks to the Bampton Surgery for providing us with Medical cover for all our events, I don't think their services were called upon, but it is always reassuring to have them there. A necessary requirement of our insurers.

The Wednesday after the Donkey Derby we were able to take two coach loads of our members to Bourne-mouth for the annual outing. If there is such a thing as a perfect day, then we had it! The weather was good and

the sea was warm, though I did not see any of our members in there.

We do realise that the outing only serves a small portion of our members, as many can't travel at all, or certainly not long distances, so we are working on that aspect. I know that a party like the one we held for the Millennium would be very popular, but until the powers that be can provide Bampton with a big enough centre that can accommodate more than 100 people then we are stuck. The cost of hiring Marquees that could accommodate 200+ would be astronomical! But we haven't given up yet and are still working on the concept of having all our members under one roof for a party with local entertainment.

The qualification for being a member of the SPAJERS is that you must have lived in Bampton or Lew for a minimum of six months and have reached the national pension age.

We rely upon you the general public to keep us informed of those who qualify to become a member, but first you must get their permission. We also rely on you to keep us informed if someone has moved on, whether to another Town or another 'place'. We apologise if our information is not up to date and that you receive an invitation to a loved one who has passed on; we certainly do not wish to offend, so please keep us informed. You can contact Jeff on Tel: 850643, he is the keeper of the membership list.

Our next two big events will have happened by the time that you are reading this. That is the bonfire night celebration and Josie's Draw which always turns out to be a night to remember. As I write this Josie, her friends and family are 'beaver' away at getting prizes together and selling tickets. Last year they raised over £730.00; let's hope that she can do it again.

Dates for your 2008 Diary:

April - Quiz night. Date TBA
Sat 4 May - Village Garage Sale
Sat 24 May - Shirt Race
Mon 25 August - Donkey Derby
Wed 27 August - Outing
Who said that we don't plan ahead?!!
Well done to all the committee

MUMMERS 2007

The Bampton Mummers will be maintaining their Christmas tradition performing on Christmas Eve around the Town. Should you wish them to perform at your party please contact Don Rouse on 01993 850938 who will do his best to accommodate you. Most people with young children obviously prefer the earlier slots, whilst older groups prefer later in the evening, which makes it fine for organising. It is very difficult to fit every one in, but with a bit of 'give and take' on all sides it usually works out very well. With all the wonderful hospitality that the Mummers receive they sometimes run late, so it is very difficult to get it perfect, but we try. The Mummers objective is to maintain this wonderful Bampton tradition, to entertain people at this joyous time - and to make as much money as possible for the SPAJERS! What you might call Junketing. They can start their programme as early 5pm and they finish at about 11.30pm in the Pubs. The cost of a performance is a donation to the SPAJERS put into the Mummers collecting box which will be passed around.

All the Mummers need from you is a 'room to rhyme this merry Christmas Time' and of course enough room for St George in shining armour to slay the horrible Turkish Knight in your house - don't worry there is an incredible 'Quack Doctor' on hand to see that it all ends well.
Book early to avoid disappointment!

News from Bampton C of E Primary School

By Alison Bardsley

The end of term didn't quite end as planned!

Friday 20th July 2007 was the Victorian Open Day. All the children and teachers attended the school dressed as Victorians. Parents and Carers were welcomed into the school during the morning to look at the children at work. Reception and Year One were having a washday using a mangle and soap.

The other classes were using chalkboards and learning the basics. The children came dressed in many different outfits including a few chimney sweeps who came straight to school, after being out all night cleaning chimneys, with their faces still very dirty.

The children had to be sent home early as the flooding started and unfortunately the school experienced damage to the Computer suite and three of the classrooms plus the main corridor.

We did manage to hold a Leavers' Assembly for Year six pupils and parents on Wednesday 25th July 2007, when the Year 6 children had the chance to say goodbye to their teachers and receive their books.

Over the summer holidays the flood-damaged classes were repaired and had new carpet laid ready to welcome the children back on Wednesday 5th September 2007. The children looked very smart and the Reception class welcomed 20 new children.

With all the children back in and settled the Sports Day was held. This had been cancelled due to the rain in July. The children enjoyed working together in their teams and to everyone's relief the sun shone. Afterwards the children all enjoyed the ice-llolies, kindly donated by FOBS, to say well done.

New Term - New Ideas

The new term welcomed some new opportunities for the children in Bampton School.

French

All the children throughout the school are now learning French. Up until now this has only been available to Key Stage 2 but it was decided that all

the children should enjoy learning a language. Even the youngest children in Reception are learning French songs and greetings such as "Bonjour".

Brass Instruments

The school had the opportunity to purchase a set of Brass Instruments. As they are only suitable for the older children it was decided that all children in Mrs Newman's class should be given the opportunity to learn. We have baritones, trombones and cornets - as you can imagine there is now a wonderful noise coming from the class!!

All children from Year Two upwards are being given the opportunity to play an instrument as part of the curriculum. As well as the brass instruments, the children are learning to play the recorder and the ocarina. The next music assembly should be great fun!

The choir is also a popular after school activity and they perform at the music assembly and also visit the Bush Centre to entertain the Senior Citizens.

Extra Activities

Bampton School is very lucky to be able to offer a wide range of after school clubs and a big thank you is due to the parents and staff who help run them. Netball, football, hockey, art, choir and a special yoga class are among the clubs available for children age 4-7.

lighting, bubble tubes and tactile toys, particularly aimed at children with special needs but all under 5's are welcome on board and should be accompanied by an adult.

For more information please contact **Trudy on 07765 665199 or call the Oxfordshire Rural Children's Centre Project team Tel: 01865 456742.**

Bampton Pre-school News

By Alexandra Miller
Staff News

The new school term has seen a few changes at Pre-School. The end of Summer Term was a slightly damp (although thankfully not flooded!) affair and despite the School being closed we managed an impromptu leavers party to say farewell and good luck to all the children going up to Bampton Primary Reception Class. We have also said goodbye to Clair Howe who has moved on to pastures new after her maternity leave finished at the end of term. Clair was a fantastic member of staff and extremely popular with all the children at Pre-School. We wish her all the very best for the future. We are delighted to report that Sally Govier and Clare Kemsley joined us as permanent members of staff from September, having been employed as maternity cover since January.

Recycling

We are having a busy Autumn Term at Pre-School with visits to the Post Office and Library already under our belts! Many thanks to all the Bampton

businesses who take the time to show us around; it is greatly appreciated by both staff and children. We will, in fact, be calling on all members of the Bampton Community to help us in a new project. We have teamed up with a company called Recyclool who will reimburse us for the amount of old mobile phones and used printer cartridges we collect. This is not only a great fundraising opportunity but also gives the children first hand experience of recycling and thus increases their awareness of green issues. If you have any old phones or cartridges lying around please give us a call on **01993 852828 or 851501** and we will happily come and collect them!

Bonfire Night

A team comprising Staff and Committee of the Pre-School will be providing a quiet(ish!) area at the Sports Pavilion during the Firework Display on November 3rd. All children are welcome to come & join in creative play, face painting or just have a drink and a biscuit away from the noise and cold.

Remembrance Service

As in previous years, the children from Pre-School will be making a poppy wreath and a number of them will attend the Remembrance Service on November 11th. Many thanks to the British Legion for inviting us once again.

Christmas

The children at Pre-School have been getting in a festive mood since the beginning of term by making our Christmas Cards and designing the labels for our Christmas puddings. Well done to Regan Pritchard whose Father Christmas design was chosen as the winning label. The fantastic cards and delicious puddings will be on sale soon!!!

Special Christmas Presents from Bampton

Ann Manly Print -

St Mary's Church from the Shillbrook ford

Well known local artist, Ann Manly, kindly allowed the Friend's of St Mary's to have 150 prints made from her evocative water colour of this well known view - surely every child has paddled and fished in the brook, played Pooh Sticks at the bridge and fed the chickens nearby!

A few of these individually numbered and signed prints are still available from

Jonathan Phillips: Tel: 01993 850321.

Cost of Prints: £30.00

The Youth Club

By Julie Webb

The Summer Ball

The Summer Ball - see photo - that we held in July was a great success



that was thanks to the financial help from the Talbot hotel, Fergal Construction and Lude Mans. We all had a fantastic night and we are hoping to keep this a regular event to help celebrate the end of term and the start of the summer holidays.

I am pleased to introduce Leanne who is the new youth worker for both the senior and junior club.

Leanne is 23 and has just left the RAF after 7 years to pursue a career in youth work. She is currently attending Ruskin collage in Oxford to become a fully qualified youth and community worker.

On a slightly sadder note we are losing one of our volunteers Charmaine Mans. Charmaine has been a fantastic help to me and the entire junior group over the last year. Without her help we would have had to close the Youth Club for most of the year. I know that

everyone in the group will miss Charmaine but we all wish her and her family every happiness and luck for their new life in Poole.

From February 2008 the Youth Centre will have to close for a few months

while I go on maternity leave. I hope to return to work as soon as possible after the birth of my baby but we will have to see how things go. I intend to let everyone know when the centre is back open by way of posters by the bus stop. Mondays we are open for young people aged 13-

17. Thursdays we are open for young people in school years 5 to 8. Each session is £1. We need volunteers to help support the staff on both nights. If anyone thinks they may be able to help out and keep the centre open during this time please contact me or Julie or Lianne at: bamptonyouthcenter@hotmail.com.uk

What's coming up:

Senior Group Monday night:

Mon 12th Nov - Drugs and alcohol information night
Mon 19th Nov - Pizza night
Mon 26th Nov - Pool and darts comp.
Mon 3rd Dec - Xmas crafts
Mon 10th Dec - Xmas crafts
Mon 17th Dec - Xmas event to be confirmed

Junior Group Thursday night

Thurs 15th Nov - DVD and pop corn night
Thurs 22nd Nov - Girls only night: hair and make up, positive body image, etc
Thurs 29th Nov - Boys only night: activities to be confirmed any ideas?
Thurs 6th Dec - Decorate the hall and Xmas crafts
Thurs 13th Dec - Xmas crafts and games
Thurs 20th Dec Xmas disco. The doors will open at 7pm and close at 9.30pm. Tickets cost £2.50 on the door, or £2.00 in advance from the youth club during December.

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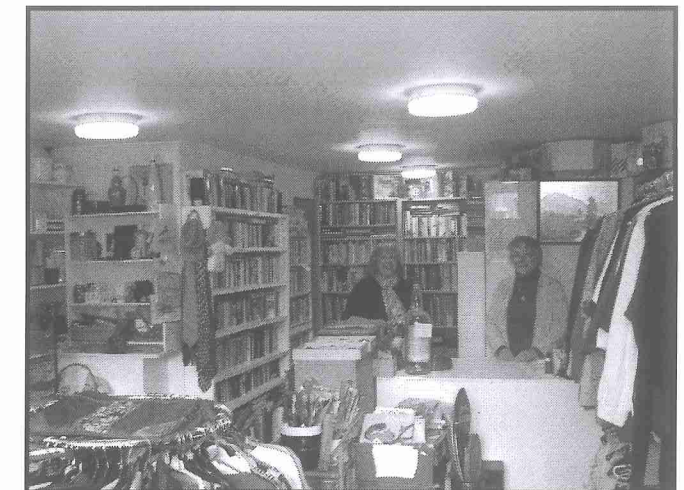
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Ground Facilities - Manager		
	Albert Radband	Tel: 210133
Team Manager - Juniors		
Under 8s	Mark Lawton	mark.lawton@onetel.net Tel: 850468
Under 9s	Mark Taylor	markm_taylor@hotmail.com Tel: 852903
Under 10s	Callum Rossie	callumrossie@royalmail.co.uk Tel: 852565
Under 11s	George Rawle	george.rawle2@talktalk.net Tel: 851207
Under 12s	James Angus	james@angusj@freemove.co.uk Tel: 850533
Under 13s	Ellis Bardsley	ellis@bardsleyweb.co.uk Tel: 850666
Under 16s	Chris Boot	kerryboot@ntlworld.com Tel: 851808
Team Managers - Seniors		
First Team	Chris Jordon	chrlsjordan@hotmail.com Tel: 847241
Reserves	Chris Boot	kerryboot@ntlworld.com Tel: 851808
Veterans		
OVER 35s	Ian Bilton	

A VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE IF YOU USE THE RECREATION GROUND

While using skate park

Minor accidents continue to occur on the Skatepark because of the lack of protective clothing. The Parish Council ask all parents to insist that their children wear the appropriate clothing.

Insurance Liabilities

Residents using the Recreation Ground to practice golf, fly kites or model aircraft or even hitting cricket balls should note that they are responsible for third party liability should an accident occur.

Whilst the Parish Council has ample insurance should it be at fault - for example if a slate falls off the roof of the pavilion - we expect all users of the excellent facilities to have their own insurance.

Consider including this cover in your home contents policy. Dog walkers should also have insurance.

Other Sporting Activities

Bampton Weightlifting Club

Chairman: Don Rouse: Tel: 01993 850938.

Secretary: Ray Fielding: Tel: 01993 852185. Mobile: 07855 146949.

Bampton Badminton Club

Enquiries: Lesley Campbell Tel: 01993 852846.

Meets every Tuesday 10 - 12am
Bampton Village Hall.

Bampton Archery Club

Chairman: John Hill Tel: 01993 850513.

The Horseshoes Football Club Sunday League Football

Chairman: Alan Clarke: Tel: 01993 850201.

Secretary: Bill Godfrey: Tel: 01993 850014.

THE PAVILION

The Pavilion, with its large social area, changing rooms, referees' facilities, kitchen and bar is for hire by members of the public for all varieties of functions such as wedding receptions, birthdays or anniversary parties. The Multisport court can also be hired for games or practice sessions for floodlit tennis, basketball, and netball.

Some General Hire Prices

Pavilion

08:00 - 13:00 : £40

13:00 - 18:00 : £40

18:00 - 23:59 : £80

Whole Day : £160

Football Pitch : £25 per game

Changing Facilities : £10

Multisport Bampton Residents
£10.00
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£12.50

For more information on charges and facilities for hire please contact:

**Ray Willis Tel: 01993 852483 or
Mobile: 07766 264684**

Burford School...

....has been given a prestigious award for going international!

On Wednesday 10th October, Burford School received the prestigious DCFS International School Award at a high profile awards ceremony in London.

The School has been given the award for its fantastic range of international activity and links with schools in Uganda, Italy, France, Germany, Spain and America. The School has the longest running reciprocal link in Oxfordshire with a school in East Africa, having been in existence for 12 years with 6 exchanges of students and teachers from Uganda to England and England to Uganda. The link continues next summer when a large party of Ugandan students and teachers will be staying in Burford and attending the school, giving music workshops in local primary schools as part of an ongoing music project, as well as singing in local churches.

The Headteacher, Mr Sanders, said: "We are thrilled to have been given recognition in this way. Links with all these countries have enriched our curriculum beyond measure and given the students - and teachers - including myself - a truly international perspective".

Emma Yeatman (16) said: "I've learned a lot about people my age in other countries due to my involvement with several school exchanges. I participated in the enriching experience of the Uganda exchange where we shared activity days with not only our partner school but also with the Kitgum group from North Uganda.

I have also visited Burford's twin town in Italy, Potenza Picena, where we shared our sport and music and experienced their street festivals. Spending time with the families was the most rewarding and memorable part."

The International School Award scheme is managed by the British Council and supported and funded by the DfES. It provides recognition for teachers and their schools working to instil an international dimension into the learning experience of all children and young people. Over 1000 International School Awards have been presented to successful schools since the scheme began in 1999.



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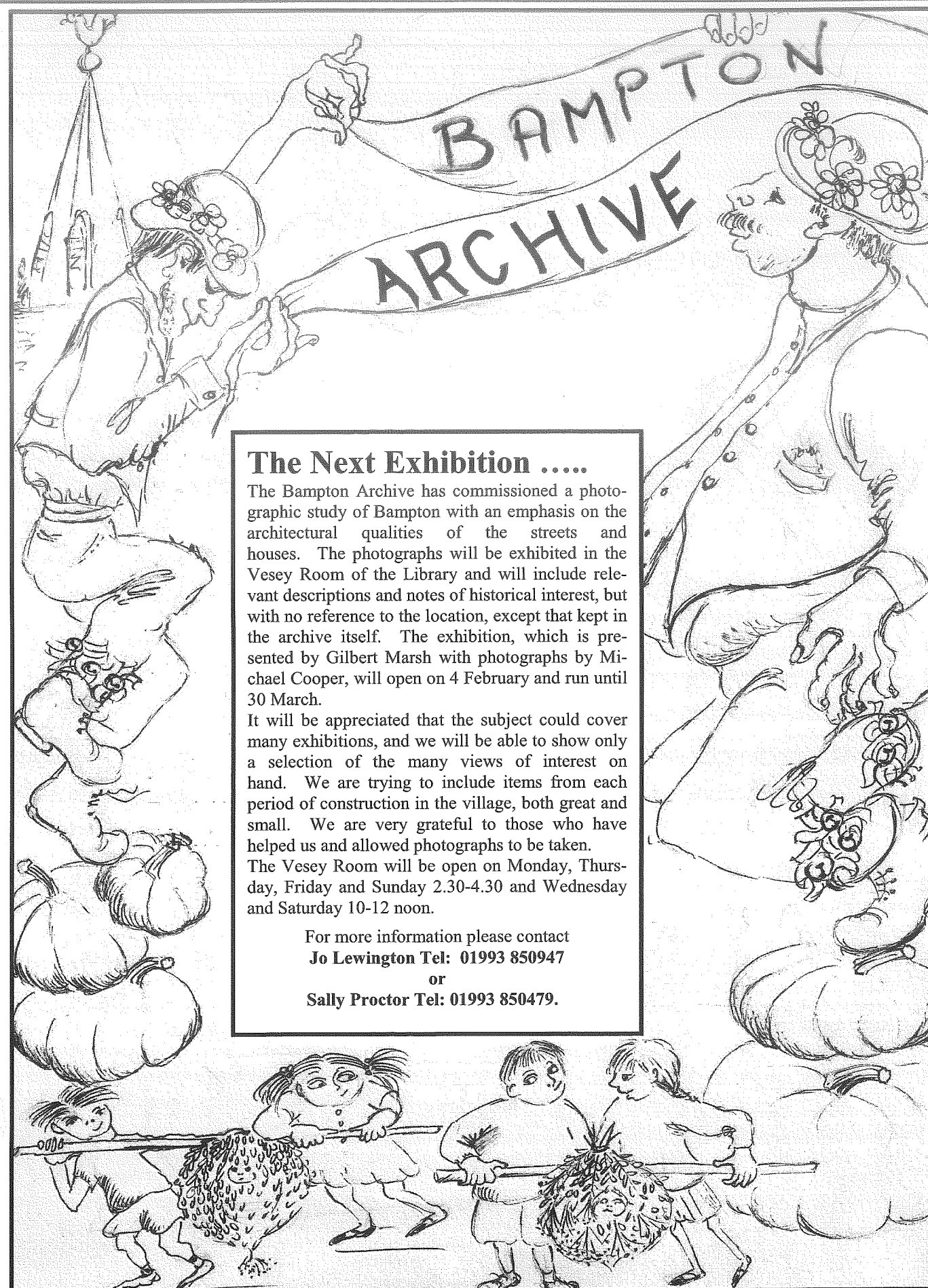
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The Next Exhibition

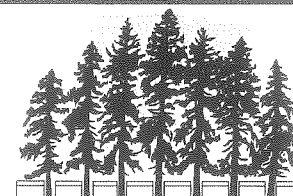
The Bampton Archive has commissioned a photographic study of Bampton with an emphasis on the architectural qualities of the streets and houses. The photographs will be exhibited in the Vesey Room of the Library and will include relevant descriptions and notes of historical interest, but with no reference to the location, except that kept in the archive itself. The exhibition, which is presented by Gilbert Marsh with photographs by Michael Cooper, will open on 4 February and run until 30 March.

It will be appreciated that the subject could cover many exhibitions, and we will be able to show only a selection of the many views of interest on hand. We are trying to include items from each period of construction in the village, both great and small. We are very grateful to those who have helped us and allowed photographs to be taken. The Vesey Room will be open on Monday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday 2.30-4.30 and Wednesday and Saturday 10-12 noon.

For more information please contact
Jo Lewington Tel: 01993 850947
 or
Sally Proctor Tel: 01993 850479.

Bampton Environmental Watch Group

By Ralph Norman, Chairman



BEWG

Our recent talks were "Wildlife Recording in the Bampton Area" by Gavin Bird, and "Hunting for British Orchids" by Brian Laney in October. There are no further talks scheduled for 2007. Our programme for 2008 starts with our AGM on Friday 7 March (note the change of date from that previously published) when Frank Sanger will be entertaining us with a fairly light hearted talk on the law. The talks scheduled for the remainder of 2008 are: "Ponds for People" by Rod d'Ayala on 24 April; "The Oxford to Fairford Railway" by Stanley Jenkins on 31 July; and "Wildlife Crime" by PC Simon Towers on 30 October. Open meetings are held in the Village Hall starting at 8:00pm All are welcome, with attendance free for members, £2 for non-members (or join at the door). For most of 2007 Bampton has been blessed with no particularly

controversial planning applications, with only small ones of localised interest being submitted. The possibility, mooted by the Parish Council, of developing part of the Mercury Close playground for affordable housing and using the proceeds to improve the remaining playground, was met with a lot of local opposition. As a result the Parish Council agreed not to proceed with this idea. Since then an application has been submitted to Oxfordshire County Council, by some local residents, to have the playground registered as a village green. This has been opposed by the Parish Council, and we await a decision from the County.

There has been no progress to report on the production of a short list of mineral extraction sites by OCC. You will recall that in the last Beam there was a report on OCC's "Minerals Site Proposals and Policies Document", which included, among others, three large contiguous sites that, if accepted could have unacceptable consequences for Bampton. The combined sites lie to the north and south of the Thames stretching from Radcot to Shifford, touching Clanfield, Bampton, Aston and Cote,

enclosing Chimney and much of the Buckand Road, and with Aston Road as one of the boundaries. BEWG, and local parish councils, including Bampton's, have objected to these. Due to problems that OCC have had with a related planning principles document, the decisions on, and the publication of the short list has been delayed until sometime in 2008.

Copies of relevant OCC mineral and waste publications are available in libraries, OCC offices and on the OCC web site at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/links/public/mineralsandwastepolicy where progress and other information are posted.

The planning proposal for redevelopment of the Bush Club site is still awaited. OCC have appointed a project manager who has had discussions with the Parish Council and other interested organisations on what might be possible for the redevelopment and retention of existing facilities, but as yet, no firm proposals have been forthcoming. If you would like to know more about BEWG or would like to join us please contact the Membership Secretary Ann Norman: Tel: 01993 850823, or email bebwg@sagaman.co.uk. You can also see our entry on the Bampton web site at:

www.bamptonoxon.co.uk/bebwg.htm

New Way to give up smoking arrives in Bampton

From the 1st July 2007, it will be illegal to smoke in public places. Now is a good time to stop smoking and The Bampton Clinic are offering a new, innovative, pain free way to give up using new technology to beat the cravings.

Mr. John Combe a committed smoker, who smoked 40 cigarettes a day for 35 years and even grew tobacco, introduced the system to The Bampton Clinic. On hearing that he was to become a grandfather John decided that this was the time to give up smoking. He researched different treatments on offer in the United Kingdom, some of them free on the National Health Service and many which cost hundreds of pounds, and some of which he had already tried.

To John's amazement an innovative and highly effective Eastern European treatment, Bioresonance, with a fantastic success rate did not feature on the National Health website GiveUpSmoking.co.uk and neither was there any trace of it on the authoritative Action On Smoking Website Ash.org.uk.

John decided to travel to Eastern Europe where he completed the painless treatment; within an hour he had become a non-smoker! The day after his treatment, which didn't involve any drugs, patches, pills or hypnotherapy he was able to visit a restaurant, thick with smoke, without the desire to smoke at all.

The support of his friends exposed another crucial ingredient to prevent ex-smokers from falling back into the habit. The combination of the 20year old Eastern European Bioresonance treatment, together with his own discovery of a good support structure, has now been combined into The Smoking Terminator System.

The Smoking Terminator System brings together four key aspects that are needed to stop smoking forever. The smoker has to be committed to stop and needs to be prepared for what they are committing to. Support post treatment by regular phone calls from the team offering encouragement and coping strategies along the way.

If you or know someone who would like more information on The Smoking Terminator System contact Maggie at The Bampton Clinic on 01993 851359 or visit the website www.smokingterminator.com

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OUT OF WORK FARMER - TURNED AGRICULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

By Don Rouse

Even the most vivid of imaginations could not have thought up all that has happened in Bampton since our last 'Beam'. Flood water above waist height in Bridge Street in the middle of July; unbelievable!! There will be stories to tell our grandchildren for many years to come.

Everyone is talking about it and wondering who to blame - well nobody is going to admit that they have got it wrong are they? As always the farmers come in for a portion of the blame, 'if only they were to keep their ditches dug out, the water could get away' is a quote that I have often heard and if you read the Environment Agency's booklet 'Living on the Edge' 'a guide to the rights and responsibilities of

of this waste! Mind you the 'Big Brother Environment Agency' can move in with their big machines and can dispose of this waste any where within the reach of their booms, no questions asked. It is so unfair and unnecessary.

Barging was a job that was always done at this time of the year, the farm workers armed with a sickle, also known as a hook, would go to the nearest hedgerow that contained hazelwood and select very carefully a 'v' shaped branch to make themselves a crook, hence the saying 'By Hook or by Crook' By holding the dead grass and weeds in the crook they would then cut underneath it all with the hook and place it on the bank,

they say "You can't do that to the ditches, what about all those little mice and bugs that are in the hedgerows spoiling the water flow? What about their animal rights?" And: "If you do that, we will stop your payments"

So it appears that this Government wants to put the rights of fauna above the discomfort of human beings. So stop blaming the farmers and let us pray that we can get back to a world where common sense rules and proven husbandry practices work.

Recently I have had the pleasure of talking to past and present workers of the Environment Agency. It appears that the Shill Brook was last dredged in 1972 after there was a lot of flood-

ing, especially in the Buckland Road area. This certainly alleviated the problem and I certainly am not aware of any serious flooding till recently.

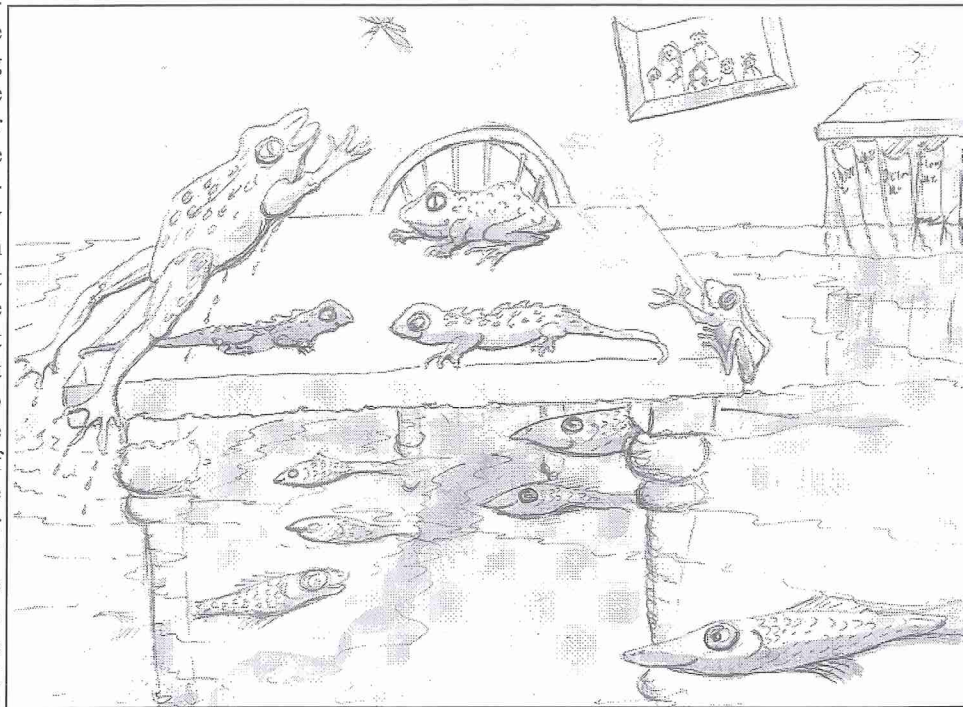
However I understand that those responsible for that work got it 'in the neck' for disturbing the natural wild life balance, evidently there was a problem with the newts!

As an ex land owner I know

that water only runs down hill, and providing there is nothing in the way to stop its flow it will continue on its way to the sea.

If there is a blockage on your patch then you have to get a spade and dig a channel to let it continue its journey, a job that I loved doing because you got instant results. Sometimes you have to sort of 'take the law into your own hands'.

where at the end of the day they would gather it all up and burn it. Which was of course a good way to kill the weed seeds and put potash back into the soil, whilst doing this work they would observe any damage that had been caused to the ditch by rabbits, moles and the like and put it right. But now this crazy organisation that this Government has installed for us, knows better than all our forefathers,



cleaning ditches' in the old custom style. Now a farmer can only clear one side of the ditch in a season - to protect the fauna! Should he wish to clear waste soil from the bottom of the ditch he must be very careful, as this soil is classified as Industrial Waste! And if he wishes to dispose of this soil more than one metre from the ditch then he must first obtain a Special Licence and use only licensed hauliers to dispose

A bit like a few people did around here in July. I am aware of one citizen actually hiring a JCB to pull a few gulleys from a ditch to the road side, lowering the flood water in the road by some three feet, making the road passable and at the same time stopping his house flooding! Why can't the Council do that?

They always used to do all the gulleys around here on an annual basis, a job that hasn't been done for the last two years at least. I noticed in Aston where the road was flooded outside St Josephs, the level of the water in the ditch was at a lower level than the road.

All it needed was a gully dug and it would have taken the water off the road! I had no wellies or spade with me at the time!

What are the chances of it all happening again? Well my information is that some houses up New Road had water coming in again the third week in October! The de-humidifier was still slogging away to dry the house from the July flood when the water started to come in again!

Until the Environment Agency gets its act together and start de-silting all our rivers and streams, the chances are very high. I am told that their workforce has been reduced by over thirty percent in the last twenty years, so that is something that needs to be addressed immediately.

Perhaps all those pen pushers in DEFRA supervising the farmers over their ditching techniques should get a proper job and learn to drive dredgers! The demise of farming is having a lot to do with the problem, the dairy industry has been totally decimated, so there is only a small acreage down to grass. Grassland acts as a sponge and holds the water, but now all the grassland has been ploughed and turned into arable land, so in times of heavy rain the water runs off the fields taking small particles of earth with it, which then finds its way into the ditches and brooks as silt! So there will be plenty of dredging needed for the years to come.

Many of my friends in New Road suffered terribly in the floods; in my opinion the answer is quite simple. New Road never flooded in the great floods of 1947, in fact it is only in recent years that there has been a problem. So what has changed?

Years ago access to all the houses was over an individual bridge that crossed a deep ditch, this ditch has now been filled in to allow individual householders to take their cars up to their front doors. Brilliant! But why wasn't it properly supervised by the Planners? That ditch needed a minimum twelve inch pipe all the way along. Some places it has only a four inch pipe!

You can bet your life that the authorities will cry that they have no money to rectify this. Shame on them. Mind you I have to admit that our playground of the day, was the 'dump field' which also acted as a flood plain; trouble is it became Pocock's Close! Obviously planned with no thought as to what was going to happen to the water.

Eating Humble Pie can be quite distressing at times, but on this occasion I am quite happy to do it. In my last 'Ramblings' I implied that the PCSO that was going to be allocated to us would certainly have quite a job on her hands. At that time I did not have a clue as to who it was going to be, so you can imagine my surprise when it turned out to be Angie Alford. My first encounter with her was when she was a Travel Agent Rep working in Witney.

Being very professional yet friendly and helpful. Then she married our local dairy supplies merchant which gave her a good insight to the way we live in the rural community. My next encounter with her was as a milk recorder! Once a month at five o'clock in the morning, come rain, snow or shine, she would always turn up with a smile in the Milking Parlour! So I am sure that if any one can sort out our problems, Angie can. She is firm, friendly and fair, and if she 'books' you it will all be done with a smile!

I spent an exciting half an hour with representatives of the Oxfordshire County Council Highways at the Station Road Chicane, we did it at the 'busy' time of 5.00pm without reflective jackets (traffic always slow up when they see them). It was quite an eye opener for them. They were horrified, but whether they were horrified enough to do anything about it I do not know. They went away muttering about there being no money!

One thing that is causing a lot of

concern in Bampton is the possible loss of the Youth Club facility along with the Bush Club building. The SPAJERS always make great use of the facilities for the Donkey Derby.

At a public meeting recently it was amazing to see just how many people actually use the buildings and had taken the trouble to attend; my interest is of course that it is now the home of the Bampton Weightlifting club, they are enjoying having such a central base and providing such a useful facility for Bampton.

But unless we can persuade the Oxfordshire County Council to rethink their plans of taking money out of Bampton and not putting anything back, we are going to lose a valuable facility.

What also amazed me at the Meeting was the absence of our County Council Representative. In his election spiel, he said his main concern was the continuation of the Youth Club! Well Don, come and stand by our side and we will fight it together along with the Chicanes.

Well folks it is Christmas time coming up and a New Year about to begin. My wish is for the Bureaucrats to leave us alone and let us enjoy our rural way of life the way we always have. May the naturalist fanatics be a little more tolerant and consider the environment of the people who live here.

Happy Christmas!

P.S. Here is one from my archives!

In the year 2007 the Lord came unto Noah, who was now living in England and said, "Once again, the earth has become wicked and over-populated, and I see the end of all flesh before me. Build another Ark and save two of every living thing along with a few good humans. "He gave Noah the CAD drawings, saying, "You have 6 months to build the Ark before I will start the unending rain for 40 days and 40 nights."

Six months later, the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his yard- but no Ark. "Noah!" He roared, "I'm about to start the rain! Where is the Ark ?" "Forgive me, Lord," begged Noah, "but things have changed. I needed Building Regulations Approval and I've been arguing with the Fire Brigade about the need for a sprinkler system.

My neighbours claim that I should have obtained planning permission for

building the Ark in my garden because it is development of the site, even though in my view it is a temporary structure. We had to then go to appeal to the Secretary of State for a decision.

Then the Department of Transport demanded a bond be posted for the future costs of moving power lines and other overhead obstructions to clear the passage for the Ark's move to the sea. I told them that the sea would be coming to us, but they would hear nothing of it.

Getting the wood was another problem.

All the decent trees have Tree Preservation Orders on them and we live in a Site of Special Scientific Interest set up in order to protect the spotted owl. I tried to convince the environmentalists that I needed the wood to save the owls - but no go!

When I started gathering the animals, the RSPCA sued me. They insisted that I was confining wild animals against their will. They argued the accommodation was too restrictive, and it was cruel and inhumane to put so many animals in a confined space.

Then the County Council, the Environment Agency and the Rivers Authority ruled that I couldn't build the Ark until they'd conducted an environmental impact study on your proposed flood. I'm still trying to resolve a complaint with the Equal Opportunities Commission on how many disabled carpenter's I'm supposed to hire for my building team. The trades unions say I can't use my sons. They insist I have to hire only accredited workers with Ark-building experience.

To make matters worse, Customs and Excise seized all my assets, claiming I'm trying to leave the country illegally with endangered species.

So, forgive me, Lord, but it would take at least 10 years for me to finish this Ark".

Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow stretched across the sky. Noah looked up in wonder and asked, "You mean you're not going to destroy the world?"

"No," said the Lord. "The British Government has beaten me to it."

FRESH ORGANIC FOOD FROM FIELD TO TABLE IN 48 HOURS

Cooking in season with fresh local produce seems to be the word on every top chef's lips. Making it happen in your own kitchen hasn't always been that easy though. Not all of us have access to a convenient market or well stocked allotment. Well Riverford Home Delivery offer a service which overcomes such problems.

Riverford are Oxfordshire's most popular organic veg box scheme, delivering to Bampton on Fridays each week. Their award winning veg boxes are available throughout the county.

"What we are doing seems to have really caught the imagination of the cooks of Oxfordshire" says Graham Deakin who helps runs the scheme. "Getting fresh fruit and vegetables from our fields into the kitchens of the county in under 48 hours is the trick. It comes straight from our fields to your table with no middle men involved so freshness and quality is guaranteed"

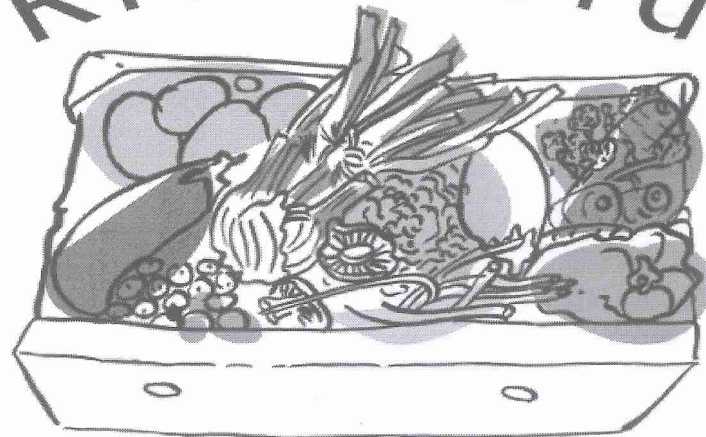
Riverford is a co-operative of twelve farms each of which grows the crops

that suit their soil and climate conditions; this means that they can offer a broad choice of produce through out the year at very competitive prices. As well as familiar favourites like carrots, cauliflowers and potatoes you will always find something a little more unusual in the Riverford box. Celeriac, Jerusalem artichokes, and such exotic delights as pak choi and kohlrabi make their seasonal appearances along with traditional salad items.

Boxes come in a variety of sizes to suit household size and cooking habits, they can be ordered weekly or on and off as suites your needs. The web site www.riverford.co.uk is particularly useful, not only can you see what is in the boxes and place orders; there are also loads of recipes and tips to help expand your culinary horizons.

So next time you are out and about around the county and you see a van nip by with a big red carrot on the side you'll know someone out there is about to have something wholesome and taste for supper.

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Bampton Baby and Toddler Club

By Angela Irvin

Bampton Baby and Toddler Club has been running for over 10 years. Every Thursday morning between 10 and 11.45 we meet in the Village Hall in Bampton. Our children, aged between 0 and Pre-School age, play with our large range of toys whilst the parents enjoy a well-earned rest and grown-up chat! Each week we have a variety of toys ready for little ones to explore during the "free play session". We then have a singsong followed by refreshments. Occasionally we have a seasonal craft activity such as Mother's Day or Christmas card making. At least once a month we arrange a special activity - 1st November we have a visit from a photographer, 29th November Usborne Books will be selling their range of children's books and 13th December we have a Christmas party. We have some events already planned for 2008 including a visit from the Fire Engine. We have built strong links with the Pre-School in Bampton and visit them regularly. Many of the children currently at both the local Pre-School and Primary school met their peers at the Baby and Toddler Club.

We also have our own bouncy castle, which we set up the first Thursday of every month. The bouncy castle, along with other toys is available for hire through our toy library. For a small fee members can borrow items for a short period. Toys offered through this facility include slides, and "Little Tike" ride-in cars. Great for children's parties! Small size tables and chairs are also available.

We are a friendly group and would welcome new members from Bampton and the surrounding villages! If you have a child under school age, drop in and join us. Your first visit is free and subsequent visits are £2 for non-members, £1.50 for members. If you don't want to face walking in alone (although we honestly are not scary!!) please ring the number below and one of us will meet you outside. We are looking for a volunteer to help with the refreshments and the craft activities. If you are interested please contact Angy on 01993 210096 or Cordula on 01993 852317 for more information.



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News from Burford School

By Mary Alcock

The British are renowned for talking about the weather and this July we had every cause so to do.

Summer 2006 there was a heat wave and Sean Frankcom, Head of Music at the School, had a grand plan to hold the 2007 Leavers' Concert as an outdoor picnic concert on the school playing fields; 'A Festival on the Field, A celebration of Music & Dance'.

With the help of the Burford School Association and Burford School Uganda Link, this dream nearly came true. On Thursday 19th July the outdoor staging, lighting, tents, etc were all erected on the sports field ready for a balmy summer's evening the next day and then came the day which broke all days for rainfall – July 20th! The Festival now qualifies as Burford's Glastonbury.

Despite the torrential downpour the concert did continue but had to be held indoors, with events being divided between the Sports Hall and School Hall. There were inter-house dance competitions, performances by bands in the Burford Rockschool, a gamelan performance with year 6 pupils from Wychwood Primary school, gymnastics display, choirs and orchestral performances, climaxing with music from the 'Last Night of the Proms'.

The Gym was opened to allow those who had prepared picnics to enjoy them in the dry. The atmosphere was amazing with some 300 parents and families packed into the hall for the rousing flag-waving finale. The school is grateful for sponsorship of the event from Awards for All, Mid Counties Co-operative Charity Fund, Oxfordshire Community Foundation and The Doris Field Charitable Trust, without their support the event could not have happened.

Due to the unprecedented rainfall the school has now been closed for two days and as Patrick Sanders said at the final staff meeting 'It's been a funny end of term!' school is now extremely quiet, with just staff in school preparing for the next academic year starting in September.



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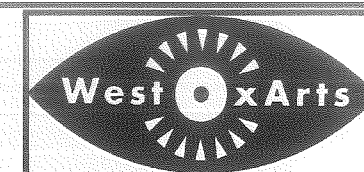


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Headmaster: Mr. Andrew Merish B.Ed.(Hons.)

WOA Gallery
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Tel: 01993 850137
westoxarts@yahoo.co.uk
Registered Charity No. 266542



Welcome to West Ox Arts

West Ox Arts is part-funded by West Oxfordshire District Council and Bampton Parish Council, and staffed by volunteers, except for its part-time administrator. West Ox Arts is dedicated to:

- Promoting participation in and appreciation of the arts and crafts in West Oxfordshire
 - Supporting the area's artists and craftspeople
- WOA Membership** is open to everyone and new members are always welcome. Benefits include:
- discounts on WOA lectures, life classes and workshops
 - invitations to private views
 - regular mailings of the WOA events guide
 - discounts at local art suppliers
 - reduced commission rate for exhibitors

Membership fees Single £15, Family £25, Student £7.50

The Administrator is usually in the gallery Tues-Thurs 10am -4pm.

Exhibitions

Faces

23 November - 16 December

A West Ox Arts members show on the theme of Faces in conjunction with the county arts project Faces of Oxfordshire and Oxford Inspires, celebrating a thousand years of Oxfordshire in 2007 and the closing events for the year of artistic celebrations. This exhibition will display work by members of West Ox Arts making portraits and individual interpretations of the theme in all different media. The exhibition will also feature 'The Spoon Race', of wooden spoon people made in workshops around the county. Join in the fun and drop into the gallery to get your Spoon Making Pack and see your spoon exhibited too.

Witney Woollens and Bampton Sheepskins

6 - 27 January 2008

This exhibition will reflect the history of the Witney Blankets and take the trade up to the present day by the professional work in blankets and beautiful clothes of the Cotswold Woollen Weavers of Filkins. Work on display will be from an international cross-cultural arts project 'The Journey of a Blanket'. This studies production in West Oxfordshire to essential daily use and

trade of Witney blankets in Northern Ontario, Canada in the early 1800's. Primary school children led by artists will create a craft display to illustrate the production of blankets in Witney and the how it affected daily lives of aboriginal people in Northern Ontario. Cotswold Woollen Weavers will be examining the history of the major trade in sheepskins from Bampton and looking at the crafts of weaving, spinning and dying. The Journey of a Blanket project is funded by West Oxfordshire District Council and Cotswold Woollen Weavers are supporting this exhibition.

**Weaving workshop 10am-noon
Saturday 26 January 2008**

Bampton Village Hall

Angela Pawlyn of Weavescene will

Robert Vesey Room at Bampton Library : Exhibitions

The Robert Vesey Room Opening Hours are: Monday & Thursday 2.30-4.30pm and Wednesday & Saturday 10am-12pm. If you would like to book this exhibition space for a month please contact Ailsa Matheson on 01993 851004. The only charge is 20% commission on sales.

Are you sitting comfortably?

WOA always needs volunteer sitters to look after the exhibitions. It's a great way to meet like-minded people and to see each exhibition. If you could spare a couple of hours a month to support WOA in this way then please contact the Administrator Olivia Thornton for the gallery, on 01993 850137. Or for the Robert Vesey Room, Barbara Daw on 01993 851491.

If you are interested in the arts and would like to join West Ox Arts please ring the Gallery on 01993 850137 for a membership form or call in during opening hours. For details of exhibitions, leaflets are available at The Gallery.

lead a children's workshop teaching the craft of weaving. Aimed at children age 6 and upwards, plus a parent to stay and join in. Contact WOA administrator to book Cost : £5 per child

Autumn Lecture Series

Tuesday evenings

**Nov 6th, 13th, 20th. 8.00-9.30pm
in The Gallery, Bampton.**

As a further step in our collaboration with Kelmscott Manor there will be a series of four lectures given by WOA Chairman, Gill Salway on aspects of William Morris's work with examples drawn from the collection at Kelmscott. It is hoped that they will be of interest to WOA members and to the volunteers who act as stewards at Kelmscott.

Tuesday Nov. 6th Morris and Co and the production of textiles.

Tuesday Nov 13th William and May Morris- tapestry and embroidery.

Tuesday Nov 20th William Morris and the art of the book.

Charge £5.00 per session, to include coffee or a glass of wine. £15 for all four lectures. Tickets from WOA Tel: **850137, westoxarts@yahoo.co.uk** (Bookings open September) or pay at the door.

Life class

From the new term in September a drop-in class will cost £8 for members and £9 for non-members. Life classes meet in the gallery on Monday mornings 10am-12.30 and Wednesday evenings 7.30-9.30pm, they are drop-in and untutored, so just come along during term times and bring your own materials.

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Tues-Sat 10.30am-12.30pm, 2-4pm and Sun 2-4 during exhibitions.



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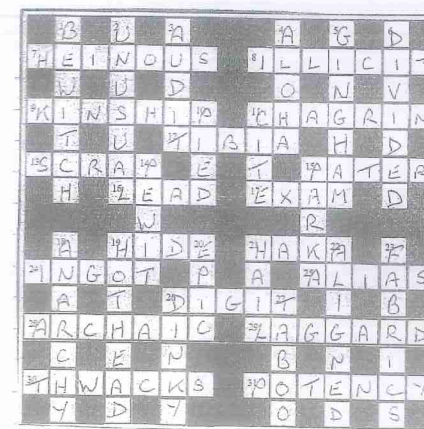
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Solution to the July BEAM CROSSWORD



The winner of the July Crossword is Lynne Pointer of Broad Street. Congratulations, the £10 prize is yours! We would also like to donate £10 to Cancer Research, as a thank you to Bill Govier for producing yet another crossword for 'The Beam'.

The Bampton Beam

Adverts

Why not give your local business a lift?

Advertise in 'The Beam'

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The rates for 'The Beam' are very reasonable. So why not call the Sub-Editor now and book your spot for the next edition?

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Typical Prices per Edition

Full Page £100

Half Page £50

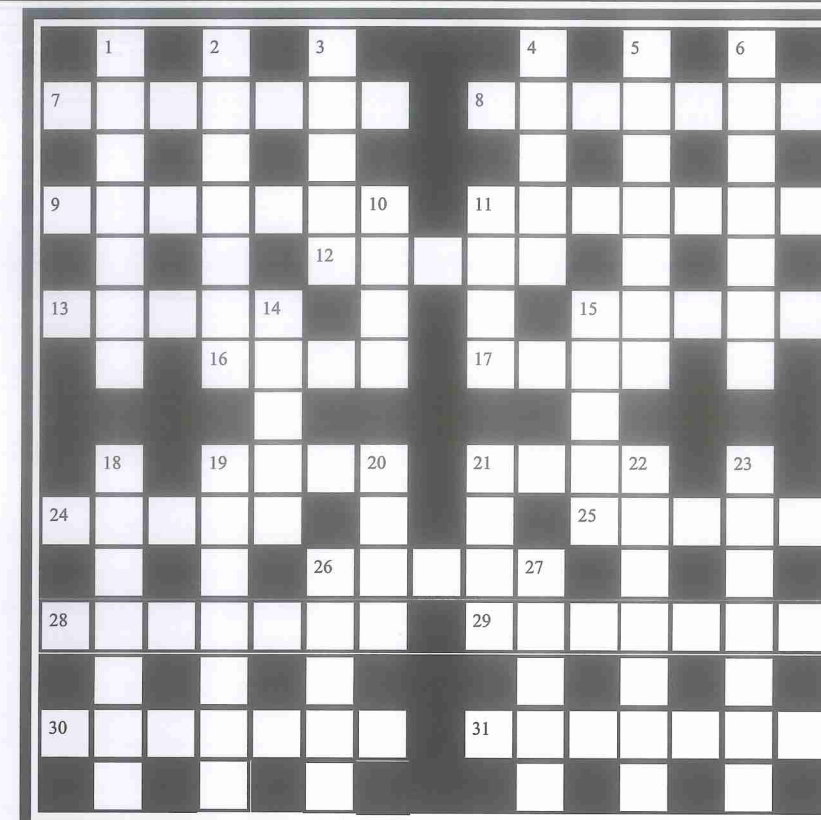
1/3rd Page £30

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THE BAMPTON BEAM'S CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 7 The fern with coarse fronds | 1 Financial gains |
| 8 Withdraw from a competition | 2 Writes in a hurried, careless way |
| 9 Good natured and sociable | 3 A kingdom |
| 11 Gossip, rumour | 4 A ships or aircraft propeller |
| 12 Large American parrot | 5 Person who strongly supports his country |
| 13 Gramophone needles | 6 Unattractively thin and bony |
| 15 Unit of weight equal to 1000 kilogram | 10 The direction in which the Sun rises |
| 16 Short tail of a hare, rabbit or deer | 11 The handle of a knife, axe or spear |
| 17 Sharp or acid in taste | 14 Fluid said to flow in the veins of Gods |
| 19 Two people or things regarded together | 15 Give medical care or attention |
| 21 Person who leads prayers in a Mosque | 18 Cart that carried prisoners to the guillotine |
| 24 A type of German automatic pistol | 19 Dance similar to the foxtrot |
| 25 Cards used for fortune telling | 20 Female birds |
| 26 Shoot at someone from cover | 21 A group of Zulu warriors |
| 28 Takes someone by force | 22 Gruesome, ghastly, grim |
| 29 Antelopes with lyre-shaped horns | 23 Worthy of attention |
| 30 Sense of self respect | 26 To declare formally |
| 31 Free from bacteria | 27 Vacant or unoccupied |

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Town Hall keys to be collected from Budgens shop.

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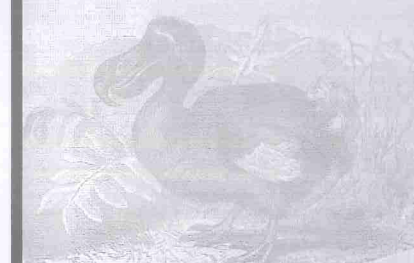
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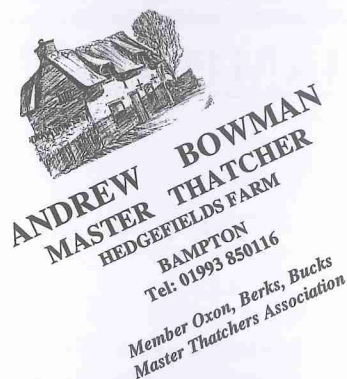
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Bampton Gardening Club

The annual show was a great success despite the weather we had to contend with this year. Although the entries were slightly down on previous years, the number of entrants was up, which is good news for the future.

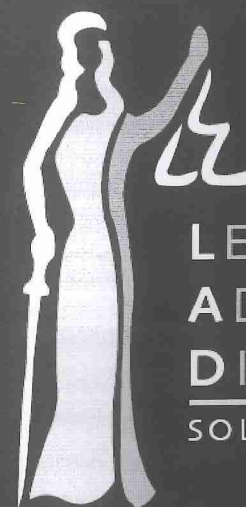
A big thank you to all who entered, and to all who came in to visit the Show.

Forthcoming Trips

Sunday 18th November
Shopping Trip to Porstmouth
Sunday 2nd December
Good Food Show
NEC Birmingham

Forthcoming Holidays

27th—30th December
Twixmas Weekend to the
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Calendar of Events

November	
3 rd	Fireworks Display, SPAJERS, Recreation Ground
4 th	Lunch & Xmas Variety Show, Gardening Club
7 th	Movies on the Move, "Prairie Home Companion (PG)", Village Hall, 7.30pm
8 th	Ladies Christmas Shopping Evening at Bampton Pre-School
9 th	Josie's Draw, SPAJERS, The Romany
9 th	Quiz, FOBS, Bampton Primary School, 7.30pm
14 th	Christmas Bazaar, FOBS, Bampton Primary School 3pm
17 th	Bampton Slow Living Society, TBA
18 th	Shopping Trip to Portsmouth, Gardening Club, Market Square, 9am
20 th	Clanfield Historical Society Meeting, Barn at the Windmill Conference Centre, 7.30pm
21 st	Pre-Christmas Bingo, Cancer Research UK, Village Hall
December	
2 nd	Outing to the Good Food Show, Gardening Club, Market Square, 9am
7 th	Quiz, Cancer Research UK, Village Hall
20 th	Village Nativity and Carol Singing: village and pubs, starting 6.45 p.m.
21 st	St. Beornwald's Day Candlelit Concert, Bampton Classical Opera, St. Mary's Church
21 st	C&W Dance, Cancer Research UK, Carterton Social Club
24 th	Mummers, SPAJERS, Village Residences and Pubs
January	
9 th	Movies on the Move, "The Painted Veil (12)", Village hall, 7.30pm
February	
19 th	Clanfield Historical Society Meeting, Carter Institute Clanfield, 7.30pm
March	
7 th	AGM, BEWG, Village Hall, 8pm
18 th	Clanfield Historical Society Meeting, Carter Institute Clanfield, 7.30pm
April	
15 th	Clanfield Historical Society Meeting, Carter Institute Clanfield, 7.30pm
24 th	BEWG Open Meeting, "Ponds for People" - Rod d'Ayala, Village Hall 8pm
May	
4 th	Village Garage Sale, SPAJERS, 11am - 3pm
20 th	Clanfield Historical Society Meeting, Carter Institute Clanfield, 7.30pm
24 th	The Great Annual Shirt Race, SPAJERS, 6.45pm - approximately
26 th	Morris Dancing Day
June	
17 th	Clanfield Historical Society Meeting, Carter Institute Clanfield, 7.30pm
July	
31 st	BEWG Open Meeting, "The Oxford to Fairford Railway" - Stanley Jenkins, Village Hall, 8pm
August	
25 th	Donkey Derby, SPAJERS, Sandfords Field, 2pm
27 th	SPAJERS Outing
October	
30 th	BEWG Open Meeting, "Wildlife Crime" - PC Simon Towers, Village Hall, 8pm

West Oxfordshire District Council Environmental Services Holiday Refuse and Recycling Collection

August Bank Holiday

Normal Collection Day	Revised Collection Day
Wednesday 26 December	Friday 28 December
Wednesday 2 January	Friday 4 January
Wednesday 9 January	Thursday 10 January

For further information access the Website on
www.westoxon.gov.uk/environment

THE BAMPTON BEAM

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