

THE BAMPTON BEAM

April 1998

Volume 13. No. 1

ELECTION time in BAMPTON

On **Thursday 7th May** the electorate will choose their Councillors for the West Oxfordshire District Council, together with 11 members of the Bampton Parish Council, to serve for a term of 4 years. If you wish to stand as a candidate for these elections, please contact the Parish Clerk or Secretary to ensure that you submit your nominations in time.

The present Parish Councillors are: Mr D. Hawkins, Mrs J. Allison, Mrs E. Chambers, The Earl of Donoughmore, Mr A. Dunbar, Mr R. Howard, Mr T. Hughes, Mrs C. Jones, Mrs J. Newman, Mr R. Norman and Mrs P. Smith. The District Counsellor is Jonathan Phillips.

Unfortunately, several councillors are standing down, so we do need nominations. It is important to elect people who will represent the interests and views of all the people of Bampton, so please use your vote on **Thursday 7th May**. Anyone unable to vote personally on the day can get a postal or proxy vote.

Please contact Johnathan Phillips, Tel: 850321, for the necessary forms.

CITIZEN POWER!

The Beam Team would like to extend our thanks to all those who help distribute The Bampton Beam, both within the village and by post. Without you, The Beam would not be what it is today, available to every resident as a forum for debate, information and interest.

We are especially grateful for your willingness to do, where possible, the 'extras', such as delivering the Appraisal and the Village Directory.

Many thanks and well done

IS ANYBODY OUT THERE?

Apathy, it seems, is alive and well and sitting back in Bampton, leaving your Beam Team puzzled and despondant.

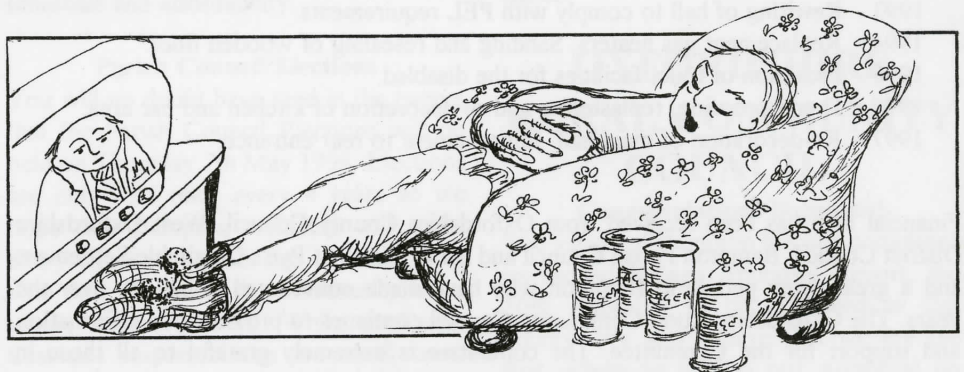
We have it on good authority that there is only one person in the village who does not read "The Beam" (stand up and be counted whoever you are!) but the response to our numerous appeals for articles, letters, ideas and volunteers is depressingly feeble, even though the Appraisal tells us there are 314 of you waiting to contribute.

Wimps or What?

Following the December issue, there weren't any answers to the crossword. It's not that difficult, even though the clues can be misleading at times - and there is a prize! Auntie Beam is short of letters almost every time, poor Auntie Beam, there she is, pen poised to help you and spurn her good will. And who bothered to write in and identify Bampton's longest driving resident? Don't tell us you don't know who it is!

You've been asked to write about pets for "Pets Corner" - Surely there are more than three pets in the village? In fact we see the evidence of others every day The editor also suggested that proud parents send in their children's writing for pretty-well guaranteed publication. Result? Nothing! Yet we all know what a boost it would be to children's confidence to see themselves in print.

Ideas for the Millennium - total six! Neighbour Watch volunteers - none! Response to the Summer holiday appeal - zilch! Yet, when asked, most residents express support for these ideas, so what's going on? Are we all just waiting for someone else - the movers and shakers - to do things for us?



Get off your.....seats!

We really need a much more positive response in all sorts of areas, not just for The Beam. Bampton is a village with a long-established reputation for being active and self-sufficient, but this can't all be left to a few die-hards. Get out there and do something, write something or say something. If we at The Beam are to reflect your opinions and desires, we must hear from you, and if all the wonderful work that goes on voluntarily in BEWG, WOAA, The Bush Centre, SPAJERS, The Pumpkin Club, to mention a few, is to continue, it needs regular support from a lot more of us.

The success of the response to the questionnaire about the future of the Library Service proves, beyond doubt, that people can make their views heard and have an impact.

So come on all you couch potatoes, let's hear from you!

BAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

by Susan Phillips

The Annual General Meeting will take place
in the Village Hall at 8pm on Thursday 23rd April

All residents of Bampton over the age of 18 are entitled to attend and vote. Anyone interested in joining the committee should contact the Secretary, **Susan Phillips, Tel: 850321**. Local organisations that make use of the Hall are encouraged to nominate a representative. The following are already represented: Parish Council, Women's Institute, Community Church Council, Bush Centre, WOAA, Mothers' Union, Ladies Group, Preschool Playgroup, Gardening Club, Drama Group, Pumpkin Club, Bridge Club, BEWG, and SPAJERS.

The committee has been extremely fortunate to have had hard working and dedicated members who work well as a team and are proud of their achievements. Since 1984 it has achieved a major transformation of the Hall and provides an excellent venue for meetings, fund-raising events, parties and club activities etc. It is extremely grateful to all those in Bampton who have supported the fund-raising efforts, in particular those who still make a regular convened donation.

On the 1st December 1984 the former Women's Institute Hall was handed over to the Village on a 35 year lease at £1 per year rent and thus became the Bampton Village Hall. Since then the following improvements and maintenance programme has been carried out

- 1984 - Installation of new gas heater system.
- 1985 - Planning and fund-raising for extension and up-dating of hall facilities.
- 1986 - New annexe and toilets built. Modernisation of kitchen, servery & bar area.
- 1987 - Sanding and re-sealing of floor.
- 1988 - Remedial work for damp in upper gable & new rooflight.
Re-decoration of toilets & kitchen.
- 1989 - Re-roofing of main building. New window & stage curtains.
- 1990 - Re-roofing of annexe extension. New annexe & bar floors.
- 1991 - Re-decoration of main hall, annexe, toilets, kitchen & bar.
Replacement gas heaters.
- 1992 - Replacement of 4 windows facing Market Square.
- 1993 - Rewiring of hall to comply with PEL requirements.
- 1994 - Replacement gas heaters. Sanding and resealing of wooden floor.
- 1995 - Provision of toilet facilities for the disabled.
- 1996 - Damp-proofing, replastering and re-decoration of kitchen and bar area.
- 1997 - Re-decoration of main hall. Improvement to rear entrance.

Financial help has been received from Oxfordshire County Council, West Oxfordshire District Council, Bampton Parish Council and Mr & Mrs J.A. Pye's Charitable Settlement and a great many people in Bampton who have made convened donations over the years. The Oxfordshire Rural Community Council continues to provide vital information and support for the Committee. The committee is extremely grateful to all those in Bampton who have supported their fund-raising efforts, in particular those who still make a regular convened donation.

BAMPTON '250' CLUB

This is a monthly lottery which raises £1500 annually - shared between the Village Hall and the Youth Centre. Participants (who must be over 18) join annually in April and agree to pay £12 by cash/cheque/bank standing order paid annually half-yearly/quarterly/monthly. The draw takes place in public the last week-end of each month. There are monthly prizes of £25 (1) and £15 (3) plus a quarterly prize of £100 and an annual "Jackpot" prize of £250. This prize is drawn at the Village Hall AGM.

If you would like to join, please put your name on the list at the Post Office.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S BAMPTON

Christmas Quiz 1997

Many thanks are due to the Wearne family for producing another excellent Quiz this Christmas. It raised £160 for the funds and was greatly enjoyed by all who had a go at it. The winners were Ailsa Matheson and Tom Freeman. I understand that a start has already been made on the 1998 Quiz.

National Lottery Application

An appeal for funds was made to the National Lottery in the autumn of 1996 and to date there has been no result. We have received apologies for the long delay and hope we shall be successful in our bid in the very near future.

Secret Gardens of Bampton

The Friends of St Mary's and The Bampton Gardening Club are planning an Open Garden Day on Sunday, 5th July 1998. Instead of two Manor gardens it is hoped there will be a number of the smaller hidden gardens open - a rare opportunity to admire and enjoy other gardeners' hard work and good ideas.

BAMPTON DIRECTORY

It is hoped to bring out an up-dated Bampton Directory at the end of the Summer. If you would like to advertise in the new edition, please contact: **The Editor, The Bampton Directory, Haytor, Lavender Square, Bampton, Oxon. OX18 2LR. or Tel: 01993 850321.**



RATS

OF THE MONTH

The person or persons who pinched a pensioner's purse which had her old age pension inside. This happened at The Village Hall Boot Sale on Saturday 7th February.

Also . . .

The person or persons who drove over the new cricket wicket, not once, but twice. Can you believe it!!!!

BAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

New Council Member

Mrs Pauline Smith was co-opted onto the Council in January 1998. Mrs Smith has considerable experience from her previous service as a Parish Councillor and is welcomed again.

Proposed Development Station Road Good news!

An inquiry into this development took place on Tuesday and Wednesday 6th, 7th January WODC. The village was well represented by the Chairman of the Parish Council, the District Counsellor and members of BEWG and The Society for the Protection of Bampton. All made the point that this development was most undesirable; the site could not be considered as necessary 'rounding-off' the village edge; that the fine view of fields as you enter Bampton would be spoilt; and access on the 'A' road would be dangerous. Following these representations an Inspector visited the site. The Inspector dismissed the appeal, stating that approval would be considered as causing serious planning harm.

Dog fouling bins

As you will have noticed, these are now in place. The response of dog owners has been on the whole very encouraging. **Lets keep it up!**

Library

Councillor Carol Jones attended a meeting of the Museums, Arts, Libraries and Leisure Committee on 27th January 1998 to speak on behalf of Bampton Library and Bampton residents. The outcome of the meeting has been covered in the local press, but briefly means that Bampton Library is safe from closure for the present. Opening hours will, however, be cut. There will also be a countrywide reduction in the Book Fund. Please continue to support our Library and the marvellous facilities it provides. These now includes the Robert Vesey Room, where you can see a display of local art and have a relaxing cup of tea.

Village Appraisal

More copies of the Village Appraisal were printed than we originally thought affordable, so all of you will have had your copy delivered. It certainly makes very interesting reading. Extra copies for friends or relatives outside Bampton can be obtained from **Mr B. Sapsford, Tel: 850776**, for £2 per copy.

Comtel

Comtel appears to have snaked it's way through the village without too much hardship - apart from the odd power supply disruption. If residents are not satisfied with the work completed in their vicinity please be sure to telephone - **Comtel** - the number is on the Parish Council Notice board.

Millennium Options

The Parish Council plans to set up a Millenium Committee immediately after the May Council Elections. Co-opted members from the Church, Youth Club and any other interested members of the village will be encouraged to join. The Committee will be provided with terms of reference to give guidance on options, timescale and affordability.

Parish Council Elections

You will no doubt have read in the papers that the Parish Council Elections will be held on Thursday 7th May 1998. Elections are only held once every 4 years so we hope that Bampton residents will make every effort to vote in the 11 councillors who will represent the community on a whole range of matters. Whilst the Parish Council's responsibilities are small compared to the County Council or the District Council, it does have a strong say in the decision-making process of these higher authorities and carries a lot of weight particularly on planning applications, traffic control measures and services in general. Within Bampton, the Council manages the Cemetery, Recreation Ground, Playing Fields and the Allotments.

Whilst it is too early to say how many

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 OAPs) for the period up to December 31st 2000, to:

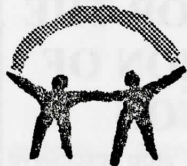
**Society for the Protection of
Bampton
Manor House,
Bampton, Oxon OX18 2LQ**

candidates will be competing for the 11 places available, several of the present councillors will fortunately be standing again and will, if elected, give the new Council badly needed continuity and experience.

OXFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Congratulations Bampton!

The village of Bampton has just completed its second Village Appraisal Report, the 50th Appraisal to be published in this county. We also believe that we are the first village to publish our Appraisal on computer disc as well as in the new printed format. A team of hard-working volunteers has spent untold hours preparing and distributing the questionnaires, as well as collecting them and analysing the results before finally publishing the report. Over 80% of Bampton villagers completed the questionnaire. The community now needs to look at the results and take action on any points highlighted.



WITNEY AND DISTRICT CARERS

Good news for the area!

The Carers Centre is going to have a base in Witney, at the Witney Community Hospital on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9am to 1pm.

What is a Carer?

A Carer can be a relative, friend or neighbour who looks after someone of any age who, because of illness or disability, cannot manage without help.

How can we help?

We are looking for volunteers in the area willing to give a few hours a month to be 'Carers Contacts'. We will train and support you so that you can do the work with confidence, and we offer out of pocket expenses. Some relief care costs can be met for Carers wishing to volunteer. For more details contact **Helen de Salis, Carers' Centre, Witney Hospital, Tel: 771211.**

BAMPTON CARERS GROUP

The group has a new venue and meeting time, Bampton Town Hall on the 1st Wednesday of the month 2-4pm. There will be refreshments, bring-and-by stall, information and support, so do drop in and see us.

DIALABILITY

Are you elderly?
Do you have a disability?
Perhaps someone in your family is disabled, or you care for someone with a disability?

If this is you, Dialability can help!

We hold information on a variety of topics, including support groups, accessible transport, holidays, useful gadgets and equipment.

For more information on how Dialability can help you, contact :

Tel: 01865 791818

RING-A-RIDE

West Oxfordshire District

Run by OCVA Charity No: 203254

The Oxfordshire Council for Voluntary Action (OCVA) is an umbrella organisation for voluntary organisations in Oxfordshire, and was founded in 1933. It is run by member organisations for their benefit and for the benefit of the community. Our aim is to support and develop voluntary action and to co-ordinate services in order to avoid needless overlap. We provide up-to-date information on services via our 'Directory of Voluntary & Statutory Services in Oxfordshire'.

OCVA identifies gaps in provision through a wide range of groups. It helps new organisations to set up and seeks funding for new work. It runs services directly where there are gaps in provision.

This new service in West Oxfordshire is one such gap in service and is funded by The RTDF & West Oxfordshire District Council.

What is Ring-a-ride?

Ring-a-ride is a local minibus service for people who are unable to use ordinary buses. Passengers may have a permanent or temporary disability, physical or otherwise. Our vehicle has low steps, lots of handles, wheelchair clamping facilities and a helpful driver.

What can I use it for?

It can take you for example, to work, further education, shopping or visiting friends. You may also take a friend with you. We are unable to take you to hospital appointments or day care as these journeys are carried out by the Ambulance Service and Social Services.

How does it work?

Once you have booked the bus will pick you up from home within 15 minutes of the booked time and return you later in the day. You may go to Oxford city and anywhere in the West Oxon area, and bookings will be taken on a first come first served basis. Booking staff will always try to accommodate you journey but, if you can be flexible about the time you wish to travel we will book you on the bus with other passengers taking similar journeys. Remember the bus may pick up and drop off other people on the way to your destination.

How do I book?

Tel: 01865 744478 Monday to Friday between 9.30am - 12.30pm. You can book up to 7 days before the day you want to travel. When you call for the first time, we will register you by taking a few details, such as your address, so in future you will only need to give your name when you book.

The new service operates Monday - Friday from 9am - 4.30pm and Saturday Mornings 9am - 1.30pm.

How much does it cost?

The cost will depend on your destination but will be no more than £1.50 for a single journey and £3.00 for a return, your escort will travel free of charge. We will be happy to accept Travel Tokens provided by the district council as full, or part payment of your fare.

How do I cancel a booking?

Tel: 01865 74478 at any time (outside office hours there is an ansaphone). You can also visit our Internet Homepage if you have Internet access. The address (URL) is:

<http://www.iway.co.uk/-ocva/home.html>

If you have a query?

If you have any suggestions or you have cause for complaint please contact:
The Director, Oxfordshire Council for Voluntary Action, Pratten Building, New Road, Oxford. OX1 1LT

Tel: 01865 251946

HIP REPLACEMENTS

The Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre (NOC) are hoping to change their approach to caring for patients with total hip replacements. The new approach - Patient Care Pathway - maps out a standardised process, which should ensure things are not forgotten, but which will allow for patient's individual needs/concerns. It is also hoped that this way of working will improve multi-disciplinary care via a single patient record.

The audit team at NOC would like to interview confidentially (without patient medical details known to medical staff) people who have had unilateral (one side) primary (first time) total hip replacements at this hospital within the last 2 years. Contact **Community Health Council Val Garner, Tel: 01865 200909.**

Sharing the Caring with



Established 1983

Help with a bath?

Assistance in getting up, or going to bed?

Cooking a light meal, shopping, walking or nightsitting?

We provide personal caring services for the elderly and disabled

Tel: 01993 700050

Prospect House, Bampton, Oxon. OX18 2LF

Registered as Employment Agency Business



WOULD YOU LIKE TO . . .

- Meet people?
- Make friends?
- Help someone?
- Find a new interest?
- Gain confidence?
- Develop your skills?

Volunteer Link-Up is ready to give you the opportunity to learn more. It runs an advice and placement service for anyone who wants to give a helping hand with a variety of needs in Witney, Carterton and surrounding villages.

Elderly and disabled people need drivers with their own cars to give them the chance to get out of their homes to health centres, clinics, hospitals, day centres, shops or to just out for a drive. 30p per mile expenses are paid.

People with learning difficulties would love to have someone offering friendship and encouragement to get out and take part in various activities. A number of lonely elderly people are hoping that someone will visit them, and perhaps take them out for walks or in a wheelchair or do their shopping for them.

If you like to be with small children there is a real need for assisting in caring for babies and toddlers in a creche for a hour or two whilst their mothers attend courses, etc.

There are also lots of other ways in which your help would be appreciated, including assisting at day centres, clubs and activities for young people, disabled and elderly people.

Please contact Volunteer Link-Up, Tel: :776277, or call at the office on the first floor of the new Methodist Church building (rear entrance) in Wesley Walk, off High Street, Witney. The office is open Monday to Friday 9am - 1pm, but there is an answerphone at other times.



THE GIFT OF BLOOD

(adapted from the Department of Health leaflet)

As you read this article, a child in hospital is receiving a blood transfusion. A girl is learning how to smile again, as she recovers from leukaemia. On another ward, an old man is being treated for severe burns.

They all rely on blood donations from healthy people like you . . .

By enrolling as a blood donor you could save a life - who knows, one day it could be you or a member of your own family who needs blood.

If you aren't a blood donor already, or if you used to give blood but don't anymore, why not enrol today?

Who can become a blood donor?

Anyone between 18 and 60, who is healthy and not subject to certain conditions.

What types of blood are needed?

All types, especially the most common ones because they are the ones most in demand.

How much time is involved?

It takes around 45 minutes from booking in at a session to the end of the rest period. Donors are normally invited to donate two to three times a year.

Where can I give blood?

At Bampton Village Hall on **Thursday 23rd July and Thursday 26th November 1998**. There will an afternoon and an evening session on both dates.

How do I enrol as a blood donor?

Simply turn up at a session or - better still
Tel: 0345 711711.

THE CROP SHOP - TOO 2 ROSEMARY LANE BAMPTON

Tel: 01993 850850

We are competent in all aspects of hair design.

We stock TRESemme Products for you to try .

We welcome all ages children to Senior Citizens, men & women (Reduced rates available)

**Appointment not always necessary
Late night Fri. - Early start Sat.**

BEAMTECH VIDEO, TV and MONITOR SERVICES

*** FREE ESTIMATES**

*** COLLECTION / DELIVERY
* 7 DAYS**

*** FAST, LOCAL, RELIABLE**

Bampton Castle 01993 851109

THE BAMPTON RECREATION GROUND

BAMPTON ARCHERY CLUB



Men and women in green tights and feathered hats?

Current club members have managed to steer away from this fashion fad, which has always been associated with archery. This April will see the beginning of the club's third season and we hope to continue the success, and more importantly the friendly atmosphere that has developed since the club started.

Last year we ended up with a club membership of around 26 people, including 8 children. A number of families were participation, something the club is aiming to encourage. The club has some training equipment available, and we are more than willing to teach the basics of archery to first timers, so please come and join us over the summer months.

Last year saw the club participate in several events, one of them being a friendly competition against the Cherwell Archers of Oxford. Despite the skill and accuracy of the Bampton Archers we came a gallant second, and this coming season we plan to have a re-match here in Bampton. Another event was the primary School Summer Fete, where a small group from the club set up a short range, raising £25 for the school. January saw a party of us visit the pantomime at Chipping Norton. What did we see? Robin Hood of course!

Despite the disadvantage of only being able to shoot in the summer months, the club has attained a good level of core members. With continued local support it is hoped that the club can continue for many years to come. All are welcome to join us from Wednesday 8th April, and remember, green tights are not mandatory

For further information contact John Hill, Tel: 850513.

BAMPTON-IN-THE-BUSH CRICKET CLUB

What an unfortunate start to the year. Twicesomeone run over the new cricket wicket with a vehicle leaving untold damage behind them. This has to be rectified and will cost the club and the recreation ground money!! This hasn't stopped us though, we hope to start practising in April.

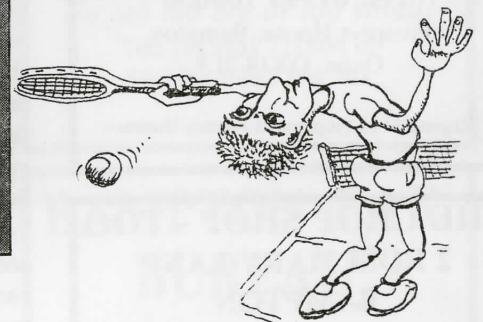


The Sunday 'friendlies' are currently being organised,, hopefully twice as many as last year.

Don't forget, we have nice new whites to wear courtesy of our sponsors. What more could you want on a Sunday

Afternoon ?

Anyone of any age or ability interested in playing cricket, please contact Alan Clarke, Tel: 850201, or call in and see him at The Horsehoes.



BAMPTON TENNIS CLUB

The 1998/99 season starts on 1st March. New members are very welcome.

Subscriptions remain the same as 1997:

Adult £20

Junior £20

Family £50

For more information please contact the Membership Secretary Mr John Williams, Tel: 850680

Programme for this season starting 1st April, 1998:

Club Nights - Thursday 7pm to dusk.

Easter Junior Coaching - watch out for details.

Play Tennis '98 Event - 23rd May 1998.

Annual Tournament - Mixed Doubles

Private hire of courts - details available at Emmies Newsagent, Tel: 850188.

If you want more - then get involved!!

THE APPRAISAL

WHERE'S THE ACTION?

We recently received the Village Appraisal, and very smart it is too. Lovely cover, lots of interesting 'facts and figures' inside. It drew plenty of comment, and I for one enjoyed reading it. But what are we going to *do* with all that information? The Appraisal presented a picture of a generally overwhelmingly residential village. The majority own their own homes, almost all have TVs, refrigerators, etc., and one quarter of households have a computer. Almost 10% of people aged over 16 are in some form of higher or further education.

Of course, there is a price to be paid for this affluence. Of employees, the majority work between 41 and 60 hours a week. Only 120 people say they work in Bampton; 176 travel further than Swindon or Oxford. On a personal note, it is said that only 2 people work in Witney. Surely my husband and myself cannot be the only ones to venture there?

There are signs too of a more restless community than at first appears. Only 18% of the population has lived in the Parish since birth, and 75% have lived at their present address for less than 15 years. Less than 33% wish to be buried in the local cemetery. A small majority wishes to see Bampton develop into a small market town, with more facilities, and especially with more employment.

So, here is a personal view of the issues raised . . .

Firstly, **employment**. There are jobs in Bampton, but on the whole they tend to be low tech and/or part-time. (For the self-employed its a very different matter). It is alarming that a majority of employers neither employ trained staff, nor intend to take on trainees. Will our bright young people stay in the village in these circumstances?

Secondly, **education**. I find it surprising that only 59% of primary children attend the village school. A very high proportion, therefore, are educated outside the village. Whether in the public or private sector.

Thirdly, **traffic**. There is a very strong feeling that 'something needs to be done'. People favour speed cameras, pedestrian crossings, lower speed limits and road markings. Many fewer want mini-roundabouts or road humps. I wonder what our local councils will be able to achieve in this area.

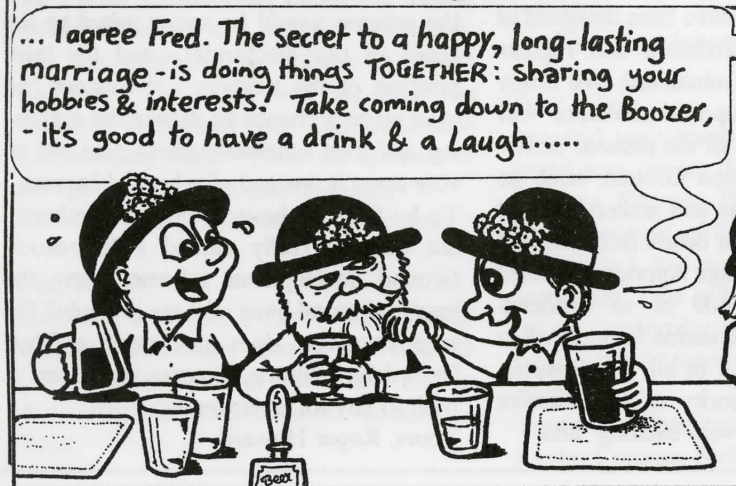
And, last but by no means least, **the younger generation**. Our young people face a fast-moving and uncertain future. Three-quarters of them are in paid tempor-

rary employment whilst still at school. Most say they like living in Bampton, but a large number express dissatisfaction with the atmosphere in the centre of the village in the evenings. Their request is simple: a place where they can gather to socialise without causing a nuisance to other members of the community. Sadly, the Youth Centre is not seen as meeting this need for most people. Do we want young people to regard Bampton as a dormitory village, where their main leisure activities are watching TV and playing computer games? A village that they will leave soon, to find employment, and with little regret? **Come on Bampton**, let's get together to establish some social facility for our youth! Now that really would be a worthy millenium project.

Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Company presents
NARROW BOAT
 To The Wide World
 by Phil Smith
 A gentle comedy of deams
 "Lets see what we can do with the past if the future's so awful"
 Presented by West Oxfordshire Arts Association.
 Wednesday 8th April 7pm.
 The Village Hall
 Tickets £5 concessions £3.50
 available from
 The Cotton Club
 Bridge St. Bampton.
 No Reservations.

BAMPTON BILL

by Andy!



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I am writing with reference to Roger Howard's letter in the December issue of The Beam re: the development of Buckland Road Recreation Ground.

As a founder member of Bampton Boys F.C. and currently manager of the Under-14s team, I am somewhat dismayed by Mr Howard's negative view of the project. Mr Howard thinks "it would be more appropriate to create something smaller". At present there is a garage which is used as changing and storage facilities for the sports activities that are run at the Recreation Ground. It is, to say the least, a disgrace and an embarrassment to the Club and the village when the football teams play at home. It is extremely difficult for two teams to change in the confined space and impossible for four teams to change as can often be the case when both teams are playing 'at home'. Perhaps Mr Howard would like to come to a boys' football match next time we are at home and see for himself the difficulties we are experiencing.

Yours sincerely,

Linden Burley, F A Team Coach,
The Willows, Aston Road, Bampton.

Dear Editor,

As chairman of the Bampton Archery Club I have felt the need to respond to Roger Howard's recent letter to The Beam concerning the development of Buckland Road Recreational Ground. Although considered by some as a minority sport, the Bampton Archery Club has grown steadily over the past 3 years, benefiting from the support of the Recreational Committee and many local people. A number of families have been able to enjoy this sport outdoors during the summer months, but come September the impetus to continue is sadly lost due to the lack of light. The possibility of having this new well-sized facility on Buckland Road would allow the archery club to continue all year round. This opportunity would allow members, families and children to participate during the long dark winter months without having to travel too far, thus keeping this local facility available to all.

John Hill,

Chairman, Bampton Archery Club.

Dear Editor,

As chairman of the Parish Council and also

Chairman of the Bampton Boy's Football Club, I would like to comment on Roger Howard's letter in your December issue about the planned Pavilion for the Recreation Ground. Naturally I would have like to have had the opportunity to comment at the time, but better 4 months later than never.

Readers will recall that the Parish Council set up a Pavilion Steering Committee some 2 years or so ago under Lord Donoughmore's leadership. This hard-working group of councillors studied other villages's pavilions within a 20-mile radius from Bampton, and many valuable lessons were learnt from the strengths and weaknesses of these buildings, some of which were almost new. One of the most important lessons learnt was that we should be absolutely sure of the total costs before making the lottery application. We have, therefore waited until we have acceptable tenders for the construction of the pavilion, trim track and landscaping, as well as realistic costings for furnishings, security devices, etc., before assembling our bid. Yes, it is a huge sum, at just over £300,000, but readers will recall that we hope to get 65% from a lottery grant, 25% from WODC and the remaining 10% from the Recreation Ground Charity. We are not, asking Bampton residents therefore, to pay anything towards the construction. Readers will be pleased to know that the trustees have decided on good quality materials for the pavilion and local stone and timber will be used. The above costings include expensive but essential lockable shutters, which have been designed in such a way that vandalism and regular maintenance will be minimised. We firmly believe that the proposed structure will adequately cater for all the planned activities for the Recreation Ground, such as soccer, cricket, tennis and archery as well as providing an indoor bowls facility for all ages. The recent Village Appraisal showed that an additional 400 or so residents intend to use the Recreation Ground when facilities improve. All in all, the Steering Group and the majority of the trustees believe that this is a very exciting and

necessary project and should produce a facility that Bampton residents will be very proud of.

Answering Roger's other points, he is right to say that we received 155 positive replies during the public consultation stage, but he omits to say that only 7 voted against. We assume that the lack of replies from the remaining 800 or so forms sent out to Bampton residences means that these families didn't feel strongly either way. Roger also mentioned the possibility that the Charity Trustees (i.e. your Parish Councillors) may have to guarantee some borrowings personally. This is really a remote possibility and would arise only if an overdraft was required from the bank during the construction stage should the cash flow be disrupted by, for example, a delayed lottery stage payment.

We will keep your readers fully informed of progress on this badly needed facility as and when we get news of the lottery allocation.

Yours sincerely,

David Hawkins, Mill Green.

As we received several letter in answer to Roger's letter in the December issue, this is his reply:

Dear Editor,

It's interesting to read David's response to my previous letter even if he does seem to miss the point of what I carefully and reasonably said.

David mentions a 25% (£75K) grant from the District Council; this grant is so WODC can put West Oxfordshire sports through Bampton using our facilities. But this is quite wrong, not least because, for good reasons, the legal basis of our Recreation Charity is written specifically in respect of Bampton people only. Perhaps the scheme would be more suited to the needs of our electorate - and the legal position of the trustees - if trustees had been given a chance to debate the surprising and final scheme/business plan and to vote upon it, instead of what did happen. To be fair, we have to build something - but can we really defend a Recreation Ground development scheme where the legal and moral basis of it are in doubt? I'm sure Bampton does not need a West Oxfordshire Sports Centre, nor does it wish to pay for its upkeep.

Yours, Roger Howard.

Dear Editor,

You will probably have had many similar letters to this but I would like to add my voice about the Village Appraisal.

It is a truly magnificently presented document and contains a lot of interesting information. I cannot claim to have fully absorbed all the information contained therein or worked out just what it really means for the village. But I am certain that it will prove most helpful to the Parish Council and others over the next few years.

Many congratulations and thanks to all involved.

Yours sincerely,

The Earl of Donoughmore.

Bampton Manor, Broad Street, Bampton.

Dear Editor,

You will, receive much comment on the village appraisal that was distributed in early January. As Chairman of the Parish Council, I would like to thank Henry Reed-Purvis for leading such a hard working steering committee and to congratulate all of the team on producing such a first class product. It is extremely well laid out, very easy to read and is very frank in its advice to the Parish Council and to other local authorities.

I have already used data from the appraisal when I spoke at the recent appeal against the proposed building development in Station Road. The fact that 800 out of the 1200 replies had hoped for no more development in Bampton was strong ammunition for me to use and the Inspector, who will have to make a judgement, was keen to read the appraisal.

I will leave others to comment on the conclusions reached. Suffice to say that the Parish Council has noted the strong words of advice and will not hesitate to use the appraisal to achieve a better Bampton. No longer will we hear the comment in Council "but what do Bamptonians really want?" Now we can turn to the appropriate page and find out.

David Hawkins, Mill Green, Bampton.

Dear Editor,

The cake stall that I ran in The Village Hall on 7th February raised a total of £133 (£95 from the sale of cakes and £38 in donations) for the National Meningitis Trust.

Very many thanks to all who made cakes or gave donations and also to those who came and bought.

Eileen LLoyd, 18 Calais Dene, Bampton.

Dear Editor,

We would like to say a huge thank you to all our customers for helping to raise £752 for The Children in Need Appeal.

Yours, Sue and Ann,

Midland Bank, Bampton.

Dear Editor,

We would like to say thank you to all of you who contributed towards the collection for us. We never knew there such feeling of goodwill in Bampton, it came as a complete surprise. The monies collected will be spent on something for our new home which we are happily beginning to settle into.

You will all be missed by both of us, as we have already found out!

Yours John and Betty,

Aston Road, Bampton.

Dear Editor,

I recently received some sad news from Australia of the death of Mrs Joyce Beckett. Her daughter wrote and told me she passed away on 17th February.

Joyce's family arrived in Australia on 1st December 1949. She never lost touch with Bampton, and looked forward to receiving The Beam. It was my copy of course which finally ended up 'Down Under'.

yours faithfully,

Mr Jim Morton, Chipping Norton.

The Beam Team and all who knew her would like to pass on their thoughts to Mrs Beckett's family. It only seems like yesterday she wrote and thanked us for producing The Beam, which she thoroughly enjoyed reading.

Dear Editor,

I would very much appreciate it if you could pass on my thanks to the Women's Institute for me. They gave me such a lovely bouquet of flowers to thank me for my work I had achieved, whilst on the committee. Due to health problems now, I cannot undertake any more committee work, other than enjoy the afternoon meetings.

Yours Eliz Chambers,

Karibu Cottage, Bampton.

THE CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

Bampton Branch

The AGM was held on 6th February, in the Town Hall. The following committee was appointed:

President: Mrs Mollie Smith

Chairwoman: vacant

Treasurer: Canon Roland Meredith

Secretary: Brain Standan

General Members Mark Booty, Elizabeth Chambers, Fenella Gray.

Mrs Marion Dowding the out-going chairwoman was thanked for all her hard work during the year, also Mrs Mollie Smith was thanked for continuing to be the Association's President.

Mr Shaun Woodward will be coming to Bampton on the 25th April 1998 to hold a surgery in the Town Hall between 10.30am - 12.30pm for anyone wishing to speak to him.

VALE OF WHITE HORSE CONSERVATION

This Vale of White Horse Conservation Volunteer Group is affiliated to BTCV (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers) and exists to involve people of South and West Oxfordshire in practical nature conservation work of community value, for example tree planting, woodland management, footpath construction and maintenance, fence construction and scrub clearance.

What to wear: stout boots or wellingtons and old clothes.

What to bring: waterproofs and a packed lunch.

What is provided: work gloves, tools (and advice on how to use them), tea or coffee and biscuits.

We are active most Sundays throughout the year, commencing at 10am - but there is no obligation to be there for the entire day.

If you have any questions or would like more information please contact **David Newnham, Tel: 01235 559068.**

ROYAL AIR FORCE BRIZE NORTON

PRESS RELEASE

by *Community Relations Officer Flight Lieutenant Dave Rowe.*

FUND-RAISING SIGNALS UNIT

Personnel from a small RAF signals unit have climbed Everest and Mount Etna, rowed the channel twice and run in two marathons. Or at least, that's the equivalent of the distance covered by the unit during various sponsored events undertaken in an 8 month fund-raising campaign. All 32 members of No 2 Signals

Unit (based at RAF Bampton) spent their spare time last year in a variety of sponsored physical activities, performed on rowing, cycling, running and stepping training machines. Less energetic social activities also helped to raise funds, including a barbecue and a sponsored walk through neighbouring villages. Perhaps the most unusual event was a sponsored leg-waxing, courtesy of a local beauty salon.

In all, the unit a total of over £2000. The money has been used to provide an exercise bike and a computer with educational software to a local teenager who was left visually impaired and partially paralysed following meningitis. The balance of the funds was donated to the Visual Impairment Services, to buy educational aids.



*FLT.LT. Paul Prentice, SGT. Phil Caswell,
CPL. Bob Kiddie and JT. Jon Steward.*

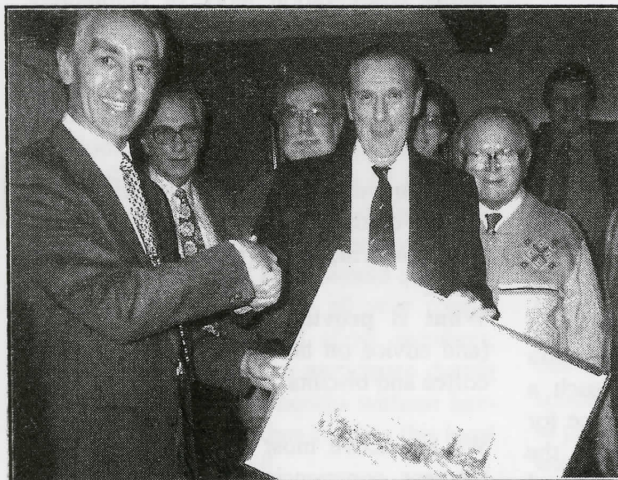
FAREWELL TO JOHN ACKERMAN

Clerk to Parish Council retires after 30 years' valuable service

by *David Hawkins*

After attending well over 400 parish meetings as Clerk to Bampton Parish Council, John Ackerman has understandably decided that perhaps it is time to retire from this very responsible post. He first took over as Clerk in August 1967 whilst working in our local branch of the Midland Bank. He has served with no less than nine Chairmen and has played an important role in seven elections. To hold this demanding post for more than 30 years is remarkable, but to provide such a service to the community when you live 3 miles away in Curbridge is quite extraordinary. What is even more remarkable is the fact that John has also been Clerk to Curbridge Parish Council since 1964, and he will continue with this duty for the moment. Since he retired, he has also acted as Treasurer and Company Secretary to the Wyndham House Trust, which provides sheltered accommodation for the elderly in Oxford. The gratitude and respect felt by all Bampton residents towards John was clearly shown last August when his 30 years of service was celebrated at a special function held in the Town Hall, attended by many present and past Councillors. John is well known for his dry sense of humour, his meticulous book work and accounting procedures and, not least, his very clear advice to all Councillors as what they may and particularly what they may **not** do! What is certain is that John will be much missed.

Fortunately, he has been assisted over the last 3 years by Brenda Sapsford who will be taking over as Clerk in early April. As well as thanking John for such outstanding service, the Parish Council also wish to thank Janet Ackerman for the very strong support she has given John in these duties. Will the 30-year record ever be beaten? Over to you Brenda for the first attempt.



*John Ackerman receives a painting of Bampton Castle
by Ann Manley from the Chairman of the Parish
Council, David Hawkins.*

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WHAT'S BEEN - WHAT'S TO COME?

THE CHRISTMAS LATE NIGHT SHOPPING EVENING

This event, the first of its kind in Bampton, organised by the Bampton Small Business Association and the Parish Council, was a great success.

The shops and bank stayed open and business was brisk. As well as a Craft Fair in the Village Hall, Father Christmas was in his Grotto, a crime prevention exhibition on show and refreshments were served. Outside, the Christmas Tree was lit while carols were sung and hot chestnuts eaten. The fire engine also paid a visit to the Market Square and luckily wasn't called away. Even a pre-Christmas visit from the Bampton mummers was on offer. Hopefully this will be the first of many late-night Christmas shopping evenings in Bampton.

Well done everyone who took part.

BAMPTON CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

Burns Night

On Saturday 24th January, Rabbi Burns was once again remembered in Bampton. Guests were welcomed into the Youth Centre by branch chairwoman Mrs Marion Dowding, where the piper was playing and Scottish Dancers were showing their skills. Everyone then sat down to a well presented dinner of cock-a-leekie soup, haggis and neeps, followed by Scottish cheeses with oatcakes. Finally shortbread and black bun were served with coffee and a wee dram.

Before everyone began, the Selkirk Grace was given by Canon Roland Meredith. The haggis was carried in by the chef followed by the Piper. Squadron Leader Ian McLintock recited the address to the haggis and before it had a chance to get away used his skein du.

The address to the Lassies was given by Squadron Leader Ian McLintock and the Lassies reply (girl power) was given by Mrs Chrissie Curry. On a more serious note (or was it?), the Toast to the Immortal Memory of Rabbi Burns was given by Mr Paul Gray.

The Celtic raffle went very well, and one

particular table benefitted rather well . . . they were also selling the tickets!!!!

Our thanks go to the Cheltenham Scottish Society for coming out and dancing so well for us. Also, where would we be without the Piper. Many thanks again.

A good evening was had by everyone, and we hope to see you again next year - same place, same venue!!

Many thanks to Marion and her team for making it such a memorable evening for everyone.

WHATS ON IN APRIL?

Easter Bonnett Parade

On Easter Saturday 11th April 10.30am the Annual Easter Bonnett Parade is being held in the Jubilee Car Park.

The parade is for adults as well as children, so start decorating those hats and get that feeling of Spring in the air. There is a prize for everyone who enters . . . and don't forget that raffle tickets will be on sale, it may be your lucky day!!

The money collected goes towards the transport costs of the Traditional Morris Dancers.

For more information contact **Mrs Ruth Wheeler, Tel: 850808**

WHAT'S ON IN MAY?

Whit Saturday

Saturday the 23rd May brings out the SPAJERS Annual Shirt Race. Bamptonians of all ages participate in one of the oldest races still held in the area.

Participants have to run with a partner sitting in a wheeled unpowered pramulater around the pubs in Bampton. The first pair back to the Market Square after drinking half pints along the specified route win the race. It's so much easier these days only 6 pubs, in Bampton. It used to be 13! Don't forget the street collection, raffle and tombola need supporting.



Whit Monday

On Monday 25th the Morris Dancing starts at 7am. We have three teams here in Bampton all dancing different routes throughout the village. In the evening, visiting teams come to join in the dancing in the Market Square. Also, do try a piece of the fertility cake which is carried round the streets.

The May Garlands

Later on 25th May, at 11am the May Garlands will be judged in the Market Square. These garlands are a tradition in Bampton, and people who grow up here in the village have the know-how passed down to them through the generations.

If you have children at Bampton Primary school, details of how to make a garland are available from the secretary's office. For more information contact, **Mrs Ruth Wheeler, Tel: 850808.**

The Craft Fair

Also on 25th May, from 9.30am onwards there will be a Craft Fair, to be held in the Village Hall. Lots of old crafts such as corn dollies, woodcarving, pottery and silver ware, will be on show.

Refreshments

Finally, the Royal British Legion Women's Section will be in the Village Hall from 9am making tea and refreshments for all the early risers who will be up and following the Morris Dancers.



THE PUMPKIN CLUB

Unfortunately, the Street Fair has had to be cancelled this year due to the decline of numbers on the Pumpkin Club Committee. If they are unable to attract sufficient people the Pumpkin Club will have to face closure. If you would like to help contact **Dave Close Tel: 851302.**

Don't let the Pumpkin Weigh-In have to be cancelled as well - come on there must be people out their in this village who want to help!!

BAMPTON PUMPKIN CLUB 1997

The May Day street fair was held as usual, with its wide variety of attractions, ranging from kiddie's rides to an Exemption Dog Show. Everyone seemed to have enjoyed the profusion of attractions and plenty of money had exchanged hands. A fair proportion (about £950) found its way into the club's coffers.

In October the Weigh-In and Grand Auction were held. The pumpkin competition was a close-run contest with only 4 ounces separating the first and second place. Our congratulations to the winner - Roger Glyde and commiserations to the runner-up - Steve Leonard. The auction was a resounding success with everything sold, one way or another, and the Pumpkin Club was £1000 better off.

Throughout the year a small band of stalwarts organises the Bush Centre Bingo, and each December a Pumpkin Club raffle is held in The Romany Inn; proceeds from these ventures going to the Club's account.

All the above fund-raising efforts would come to naught if it were not for that loyal band of helpers who, every year, give up their time and efforts to help the small committee ensure that these events are a continuing success. Many, many thanks to those who are too numerous to be individually named.

After such a good fund-raising year, Christmas 1997 saw our listed pensioners receiving a larger than normal monetary gift. Whether this amount will become the norm depends on how successful fund-raising continues to be this year.

The club committee has declined in numbers from 12, five years ago, to just 5 now. We desperately need a few more willing souls to come forward and volunteer to sit on the committee. **If we are unable to attract sufficient people to serve on the committee, it seems inevitable that the Pumpkin Club will face closure. As it is we are unable to organise the 1998 May Day Street Fair. So please give serious thought to joining the Pumpkin Club Committee.** It is at times hard graft, but it is always enjoyable; our HQ is the The Romany Inn so you are always guaranteed a good pint at the end. **Interested? Then contact, Dave Close, Tel: 851302, or Max Norman, Tel: 844591.**

NOTICE BOARD

BAMPTON 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, and 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.

We would welcome new helpers. For more information please contact joint co-ordinators, **Joan Granville, Tel: 850407, Vera Allport, Tel: 850411.**

CLANFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Meetings at the Carter Institute, Clanfield at 7.30pm are followed by coffee and biscuits.

The following are dates for your diary:

21st April - Tim Porter

King Alfred - Fact and Fantasy

19th May - Annual General Meeting

Peter Creswell - Clanfield 'Road Show'.

Membership £4.50 or £8 per couple. Visitors welcome £1. For further enquiries contact **Angie Bell, Tel: 810688.**

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 £5.00 with a charge of 75p per session.

New members are always welcome.

For more information please contact **Mrs Joan Granville, Tel: 850407.**

BAMPTON PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

**Notification of change of Committee
February 1998**

Chairman: Chris Horne

Treasurer: Sonya Paige

Secretary: Anna Pitt

Enrolment Secretary: Claire Box

Rota Secretary: Lesley Paintin

Fees Secretary: Karen Williams

Other Members:

Corina Tanner

Kerry Boot

Rita Lewis

Bernadette Goves

Supervisors

Supervisor: Elaine Townsend

Assistant Supervisor: Tracy Prior

Part-time Assistant Supervisor:

Monica Owen

Part-time Assistant Supervisor:

Sarah Radband

BAMPTON AND ASTON MEALS-ON-WHEELS SERVICE

The meals-on-wheels and books-on-wheels helpers celebrated the 21st Anniversary of the local Meals-on-Wheels Service with a lunch in the Village Hall on October 30th.

Three W.R.V.S. Officers from The Reading Regional Office also attended the lunch. Mrs Penny Feathers, the Regional Organiser, took the opportunity to present the Bampton Deputy, Mrs Clare Edwards, with her 15 year service medal.

To enable this service to continue, extra helpers, who have 2 hours to spare once a month, would be very welcome, especially helpers from Aston.

For more information contact W.R.V.S. Bampton Organiser, **Mrs Jean Howell, Tel: 850684**

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.**



THE BURFORD SINGERS

The Burford Singers' next concert with the Cotswold Chamber Orchestra, will be a performance of **Mozart's Mass in C Minor** together with **Bach's Orchestral Suite in D** and **Bach's Cantata 'Ich habe genug'** on **Good Friday April 10th at 7.30pm, in Burford Parish Church.**

The soloists will be **Mary Nelson** and **Patrizia Kwella** (sopranos); **John Crayford** (tenor) and **Roderick Williams** (baritone). The conductor is **Brian Etheridge.**

Reserved tickets and any further information, can be obtained from **Brian Etheridge at the Burford Gallery Tel: 822305.** Tickets are priced at £10 and £8 (student concessions £5 and £4).

Early information on our next concert in 1998 is as follows:

Monday 6th July, 7.30pm at the Sheldonian - Gershwin - Porgy and Bess. Nicole Tibbels (Bess), Roderick Williams (Porgy), Neil Jenkins (Sporting Life), Brian Kay (Narrator), Penelope Martin-Smith (various), Jack Gibbons (piano).

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Slimming World

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

The dates for the next two meetings of our local branch will be 18th May and 6th July. Both meetings start at 8pm.

We meet at the Tolkien Room, Tolkien Room, The Catholic Church, Eynsham and always welcome visitors. **Further information from Kim Simkin Tel: 883937.**

NOTICE BOARD

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, Major Colvile, Mrs S. Phillips, Mrs I. Humphries, Mrs J. Haslam, Mrs T. Piercy, Mr G. Wiltshire (Aston), Mr G. Milner (Aston). Mrs H. Radclyffe (Lew) has recently resigned as a Trustee and it is hoped the vacancy will be filled in time for the July meeting.

CANCER RESEARCH CAMPAIGN

Bampton Branch

Chirman: Mrs Doris Cleaver

Tel: 850682

Treasurer: Mr Micheal Cleaver

Tel: 850682

Secretary: Mrs Margaret Smith

Tel: 850729

Events planned for 1998

Saturday 4th April -

Easter Sale, Village Hall.

Monday 25th May -

Car Raffle, Market Square.

Thursday 25th June -

Cream Teas, Village Hall.

Saturday 26th September -

Coffee Morning, Village Hall.

Wednesday 18th November -

Christmas Bingo, The Bush Centre.

Friday 18th December -

Country and Western Dance, Carterton Social Centre.



BAMPTON YOUTH CENTRE

The Annual General Meeting of the Youth Centre Management Committee will be held on **Tuesday 5th May 1998 at 6.30pm** in the ground floor room of the Town

Hall. Members of the general public are very welcome to attend the meeting at which the Chairman's report and the annual accounts will be presented, followed by the election of the committee. Despite serious problems of funding - following cuts in the County Council grant - the centre is continuing to provide accommodation for the increasingly successful Youth Club evenings. The Scout Group is still restricted by a shortage of leaders but is managing to maintain very popular meetings for the Cubs on Wednesday evenings. Anyone able to assist should contact **Phil Roberts, Tel: 851267** or **Robbie Brown, Tel: 850211.**

The centre is also available for hire for private parties and other activities at week-ends and during most mornings and afternoons. Apart from having excellent facilities and a pleasant atmosphere, the centre has extensive car parking space.

THE BAMPTON METHODIST CHAPEL

The Methodist Drop In

Drop in and see us, on Mondays at twelve, we're here every week, and we'll do you proud.

There's baked potatoes, with butter and cheese, just come and drop in and take your ease.

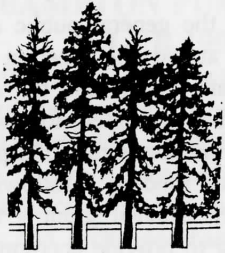
We've tea and coffee with biscuits and cakes, come for a chat, and take a break.

It doesn't matter who you are, or whether you come from near or far, come in and relax, with a nice cup of char.

Meet Liz and Hazel, Ruth and Gill, we'll make sure you go home with your tummies well filled.

So remember to drop in on Mondays at twelve, so cheerio for now, and look after yourselves.
by Gillian Ann Goodwin.

The Drop-In is opened on Monday 12am.



BAMPTON ENVIRONMENTAL WATCH GROUP

by Mrs Margaret Bruce-Mitford

BEWG's Annual General Meeting was held on January 28th 1998 in the Village Hall, when the Executive Committee for 1998 was elected. Three members had resigned - John Meredith, John Huck and Sonia Stalabrass. Martin Bishop and Jo Lewington were nominated and elected, and John Battersby who had been co-opted earlier in the year, was confirmed.

Chairman - Ralph Norman

Vice-Chairman - Margaret Bruce-Mitford.

Hon-Secretary - Ann Norman

Hon-Treasurer - Ray Proctor

Wine was served to give a good start to the year followed by an excellent talk given by Michael Evans on the National Monuments Record, with slides which illustrated the breadth in time and subject these records cover.

The next Open Meeting will take place on Wednesday 29th April at 8pm in the Village Hall when Christopher Hayhurst-France will talk about the Lost Manor of Wick. Non-members are welcome for a donation of £1.

For further information contact **Jo Lewington, Tel: 850947.**

BEWG and the Millenium

BEWG is considering ideas for celebrating the Millenium, one of which is the establishment of cycle paths to protect enthusiastic cyclists from the daunting hazard of using the main roads with their dense, over-speeding traffic. If anyone is interested in discussing this please contact **Jo Lewington, Tel: 850947.**

BEWG helps stop the New Houses

Margaret Bruce-Mitford represented BEWG at the Public Inquiry held on the 6-7th January. In spite of a very vigorous case put by a QC and a planning consultant on behalf of the developers, the Inspector dismissed their Appeal. His main grounds for the dismissal were the damage that a cluster of new buildings would do to the appearance and character of Bampton, the difficulty of access to the proposed development from a notoriously dangerous stretch of road, and the risk of setting a precedent which might be repeated in the fields opposite.

It is very good news to see such an enlightened view prevailing and it will have significance for all Green Field Planning Issues.

WHO CARES?

written by David Polle

Britain there are over 1 1/4 million acres of ancient woodlands (but ancient I mean existing since the year 1600) (Oxfordshire has over 18,000 acres) but, already, the lowest percentage of woodland in Europe. Britain has changed from the forested isle of Roman times to the least wooded country in Europe.

Who cares? Apparently no-one for this is caused by sheer neglect. Where once man coppiced these woods now hardly 5% is still managed.

Does it matter? Yes, if we want to keep the songbirds, butterflies, bumblebees, dormice, red squirrels and at least 200 species of woodland plants (from bluebells to oxslips). Even our oak trees are rapidly declining, with fewer and fewer surviving as woods are turned to scrubland.

We hardly see the change - it takes 250 years for an oak tree to grow and die and only then will the loss be obvious (and permanent). For now we can only blame the grey squirrels - but is it not man's fault that the hazelnuts needed by the red squirrel have died along with the oak seedlings?

The Forestry Commission returned four million pounds to the Treasury last year because not enough claims were put in for money to protect these ancient woodlands. People still feel it is better to plant a tree for prosperity, but only 25% survive, and four tree species do not constitute the 2000 other species found in our ancient woodlands. The good news is that the New Deal and the Forestry Commission are willing to assist with restoration, so if anyone does care, help is needed to survey local woodlands (an hour recording the common trees and plants) so that action plans can be developed to restore these woodlands and re-introduce the coppicing so vitally needed.

If you would like further information please contact **David Polle, 12 Chandler Close, Bampton**

Jo Lewington and Maureen Wilsker
are holding the 6th

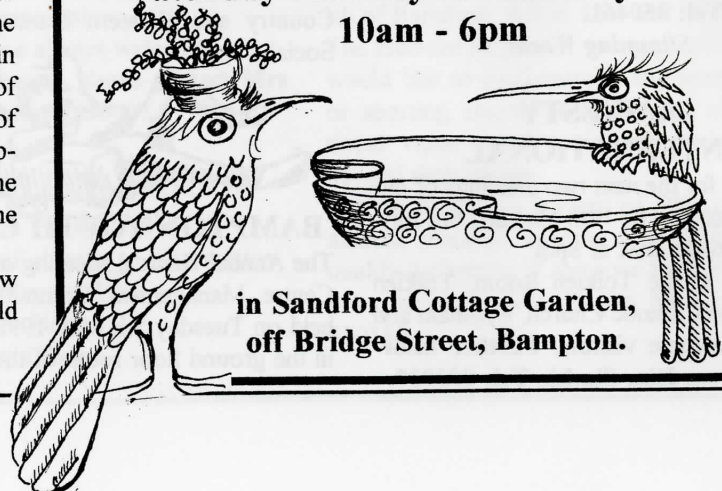
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A "GREENIE" AGAINST OUR AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

We received a letter from David Polle written after he had read Don Rouse's article on "High Tech Farming??"

David's Letter . . .

Dear Don,

Can we really believe our "High Tech" farmer when he complains of having to consult experts when he has used an inappropriate spray that has killed off 'bugs' that would have protected his seed? Another case of use anything that might make some profit and the devil take the hindmost. Or is it that the farmers claim Government support when they have created a new threat to mankind? I am sorry, but B.S.E was caused by very unnatural feed supplements that 'High Tech' farmers used to increase the weight of their animals and hence their profits.

Surely farmers must start to take some responsibility for their actions and consider *all* the effects of modern technology. Yes, it is acceptable (and preferable) for farmers to make profits but this should be to the benefit and not at the expense of their customers - we, the public.

Perhaps farmers should begin to see which way the wind is blowing and become a little more circumspect. Consider the following: the status of the House of Lords is being challenged because an inherited title is no longer regarded as inalienable right. Does not the same apply to farmland? Do not farmers hold it in trust for the nation? Hunting of deer and foxes is a traditional country pursuit of farmers - methinks the nation objects, and *will* eventually have its way.

Latest figures show that 3600 km of hedgerows are still being destroyed every year, mostly by farmers. Regulations have already been introduced to stop this. *What next?* 80% of ancient woodlands are on farmlands. Britain, the forested country of Europe in Roman times, now has the lowest percentage (12.5%) in Europe (Germany and France have 30%). Technology in our lives is creating more leisure

time. How long can landowners exclude walkers from land that in many cases are a public right of way?

Perhaps 'High Tech' farmers should think about treating their land and the public (and his wife) with a little more respect. They should consider the consequences and think before jumping into bed with something new!!



Don's answer . . .

Dear David

I would like to start by relating to you something that my Tutor for my Weight Lifting Instructor's Exam said, "If you think your audience is not paying attention, say something controversial. If nobody says anything - you've lost them!" So I am flattered that you do read my articles. If I've got one avid reader then perhaps The Beam will keep me on.

Though, I fear, you are not reading my articles diligently, as I was not aware that I was *complaining* about having to consult with experts. I was merely bringing to the attention of our readers how things have changed over the years (my brief from the Editor is to inform readers, in a light-hearted way, about developments on the Farming scene). Consulting with experts before using a specific spray was, I thought

the correct and responsible way to do business, thereby avoiding the unnecessary 'cockup' by using an 'inappropriate' spray.

I like your phrase "methinks." Please David, don't! Seek first the facts before letting off steam about your personal frustrations at not being able to control farmers. There is a true saying that "a little knowledge is a very dangerous thing." For instance at the time of going to press no expert has categorically stated that B.S.E. was caused by "very unnatural feed supplements," as you put it (bone meal to us). Have you heard of the very logical theory put forward by the Somerset farmer who was shown on Channel Four T.V. referring to the organophosphorus dressing for warble fly that was made compulsory by the Government? Well its worth thinking about. The Government won't because, if the theory was proven, it would have to pay out millions.

Talking of Governments, it was the Government of the 1950s that demanded a cheap food policy so that people would not have to pay a realistic price for food. Farmers were also given grants to pull up hedges and fill in ditches as part of the Government Rabbit Clearance Scheme! So don't always blame us!

David, thank you very much for accepting that the farmer, for his 14-hour day and 7-days week, is entitled to make a profit, but as you can see he has to work within the strict confines of Government policy, which now includes, of course, the EEC. The farmer, you will find, does act responsibly so that his children and their children will have something to inherit that has been lovingly cared for and improved.

Now tell me David if this new proposed law 'Freedom to Roam' comes into being, can I Picnic on your Lawn?!

If you have anything that you would like to write to us about, which you don't agree with or which you feel strongly for or against please do write to us, at the usual address. The Cotton Club, Bridge Street, Bampton.

BAMPTON SURGERY CODE

By Mr J. R. Meredith



In a recent article in the Health Service Journal it was revealed that doctors use a secret code to warn colleagues about patients' idiosyncrasies. These are words placed discreetly on record cards to alert a doctor who

has not previously seen a particular patient as to any special problems, and which if seen by a patient could of course lead to an immediate breakdown. With the utmost cunning and stealth, since I never visit a doctor (well not very often), I have obtained a copy of the 'Bampton Surgery Code'. It is of course highly confidential, but in the interests of 'open medical practice' I am leaking it to The Beam. All of these are, however, prescribed as **TWAPOS**. Dr Mackenzie denies they exist! But has advised me to visit the Warneford!!

- AIDS: Addicted intoxicating drink sadly.
- VD: Verbal diarrhoea.
- HANO: Hearing Aid never on!
- HOARSE: Help out a really sick elderly.
- SPRY: Sorry Perry really yours. (This is frequently put on by the other doctors!)
- REF. DAMN: Refer Diane a magnificent nurse.
- MUMPS: Many uncomfortable minor piles seen.
- WARD: Was a right distraction. (And not Dr. Ward's patient!)
- UDEN: Uses drugs every night. (Definitely not the Doctor himself!)
- PISS: Patient initially stops swearing.
- TART: Try a routine test.
- MADMAN: Mackenzie always diagnoses minor abdominal nonsense.
- BLADDER: Bloody long at describing damned ear rupture.
- R.I.P.: Really interesting patient. (This might mislead if seen by a patient.)

If there is a 'RED' sticker on the front it mean 'Revisits every day'.

In my own case there is the acronym 'SWABB': Stinker will alert Bampton Beam.

So knowing that I sign off with the name under which I am registered.

Just Ruddy Moron.

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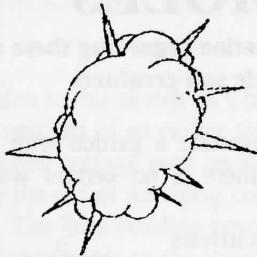
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THE GARDENING PAGE

News from BAMPTON GARDENING CLUB

Calendar of Events for 1998

Gardening Mornings - which will include coffee, gardening advice and plants for sale, in The Town Hall, Bampton. The dates are as follows:-

- Saturday 4th April
- Saturday 2nd May
- Saturday 6th June
- Saturday 3rd October
- Saturday 7th November

We have organised several trips and evening talks which are as follows:-

- Wednesday 22nd April - Tim Walker
- Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th May - Barnsdale Visit
- Sunday 28th June - Trip to Reyton
- Wednesday 8th July - Jenny Steele 'Plant Folklore'
- Tuesday 22nd September - Trip to Malvern Autumn Show
- Wednesday 14th October - TBA

BAMPTON SHOW 1998

We have decided to have one show this year, which will be on **Saturday 7th September**.

The new Show Schedule will be coming out in the next month, so its time to start thinking of what your going to plant or nurture along this year.

The "best kept small front garden" class has been changed to "Best kept front or back small garden" to allow more people to enter. There will be a space on the entry form for you to explain how to get into your back garden if this is not straight forward.

Remember, entry forms must be received by **Saturday 6th June**, at the The Gardening Morning at Bampton Town Hall.

Secret Gardens Open Day

Johnathan Phillips is organising a "Secret Gardens Open Day" on Sunday 5th July, in aid of "Friends of St. Mary's." The Gardening Club will be on hand as well.

This year both Weald Manor and Bampton Manor are not participating in this annual 'walk around Bampton Garden's.'

If you are interested in adding your garden to the list of those to be opened, please fill in the tear off slip at the bottom of this page and return it to The Beam Box, held at Abbey Properties, High Street, Bampton. Contact Jonathan Phillips for more information, **Tel: 850321**.

MOLES

Some information regarding these dear little soft creatures

Moles can devastate a garden with their digging, but there is no certain way to remove them

Moles are curious animals. We see obvious signs of their presence, but few of us catch a glimpse of them. So why are they popping up in our gardens?

They are most common in fertile soil with a good population of worms.

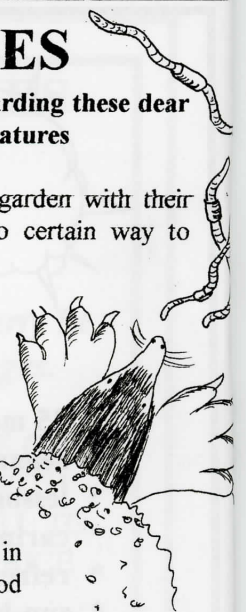
Apart from a few hours annually during the mating season in late winter, moles spend their lives alone.

Some gardeners try to scare off moles with electronic sonic devices or try the basic method of sinking milk bottles into the ground so wind whistles in their tops. Some people put mothballs into the tunnels in the belief that the camphor smell will drive the moles away.

A single mole can have a territory extending over 750 square yards and may produce 250 yards of tunnels. Their large, powerful front paws can shift more than 12lbs of soil in 20 minutes. A human miner, armed with a spade, would need to shift 12 tons of soil an hour to keep pace.

Moles have an excellent sense of smell, but comparatively poor hearing and limited eyesight.

Believe it or not - many are killed by owls and foxes.



SECRET GARDEN'S OPEN DAY

Sunday 5th July, 1998

I/Wewould like to have our garden added to the list of gardens to be opened on Sunday 5th July.

My/Our address is:

Telephone Number is:

For more information, contact Jonathan Phillips, Tel: 850321, or return slip by the 1st May to Abbey Properties and place in The Beam Box, held in Abbey Properties, High Street, Bampton.

ARCHITECTURE AROUND BAMPTON

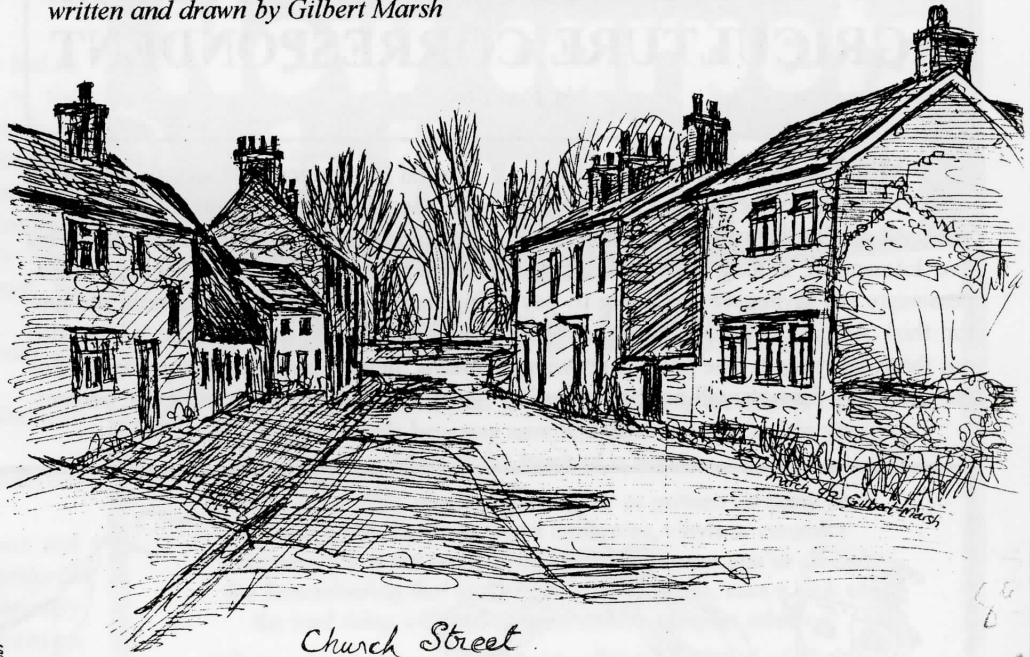
written and drawn by Gilbert Marsh

Hidden in this sketch of Church Street are the vestiges of an earlier street scene. The thatched cottage seen on the left is reputedly the oldest surviving cottage in Bampton. The little building beyond it sits at an awkward angle to the street, and no doubt predates it. Tudor Cottage seen on the right hand side used to be another thatched cottage with a small room upstairs, see the

The Original Tudor Cottage



(from a photograph)



adjoining sketch. It was then a store room for a builders yard. The outline of the old gable end can still be seen on the present building.

MILLENNIUM BIKE PATHS

One of the suggestions that was made to the Beam concerning the celebration of the millennium, was the creation of bike paths radiating out from the village.

Those of us who remember the joy of cycling, or who want to take it up for our health's sake, or who would like our children to cycle in safety, or who want to do our bit towards a less polluted world by occasionally **not** depending on the motor car, would like routes that are free from motor traffic. To this end a group has been formed to look into the possibility of creating cycle paths around Bampton in time for the New Millennium. The use of the bicycle where ever possible is a wonderful step for Bampton to take, both practical and symbolic towards a cleaner, fairer, quieter and less polluted future. It is also in the spirit of the aims of the Rio Summit.

We are not alone. There is a national organisation promoting cycle paths which will help us and there are grants for millennium projects if we get going fast enough.

YOU CAN HELP

Please, please take the trouble (it really is no effort) to fill in the form below and place it in The Beam box in Abbey Properties, High Street, Bampton.

PLEASE CIRCLE THE RELEVANT ANSWER

Would you or any member of your family use a cycle path if it was made available? YES NO

Would you use the cycle path for:-

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----|----|
| Shopping | YES | NO |
| Getting to school | YES | NO |
| Getting to work | YES | NO |
| For recreation | YES | NO |



Please make suggestions as to where you would like cycle paths to start and finish.

OUT OF WORK FARMER - TURNED AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

by Don Rouse

Milk Quota's, What's that?

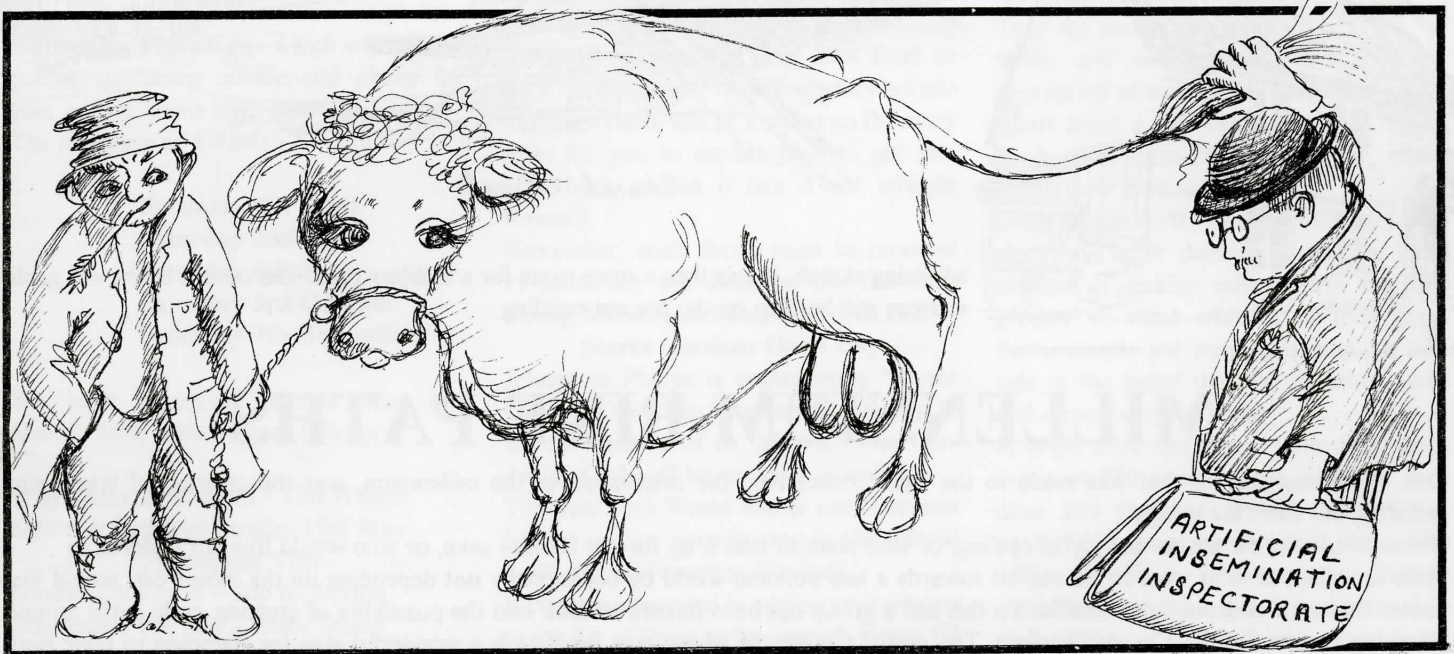
Well Folks, as you've noticed it's Spring-time. All the flowers are out earlier than I've known for a long time and all the pessimists are saying we are going to pay for this! All the optimists, however, are out there enjoying it. The grass is growing fast and dairy farmers will not be letting it

allowed to produce for that current year at the specific butterfat percentage that he was producing in 1982, simple? No! This is where chaos takes over. Modern breeding has meant that cows are now producing much better quality milk, which also means higher butterfat percentages. For every .01% increase in butterfat percent-

go, at the time there were children starving in Angola. Crazy isn't it. But I hope you now have a better understanding of the system. If you can understand the logic, please let me know cos I'm struggling!

Farmers and BSE

I know we all have our personal feelings about the latest crazy 'Ban British Beef' campaign that has been released by the Government. You know, the one that says that if you've got beef on the bone in your deep freeze they will trust you to make a responsible decision as to whether you should eat it or not, but that in the future



grow under their feet, they will be looking for an 'early turn out' of their cattle, thereby making a saving on straw and labour. As grass is a natural food, (whereas silage being a preserved food), an early 'turn out' will produce better milk, which could mean a better milk price, as well as an increase in yield. While this might sound good, it is not quite that simple, because it all depends on the individual farmers milk quota situation.

For those of you not acquainted with 'quotas,' let me try to explain this very complex system. Every Dairy Farmer has an allocated milk quota, which was decreed by the Government and the EEC in 1984, based on the farmer's milk production in 1982. Every farmer can buy or lease more 'quota' on an annual basis, but what his total quota on the 31st March, determines the amount of milk he is

age the farmer is penalised by having his milk output is increased by 0.118. Now, as he won't know his butterfat production for March till the end of April he doesn't stand a 'snowballs chance in hell' of finishing the year with his exact quota, thereby incurring a heavy fine for every litre he is over. Those farmers who were able to make good silage and for whom everything has gone well through the winter, with no serious mastitis problems, could find themselves in trouble by being a long way over quota, and the only answer for them is to pour the milk down the drain. I was in this position once and offered to give milk away in Bampton. First though, I thought I'd better check with the authorities. My God didn't they give me a roasting! They left me in no doubt that I could end up behind bars! And I don't mean the one in the Elephant! So down the drain it had to

Mr Cunningham will make that decision for you! Have you ever thought as to where it will all end? Will they next ban round tea bags or insist on square eggs? Seriously though, at the time of writing (I'm trying to watch the Countryside March in London at the same time) I feel that there is a need to mention what I see has been happening in the beef world. Let's start off with prices. On the 25th March when the world wide British Beef Ban was announced after some idiot of a scientist claimed that CJD was linked to BSE (still not proven 2 years on), the price of prime Beef to the farmer fell to 140 pence per kilo, a reduction of some 34%. Yet in the supermarkets we are paying some 5% more than we were before the ban. Something tells me that whilst farmers are suffering from Government 'cockups' there are some Fat Cats out there getting fatter.

It's no good them telling us that they have higher costs, so have we!

New Government Guidelines!

Just look at some of the changes that we have had to endure just in administration, all at a cost to the farmer. Mind you, they are all done for the benefit of traceability, which all farmers believe in. We feel that you, the customer, deserves to know where your food has come from, so make sure you ask! Remember, if it doesn't come from the UK its very 'iffy'!

CBR (calf birth record) - calf births must be registered within four days.

CPP4 - needed before a calf can be sold under 28 days of age.

Cattle Passport (without photo) - must be in farmers possession before animal is 43 days old.

CID (cattle identification document) - this is different to the Passport, and is for male calves only.

CBRD (now this is something quite ridiculous and costly) - this is for animals approaching 30 months of age, requires a Vets Inspection costing approximately £30 per call-out and £60 per hour, and is required to authenticate the farmer's records. Afterwards a form is sent to the Ministry who then stamp it and return it to the farmer. He can then accompany the cow to market. Without this the farmer receives no money. No other country has such control over its farmers, so you can rest assured that British is Best.

More Bureaucracy

Reading back through this article it appears that I have come on a bit heavy. I'm sorry about that but Mathew Perry tells me it's good for the system to 'let yourself go' now and again. But if you do it too much then you become a 'moaner', and if I get like that I'll get him to "put me down"!

In my letter to David Polle, elsewhere in The Beam, I mention working within the confines of Government policy. Here are a few more of the Inspectors or Inspections that we have to put up with, and remember, they have to be paid for mainly by the farmer.

Wages Inspector, VAT man, Herd Movement records, Antibiotic records, (usually Inspected at the same time as the Artificial Insemination Records), Customs and Excise, Income Tax Diary Hygiene Inspector, Field Pesticide Records, Post Harvest Pesticides Inspection, Animal Welfare, (a questionnaire with 226 questions with the Vet to check on 96!), Radio Active fallout in Milk, (good one this, at least twice a year someone form the WODC comes and takes an enormous bottle of milk for testing, I think it was just an excuse for a Coffee morning). Finally, my favourite one, the Health and Safety Executive. Here you usually have a young man with very little practical experience who certainly wouldn't know the front end from the back end of a cow, telling us how to conduct our business safely. I remember on one occasion as we stepped over a

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manhole cover he, being young and trying to impress me with his powers of observation, pointed out to me that the manhole cover was not padlocked! I know we farmers are a tight lot, but to padlock our manholes would make us the laughing stock of the Village. So I tried relating to him the story of the person who was looking at a cottage down Weald with the intention to buy. This was before 1959 when it was still 'bucket lavyies' down the garden. The intending purchaser observed that there was no lock on the 'lavvie' door and brought it to the attention of the owner, whose immediate response was that he had been living there for 40 years and, as yet, had nothing pinched from it. Do you know what? He couldn't see the funny side at all! Funny lot these men from the Ministry.

Back to the Start

I would like to finish where I started, Springtime. Girls, you know when sometimes you have a head ache? Well, men always have problems at this time of the year, the rejuvenated blood that goes coursing through our veins at great speed ends up by giving us backache, proving the point at our last SPAJER committee meeting, where three of us all had this complaint! So girls, be like us men, be understanding. Come the month of May we shall all be fine! (Please note it has nothing to do with the Male Menopause!)

LETTERS TO: AUNTIE BEAM

Dear Auntie Beam,
Splendid though all the existing village facilities are, the one thing which is missing is an instant supply of money!

Just think how many journeys are made to Carterton or Witney simply to obtain this commodity! More pollution created, more time wasted! It could even be that local traders occasionally lose business only because of a temporary shortage of dosh!

I am sure everyone wants to see the existing bank continue in operation, but it is surely unrealistic to expect every Bamptonian to bank with the Midland in these days of telephone banking and computer link-ups. Would the Midland therefore consider operating a "hole in the wall" for us all and improving the environment a little bit in the process? I am sure we would all be eternally grateful.

Yours sincerely,
Helene Grygar, Falcon Cottage, Bampton.

Dear Helene,
I'm in two minds about this. I visit the bank in the village for a chat as well as do my business, so I would miss the friendly atmosphere of the place if a "hole-in-the-wall" appeared. On the other hand, I can see your point with regard to business people and those needing money after hours.

I approached the bank and this is what they had to say: "Many of your readers who utilise this branch of Midland will appreciate the space constraints under which the staff operate which regrettably leaves no available space for a cash dispenser.

Such an installation was thoroughly investigated by the Bank approximately 15 months ago but was regarded as an unrealistic proposition given the lack of space.

Despite the lack of a cash dispenser I hope that the people of Bampton appreciate the continued support given to the local community by Midland, which is now the only remaining bank in the village."

Hope that answers your query Helene.
Yours Auntie Beam.

Dear Auntie Beam,
Please could you ask Bamptonians **not** to burn old plastic or old furniture or old tyres on their bonfires. It is unpleasant and a health hazard.
Yours, Worried.

Dear Worried,
I absolutely agree. Whereas bonfires of natural garden rubbish smell delicious, burning plastic, like burning rubber, smells absolutely vile. It is also, as it happens, an offence to do

so. I would suggest that anyone who needs to get rid of such rubbish take them to a Council-run Waste Disposal Site, such as the one at Stanton Harcourt.
Yours Auntie Beam.

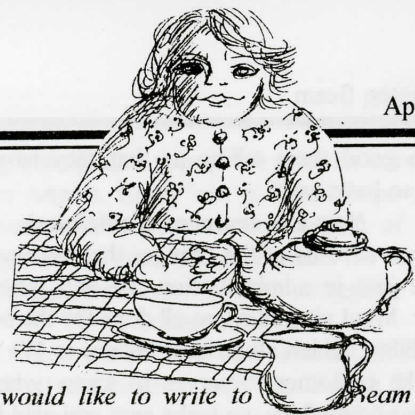
Dear Auntie Beam,
While watching the television the other night, I saw a documentary on recycling. I expect others saw it too. It was all about a man recycling plastic cups and turning them into pencils. Even the lead was recycled from old pencils etc. I just wanted to say how pleased I was to see such clever thinking. Only wish I could think of something and make my fortune.
Yours Recyclable.

Dear Recyclable,
I am pleased there are more of us around thinking 'green'. You just imagine how many of those plastic cups are used each day. By the way I watched the same programme. Thanks for telling us your feelings.
Yours Auntie Beam.

Dear Editor,
I have sent you this photograph as I was so shocked to see the devastation of this hedge when travelling to Aston one day around the end of January. I grew up with that hedge, and it's been one of the main blackberrying hedges since I can remember. I just can't understand why the farmer decided to cut it down.

The first time I drove past, the hawthorn hedge had been cut down, leaving young trees, and I thought to myself the farmer must be going to put a post and rail fence up and leave the trees to grow. A few days later I could not believe my eyes - the trees had been cut down as well. Since then the fallen trees are just lying there for everyone to see, drying out I suppose ready for a bonfire to complete the job. I just wonder what the farmer means to do? Am I the only one around here who is concerned?, I know it's Aston but it's still on our turf!!
Yours sincerely, Troubled.

Dear Troubled,
I have asked the Farmer, Ted Baughan, about the hedge, and he has told me that the hedge was made up for the most part of young elm trees. These young trees get infected by the Dutch Elm disease after about 10-12 years of growth, so all of them, unfortunately, were dead. If you look around the countryside you will notice that any new trees that have grown up since the devastation of our old elm trees by Dutch Elm disease, do not last into maturity. Mr Baughan did, however, make a point of doing the cutting before the birds nesting season had begun.
Very Sad, Yours Auntie Beam.



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.

Dear Auntie Beam,
It's lovely to see your cuddly figure at the top of the page when I open my new copy of The Beam. Please don't feel you have to go on a diet, because your getting famous now. We all (well, most of us anyway) can relate to you.
Yours Country Bumpkin.

Dear Country Bumpkin,
Thanks for the nice compliment, I feel a bit too long in the tooth now to change my shape and I like being called a cuddly Gran by my grandchildren.
Yours Auntie Beam;



THE FOOD PAGE

by Gilly French

TEATIME

This issue's theme is that of teatime, with a local slant. Kate Elliott makes the most delicious, moist maltloaf that I know and she was good enough to give me the recipe. The rather approximate quantities are her own! The cider cake recipe is from Elizabeth Ayrton's *English Provincial Cookery*. Savouries were once served at the end of a good dinner, but are rarely seen these days apart (so I'm told) from at high table - the one given below was served at Balloiol College. Nowadays savouries are more often served as a first course, although they would also go well as a mid-afternoon dish.

MALT LOAF

- 1 pint mug All Bran
- 1 pint mug dark muscovado sugar
- 1 pint mug raisins
- 1 pint mug milk
- 1 pint mug self-raising wholemeal flour.

Mix together the first four ingredients. Leave to stand in the fridge for at least 12 hours. Add the flour.

Line and grease a 2lb loaf tin. Fill it with the mixture and bake for 1/4 hours in a medium oven (about 180C/gas 5), until, when tested with a skewer, the skewer comes out dry. Eat thickly buttered.

OXFORDSHIRE CIDER CAKE

- 1/4lb butter
- 1/4lb sugar
- 3 eggs, well beaten 1/2lb self raising flour
- 2oz coarsely chopped walnuts
- 1/2 teaspoon grated nutmeg
- 1/4 pint dry cider.

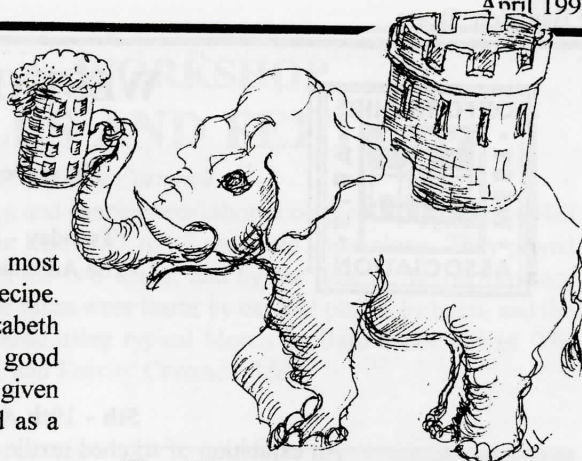
Cream butter and sugar. Add the eggs and half the flour, mixed with the walnuts and nutmeg, and beat well. Beat the cider so that it froths and mix it in. Stir in the rest of the flour and beat again. Pour into a greased shallow tin, 8 or 9 inches diameter and bake in the middle of the oven (400F/200C/gas 6) for 50 minutes. Allow to cool slightly and turn out of the tin.

AN OXFORDSHIRE SAVOURY

- 1 small tin anchovies
- 8 flat mushrooms, stalks removed
- 2oz butter
- 4 slices white bread, cut into circles about 3" in diameter
- 1 teaspoon prepared English mustard
- 2 tablespoons whipped cream, slightly chilled.

Drain anchovies, cut into small pieces and set aside. Lightly fry mushrooms in half the butter.

Toast the bread. Spread each piece with some of the remaining butter and then with a little mustard. Sprinkle some of the chopped anchovy fillets on each piece of toast and cover with slightly overlapping mushrooms. Just before serving cover with a teaspoon of cream.



Ex Bampton Bobby Back Behind the Bar

by Helena Grygar and Ailsa Matheson

You don't have to be a pub-goer to notice the newly painted inn sign outside the Elephant and Castle in Bridge Street. The new owners, George and Pat Blackwell, took over the pub in September and have embarked on a five year refurbishment and improvement programme including the upgrading of the overnight accommodation. They insist, however, that the traditional atmosphere and decor will remain, including, of course, real fires!

George, a member of the local constabulary for 19 years, served in Carterton, Burford, Eynsham and Witney, and was the village policeman in Bampton from 1969 to 1983. But he says "I always wanted to run a pub". He is an ex-Morris dancer and his younger son, Jason, is following his father's dancing footsteps. George and Pat will be welcoming the pub's regular customers and hope to attract many new ones. Regular cask beers are Adams (from Southwold, Suffolk) and Choice Hopped Beer (from the Warden Brewery near Banbury). There will always be regular guest beer as well as keg beers John Smiths and Theakstons.

Sandwiches, Ploughman's and soup are served. The current opening hours are 12am-3pm and 5pm-11pm on weekdays, apart from Monday when the pub is only open in the evening, 11am-11pm on Saturday, and 12am-3pm on Sunday (but no food is served).

The Elephant is also the 'home' of the Bampton Town Football Club.

We all wish George and Pat every success in their busy retirement, it would seem a pity to have lost yet another pub in the village.



WEST OXFORDSHIRE ARTS ASSOCIATION NEWS AND EVENTS

The Gallery, Town Hall, Bampton, Oxon. OX18 2JH., Tel: 01993 850137

Opening hours during exhibitions:

Tuesday - Saturday 10.30am -12.30pm and 2pm - 4pm, Sunday 2pm - 4pm.

The Administrator is usually in the Gallery every Tuesday and Friday morning.

Membership fees - Single £12, Family £20, Student £5

APRIL

5th - 19th April - (in the Gallery) - ELEMENTS

An exhibition of stitched textile art, by 10 makers from Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire:

Betty Murphy, Jane Treavis, Margaret Charlton, Val Norris, Denise Harrison, Liz Harding, Alison Harper,
Carolyn Sibbald, Louise Watson, Daphne Gale.

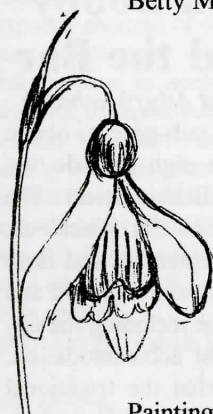
Wednesday 8th April 9 (in Bampton Village Hall)

WOAA presents the Oxford Touring Theatre Company's production of

'Narrow Boat to the Wide World'. 7.30pm.

Tickets £5 WOAA members and concessions £3.50. Tickets from the Cotton Club.

Enquiries to **Margaret Bishop, Tel: 01993 850412**



MAY

Saturday 9th Saturday 30th May (in the Gallery)

OXFORD GOES WEST - OXFORD ART SOCIETY'S MEMBERS SHOW.

Paintings, sculptures, prints and drawings. Selected work from Oxford's most prestigious Fine Art Group.

N.B. The Gallery will be open continuously, **including lunchtimes and Mondays**, from 10.30am - 4pm every day from

Saturday 9th - Friday 15th May and Tuesday 26th - Saturday 30th May.

Also 10.30am - 5pm from Saturday 16th May - Bank Holiday Monday 25th May
to co-ordinate with Oxfordshire Artweeks.

JUNE

Sunday 7th - Sunday 21st June (in the Gallery)

RESPONSES TO THE VISUAL WORLD - FIVE PERSONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC VIEWPOINTS

An exhibition of photographs by Virginia Khuri, Jill Staples, Rosemary Cockayne,
William Bishop and Gunnel Rosengard.

JULY

Sunday 12th - Sunday 26th July (in the Gallery)

Four graduating painters from Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education.

AUGUST

4th August - 30th August (in the Gallery)

OXFORD SCRIBES - SUMMER EXHIBITION OF CALLIGRAPHY.

SEPTEMBER

13th September - 27th September (in the Gallery)

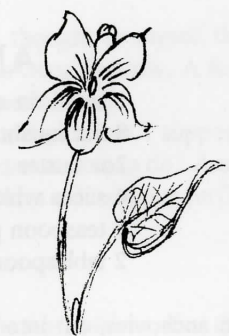
W.O.A.A. MEMBERS' ANNUAL EXHIBITION

CAN YOU HELP

by spending a couple of hours in the Gallery from time to time?

We would welcome any new volunteers prepared to sit in the Gallery for a morning or an afternoon during exhibitions, to
welcome visitors, deal with enquiries, sales etc.

If you feel able to support W.O.A.A. in this way, please contact **Ailsa Matheson, Tel: 01993 851004**



THE ROBERT VESEY ROOM AT BAMPTON LIBRARY

The front room at the Library has become an display space for WOAA members, several of whom have already had exhibitions of paintings, ceramics and sculpture there. It is becoming an increasingly popular venue for a cup of tea or coffee, having a look at the work on display and having a chat to friends and neighbours.

**Mondays and Fridays -
2.30pm - 4.30pm**

**Wednesdays -
10am - 12pm and 2.30pm - 4.30pm.**

HIGHLIGHTS FROM DECEMBER, JANUARY AND FEBRUARY.

December provided the seasonal exhibition of "Gifts in the Gallery", offering interesting and reasonably priced artifacts produced by local craftsmen and artists, and attracting a large clientele.

The New Year opened with an exhibition by four painters who had completed the Fine Art Degree at Cheltenham College of Art in 1995, 1996 and 1997 (two of them), and presented paintings of diverse character, which illustrated the artists' different individual responses to this art form. The result was very illuminating.

Following this came the biennial exhibition of "Rich and Rare", which presented works by 30 top craftsmen from all over the South of England. The range of artistic mode covered an unusual table, several large wall hangings, stained glass, silver and glass, ceramics and silk scarves. The effective publicity forged by Libby Calvert, who masterminded the illustrious array of beauty, paid off handsomely. The number of visitors was unusually high, purchases gratifying and from the perspective of interest in WOAA, the 1000 calendars printed for the first three months of this year disappeared completely, having been taken away by visitors, and necessitating the first ever reprint!

Altogether a heartening start for 1998.

W.O.A.A. WORKSHOP FIDDLES AND FEET

by Felicity Cormack

The second Fiddles and Feet playing and dancing workshop took place in the Village Hall on 9th November 1997. 16 children from 7 1/2 to 13 years old came along. They played and danced almost without a break for two hours, and by the time of the performance they really had improved. The fiddle tunes were learnt by ear and played by heart, and the dances choreographed to fit the music using typical Morris or Barn dance moves. The Tutors were Joan Holloway dance, and Felicity Cormack fiddle.

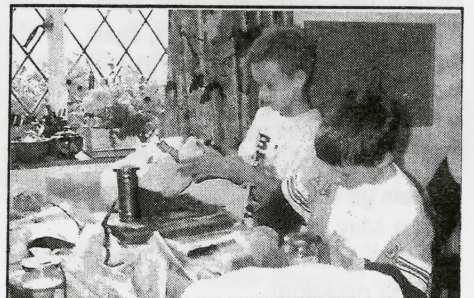


CLAY MODELLING WORKSHOP

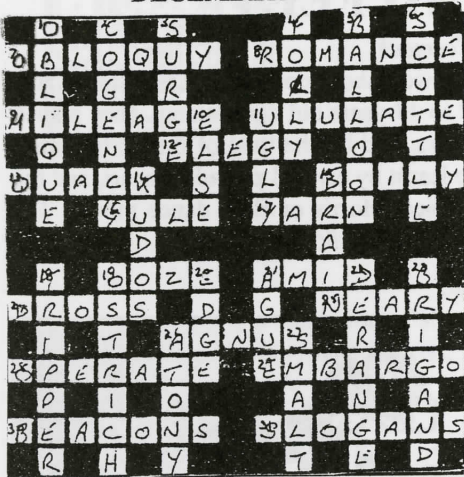
with Jo Lewington

Four children spent a very happy "day workshop" last Autumn working with Jo Lewington.

They made beautiful candle-holders, which were timed by Jo just in time to be given as surprise Christmas presents.



Solution to
BEAM PRIZE CROSSWORD
DECEMBER 1997



Well, what a turn up! We haven't received one entry for December's crossword. I don't think it's ever happened before. This means it will be a 'roll over' crossword this edition, the winner receiving £10 instead of the usual £5. There must be someone out there in the village who can participate. I know just lately there have been a few errors, but December's crossword was checked thoroughly before it went to print.

April's answers will be published in the August edition of the Beam, so come on everyone - get busy. We need a winner!!

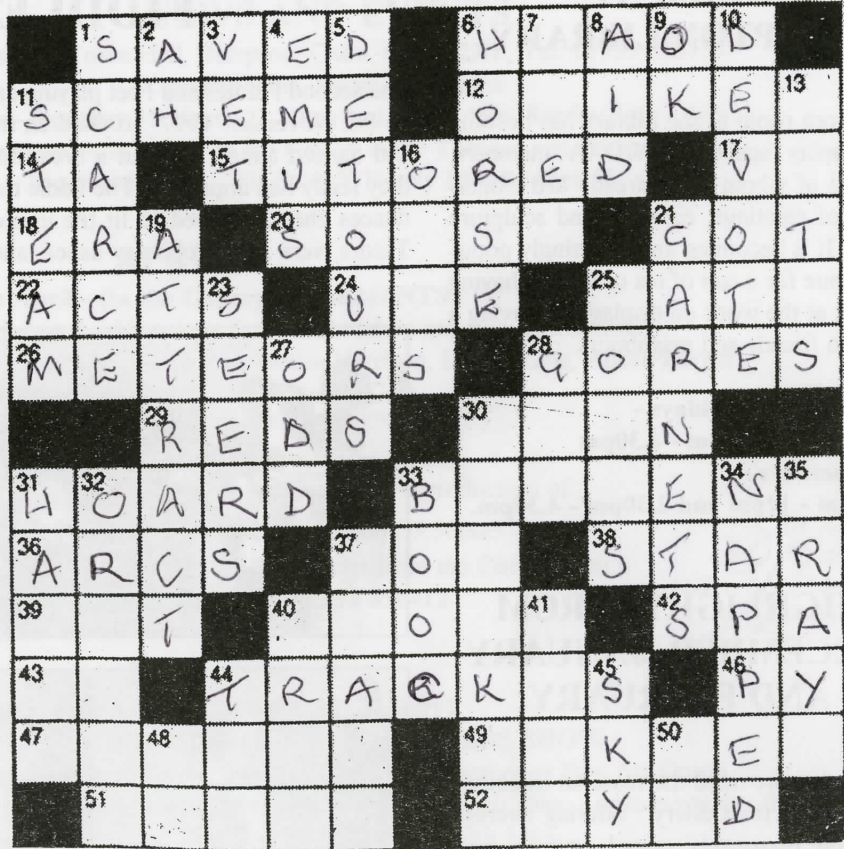
BAMPTON SUMMER OPERA

For it's sixth open-air opera, Bampton Summer Opera presents the first fully-staged performance in recent times of Thomas Arne's opera 'Alfred'. It tells the story of King Alfred's battle with the Danes and features an 'offstage British victory of overwhelming proportions and the original 'Rule! Britannia!'

Dates: 17th and 18th July 1998 in the Deanery garden (with thanks, again, to Mr and Mrs Ferstendik), or in the church if wet. Tickets are £15, but they are £12 to Bampton residents and WOAA members if brought before 7th July. Children £5. Tickets go on sale, from Abbey Properties, on 1st May.

Bring a picnic and enjoy this glorious English occasion!

THE BAMPTON BEAM'S CROSSWORD



Across

- 1. Rescued
- 6. Piece of lumber
- 11. Plot
- 12. Part of the UN?
- 14. British bye
- 15. Coached
- 17. Richmond's St.
- 18. Pitchers state
- 20. Blasts off
- 21. Acquired
- 22. Chapters in a play
- 24. ET's craft
- 25. Detest
- 26. Shooting stars
- 28. Skirt panels
- 29. Cicinnati nine
- 30. Warren of the Oilers
- 33. Library item
- 36. Curves
- 37. "Encino -", Shore film
- 38. Leading Lady
- 39. Boone or Sajak
- 40. Certain sculptures
- 42. Health resort
- 43. Portion of ale (Abbr.)
- 44. Trails
- 46. Mathematical

Down

- 1. Hard to come by
- 2. Sound of content
- 3. Fido's doc
- 4. Flightless birds
- 5. Avoids construction, e.g.
- 6. Beast of burden
- 7. Singles
- 8. Help
- 9. Correct (Abbr.)
- 10. Dedicate
- 11. Hot most
- 13. Escorts
- 16. Dunderheads
- 19. Lure
- 21. Deep-red stones
- 23. Psychics
- 25. Fisherman's needs
- 27. Uneven
- 28. Icky stuff
- 30. Treasure State
- 31. Speaker
- 33. Headquarters
- 34. Dozed
- 35. Empty the tub

- 37. Guitarists Water
- 40. Reared
- 41. Lug's cousin
- 44. Spanish cheer
- 45. Blue
- 48. You and I
- 50. Tellurium symbol

THANKS TO . . .

Mr Bill Govier for the crossword puzzle in December's edition of the Beam. £5 will be donated to The Pumpkin Club on Mr Govier's behalf.

**DON'T FORGET
THE PUMPKIN CLUB
BINGO**

Eyes down every Monday Evening in the Bush Centre at 8pm. Everyone welcome.

For more information contact, Mrs E. Foresheew or Sharron, Tel: 850922.

Diary of Forthcoming Events

APRIL

4th Gardening Club **Gardening Morning** Town Hall 10am - 12pm
 4th Cancer Research Campaign **Easter Sale** Village Hall
 5th - 9th The Gallery **Elements**
 8th W.O.A.A. **Narrow Boat to the Wide World**, Village Hall 7pm
 10th The Burford Singers **Burford Parish Church** 7.30pm
 22nd Gardening Club **Talk Tim Walker** Village Hall 7.30pm
 23rd Bampton Village Hall **AGM** 8pm
 25th Mr Shaun Woodward Town Hall 10.30am - 12.30pm
 29th BEWG **Talk "Lost Manor of Wick"** Village Hall 8pm

MAY

2nd Gardening Club **Gardening Morning** Town Hall 10am - 12pm
 7th **Parish Council and District Council Election** Village Hall
 9th - 30th The Gallery **Oxford goes West**
 23rd SPAJERS **THE ANNUAL SHIRT RACE** 7pm
 25th **WHIT MONDAY** Market Square
 25th Cancer Research Campaign **Raffle for a Car** Market Square

JUNE

6th Gardening Club **Gardening Morning** Town Hall 10am - 12pm
 12th - 26th The Gallery **Graduates Painting Exhibition**
 28th Gardening Club **Trip Rynton Organic Farm, Market Square** 9am

JULY

5th **SECRET GARDENS OPEN DAY**
 6th The Burford Singers, **The Sheldonian Porgy and Bess** 7.30pm
 11th Bampton Summer Opera **Alfred Deanery Garden**

Please let us have your Notice Board and Diary entries before the next deadline - Friday 19th June 1998

BAMPTON DIRECTORY 1997

The Directory was delivered to all households and businesses in Bampton at the end of September 1996.

Extra copies of The Bampton Directory are available from the Post Office and Abbey properties.

Corrections and Additions - March/April 1998 -

page 13 amend - **BAMPTON PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP**

Chairperson: Chris Horne, Lyndon Cottage, Church View Tel: 850819.

Secretary: Anna Pittt, The Granary, Mount Owen Tel: 850226.

Enrolment Secretary: Claire Box Tel: 8515723.

Treasurer: Sonya Paige.

Rota Secretary: Lesley paintin.

Fees Secretary: Karen Williams.

Supervisor: Elaine Townsend Assistant Supervisor: Tracy Prior.

Part-time Assistant Supervisors: Monica Owen and Sarah Radband.

page 35 amend - **CHURCH OF ENGLAND**

St. Mary the Virgin, Bampton - Church Wardens:

Mrs J. Devas, 22 The Lanes Tel: 851424

Mr C.G.C. Cordy, St John's House, Broad Street Tel: 851296.

Other corrections and additions should be sent to The Editor, The Bampton Directory, Haytor, Lavender Square, Bampton OX18 2LR.

THE BAMPTON BEAM -

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Fenella Gray Tel: 851653

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 - 19th June 1998

While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information printed in The Bampton Beam, the editor & publishers cannot accept any responsibility for the consequences of any error that may occur. The views expressed in The Bampton Beam are not necessarily those of the Editor. Personal views are the responsibility of the author in each case.

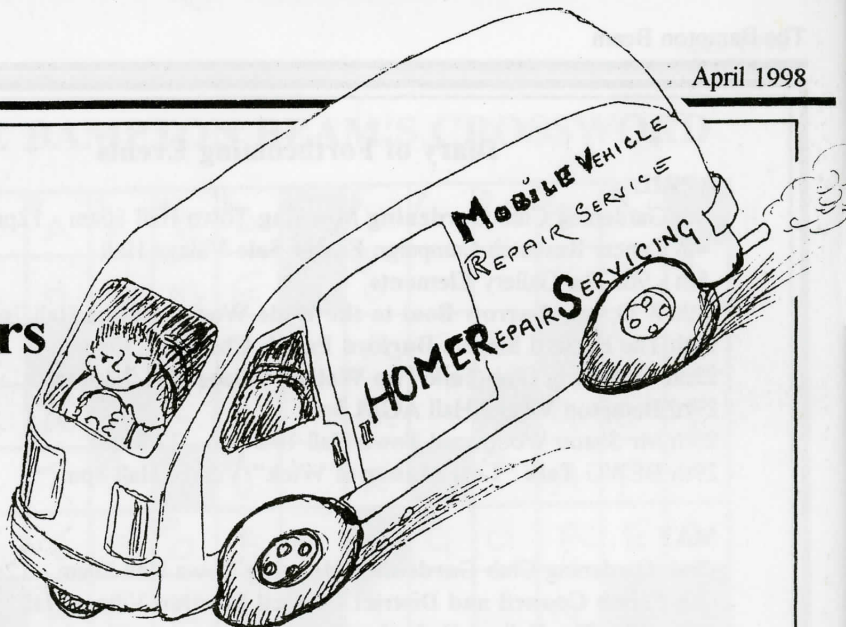
The team wishes to thank The Cotton Club - quality fabric suppliers - as well as the Beam letter box! Also many thanks to Abbey Properties and Bradford & Bingley.

If you wish to have The Bampton Beam posted to yourself or to a relative or friend on a regular basis, please send your name, address and cheque (made payable to The Bampton Beam) to: The Bampton Beam, Subscriptions: c/o The Cotton Club, Bridge Street, Bampton, Oxon. Annual Subscription - £2.50

We would like to say thank you to the Parish Council for their financial support.

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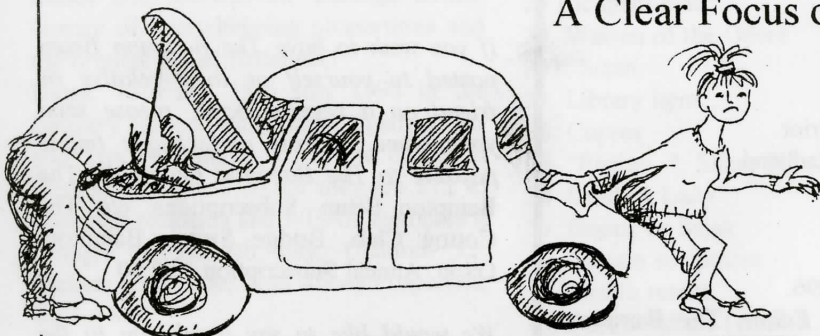
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Topics covered include:

- Election time in Bampton
- Bampton Village Hall AGM
- Bampton 250 club
- Friends of St Mary's
- Bampton Parish Council news
- Society for The Protection of Bampton
- Oxfordshire Rural Community Council
- Witney & District Carers
- Dialability; Ring-a-Ride
- Hip replacement at the Nuffield Orthopaedic hospital
- Volunteer Link-Up
- The Gift of Blood
- Bampton Archery Club
- Bampton Cricket Club
- Bampton Tennis Club
- Most recent Village Appraisal
- Letters to the editor
- The Conservative Association
- Vale of White Horse Conservation
- RAF Brize Norton, fund-raising signals unit
- Farewell to John Ackerman
- Christmas late night shopping
- What's on in April
- What's on in May
- Pumpkin Club
- Bush Club
- Clanfield Historical Society
- Bampton Bridge Club
- Bampton & Aston Meals on Wheels
- Bampton Exhibition Foundation
- Burford Singers
- Slimming World
- Amnesty International
- Bampton Welfare Trust
- Cancer Research Campaign
- Bampton Youth Centre
- Bampton Methodist Church
- Bampton Environmental Watch Group
- Bampton Gardening Club & Show
- Moles
- Secret Garden Open Day
- Architecture Around Bampton
- Millennium Bike Paths
- Out of work farmer turned agricultural correspondent – Don Rouse
- Letters to The Beam
- The Food Page
- West Oxfordshire Arts Association events, April through September
- Robert Vesey Room at The Library
- Fiddles & Feet; WOAA Workshop
- Clay modelling workshop

Bampton summer opera
Diary of forthcoming events April through July