

THE BAMPTON BEAM

August 1999

Volume 14. NO. 2

A WOODLAND FOR BAMPTON

By Colin Allport

Creation of an area of woodland would be a truly permanent way of marking the beginning of the third Millennium. The immediate surroundings of Bampton lack ancient woodland and only minor plantings have taken place in recent times. A well designed wood, even of modest size, would offer an area of lasting interest and enjoyment for the people of the village. There would be many opportunities for volunteers to participate in planting and care of the woodland while the children of the village could also be invited to help - particularly with the introduction of native woodland flowers. The children would also have the permanent benefit of a centre for ecological study. With the passing of each season the growth of the new trees could be observed and, within the life of the many people in the village, the woodland would have begun to mature giving an enrichment of wild life and an appreciable improvement in the local environment.

The possibility of Bampton undertaking such a project has arisen following a contact with the Woodland Trust - which is the largest conservation charity concerned with the nation's woodlands, and an organisation similar in nature to the National Trust. The Woodland Trust operates by taking over existing woodlands, often as bequests, or by purchasing land to create new ones. Woodlands are then maintained in perpetuity for the benefit of the public in general with full provision for reasonable access. The Millennium commission is working with the Woodland Trust for the provision of funds from the National Lottery to encourage new woods close to towns and villages, and Bampton

is fortunate in being able to take advantage of this scheme. The Trust is prepared to carry out the process of land purchase, design, planting, and long term manage-



ment of such a project and to arrange more than half the necessary funding. The remainder will need to be raised by local efforts.

The project was given the endorsement of the village Millennium Committee, and the Parish Council following the village meeting on 1st February. The Woodland Trust was then able to open negotiations for land purchase. During earlier investigations, farmers owning land on the outskirts of the village had been approached, but only one expressed a willingness to sell a suitable area. This is, however, considered well suited for our purpose, being approximately 200 metres beyond the new recreation field and accessible both from the Buckland road and from a public right of way. A woodland created on this site would connect with an existing network of ditches and mature hedgerows which provide excellent wild life corridors. This

project would admirably complement the landscaping planned for the Recreation Field which includes tree planting.

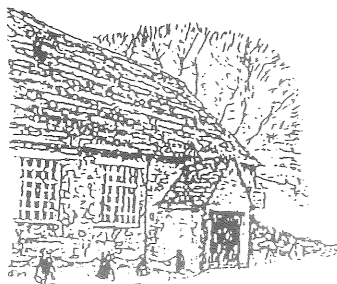
The Woodland Trust has finally reached an agreement with the farmer for the purchase of 7.5 acres, which is sufficient for approximately 2,500 trees. We are now, therefore, in a position to open the project to the Village to agree the details of the layout and to launch the fund raising operation. The total budget for the creation of the wood together with maintenance for the first eight years comes to approximately £70,000, and the target amount to be raised locally is being set at £30,000. The fund raising programme will be organised by the Woodland Trust, but Graham Haslam of the Parish Council, John Battersby, and myself, will be providing local support. Public contributions will be through the completion of pledge forms with no pay-

ment being requested until we are sure that the target amount can be achieved. As a registered charity, the trust is able to claim a tax rebate on larger donations thus increasing their value by approximately one third. Pledge forms will be available at Abbey Properties - who have also kindly agreed to act as a collection point for completed forms.

Andrew Beer the Woodland Trust coordinator came along to a meeting in the Village Hall on the 22nd July. It was a well attended meeting. Mr. Beer explained in detail what the woodland project entailed. Everyone left feeling more positive knowing their ideas and wishes will be taken into consideration.

In the next edition of the 'Beam' we will be able to give a progress report - including, we hope, the news of the success of the fund raising.

Bampton Village Hall



An excellent venue for meetings, classes, parties, performances & fund-raising events. Main hall with stage, curtains, lights & piano. Well equipped kitchen and servery with separate locked bar. Badminton court marked and equipment available. Modern toilet facilities.

Lettings Officer: Mrs. L. Higman
14 Glebelands, Bampton.
Tel: 01993 851380

THE BELLS OF ST MARY'S

By Graham Taylor

Another bastion of male chauvinism was destroyed in the belfry of Bampton Church on the evening of Monday 12th July 1999. At the weekly bell ringing practice six of Bampton's own lady ringers were present, plus two lady ringers from the Clanfield tower. The Captain, David Rose, was pressured into letting the ladies take over the ringing of all eight bells for a short period. The three heaviest bells have always been considered too heavy for lady ringers. There is some justification in this view as the biggest bell weighs twenty-five hundredweight, making it one the heaviest in the County.

Three of the more experienced lady ringers were given a minute or so to prove they could ring the heavyweights after which the male ringers, with some reluctance, sat back to watch the ladies perform. After twenty seconds or so the ladies settled into a very good rhythm and gave a very acceptable performance - they needed a few seconds to overcome the shock of being allowed to take over the whole show.

There is every reason to believe that this was the very first time Bampton's famous bells have been rung by an all ladies team; so history, in all probability, has been made. The first lady ringer joined the team in the mid 1950s and the number of lady ringers has increased steadily since then. Bampton tower can also claim four husband and wife ringing combinations. There is a rumour, at present unconfirmed, that three male ringers, all pensionable age, and with one hundred and sixty years of ringing experience between them, are seeking an urgent meeting with the Vicar to negotiate redundancy/severance payment terms.

What's in store in the centre pages of The Beam

In this edition we have the second part of a series of five maps showing the public footpaths around Bampton. We would like to thank members of BEWG who have been busy yet again in preparing this map for us all to enjoy. The centre pages show the public footpaths around the centre of the village.

THE BAMPTON RECREATION GROUND

BAMPTON BOYS F.C.

'The Bees'

By Mrs Lindon Burley
Vice-Chairman Bampton Boys

Bampton Boys FC held their seventh Annual Trophy Night at the new Pavilion on May 15th. We had over 40 excited boys aged 10 to 15, plus parents and friends who were equally as excited! After a superb buffet supper, the Awards Ceremony began with each team member receiving a named trophy. There were four special awards per team.

The Winners were as follows;

Under 11's

Manager's Player Andrew Hewer, **Parents' Player** Jason Trinder, **Players' Player** William Daw, **Most Improved Player** Thomas Roberts.

Under 13's

Manager's Player Thomas Clarke & David Lismer, **Parents' Player** Stuart Wally, **Players' Player** Chris Hickin, **Most Improved Player** Charlie Bebb.

Under 16's

Manager's Player Mathew Verran, **Parents' Player** Mathew Smith, **Players' Player** Nick Shepherd, **Most Improved Player** Stephen Wally.

The Club is very grateful for the sponsorship throughout the year from Bampton Parish Council, Abbey Properties, Andrew Bowman, Burford Garden Centre, CBL Electric Vehicles, Carpet Options, Chenells, Edby Vines, Emmies, The Flower Mill, Dion Hickin, Londis, Market Square Garage, Pitstop, Profiles, Temples and Neville Woodley.

The highlight of the season was the winning of the League by the Under 13s, a tremendous achievement for the boys and their Manager Dion Hickin and Assistant Manager Donna Paintin.

We are very pleased to announce that we will have an Under 16s team next season. All of the teams are now fully equipped with kit etc. We are still in desperate need for a Manager for the Under 11s team. If you would be interested in helping run this new team, or helping in anyway towards the success of the Club, please contact **Mandy Bowman Tel: 850016 or Linden Burley Tel: 850793.**

BAMPTON-IN-THE BUSH CRICKET CLUB

The club would like to hear from anyone interested in playing. Also boys and girls who would be interested in forming a youth team. Please contact **Alan Clarke Tel: 850201** or **Bill Godfrey Tel: 850014.**

BAMPTON TENNIS CLUB

If you are interested in joining the Tennis Club, please contact **John Williams (membership Secretary), Tel: 850680,** for a membership form and/or further information.

BAMPTON ARCHERY CLUB

We meet every Wednesday 6pm to 8pm at the Recreation Ground. Indoor archery will be available in the new Pavilion. For further information contact, **John Hill Tel: 850513** or **Adrian Nowell Tel: 831683.**

BAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

The Annual General Meeting took place in April with the usual lack of interest from the general public! The Committee remains much the same as for the previous year but we were sorry to lose John Huck who had represented the Bampton Gardening Club for the past few years. Helen Grimwade was welcomed as representative for the Bampton Baby Group who are now regular users of the Hall.

At the beginning of June Lynn Higman took over as Lettings Officer from Christine Greaves who has moved away from Bampton. Christine did an excellent job for several years and we offer her our thanks and very best wishes for the future. Thanks to Trevor Gardener's expertise, the kitchen has had a face-lift over the past week and new cupboards have been built in to make better use of space and provide more storage. It would be much appreciated if the crockery could be kept tidily on the appropriate shelves. When the fridge is not being used the door must be left **OPEN.**

There have been a number of complaints over the past few months about an unpleasant smell in the Hall. The committee has been investigating the source of this trouble and has been advised that it is caused by damp and rotting plaster behind the wooden dado.

Unfortunately, the extensive work to remedy this will cost a great deal of money and the hall will be out of use for a period of time. Regular users of the Hall will be kept informed of plans by their Committee members.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S, BAMPTON

Doorways

Work should start soon on the restoration of the Norman and West Doors of the church. This will include the replacement of the Victorian inner pillars of the Norman Door, which are crumbling, with the original design discovered from a drawing in the Ashmoleon Museum.

Historical Lectures

It is some time since we have had lectures on Bampton's past here in Bampton, and we have persuaded Dr John Blair, archeologist from The Queens College Oxford, who has made Bampton his study for the past twenty years, and Simon Townley, the editor of the 'History of the County of Oxford', to give us a series of lectures on the following Fridays in the Village Hall:

- 1st October - Simon Townley
- 15th October - Dr John Blair
- 22nd October - Dr John Blair.

All commencing at 7:30pm. Posters with the titles of the talks will be displayed in Bampton nearer the date.

Magpie Lane

The Friends of St Mary's would like to thank Magpie Lane for the splendid concert they kindly gave us on 9th July. It was much appreciated by all who attended and it raised the magnificent total of £1,152 which will be put towards the cost of the restoration of the doorways. We are extremely grateful to Magpie Lane for putting on this much enjoyed concert free of charge.

**The Pavilion
Buckland Road, Recreation Ground
HIRE CHARGES**

Bampton Soccer and Cricket Clubs (use of Pavilion and Pitches)
Boys - £150 per team per annum
Men - £200 per team per annum

Other Soccer and Cricket Clubs £25 per game
(£15 pitch fee + £10 changing rooms)

Tennis, Bowls and Archery Clubs as detailed below:

**General Hire
Minimum 2 hours**

General	£5 per hour
Commercial Hire	£15 per hour
Morning Session 8am - 1pm	£20
Afternoon Session 1pm - 6pm	£20
Evening Session 6pm - 1am (to Midnight on Sundays)	£60
Wedding Receptions (available 8am - 1am)	£150

Extras

Licenced Bar	£15 per let
Preparation Time	£1 per hour
Deposit on Glasses	£5
(not licenced bars)	

Bookings and Enquires: Derek Moscrop, Tel 07974 035453

BAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Annual Parish Assembly

by Parish Council Chairman David Hawkins.

It's not really a secret meeting, but from the poor attendance at this year's Annual Parish Assembly held in mid May at the Town Hall, you may have thought so. Reports from the Chairman of the Parish Council, Chairman of the Primary School Governors, The Welfare Trust and The Exhibition Foundation, for the past 12 months, makes for a good insight into what has been happening in our village. Below are the two reports given by the Parish Council Chairman, David Hawkins.

Parish Chairman's Report

This is the 1st year of this council's 4-year term. We welcome Dr Graham Haslem and Mr Jonathan Phillips onto the Council. Your council has continued the Previous council's objectives to introduce improvements and maintain standards on so many Bampton issues and to support various village campaigns where applicable.

Campaigns

Market Square Garage Site - This attempt to raise £300,000 to prevent the developer building a three storey block of 10 flats was the most challenging campaign over this last 12 months. The Parish Council fully supported Mr Julian Johnston in his campaign and your chairman and Dr Haslem worked with him in the attempt to raise this huge sum of money. Within the 6 weeks available, some £100,000 was raised. This was a most creditable sum which reflected a very professionally run campaign. Although your Chairman and Dr Haslem then appealed to the developers to reconsider the design of the complex. They have announced that they cannot risk going back to WODC to amend their plans and that they will proceed with the building in June or July.

Your Council has fully supported the **Church View** campaign to provide only suitable low rise houses or bungalows in the small paddock area adjacent to The Youth Club. The 6 semi-detached houses planned by the developer have been strongly opposed for a number of reasons and we were surprised and most disap-

-pointed that WODC did not share our views. Your council is still not content that possible soil contamination in the paddock has been fully investigated and has insisted that the developer carries out appropriate tests.

Your Council fully supported the **Fire Fighters Recruitment Drive** last July. The Oxfordshire Chief Fire Officer outlined the recruiting problems for firefighters here in Bampton, but active support from your council has helped to alleviate this tremendously.

Your Council has maintained its efforts to produce a **Cleaner and Tidier Bampton**. Addition of new equipment for the Lengthman and closer liaison with WODC to minimise duplication of effort has meant the we have been able to clean up areas well away from the village centre - areas that previously remained untidy.

Other Issues

Law and Order - Your council remains concerned about the minor and, sometimes not so minor, acts of vandalism in Bampton. In spite of the police assuring us that crime figures for Bampton are very low in comparison with many other towns and villages, we insisted that we should meet with the police to express our concerns. We were told that police resources were being reorganised in Spring 1999 and that the level of police patrolling should improve.

Traffic Calming - this scheme was introduced over a 3 month period last autumn. It was generally well received and feedback has been that it has helped to improve speed awareness. Certainly certain measures, e.g. in Buckland Road, seem to be working well. The council is not, however, content with the quality of the road markings and is withholding final payment to the contractor until it is made good.

Allotment Leases - The new allotment leases are now in place and lay down clearly what is expected of allotment holders.

Cemetery - considerable progress has

been made in the cemetery with a new and extended path, the removal of the fence, and the re-walling of the boundary fence to provide just a single access.

Future Projects

Your council has taken an active part in the Millennium plans for Bampton and have fully supported the Millennium Action Group in their efforts so far. On the basis that individual organisations should take on various projects (planning - funding - implementation), your council has agreed to consider the following:

- * New Bus Shelter next to the Horseshoe Inn
- * An Internet Website for Bampton
- * A new Village Notice Board
- * A possible new clock for the Town Hall.

Affordability considerations will require us to consider which of these will proceed.

Market Square Improvements - notwithstanding the 3-storey building that will replace the garage, we are liaising closely with OCC Highways Department and with WODC to consider how best to improve the Market Square area.

We have some interesting ideas but all plans will be put to the village before final decisions are made.

Town Hall - Linked with the Market Square improvements is the urgent work needed to repair the stonework of the Town Hall, particularly on the South and West facing sides. Tenders for work over the next 5 years suggest that we will need to raise about £35,000. We are determined that this should be completed as soon as possible.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all councillors for their considerable support and enthusiasm. These sincere thanks are extended to your very hard working Clerk who has held the post of Clerk and Secretary over this period. In summary, your council has achieved much over this last year and we look forward to our remaining 3 years in office.

Report from the Trustees of the Recreation Ground.

The policy is to improve sporting and recreational facilities for all ages and both sexes. I am happy to report that all facilities are in a good state of repair and considerable improvements have been achieved over this last year.

Sandford's Field

Work during this year has concentrated on the surrounds which had become overgrown and thereby reducing the useful area. We are glad to report that this work is now complete.

Playing Field's

Pembroke Place and Mercury Close face high costs every year, just to keep pace with inspection reports. We are very grateful to Mr. Alan Dunbar for keeping on top of the maintenance of these important facilities.

Recreation Ground

Three football pitches and the cricket pitch are now well established. It should now be possible to allow men's teams to hire the football pitches and thereby increase the revenue. The long awaited Pavilion was started in June 1998 and, in spite of a few delays, was completed on time in February 1999.

Unfortunately, because we made a decision at that time to put the building onto mains drainage, the village opening was delayed until early April. The feedback from the village is that we are most fortunate to have such a first class facility. We appointed Mr. Derek Moscrop to be the pavilion Manager having interviewed 3 candidates.

Special mention should be made of the efforts of Lord Donoughmore in chairing the working group and in securing Lottery support, to Mr. Jonathan Phillips for obtaining a most generous grant from WODC, and to Mr. Alan Dunbar for his superb performance as Project Officer. Also to all members of the working group for all the hours they spent at numerous-meetings and fund raising. We have a very marketable facility, which should and must not stand idle.

USE THEM OR LOSE THEM

Two Years on

By Parish Chairman David Hawkins

Regular readers of the 'Beam' will remember the campaign run by the Parish Council in 1997 to promote better use of the facilities and the many services that we are fortunate to have in Bampton. A reminder of the poster, which is shown below, shows that we had over 40 serving services, which badly needed the full support of Bampton's 2,500 residents.

Two years on, and with only the Garage and the Barbers as casualties, most of the other services have survived. But for how much longer? I was alarmed to read in a recent survey undertaken by West Oxfordshire District Council that 80% of Bampton residents do their main shopping in Witney, 10% elsewhere in the West Oxfordshire District, and 10%

outside the district, e.g., Abingdon or Swindon. Fortunately, the same survey showed that 90% of Bampton residents 'top-up' their shopping in the village, and obviously use many of the services. Whilst one can understand the appeal of the big supermarkets, there is obviously scope to increase the proportion of goods that we buy in Bampton.

Another interesting survey on Housing and Services in West Oxfordshire showed that

increasing the number of houses in a village (unless in very significant numbers) does not particularly help to sustain facilities. Between 1977 and 1999, houses in this district increased by 17% and the population by 8%. However, in the same period the number of shops decreased by 20%, pubs by 17% and Post Offices by 30%. In

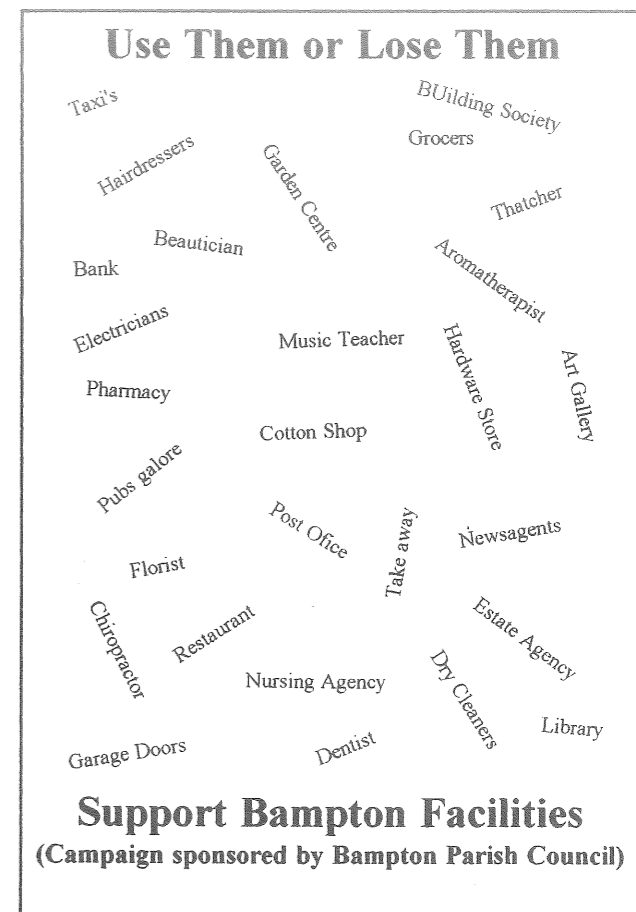
Bampton, we had a 16% increase in population but lost 2 shops and 2 pubs. The same survey concluded that if you reinforce the village with extra employment opportunities and increase tourism then this provides the best

opportunity of maintaining our valuable facilities.

The bottom line however, remains 'Use them or Lose them'. Next time you are shopping in Witney or Oxford ask, yourself why you are not saving time, petrol money, and effort by not buying the same goods or services in Bampton.

I would very much like to hear your views.

'Use them or Lose them'



Market Square Garage, Bampton Oxfordshire

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NEWS FROM THE BAMPTON MILLENIUM COMMITTEE

Village Mugs
After much deliberation, the design for the mug has been finalised and is now, hopefully, in the throws of being manufactured. Don't forget to fill in the form at the bottom of the page if you haven't done so already. It will be the last chance you will have to order one, so that your child/children can receive it on New Year's Day. They will also be for sale in January in Temple's shop. Adults who order them using the form will be able to collect them from Temples after New Year's Day.

Best Decorated House, Shop and Pub
This competition will be run through December, with the winners receiving their prizes on New Year's Day. There will be 3 classes - Private House, Shop and Public House. There will be no need to submit a formal entry for the competition, as the judges will be asked to look at the whole of the village. So you may be in for a surprise!

New Years Eve
We are organizing an Aerial Firework Display after the church bells have rung in

the New Year. The old fire siren has been taken down from the Town Hall to be repaired. This siren will hopefully, be in use to summon people to the Market Square or out into their gardens to watch the fireworks. We are also hoping we will have someone from either the church or chapel, (or both), to say a few words before the church bells start ringing. On Friday 10th December, St Mary's Church are organizing a special service to bless Millennium candles which will then be distributed around the village.

Open Meeting
The next Open Meeting will be Thursday 16th September. We would like as many people representing clubs societies in Bampton to try and attend this meeting. We can then try and organise a timetable of events during the Millennium Year.

Woodland Project
A good turnout of people came to hear what the Woodland Trust Representative had to say. The project will need funds of £30,000 hopefully, received from donations.

WOA's Millennium Project Moves Ahead
You may have been aware, over recent weeks, of several small group of people standing around in the area between the telephone box and tree in the Market Square, either in deep discussion or wielding tape measures, cameras or sketch pads. Perhaps it crossed your mind to wonder what they were all doing there. The answer is, you were witnessing the early stages of a challenging but very exciting project that WOA has undertaken to celebrate the Millennium: to commission an artist who will work with members of the local community to create a pavement mosaic in the paved area outside the gallery. Workshops will be run during the first half of 2000 to generate ideas for the artist, who has yet to be appointed. Hopefully, it will be well on the way by 2001. Like everything else all this depends on the necessary funding, but it does not take much imagination to see what a tremendous improvement such a development would make to the heart of the village. There is still a long way to go but members of the WOA Committee hope they will be able to count on the interest and support of everyone, including non members in seeing this project through.

BAMPTON MILLENNIUM COMMITTEE

We would very much appreciate it if you would fill in this form, cut it out, and place it in The Beam Box in Abbey Properties. This is to help the Committee to find out how many children between the ages of 0 - 16, will be entitled to receive a free Bampton Millennium Mug. The plan is to have the mugs available for presentation on January 1st, 2000.

Name of child/children 1. Age

2. Age

3. Age

Address of Family

Name of person/s who would like to purchase a Millennium Mug

Address of Applicant/s

If there is not enough space on this form, please attach another piece of paper to it with the necessary details. Many thanks for your time. Don't forget to place it in the box at Abbey Properties.

PHILIPPA RAYNE
Registered Osteopath
FIONA GEARY
Physiotherapist
LESLEY MELLIN
Reflexologist
Aromatherapist
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OXON, OX18 2 JH.
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Minor Injuries Unit

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Welsh Way, Witney.
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7 days a week.
Tel: 01993 602966 or 602968
Fax: 01993 602965

What is a Minor Injuries Unit?

The Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) is a new purpose built extension to Witney Community Hospital. The service is for anyone of any age, and is run on a drop-in basis. Patients are seen in order of clinical priority.

It is newly equipped with:

- three examination cubicles
 - a stitch/plaster room
 - X-ray facilities
- is equipped to deal with most minor injuries and will save long journeys to the John Radcliffe Hospital. The X-ray facilities will be available for 7 hours a day. Outside these hours, patients may be asked to come back the next day, or may be directed, if the injury is more serious, to Accident & Emergency at the John Radcliffe Hospital.

What are Minor Injuries?

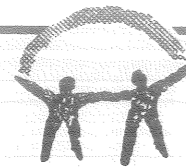
- minor bumps on the head
- sprains and broken bones
- burns, cuts and bruises
- simple ear, nose and eyecomplaints
- removal of splinters and other foreign bodies

After initial treatment some people may be referred to specialist such as the eye hospital.

What are not minor injuries?

- cough, cold, flu
- problems with breathing
- chest pains and tummy ache
- suspected heart attack
- stroke

Patients should see their own GP for these. In an emergency call for an ambulance.



The Carers Centre

Need Some Information?

- * How do I get an orange badge for the car?
- * Will my Mum get something off her council tax for her disability?
- * My daughter's been diagnosed with epilepsy - how can I find out more about it?

**Don't wait until you have a crisis
Ring the Carers Centre with your query. Tel: 0345 125546**

We may not know all the answers - but we will find out. We have our own information files, books and leaflets; we have regular updates for our computer database from NHS Healthpoint about all the organisations who deal with health problems. Remember . . .

A bit of information now can save a lot of hassle later . . . ring us.

Emergency Card Scheme

This scheme is to help Carers have greater peace of mind over what would happen to the person they care for in the event of an emergency. We have just launched a wallet sized **Emergency Card** which can be carried at all times, and also a **Personal Information File**, which can be kept at home. This file will contain information about the person they care for, which will help those who take on the caring role in their absence. These cards will soon be available in surgeries and chemists. Bampton Carers meet the last Wednesday in the month at The Methodist Church Centre, High St, Witney. 1pm - 3pm.

OXFORD COMMUNITY MEDIATION

Problems in your Neighbourhood

Oxford Community Mediation is an independent charity. We help people throughout the county to sort out disputes. We have worked on issues from parties to parking and dogs to drains. In addition to problems, we can also help people who are having difficulties with friends, workmates or other family matters. We can even get involved with disputes involving community groups, schools, tenants and landlords.

Mediators help those involved to be clear about the problem and what is needed to make things better. One of the mediators' main roles is to help people to communicate effectively with each other. Mediators do not give advice nor do they take sides. We're flexible in terms of arranging times and places to meet and, at every step, the decisions are made by those involved in the dispute. We do not charge a set fee but we welcome and rely on donations, however large or small from clients who are able to contribute. Mediation often takes a lot of courage but it is about making things better in the long run, in a way that is satisfactory to everybody. If you would like us to visit you or you just want to find out more **Tel: 01865 742439**, (includes a 24 hour answerphone).

'Not for Profit' Family Mediation in Oxfordshire

Much research has been carried out on the long term effects of parental separation and divorce. If parental separation is handled with sensitivity and without conflict it does not have long term adverse effects on children. Family mediation is a future focused process in which trained and impartial mediators help separated or divorced clients, who are in dispute, to communicate better. Experience, and research, has shown that resolving disputes face-to-face in mediation is often more effective, both in terms of cost and time, than at arms length over a period of time via solicitors. Improved communication also helps reduce conflict and bitterness.

The Oxfordshire Family Mediation Service has 10 years experience of providing family mediation services, and last year launched a children's support and information service for children of 6 years and upwards who are caught up in parental separation and divorce. The service has a contract with the Legal Aid Board to offer free mediation to anyone qualifying for legal aid to resolve disputes with their former partners over future arrangements for children, property or finances. Nobody is forced to opt for mediation because it can only work when it is a voluntary process.

In the current financial year OFMS need to raise £50,000 from charitable sources to ensure they are able to meet the above commitment. OFMS can be contacted **Tel: 01865 741781** or 125 London Road, Headington. OX3 9HZ.

West Oxfordshire Citizen Advocacy

Not Avocados - Advocates!!!

'We can't speak very well. We can usually hear OK, but when it comes to speaking back in reply, we sometimes find that difficult. We are usually supported and cared for by paid staff who can speak very well. But we have heard that some people like us have managed to have an additional unpaid independent person - someone called a citizen advocate - start to make a one to one relationship with them. We hear that sometimes this helps a person speak up for their rights for themselves - or the advocate speaks up on their behalf, if that is what they want. It sounds a great idea, as I've got some things I'd like to speak about, but don't feel able to . . . But the trouble is that there are not enough advocates to go round. We are sorry about that because we would like an advocate too. If you are someone who can speak up for someone else, and who could give an hour a fortnight visiting and sharing a cup of tea on a regular basis, then I or someone else like me should be very pleased to meet you.

If you think you could become a citizen advocate and would like more information, the please ring the **West Oxford Citizen Advocacy Tel: 01993 704826**. Do it now before your tea goes cold - one of us could be over the moon to make your acquaintance and start to hear ourselves being heard in a new way.

Thanks for reading.'

The West Oxfordshire Citizen Advocacy is a registered charity 1053209.

Turning Point

Cancer is a disease that touches many of us since between a third and a quarter of the population die from cancer. This does not include the many who are being treated for cancer or who are living with cancer or who are cured of cancer. The emotional impact on being given a cancer diagnosis can be huge. People's instinctive reaction is often that 'I will die' yet this is not necessarily the case.

Turning Point was set up a year and a half ago for people who have been given cancer diagnosis. It is a small friendly, therapeutic group that meets weekly in Witney. The group members provide mu-

tual support and contribute to their own well being through meditation and guided imagery.

Roger Bryant runs it. He is a qualified Counsellor and Psychotherapist working in Witney, and he would be happy to talk to anyone who wants to know more. He can be contacted **Tel: 01993 704345**.

Age Concern Oxfordshire

A guide to our services

We provide information, advice, advocacy, services and support for anyone in Oxfordshire over the age of fifty! Our current projects include:

The Phone Link Service

A telephone lifeline for the isolated, lonely, frail or housebound older person. Trained volunteers call the individual for a friendly chat on a regular basis. If you know of anyone who would benefit from this innovative phone befriending scheme please call **Lester Lee Tel: 01865 240619**.

Advice Helpline

A dedicated team, providing the best in information and advice. We have a comprehensive library of information and can send out (free) fact-sheets on over 40 subjects. All calls are dealt with sensitively, sympathetically and in total confidence.

Field Advisers

Trained volunteers who can visit older people countywide. Our advisers can sort out benefit claims, act as advocates, help with housing issues and access services. This service is free, impartial and confidential.

Parish Links

Many parishes in the county now have a Parish Link person. These provide a two way information service, letting us know what help you need, and giving you access to all the information, advice and services we can deliver. Unfortunately here in Bampton we have a vacancy, if any one is interested please contact, **Tel: 01865 240619**.

Other Services

We also run dedicated services for people with mental health problems, day centres, the Home from Home service and shops in Oxford and Didcot. If you would like to know more, to volunteer or even to make a donation please contact, **Tel: 01865 240619**.

Anchor Staying Put Home Improvement Agencies.

"If only I'd known before . . ."

Anchor Staying Put agencies are not for profit Home Improvement Agencies, operating in partnership with Local Authorities, to assist older and other vulnerable people to remain in their homes. Staff visit clients in their own homes to advise on repairs and adaptations. All available options are discussed, and then the repairs and/or adaptations, plus the funding to undertake these works are organised.

Some clients may be eligible for 100% grant. Where a grant is not available, Staying Put will give free advice on raising economic loans and can direct people to independent financial advisers as appropriate. When a client decides to proceed with the work, a small fee for technical services will be charged on completion.

Works range from the small repairs to major renovations. Some examples are roof insulation, replacement windows or new heating schemes. If you know anyone needing housing repairs and/or adaptations who would benefit from a home visit, they should contact, **West Oxon Tel: 01993 709524**.

Volunteer Reading Help.

Could you help a child to read?

You've probably taken reading for granted for years. Imagine struggling to make sense of the simplest words.

Many children, not just those with Special Educational Needs, require some extra help with reading.

Could you spare 2 hours twice a week as a Volunteer Reading Helper in a local school? You don't need any special qualifications, just enthusiasm and kindness. It's amazing the difference it can make to a child's life. We already have schools in this area waiting for volunteers. If you are interested and are aged between 18 and 78 give us a ring to find out more. Full training is given, and travel expenses are reimbursed. Our next training course will be in the autumn. **Contact Virginia Carter or Alison Souster Tel: 01993 771294**.

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BMW SPECIALISTS

A Week End Bus to and from Oxford

I know we have just got a new No. 18 bus into Oxford, and a new frequent No 19 Bus service into Witney which is great. But, what we could do with is a service to Witney and Oxford in the evenings. Even if it was only for Friday, Saturday and Sunday Evenings, it would be excellent.

I have teenage children, who can drive and have cars, but if they go into Oxford it's normally to a club to meet their friends for a drink. If they take their cars, this means they can't have a drink, or they might be tempted to - you know what youngsters are like - or the car may be broken into (which has happened to us). My children's friends come from Witney or Carterton, where there is a No.100 Bus every twenty minutes right up to the early hours of the morning. Here in Bampton our No. 19 Bus finishes at 6pm, so if we don't want them to drive to Witney or Oxford, it's down to us to take and collect them, or give them the fare for a taxi.

Wouldn't it be a good idea if the No. 100 Bus could detour around in this direction? It wouldn't have to be every twenty minutes, but say once every hour until 2pm for Fridays and Saturdays and 12pm on Sunday.

I'm sure the youngsters in Bampton would appreciate this service and parents too.

In my teenage years we did have a bus service until 11pm to Witney. I remember coming out of the Palace Cinema, saying quickly goodnight to my partner and jumping on the last bus home. If you missed it you were in for a long walk home and a good telling off when you got there. This day and age I would hate to think of my children having to walk home, especially after reading almost everyday in the papers what can happen to people, even a 100 yards from their door.

It may even give a new interest to the teenagers, instead of saying 'there's nothing to do in Bampton at the weekends', and get up to mischief through boredom, they could jump on the bus and go to Witney or Oxford where there is more life.

I have spoken to our District Council, Jonathan Phillips and he has been very busy talking to the West Oxfordshire Council about it. They have told Jonathan to get in touch with the StageCoach Company and see if they would be interested.

What is worrying though is the fact that we may be losing our extra service of the No 19 Buses, due to lack of use. At the moment it is under review, so use it or we might lose it! This would be a terrible shame if this happens. The time and effort which goes into persuading the necessary people that our village needs a new bus service seems to be a waste of time when it doesn't get used. Come on people, one minute you're saying we need a new bus service, then we get one, and it's not used!!

One good thing at the moment is that the No.18 Clanfield to Oxford bus run by 'Steve's Travel' is doing exceptionally well; long may it continue!!

Below is a tear-off slip, and if you are interested in having a Bus service at the weekend please fill it in. If we get a good response this will help our District Councillor fight our case.

A Week End Bus to and from Oxford via Witney

I would be very interested in the new bus service from Carterton via Bampton to Witney/Oxford.

NAME

ADDRESS

Please put into box in Abbey Properties or drop it in at the Cotton Club.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Bampton Beam,

As a relative newcomer to Bampton, having lived here only one and a half years, I would like to say how impressed I am by 'The Bampton Beam'. It is full of useful information about events in the village as well as providing lots of informative articles. I particularly enjoy Don Rouse's topical but light hearted articles and can relate to nearly all that he says coming from a farming family myself.

A number of articles caught my eye in April's edition, which I felt I ought to express my support for. I feel that the Mosaic outside the Town Hall is an excellent and unique suggestion and the Woodland Project is one that I would happily contribute to. I would also like to say what a good idea I believe the bike paths to be. Living on Broad Street with the traffic hurtling past my door I only wish that more people would take to their bikes! Keep up the good works.

Shona Hay, Broad Street.

Thank you very much for the compliment. We on the 'Beam Team' try hard to include something of interest for everyone!

Dear Editor,

Parental Responsibility at the Shirt Race; I write as a parent, a schoolteacher, and as someone who is very fond of Bampton and that which makes it special.

One of Bampton's specialties is the SPAJERS, and one of the SPAJERS' special events is the shirt Race - and I know that I speak for many people when I say how disappointed I am in the thoughtless behavior of a few of our youngsters. The throwing of water over the racers is something to which I, personally, object, and most spectators and competitors were appalled at the throwing of other missiles - eggs especially

Surely, parents should have more control over their children and encourage them to compete or watch in the right spirit! Furthermore, we were astounded to hear that parents had actually purchased eggs for their offspring to throw! How can we expect the youngsters to behave sensibly if

their parents are so irresponsible? I wonder if the latter would be willing to pay the cleaning bill for the innocent by-stander (a wedding guest) who was struck by eggs; and clean up the streets, littered with shells and containers?

Our motto should be: 'Have a great time, but not at anyone else's expense.'

Yours sincerely,

Roger Snow (SPAJERS Committee Member).

Dear Editor,

I was born in Bampton, but due to the vagaries of my job have not lived there for some years. I receive my copies of the 'Beam' on a regular basis and have been very interested in your letters regarding the changing of street names. If the old street names need changing because they are not 'trendy' enough where do we stop? The name Bampton itself, is, I believe, shortened from the old 'Bampton-in-the-Bush' meaning 'settlement-in-a-wood' which could conjure up images to those not in the know, of a motley collection of wattle and daub huts languishing in a clearing in some dark forest. Was it shortened in the past by some ancient council to improve the image and encourage new settlements?

Are there not enough new developments in Bampton to satisfy this whim for new names? If there is a real desire to have a more fashionable address why not update the house name and just use the postcode! Let's not lose these links with the past! Yours Speedy,
Name and address supplied.

The above letter was sent in answer to a letter in December's edition on changing road names. Keep sending them to us!!

Dear Editor,

In previous issues of the 'Beam' the problem of dogs fouling the footpaths, verges and plays areas of Bampton has rightly been raised. There are responsible dog owners in Bampton but unfortunately, there are also a lot of irresponsible owners who do not clear up their dog's mess and therefore show a total lack of consideration for others.

In Bampton there is a lack of poop bins, to our knowledge there are currently only 4 all of which we use. In a village of this size that is clearly not enough and whilst dog

owners should show a responsible attitude towards their animal's mess, adequate facilities to dispose of that mess must be made available.

There are, however, other types of mess regularly made in and around Bampton caused by humans. The volume of rubbish, cans, bottles etc., etc., regularly dropped is shameful. Whilst you cannot expect a dog to clear up after itself you can expect a human to.

This dropping of rubbish also shows a total lack of consideration for others and just to show how matters can happen in reverse both of our dogs have suffered badly cut pads caused solely by broken glass from bottles dropped by humans. Whilst it is annoying to tread in dogs mess at least you can clean it off. If a dog cuts its pad on broken glass it means a trip to the vets and a likely bill each time of around £60.

So come on dog owners clean up your dog's mess, and come on Parish Council provide more poop bins; and come on Humans clean up after yourselves.

Let us show the same consideration we expect shown to us, and have a village we can all enjoy and be proud of.

Yours sincerely,

Alan and Denise Davis, Calais Dene.

This is what the Chairman of the Parish Council had to say on this subject.

Dear Editor

Although we have broad shoulders, 'Poop Bins' are, in fact, the responsibility of West Oxon District Council - we just act as go between! We now have 5 'Poop Bins' in Bampton but we have asked for more. Hopefully, by late summer, we will have 7 in total.

David Hawkins

Chairman Parish Council.

Dear Editor,

Your correspondent in the last issue seems to be under the impression, I'm sure like many others, that the speed control system is having a positive effect!

Because I was sceptical of this view, I recently acquired and used a 'speed gun', which I operated on the Aston Road for some 45 minutes. I checked the speed of 20 cars and 2 motorcycles; one car was travelling at 68 miles per hour, two at around 50 miles per hour and the majority averaged 35-40 miles per hour, only one

Oxfordshire Fire Service

Smoke Detectors save lives

Oxfordshire Fire Service is again encouraging everyone to fit a smoke detector in their home and to regularly check those already fitted. Too many people are still dying or being injured from fire in their own homes.

You are 12 times more likely to die if you do not have a smoke alarm, should a fire occur in your home. Smoke alarms have been highly successful in cutting the toll of domestic fires by providing a crucial early escape warning. However, the Fire Service find that people are still dying or being injured unnecessarily because they are not looking after their smoke alarm once fitted.

Fires can, and do, happen to anyone. The simplest way to protect yourself is by making sure you have a smoke alarm installed and working properly. It takes only a couple of minutes to install and it could save your life and the lives of your family.

Maintenance of your smoke alarm is easy:

* **Once a month** - check the alarm by pressing the test button.

* **Once a year** - change battery. Vacuum and wipe the alarm casing to ensure dust is not blocking the sensor chambers (for mains wired alarms, switch mains off first).

A smoke alarm is a small investment for a huge benefit.

BAMPTON FIRE STATION

Sub Officer Brian Kew would like to say thank you to the Parish Council who have worked hard to keep Bampton Fire Station from having to shut its bright red doors for good. Crew numbers for week-ends and night shifts have enough cover, but we still desperately need crew for the weekdays.

If you are interested please contact, **Station Officer Andy Marrant, Tel: 01865 855261; or Sub Officer Brian Kew, Tel: 850815.**

BAMPTON LIBRARY

It's the year of reading.

Bampton Library will be having storytime in the holidays plus national and local competitions for different childrens' age ranges based on reading.

The Library's Vesey Room offers a chance to view local Artists' work in conjunction with W.O.A.A., which has the theme changed every month. Refreshments are also served.

There is an A4 photocopier, videos and talking books for hire and lots of information.

Why not come and see for yourself if you haven't already.

BAMPTON LIBRARY and ROBERT VESEY ROOM

Old Grammer School,
Church View, Bampton,
Oxon OX8 2NE
Tel: 01993 850076

OPENING HOURS

Monday	2.30pm - 5.00pm 6.00pm - 7.00pm
Tuesday	CLOSED
Wednesday	10.00am - 12.00pm
Thursday	2.30pm - 7.00pm
Friday	CLOSED
Saturday	9.30am - 12.30pm

Don't forget the Robert Vesey Room is open during Library opening hours. You can enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and browse along the books in a friendly atmosphere. W.O.A.A. also have small exhibitions of paintings, sculptures, etc., on display.

The Robert Vesey Room is run by W.O.A.A. on a voluntary basis, so if you are interested in meeting people and having a break from the house, please contact **Barbara Daw, Tel: 85149.**

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

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Witney, Carterton, Burford

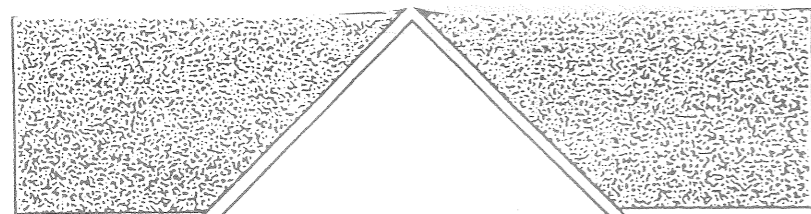
Once again we are offering new and familiar courses and workshops. This should enable potential students a wider selection and at a time and day they can commit to each week, within a 10 mile radius. If you would like to have the new prospectus sent to you or for more information, please telephone the following:

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(1418)

**WHAT'S BEEN -
 WHAT'S TO COME**

THE PUMPKIN CLUB

Bank Holiday Monday 3rd May
 Mayday Street Fair saw plenty of people basking in the warm sunny weather. With over 20 stalls in the Village Square, a small Craft Fair in the Village Hall and an Exemption Dog Show in the grounds of the Youth Club, the Street Fair was back with a bang after a gap of two years. Throughout the day, committee and helpers worked hard to ensure the day was a success. Many thanks to all who gave up their Bank Holiday to raise money for our OAP's. The final figure of £1962 raised is more than twice the amount raised two years ago. *J & N organized!*

The Pumpkin Weigh-In

Pumpkin weigh-in and Auction is on Saturday 9th October in the Village Hall. The format will be as previous years, so a door to door collection for items such as tinned produce, spirits, fruit, pasta etc, etc, will take place September/October time. Our treasurer will be leaving in September so we need a willing soul who can add and subtract to keep our books up to date. If you can help please contact Nick Thorpe Tel: 850918 or Dave Close Tel: 210023. The club helps organise the weekly Bingo session in the Bush Club and is in need of a caller who knows the difference between 'two fat ladies' and 'was she worth it'. Can you help? Bingo is every Monday 8pm - 9pm. If interested contact Jim Gascoigne Tel: 851370.

A proposal has been made that the Mayday Fair should be moved to the Recreation Ground on Buckland Road. What do you think? Is it a good idea or a load of rubbish?

Come along to the Annual General Meeting in November and have your say.

MAY GARLANDS

Bank Holiday Monday, 30th May
 This year it was most disappointing, as there was only one garland to be judged. I keep wondering why?
 In the past both Mrs. Elward and I have done our best to encourage children to keep up this lovely old tradition. Once again I would like to stress that the

garlands do not have to be made by the children themselves; parents or friends can help. A show of cow-parsley, buttercups and dandelions would be fine. Everyone understands that some wild flowers are hard to come by.

For the millennium it has been decided that the 'top' of the garland can be made with any flowers cultivated or wild, but the sides still must be of wild flowers. Mrs Dawn Knight presents a pretty plaque in memory of her daughter. Mr. Frank Godwin also sponsors the prizes, which everyone receives, along with the winning prizes. Their efforts will be in vain if no one takes an interest. Come on parents help your children to keep up this old Bampton Tradition. If you need any help or advice, please contact Mrs. R. Wheeler, 42 Bowling Green Close. *(As a matter of interest many years ago the 'top' of the garland was always a red Peony, history will be repeating itself).*



The winners of this years Garland

SPAJERS

The Annual Shirt Race
 Saturday 29th May saw the annual Shirt Race once again. This year we had Anne and Francis Sherg old winning the oldest couple in the race, with their combined ages of 170 years, that will take some beating next year!!
The winners for 1999 were:
Junior:
 1st Stephen and Katie Lawlor
 2nd Natasha Howard and Toni Coult
Intermediate:
 1st Ross Parker and Tristan Taylor

2nd David Radband and Micheal Bird
Senior:
 1st Dean Barber and Gareth Benfield
 2nd Kelly Beckett and Beverley Dorman.
Oldest: Anne and Francis Shergold.



Anne and Francis Shergold

**Bank Holiday Monday
 Donkey Derby**

Monday 30th August it's the Donkey Derby. Lots of action and plenty to keep the children from saying, "I'm bored". Well, we need plenty of jockeys, and if you can spare the time we would be grateful for any help offered to run the stalls or help on the entrance gates.

**Wednesday 1st September
 The Annual Outing**

This year the Outing will be to Bourne-mouth, a very popular place with its lovely long Promenade, soft sands and lovely gardens. Unfortunately, we only have 110 seats, so it's the first people to send back their invitations that will get the seats; so don't delay, and make a note in your diary. Wednesday 1st September leaving Bampton at 9am. If you do know of anyone who is still not on our list please let us know as soon as possible. We don't like to think of any pensioner being left out. If you can help please contact, Don Rouse Tel: 850297, or Dixie Dean Tel: 850756.

**THE BAMPTON
 GARDENING CLUB**

**Annual 1999 Show
 Saturday 28th August**
 Staging 9am - 11am. Public Viewing Times 2.30pm. Entrance Fee 50p Disabled free. Presentation of Cups 3.30pm. Raffle and Auction 3.50pm.
Registration Night Bampton Town Hall. Wednesday 25th August 7pm - 9pm Non Members 75p, Members 50p. Senior Citizens 25p, Children free.

BAMPTON ENVIRONMENTAL WATCH GROUP

By Mrs Margaret Bruce-Mitford

Although the planning scene in Bampton remains a perennial source of concern, a recent cheering event is the appointment of Councillor Jonathan Phillips as Chairman of West Oxfordshire District Council's Planning Committee. To have such a knowledgeable, experienced and sympathetic figure at the helm is a great plus for Bampton and all other communities within the District's jurisdiction which are concerned with maintaining their integrity, character and viability in the face of continuous pressure for more building in the countryside.

On the planning front readers do not have to be told that the long awaited Market Square development has made a very desultory start. Further south, the Paddocks scheme for ten houses behind

Church View is being delayed pending the removal of soil on the site to ensure there is no still infection underneath. This very contentious planning application has illustrated how effective citizen protest can be with those living in Church View forming a Residents Association which managed to send over 40 individual letters to the District Planning Department, criticizing features of the scheme that adversely affected their own homes in particular and the immediate environment in general. BEWG played a useful part in this effort with two members of the Executive Committee - Gillie Marsh, architectural consultant, and Martyn Bishop, planning specialist - providing consultation and advice on planning legislation and practice and particularly what specific features of development

contravene planning law. It is a good example of 'vox populi' making itself heard and we would like to suggest that when an inappropriate planning application for a particular corner of the village is under consideration those residents in the locality who are opposed to it consult together to make joint representation to the District Council's Planning Department.

Notification of all planning applications is posted in the vicinity of the proposed development on a conspicuous yellow form, which remains in situ for three weeks. In such situations BEWG would be happy to lend support, contact **Ralph Norman Tel: 850823** or **Martyn Bishop Tel: 850412**. It is significant that while West Oxfordshire District Council did grant

planning permission for the Paddocks development there were considerable misgivings over the scheme, with more abstentions than votes cast and the latter split, requiring the Chairman's casting vote to ratify the decision.

Turning to less contentious issues, the surveyor of SUSTRANS who surveyed the plans for two cycle paths round Bampton has reported to the Parish Council, and it is very likely that the scheme will be adopted as part of the Village's Millennium effort.

In addition to initiating this long-term venture with its broad implications, BEWG is also helping the Millennium on a more modest scale in designing a shelter for the bus stop outside 'The Horseshoe' in Bridge Street. Gillie Marsh has designed a simple structure comprising two upright posts in painted aluminum, two metres high and one metre apart, with a slate roof. The Parish Council has accepted this and a grant to cover the cost is being sought.

The Open Meeting on 28th July, featured a timely talk 'Farming and Wild Life - Compatible or Not' by Richard Snow who is an active member of FWAG. On 27th October the lecture will be on the Hawk and Owl Trust, and will be held in the Village Hall, at 8pm. Non-members are welcome for a donation of £1 or taking out membership at the door.

Freda Bradley's book on growing up in Bampton, which she talked about with Don Rouse at the last AGM, is finished and is being read and edited by friendly critics before being sent to a publisher. What a nice Millennium surprise if it came out next year. BEWG welcomes new members - for further information contact **Ann Norman Tel: 850823**.

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Bush Centre

The club meets every Wednesday in the Scout Hut in Church View, and caters for 40 pensioners. We provide tea, coffee, and a hot meal. For many, this is the only day they have away from their homes during the week. All helpers, cooks and drivers are volunteers.

We encourage our members to play games, and take part in activities. We raise our own funds for outings to places of interest, theatre trips, and to pay for speakers. For more information please contact **Joan Granville, Tel: 850407** or **Vera Allport, Tel: 850411**.

Bampton Exhibition Foundation

The foundation exists to maintain the Old Grammer School building (now the Library), and to provide financial support to young people residing in the Ancient Parish of Bampton, Aston, Lew and Weald. The financial help is for young people who would like to participate in any academic or sporting course or activity of educational value which would otherwise be beyond their means.

We try to offer a bursary of 50% of the amount required. Anyone who feels they qualify (or knows of someone who may do so) should contact, **Roger Snow, Tel: 850113**

Bampton Welfare Trust

The object of the Trust "shall be to relieve generally or individually, persons resident in the area of the ancient Parish of Bampton who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress" (Charity Commission).

If you need help from the Bampton Welfare Trust, please contact: **Janet Newman, Tel: 850755** - or any of the other Trustees: **The Rev. D.J. Lloyd, Mrs S. Phillips, Mrs I. Humphries, Mrs J. Haslam, Mrs T. Piercy, Mr G. Wiltshire (Aston), Mr G. Milner (Aston) and Mr A. Grinsell (Lew)**.

The Children's Society

Thank you to all those people who generously gave up some time to help with our annual house-to-house collection this Easter. We raised £294.70, for which we are very grateful. My special thanks to those new collectors who volunteered for the first time. I am always anxious to find

NOTICE BOARD

extra recruits because some roads are still not covered - Aston Road, Buckland Road, New Road and Weald. If anyone could spare an hour or two next year I would be very grateful. The Society does a worthwhile job helping young people and their families and deserves our support. I have also banked money raised in Londis and by Junior Church; both continue to be a valuable source of income - thank you.

Bampton Baby Club

Bampton Baby Club meets every Thursday morning between 10am and 11.45am in Bampton Village Hall. It aims to provide a safe and friendly environment for pre-school children to play, learn and gain confidence. The activities are aimed at 0-3-year olds with the majority of the time spent playing but with a short singing session and a biscuit/drink break. We also hire soft play activities and have a craft table regularly. Mothers/carers are responsible for their children whilst at the group and we ask regular attendees to help set up or put away the toys by signing up on a rota. A contribution of £1 is requested for each family who attends and this goes towards replacing toys, hiring the hall, drinks etc. The club allows mothers/carers from Bampton and the surrounding area to get to know one another and provides an ideal meeting place.

The committee is made up of mothers/carers of children attending the club and we try to organise special events periodically. At Christmas we had a very successful party with lots of food and singing, and a visit from Father Christmas. We have also had a professional photographer visit to capture those angelic faces.

We would like to encourage anyone with a child who would benefit from the Club to come along on a Thursday and join in the fun. We would also like to make a plea for help from anyone who might be able to spare some time between 10.45am and 11.30pm on an occasional Thursday morning to help make the drinks for the children and adults.

If you would like any further information regarding the Baby Club or you could offer some help please contact **Debbie**

Landray Tel: 850939 or **Helen Grimwade Tel: 850984**.

Please note that the Club re-opens after the summer break on 2nd September when we will have a Ball Pit for the children to enjoy. The photographer is visiting the Club on 30th September.

The Town Hall Fire Siren

In May D & K Building Services removed the old Fire Alarm from the Town Hall. They have offered to renovate the siren for New Years Eve. The Millennium Committee are hoping to use it to summon every one to the Market Square or their doors, five or ten minutes before the Church Bells start ringing.

If anyone has any ideas or suggestions to what Bampton could use the siren for after the New Year they would be very welcome. It seems such a shame not to use it again, especially after all the hard work to get it to work once again. Please write to **The Bampton Beam, c/o Cotton Club, Bridge St. Bampton, Oxon.**

West Oxfordshire Conservative Association.

Bampton Branch

After the poor turnout at the AGM in February, an Extraordinary General Meeting was called on Friday 18th June. Mr. Barry Norman came from Witney to chair the meeting, and gave the members a short talk on the necessity to try and keep the branch open. Bampton was once one of the busiest and most successful branches of the Association with a very strong social following.

It was agreed at the meeting that a 'working group' would conduct a survey of the village to try and determine if more interest could be generated, and new members found. In the meantime an interim committee was elected as follows:

President - Mrs. M. Smith

Acting Chairlady - Mrs. R. Colville

Acting Secretary - Mrs. F. Gray

Treasurer - Cannon R. Meredith

Members - Mr. R. Chambers, Mr. F. Stokes and Mr. F. Gray.

The Pumpkin Club Bingo

Eyes down every Monday evening in the Bush Centre at 8pm. For more information contact **Sharron Tel: 850922**



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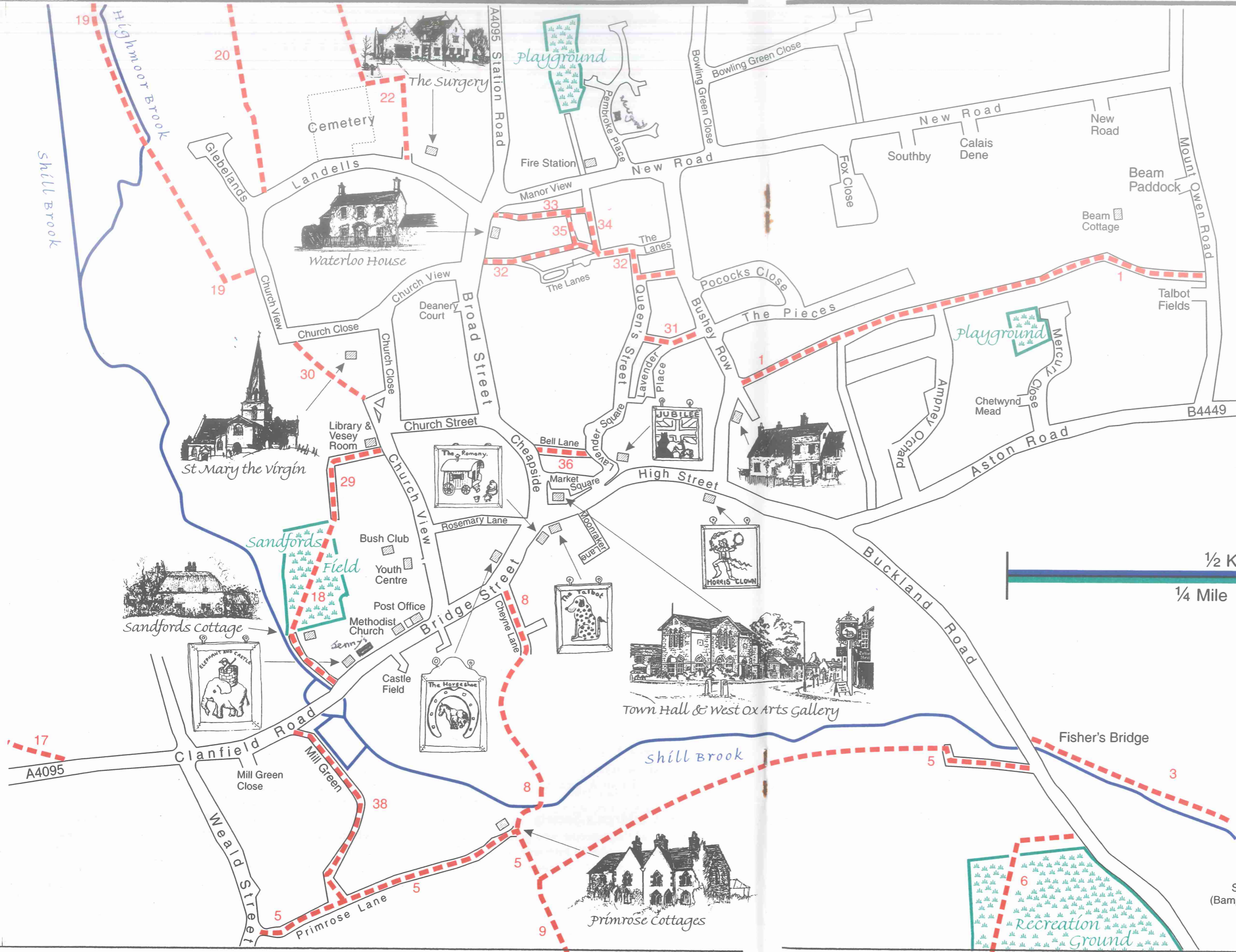
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FRIDAY EVENING SHOPPING

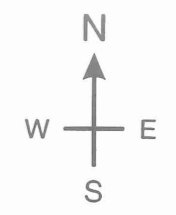
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Footpaths in Central Bampton



-  Footpaths
-  20 Definitive Map Footpath numbers
-  Stream

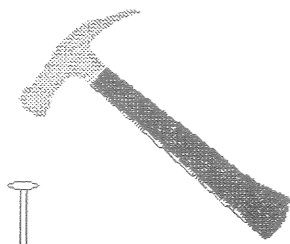


Bampton Footpath Map No. 2 – August 1999
 Second of a series produced by members of BEWG
 (Bampton Environmental Watch Group – 01993-850823)

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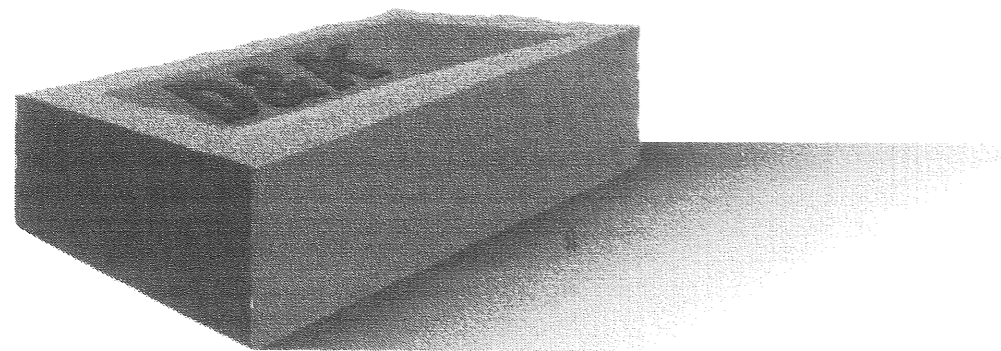
SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BAMPTON

The society aims to stop excessive developments in the village, such as large housing estates, and encourage suitable developments. So far we have been very successful.

To achieve these aims we need the largest possible membership. If you aren't already a member

DO JOIN NOW

Send your membership fee of £2 each (£1 for OAP's) for the period up to December 31st 2000, to Society for the Protection of Bampton, Manor House, Bampton Oxon. OX18 2LQ.



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Church & Chapel News

Sunday 26th September at 10.30am - United Family Harvest Festival Service at St Mary's Church Bampton. Creche facilities will be available in the Bush Centre from 10am until after the service. Harvest gifts may be brought to the service.

Saturday 2nd October 10am - 12noon The Methodist Chapel are holding a Grand Book Sale & Coffee Morning in the Village Hall, Bampton.

Sunday 7th November at 11am - United Family Pet Service at the Methodist Chapel, Bampton. Crèche facilities will be available at the Bush Centre from 10.30am until after the service. Bring your pet to the service. The more the merrier.

Bampton Youth Centre

The Annual General Meeting of the Youth Centre, which took place on 16th June, took place against the background of the difficult financial situation facing the organisation. It was resolved to continue in operation as long as is possible and to continue efforts to influence the County Council with a view to restoring the annual grant which was in force until the 1997 - 1998 financial year. The chairman, treasurer, secretary and those committee members present agreed to continue in office.

The committee is grateful for the continued support from the Bampton 250 Club and for occasional donations from other sources - most recently £210 raised from a garage sale by Liz Banham with the help of Vi Hopps and other friends. Under normal circumstances such donations could be used to purchase new furniture etc., but it is now necessary to use such money to cover current expenditure. Income from hire of the Centre is now of even greater importance than ever. May we, therefore, add a reminder that on evenings when the youth groups are not using the Centre, and at weekends, the premises are available for rental and the income from this now represents our largest source of funds. For larger meetings, wedding receptions and parties of all sorts, the facilities are probably the best in Bampton with a large central hall, a pleasant atmosphere and abundance of parking space. Jill Ruck, Tel 851267 will be happy to receive enquiries. The Youth Club meets in the evenings on

NOTICE BOARD

Tuesdays - for juniors - and Thursdays for older members, and also runs discos. Anyone interested in helping or any young people wishing to join should contact the youth leader Gary Gummer Tel: **851913**. Cubs meet on Wednesday evenings - and continue to flourish with excellent support from parents, but the Beavers and Scouts still await leaders. Anyone willing to help should contact the Group Chairman, Phil Roberts Tel: **851267**; training is available for those not already experienced. For any general matters, please contact Colin Allport Tel: **850411**.

Recycling

Your old Birthday cards could help lots of people not so happy as ourselves. Thank you for your support dropping cards through my letter box or at the Library. **D. Gaydon, 3 Broad Street.**

Bampton Bridge Club

The club meets in the Village Hall every Tuesday 7.30pm - 10.30pm. Duplicate bridge is played on the 1st, 3rd and any 5th Tuesday of the month; Rubber bridge on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday. The annual subscription is £5., with a charge of 75p per session. New members are always welcome. For more information contact, **Mrs Joan Granville, Tel: 850407.**

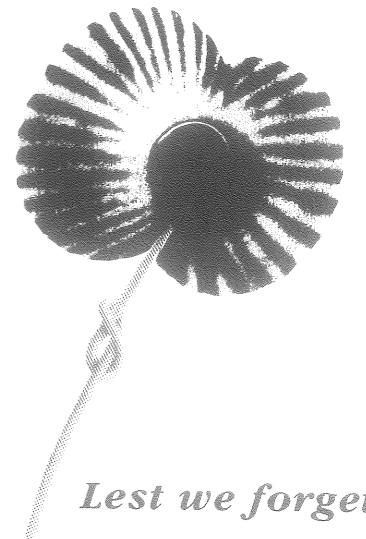
Bampton Badminton Club

Bampton Badminton Club has started up again in the Village Hall. We are playing every Tuesday morning 10am - 12am. We will be very pleased to see any players, beginners to experts. Please come along or contact **Judy House Tel: 851406.**

Cancer Research Campaign

Here is a list of our forthcoming events between now and Christmas. **September 25th** - Coffee Morning, 10 - 12am, Village Hall. **November 17th** - Christmas Bingo, Bush Centre. **December 17th** - Carterton Country and Western Dance. Social Centre, Carterton.

The Royal British Legion Bampton Branch



Lest we forget

Remembrance Services

Sunday 7th November
 War Memorial Service 10.45am
 St Mary's Service 11.15am.
 Methodist Chapel 6.15pm.

The Victory Emblem

Oh! You who sleep in Flanders' fields,
 Sleep sweet - rise anew;
 We caught the torch you threw,
 And holding high we kept
 The faith with those who died.

We cherish too, the Poppy red
 That grows on fields where valour led,
 It seems to signal to the skies
 That blood of heroes never dies,
 But lends a lustre to the red
 Of the flower that blooms above the dead
 In Flanders' fields.

And now the torch and Poppy red
 Wear in honour of our dead.
 Fear not that ye have died for naught:
 We've learned the lesson that ye taught
 In Flanders' fields.

By Miss Moina Michael.

On **Thursday 11th November at 11pm**, The Women's Section of the British Legion will be at The War Memorial to honour the one minute silence. If you feel you would like to join them, please do come along.

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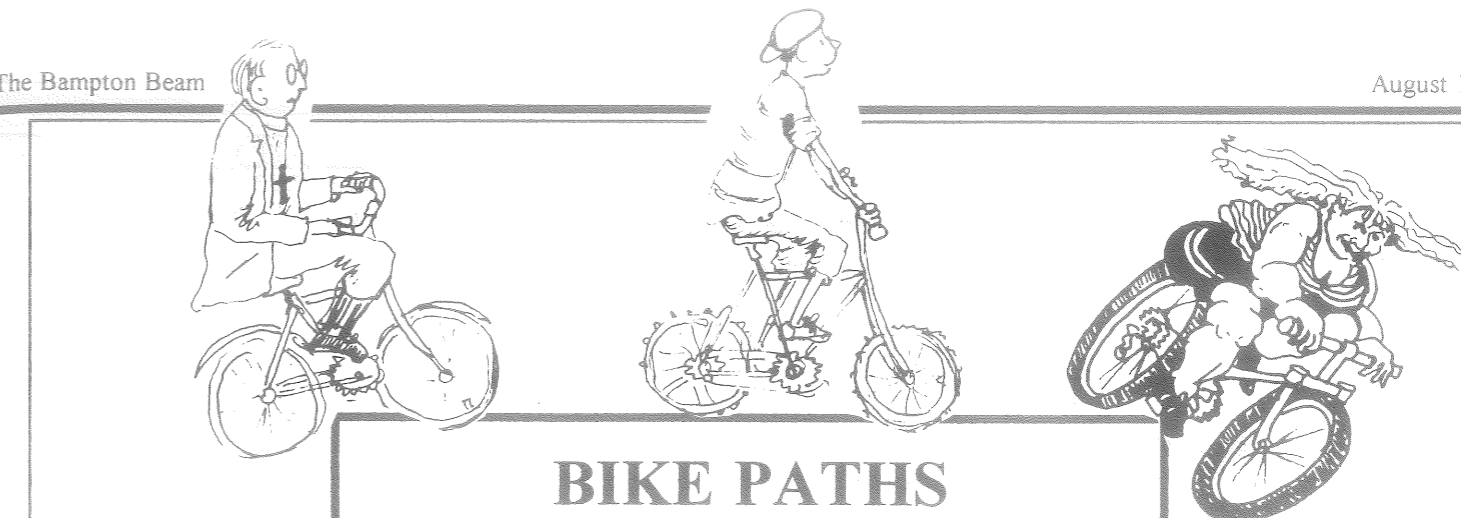
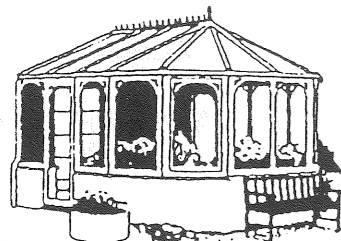
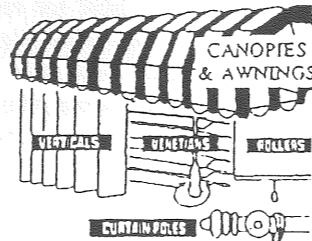
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BIKE PATHS

An Update

By Jo Lewington

We are working on the first proposed bike path - the route from Bampton to Tadpole Bridge.

The engineer from Sustrans (the national cycle track organiser), has examined the road and the verges and decided exactly where our bike path should go. The Oxfordshire County Council Highways department is looking at traffic flow at all times of the day including the busy rush hour and the school run times, to advise on traffic calming measures.

Most of the track will be on the existing verges, though in parts this will involve piping and filling in the ditches to make the verge wide enough. This is because, for safety reasons, there has to be a metre of verge between the bike path and the road.

The Trustees of the Bampton Recreation Ground have agreed to allow the bike path to go through the recreation ground alongside the trim-track. Once the track gets to Tadpole Bridge, the Environment Agency has agreed to allow bikes along the service road to Rushy Lock - where a picnic area has been developed.

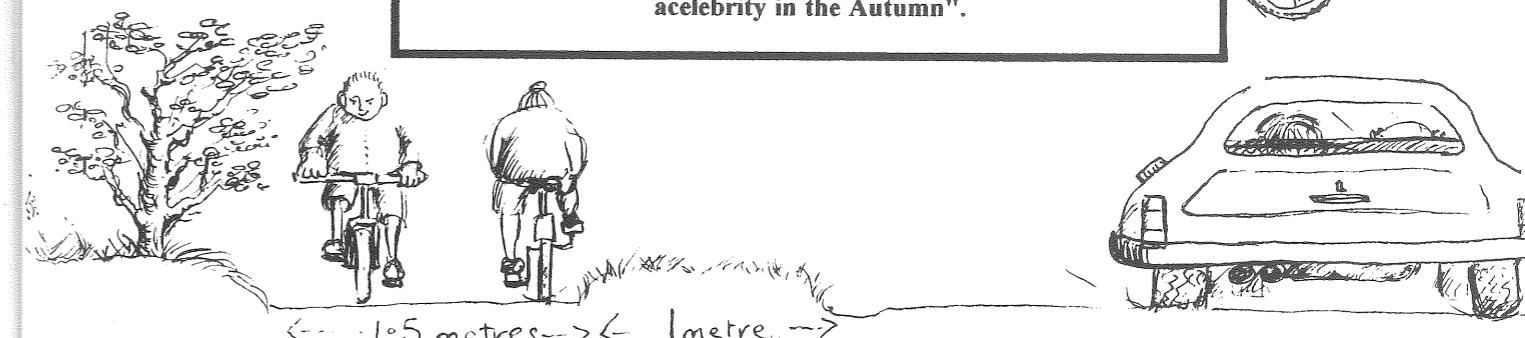
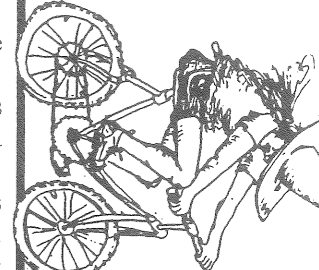
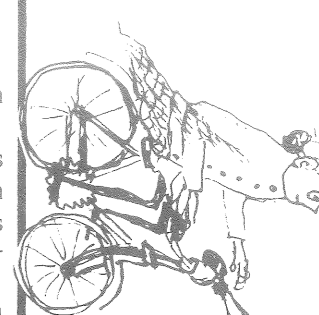
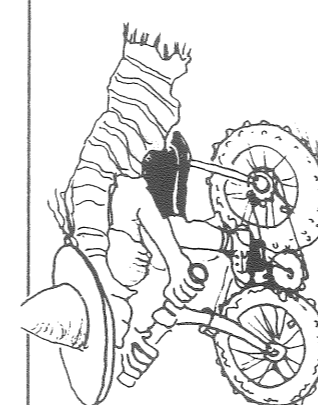
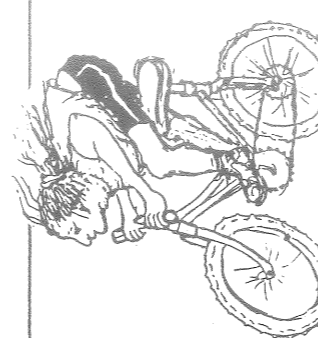
This is an expensive project but all of us will benefit; walkers, wheelchairs as well as bicycles can use bike paths. There will be at least one good cycle ride out of Bampton for children and families without feeling threatened by the thundering traffic. The project intends to create more bike paths - to Buckland, Witney and eventually to Carterton.

Please Help

If you think you or your children, your grandchildren or your business will benefit please contribute something? This is part of Bampton's Millennium efforts for the Village.

Please make out cheques to: 'The Bike Path Project', and send to "The Bike Path Project", c/o Sandfords Cottage, Bridge Street, Bampton. OX18 2HA.

"We are starting fund-raising. Don't forget to look out for our stall on Donkey Derby Day. There will a dance and a grand launch with acelebrity in the Autumn".



Car Sharing

A radical solution to over-parking in Bampton Streets.

I find that I use my car on average, once a week.

The bus service is adequate for Witney and Carterton. We can even get to Oxford and back now without the stress of traffic queues and finding an expensive place to park. It is even possible to get to Oxford in time for work and get back after work. The only area of difficulty occurs when we want to go outside the confines of Bampton in the evenings. However, as I said, being a happy homebody, I only use my car once a week and there are lots of people in Bampton just the same. If we were to share car ownership this would reduce the cars in Bampton by a significant number.

Say Miss Brown owns a car. Mr. Green wants to share it. The value of the car is £1200. Mr. Green pays Miss Brown £600. Insurance is halved between them, AA membership is halved between them, MOT test is halved between them. Both Mr. Green and Miss Brown must fill up with petrol at the end of each day's use so that the tank is full at the start of every new journey.

Maintenance costs would be paid in proportion to car use so a note must be kept of mileage - a little book left, which can one used to note mileage at beginning and end of each journey. If however, there was an unfortunate accident - the fault of the driver - that would be the total responsibility of that driver.

Easy? Of course it is.

If anyone is interested, let me know. I will try and connect individuals who would like to share. Write to:

Car Sharing, The Bampton Beam, c/o The Cotton Club, Bridge Street, Bampton.

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Royal Air Force - Press Release

Retirement after 21 years Service at Bampton Castle.
Released by Flight Lieutenant Dave Rowe, Public Affairs Office.

Chris Morgan, a civilian Radio Technician, has retired from the Signals Unit at RAF Bampton Castle after 21 years service.

Chris had served 22 years in the RAF as a ground wireless mechanic before joining the civil service. His RAF service career took him to RAF stations at Malta, Locking, Henlow, RAF St Mawgan and Cyprus. His final tour of duty was with the Tactical Communications Wing at RAF Brize Norton. On leaving the RAF he joined the civil service and started work at the nearby signals unit at Bampton Castle.

Chris lives in Carterton, and leads a busy life in the local community. He is a keen supporter of the local church and choral society, while his wife Wendy is the editor of the Carterton Community Magazine.

Chris has received commendations for his work at Bampton Castle from both the Air Officers Commanding Logistics Command and Strike Command.



left to right - Sharon Marchant, Squadron Leader Vince Elliott, Chris Morgan and Wendy Morgan.

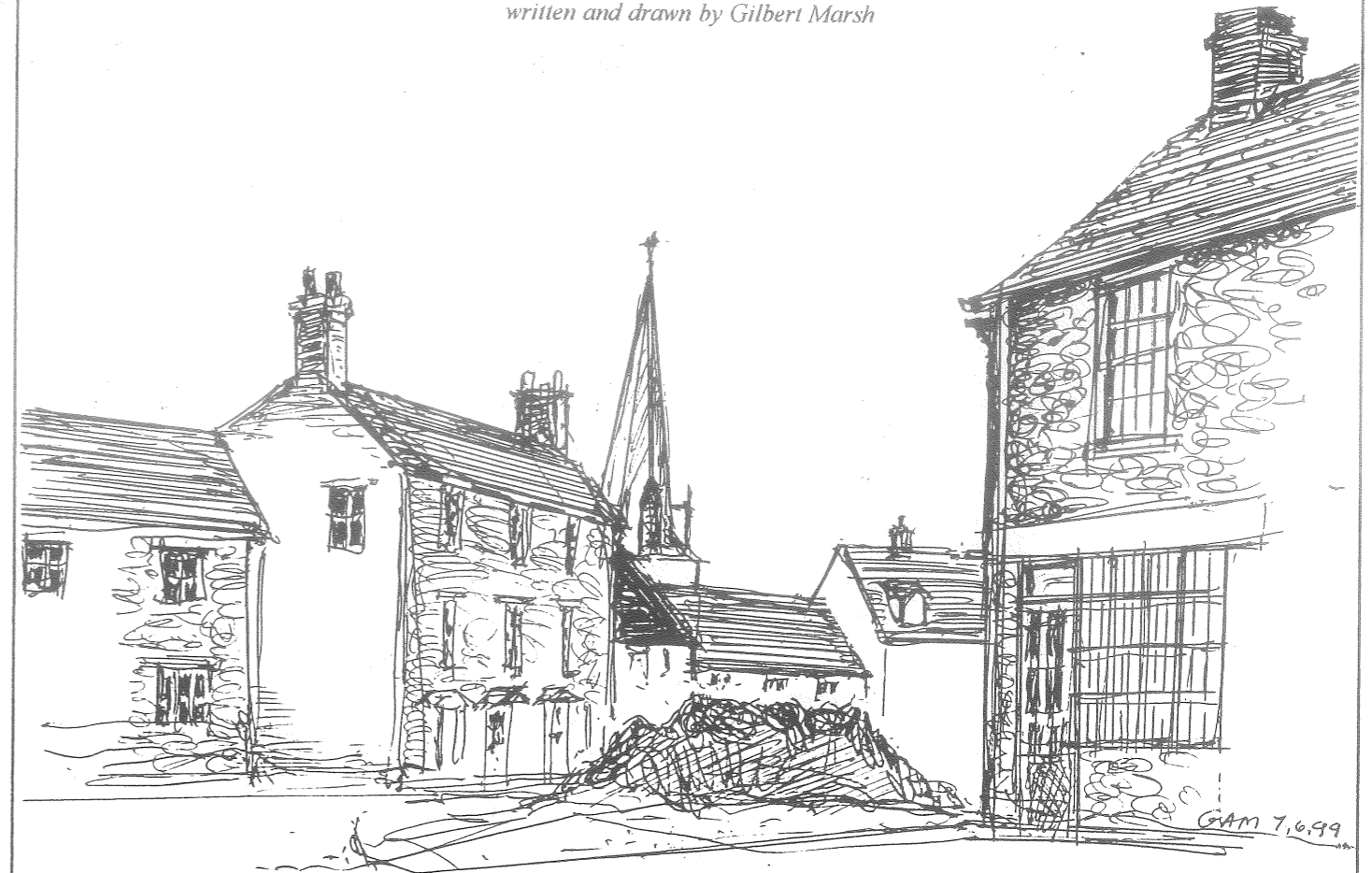
A PICTURE QUIZ

Can anyone help in identifying these two people. We think the house may be in the area of Sandfords Field. The people could be related to the Eeles or White families. If you think you know who it is, please write to Picture Quiz, c/o The Cotton Club, Bridge Street, Bampton.



ARCHITECTURE AROUND BAMPTON

written and drawn by Gilbert Marsh



The heap of earth in the centre of this picture is destined to become a three storied block of flats. Some consider that this building will be a dominant eyesore in the heart of our village. Others think that it will fit into the 'Cotswold style'. What is certain is that this fine view, which was created when the Market Square Garage was demolished, will never be seen again.

BAMPTON BILL



LETTERS TO: AUNTIE BEAM

Dear Auntie Beam
My main concern is the planting of trees in and around Bampton.

I thought the trees, which were being planted at the recreation field, already had a budget when the planning of the new recreation ground was being drawn up. I then read in the The Bampton Beam, that you can buy a tree and plant it in the Recreation Field. Also, one of the Millennium projects in the village is that you can buy a tree and have it planted in or around the village.

Both these ideas seem fine to me, but I just wondered why they need extra trees in the recreation ground, as I would have thought the rightful number had already been calculated for the budget.

I love trees; seeing them in full summer foliage looks so nice, and I am looking forward to purchasing one or two for myself to be planted in and around the village.

Just for interest sake my Grandfather planted several trees along Mount Owen Road, and I am pleased to say a few are still living.

It would be very nice to know if you have a choice as to where the trees are to be planted once you have purchased them.

Many thanks,
Tree Fancier of Bampton.

Dear Tree Fancier,

This letter led to me taking tea with the Chairman of the Parish Council. What a lovely garden to sit in and have afternoon tea, talk about gardening and of course the future of trees in Bampton.

From the horses mouth as they say -

You are right to recall that we had considered the sponsoring of trees for the Recreation Ground. However, that was before the development of 'The Wood', further down Buckland Road, had seemed a realistic or affordable project (see page). We are now content to proceed with our landscaping of the Recreation Ground but allow any money that residents would like to give or pledge for trees to be used for the 'Woodland for Bampton' project.

Hope that's explained the tree situation..
Happy Planting, Auntie Beam.

Dear Auntie Beam,
I recently witnessed a respectable couple taking their small dog for a walk up the path beside Shillbrook towards Sandford Field. I looked on with approval as, when the dog had 'performed' in the grass, the male owner got out his small pack of plastic bags and used one to pick up the dog's offerings. Then, to my horror, this apparently responsible individual threw the bag and contents into the stream!

Surely this is something to be strongly discouraged on health grounds? Children are known to paddle further down the stream and even to fish. I believe that not long ago trout were seen; it is not unlikely that these may be caught and even eaten by unwary anglers.

I know we are all concerned to remove dog mess from the pavements and paths but is this the answer?

Anon.

Dear Anon,

I fully support your feelings on this subject. I can't believe it either. I don't know how much more we can do on this subject to help keep Bampton free from such waste.

To my way of thinking its up to the individual and the way he/she thinks. He apparently didn't think anything would happen once he had thrown the bag away, but you on the other hand did know of the consequences.. Wouldn't it be nice to live in a world where this sort of thing didn't happen!!

But as the Chairman of Parish Council said on the Letters to the Editor page, there are plenty of "dog pooh" bins around Bampton and more to come, so there really isn't any excuse for this kind of thing.

Next it will be horse manure - more and more seems to be on the roads these days, that's the next Auntie Beam campaign -



If you would like to write to Auntie Beam the, address is Auntie Beam, c/o The Cotton Club, Bridge Street, Bampton, Oxon. OX18 2HA. She will do her utmost to answer as many of your queries as space allows. Auntie Beam wishes to say that she cannot give out personal replies.

I'm sure Edie Bindweed wouldn't say no to it for her roses!
Hope this makes you feel better.
Yours Auntie Beam.

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The Gardening Page

By Edie Bindweed

Here we are into August already, and soon it will be autumn; time to start thinking about tidying the garden and planting your spring bulbs. Well, before we start thinking of all that cold weather to come, I've been having a look at using the flowers, herbs and fruit out of my garden in a herbal cosmetic way.

Herbal recipes use some of the most common plants that we have in our gardens. One of the commonest ways to use herbs is to make herb tea. This is made by crushing the plants or leaves in the palm of your hand. This enables their juices to mix easier when the boiling water is poured over them. Let this mixture stand for at least half an hour in a jug or teapot then strain. A wineglass full of tea drunk three times a day is the recommended daily tippie for a long life. If the tea is kept any longer than three days it can begin to ferment, so should be thrown away. To make a pot of tea (family size), use three handfuls of fresh leaves or one handful of dried leaves for each teapot or jug.

What I'm really into though is the herbal remedies for the skin and hair. My hair and skin look their age at times so I'm going to pass the useful information I found on to you, and you can have a dabble at it as well as me!!

Wild Herb Face packs

Chop leaves up fine into equal amounts from a combination of dandelion, nettle and elder flowers and mix together. Simmer in just enough water to prevent from burning in the pan, until they make a thick mash (about 10 minutes).

Wait until the mixture has cooled down enough to handle without burning yourself. Then spread it onto thin muslin or clean cloth and slap it straight on to your face. Leave for 15 minutes, remove and

wash your face with water containing a few drops of lemon juice. This treatment will clean and revive tired skin!!

Wild Herb Bath Mix

Place 2ozs of dandelion leaves (preferably dried) into a bucket with 2ozs nettle leaves (preferably dried) and 2ozs Cowslip root. Pour 6 pints of hot water over and leave standing for half an hour. Strain and add to your bath water.

This bath mix helps sooth and refresh you after a busy day. I find it helps me when I've

had a day in the garden doing all that bending, and the old back aches and my limbs feel tired.

Hair Tonics

A pot of nettle tea is often used as a tonic to stop dandruff. Rub it into the scalp with your fingertips and leave on for ten minutes. A quicker way is to rinse your hair after normal washing in a pint of it.

For dry hair a little essential oil of nettle leaves and fennel leaves is ideal. Mix nettle and fennel leaves with a tablespoon of wine vinegar and ½ pint of corn oil. Rub this onto your scalp, leave for ten minutes, and rinse with clean warm water. You'll be feeling like a new person, and be able to enjoy the Millennium events here in the village if you partake of my Herbal Remedies!

The Garden Club Show is at the end of this month, so I hope everyone has got their prize winning vegetables, flowers pies, and jams standing by. My garden has been very bountiful this summer so I shall be entering a few items in the hope of earning myself a 1st, 2nd or 3rd place; isn't it exciting!



BAMPTON GARDENING CLUB NEWS

Future Trips

Sunday 26th September

Malvern Autumn Show

Sunday 17th October

Wisley Autumn Gardens

Sunday 28th November

Cribbs Causeway

Bristol Christmas Shopping

Sunday 12th December

Turners Music Hall

Saturday 18th December

Westonburt by Candle Light

All trips depart from the Market Square at 9.30am returning 5.30pm. These trips welcome non Garden Club members who would like to come along - seats permitting. For more information please contact Ellen Parker Tel: 843985.

Future Coffee Mornings

Saturday 2nd October

Bampton Town Hall, 10am - 12pm

Saturday 6th November

Bampton Youth Club, 10am - 12pm

This special Christmas Coffee Morning will be run jointly with the Bampton Youth Club.

Results of the Bampton Only Competition

Best Commercial Box or Tub

1st Jubilee Inn, 2nd Simmonds, Joint 3rd Horseshoe and The Morris Clown.

Best Private window or Tub

1st Mrs M. Battersby, 2nd Mrs B. Davis, 3rd Mr S. Smith.

Best Commercial Hanging Basket

1st Simmonds, 2nd Elephant & Castle, 3rd Jubilee Inn.

Best Private Hanging Basket

1st Mrs J. Cottrell, 2nd Mr S. Smith, 3rd Mrs E. Jackson, Highly Commended Mrs A. Graylish.

Best Kept Allotment

Not enough entries to make the competition competitive.

Best Kept Allotment under Renovation with Produce

Best Kept Private Vegetable Garden

1st Mr I. McIntock, 2nd Mr A. Jenkin

Best Kept Private Small Front or Back Garden

1st Mr S. Smith, 2nd Mrs V. Elward, Joint 3rd Mr G Gummer and Mrs M. Battersby.

OUT OF WORK FARMER - TURNED AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

By Don Rouse

Well it is almost Autumn time again, when the trees change colour, when the evening smell of flowers

always seems to be at its strongest, a time of Harvest Festivals, and the Garner Floor is full of food to take us through the Winter. Oh how I wish I could ramble on with such romantic prose, then perhaps my wife would stop calling me a 'Boring old miserable Git'. But life is all about reality, the Garner floor is full with all those loads of corn that were tipped up in the rush of the harvest, but were they as dry as we thought they were? What about those few loads harvested late that Saturday night when it started to rain? Have they started to heat up yet spoiling the rest of the harvest? Oh the farmer's lot is not a happy one. Are

the barns mice proof and bird proof? Whatever happened to nature's laws, barn owls feeding off barn mice? That is how it has been for more than 2000 years and we didn't seem to be that badly off. Not on, says the EEC, the owls and the mice must go elsewhere as they might defecate on the corn! So whether its birds, mice or EEC, one way or the other Jo public is going to get it! I know which defecater I would sooner have ! Talking of birds going

elsewhere, I don't know whether it is just coincidence or not, perhaps the more



knowledgeable ornithologists amongst 'Beam' readers can correct my theory. As many of you know, we have been dairy farming at University Farm for forty years and during that time there has always been a very active Rookery in the wood above the farm. Since our large herd of cows and their even larger slurry pit disappeared, there have been no rooks in the rookery! I know that the Rooks always enjoyed coming to the slurry pit, digging into the

crust for muck to line their nests and for worms to feed their young. It just seems odd - no cows - no muck - no rooks. If my theory is right then we need to get a proper balanced Agriculture policy quickly before all the herds disappear and we end up having 'feed lots' like they do in America. Thousands of cows in very confined areas, that would definitely be 'factory farming' and we can do without that - so let's do all we can to maintain the traditional way of British Farming now.

The other day I was over at Tinknell's in Clanfield and was invited to look around one of the new breed of tractors; my God what a difference to the tractors of the 1960s let alone the old baby Fordsons of the 1940s. They have got everything on board; computers to tell you at what rate you are putting this and that on per hectare! Miles per hour or metres per minute. Monitors with screens to tell you what is happening around you. Air

conditioning, CD players; even a paper roll holder; trouble was I couldn't find the button that operated the flush! Mind you in my day they were air conditioned all right, you sat outside in it. Either freezing, baking or just getting soaked! I remember the first cabs that came out, the warning inside said "In the event of the tractor turning over "STAY IN SEAT". The mind boggled as to how you were going to achieve it!

Being over at Clanfield brought on a spell of nostalgia.

I used to love working down in the fields that we had by Sharney Brook, taking sandwiches with a bottle of tea so as not to waste time coming home (could not afford thermos flask in those days). Now if you have never been down there, you should try it, it is so peaceful; it was Dad's favourite place with his cows and portable milking parlour. The only thing that spoilt it for me was the horse flies! By the time you realised they were biting you, they had their heads buried up to their ears in your flesh. Mind you that made them easier and a lot more satisfying to kill with a good slap of the hand. Another good thing about working down there was its close proximity to the Thames. At lunchtime and at the end of the day we would often go across to the river for the dual purpose of washing the dust from our dirty sweating bodies and having a refreshing swim. The Thames was much cleaner then; well it was before we got in!

The modern day tractor driver will never be able to enjoy that sort of thing. Firstly, he will never sweat or get dirty to the extent that we did. Secondly, as his cab has all the modern devices to cook a meal and boil a kettle he won't be stopping for lunch. Am I worried about the association of local Tractor Drivers demanding my resignation from the Beam? Not a bit, poor devils, as there is now only about one fifth of them in number as there were in the 1970s and their workload has doubled. They are stuck in their cabs all day, with no tachometer to say they must take a break of forty-five minutes after every four and a half hours; and what is more the self employed cannot afford a break. No, they are going to be too knackered to do any letter writing. In my book lads (in these days of equality, lassies as well), you earn your luxury cabins. I am in awe of the way you keep up with modern technology and all the demands of the Government institutions. Perhaps one day those immortal words will be reiterated in your direction as you try to provide this country with food - "Never has so many owed so much to so few".

Isn't to nice to see a lot more Linseed grown? It is a pity that it is not in flower at the same time as the Oilseed Rape; wouldn't the countryside be a colourful place then. Linseed is such a beautiful seed

to handle. I have happy memories of pushing the linseed down the shoot in the granary for the mill to grind it for mixing into the cattle feed. We used to take our shoes and socks off so that the fine grain did not get lost in them, the feeling of the lovely cool and slippery grain running between my toes will stay with me for the rest of my life.

You know writing this article had made me realise how privileged I have been in living and working in this country before the EEC! Just take the last paragraph, none of that could happen today. To start with the EEC has stopped all farmers milling and mixing their own foodstuffs without special licenses and controls, yet it was practice that farmers had enjoyed for centuries. They cannot even plant their own home produced grain without a lot of bureaucracy. So watch it gardeners, you could be next!

Another thing about the above paragraph, I was only eight years old when I was doing that work; it would probably be called slave labour today. In those days it was all part of life's lovely learning curve.

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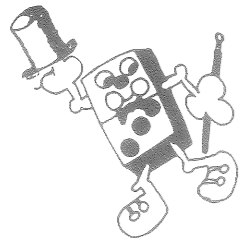
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THE COOKERY PAGE

By Gilly French

SUMMER LEMONS

A short piece about the versatile lemon.

In the heat of the summer there is little more refreshing than fresh lemons, or to invigorate summer dishes such as salmon, scallops and tomatoes. Excitingly our lemon tree, which lives reasonably happily against the glazed wall of the inner hall, looks as if it might produce a small handful of fruit this year - they appear to be easy enough to grow - with patience.

Lemonade

The supposedly authentic method for making this is to rub sugar lumps into the rinds of 4 or 5 lemons until you reach the pith, before adding water and leaving for a while. It is indeed superb, but it takes forever. Here's a simpler way:

Recipe

Rinds of 2 lemons and 1 orange
Juice of 4 lemons and 2 oranges
2 pints boiling water
Sugar to taste

Put the fruit rinds and juice in a jug and cover with boiling water.

Leave to cool, add sugar to taste. Chill and serve with ice cubes.

Lemon Barley Water

Recipe

4oz pearl barley
4oz caster sugar
2 finely sliced lemons
2pints of boiling water
Pour the boiling water over the pearl barley, sugar and lemons. Strain before serving.

Pickled Lemons or Limes

There are a number of recipes for this middle eastern classic. They can also be bought at Sainsbury's - but at a price.

Scrub and slice fruit. Put in a single layer in a colander, sprinkle with salt and leave to drain for 24 hours. They should be soft and limp. Put the slices in layers in a glass jar, sprinkling each layer with a little paprika. Pour on groundnut oil to cover.

Close the jar and leave for at least three weeks. Serve with fish, or as a pickle with cold meat. The lemon oil can be used in salad dressings.

10 oz granulate sugar
8 cloves
1/2 fl oz gin
1 sachet powdered gelatine

Place the lemon juice, lemon peel, sugar, cloves and water in a saucepan.

Dissolve the sugar over a low heat and allow to cool for 10 minutes.

Strain through a muslin-lined sieve and add the gin. Place 3 tbsps hot water into a cup and sprinkle the gelatine over it.

Leave to soak for a few minutes, then place in a pan of simmering water. Add some of the lemon syrup. Once both solutions are at the same temperature, mix together and pour into a bowl, or into small individual glasses.

Lemon Gin Jellies

This 'wow' of a pudding is from *Sybil Kaspoor's Modern British Food*.

I prefer to use vegetarian gelatine, which has the advantage of giving a softer 'set' to the jelly - if you do this, follow the instructions on the packet, as brands differ.

Recipe

7fl oz lemon juice (about 5 large lemons - do use the real stuff)

Finely pared rind peel of 2 lemons

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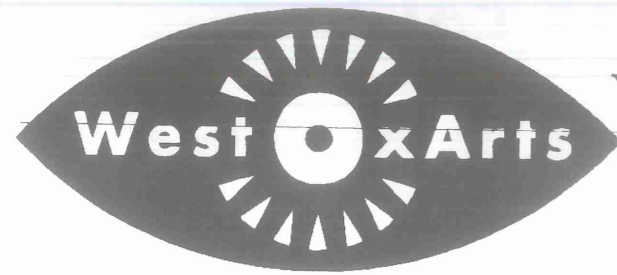
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WEST OX ARTS

News and Events

West Ox Arts is a new name and new look for the Gallery in Bampton. The recently completed renovations at the Gallery have given an improved, lighter look

and feel to the exhibitions. Bampton residents are fortunate to have such a quality space available to show some highly talented artists works. Along with the West Ox Arts at The Gallery, The Robert Vesey Room at The Bampton Library also regularly houses month long exhibitions.

West Ox Arts invites you to visit both The Gallery and The Robert Vesey Room

The Gallery Opening Hours

Tuesday through to Saturday 10.30am - 12.30pm, 2pm - 4pm Sunday 2pm - 4pm

The Robert Vesey Room Opening Hours

Monday and Thursday 2.30pm - 4.40pm, Wednesday and Saturday 10am - 2pm

If you are interested in the Arts and would like to join West Ox Arts, please call in and see us or call during The Gallery's opening hours, Tel: 01993 850137 for a membership form.

Forthcoming Exhibitions

The Robert Vesey Room in August

Janice George Allan - Paintings and Sally Proctor - Paper Mache Bowls

The Gallery

August 15th - 30th - 'People Places & Pots' paintings & ceramics

September 11th - Silk Painting with Ile Ashcroft

September 12th - 26th - West Ox Arts Members Exhibition

October 10th - 24th - 2-D or Not 2-D? space, colour, forms

October 23rd - Boxing Clever with Liz Richie - Workshop

November 7th - 21st - Peter & David Farley paintings & ceramics

December 5th - 19th - Gifts for the Millennium

An Excursion

November 20th - WODFAS Van Dyke RA London. Details from Mrs. Mavis Newings Tel: 01993 850809.

New Members are always welcome: £12 Single, £20 Family, Student £5.

West Ox Arts

Highlights

March, April, May, June

By Margaret Bruce Mitford

Four interesting exhibitions reflecting different media for artistic expression were mounted in the past four months.

Paintings and Writing by Tom Kemp showed 49 abstract paintings which are achieved by using hand movements that are basic to the skill of writing, without making known letters or character. The result is very impressive.

Material Matters illustrated how fabric and thread can be used to create works of art both three dimensional and as wall hangings, and ranging from small intimate sizes to large scale work. Varied imagery and a ravishing range of colour demonstrated the new limits to which the textile medium is being pushed.

Machine Embroidery (workshop), was presented by Denise Harrison, one of the exhibitors in the show, which was put on by textile workers from Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

Oxford Arts Society's Members work which consisted of 8 pieces of sculpture and 52 paintings, drawings and prints embracing a wide variety of themes. This exhibition marked the annual event of Oxford Art Week.

Textured Images by Richard Dack and Ann Norman in some respects chimes in with the first two exhibitions by showing a commonality between two very different artistic modes.

Richard Decks painting in mixed media on paper produced textures images that reflected the colours and different textiles employed in the tassels and ropes made by Ann Norman and other textile artefacts borrowed from Peter Collingwood.

Two interesting workshops by Richard Dack and Ann Norman respectively made this unusual exhibition a specially interesting event.

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If you are interested in hearing more please contact,
Pat Jones Tenant Consultation Officer Tel: 01993 770132

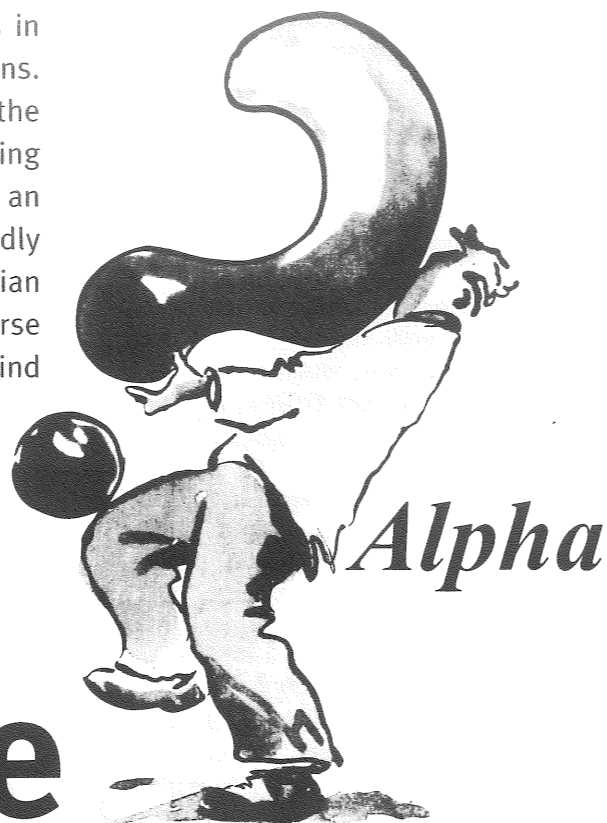
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What happens when we **die?**

Is **forgiveness** possible?

What **relevance** does Jesus have for our lives today?

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The next course to be held for those interested in and around Bampton/Aston will start with a hot supper on

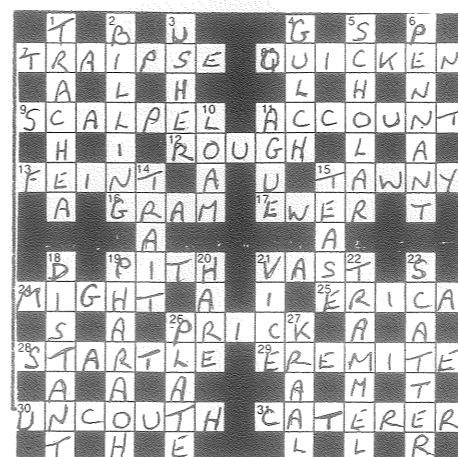
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We look forward to meeting you, and do hope you can make it!

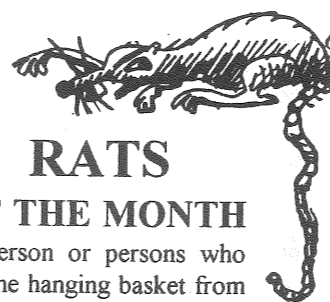
For further details please contact:

Dave & Jan Wilton Tel: 01993 850046 or Pat Smith on Tel: 01993 842785

**Solution to
BEAM CROSSWORD
April 1999**



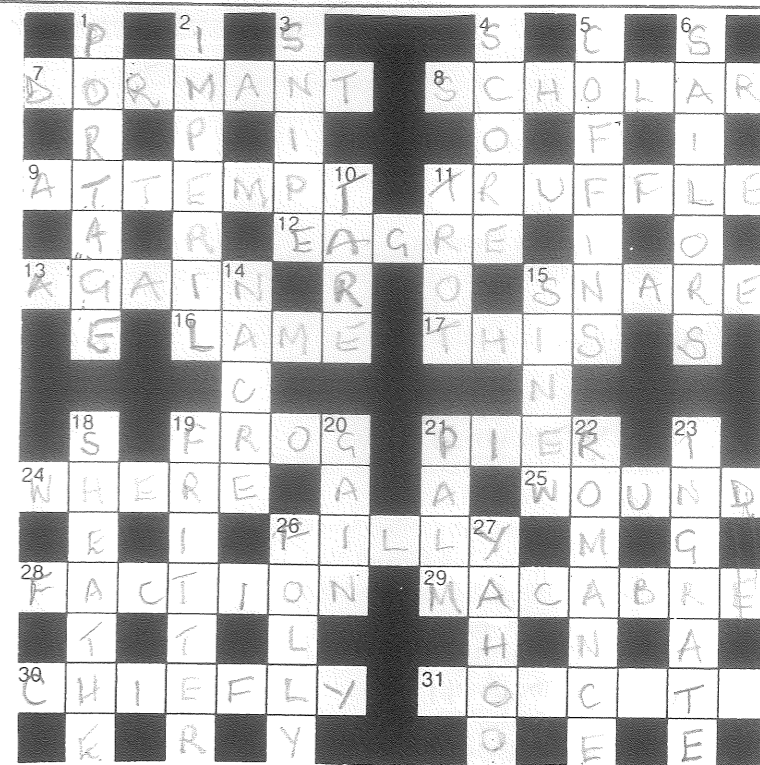
The Beam Team would like to donate £5 to Cancer Research as thanks to Mr. Bill Govier for the crossword in this edition of The Beam. The £5 winner for April's crossword is Mr. A. Higman, Glebelands, Bampton. Thank you to all those who took part, and good luck for the next one! The word search winner in April's edition has been won by Mrs. Sharron Broughton, Pembroke Place, Bampton who also wins £5. Well done to everyone who took part in this competition.



**RATS
OF THE MONTH**

The person or persons who stole the hanging basket from outside The Midland Bank. How this happened without anyone hearing is hard to believe as the person/persons had to be there a while to undo the wire it was fastened to the wall with. We have also heard that some person/persons have been trying to break into the new Pavilion.

THE BAMPTON BEAM'S CROSSWORD



Across

- 7. In a state of inactivity
- 8. A person of learning
- 9. Endeavour to do something
- 11. Fleshy underground fungus
- 12. Sudden high tide in an estuary
- 13. Once more
- 15. Contrivance for catching animals
- 16. A decorative fabric
- 17. The thing drawn attention to
- 19. A tailless amphibian
- 21. Jetty
- 24. At which place
- 25. Injury caused by violence
- 26. Young mare
- 28. A turbulent minority
- 29. Gruesome
- 30. For the most part
- 31. Formed in ridges

Down

- 1. Act of carrying
- 2. To endanger
- 3. A marshland bird
- 4. Number of points gained
- 5. Burial caskets
- 6. Mariner
- 10. Unladen weight of good vehicle
- 11. Pace between walking and galloping
- 14. Mother-of-Pearl
- 15. Tendon
- 18. Place in a cover or case
- 19. Squander aimlessly
- 20. Profit or reward
- 21. Inner surface of the hand
- 22. Love story
- 23. An ungrateful person
- 26. Costly, unpractical structure
- 27. Brutish, vicious person

THE PAVILION

Buckland Road Recreation Ground

The Pavilion with its large social area, four changing rooms, referees facilities, kitchen and bar is for hire by members of the public for all variety of functions such as wedding receptions, birthday or anniversary parties. The Multisport court can also be hired for games or practice sessions for floodlit tennis, six-a-side football, basketball, netball. Particularly useful when other grounds are waterlogged!

For times available and hiring charges please contact: Derek Moscrop Tel: 07974 035453

Diary of Forthcoming Events

August

- 1st - 31st The Robert Vesey Room Paintings & Paper Mache' Bowls
- 15th The Gallery People Places & Pots
- 25th Bampton Garden Club Registration Night Town Hall 7pm - 9pm
- 28th Bampton Garden Club Annual Show Open to Public 2.30pm
- 30th SPAJERS Donkey Derby

September

- 1st SPAJERS OAP's Outing to Bournemouth
- 11th The Gallery Silk Painting
- 12th - 26th The Gallery West Ox Arts Members Exhibition
- 16th Millennium Committee Open Meeting Village Hall 7.30pm
- 25th Cancer Research Coffee Morning Village Hall 10am - 12am
- 26th Bampton Garden Club trip to Malvern Show Market Square 9.30am

October

- 1st 'History of the County of Oxford' Village Hall 7.30pm
- 2nd Methodist Chapel Grand Book Sale & Coffee Morning Village Hall 10am - 12am
- 2nd Bampton Garden Club Coffee Morning Town Hall 10am - 12am
- 9th Bampton Pumpkin Club Grand Weigh-In Village Hall
- 10th - 24th The Gallery 2-D or Not 2-D?
- 15th 'History of the County of Oxford' Village Hall 7.30pm
- 17th Bampton Garden Club trip to Wisley Autumn Gardens 9.30pm
- 22nd 'History of the County of Oxford' Village Hall 7.30pm
- 23rd The Gallery Boxing Clever
- 27th BEWG Hawk & Owl Trust Talk Village Hall 8pm

November

- 6th Bampton Garden Club Coffee Morning
- 7th - 21st The Gallery Peter & David Farley Exhibition
- 7th Royal British Legion Memorial Service War Memorial 10.45am
- 7th St Mary's Memorial Service 11.15am
- 7th Methodist Chapel Memorial Service 6pm
- 11th War Memorial Market Square 11am
- 17th Cancer Research Christmas Bingo Bush Centre
- 28th Bampton Garden Club trip Christmas Shopping 9.30pm

December

- 5th - 19th The Gallery Gifts for the Millennium
- 12th Bampton Garden Club Turners Music Hall
- 17th Cancer Research Carterton Country & Western Dance
- 18th Bampton Garden Club Westonburt by Candle light
- 31st Millennium Committee Fireworks Market Square

January

- 1st Millennium Committee Millennium Celebrations 12am

THE BAMPTON BEAM -

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Contributions are always welcome at any time and should be sent to: **The Editor, The Bampton Beam, c/o The Cotton Club, Bridge St, Bampton.**

Deadline - 31st October 1999.

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The team wishes to thank The Cotton Club - quality fabric suppliers - as well as the Beam letter box! Also many thanks to Abbey Properties and Bradford & Bingley. Also our thanks go to the Parish Council for their financial support each year..

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The Editor, The Bampton Directory, c/o The Cotton Club, Bridge Street, Bampton. OX18 2HA.

AMENDMENTS as at 7.7.99

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